Advancing Free Trade for Asia-Pacific Prosperity
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Cover: “Solar Energy Panels”; by Reynaldo C. Mondez
Dear Stakeholders,

APEC 2011, hosted by the United States, commenced as the Asia-Pacific region showed signs of recovery from the global financial crisis, although uncertainty remained. While the region is rising in influence and dynamism, APEC member economies continue to face heightened challenges, including those arising from a succession of natural disasters. Over the course of the year, these challenges served to galvanize APEC Leaders’ resolve to work together to support strong, balanced and sustainable growth.

Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in November 2011, APEC Leaders agreed to take concrete steps in three priority areas which are geared towards achieving a seamless regional economy. Specifically, the Leaders focused on strengthening regional economic integration and expanding trade; promoting green growth; and advancing regulatory cooperation and convergence.

Under the agenda item strengthening regional economic integration and expanding trade in 2011, APEC addressed the “next-generation trade and investment issues” that future free trade agreements and an eventual Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific should address. APEC agreed on ways to enhance the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in global production chains; promote non-discriminatory and market-driven policies that foster competition and encourage innovation; and facilitate global supply chains.

As a follow up in 2012, APEC will forge ahead with initiatives to further trade and investment liberalization and regional economic integration, such as improving the supply chain to reduce the time, cost and uncertainty of moving goods and services with a goal to improve performance by 10% by 2015.

To advance green growth, APEC economies agreed in Honolulu to a series of actions, including reducing tariffs on environmental goods to 5% by 2015. In that direction, APEC will develop a list of these goods targeted for tariff cuts in 2012. Going further, APEC Leaders also committed to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption. And to increase energy efficiency, they agreed to reduce the region’s energy intensity by at least 45% by 2035, almost doubling the previous commitment.

Transparent, efficient and harmonized regulations significantly ease the burden on businesses, especially SMEs, trading across borders. Therefore, APEC Leaders agreed to take specific steps to implement good regulatory practices in their economies by 2013, including by ensuring internal coordination of regulatory work; assessing regulatory impacts; and conducting public consultation.

Structural reform remains a key part of APEC’s efforts towards higher quality growth, particularly in the wake of the global financial crisis. Building on the significant success of APEC’s agenda in this area over the last five years, Leaders agreed that member economies will push ahead with the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform, which includes advancing inclusive growth by promoting reforms that create labor market opportunities, training and education, and develop social safety net programs apart from efforts on behind-the-border issues under the previous Leaders’ Agenda To Implement Structural Reform.

Russia has assumed the mantle of the host economy for 2012 with a focus on taking concrete measures to further boost trade and investment in the region, and to inclusively and comprehensively respond to the rising global economic and financial challenges. APEC will meet under the theme “Integrate to Grow, Innovate to Prosper” and will focus on liberalizing trade and investment and expanding regional economic integration; strengthening food security; establishing reliable supply chains; and cooperating to foster innovative growth.

Efforts will continue to enhance the Secretariat, including developing annual training plans to build capacity and more effective utilisation of its resources to better serve members. Efforts will continue to be undertaken to improve APEC’s Economic and Technical Cooperation programme by offering training on project formulation and management.

The APEC Secretariat will continue to support members in implementing agreed actions that will deliver prosperity to the people of the Asia-Pacific.

Yours sincerely,

Muhamad Noor
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat
AUSTRALIA  BRUNEI DARU
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REPUBLIC OF KOREA  MALAYSIA  MEXICO
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APEC USA 2011

Leaders Week
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

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Hosting APEC for the first time since 1993, the United States worked in partnership with APEC economies in 2011 to deliver tangible, significant results toward the goal of a “seamless regional economy” that will create opportunities for prosperity and job creation throughout the region. Under the chairmanship of President Obama, APEC Leaders agreed on concrete outcomes that will promote economic growth and improve the quality of life of the people across the Asia-Pacific by

1. strengthening regional economic integration and expanding trade;
2. promoting green growth; and
3. advancing regulatory cooperation and convergence.
Strengthening Regional Economic Integration and Expanding Trade

Greater economic integration and expansion of trade continues to be APEC’s core mission. Leaders recognized the significant role trade and investment play in creating jobs, generating economic prosperity, and promoting peace and security in the region. In order to pursue these objectives, Leaders agreed to address next-generation trade and investment issues that will lay the foundation for 21st century agreements in the region, including a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).

Specifically, Leaders agreed to take concrete steps to further open markets and facilitate trade in the region, including by:

• Implementing a set of policies that will ensure innovation policy in the Asia-Pacific is effective, market-driven, and non-discriminatory, and non-protectionist, in recognition of the key role that entrepreneurship plays in increasing productivity and ensuring economic growth;

• Breaking down barriers to small business trading in the region, including by promoting small business engagement in global production chains through regional trade agreements;

• Making it cheaper, easier, and faster for businesses to trade in the region by establishing commercially useful de minimis values that will exempt low-value shipments from customs duties and further simplify customs requirements and documentation;

• Promoting domestic structural reforms in APEC economies to minimize behind-the-border barriers to trade;

• Implementing the APEC Cross Border Privacy Rules System to reduce barriers to information flow and enhance consumer privacy; and

• Facilitating commerce and promoting economic growth by pursuing liberalization of air cargo services.

