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# News Release

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## SECRETARY OF STATE CHAN ANNOUNCES VANCOUVER TO HOST 1997 APEC SUMMIT

OSAKA — Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today announced, on behalf of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, that Vancouver will host the 1997 Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Summit. APEC is presently the fastest-developing multilateral organization in the world, and its annual summits bring together the leaders of 18 Pacific Rim economies. Mr. Chan made the announcement while accompanying Prime Minister Chrétien at the 1995 APEC Summit in Osaka, Japan.

"Vancouver and British Columbia are Canada's gateway to the huge Pacific market," said Mr. Chan, "and they have been the engine behind Canada's new focus on this dynamic region. That is why Vancouver is the ideal location for the first-ever APEC summit to be hosted by Canada."

Canada will chair the APEC process in 1997 and will host a number of APEC events including the Leader's meeting, Ministerial meetings and a series of lead-up meetings involving senior officials and the private sector. Approximately 3 500 delegates and upwards of 2 000 media representatives normally visit the APEC host city during these major events.

"This will clearly generate significant economic benefits for the entire city," said Mr. Chan. "It will put Vancouver on the map as the gateway to the Asia-Pacific region and its fast-growing markets."

APEC is the principal intergovernmental vehicle for economic co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region. Its emergence in 1989 — built on the careful community-building efforts of governments, business and academics over the previous two decades — represents a significant change from the deep-seated intra-regional differences of the past. It is evolving into a key agenda-setting body for the region, helping to define priorities for member economies.



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