



The Brunei Declaration: Executive Summary

PECC XV, 3 September, 2003

Ten years since its last milestone statement at its San Francisco meeting, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council now revisits the question of building a Pacific Model for Global Economic Cooperation. PECC finds that the approach to integration in open markets is now even more important as member economies respond to new uncertainties.

PECC economies face significant new uncertainties. Threats of terrorism in the region pose great challenges to regional cohesion and stability. Cooperation to secure the movement of goods and people in the region is of highest priority.

Economies in the region are also questioning the best way forward as multilateral and regional institutions struggle to satisfy their diverse interests. They are increasingly pursuing multilateral, regional, and bilateral tracks.

PECC is concerned that in this environment the Asia Pacific approach to economic integration and cooperation has become less compelling and that political support for it has waned.

Yet that approach, based on integration in open markets, offers the best way forward because it provides economies, large and small, with access to the sources of regional economic growth.

All of these issues will require a renewed political commitment to integration. There are important interactions between political commitment to integration in PECC member economies and the sense of community in the Asia Pacific region.

PECC identifies seven priorities for the way ahead.

- First, governments of PECC should be resolute in ridding the region of the threat of terrorism. They must be prepared to bear the cost of providing security for people and the trade on which the region depends.
- Second, the PECC economies should provide a strong lead in advancing the Doha Development Agenda in the WTO, maintaining its spirit and balance.
- Third, all APEC members, in particular, must lay out a credible path to the Bogor goals and other key Leaders' commitments including the Brunei goals on ICT.
- Fourth, all economies of the region must adopt a common understanding on how regional trading arrangements can contribute to the Bogor goals.



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- Fifth, economies in East Asia or elsewhere embarking on financial cooperation and capital market integration must base those initiatives on reform of domestic institutions and their alignment with global standards.
 - Sixth, the economic and technical cooperation agenda, based on strong public-private partnerships, must remain a central part of regional integration because it is the key to greater transparency, building capacity and managing and facilitating change.
 - Seventh, the significance of these challenges suggests that now is a good time for APEC to re-examine its own institutional arrangements and internal processes so that its members can provide the leadership required.