Supporting Green Growth and Green Jobs

APEC reaffirmed the importance of advancing its shared green growth objectives, including by protecting the environment and ensuring that long-term growth is sustainable. APEC’s agenda focused on ways to help members transition to a clean energy future and confront the challenges of climate change. APEC Leaders’ agreed in Honolulu to take steps to
speed the transition to a global low-carbon economy, while enhancing energy security and creating new sources of economic growth and employment including:

- Developing in 2012 a list of environmental goods in which APEC economies on which they will reduce applied tariffs to 5% or less by 2015, and eliminate non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services, including local content requirements that distort trade and investment in these products and services, thereby helping to lower the cost and facilitate the use of environmental technologies, and create more green jobs;
- Pursuing a more aggressive target for reducing energy intensity across APEC economies by promoting technology and best practices in energy-smart buildings, transportation, and infrastructure;
- Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies -- which encourage wasteful consumption -- and reporting on progress annually;
- Incorporating low-emissions development strategies into APEC economies’ growth plans; and
- Working to prohibit trade in illegally harvested forest products and combat illegal logging and associated trade.

Promoting Regulatory Practices that Facilitate Trade and Investment

APEC has long recognized the importance of regulatory reform not only to boosting productivity and creating jobs, but also to protecting the environment and ensuring public health, security, and safety. In 2011, APEC Leaders agreed on steps that will improve the quality of the regulatory environment in the Asia-Pacific region, including:

- Implementing a set of good regulatory practices, including ensuring internal coordination of regulatory work, assessing impacts of regulations, and conducting public consultation, in order to reduce unnecessary burdens on businesses;
- Improving the quality of regulations and standards for emerging green technologies like smart grid, green buildings, and solar technologies to reduce technical barriers to trade in those products;
- Establishing a fund with the World Bank to strengthen food safety collaboration in the Asia-Pacific, accounting for nearly half of global food production; and
- Ensuring implementation of anti-corruption and open government commitments by 2014.

Other Key Initiatives

Regional Travel Facilitation

Travel facilitation was recognized as an increasingly important issue for the region. Ministers agreed upon two measures to facilitate regional travel, including: (1) recognizing the potential of “trusted traveler” programs and other risk management systems to facilitate the flow of cross-border travel throughout the region in an efficient and secure fashion; and (2) encouraging efforts by APEC economies to establish such programs and systems and link them to others in the region to create a more seamless travel system.

Women and the Economy

With the adoption of the San Francisco Declaration in September, APEC recognized the important role women play...
in an economy’s economic growth strategy. Ministers agreed to further develop the role of women in their respective economies, by: (1) welcoming the establishment of the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy; and (2) by agreeing to eliminate the major challenges (such as access to capital and access to markets) that inhibit women’s full participation in commerce.

**Disaster Resiliency**

APEC Ministers endorsed a statement calling on officials to: (1) provide businesses with tools to help them prepare, (2) facilitate the movement of goods and services during disasters, (3) promote community based approaches, (4) support research and education, and (5) promote public-private partnerships. APEC economies recognized the need to incorporate the private sector more substantively in our emergency preparedness efforts and pledged develop public-private partnerships, based on six broad principles endorsed by Ministers, and report on their progress in 2012.

**Food Security**

Securing our regional food supply from shortages and price shocks requires open markets, increased transparency, and information sharing on stocks and production, as well as deepening of our commitment to long-term investments in agricultural development, including agricultural productivity. APEC Ministers welcomed the establishment of the APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security, which will further integrate the private sector into our food security work and recognized the progress made on implementation of the Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security. APEC Leaders extended an APEC-wide standstill on agricultural export restrictions in order to decrease food price volatility and strengthen food security.

**Strengthening Health Systems**

Ministers agreed upon three measures to strengthen health systems as part of a comprehensive health reform framework, including: (1) welcoming the joint Life Science Innovation Forum–Health Working Group APEC Action Plan to both reduce the economic burden of disease in the region through sharing best practices and establish public-private partnerships for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; (2) welcoming APEC’s cooperation with the World Health Organization to develop an APEC Strategy on Aging in order to mitigate the constraint to APEC economies’ economic growth potential posed by aging populations in the region; and (3) encouraging efforts to develop Age Friendly Economies using innovative policy, practices, and technologies to support healthy lives.

**APEC Institutional Reform**

Ministers welcomed further efforts to strengthen APEC as an institution, including by streamlining and right-sizing APEC groupings, improving accountability and communications on the part of sub-fora leaders, linking project funding more closely with top APEC priorities, and enhancing participation by the private sector into the overall APEC process.
At this year’s APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, held on 11 November in Honolulu, Leaders issued the Leaders’ Declaration and the APEC Leaders’ Statements on Promoting Effective, Non-Discriminatory, and Market-Drive Innovation Policy; Enhancing Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Participation in Global Production Chains; Trade and Investment in Environmental Goods and Services; and Strengthening Implementation of Good Regulatory Practices.

19th APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS’ MEETING
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
November 12-13, 2011

APEC Leaders’ Declaration:
THE HONOLULU DECLARATION - TOWARD A SEAMLESS REGIONAL ECONOMY

In 1993, when the United States hosted the first Leaders’ Meeting on Blake Island near Seattle, APEC Leaders hailed the rise of the Asia-Pacific’s voice in the global economy. Today, as we gather in Honolulu, in the heart of the Pacific, APEC Leaders look out on a region that is performing beyond even the most optimistic expectations. Our region is now the vanguard for global growth, a status that we have achieved through a steady commitment to the APEC mission of regional economic integration and to the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment.

We meet at a time of uncertainty for the global economy. Growth and job creation have weakened in many economies, and significant downside risks remain, including those arising from the financial challenges in Europe and a succession of natural disasters in our region.

These challenges have only strengthened our commitment to cooperation as the way forward. Building on the Yokohama Vision, we firmly resolve to support the strong, sustained, and balanced growth of the regional and global economy.

