PBEC Statement
Reaffirming Support for the MAI

Reaffirming the strong support given at its 31st International General Meeting in Santiago, the twenty economies of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) urge all governments to pursue energetically the successful conclusion of a strong Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) in the OECD. An MAI that expresses high standards and liberalization of investment regimes would benefit all PBEC economies, not only those which are members of the OECD. The renewed negotiations currently underway in the OECD are of great importance in determining whether an MAI will be reached and PBEC calls on governments to make every effort to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Increased foreign direct investment will be critical for the Asia Pacific region in the months and years to come as many economies struggle to recover from the financial crisis that is shaking the region. A strong MAI could support regional recovery and future growth by attracting more investment flows into signatory economies.

PBEC notes that:

- Investment is as important as trade in promoting economic development and raising living standards, in some respects more so;
- Foreign direct investment can be a stabilizing factor in developing economies, and
- In today's global economy, corporate investors and host economies both stand to gain from global, transparent, non-discriminatory and open investment rules that provide investors with secure investments.

At this point, only the OECD can provide a model framework for global investment rules with a reasonable time frame. All PBEC economies are reliant to some extent on foreign direct investment and, in light of the crisis of this past year, acutely aware of the urgent need for policies that can promote investment stability. The MAI represents one such set of policies and should be completed as quickly as possible.

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