



Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

MEDIA ALERT

Thursday, 22 March 2007



PECC Returns to Australia for 17th General Meeting

As part of Australia's year of hosting APEC, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) will hold its next General Meeting (PECC XVII) in Sydney on 1-2 May 2007. This is the first time since 1980 that the General Meeting has been held in Australia. Up to 200 delegates are expected to attend PECC XVII from PECC's twenty-four member economies.

Australia played a fundamental role in PECC's formation, hosting the inaugural meeting in Canberra in 1980, which discussed the concept of an Asia Pacific regional community. PECC now serves as a regional forum for cooperation and policy coordination to promote economic growth and development in the region and has observer status at APEC.

PECC XVII will be hosted by the Australian Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee (AUSPECC) with the theme *Managing the Challenges of Growth*. Sub-themes will cover what's new in the state of the region; building relevant institutions to serve the region; the consequences of demographic change; the challenges posed by constraints in regional resources markets; and the impact of environmental concerns on sustaining growth.

Keynote speakers and participants will include: the Rt Hon John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia (invited); Mark Johnson, Deputy Chairman, Macquarie Bank & Chair of APEC Business Advisory Council; David Spencer, Australian Ambassador for APEC; Alan Beattie, World Trade Editor, Financial Times; H.E. Mr Cheng Siwei, Vice Chairman, National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China; Dr Mari Pangestu, Indonesian Minister for Trade (invited); Ambassador (ret) Joachim Bitterlich, Executive Vice President International Affairs, VEOLIA; and Prof Warwick McKibbin, Australian National University & member of the Reserve Bank Board.

A copy of the program follows.

The program has been structured so that presentations and discussion can make a positive contribution towards managing the key issues and risks now facing the region, several of which are highlighted in PECC's most recent *State of the Region* report published prior to last November's APEC Leaders Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam – see www.pecc.org/sotr.

Members of the press are invited to attend any of the sessions in the General Meeting program and will also have the opportunity to interview individual participants.

The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) is a non-governmental body in the Asia Pacific region, serving as a regional forum for cooperation and policy coordination to promote economic growth and development in the region.

For further information or to arrange an interview: Jim Short, Executive Director AUSPECC
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For comment: Bill Shields, Chair AUSPECC 0416 238 043.

www.pecc.org

The 17th General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

Managing the Challenges of Growth



Program

as at 21 March 2007

Monday April 30

6.00pm-7.30pm **General Meeting Welcome Reception**

Welcome: Bill Shields, Chair AUSPECC

Tuesday May 1

9.00am-10.00am **Opening Ceremony**

Opening Remarks: Dr Charles E. Morrison, Chair PECC

Introduction: Bill Shields, Chair AUSPECC

Opening Address: *Challenges to Growth in the Asia Pacific*

David Spencer, Australian Ambassador for APEC and Chair of APEC Senior Officials' Meeting

10.00am-10.30am Tea and Coffee

10.30am-12.30pm **The State of the Region**

Session Chair: Dr Narongchai Akrasanee, Vice Chair TNCPEC (Thailand)

Keynote Address: *Regional Economic Integration – A Business Perspective*

Mark Johnson, Chair, APEC Business Advisory Council

Panel Discussion: Major trends in the PECC region and possible risks to growth, with an emphasis on structural change and productivity growth. Specific topics include:

- long term shifts and resolution of the trans-Pacific imbalance in financial flows - the next *big bang*?
- enhancing structural reforms - including the role of capacity building within countries
- trade liberalisation – the prospects for Doha versus more bilaterals
- investment flows (FDI) and trade facilitation
- the importance of avoiding infrastructure constraints

Panel:

Alan Beattie, World Trade Editor Financial Times, London

Yuen Pau Woo, CANCEC (Canada)

Dr Philippa Dee, Crawford School of Economics, The Australian National University

Professor Luis Riveros, Asia Latin America Centre, University of Chile

Professor John Wong, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

Moderator: Peter Thompson, ABC TV and Professor, Australia and NZ School of Government

Rapporteur: Dr Sherry Stephenson, Organisation of American States (invited)