We recognize that further trade liberalization is essential to achieving a sustainable global recovery in the aftermath of the global recession of 2008-2009. We have deep concerns regarding the impasse confronting the Doha Development Agenda (DDA), and the reality is that a conclusion of all elements of the Doha agenda is unlikely in the near future. We will not complete the DDA if we continue to conduct negotiations as we have in the past, but none of us intends to abandon efforts that would allow for better progress toward the ultimate conclusion of the DDA. We instruct officials to approach the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference and negotiations beyond it with a view to fresh thinking and a determination to begin exploring fresh and credible approaches. These include possibilities that involve advancing specific parts of the Doha agenda where consensus might be reached on a provisional or definitive basis.

As our economies and others continue to address evolving challenges and opportunities, it will be important for the WTO to contribute, with development as a continuing priority.

We reaffirm our pledge against protectionism through a standstill and extend this commitment through the end of 2015. We urge WTO Members meeting at the Eighth Ministerial Conference in December 2011 to build on the commitment made at APEC through agreement on an anti-protectionist pledge. We direct APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade to use the 2012 meeting in Kazan to assess ways to promote progress on the DDA in the WTO. We look forward to the conclusion of Russia’s WTO accession process at the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference.

In APEC this year, we have committed to taking concrete steps toward a seamless regional economy, in order to link our economies and markets ever closer together, to the benefit of all.
Strengthening Regional Economic Integration and Expanding Trade

APEC’s core mission continues to be further integration of our economies and expansion of trade among us. We come together in APEC to pursue these goals, recognizing that trade and investment are critical to job creation and greater economic prosperity for all our economies. We further recognize that strengthening regional economic integration also plays a key role in promoting regional peace and stability.

We have pursued these objectives in 2011 by addressing next-generation trade and investment issues, including through our trade agreements and a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, which is a major instrument to further APEC’s regional economic integration agenda. Specifically, we will advance a set of policies to promote effective, non-discriminatory, and market-driven innovation policy to set a model for innovation in the region as the best path toward fostering innovations that will increase productivity and ensure economic growth (see Annex A). We also decided on areas of cooperation that could be included in our trade agreements to enhance the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in global production chains (see Annex B).

In addition, we will take the following steps to further open markets and facilitate regional trade:
- Establish commercially useful de minimis values in our economies that will exempt low-value shipments from customs duties and streamline entry documentation requirements, as a key contribution to our goal of an APEC-wide 10 percent improvement in supply-chain performance by 2015;
- Undertake specific actions to address the top barriers that SMEs face in trading in the region to boost the capacity of these companies to contribute to economic growth and job creation in our economies;
- Play a leadership role in launching negotiations to expand the product coverage and membership of the WTO Information Technology Agreement, in order to build on the contribution this Agreement has made to promoting trade and investment and driving innovation in APEC economies;
- Launch the APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative to explore ways to make travel in the region faster, easier, and more secure;
- Implement our APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform plans by 2015 in order to reduce behind-the-border barriers and promote balanced, inclusive, and sustainable growth;
- Implement the APEC Cross Border Privacy Rules System to reduce barriers to information flows, enhance consumer privacy, and promote interoperability across regional data privacy regimes;
- Implement the Niigata Declaration on Food Security, and reaffirm our commitment to a standstill, first made by APEC Leaders in 2008, as it pertains to export restrictions and other WTO-inconsistent trade measures; and
- Facilitate commerce and promote economic growth by pursuing liberalization of air cargo services.
**Promoting Green Growth**

We are committed to advancing our shared green growth objectives. We can and must address both the region’s economic and environmental challenges by speeding the transition toward a global low-carbon economy in a way that enhances energy security and creates new sources of economic growth and employment.

We have advanced these objectives significantly in 2011. In 2012, economies will work to develop an APEC list of environmental goods that directly and positively contribute to our green growth and sustainable development objectives, on which we are resolved to reduce by the end of 2015 our applied tariff rates to 5% or less, taking into account economies’ economic circumstances, without prejudice to APEC economies’ positions in the WTO. Economies will also eliminate non-tariff barriers, including local content requirements that distort environmental goods and services trade (see Annex C). Taking these concrete actions will help our businesses and citizens access important environmental technologies at lower costs, which in turn will facilitate their use, contributing significantly to APEC’s sustainable development goals.

We will also take the following steps to promote our green growth goals:

- Rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while recognizing the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services, and set up a voluntary reporting mechanism on progress, which we will review annually;
- Aspire to reduce APEC’s aggregate energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035;
- Promote energy efficiency by taking specific steps related to transport, buildings, power grids, jobs, knowledge sharing, and education in support of energy-smart low-carbon communities;
- Incorporate low-emissions development strategies into our economic growth plans and leverage APEC to push forward this agenda, including through the Low-Carbon Model Town and other projects; and
- Work to implement appropriate measures to prohibit trade in illegally harvested forest products and undertake additional activities in APEC to combat illegal logging and associated trade.

**Regulatory Convergence and Cooperation**

Regulatory reform, including eliminating unjustifiably burdensome and outdated regulations, can boost productivity and promote job creation, while also protecting the environment and public health, safety, and security. In addition, as trade and investment flows become more globalized, greater alignment in regulatory approaches, including to international standards, is necessary to prevent needless barriers to trade from stifling economic growth and employment.

This year, we have advanced these objectives by committing to take specific steps by 2013 to implement good regulatory practices in our economies, including by ensuring internal coordination of regulatory work; assessing regulatory impacts; and conducting public consultation (see Annex D).

We will also take the following steps to increase convergence and cooperation in our regulatory systems:

- Pursue common objectives to prevent technical barriers to trade related to emerging green technologies, including smart grid interoperability standards, green buildings, and solar technologies;
- Strengthen food safety systems and facilitate trade, including by supporting the Global Food Safety Fund - an innovative capacity-building partnership with the World Bank; and
- Ensure implementation of our APEC anti-corruption and open government commitments by 2014 through deeper cooperation in APEC.

