

G20 outlines ways to reduce risks of financial crises

Communique for sound policies in key areas

MONTREAL, Oct 26: G20 finance ministers and central bankers outlined ways for countries to reduce their vulnerability to financial crises in a final communique issued here yesterday following a full day of talks, says AFP.

"We agreed that countries can substantially reduce their vulnerability to crises through sound policies in key areas, including through appropriate exchange rate arrangements, prudent liability management, the development and implementation of international standards and codes, and appropriate involvement of the private sector," the communique said.

The group of seven industrialized nations and 12 emerging economies excluded from the communique any mention of the euro's weakness — which worried many officials here — or high oil prices. The issues, however, did creep into closed door discussions, which began Tuesday with a working dinner.

The G20, which was created

in September 1999 following the Mexican peso and Asian financial crises, said "experience of recent years suggests that countries face a much higher risk of financial crisis if they choose an exchange regime that is not backed by consistent macroeconomic and structural policies and appropriate institutional arrangements."

They also placed more responsibility on private investors saying: "Efficient international capital markets require that private investors bear the consequences of the risks they take."

The ministers and central bankers said they were committed to creating more favourable conditions for integrating heavily indebted poor countries into the global economy with the help of multilateral and bilateral creditors.

They vowed to strengthen efforts to combat money laundering, tax evasion and corruption, which can undermine the integrity of the international financial system and jeopardize

national sectors.

The communique also tried to address some concerns of anti-globalisation protesters, who clashed with police late Monday ahead of the meeting. More than 40 demonstrators were arrested in the past two days.

The G20 committed to promoting the "design and effective implementation of social safety nets that protect the most vulnerable groups of society in the process of liberalisation." The communique did not detail how this would be done.

Many protesters, similar to those who wrecked havoc on the WTO meeting in the Seattle last year, believe globalization increases the gap between the rich and the poor as trade liberalisation forces some out of their livelihoods.

In the final communique, the group said: "We agree that putting in place the right framework and policies for promoting a globalisation process that works well for all of its participants will be the key challenge

for the international community in the 21st century."

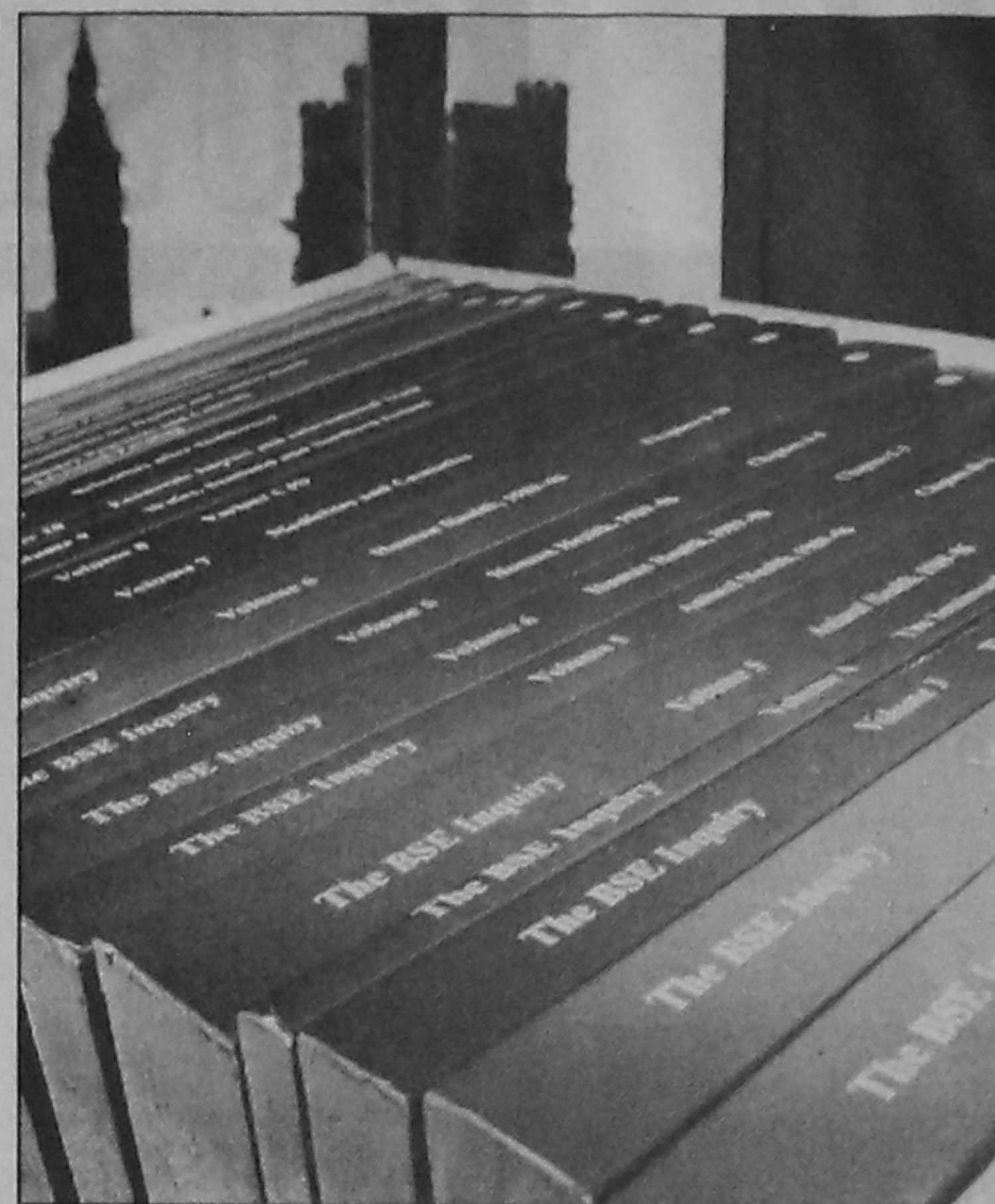
G20 chair and Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin, speaking at a news conference at the end of the meeting, said:

