

will become executive director of the APEC secretariat when Canada becomes APEC chair in January 1997.

History

- Dynamic trade and investment flows in East Asia in the 1980s led to a growing consensus that better regional consultation mechanisms were needed to replace the institutional vacuum which had existed in the Pacific since the Second World War.
- In 1989, then Australian Prime Minister Hawke initiated discussions on regional economic co-operation among the 12 leading Asia-Pacific economies, building on the private-sector Pacific Basin Economic Council and the tripartite (academics, business and government) Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference.
- An expanded membership, eight annual meetings of ministers of foreign affairs and trade, a special 1990 Uruguay Round meeting in Canada, two APEC leaders summits, and a host of meetings of APEC ministers responsible for finance, the environment, telecommunications, transportation and small and medium-sized enterprises have helped APEC evolve into a dynamic, responsive organization.