**Looking Forward**

To promote strong, inclusive regional growth, we commit to take concrete actions to expand economic opportunities for women in APEC economies. We welcome the San Francisco Declaration on Women and the Economy and pledge to monitor its implementation.

We applaud the contributions of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) to our work. Recognizing that private enterprise is the engine of trade, investment, and innovation, we have committed ourselves to enhancing the role of the private sector in APEC, through greater input into APEC’s working groups and the establishment of new public-private Policy Partnerships. Expressing solidarity with the people affected by tragic natural disasters, we pledge to incorporate the private sector and civil society more substantively into our emergency preparedness efforts, as a critical piece of our efforts to build more resilient communities and businesses.

Recognizing the range of experiences and systems across APEC economies, we reaffirm the importance of supporting our ambitious vision for a seamless regional economy through our abiding commitment to delivering effective economic and technical cooperation.

Enormous progress has been made. But our work toward a truly seamless regional economy is only in the beginning stages. We instruct our ministers and officials to carry forward this work and to strengthen the economic foundation of our shared Asia-Pacific community. We look forward to reviewing further progress when we convene again during Russia’s hosting of APEC in 2012.
Encouraging innovation - the process by which individuals and businesses generate and commercialize new ideas - is critical to the current and future prosperity of APEC economies. Our collective economic growth and competitiveness depend on all our peoples’ and economies’ capacity to innovate. Open and non-discriminatory trade and investment policies that foster competition, promote access to technology, and encourage the creation of innovations and capacity to innovate necessary for growth are critical aspects of any successful innovation strategy. Therefore, we as APEC Leaders agree to:

1. Develop and maintain an open economy that allows the flow of capital, people, ideas, goods, and services across borders in ways that ensure competition, enhance productivity, and foster growth across the Asia-Pacific region;

2. Enable the development and adoption of new and innovative business models by maintaining regulatory systems, including licensing regimes, that support competitive markets;

3. Maintain regulatory systems that are transparent and non-discriminatory, provide due process, and include opportunities for early and meaningful stakeholder engagement, consistent with the APEC Leaders’ Transparency Standards;

4. Promote open investment, including by working to remove restrictions on foreign direct investment, consistent with the APEC Non-Binding Investment Principles and the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan;

5. Encourage the use and participation in the development of voluntary, market-led, and global standards that promote innovation, competition, and create global markets for products and services;

6. Ensure that technical regulations and requirements serve legitimate public policy objectives (e.g., health, security, safety, and environment), and do not serve to stifle innovation, limit access to technologies, reduce competition, or create unnecessary trade barriers;

7. Develop and implement technical regulations and requirements, taking into consideration the APEC-OECD Integrated Checklist on Regulatory Reform;

8. Provide effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights to create a climate in which innovators, including small and medium-sized businesses, are encouraged to invest in the research, development, and commercialization of leading-edge technologies and promote the dissemination of technologies and services throughout APEC economies;

9. Refrain from adopting or maintaining measures that make the location of the development or ownership of intellectual property a condition for eligibility for government procurement preferences, without prejudice to economies’ positions in the WTO;

10. Ensure that the terms and conditions of transfer of technology, production processes, and other proprietary information are left to the agreement between individual enterprises, consistent with WTO rules;

11. Promote government procurement policies that are transparent, non-discriminatory, openly pro-competitive, and performance-based, consistent with the APEC Non-Binding Principles on Government Procurement;

12. Implement information and communication technology policies, including those related to data privacy and security, in such a way as to minimize the trade-distorting impact of and promote greater global alignment in those policies;

13. Effectively and efficiently manage spectrum so as to enable innovative use of this resource, avoiding undue limitations on applications and technologies that utilize spectrum, other than as necessary to mitigate harmful interference; and

14. Encourage cooperation and interaction among researchers and laboratories, including through joint research and development, in order to accelerate innovations that can be applied to address the common economic and other challenges APEC economies face.

We instruct officials to develop capacity-building activities that will further assist economies to promote effective, non-discriminatory, and market-driven innovation policy.
Recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have begun to include chapters or provisions on cooperation and addressing the development of SMEs, and their results have enabled SMEs to strengthen capacity in their productive processes. However, further efforts could be made to foster the participation of SMEs in global production chains through addressing the issue in next generation trade agreements. This will facilitate the development of SMEs as supporting industries.1

Therefore, we agreed that APEC could promote the inclusion of language in FTAs, setting out areas in which parties will cooperate to enhance SMEs’ participation in global production chains in order to foster trade and investment in the region. These areas of cooperation could include:

• Enhancing SMEs’ ability to take advantage of opportunities throughout the production chain
  a) Enhancing SMEs’ ability to identify commercial partners and direct investment and joint venture opportunities in foreign markets.
  b) Sharing information on assistance programs the parties have in place to foster SMEs participation as supporting industries.
  c) Enhancing SMEs’ understanding of how to become reliable supporting industries and to establish business ties with other supporting industries, final goods suppliers, and exporting industries.
  d) Enhancing SMEs’ human resources development through training programs on international trade, and entrepreneurial and technical education.
  e) Making publicly available trade-related regulations and other policies relevant to SMEs and their participation in global production chains.

• Promote enhanced use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and intellectual property protection
  f) Enhancing SMEs’ understanding of how to utilize ICT networks and other innovative technologies to participate in global production chains.
  g) Enhancing SMEs’ understanding of how to acquire and protect their intellectual property rights.

• Facilitate SMEs’ access to trade and investment-related information
  h) Enhancing Parties understanding of how to develop and promote seminars, workshops, trade opportunities and other activities, including establishing and maintaining a publicly available online tool kit to convey information, including text, tariff schedules, and references that can be useful for trading, investing, or doing business, to make it easier for SMEs to take advantage of the benefits of Free Trade Agreements.

