

## **PECC Report to APEC SOM, Khon Kaen, 29-30 May**

### **15<sup>th</sup> PECC General Meeting, Brunei, 1-3 September**

#### *Securing the Future: A strategic path for the next decade*

The PECC General Meeting, which concludes each two-year cycle of PECC, will be held in Brunei on 1-3 September.

The program will address many of the key economic and geo-political issues that are likely to influence the shape of the Asia Pacific region in the coming decade.

It will focus on the structural imperatives for growth and stability in the Asia Pacific region in both the trading and financial system and will stress the importance of trans-Pacific linkages.

Some early highlights:

- ?? Opening by His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei
- ?? Closing Keynote by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Host of APEC 2003
- ?? Keynote addresses by present and former Latin American and Asian political leaders
- ?? Brunei Declaration on Asia Pacific's strategic future
- ?? Release of PECC's recommendations on RTAs
- ?? In cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank, leading international business schools examine effects of RTAs on trans-Pacific business networks
- ?? Possible release of World Bank economic prospects report
- ?? Release of best practices on sustainable cities in the Asia Pacific
- ?? Handover of PECC Leadership to Korea until end of 2005

A PECC web site will be launched shortly with further details and announcements.

An open invitation is extended to all APEC officials by the PECC Chair, Pehin Lim Jock Seng.

***“Securing the future:  
a strategic path for the next decade”***

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Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003

0900 – 1730

Focus Workshops

?? Trade

?? Finance

?? Community Building

1900 – 2100

Official Opening and Gala Dinner

Opening keynote address:

?? *His Majesty, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei  
Darussalam*

Tuesday, September 2nd, 2003

0900 – 1030

***Plenary Session I***

***A Regional Stocktaking: Is it now Every Man for Himself in the  
Asia Pacific region?***

1045 - 1215

***Plenary Session II***

***Doha Faltering: Key Messages for the Cancun WTO Ministerial  
and Beyond***

1230 - 1400

*Luncheon Keynote Address*

1400 - 1530

***Plenary Session III***

***Strategic Resources: Are Markets for Minerals and Energy up to the  
Challenge?***

1545- 1715

***Plenary Session IV***

***The Task Ahead on Public-Private Partnerships: ICT and  
Knowledge Based Development***

1900 - 2100

***Dinner with keynote address***

Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003

0830 – 1000

*Plenary Session V*  
*"Building Financial Stability from the Foundation: Domestic Institutions, Regional Links and Global Reach"*

1000 - 1200

*Plenary Session VI*  
*Revisiting the Pacific Community: the Way Forward*

1200 - 1230

*Adoption of the Brunei Declaration and Handover of the PECC Chair*

1230 – 1400

*Luncheon and Keynote Address*

*APEC as a Force for Unity in a World of Differences*

*His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand and Host of APEC 2003 (invited)*

### **Role of Airports and Airlines in Trade Liberalisation & Economic Growth, Singapore, 5-6 September**

PECC, in cooperation with the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Singapore, will hold an International Roundtable on the role of Airports and Airlines in Trade Liberalisation and Economic Growth on 5-6 September.

This will be focused on stakeholders in the sector and regulators and government authorities. The program will centre around:

- ?? Airport Development and Modernisation of Airport Services: Trends, Issues and new horizons
- ?? Liberalisation and privatisation of airports for rapid growth
- ?? New challenges and opportunities
- ?? Special Session airport financing and facilitation

PECC would like to convey the key results of the meeting to APEC Officials and Ministers in October for information.

### **Institutional Developments**

PECC held its twice-yearly Standing Committee meeting in Washington D.C. last April 23-24. This meeting was timed to coincide with the launch of the US Asia Pacific

Council, an umbrella organisation that brings together the US committees for PECC, PBEC and APEC Studies Centers.

The meeting benefited greatly for the presence of US business, academic and government leaders who stressed the need for PECC and indeed APEC to continue developing as effective forums for regional cooperation. PECC was fortunate to have received insights from the US Secretary of State Colin Powell and US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick on US policy towards the Asia Pacific region. In spite of the numerous pressing commitments they have, we believe their active participation signifies the importance they place on Asia Pacific cooperation and the role the non-government sector needs to play in making the Bogor Vision a reality.

As mentioned in previous updates to SOM, many APEC economies have brought together their second-track processes to ensure better coordination of efforts and more effective use of scarce resources.

Also of interest to APEC Senior Officials is the proposed cooperation between PECC and PBEC. Over the coming months it has been agreed that we will sit down to discuss how our two organisations can work together to better promote Asia Pacific cooperation. We believe that this development will strengthen the whole regional cooperation process and help to build effective domestic constituencies for APEC's work and provide important input for regional policy development.

PECC also expresses its appreciation for the valuable update from APEC's Deputy Executive, Ambassador Mario Artaza, who highlighted the themes and priorities from the Thailand year.

### **Finance Issues**

The PECC Finance Forum will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference under the theme of *Issues and Challenges for Regional Financial Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific* in Hua Hin, Thailand, on 8-9 July this year. The PECC Finance Forum has very close working links with the APEC process so the conference will be staged just ahead of the 16<sup>th</sup> APEC Finance Ministers' Technical Working Group Meeting to be held in the same city on July 10-12. This will enable the PECC Forum to be able to feed its recommendations and other findings into the discussions of the finance officials attending the TWG Meeting.

Key topics include:

- ?? Regional bond markets
- ?? Financing small and medium enterprises
- ?? Financial services liberalization in GATS and RTAs
- ?? Peer pressure for financial stability

The policy recommendations to emerge from this year's work program of the PECC Finance Forum will be submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting to be held in September. More information can be found on [www.pecc.net/finance/forum2003](http://www.pecc.net/finance/forum2003)

### **Trade and Investment Issues**

A full PECC report on these issues is included in the CTI papers.

Following the SOM Trade Policy Dialogue on RTAs, PECC will consult with APEC officials on its interim ideas and continue to develop its recommendations ahead of the final release at the PECC General Meeting in Brunei on 1-3 September.

PECC will now begin closer consultation with the business on RTA issues in the coming months and the special workshop scheduled in Brunei will focus on business sector interests and perspectives.