



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Trade

10 November 2011

Trade Minister to attend APEC meeting in Honolulu

Trade Minister Craig Emerson arrives in Honolulu today to join his regional counterparts at the 23rd Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Trade and Foreign Ministers from the 21 member economies will meet on 11 November, ahead of the APEC Leaders' Summit – involving Prime Minister Julia Gillard - over the ensuing two days.

Global economic instability, regional integration and trade - including an Australian plan to agree a new pathway for the Doha Round of global trade liberalisation - will take centre stage over the three days of meetings.

Dr Emerson will hold a series of one-on-one meetings with regional trading partners, in which he will address Australia's new pathway plan, as well as developments in the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks towards a high-quality regional economic accord.

"Keeping alive the development goals of the Doha Round, and agreeing innovative ways to deliver on issues such as trade facilitation – making it easier for poorer countries to import and export – will help the world get through current economic uncertainty," Dr Emerson said.

"Prime Minister Gillard and I have been advocating this fresh approach in the lead-up to the World Trade Organization's Ministerial Meeting next month in Geneva."

APEC's 21 member economies account for 55 per cent of the world's GDP, more than 40 per cent of the world's population and over two-thirds of Australia's trade in goods and services.

APEC is the pre-eminent Asia-Pacific forum and an active driver of open trade and investment, sustainable economic development and prosperity in the region.

Other issues for discussion at the APEC meetings include progress towards regional economic integration, green growth and regulatory cooperation.

**Media contact: Mark Mulligan, Minister Emerson's Office 0413250632
(2) 6277 7420**

