



Asia-Pacific
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**Progress Report of Working Group / Experts
Meeting on Review of Trade and Investment Data**

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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE APEC WORKING GROUP/EXPERTS MEETINGS
ON REVIEW OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT DATA

1 This progress report summarizes the four working group meetings that have been held to date.

Purpose

2 The APEC Ministers agreed at their November 1989 meeting in Canberra to review the current data collection system of trade data and investment flows data, and then to seek ways to improve regional consultation and cooperation to increase the accuracy and utility of data on these flows. These efforts are necessary because the statistics are critical in the process of developing appropriate regional and national economic policies, and for the continuing expansion of trade in goods and services and capital flows within the region. Japan, Singapore and the United States were named as Shepherds to review merchandise and services trade and investment data, and to report back their findings with recommendations.

Summary of Meetings

3 The first working group meeting, held in Tokyo May 8, 1990, was a shepherds meeting to discuss the scope of the project and develop a work plan. The Shepherds also discussed and agreed on the overall objectives and goals of the working group.

4 The second meeting held, in Tokyo July 9, 1990, was open to all APEC participants as well as to representatives from the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC). At that meeting, the representatives from Singapore and Japan, presented the inventory findings of the merchandise trade data collection practices of the APEC participants. At the same meeting, delegates from Australia and New Zealand volunteered to start work in the investment flows and services trade areas. The working group agreed that since merchandise trade data would be the easiest to complete, work on investment and services would follow progress in the merchandise trade area.

5 The third meeting, held in Tokyo on February 7-8, 1991, was also opened to all APEC participants. At that meeting the representative from Singapore presented a questionnaire on merchandise trade data. The delegates from Australia and New Zealand presented an inventory and a draft questionnaire on investment flows, and a draft questionnaire on services trade. The questionnaires in all three areas are surveys designed to determine how each APEC participant records data in that area so as to identify and clarify areas of discrepancies. In addition to those presentations, an expert from Japan submitted an analysis of the merchandise trade inventory and the U.S. expert discussed preliminary findings on the Japanese-U.S. trade reconciliation project.

6 The last meeting, held in Singapore on August 15-17, 1991, was also opened to all APEC participants and was also attended by representatives from PECC and the International Monetary Fund. A delegate from Singapore, presented the preliminary report based on the merchandise trade data questionnaire responses. Timetables for the investment and services questionnaires were also established. The summary conclusions of this meeting are attached