

has paid a high price. Having won a battle against catastrophic floods this summer, we are now going ahead with more in-depth reforms, adopting active fiscal policies, increasing input for infrastructure construction and boosting domestic demand in an effort to achieve this year's objective of social and economic development. APEC, as the most important international economic organization in this region, must adapt to the new situation, persist in narrowing the gap and realizing the objective of common prosperity through economic cooperation, and make timely realization of the priority areas for cooperation, so as to better meet the needs of the developing members, which make up the majority of APEC's membership.

At present, it is more important than ever to stick to the APEC approach, characterized mainly by respect for diversity, voluntarism, and consensus-building. APEC should make its own contribution to increased regional stability and prosperity, by adhering to this approach.

Promoting economic and technological cooperation (Ecotech) among its members is a major task of APEC and a primary way to common development. In the world of today, science and technology are progressing with each passing day, and the knowledge economy is unfolding. To redouble the efforts to develop advanced and new technology, and speed up economic restructuring, are the only way to promote a long-term and steady development of the economies of APEC members. We are glad to see the formulation by APEC of the APEC agenda for Science and Technology Industrial Cooperation in the 21st Century, and Skills Development Action Plan this year, under the chairmanship of Malaysia, the host country. They represent a major step by APEC members toward enhanced Ecotech.

China attaches great importance to and supports the implementation of these two important documents. As an expression of this, the Chinese government has set aside US \$10 million to establish the China APEC Science and Technology Industry Cooperation Fund for the purpose of financing cooperation between China and the other APEC members in the field of science and technology industry. China has put forward a series of proposals on cooperation projects. China has also set up a China APEC Enterprises Assembly to promote enterprise participation in APEC activities.

Promoting trade and investment liberalization is another important task of APEC. Thanks to concerted efforts of all members, positive progress has been made and will continue to be made in this area. In the current circumstances, it is important to pursue an active and prudent policy, and its members should be allowed to make efforts toward the realization of this goal—trade and investment liberalization—at a pace and in a mode suitable to their own conditions and in accordance with the two timetables on the basis of voluntarism, flexibility, and pragmatism.

The current difficulties facing some Asia-Pacific coun-

tries and regions are temporary ones. I believe that there is huge economic vitality and development potentiality in the Asia-Pacific region. As long as we work together to increase cooperation and surmount difficulties, the economic and social development of this region will have a broad and bright prospect.

Officials, businessmen protest Gore's outrage

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Haj Ahmad Badawi, from a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Nov. 17, in response to Vice President Al Gore's remarks on the internal situation in Malaysia on Nov. 16:

Malaysia rejects as most unwarranted the provocative remarks made by U.S. Vice President Al Gore and the White House. Malaysia views them as gross interference in the internal affairs of the country and a brazen violation of the basic tenets of relations between sovereign states. We view these remarks were based willfully on one-sided views of developments in the country.

Malaysia finds the incitement by the U.S. government to lawlessness by certain elements within the country to use undemocratic means in order to overthrow a constitutionally elected government, most abhorrent. The action by the U.S. patently is not to advance the cause of democracy and the rule of law, but to serve its narrow political agenda. All its preaching about democratic principles ring hollow and must be seen for what it really is.

Malaysia wishes to remind the U.S. that the system of government in Malaysia has evolved out of Malaysia's historical experiences and [has been] expressed through constitutional and democratic means. Malaysians do not take kindly to sanctimonious sermonizing from any foreign quarter, especially the United States, a country which is known to have committed gross violations of human rights.

Malaysians hold dearly the harmony and stability which they have painstakingly built up through the years in their multiracial nation. Malaysians would hold the U.S. accountable for any rupture of this harmony arising from this irresponsible incitement.

Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz, reported by *The Star Online* on Nov. 17:

"The most disgusting speech I have ever heard. . . . And I hope I never live to hear another one again like that. . . . We are doing our best in this part of the world. We do not play politics with economic recovery." Gore's speech "spoil the whole APEC meeting and ABEC functions. . . . I can imagine

the embarrassment of the U.S. community here, they are totally flabbergasted.”

