



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA ALERT
Issued: 26 November 2008

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Deputy: Hon Bruce Scott MP

Inquiry into Trade and Investment Relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America – Public Hearing

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hold a public hearing this week with the representatives of Peru, Colombia and Pakistan for its inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. Because of the wide country coverage of the inquiry it will be considered in two parts to allow greater scope for examination of the issues and consideration of the evidence.

The first part of the inquiry by the Trade Sub-Committee will report on trade and investment relations with APEC countries. The second report will cover trade relations with the countries of these regions that are not APEC members.

Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, Janelle Saffin, said that "the inquiry will investigate ways to expand Australia's trade and investment opportunities in countries that account for three-quarters of Australia's total trade."

Trade and investment in these regions are of growing importance to Australia and the inquiry is examining ways to help Australian companies make the most of current and developing opportunities. It is also seeking ways to widen and develop our trade relations with the countries of the regions."

On Friday 28 November the Sub-Committee will hold its first public hearing for the inquiry. The High Commissioner of Pakistan and the Ambassadors for Peru and Colombia will appear before the Sub-Committee to discuss their trade and investment links with Australia. The hearing will be held in Committee Room 2R1 commencing at 9.30am and concluding at about 12.30pm.

Submissions to the inquiry are still being accepted and may be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au. Paper-based submissions should be directed to the Trade Sub-Committee, R1–120, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600 and accompanied by an electronic version on disk.

Program for Public Hearing – 28 November 2008 – webcast live on:
<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

9.30am	Ambassador for Peru	HE Mr Claudio de la Puente
10.15am	Ambassador for Colombia	HE Mr Diego Betancur
11.15am	High Commissioner for Pakistan	HE Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani

For all inquiries, including the full terms of reference, please contact the Principal Research Officer of the Trade Sub-Committee by phone on (02) 6277 4547, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: www.aph.gov.au/jfadt