1 Supporting industries may be defined as suppliers of inputs and/or services to be incorporated into the production chain of other enterprises which participate in international trade.
In 2007, in Sydney, we made a commitment to avoid barriers to trade and investment in pursuit of clean and sustainable development, and additionally launched an action agenda including promotion of environmental goods and services as a way to reduce trade barriers in this area. In 2009, we further enhanced this work by endorsing the APEC Work Programme on Environmental Goods and Services designed to help APEC reach agreement on actions to support sustainable growth in the region, advance work to increase utilization and dissemination of EGS, reduce existing barriers and refrain from introducing new barriers to trade and investment in EGS, and enhance capabilities of economies to develop their EGS sectors.

In 2011, we are now ready to take the concrete steps necessary to achieve these past commitments, and to make green growth a reality in all of our economies. Current estimates suggest that tens of trillions of dollars of investment will be required in the coming years to meet our clean energy, clean air, sanitation and other environmental goals. Ensuring that we can meet these goals at the lowest cost, utilizing the latest technologies, while also creating new, green jobs will be a significant challenge. In order to meet this challenge, we will benefit from open markets and enhanced environmental technology dissemination. Therefore, we agree to undertake the following actions to promote trade and investment in environmental goods and services:

• In 2012, economies will work to develop an APEC list of environmental goods that directly and positively contribute to our green growth and sustainable development objectives, on which we are resolved to reduce by the end of 2015 our applied tariff rates to 5% or less, taking into account economies’ economic circumstances, without prejudice to APEC economies’ positions in the WTO.

• Eliminate, consistent with our WTO obligations, existing local content requirements that distort environmental goods and services trade in the region by the end of 2012, and refrain from adopting new ones, including as part of any future domestic clean energy policy.

• Ensure that all government support and incentive programs aimed at promoting environmental goods and services are transparent and consistent with economies’ WTO obligations.

• Ensure that all government procurement policies pertaining to environmental goods and services are transparent, consistent with the 1999 APEC Non-Binding Principles on Government Procurement.

• Promote regulatory coherence and cooperation in areas affecting environmental goods, including by better aligning approaches to standards and conformance in the environmental goods sector.

• Affirm our commitment to pursue liberalization of environmental goods and services in the World Trade Organization (WTO), including by exploring creative and innovative solutions to advance the Doha mandate to reduce and, as appropriate, eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to these goods and services.

• Pursue progressive liberalization of trade in environmental goods and services in our Free Trade Agreements.

We instruct officials to undertake capacity-building activities relevant to implementing these actions, including exchanging views, experiences, and best practices to promote EGS trade and investment.
Building high quality regulatory environments in APEC economies is a key component of APEC’s work to promote free and open trade and investment in the region. Since its inception, APEC has promoted the use of good regulatory practices and worked to reduce the negative impact of regulatory divergences on trade and investment. APEC work in this area seeks to embed the concepts of non-discrimination, transparency, and accountability into the regulatory cultures of APEC economies, which will help create jobs and promote economic growth.

Therefore, we as APEC Leaders agree to undertake the following actions by November 2013 to strengthen the implementation of Good Regulatory Practices across APEC economies:

1. Develop, use, or strengthen processes, mechanisms, or bodies to enable a whole of government approach in the development of regulations, including coordination across regulatory, standards, and trade agencies.

   The functions of this process, mechanism or body may include, but are not limited to, the following:

   • Development of an economy-wide, cost-sensitive, and forward-looking regulatory agenda;
   • Establishment of overarching and publicly available principles to guide good regulatory governance; and
   • Review of existing regulations on a periodic basis to improve their effectiveness and address burdensome requirements contained within.

2. Develop, use, or strengthen mechanisms for assessing the impact of regulations, which involves effective and consistent use of the tools and best practices for developing new regulations and reviewing existing regulations.

   Such tools and best practices may include, but are not limited to, the following:

   • When deciding to regulate, clearly identify the need for a regulatory proposal, describing the nature and significance of the problem;
   • Examine feasible alternatives, including less burdensome alternatives involving market-based or voluntary solutions, for addressing the problem;
   • Assess both the costs and benefits of each available alternative for addressing the problem and identify the reasons why the alternative selected best achieves the policy objective. Given that some costs and benefits are difficult to quantify, qualitative assessments are more feasible in some cases; and
   • Examine the incentives and mechanisms in place to review and streamline existing regulations.

3. Implement the principles related to public consultation of the 2005 APEC-OECD Integrated Checklist on Regulatory Reform section on regulatory policy and the 2004 Leaders’ Statement to Implement the APEC Transparency Standards.

   Implementation of these principles may include, but are not limited to, the following:

   • Establish procedures that provide stakeholders with a meaningful opportunity to comment on regulatory proposals;
   • Provide plainly written, clear, and concise draft measures for public comment with adequate time for review, so that stakeholders and government can have a genuine dialogue that leads to improved regulatory outcomes; and
   • Ensure that regulators consider public comments.
In 2011, APEC Leaders put forward an ambitious goal to build a seamless regional economy that will ensure long-term prosperity.

For APEC in 2012, this means taking concrete measures to further boost trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific and to inclusively and comprehensively respond to the rising global economic and financial challenges.
In 2012, APEC will continue to effectively implement the Growth Strategy by achieving tangible results, especially in the four priority areas of: liberalizing trade and investment and expanding regional economic integration; strengthening food security; establishing reliable supply chains; and cooperating to foster innovative growth.

**Liberalizing Trade and Investment and Expanding Regional Economic Integration**

As directed by the Leaders in the 2011 Honolulu Declaration, APEC will further develop its approach towards addressing next generation trade and investment issues. On APEC’s long-term agenda is the search for achievable ways to align technical regulations and standards that will expand regional economic integration and drive regulatory coherence.

