OECD/AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE
ON CITIES AND THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY

Melbourne, 20th-23rd November 1994

The heightened role, increased challenges and opportunities facing the world’s cities in the new global economy will be the subject of a major international conference being organised by the Australian Government and the OECD in Melbourne, Australia, from 20th to 23rd November.

The conference, to be addressed by Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating on 21st November, brings together ministers, decision-makers, and administrators -- including a number of mayors -- from OECD, Asian, African and Latin American countries. OECD Deputy Secretary-General Pierre Vinde will also address the conference. Expert speakers include Professor Peter Hall of University College, London, Mr. Kenichi Ohmae, former Head of McKinsey and Co., Tokyo, Mr. Sung-Soong Hong, Vice-President of the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements, and Mr. Michael Cohen, senior policy adviser to the World Bank.

Conference papers will present new research on how cities perform in the world economy, and outline strategies to give cities more control over the impact of economic change. Emphasising the essential role of cities within global economic performance, a number of speakers are expected to point out that national macroeconomic policy fails to take their influence sufficiently into account, notably in respect of factors affecting competitiveness. Other participants are likely to stress the innovative role of cities, in the context of public and private investment, environmental concerns, and educational as well as social services needs.

Participants are expected to focus on city development issues going beyond purely domestic considerations, and are likely to make the case for heightened international co-operation in order to balance economic, social and environmental goals in the interest of maintaining economic growth and stemming possible protectionist tendencies.
Specific topics for discussion include: infrastructure development and productivity; migration and the urban environment; urban design and planning; cities and the macroeconomy; major urban projects; job creation; urban networks and governance; housing and social issues; and economic development strategies.

Further information is available from:

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