

people in all APEC economies to have individual or community-based Internet access by 2010. They also adopted the APEC Action Agenda for the New Economy.

The ninth APEC economic leaders's meeting, which took place in Shanghai, China, in 2001, resulted in the adoption of the Shanghai Accord. This accord calls for APEC to take concrete actions and set meaningful goals to advance APEC's work in a number of trade policy areas, including trade facilitation, transparency, and trade policies for the new economy. In Shanghai, APEC leaders also issued a formal statement on counter-terrorism that called for joint action within APEC to combat terrorism. APEC served as a useful venue in the immediate wake of September 11, 2001, for Asia-Pacific leaders to discuss responses to the crisis. Subsequently, some of APEC's forums have begun to work in such areas as suppressing financing to terrorist organizations.

Structure

The chair of APEC rotates yearly among its members. The APEC chair hosts the annual meetings of ministers and, since 1993, of leaders. Senior officials meet throughout the year to develop recommendations and to ensure followup. They also oversee APEC's committees and working groups.

APEC has three main committees: the Committee on Trade and Investment, the Economic Committee, and the Budget and Management Committee. A senior officials' subcommittee is responsible for overseeing the economic and technical co-operation work program. APEC also has nine sectoral working groups that promote practical co-operation among members in areas such as transportation, fisheries, energy, trade promotion, telecommunications, and human resources development. In addition, various short-term groups and task forces address more specific issues, such as agricultural technical co-operation, small and medium-size enterprises, e-commerce, and gender issues.

To support APEC's activities, a permanent secretariat was established in Singapore in 1993. Its staff of 40 professionals provides direct administrative and co-ordination support for all APEC forums. The secretariat also administers the APEC central fund, which supports projects approved by ministers and leaders.

In 1995, APEC leaders created the APEC Business Advisory Council in order to have a direct channel for advice. Canada has three representatives on this council, which meets once a year with leaders to discuss its recommendations.