

I believe that this work should move forward quickly. First, let us each do our part to complete the Uruguay Round successfully. Then let us assess what the evolving Uruguay Round results mean to us in the region. We might then explore the agenda for the 1990s and see what specific Asia Pacific initiatives can be taken. We should also examine the proposal for an eminent persons' group. I know some of you around this table think such a group might be useful in supplementing the work of both ministers and of our officials and in providing a higher profile to opportunities for the future in the Pacific. Let us ask our officials to develop terms of reference for future work on regional trade liberalization and then decide how we wish to go forward at our next meeting in Bangkok.

Trade is at the basis of much of what APEC is all about. It is real; it is policy-related; it is something that our private sector and our broader publics can relate to. Let us begin here and now to help complete the Uruguay Round and to develop a follow-up agenda for the Asia Pacific region. Our ongoing theme will be to remain open to each other and to our trading partners around the world. The Asia Pacific region should be able to lead by example. We have a lot to be proud of in terms of trade performance to date but also much to look forward to in the years ahead.