

SINGAPORE HOSTS DISCUSSIONS TO ADVANCE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

About 200 senior government officials, business executives, and academics will gather in Singapore at the APEC 2009 Symposium from 14 to 16 October 2008 to brainstorm ideas to advance Asia-Pacific economic integration. The Symposium is the first major meeting Singapore will organise to prepare for its APEC chairmanship in 2009.

- 2 The two-day Symposium will cover three topics, namely how APEC can
- (i) reduce barriers to trade and investment flows
 - (ii) improve the region's business environment, and
 - (iii) boost connectivity through improved transport and logistics networks.

3 Distinguished speakers invited to speak include Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, the former United States Trade Representative from 1997 to 2001, and Professor Robert Lawrence of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Other speakers hail from the government, private sector, regional think-tanks and international financial institutions.

Singapore's Chairmanship of APEC 2009

4 Peru is the current chair of APEC, and preparations are under way for the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Lima from 22 to 23 November 2008. Singapore will take over the chairmanship from Peru in January 2009 and host APEC 2009. The year-long chairmanship will see about 90 meetings held in Singapore, culminating in the Singapore AELM in November 2009. This is the first time that Singapore will host the AELM. Japan will take over the APEC chairmanship from Singapore in 2010, followed by the United States in 2011 and Russia in 2012.

5 The APEC 2009 Symposium follows the practice established by previous hosts of holding a session before the start of their chairmanships to discuss priority issues facing the 21 APEC member economies. However, this is the first time that business executives from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) are invited to participate in the session and to exchange ideas with government officials and academic experts in small, informal breakout sessions

About APEC

6 Since its formation in 1989, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has grown to encompass 21 members spanning across the four continents of the Asia Pacific region. It is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the region.

7 The 21 APEC member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States and Viet Nam.

8 The APEC region stands out as one of the most rapidly growing, economically dynamic, and business friendly regions in the world. Together, the 21 APEC members account for nearly 60 percent of global GDP and roughly 50 percent of international trade. The average GDP growth rate in the rapidly growing and dynamic economies in this region was 5.1 percent in 2006, compared with the world average of 3.9 percent. Since 1990, Asia-Pacific goods trade has increased by 300 percent, while global investment in the region has increased by over 400 percent.

9 For more information, please visit the APEC Singapore 2009 website: <http://www.apec2009.sg/index.php/home>

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SINGAPORE
9 OCTOBER 2008

Annex:

**APEC Singapore 2009 Symposium
PROGRAM
October 14-16, 2008**

Tuesday, October 14, 2008	
Ballroom II, Grand Hyatt, Singapore	
18:30 – 19:30	WELCOME RECEPTION
Wednesday, October 15, 2008	
Grand Ballroom, Grand Hyatt, Singapore	
09:00 – 09:15	WELCOME REMARKS <i>Barry Desker</i> , Dean, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University
09:15 – 09:45 (Open for Media Coverage)	OPENING ADDRESS <i>Ravi Menon</i> , 2 nd Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade & Industry, Singapore and APEC Senior Official for Singapore
09:45 – 10:30 (Open for Media Coverage)	Introduction by: <i>Dr. Charles Morrison</i> , Chair, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council KEYNOTE ADDRESS: WHY DOES APEC MATTER? <i>Prof. Robert Lawrence</i> , Albert L. Williams Professor of International Trade and Investment, JFK School of Government, Harvard University
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	PLENARY 1: REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION Moderated by: <i>Hank Lim</i> , Singapore Institute for International Affairs (SIIA) The Building Block Approach to Regional Economic Integration <i>Rob Scollay</i> , Associate Professor and Director of APEC Study Centre, University of Auckland Investment: A Building Block towards Integration <i>Noriyuki Mita</i> , Consulting Fellow, Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry

