

**APEC TRANSPORTATION MINISTERS MEETING**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**June 13, 1995**

**Joint Statement**

1. For the first time, APEC Ministers in-charge of transportation have met to exchange views and opinions on transportation issues of common interest in the Asia Pacific region: developing and maintaining an integrated, safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable transportation infrastructure; ensuring that transportation policies facilitate the efficient movement of goods and passengers in a manner that supports economic growth and trade in the region; and identifying the human resources needed to support the transportation sector. This meeting was held as a result of recommendations made by APEC Ministers and endorsed by Leaders in their meetings in November 1994 in Indonesia, and was one of seven important APEC initiatives launched in 1995 in pursuit of the objectives of the Bogor Declaration.

2. We recognize the important role of transportation in the economic and social well-being of each economy in the region. The ability of a transportation system to efficiently handle the movement of people and goods is critical in order to maximize economic productivity, facilitate trade, and contribute to the mobility of people. We also recognize that we must promote an institutional environment which facilitates the development of safe and efficient transportation systems that serve the region's consumers and producers.

**Guiding Principles for Asia-Pacific Transportation**

3. Taking into account the differences in the stages of economic development and in the political, legal, and administrative systems, and with equal respect for the views of all participants, we consider the following principles useful in guiding our transportation policies as we move towards the next century:

- facilitating the harmonization, coordination, and transparency of transport policies, regulations, procedures and standards;
- promoting a more cooperative framework among member economies while achieving a more competitive environment among the industry players, on the basis of fair, equitable, and mutually realizable opportunities for the transport industry to improve efficiency and reliability and enhance consumer choices;
- encouraging the reduction of barriers to trade in goods and services and investment in transport in a manner consistent with WTO principles, where applicable, and without detriment to other economies;
- promoting private/business sector participation, as appropriate, in the development and provision of transport infrastructure and services;
- facilitating improvement in productivity, skills and efficiency of labor and management in the transport industry;
- promoting a policy framework in which the transport industry is fully able to take advantage of technological change, and which has regard for the socio-economic effects of the introduction of new technology;
- consulting with and, where appropriate, supporting rather than duplicating the work of other international organizations involved in transport;
- promoting timely, rational investment in the region's transport infrastructure;
- encouraging efficient use of existing infrastructure through the application of appropriate trade and transport facilitation techniques and electronic data interchange;

- promoting transport system safety and security in the region; s
- encouraging adoption of practices that accord high priority to environmentally sustainable transport systems; and
- recognizing the transportation needs of all citizens, particularly those of handicapped persons.

#### **Priorities for Cooperation and Action in the Transportation Sector**

4. In support of the above guiding principles and the broad goals adopted by Leaders in Bogor, Indonesia, in November 1994 to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation as well as economic and technical cooperation in the region, we agree on the following priorities for cooperation and action:

- To pursue policies that significantly improve the region-wide transportation system through strategic investment in infrastructure to meet the growing and diverse transportation needs of Asia Pacific economies.
- To work together to promote further development and mobilization of capital to finance transportation infrastructure projects, recognizing the need for both public and private resources. We agree, in particular, to establish an APEC group to facilitate privatization or corporatization of infrastructure projects, which would include technical, financial, legal and other experts.
- To encourage ongoing efforts by international institutions to provide and enhance funding for transportation infrastructure.
- To promote, on the basis of fair and equitable access to markets, a more competitive transportation operating environment, and to cooperate to address institutional constraints affecting the provision of transportation services in the region. Recognizing the necessity of proceeding with consensus, Ministers agreed that a small group drawn from member economies should jointly prepare an options paper for consideration by all APEC members, on a consensus basis, for more competitive air services, with fair and equitable opportunity for all member economies.
- To facilitate the most efficient movement of people and goods in the region by:
  - adopting and using, to the greatest degree possible, appropriate modern technologies.
  - conforming with and adopting, to the greatest degree practicable, accepted international safety, environmental, and technical standards in the region; and
  - reviewing transport regulatory practices and procedures to pursue as far as possible their harmonization or mutual recognition.
- To pursue policies that improve the productivity, skills, entrepreneurial capabilities, and efficiency of labor and management in the transport sector through human resources development, including training, personnel exchange programs, research and development, and technology transfers, in part to narrow the gaps in human resource development and capabilities between developed and developing economies. As a first step, we agree to investigate the value of establishing a Technical Transportation Exchange Program to increase the capabilities in the transport sector through the exchange of experts among APEC economies. In addition, to further facilitate the development of transportation human resources in the Asia-Pacific region, we urge the Transportation Working Group to study the feasibility of a center for transportation research, development, and education, to determine whether such a facility is needed, taking into account issues such as the viability, costs, benefits, etc. of such a center.

— To work together, and in support of the efforts of other international organizations, to enhance safety and security in the transportation sector throughout the region. In particular, a group of experts should be established to identify aviation safety problems in the region and to provide necessary assistance.

— To develop transportation systems that help reduce congestion, and are energy efficient and environmentally friendly, taking particular note of the value of mass transit in achieving these objectives. In particular, we agree to form an APEC Urban Transportation Forum to discuss the experiences of the APEC economies in addressing urban congestion issues.

#### **Next Steps: A Transportation Workplan and Future Consultations/Meetings**

5. We urge the Transportation Working Group to draw on the principles agreed upon and the priorities for cooperation and action identified during this Ministerial in adjusting and developing further the transportation workplan, as formulated at the Seventh APEC Transportation Working Group meeting in Beijing, which will become a part of the Action Agenda for consideration at the APEC Economic Leaders' meeting in Osaka, Japan in November 1995.

6. We agree that these Ministerial discussions have promoted greater mutual understanding of transportation issues of common interest and are pleased that we have identified priorities for cooperation and action on them. We therefore look forward to continuing a dialogue among APEC Transportation Ministers.