



Statement in Support of the Regional Integration for Sustainable Economies (RISE)

The Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) recognizes that a more efficient food sector is critical to growing prosperity for the rapidly increasing populations of the Asia-Pacific, and strongly supports the APEC Food System and activities in the region that aim to expand the benefits of economic growth throughout the entire region. PBEC also recognizes that in order to foster economic growth to benefit all populations, non-urban areas in emerging market economies must be integrated into the mainstream global economy. PBEC therefore applauds the joint APEC–PECC initiative, Regional Integration for Sustainable Economies (RISE), which recognizes the critical importance of improved rural and non-urban infrastructure development, not only for more efficient and competitive production in those communities, but to extend the essential linkages of these areas to the broader regional, national and global economies.

The RISE initiative follows PBEC's support of the APEC Food System in achieving four goals: 1) building rural infrastructure; 2) establishing world standards in food safety, food processing, and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures; 3) assuring food security; and 4) trade and investment liberalization. These goals, advanced by the PBEC Food and Agriculture Strategy Conference in Manila in March 1999, are integral to the realization of the Bogor Declaration of 1994 to have in place a free and open trade system by the year 2010 for developed economies and the year 2020 for developing economies.

As the independent voice of business in the region, PBEC applauds and supports the RISE initiative. More importantly, PBEC recognizes that the public-private sector cooperation inherent in RISE projects will create commercial and investment opportunity for the private sector. In that regard, PBEC stands ready to assist RISE in communicating those opportunities to its membership in order that they may become active players in benefiting from the effective expansion of economic opportunity outside urban areas of the Asia-Pacific region.

Endorsed by the PBEC Steering Committee 11/12/00
Adopted by the PBEC Board of Directors 11/12/00
2000 Mid-term Meeting, Singapore