12.30pm-2.45pm

Conference Lunch – The Role of Public Private Partnerships

in cooperation with Infrastructure Partnerships Australia - IPA

Session Chair: Professor Christopher Findlay, Vice-Chair AUSPECC

Case Studies:

John Walker, Chairman Macquarie Group of Companies, Korea

Adrian Kloeden, Chairman Serco Pty Ltd

Launch: FPTPEC Report and Recommended Guidelines

Professor Jean Luc Le Bideau, FPTPECC (French Pacific Territories) and

Joachim Bitterlich, Ambassador (ret), Executive Vice President International Affairs, Veolia, Paris

Invitation to Participate: Infrastructure Partnerships Global Dialogue

Garry Bowditch, Executive Director, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia

2.45pm-3.00pm

Break

3.00pm-5.00pm

Building Institutions to Serve the Region

Session Chair: Professor Yoshihisa Ara, Chair JANCPEC (Japan)

Presentation: Issues in Regional Institutional Architecture

Dr Charles E. Morrison, Chair PECC

Panel Discussion: The value and priorities for regional cooperation through APEC to meet the challenges to growth, including:

- recent trends in the evolution of the institutional architecture
- whether current institutional arrangements are relevant to the trends and challenges identified in the State of the Region session
- how should the institutional framework be strengthened
- what does business need to sustain its commitment to the region

Panel:

Dr Charles E. Morrison, Chair PECC

Dr Hadi Soesastro, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

Ambassador Long Yongtu, China

Allan Gyngell, Executive Director Lowy Institute, Sydney

Dr Kihwan Kim, Honorary Chairman, KOPEC (Korea)

Moderator: Peter Thompson, ABC TV and Professor, Australia and NZ School of Government

Rapporteur: Dr Manfred Wilhelmy, Chair CHILPEC (Chile)

7.00pm-9.00pm

Dinner – Australian Prime Minister, The Hon John Howard MP (invited)

Wednesday May 2

9.00am-12.30pm

Demographic Change, Growth and Integration

Session Chair: Dr Soogil Young, Chair KOPEC (Korea)

Keynote Address:

Professor Graeme Hugo, National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems, University of Adelaide

Dr Chia Siow Yue, Senior Research Fellow, Singapore Institute of International Affairs

10.00am -10.30am

Tea and Coffee

10.30am -12.30pm

Panel Discussion: Key aspects of demographic growth and integration including:

- urbanisation
- welfare issues
- financial implications
- labour mobility (within and between countries)

Panel:

Professor Graeme Hugo, University of Adelaide

Dr Chia Siow Yue, Singapore Institute of International Affairs

Professor Howard Dick, University of Melbourne

Dr Marla Asis, Scalabrini Migration Centre, Philippines

Professor Akira Kohsaka, PECC Pacific Economic Outlook project

Moderator: Peter Thompson, ABC TV and Professor, Australia and NZ School of Government

Rapporteur: Professor Gary Hawke, Chair NZPECC (New Zealand)

12.30pm-1.00pm

Pre-lunch address on the Challenges for Education

Keynote Address: Professor Stephanie Fahey, Deputy Vice Chancellor (International), Monash University

1.00pm-2.15pm

Lunch

2.15pm-4.00pm

Energy and the Environment

Session Chair: Ambassador Mei Ping, Chair CNCPEC (China)

Keynote Address: *Managing the Environmental Impact of Energy Use*
Professor Warwick McKibbin, The Australian National University, Canberra

Panel Discussion: Major issues including:

- feasibility of and frameworks for a coordinated regional policy response (Kyoto, AP6, etc)
- the role of markets in energy reform (more broadly than simply trading CHG emissions)
- the role of technology

Panel:

Professor Warwick McKibbin, The Australian National University
Dr David Hong, President, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research
Tony Beck, Australasian Emissions Trading Forum
Colin Whyte, General Manager, Sustainable Development, Xstrata Coal
Takeo Suzuki, Institute of Energy Economics Japan (invited)

Moderator: Peter Thompson, ABC TV and Professor, Australia and NZ School of Government

Rapporteur: David Parsons, Former Director General, PECC (invited)

4.00pm-4.15pm

Closing comments – Dr Charles E. Morrison, Chair PECC