	<p>Harmonising and Cumulating Rules of Origin <i>Kati Suominen</i>, International Trade Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank</p> <p>Regional Economic Integration: The “Docking” and Enlargement Approach <i>Mary Elizabeth Chelliah</i>, Chair, APEC Committee on Trade & Investment</p> <p>ABAC-PECC Labour Mobility Study <i>Dr. Charles Morrison</i>, Chair, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council</p> <p>Role of Finance in Regional Economic Integration: Limitations and Opportunities <i>Srinivasan Madhur</i>, Director, Office of Regional Economic Integration, Asian Development Bank Institute</p>
13:00 – 14:30	<p>LUNCH Hibiscus Room, Grand Hyatt, Singapore</p>
14:30 – 16:00	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 1: REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION <i>Discussion Questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role can APEC play in a post-Doha world? What strengths can we leverage? • What are the areas for the next set of exploratory studies? • What concrete things can APEC work on now, either collectively or through pathfinders? Are there areas that would bring about more immediate benefits to your economy? What areas outside of liberalization could capture further gains from trade?
16:00 – 16:30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
16:30 – 17:45	<p>PLENARY 1A: REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WRAP-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of discussion points by each group • Panel discussion and Q&A
19:00 – 21:00	<p>OFFICIAL DINNER at the Asian Civilisation Museum Introduction by: <i>Barry Desker</i>, Dean, Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University</p>

	<p>(Open for Media Coverage) Speaker: <i>Amb. Charlene Barshefsky</i>, Senior International Partner, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP and former US Trade Representative Topic: The Six Phenomena that Bear on the Politics of Trade and Globalization in the United States</p>
<p>Thursday, October 16, 2008 Grand Ballroom, Grand Hyatt, Singapore</p>	
09:00-10:30	<p>PLENARY 2: IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT Moderated by: <i>Melanie Milo</i>, Fellow, Regional Economic Studies, Institute of South East Asia Studies</p> <p>Ease of Doing Business in APEC <i>Hans Shrader</i>, Indonesia Country Officer, World Bank</p> <p>Case Studies in Improving Ease of Doing Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting A Business: A Case Study on Mexico – <i>Erika Quevedo Chan</i>, Deputy Director, Federal Bureau of Regulatory Improvement, Mexico • Dealing with Construction Permits: A Case Study on Singapore – <i>Dr. Tan Kee Wee</i> – Deputy Director, Information Technology, Building & Construction Authority, Singapore <p>Issues Facing Businesses Operating Across Borders <i>Tony Nowell</i>, ABAC (New Zealand), NZ-Asia Foundation</p>
10:30 – 12:00	<p>BREAK-OUT SESSION 2: EASE OF DOING BUSINESS (with refreshments provided)</p> <p><i>Discussion Questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the costs and benefits of administrative and regulatory reform? • How can the costs of reform be mitigated? What resources and best practices are available? • What are some key components of competitiveness? What should be APEC’s priority areas for regulatory changes? • How can businesses help in the process of regulatory reform? What main elements are important for business

	facilitation?
12:00 – 13:00	<p>PLENARY 2A: IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT WRAP-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of discussion points • Panel discussion and Q&A
13:00-14:30	<p>LUNCH Hibiscus Room, Grand Hyatt, Singapore</p>
14:30– 16:00	<p>PLENARY 3: ENHANCING PHYSICAL CONNECTIVITY <i>Moderated by: Eduardo Pedrosa, Secretary General, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council</i></p> <p>Why Physical Connectivity Matters Anna Strutt, Department of Economics, Waikato Management School, University of Waikato, New Zealand</p> <p>ASEAN’s Experience in Logistics Integration Sundram Pushpanathan, Principal Director, Bureau for Economic Integration and Finance , ASEAN Secretariat</p> <p>Supply Chain Efficiency and Economic Competitiveness Tom Wheelwright, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, DHL Asia Pacific</p>
16:00 – 17:15	<p>BREAK-OUT SESSION 3: PHYSICAL CONNECTIVITY (with refreshments provided)</p> <p><i>Discussion Questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some challenges associated with moving goods and services in APEC markets? • What initiatives can APEC economies look into to increase connectivity? • What other aspects should APEC economies look at to improve the flow of services?
17:15 – 18:15	<p>PLENARY 3A: PHYSICAL CONNECTIVITY WRAP-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of discussion points • Panel discussion and Q&A
18:15 – 18:30	<p>CLOSING REMARKS Ravi Menon, 2nd Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade & Industry, Singapore and APEC Senior Official for Singapore</p>