

particularly in view of our dependence on the sea as a source of food and economic activity.

Throughout the APEC region, we share a number of common problems related to coastal pollution. These include the marine transportation of dangerous goods, the potential for catastrophic spills of oil in marine waters, marine debris that fouls our beaches and destroys wildlife and tourism potential, and the consequences of pollution on marine life and human health.

A striking feature of the discussions in this working group to date is that, despite widely different climates, geography and resource-base considerations among the APEC nations, we all share a common vision of the most pressing problems, and we desire to do something about them.

We now face the challenge of translating the recommendations of the working group into concrete actions. As a step in this direction, I would urge that we bring the work of this group and its recommendations to the attention of our ministerial colleagues with responsibilities for these areas.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is most enthusiastic about the activities of this working group and encourages the active participation of all APEC members. It is essential that we co-operate on matters of pollution and marine resource conservation, in view of the manifest social and economic costs to all of our societies from failing to protect our collective marine resources.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, pollution is not the only threat to our marine resources. Indeed, one of Canada's highest priorities is the question of overfishing on the high seas, which has become a matter of critical importance to Canada.

Working in close co-operation with a large number of our international partners, including many South Pacific countries, Canada is seeking the adoption of rules and measures that would ensure the conservation and effective management, on the high seas, of straddling stocks and highly migratory species.

Turning to the Working Group on Human Resources Development, or HRD, Mr. Chairman, Canada has been a leading supporter of this APEC initiative from the beginning, and is pleased to co-operate actively with our colleagues in defining the working group's priorities and workplans.

Canadians are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of human resource development for Canada's continued social and economic prosperity. One of the principal aims of the Prosperity Initiative, launched by my Government last October, is to highlight the importance of education in meeting the competitive challenges facing Canada. Both government and the private sector