

In Manila, leaders also endorsed the Ministerial Framework for Economic Co-operation and Development, which outlined six priorities for APEC's economic and technical co-operation agenda: developing human resources through training, education and skills development; fostering safe and efficient capital markets; strengthening economic infrastructure; harnessing technologies of the future; promoting environmentally sound growth; and encouraging the growth of small and medium enterprises. Leaders also directed that APEC's activities have a greater focus on people-to-people links, including women, academics, small business and youth.

The fifth APEC economic leaders' meeting was held in Vancouver in 1997. Leaders called for a vision for the 21st century that would connect the APEC community in a number of areas. These included infrastructure, electronic commerce, science and technology, sustainable development, climate change and emergency preparedness. As well, the vision would connect people of Asia-Pacific by extending APEC's dialogue to include all sectors of society. Leaders also endorsed the Vancouver Framework for Enhanced Public-Private Partnership for Infrastructure Development.

APEC leaders also agreed in Vancouver to accelerate trade liberalization in 15 sectors: energy, environmental goods and services, fish and fish products, forest products, medical equipment and instruments, toys, gems and jewelry, chemicals, telecommunications, rubber, fertilizers, automotive, food, oil seeds, and civil aircraft.

The sixth APEC economic leaders' meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1998, focused on reaffirming confidence in the strong economic fundamentals and prospects for recovery in the region. Leaders agreed to a co-operative growth strategy to address the financial crisis. They pledged efforts to strengthen social safety nets, financial systems, trade and investment flows, the scientific and technological base, the development of human resources, the economic infrastructure, and business and commercial links.

Structure

The chair of APEC rotates yearly among its members. The APEC chair hosts the annual meetings of ministers and, since 1993, of leaders. Senior officials meet throughout the year to develop recommendations and to ensure follow up.

APEC has three main committees: the Committee on Trade and Investment; the Economic Committee; and the Budget and Management Committee. A senior officials' subcommittee is responsible for overseeing the economic and technical co-operation work program. APEC also has nine sectoral working groups and several ad hoc groups addressing issues such as agricultural technical