

# Beyond Economic Growth: FEEEP

In 1995, an American environmentalist named Lester Brown touched off a storm of controversy with a book entitled *Who Will Feed China?* Brown suggested that growing population, urbanization and industrialization in that country of 1.2 billion people would create food scarcity and rising prices around the world.

Lester Brown was credited by Harvard University with moving the food/population issue back toward centre stage. But the issue he raised is rife with conflicting viewpoints.

APEC leaders recognize that economic growth has profound societal and developmental implications. Under the auspices of the Economic Committee (chaired by Canada), APEC is working to bring some order

and clarity to discussions on sustainable growth and development. This effort involves developing a common framework to analyze how basic supply-side concerns such as food, energy and the environment relate to economic development and a steadily growing population.

Known as FEEEP (food, energy, environment, economic development, population initiative), this initiative is geared toward addressing ongoing concerns to ensure sustainable growth and an improvement in the quality of life in the region.

This year Canada is bringing researchers, planners and economists together from around the world to analyze this complex set of issues. Ministerial meetings on the environment (Toronto, June 9-11) and energy (Edmonton, August 26-27) will

contribute to the Economic Committee's analysis of these challenges. A FEEEP symposium in Saskatoon September 2-4 will provide a forum for broader public input from business, government and non-government representatives. This work will inform the APEC Leaders' Meeting in November in Vancouver.

During the 1980s and 1990s, East Asia's developing economies have led the world in terms of economic growth. Economic success has had a major impact on reducing poverty levels in much of Asia, although 65 per cent of the world's poor live in the region.

Outside APEC, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has provided development assistance to countries in Asia Pacific for decades. Complex differences exist within the region. Many countries continue to rely on CIDA programs for direct poverty reduction, yet for others CIDA support sets the stage for mutually beneficial economic co-operation. For example, in Malaysia and Thailand, CIDA's primary role is to support the transition from an aid relationship to full economic partnership.

Canada's role in Asia Pacific has been evolving, in part because of its membership in APEC. Canada is committed to making APEC a more effective framework for co-operation on a wide range of issues linked to economic development. When Canada sits down with its APEC partners at the environment and energy ministerial meetings and at the FEEEP symposium, it will be a chance to bring fresh insight into age-old challenges and to explore new solutions.



CIDA Photo: David Barbour

## Sustainable Cities — An Environmental Challenge

How can our cities survive the rapid urbanization and industrialization that continue unabated in most APEC economies?

The environmental impact of modern cities is enormous, but local authorities, working with regional and national governments and with the private sector, are making great strides toward meeting the challenge of keeping our growing cities livable and operating smoothly.

As part of the APEC 1997 Environment Ministerial Meeting in Toronto June 9-11, a special gathering of local authorities and business leaders will discuss the environmental implications of economic growth in cities. The Business Leaders and

Local Authorities Forum on Sustainable Cities will consist of six workshops on themes ranging from air pollution to waste management, public-private partnerships and financing strategies.

Infrastructure is a key organizing principle around which many of these themes revolve. Urban infrastructure needs are astronomical and development costs are enormous, but the urgency to build and modernize is inescapable.

One of the most effective ways to work toward sustainable cities is by developing partnerships between city authorities and the private sector. Business leaders, academics and local community associations, allied with local authorities, can find creative solutions

that are often transferable to other cities and countries.

The APEC "Clean Cities" demonstration project is a good example of how creative leadership in one city can benefit other urban centres. Senior environment officials from all APEC economies were invited to submit success stories about new efforts to enhance environmental



Japan's famed cherry blossoms.  
Photo: Maxime-P. Jobin

sustainability. Among the projects being highlighted are five from Canada, including the "20% Club" — a greenhouse gas emission control project of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The selected APEC Clean Cities projects will be featured on a new web site (<http://www.cleancities.com>) that will be launched at the Environment Ministerial in Toronto in June. The site will encourage the exchange of environmental expertise, "best practices" and public/private partnership models.

The APEC Environment Ministerial will also include an important youth presence. The Environmental Youth Caucus will hold meetings in parallel with the APEC ministers and report to them at the end of the Ministerial. Discussion groups and information on Environmental Youth Caucus activities are available at <http://www.tgmag.ca>

For information on the APEC Environment Ministerial Meeting, visit the Internet site at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/apecmeet>



Floating Market, Thailand. CIDA Photo: Graham Sim