

12 November 2006

## Australia's Economic Future

The Australian APEC Study Centre, as one of Australia's leading Asia-Pacific institutions, will be hosting an international conference in December that will focus on the major issues within the region and Australia's place within that construct.

In 2007, Australia will host the international APEC Leaders Summit and will also serve as chair of the 21 economies that make up the APEC network. In the lead up, a major conference will be held in Melbourne in April. The conference in December is a preparatory gathering designed to examine the issues that are fundamental to APEC's future.

As Alan Oxley, a former Australian ambassador and chair of the Australian APEC Study Centre said, this conference "marks the beginning of Australia's year as APEC host. It will bring leading regional and Australian analysts together to discuss and focus APEC's priorities and strategies."

The conference is being funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and will be held in **Melbourne on 11 and 12 December at the Investment Centre Victoria**, 46th Floor, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne.

The conference program, together with the registration form, is available for download at: [http://www.apec.org.au/docs/ASCN\\_program06.pdf](http://www.apec.org.au/docs/ASCN_program06.pdf)

Further information about the conference and the speakers will be distributed prior to the event. For specific details please contact the Australian APEC Study Centre at Monash University on 03-9903 8757.

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### **About APEC and the Australian APEC Study Centre**

*The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an informal forum of 21 economies from the Asia-Pacific region accounting for 40% of the world's population and 57% of the global GDP. APEC's primary objectives are to ensure economic growth and prosperity by promoting trade and investment liberalisation in the region, as well as enhancing the security of the region.*

*The Australian APEC Study Centre is an office of Monash University and forms part of the international network of Study Centres located throughout the Asia-Pacific. The Centre works to inform the broader Australian community of the growing importance of trade integration, economic progress and relations in the region by engaging academia, the public sector and private enterprise to publish research, mount conferences and deliver training programs on matters concerning Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.*