

APEC 2000 Melbourne

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (**APEC**) 2000 International Jewellery Conference held in Melbourne was organised by the Jewellers Association of Australia.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- Examine the challenges the jewellery industry faces, including manufacturing techniques, marketing, tariffs, training, and the future of gold and diamonds.
- Develop co-operative initiatives and examine opportunities for collaborative projects.
- Make recommendations for input into the APEC process.

[The APEC comprises 21 economies from the Asia-Pacific region many of which are key players in the gems and jewellery industry. Since APEC's establishment in 1989, it has become the primary regional vehicle for promoting open trade and practical economic cooperation.]

The conference was held on 28 and 29 August 2000, in association with the Australian Jewellery Fair which was held from 27 to 30 August, 2000 at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

Topics at the conference:

a. Tariffs & the changing global marketplace: The challenge for the Jewellery Industry.

By James marquart, President, Manufacturing Jewelers & Suppliers of America.

b. Identifying training needs in the retail sector.

By Bev Hori, Director of Education, Jewelers of America, USA.

c. Identifying training needs for gemmologists.

By Bill Sechos, Gem Studies Laboratory, Australia.

d. Lunch speaker

The Hon Steve Bracks, Premier of Victoria.

e. The trade in diamonds: conflict diamonds and source certificate.

By Martin Rapaport, Rapaport Diamond Report, USA.

f. Platinum manufacturing technology.

By Charles Chan, Chairman Hong Kong Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Associaton, Hong Kong.

g. The Carnet System: helping or hindering the international trade in gemstones.

By Andrew Cody, President, Australian Jewellery and Gemstone Industry Council, Australia.

h. The Future of Gold.

By John M. Willson, President, World Gold Council.

i. Disclosure - gemstones / synthetic - Does the jewellery industry care?

By Tay Thye Sun, Far East Gemological Laboratory, Singapore.

j. The Internet and the breakdown of international boundaries: a threat or an opportunity?

By Jacques Voorheers, President Polygon, USA.

j. Pearls - cultured vs natural - or are they just pearls?

By a representative of Paspaley Pearls, Australia.

k. Commercial Realities in an International Environment.

By Antony Coote, Angus & Coote, Australia.

A conference dinner and presentation of Australian Jewellery Awards was held in Grand Hyatt, Melbourne.

Pictures of the conference and dinners will be available when you come to my office.