

The Saskatoon Symposium on Food, Energy, the Environment and Population Growth, held in 1997, offers a model for more-inclusive planning within APEC.

Also in Vancouver, APEC leaders renewed their call for greater economic participation by youth and women in APEC economies. Canada has maintained an electronic sourcebook on APEC work study and exchange opportunities and, in 1999, Canada will host a best practices workshop on school-to-work transition, especially for youth at greatest risk.

The APEC Ministerial Meeting on Women, a first, was held in Manila, Philippines, on Oct. 16, 1998. A statement issued by the meeting called on APEC leaders to recognize gender as a cross-cutting theme in APEC's work. It also argues that effective policy development requires the collection of sex-disaggregated data and the analysis of gender impact. The statement also highlighted the impact of the financial and economic crisis on women and the importance of women's role in economic recovery. It stressed a need to speed up the integration of women in APEC processes and activities.

Infrastructure

In Vancouver, APEC leaders agreed that infrastructure development is one of the single most pressing economic needs in the region, particularly for APEC members that are developing their economies. Leaders acknowledged that, unless infrastructure requirements are met in good time, the region will be unable to sustain growth, meet the social needs of its population, and adequately protect the environment.

APEC ministers and leaders will review progress on implementing infrastructure initiatives launched in 1997. This includes the Vancouver Framework, an initiative to enhance the APEC public-private partnership for infrastructure development and sectoral outcomes in the areas of telecommunications, transportation, energy, sustainable cities, and rural infrastructure.

Other Economic Co-operation Initiatives

The November 1998 meetings of APEC ministers and leaders will also review work on economic and technical co-operation. This includes the work of APEC ministers responsible for telecommunications, small and medium enterprises, energy, women's issues, and science and technology. Particular emphasis will be placed on skills development, harnessing technologies, and emergency preparedness.