
Media Advisory

September 4, 2007

No. A/52

MINISTER EMERSON AND MINISTER BERNIER TO ATTEND APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The Honourable David Emerson, Minister of International Trade, and the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting, which will take place in Sydney, Australia, on September 5 and 6, 2007.

The annual meeting is an opportunity for Canada to discuss key issues with other APEC member economies and to further strengthen relations in the Asia-Pacific region. Under this year's theme, "strengthening our community and building a sustainable future," ministers will discuss various issues including WTO negotiations, climate change, energy, deepening of regional economic ties and relations, APEC reform and human security.

Minister Emerson and Minister Bernier will also meet with several of their counterparts to discuss pertinent bilateral opportunities for further cooperation.

In 2006, nearly 85 percent of Canada's international trade, or \$707 billion, was with APEC member economies, and four of Canada's top five trading partners (the United States, China, Japan and Mexico) are APEC members.

APEC provides a valuable platform for building relationships with key Asian and Latin American economies. With its mix of developed and developing countries, APEC is a prime multilateral instrument to pursue results in a multipolar global context.

Minister Emerson and Minister Bernier's visit precedes that of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who will participate in the APEC Leaders' Summit and then make an official visit to Australia.

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer Chiu

Press Secretary

Office of the Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics

613-992-7332

