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CANADA HOSTING MEETING ON PACIFIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie, announced today that Canada is hosting the first meeting of the Working Group on Marine Resource Conservation in Vancouver, November 20-21, 1990.

This working group of government officials, established under the auspices of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference (APEC), will discuss pollution problems shared by APEC countries, assess their impact on marine resources and explore ways to improve the marine environment through co-ordinated action.

Experts from eleven APEC countries will study issues such as the transportation of hazardous substances, pollutant discharge and marine debris. They will make recommendations which will be considered at the APEC ministerial meeting in Seoul later next year.

This project was originally proposed by Mr. Crosbie at the first ministerial meeting of APEC in Canberra in 1989. APEC accepted Mr. Clark's offer to host the first meeting of the working group in Canada at a ministerial meeting in Singapore earlier this year.

Twelve countries belong to APEC: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States.

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