

## INTRODUCTION

**The APEC High Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building (APEC HCB)**, initiated by H.E. President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China and H.M. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and supported by all APEC Leaders at their meeting last year in Brunei, was held in Beijing, China on 15–16 May 2001.

His Excellency President Jiang Zemin of China and His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei attended the Opening Ceremony and delivered key addresses. During the meeting, key participants also had opportunities to meet with the two Leaders for direct interaction. 515 participants including Ministers, officials, business leaders, and experts from education and training sector of all 21 member economies got together to address the theme *New Economy, New Strategy: Cooperation and Innovations to Build Human Capacity for Common Prosperity*.

It is the first time in APEC history that with the engagement of the Leaders of two APEC economies, Ministers and senior officials had face-to-face dialogue with businesses executives and experts from education and training sectors on human capacity building. The participants worked together to reach a deeper understanding on the role of human resources in the economic and social development of the new economy. They also identified strategic options to strengthen human capacity building and to create partnerships across all stakeholders. With the support of all the participants, the meeting adopted the **Beijing Initiative on APEC Human Capacity Building**, and called for stakeholders to work in partnership to translate the vision of our Leaders and recommendations embodied in the Beijing Initiative into concrete outcomes.