



PBEC Resolution on  
Expanding the WTO Membership

With the third WTO Ministerial Meeting now scheduled for November 1999 in a Pacific Rim venue, PBEC renews its statement of support for expansion of the organization to include China, Chinese Taipei and Russia, all member economies of PBEC.

At its May 1997 International General Meeting in Manila, and again at its Mid-term Meetings in Los Angeles last October, PBEC called for accession to the WTO by China, Chinese Taipei and Russia as soon as possible in accord with the rules of the WTO.

PBEC member companies are greatly encouraged by the progress made this year in accession talks between China, Japan, the European Union and the U.S. Building on this progress, the parties appear to be close to a final agreement. WTO accession by China will benefit all economies in the world by supporting the ongoing economic reform process in China. Moreover, China's membership in the WTO will mark an important step in China's full integration into the world economy, and help contribute to stability and prosperity in the region and globally.

Chinese Taipei has already concluded accession agreements with most WTO members, and looks forward to the completion of the process.

PBEC therefore urges all parties to the discussions to redouble their efforts in order to seize the window of opportunity now available, and to conclude accession agreements so that prospective new WTO members can fully participate in the WTO Ministerial in Seattle later this year, and in the launch of the new global trade negotiations.

Endorsed by the PBEC Steering Committee 05/16/99  
Adopted by the PBEC Board of Directors 05/16/99  
32nd International General Meeting, Hong Kong, China