

Planning underway for major international conference

Preparations are well underway for next year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, to be hosted by the Australian Government.

The APEC meetings will take place from January to September, focusing on areas of interest to the region, with more than 100 days of ministerial, officials-level and business-group meetings held across the country.

APEC Australia 2007™ will culminate in Sydney on 8 and 9 September next year with the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM), bringing together the leaders of all major regional economies as well as thousands of delegates, support personnel and the international media, and is one of the most important annual meetings of world leaders.

Principal responsibility for AFP involvement in APEC 2007 has been allocated by the National Managers' Group to Federal Agent Neil Gaughan, Manager Operations, Protection.

He said the forum had expanded in recent years. "APEC was an Australian initiative which was established in 1989, and has grown to include 21 member economies and more than 100 formal and informal dialogues and meetings annually," he said.

"APEC is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.

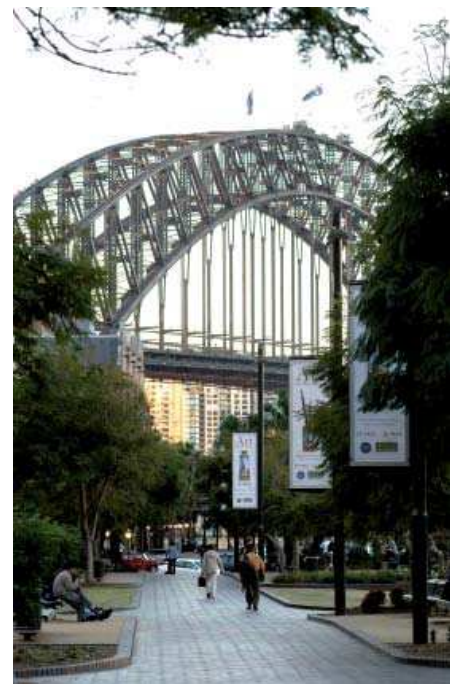
"Since APEC's inception, it has become the most economically dynamic region in the world, accounting for approximately 40 per cent of the world's population, 56 per cent of world GDP and 48 per cent of world trade."

The 21 APEC members, referred to as 'member economies', are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Philippines, The Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

Security

Federal Agent Gaughan said security was important because the event features the largest and most important series of meetings ever held in Australia.

"Comprehensive security preparations for APEC involve the full range of Australian Government security agencies, working cooperatively



The APEC meetings will culminate with the economic leaders meeting in Sydney in September 2007.

with the relevant state and territory governments, police services and local authorities as required.

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Meeting (CHOGM), Rugby World Cup 2003 and Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, and is providing the high-level coordination and planning essential for a safe and secure APEC year," he said.

APEC and the AFP

The AFP has been working on security preparations with the PSCC since late 2004. In broad terms, the AFP will provide support for APEC security through the forward deployment of specialist teams to selected APEC 2007 events, and by enhancing the preparedness and responsiveness of existing teams that are likely to interact with APEC 2007.

AFP members from several functional streams recently began to attend APEC planning meetings nationwide. The tempo of those meetings will increase through late 2006 into 2007, with the first event in Canberra in January 2007 and culminating with Leaders' Week in September 2007.

APEC and Australia

Federal Agent Gaughan said APEC would help promote regional stability.

"In recent years, APEC's agenda has expanded to include key global issues including counter-terrorism, non-proliferation and health," he said.

To coordinate and manage the logistics of such a significant international forum,



the APEC 2007 Taskforce, a division within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, was established.

Security for the APEC Australia 2007™ year is being coordinated by the Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC), a division of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department. A branch of PSCC, the APEC Security Branch, is co-located with the taskforce in both Canberra and Sydney.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has established a separate APEC 2007 Taskforce which has prime responsibility for managing Australia's relationship with APEC and shaping the event's policy agenda.

In total, 15 Australian Government agencies will take part in policy, organisational, logistics and security planning for the meetings.

Further information on AFP involvement in APEC 2007 will be provided in



the next issue of *Platypus Magazine*, available in December. Until then, general information on APEC can be found at www.apec.org, with more specific information at www.apec2007.org. Enquiries can also be directed to the AFP's liaison officers working on the APEC project:

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