

APEC 1997: BRINGING THE ASIA- PACIFIC TO CANADA

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Canada's trade and economic orientation has historically been established along transatlantic and continental lines. However, as sources of technical innovation, global competition and potential investment have diversified, the Asia-Pacific region has emerged as a centre of dynamism and growth. Canada's active participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum positions us to better understand and profit from what the World Bank has called "the Asian miracle."

Throughout 1997, Canada will chair APEC and host a series of meetings and activities across the country. The overall mandate will be to manage APEC's agenda for trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and economic and technical co-operation. Canada's stewardship will conclude in November with meetings of APEC's Leaders and Trade and Foreign Affairs Ministers in Vancouver. They will review APEC's activities and, in particular, consult with senior business representatives drawn from APEC member economies on the facilitation of business interests in the region.

In announcing the selection of Vancouver as the 1997 APEC venue, the Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, the Honourable Raymond Chan, noted that APEC "provides an opportunity to match the region's needs to Canadian capabilities." Chairing the APEC process in 1997 gives Canada an unprecedented opportunity to expand its interests and reaffirm its role in the Asia-Pacific region.

This brochure explains what APEC does, why it matters to Canada, and the areas in which Canadian private-sector input will be most effective in helping to shape Canada's activities in APEC.