APEC will also proceed with moving towards the Bogor Goals and, while seeking to promote consistency among free trade agreements, will make further steps toward a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). Member economies will continue to actively engage with business - both major companies and small and medium-sized enterprises - on trade and investment liberalization issues and take concrete steps to bolster public-private partnerships.

**Strengthening food security**

APEC will continue to play an important role in improving regional and global food security by supporting sustainable development in the agricultural sector. This includes implementing projects focused on increasing food market transparency by monitoring and exchanging information on agricultural production, supply and demand; developing market infrastructure; reducing costs and losses in food production and in food supply chains.

APEC will also take steps to raise the quality and safety of food products, enhance conformity to food safety standards, and ensure a more inclusive food supply for socially vulnerable population groups. APEC will discuss the interconnection between food security and sustainable growth, measures for the responsible maintenance of ecosystems, and combating illegal fishing and trade in other biological and wildlife resources.
Establishing reliable supply chains

To support economic growth, APEC will implement measures for reliable, competitive and barrier-free supply chains both within the APEC region and between APEC and other major markets. Specifically, it will concentrate on implementing concrete steps to tackle chokepoints impeding the movement of goods across borders, by removing barriers and other obstacles that increase the time and cost of transportation; lifting restrictions on information exchange and telecommunication interconnectivity; and applying prospective satellite-based tracking technologies.

APEC will continue to support member economies as it advances toward modern logistics, navigation and customs technologies that improve interaction between their transportation systems. And to ensure appropriate risk management, safe operation and protection of transportation facilities, special emphasis will be given to capacity building on emergency preparedness and disaster relief and developing related information exchange.

Cooperating to foster innovative growth

Putting to practice the commitment made by Leaders in 2011 to set a model for innovation in the region, APEC will contribute to the development of innovation strategies and policies of member economies. APEC sees this as the best path toward fostering innovation that will increase productivity and ensure economic growth. APEC will also develop measures to foster cooperation on major innovation projects related to strengthening trans-border interaction and networking among businesses, academia and government institutions and addressing barriers to investment in high technology sectors.

APEC will also focus on human resources development by supporting life-long education, creativity, healthy lifestyles and relevant healthcare issues.
## KEY MEETINGS IN 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM1) and related meetings</td>
<td>30 Jan - 19 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM2) and related meetings</td>
<td>20 May - 5 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting</td>
<td>21 - 23 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting</td>
<td>4 - 5 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Energy Ministerial Meeting</td>
<td>24 - 25 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Mining</td>
<td>27 - 28 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Environment</td>
<td>16 - 18 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism Ministerial Meeting</td>
<td>23 - 24 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting</td>
<td>3 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications and Information Ministerial Meeting</td>
<td>6 - 8 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Ministerial Meeting</td>
<td>30 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>APEC 2012 Leaders Week</td>
<td>2 - 9 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concluding Senior Officials’ Meeting</td>
<td>2 - 3 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th APEC Ministerial Meeting</td>
<td>5 - 6 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting</td>
<td>8 - 9 November</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Further details can be found at www.apec.org
APEC Leaders issue the Honolulu Declaration in which they commit to taking concrete steps toward a seamless regional economy; addressing shared green growth objectives; and advancing regulatory cooperation and convergence. To reach these goals, APEC resolves to reduce, by the end of 2015, applied tariff rates of environmental goods to 5 percent or less, taking into account economies’ economic circumstances, without prejudice to APEC economies’ positions in the WTO. APEC sets the goal to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035. And APEC commits to take specific steps by 2013 to implement good regulatory practices by ensuring internal coordination of regulatory work; assessing regulatory impacts; and conducting public consultation.

APEC Leaders issued the Yokohama Vision to provide a roadmap for members to realize an economically-integrated, robust and secure APEC community. This includes the formulation of a comprehensive, long-term growth strategy. APEC completes an assessment of the progress towards the Bogor Goals and finds significant gains in the areas of liberalizing trade in goods, services and investment, as well as trade facilitation. APEC formulates the APEC Strategy for Investment and endorses the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform. APEC holds its first-ever APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security.

APEC resolves to pursue balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth, while Leaders agree to extend their standstill commitment on protectionism until 2010. The first-ever joint meetings of APEC senior trade and finance officials are held to address the economic crisis. APEC launches the Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework and the Ease of Doing Business Action Plan to make doing business in the region 25 percent cheaper, faster and easier by 2015. Member economies also commence work on an APEC Services Action Plan and an Environmental Goods and Services Work.

APEC Economic Leaders address the global financial crisis in the Lima Statement on the Global Economy, in which they commit to take all necessary economic and financial measures to restore stability and growth, to reject protectionism and to intensify efforts to advance the WTO’s Doha Development Agenda negotiations. APEC focuses on the social dimensions of trade, reducing the gap between developing and developed members and Corporate Social Responsibility. Leaders welcome the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan aimed at improving the investment environment in the region.

For the first time, APEC member economies issue a Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development outlining future action in support of a new international climate change arrangement and announcing a forward program of practical, cooperative actions and initiatives. Leaders also adopt a major report on closer regional economic integration, including structural reform initiatives, and welcome the second APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan which aims to reduce trade transaction costs by a further five per cent by 2010.

APEC Economic Leaders endorse the Ha Noi Action Plan which identifies specific actions and milestones to implement the Bogor Goals. Leaders conclude that the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan has achieved its target of a five percent reduction in trade transaction costs in the region between 2002 and 2006. APEC takes a strategic approach to reform fora and strengthen the Secretariat.