"This agreement is the beginning of the process... There is more work to be done."

He said although the measures outlined will do not eliminate the risk of future financial crises "progress in each of these areas will unequivocally make the world less vulnerable to financial crises."

With the euro tumbling even further Wednesday after international intervention to boost the currency on September 22, one European official said many heated closed-door discussions concerned the euro as well as the oil industry.

The single European currency, introduced in January 1999, was at 0.8270 dollars in late trading Wednesday in New York.



Picture shows the long-awaited 16 volume BSE Inquiry report - published and pictured in London yesterday. The inquiry, led by Lord Phillips, is expected to criticise ministers and civil servants serving during the Thatcher and Major governments for their handling of the BSE (mad cow) crisis. — AFP photo

Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rates of major currencies against Taka
Central Bank buying and selling rate of USD: BDT 53.85/BDT 54.15

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buying		
			TT Clean	OD Sight DOC	OD Transfer
54.2500	54.2800	USD	53.8150	53.6464	53.5779
45.4842	45.5711	EUR	43.7093	43.5258	43.4493
78.3465	78.3885	GBP	76.6481	76.2816	76.2270
29.1981	29.2226	AUD	26.2042	26.1118	26.0317
0.5078	0.5080	JPY	0.4898	0.4806	0.4806
30.0259	30.0514	CHF	29.3635	29.2090	29.1845
5.3130	5.392	SEK	5.2262	5.2086	5.1926
36.0644	36.0910	CAD	35.2129	35.1193	35.0361
6.9915	6.9928	HKD	6.8680	6.8503	6.8329
31.3641	31.3855	SGD	30.2304	30.1866	30.0720
14.8919	14.9095	AED	14.5023	14.5242	14.4838
14.5784	14.5968	SAR	14.2414	14.2047	14.1865

Usance export bills
53.7041 53.3727 52.9304 52.4217 51.8688 50.8303

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar					
Indian	Pak	Lankan	Indo	Thail	
Rupce	Rupce	Rupce	Rupiah	Baht	
Buy	46.58	57.50	79.30	8950	43.72
Sell	46.68	57.90	79.40	8970	43.75

The local foreign exchange market was inquisitive. Demand for dollar was dull and trading of dollar/taka was rangebound. In the money market, demand for call money was steady and call rate fluctuated in a narrow range and traded between 6.0 to 6.50 per cent.

