



ASO ATTENDS APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING

Prime Minister Taro Aso travelled to Lima, the Peruvian capital on November 21 to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting. Upon arrival, he held bilateral talks with President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam and President Alan García Pérez of Peru. On November 22, Prime Minister Aso held talks with U.S. President George W. Bush, after which the two were joined by President Lee Myung-Bak of the Republic of Korea (ROK) for a trilateral Japan-US-ROK summit meeting. Prime Minister Aso

subsequently attended the Leaders' retreat I of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, where he discussed with other leaders the international financial crisis, the promotion of food and energy security, and the WTO Doha Development Agenda negotiations. With regard to international economic and financial issues in general, he noted the importance of carrying out the concrete actions agreed at the G20 Summit held in Washington, D.C. the previous week, and of APEC to deal with the financial crisis. Following the Leaders' retreat I, Prime



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FACING: Prime Minister Aso together with other leaders in the APEC summit commemorative photograph.
ABOVE: Prime Minister Aso reflects on the summit at a press conference for the Japanese and international press following the summit.

Minister Aso held talks with President Álvaro Uribe Vélez of Colombia, and President Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev of Russia and President Hu Jintao of China.

On November 23, Prime Minister Aso held talks with President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa of Mexico. Subsequently, he attended the Leaders' retreat II, where he discussed the promotion of global economic integration, corporate social responsibility, climate change issues and human security with the other leaders. On the climate change issue, he called for countries around the world, including the APEC economies, to share the goal of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by at least half by 2050, as was agreed at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. Afterwards, a leaders' decla-

ration, which calls for the promotion of global economic integration and countermeasures against global warming, was adopted, bringing the APEC summit to its conclusion.

Prime Minister Aso then held a press conference at which he indicated Japan's agreement with the World Bank jointly to establish a US\$3 billion fund to inject capital into banks in developing countries and emerging economies. He said, "For its part, Japan must fulfill its responsibility to the international community by fully implementing the initiatives it has announced and restoring its economy on the growth track".

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- http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/asophoto/2008/11/23apec_e.html