APEC completes the Mid-Term Stock-take of Progress Towards the Bogor Goals. The stock-take finds that average tariffs in the APEC region have been reduced to 5.5 percent, down from 16.9 percent when APEC was established in 1989, and that APEC is on schedule to meet the Bogor Goals. It also outlines the Busan Roadmap to the Bogor Goals. The APEC Privacy Framework is launched.

APEC adopts Best Practices for RTAs and FTAs, a reference guide for APEC members undertaking RTA/FTA negotiations. The Leaders’ Agenda to Implement Structural Reform (LAISR) is launched. It addresses five priority areas: regulatory reform; corporate governance; public governance; competition policy; and strengthening economic legal infrastructure. Leaders endorse the Santiago Commitment To Fight Corruption And Ensure Transparency.
2003 • Bangkok, Thailand
Members undertake to implement the APEC Action Plan on SARS and the Health Security Initiative to help the region prevent and respond to health threats. Leaders pledge to strengthen regional efforts to promote sound and efficient financial systems and encourage the development of domestic and regional bond markets.

2002 • Los Cabos, Mexico
APEC adopts a Trade Facilitation Action Plan and the Statement to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy. The Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative is launched and a Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards is endorsed.

2001 • Shanghai, People’s Republic of China
Leaders issue APEC’s first Statement on Counter-Terrorism and pledge to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. Leaders also adopt the Shanghai Accord which focuses on: broadening the APEC vision to reflect the changes wrought by the digital economy; clarifying the roadmap to reach the Bogor Goals; and strengthening the IAP Peer Review Process and capacity building activities. An e-APEC Strategy identifying the necessary policy environment and specifying appropriate goals and actions to maximise the benefits of the digital economy is also endorsed.

2000 • Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
APEC commits to the Action Agenda for the New Economy. Leaders set the goals of tripling internet access throughout the APEC region by 2005, and achieving universal access by 2010.

1999 • Auckland, New Zealand
APEC Leaders endorse the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform aimed at addressing the structural and regulatory weaknesses that contributed to the Asian financial crisis. APEC commits to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and 2010 in developing economies. The APEC Business Travel Card scheme is approved and a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Electrical Equipment and a Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC are endorsed.

1998 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
APEC Ministers agree on a Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce, including a commitment to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and by 2010 in developing economies.

1997 • Vancouver, Canada
APEC endorses a proposal for early voluntary sectoral liberalisation in 15 sectors and decides that Individual Action Plans should be updated annually.

1996 • Manila, The Philippines
The Manila Action Plan for APEC is adopted, outlining the trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation measures required to reach the Bogor Goals. The first Collective and Individual Action Plans are compiled, outlining how economies will achieve the free trade goals.

1995 • Osaka, Japan
APEC adopts the Osaka Action Agenda which provides a framework for meeting the Bogor Goals through trade and investment liberalisation, business facilitation and sectoral activities, underpinned by policy dialogues and economic and technical cooperation. The APEC Business Advisory Council is established to inject a business perspective into APEC deliberations and to give advice on business sector priorities.

1994 • Bogor, Indonesia
APEC sets the Bogor Goals of, “free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialised economies and 2020 for developing economies.” The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations conducted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is concluded. APEC is widely considered to have been a significant force in bring the Round to a conclusion.

1993 • Blake Island, United States
APEC Economic Leaders meet for the first time and outline APEC’s vision of “stability, security and prosperity for our peoples.”

1989 • Canberra, Australia
APEC begins as an informal Ministerial-level dialogue group with 12 founding members.
The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was established to take advantage of the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies, to facilitate economic growth for all participants and to enhance a sense of community. It aims to improve regional trade and economic performance and linkages for the prosperity of the people in the region.

Since its inception in 1989, APEC has helped to reduce tariffs and other barriers to trade across the Asia-Pacific region. Business transaction costs were cut by 5 percent between 2006 and 2010. This represents cost savings of close to US$ 59 billion for business. APEC has worked to create an environment to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods, services and people across borders through policy decisions and economic and technical cooperation. During this period, APEC member economies have grown, and developing economies in particular have experienced substantial increases in GDP and standards of living.
ABOUT APEC

ECONOMIC DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Economy and Year Joined</th>
<th>Population (thousands)</th>
<th>GDP (US$m)</th>
<th>GDP per capita (US$)</th>
<th>Imports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial Services (US$m)</th>
<th>Exports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial Services (US$m)</th>
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<td>Singapore (1989)</td>
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<td>Chinese Taipei (1991)</td>
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<td>Thailand (1989)</td>
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<td>United States (1989)</td>
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<td>Viet Nam (1998)</td>
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<td>103,571.7</td>
<td>1,191.3</td>
<td>94,572.0</td>
<td>79,546.7</td>
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</table>

Source: StatsAPEC http://statistics.apec.org/
* GDP (US$m) (current prices) and GDP per capita (US$)
* GDP per capita (US$)

APEC Process

APEC is a unique forum operating on the basis of open dialogue and equal respect for the views of all participants. Decision making within APEC is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments; compliance is promoted through peer review and, when appropriate, supported by economic and technical cooperation. Developing economies have as much say in setting APEC’s agenda as some of the largest economies in the world.

APEC’s priorities and goals are set at annual meetings of APEC Economic Leaders and Ministers. Officials and experts in APEC member economies carry out projects and other work to meet these goals. This work is supported by the APEC Secretariat which is based in Singapore.

* The word ‘economies’ is used to describe APEC members because the APEC cooperative process is predominantly concerned with trade and economic issues, with members engaging with one another as economic entities.
APEC’s Scope of Work

APEC works in three broad areas to meet its goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific. The ‘Bogor Goals’ set two broad timetables for free and open trade to be achieved by industrialised economies by 2010 and by developing economies by 2020. The three areas in which APEC works are:

- **Trade and Investment Liberalisation** - reducing and eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment, and opening markets.
- **Business Facilitation** - reducing the costs of business transactions, improving access to trade information and bringing into line policy and business strategies to facilitate growth, and free and open trade.
- **Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH)** - assisting APEC member economies to build the necessary capacities to take advantage of global trade.

