

APEC & SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS: THE ENGINE OF GROWTH

APEC Ministers responsible for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), led by the Canadian Industry Minister, will convene in Ottawa on September 18-19 to discuss practical measures to improve opportunities for SMEs in the Asia-Pacific region. The five priority areas of interest to SMEs are: access to information; financing; markets; technology; and, human resources. Ministers will benefit from private sector recommendations in each of these priority areas emanating from an APEC SME Business Forum and Exposition on September 17-18.

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The success of APEC will be judged not by trade figures and economic statistics alone. Governments have the responsibility to future generations to make the conditions right for long-lasting prosperity, including economic, environmental and social sustainability. A special symposium will be convened in Saskatoon on September 2-4 to address concerns shared by all APEC Leaders on the **impact of rapid economic development and population growth in the region on food and energy supplies and on the environment.**