



Pacific Basin Business Responds to Emerging Trade and Security Issues

The Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) applauds the strong and positive response of governments in the region to the challenges of balancing security, trade and investment in a time of economic uncertainty. As we all move forward to returning to normalcy, we must recognize and work together on the issues which affect all of us: increasing security while remaining mindful of economic growth and investment needs. As a regional business community, we have a responsibility to share with each other relevant information that will affect regional trade. We also have a responsibility to share with governments the experience of the business community in balancing trade, investment and security.

As business and governments have observed, the relationship between security, trade and investment is emerging as an important global issue in terms of the:

- Physical movement of goods and persons;
- Renewed predictability upon which modern inventory and management systems have come to depend;
- Emerging competitiveness issues where countries and companies which are 'secure' have an edge over the 'insecure'.

PBEC calls upon regional economies and institutions to move the coordination and analysis of these issues to the forefront of national agendas to ensure that the region remains both safe and economically competitive. For its part, PBEC looks forward to working with economies throughout the region to answer these questions at both the policy and technical levels. In supporting national and regional efforts to strengthen security compatible with efficient international trade, investment requirements, and transportation, PBEC and its member companies will support programs to achieve this necessary goal.

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