

Canada's Priorities for APEC in 2001

Through APEC, Canada promotes greater economic and social co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region. Over the past years, Canada was involved in trade liberalization and facilitation initiatives within APEC member economies — such as the modernization of customs, standards and regulatory measures. These projects aim to sustain economic growth and development in the region as well as expand opportunities for Canadian business. Canada has also been promoting ways in which APEC can become a key player in world trade negotiations and in the World Trade Organization process. At their 2000 meeting in Brunei, Canada and leaders and ministers of other member economies acknowledged the need for APEC to respond to the emergence of the new economy. Canadian priorities for APEC in 2001 focus on five key elements:

- Canada fully supports an APEC capacity-building initiative aimed at strengthening APEC developing economies' ability to implement their WTO obligations and to participate more fully in the multilateral trading system. Canada is co-chairing with Japan the APEC Group on WTO Capacity Building. Under this initiative, a number of APEC developed economies will provide assistance to APEC developing economies.
- Canada believes that APEC can play a meaningful role in building support for a new multilateral round of trade negotiations, given the collective weight of its members in global trade and world gross domestic product. Canada intends to promote APEC as a strong and useful forum within the multilateral trading system.
- Canada is largely focusing its efforts in APEC on the area of trade facilitation. There is potential within APEC for further lowering the cost of doing business in the region by removing impediments in areas such as customs, standards, and business mobility.
- Canada strongly supports a multifaceted response to the Action Agenda for the New Economy adopted by leaders in 2000 in Brunei. This involves developing the analysis of policies most conducive to success, strengthening economic and technical co-operation aimed at building human capacity for the new economy, and promoting the development of e-commerce and the avoidance of trade policy impediments. Canada also supported an APEC young entrepreneurs' forum on the new economy, which took place in Beijing and Shanghai in July 2001.