



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Trade

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Dr Emerson to visit United States, Europe and China

Trade Minister Craig Emerson will visit the United States, France and China over the next two weeks for a series of meetings that will further Australia's trade interests.

In the first leg of the trip, Dr Emerson will meet with counterparts from around the Pacific Rim at the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Being held in Big Sky, Montana, the meeting will provide a fresh opportunity for Dr Emerson to discuss with APEC Ministers the creation of a seamless regional economy among APEC members, regional food security and the Doha Round of global trade talks.

APEC's 21 member economies account for more than half of global GDP and almost 70 per cent of Australia's trade.

"As an Australian-initiated economic alliance that brings together Asia, the Americas and Russia, APEC has long been a valuable forum for pursuing Australia's regional and global trade agenda," Dr Emerson said.

"Today, with Asia's growing economic weight in a world emerging from recession, APEC's role in liberalising trade and facilitating business among member states is more important than ever.

"Australia wants to break down unwarranted regulatory barriers to trade in the Asia-Pacific, moving towards a seamless regional economy."

While in the US, Dr Emerson will hold bilateral meetings with US Trade Representative Ron Kirk, Deputy National Security Adviser to the US President, Michael Froman, Chair of the US House of Representatives Trade Sub-committee Kevin Brady, the next US Ambassador to China, Gary Locke, Korean Trade Minister Kim Yong Hoon and Malaysian Trade Minister Dato Sri Mustapa.

Dr Emerson will also take part in talks on the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Doha Round.

Dr Emerson will further pursue Australia's objective of successfully completing the Doha Round in 2011 when, on Australia's behalf, he convenes an OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris.

“I plan to reinforce to the meeting the contribution multilateral trade liberalisation can make to global economic growth, job creation and international stability,” he said.

“It is essential that the world continues to dismantle trade barriers and does not revert to protectionist policies that would thwart the post-recession global economic recovery,” Dr Emerson said.

Dr Emerson will then head to China, Australia’s biggest trading partner, where he will meet Commerce Minister Chen Deming, the Mayor of Beijing and several other senior officials. It will be Dr Emerson’s third visit since becoming Trade Minister in September last year.

At China’s invitation, Dr Emerson will give a speech to the opening session of the 3rd China Trade in Services Congress in Beijing.

“Australia’s services sector offers vast trade opportunities in China’s large, rapidly-growing market,” Dr Emerson said.

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