

the Agreement to other countries - to widen the circle and to spread the rules.

The addition of Chile to NAFTA will represent more than access to a market of 14 million: it will provide a critical link with South America, it will help push the pace of overall hemisphere integration, and it will help ensure that the NAFTA architecture remains fundamentally open and dynamic.

With Chilean accession will come the need to replace the name "NAFTA" with "AFTA" or some other such acronym; but this is more than merely a semantic change. It will reflect real progress made toward hemispheric free trade within 10 years. Equally, we are working to deepen what we have already achieved in NAFTA and to begin the process of negotiating an expanding range of difficult issues.

Of these issues, none is more important to Canada than our efforts, in the two NAFTA working groups, to achieve mutually agreed trade rules that can reduce or eliminate the arbitrary application of trade remedy laws - laws that really have no economic rationale in a free trade area.

What underpins this overall strategy - deepening the rules as well as broadening the membership - is the central idea that only by moving forward will NAFTA remain a building block, rather than stumbling block, for global free trade.

In APEC, too, our goal is to keep the momentum building, to push for a broadening and deepening of the architecture, and to ensure that the collective focus is outward and expansive.

APEC's commitments in Bogor, Indonesia, last November are nothing short of revolutionary: free trade between the United States and Japan in 15 years; free trade between the United States and China in 25. Indeed, the very dynamism of the Asian economies gives APEC a special significance. This region has become the focal point of immense shifts in the global economy.

Beyond the continued and rapid growth of Japan and the "Asian Tigers," the region is the cradle for the emergence of two enormous and hitherto closed economies: China and India. More quickly than most realize, their emergence will send shockwaves through the global economic system - shockwaves that will need to be managed and ultimately absorbed, principally through membership in the new WTO, but increasingly, at least in the case of China, through membership in APEC.

This will make the Asia-Pacific region, almost by definition, a key arena in which the trade policy issues of the future will be played out.