The euro hit record lows against dollar for the second consecutive day amid dwindling expectations of imminent joint central bank intervention in support of the single currency. The euro's weakness spilled over other currencies, dragging the Swiss franc to 14-year lows against dollar. It also forced the Australian dollar to record lows and sterling to one-month lows against green back. Warmness of strong concerted action by the world's most powerful monetary authority started to wane after a two-day meeting of Group of 20 in Canada ended on Wednesday with no official remarks to prop up the ailing single currency. Dollar rose to a 11-year high against Swiss franc, but was stuck around half a cent below record high.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 26.10.2000.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Thor Eagle	Projetat	-	Tsl	21/10	26/10
J/2	Hanlin Houston	GI/WTIP	Sing	Mutual	11/10	2/11
J/3	Triumph Chittagong	GI/LOG	Yang	RML	24/10	
J/4	Pathem	Rice/Pl	Yang	Mia	14/10	30/10
J/5	Hans	Salt(TCB)	P.Kei	Sbs	26/09	
J/6	Century	GI(W/CE)	Bank	Rainbow	20/10	28/10
J/7	Banglar Kallol	GI	Momb	Bsc	17/10	28/10
J/8	Pride	Salt(TCB)	Kand	Uml	22/9	4/11
J/9	Yasmina	GI	Odha	Sna	18/10	27/10
J/10	Marine Express	WT(P)MS.Yp	Sing	Rainbow	15/10	27/10
J/11	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	25/10	29/10
J/12	Boxing Capt Cook	Cont	P.Kei	Bdship	22/10	27/10
J/13	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	25/10	27/10
CCT/1	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	24/10	27/10
CCT/2	QC Pintail	Cont	Sing	Qesl	23/10	26/10
CCT/3	Bangs Brol	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	23/10	28/10
IM/14	Elitania	C. Clinik	Sing	Psal	3/10	30/10
C/3	Ocean Bird	C. Clinik(Ruby)	Krak	Psal	24/10	30/10
RM/3	Warrior	Cdso	Sing	Rainbow	21/10	26/10
RM/6	Savcon	Sko/Jp-1	Sing	Rainbow	21/10	28/10
DDJ/1	Banglar Gourab	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	31/10
DDJ/2	Seabulk Command	-	-	K.DIA	IBS	R/A
RM/8	Banglar Urm	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	30/10
Cull	May Nour	Cement(Scan)	Lang	Bsl	21/10	2/11

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Arabella/Cont/16/10	26/10	-	Qesl	Cont	Sing
Triumph/Hongkong/21/10/10	26/10	Sing	Rml	Cont	Sing
Tug Salvagour	26/10	Maur	Ahz	-	-
Tiba	26/10	Maur	Ahz	Scraping	-
Jaya Mars/Cont/18/10	26/10	Cbo	Everbest	Cont	Col
Juung Balsam/Cont/16/10	27/01	Sing	-	Cont	Col

