



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 22 June 2009

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 is conducting an 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 is being considered in two parts to allow greater scope for examination of the issues and consideration of the evidence.

The first part of the inquiry 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.

Janelle Saffin, Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, said that "the inquiry is investigating 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 seeking 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 Wednesday 24 June, the Sub-Committee will hold a further Public Hearing for this inquiry. The Ambassadors for Chile and the Philippines and the Special Trade Representative for the Philippines will appear before the Sub-Committee to discuss their trade and investment links with Australia. The hearing will be held in Committee Room 1 R 1 commencing at 11.00am and concluding at about 1.00pm.

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 – 24 June 2009		
11.00am	Ambassador for Chile	HE Mr Jose Luis Balmaceda
11.45am	Ambassador for the Philippines and the Special Trade Representative	HE Mr Ernesto De Leon and Ms Michelle S Sanchez

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: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm>