

At a time when these various proposals are being advanced, it is opportune to establish precisely what our objectives are:

I believe these are:

- mustering support for liberalized global trade;
- promoting common disciplines and rules respecting trade, investment, technology transfer, intellectual property;
- research and analysis of regional economic growth and the challenge this presents;
- becoming "Partners in Progress" in the Pacific through specific cooperation in areas of common interest, such as natural resources, industrial development, the environment, communications, transportation and professional and technical exchange.
- ensuring that the Pacific Rim countries are not only integrated internally around the Pacific littoral but outwardly into the international economy, that is, into the OECD and other multilateral organizations.

The Asia Pacific region is dynamic and challenging. The responsibility to meet the challenge belongs to all of us: government, the private sector, the academic community. The Government is committed to do our part, and we look forward to working closely with you.

Thank you.