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Yong Jiang	27/10	-	Bdship	GI	-
Banga Bijo/Cont/16/10	27/10	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Golden-D	27/10	Pipa	Nwsl	C. Clinik(Aramit)	-
Marina Prima	27/10	Sing	Obil	-	-
Fabrizia Prima	27/10	Sing	Obil	-	-
Evros	26/10	Basu	Smsl	Ureca(Bagi)	-
Orion Independence/Cont/16/10	28/10	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Xpress Padma/Cont/16/10	29/10	Sing	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Yangar Shikha/Cont/18/10	28/10	-	Bsc	Cont	Sing
Xpress Makalu/Cont/17/10	2/11	-	Everbest	Cont	Col
Ava	30/10	Vang	Mia	Rice/Pl+GI(Y.MA)	-
Exceed/27/24/10	28/10	Sing	Everett	GI(St. Coll)	-
Kota Brjaya/Cont/18/10	29/10	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Spring Ocean	29/10	Sing	Everett	GI(St. Coll)	-
Joy Miracle/27/17/9	29/10	Jaka	Ssl	GI(St. Coll)	-
Acturia 19/10	29/10	-	Qesl	Cont	Sing
Grand slant Liner	30/10	-	Prog	GI	-
Jineswar	30/10	-	Sbs	Sugar(G)	-
Banga Bonik/Cont/22/10	30/10	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Al Muziba	2/11	-	Clia	GI	-
Mapleidge/27/25/10	30/10	Sing	Asa	GI(St. Coll)	-
Da Hual/24/18/10	31/10	-	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Osg Alpha/Cont/31/10	31/10	-	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Qe Teal/Cont/23/10	31/10	-	Qesl	Cont	Sing
Leemthong Glory	31/10	Sant	Cenl	Sugar(G)	-
Kota Singa/Cont/23/10	1/11	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Janani/Cont/23/10	1/11	-	Cross	Cont	Sing
Keshum/Cont/24/24/10	2/11	-	Everett	Vehi	-
Xpress Resolute/Cont/23/10/11	3/11	-	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Chu Hong/Cont/25/10	3/11	-	Qesl	Cont	Sing
Klubna	3/11	Mari	Bsl	M. Seed	-
Mina	3/11	Jedd	Uss	-	-
Banglar Robi/Cont/25/10	4/11	-	Bsc	Cont	Sing
Xpress Renown/Cont/16/10	4/11	-	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Banga Lanka/Cont/25/10	4/11	-	Baridhi	cont	col
Asian Century/Roro/24/24/10	3/11	Sing	JF	Vehi	-
Osg Argosy	5/11	-	Everbest	Cont	Col
Tiger River/Cont/25/10	5/11	-	Nol	Cont	Sing

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	Bbal	5/7
Dea Champion	-	Sing	Bbal	17/8
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafeen	R/A/24/9
De Xiang	P.Mat	Sing	Arafeen	11/10
Smil Lloyd-110	P.Mat	-	Arafeen	R/A/18/10
Seabulk Danah	-	-	Ibs	R/A/21/10

Vessels at outer anchorage				
Ready on				
Anlong Jiang Liner	GI	S. Hui	Bdship	25/10
Xuang Cheng	GI	S. Hui	Bdship	26/10
Saucon	Sko/Jp-1	Sing	Mstpl	24/10

Vessels not entering				
Rador	GI/SP/Pl	Sfax	Ssst	13/10
Ibn Qutaiyah	Gsp/Pl	Tampa	Litmond	18/10
Feng Tai	Suger(TCB)	Mumb	Cenl	23/10
Al Barua	C. Clinik	-	Seacon	R/A/19/10
Alpha-2	-	-	Rainbow	R/A/19/10
Bright Sea	-	-	Mbl	R/A/17/10
Judha Sarupak	Scraping	Sing	Uml	22/10
Tug Sirroco	Scraping	Sing	Ar	22/10
Pere	Scraping	Sing	Alz	17/10
Alex	Scraping	Sing	Obil	17/10
Sea Dynasty	Scraping	Sing	Rainbow	R/A/19/10
Novo Voyager	Scraping	Sing	Obil	21/10
Swang Bay	Scraping	Sing	Viking	Sunshine
Accord	Cement	-	Sunshine	R/A/9/10
Isseange	-	-	Mbsl	R/A/20/6
Xing Ye	Rice(G)	-	Uste	R/A/18/9
Karya Sentosa	Rice(G)	-	-	-

Movement of vessels for 27, 28 & 29.10.2000				
Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting		
27/10				
Cet/1	K. Cahaya	J/5 T. Hong Kong	J/3 Hans To Gsj	
Cet/2	B. Cook	J/10 Golden-D		
J/10	M. Express	Cet/2 B. Bujor		
		Cet/1 J. Javan Mars		
		Doy Belgrade		

28/10				
J/6	Century	J/7 Xuan Jiang		
J/4	B. Kallol	J/6 Yang Jiang		
J/9	Yasmina	Cet/1 B. shikha		
J/13	B. Birol	J/9 Mergu		
Im/6	Saucon	Gsj Sungrasa-9		
Cst	Hans	Ru/9 B. Joyti		
29/10				
J/3	Triumph	J/11 O. