

"Mankind's material power has now increased to a degree at which it could make the biosphere uninhabitable and will, in fact, produce this suicidal result within a foreseeable period of time if the human population of the globe does not take prompt and vigorous concerted action to check the pollution and the spoliation that are being inflicted on the biosphere by shortsighted human greed". Arnold Toynbee

A key issue agreed upon by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member Leaders has been to ensure sustainable economic prosperity in the APEC region.¹ This is a tall order. Sustainable economic prosperity is not a well defined policy objective, rather it is a synthesis of a number of policy issues and objectives. A fundamental set of issues within the synthesis is the impact of population and economic growth on the demand/supply of food and energy, and the environment. Hence, APEC's interest in FEEEP (Food, Economic Growth, Energy, Environment, Population). To increase understanding of the whole - sustainable economic prosperity - each of these FEEEP issues must be considered independently and interdependently. Moreover, each of the issues and their interdependency must be considered in national and international contexts.

The diversity of policy issues (including social equity, economic, resource usage and demographics) and the increasing recognition that there are dynamic linkages between these issues necessitates that any meaningful understanding requires a holistic approach. In one sense it is an attempt to understand the dynamic process of globalization, or perhaps more broadly how the international and domestic FEEEP

¹ Sustainable economic prosperity has been a major theme in the APEC Leaders' Declarations. In the 1993 APEC Leaders' Declaration, "APEC Leaders Economic Vision Statement", they envisioned a community of Asia-Pacific economies which *inter alia* would ensure "sustainable growth and provide a more secure future for our people". In the 1994 declaration, "APEC Economic Leaders Declaration of Common Resolve", the leaders sought to "attain sustainable growth and equitable development of APEC economies, while reducing economic disparities among them, and improving the economic and social well-being of our people". At the fourth annual meeting in 1996, "APEC Economic Leaders Declaration: From Vision to Action", the Leaders "affirmed our commitment to sustainable growth and equitable development".