



## **Implementing Transparency Principles in APEC**

In past years, PBEC has endorsed the development and implementation of transparent, international accounting standards to bolster investor confidence and stimulate capital flows essential for development. PBEC also strongly supported APEC's initiatives on transparency in government procurement and called for action in the WTO to negotiate a multilateral agreement on transparency in government procurement. In 1998, PBEC adopted its Charter on Standards for Transactions Between Business and Government, wherein PBEC set out guidelines for business enterprises in dealing with governments; PBEC also called on governments to redouble their efforts to ensure integrity, transparency and accountability in business-government transactions and to vigorously enforce their anti-corruption statutes.

For its part, APEC and its various sub-fora have developed menus of options and principles in different areas that contain transparency provisions. In some cases APEC has provided valuable leadership in promoting transparency goals that are important for growth and development. For example, the Government Procurement Experts Group (GPEG) is sharing its peer review reports on transparency in government procurement with the WTO and publicizing these peer review reports and its survey of government procurement practices in the 21 member economies of APEC on the APEC web-site. We commend the work to date of GPEG and we urge this group to complete its peer review process with 5 remaining APEC economies on the transparency principle in government procurement and to step up capacity building initiatives, particularly in developing countries as it relates to e-procurement and the development of government procurement laws and regulations.

At their October 2001 meeting in Shanghai, APEC Leaders adopted the Shanghai Accord that broadens the APEC vision, clarifies the roadmap to Bogor and strengthens APEC's implementation mechanisms. PBEC specifically endorses the Leaders' directive to APEC Ministers to pursue the implementation of APEC's agreed transparency principles, taking into account economies' specific circumstances and report on progress in their Individual Action Plans (IAPs) in 2002 and thereafter. We note that implementation of some of these transparency principles are particularly important to support expanded trade and investment in the region. Hence, PBEC urges APEC Economies individually and collectively to place priority emphasis on implementation of transparency principles in the following four areas, namely, trade facilitation, investment, government procurement and trade in services. While implementation of transparency principles across the board should remain a long-term goal of APEC, implementation



and progress in these four areas in the short-term would greatly enhance economic recovery in the region and help to stimulate increased capital flows to the region.

PBEC stands ready to work with APEC and other like-minded organizations to cooperatively advance the broad trade and investment liberalization agenda, both in the region and on a global basis.

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