

Increased economic dialogue among Pacific nations can help to resolve problems within the region. But it can also help the Asia-Pacific region to assume its proper place in managing issues of global consequence elsewhere. Asia has lessons for the world. Its achievements are admired. Its resources are unparalleled. Its expertise and partnership are sought everywhere. It only makes sense to bring these strengths together.

At present, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation includes Canada, the United States, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the six countries of ASEAN. Canada believes it must expand to include the other key economies of the region - particularly Hong Kong, Taiwan and China. There is no virtue in being exclusive; there is much virtue in being inclusive. This is particularly the case where economic systems are different or where there is potential for economic conflict.

Canada's dedication to the initiative is demonstrated by our intention to hold a special meeting of Trade Ministers in Vancouver this September to focus on the Uruguay Round which is so vital to the future of international trading system.

Within the framework of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, I believe there are a number of additional initiatives worth exploring:

- We should look at establishing a Standing Committee of Economic Policy Experts which would look at particular problems of adjustment and growth and prepare recommendations for Ministers;
- We should establish a series of trade issues workshops, perhaps beginning with a broad discussion of the structural impediments problem;
- We should look at providing leadership on environment, including setting new standards of practical co-operation between developed and developing economies so that the goals of development and conservation can be pursued together. Canada's proposal for a working group on marine pollution is an opportunity for early progress in this area.