

## Listening to Business

Much of APEC's work impacts upon businesses, therefore it is important that the business community has a voice in the forum. The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) is the formal mechanism through which APEC helps ensure that the concerns of the business community are included in APEC's work. Canada's three ABAC members, appointed by the Prime Minister, represent businesses of varying sizes from various sectors. ABAC members meet three times per year and deliver an annual report to APEC Leaders (the leaders of APEC member economies).

There are many opportunities for businesses to take an active role in APEC:

- **Industry-specific dialogues** — APEC holds public-private sector dialogues with the Automotive, Chemical, and Life Sciences sectors.
- **CEO Summit** — organized annually on the margins of the Leaders' Meeting, top business executives gather for networking and information sharing.
- **Young Entrepreneurs Forum** — an event where young entrepreneurs aged 15 to 40 from APEC economies meet to network and share ideas.
- **APEC Working Groups** — Canadians interested in the work of APEC working groups and sub-committees may contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) for further information.
- APEC also provides several on-line tools for business, and the APEC Secretariat Web site regularly posts tendering opportunities for businesses. \* See section on APEC Resources.

## Canada's APEC Priorities

Canada has highlighted the following priorities within APEC:

- supporting APEC's counter-terrorism agenda;
- improving trade facilitation;
- building support for trade facilitation through the WTO;
- helping developing member economies to meet their WTO obligations through capacity- and confidence-building assistance;
- promoting greater public engagement in APEC, including through increased transparency;