“... There are narrow-minded people in this world and we have to expect it, but, certainly, it reflects unabashed intervention into local affairs and, unfortunately, he did not even understand what is going on in this country. And, to talk about people power when demonstrations are taking place in Indonesia, where lives were lost, and condoning that?”

“... For heaven’s sake, try to understand what is really going on in this country before you open your mouth and put your big foot into it.”

APEC businessmen react to Gore

As reported by the *New Straits Times* on Nov. 20, Gore’s abrupt departure after his speech, prior to the closing dinner of the APEC Business Advisory Council, was also seen as a slap in the face to the more than 1,100 local and foreign CEOs who underwrote the three-day conference and much of the APEC conference itself.

Former Malaysian government official and Sungei Way Group of Companies corporate adviser **Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam** could not contain his revulsion when asked by reporters to comment. He described Gore as “*kurang ajar*,” and then translating, said: “I cannot find a more suitable term in English other than bad breeding, arrogance and insensitivity.”

Tan Sri Dr. Noordin Sopiee, chairman of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Kuala Lumpur, took out a full-page ad in the leading daily, *New Straits Times*, on Nov. 18, as “A very personal statement”: “As a Malaysian, I am fed up with stupid, ignorant, *kurang ajar* idiots insulting my country. Mr. Gore should not only have left the meeting room immediately after insulting us. He should have got on the plane and left the country. And he should not come back until he has learnt some manners.”

Richard Holwill, co-chairman of the Asian Task Force of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and International Affairs director of Amway Corp., apologized for Vice President Gore’s Nov. 16 speech, saying it was “ill-informed and indicative of an inexcusable ignorance of the objective facts of the situation here. His interference in an ongoing domestic political and legal dispute was unwarranted and absolutely inappropriate.” Holwill served as U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador during 1988-90. “Most disturbing,” Holwill added, “his decision to make those statements at an international forum where several international statesmen were prepared to discuss important issues, trivialized the power and influence of the U.S. In doing so, the Vice President demonstrated . . . that he is simply unqualified to represent, much less lead, the nation.”

Philip Burdon, co-chairman of the APEC Business Advisory Council: “I question the U.S. Vice President’s judgment in bringing a political debate into an economic forum.”

A Passion For Innovation

Russian editor’s views on publishing LaRouche

by Rachel Douglas

Members of a Schiller Institute delegation that visited Moscow in October noted that the Russian press is still remarkably quiet about the financial crisis abroad. Even after Aug. 17, when Russia was at the epicenter of a global financial earthquake, the media treated it as a “Russian” crisis, not a global and systemic one. An exception is the articles of Prof. Taras Muranivsky in the weekly *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*, issued under the editorship of Aleksandr Chekalin, who also puts out the newspaper *Razvitiye*.

Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta was the only Russian publication to publish a translation of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad’s landmark address to the International Monetary Fund meeting in Hong Kong in September 1997, in which Dr. Mahathir reflected on the deceptions of the “free trade” model underlying the so-called Asian Tiger economies, and called for currency speculation to be banned. From *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*, Mahathir’s text came to circulate widely among Russian lawmakers, in the bulletin of the Federation Council staff’s Department of Information and Analysis. Muranivsky’s articles have dealt with the phenomenon of derivatives trading as a new dimension of the global “bubble” economy, the failure of leadership to address the systemic nature of the crisis, including in the new framework of the Group of 22 nations, and Lyndon LaRouche’s New Bretton Woods policy alternative. Most recently, *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta* carried LaRouche’s eight-point “emergency action program,” written Sept. 27, titled “What Each Among All Nations Must Do Now.”

In the Nov. 5 issue, *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta* presented the full text of an interview, in which Mr. Chekalin answered questions from Karl-Michael Vitt of the Schiller Institute and Professor Muranivsky. Chekalin explained his attraction to LaRouche’s ideas, as flowing from his education and journalistic career in the Soviet period. “The education I received in the Soviet school system, and then at Moscow University,” he said, “made me be always attracted to things new—to change, which is, if you will, the only constant factor in our life. As a newspaper man, I was in on the ground floor of most of the economic experiments, conducted in