

**APEC ENERGY MINISTERS  
JOINT STATEMENT on CLEAN DEVELOPMENT and USE of ENERGY**

**Purpose**

APEC Energy Ministers met in \_\_\_\_\_ on May \_\_, 2000, to continue cooperative efforts aimed at creating an energy infrastructure for the region that meets the economic, social and environmental goals of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This statement reaffirms a commitment to the environmentally responsible development and use of energy and to recognition that quality of life benefits flow from the availability of clean, affordable energy.

This statement highlights steps taken and planned to reduce the environmental impact of energy use and development, recognizing that these steps are integrated with steps aimed at economic growth, energy security and sustainable development and that such steps will also aid in limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

This statement is also a response to the direction of APEC Economic Leaders to translate vision into action and to deliver on commitments.

**Background**

Energy Ministers have recognized in three previous meetings that the forecasted growth in energy supply and use will place considerable pressure on the local, regional and global environment. They have agreed that the application of economically sound measures to minimize the adverse environmental impacts of energy production and use is essential to protect the well being of both present and future generations.

Energy Ministers have agreed to cooperate extensively in research and development, technology adaptation and uptake, and programs related to energy efficiency, cleaner fuels and renewable and alternative sources of energy.

Energy Ministers have recognized that there are a wide range of measures available to address the environmental challenge, including improving the efficiency with which energy is produced and used, using techniques and practices that reduce emissions, and switching to more environmentally benign energy sources, including renewable energies.

Energy Ministers have recognized the importance of accelerating action to deal with global emissions of greenhouse gases and noted that mechanisms to address this issue are being discussed within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To reduce the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, Ministers have recognized the importance of

improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of low or non-carbon emitting energy systems, increasing efforts to attract private investment in advanced energy technologies, and promoting regional cooperation to develop and deploy of energy technologies.

Forecasts show that fossil fuels(coal, natural gas, and oil) will continue to play a dominant role in the region and that their development and use poses a particular environmental challenge.

There is a trend toward more stringent environmental constraints in the region and the need for cleaner fuels and clean energy technologies.

### **Implementation and Progress**

Energy Ministers acknowledged and reconfirmed previous commitments and initiatives, including:

- Fourteen non-binding energy policy principles that are consistent with economic efficiency and environmental impact mitigation;
- A voluntary pledge and review program aimed at improving efficiencies in the production, delivery and use of energy;
- A work program on *Environmentally Sound Infrastructure in APEC Electricity Sectors*;
- *A Natural Gas Initiative* identifying principles and best practices for reducing investor risk and mobilizing private investment;
- A program to harmonize energy efficiency testing, standards and laboratory accreditation, including a web-site based standards notification procedure, which reduce environmental and business costs;
- Recognition that a partnership with the private sector is needed to achieve goals.

Energy Ministers also acknowledged and endorsed the broad range of cooperative activities undertaken by the Energy Working Group, including:

- Research by the Asia Pacific Energy Research Center on efficient and environmentally sound energy development and use and practices;
- Active work programs through Expert Groups.

## **Future Goals and Strategies**

Ministers recognized that to succeed in making sustainable energy development and use a reality for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, continued and aggressive efforts are needed to remove remaining impediments to energy trade and investment, to promote projects to address local, regional and global environmental concerns, and to further increase opportunities for the private sector.

Toward these ends, Energy Ministers expressed a renewed and strengthened effort to further integrate their energy, economic and environmental goals.

Energy Ministers committed to aggressive implementation of a Comprehensive Implementation Strategy, which includes initiatives to encourage investment in natural gas and independent power development and use, and environmentally sound electricity infrastructure.

Energy Ministers reconfirmed the value of joint efforts to develop adequate, environmentally responsible and secure energy supplies; enhance overall environmental protection on local, regional and global levels and improve the quality of life of individuals through sustainable economic development in their economies.

In order to promote the clean development and use of energy, Energy Ministers reconfirmed the need for policies that advance research, development and deployment of energy efficiency, renewable energy and other clean energy technologies, and encouraged energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency services and renewable energy based electricity.

Energy Ministers recognized that sustainable energy policies and development are integral elements of any strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change, all countries have committed to limiting greenhouse gas emissions. The Ministers recognized that the energy sector is fundamental to meeting these commitments. Thus, Ministers reiterated their commitment to the implementation of sustainable energy policies and to take concrete steps to establish policies and programs that will enhance investments in clean energy technologies. Moreover, the Ministers recognized the value of market-based forces and agree that some countries may elect to establish greenhouse gas emissions targets in order to take full advantage of the market-based mechanisms provided under the framework negotiations.