Together, the outcomes assist APEC member economies to continue to grow and prosper. Tangible benefits are also delivered to the people of the region, through increased choices in the marketplace, cheaper goods and services and improved access to international markets.

Over the last few years new threats to the economic well-being of the region have emerged. The commercial impact of terrorist attacks, regional epidemics and devastating natural disasters reinforces the nexus between trade and human security. APEC is meeting these new challenges through cooperative activities aimed at ensuring that trade and economic development continues, while safeguarding the people and economies of the region.

Action Plans

**Osaka Action Agenda**

The Osaka Action Agenda mapped out a path to meet the Bogor Goals. It provides a framework through a mix of individual and collective steps in liberalisation, facilitation and economic-technical cooperation. As part of this framework, General Principles have been defined for member economies as they proceed through the APEC liberalisation and facilitation process:

- Comprehensiveness
- Standstill
- WTO-consistency
- Simultaneous start, continuous process and differentiated timetables
- Comparability
- Flexibility
- Non-discrimination
- Cooperation
- Transparency

**Individual and Collective Action Plans**

APEC member economies report progress towards achieving free and open trade and investment goals through Individual and Collective Action Plans, submitted to APEC on an annual basis. Individual Action Plans (IAPs) contain a chapter for each specified policy area and report the steps that each member is taking to fulfil the objectives set out in the Osaka Action Agenda for each action area.

As specified in the Osaka Action Agenda, reporting is based on the following issue areas:

- Tariffso Competition Policy
- Non-tariff measures
- Government Procurement
- Services
- Deregulation/Regulatory Review
- Investment
- WTO Obligations (including Rules of Origin)
- Standards and Conformance
- Dispute Mediation
- Customs Procedures
- Mobility of Business People
- Intellectual Property
- Information Gathering and Analysis
- Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure

Collective Action Plans (CAPs) detail the joint actions of all APEC member economies in the same issue areas. CAPs are the compass by which APEC charts its course towards the ultimate objective of free trade and investment.

APEC member economies also work within a broader framework to meet the free and open trade goals. This framework comprises:

- Actions by individual APEC economies;
- Actions by APEC fora; and
- APEC actions related to multilateral fora.
The APEC Secretariat

The APEC Secretariat is staffed with a team of diplomats seconded from APEC member economies as well as by professional, specialist and administrative staff. The Secretariat is headed by an Executive Director.

The APEC Secretariat holds ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Certification. This recognises the continuous efforts made by the APEC Secretariat to provide high quality administrative and support activities. The APEC Secretariat is the first international trade-related secretariat to attain ISO certification.

Every year one of the 21 Member Economies plays host to APEC meetings and serves as the APEC Chair. The APEC host economy is responsible for chairing the annual Economic Leaders’ Meeting, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials’ Meetings, the APEC Business Advisory Council and the APEC Study Centres Consortium.
The APEC Policy Support Unit

The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU), established in 2008, provides research, analysis and evaluation capabilities to assist in the implementation of APEC’s agenda. The PSU is guided and overseen by a board that comprises representatives from the current, immediate past and next APEC host economy, and from each major donor.

APEC Stakeholder Participation

APEC recognises that strong and vibrant economies are not built by governments alone, but by partnerships between governments and key stakeholders, including the business sector, industry, academia, policy and research institutions, and interest groups within the community.

APEC member economies recognise that business drives the economies of the region and therefore involves business at all levels of the APEC process. At the highest level, APEC Economic Leaders communicate through annual meetings with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). ABAC comprises high-level business people from all 21 APEC member economies.

Through the APEC Study Centres (ASC) Consortium, APEC member economies actively engage academic and research institutions in the APEC process. The ASC Consortium facilitates cultural and intellectual exchanges in the Asia-Pacific region and assists the APEC process by undertaking advanced, collaborative interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research from an independent and long-term perspective. There are ASCs in 20 APEC member economies.

On The Web

The APEC Secretariat - www.apec.org contains information about APEC developments, issues and work programs, an APEC event calendar and links to key APEC websites. Join us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/APECnews) and follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/@followAPEC).

The APEC Secretariat also produces the APEC Bulletin - a free online newsletter - that provides detailed information on the key elements of APEC’s agenda, current activities, new publications, upcoming events.

Publications

publications.apec.org

Key APEC Documents

A reference set of the key policy decisions and initiatives endorsed by Leaders and Ministers in 2011. Includes the 2011 APEC Leaders’ Honolulu Declaration and Statements from Ministerial Meetings.


The report reviews progress that APEC and its member economies have made under the LAISR initiative on structural reform, including an overall assessment of the impact and benefits of structural reform within the APEC region.

2011 Annual Report to Ministers - APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)

The report contains an overview of the CTI’s work on trade and investment liberalisation and regional economic integration in 2011; and provides a series of recommendations to advance the Committee’s continued work program under the theme of building towards a “seamless regional economy.”

2011 APEC SOM Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH)

The report contains the committee’s key achievements, including the creation of three new groups: the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy, the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group, and the APEC Experts’ Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade. A new Policy Partnership on Food Security, is also outlined. The report also highlights some of the projects undertaken by APEC fora in 2011 to advance ECOTECH and the achievements of the various APEC working groups and task forces.

Ordering Publications

APEC publications can be downloaded free of charge or hard copy publications can be purchased from APEC. Please visit the APEC Secretariat Publications Database, publications.apec.org to order.
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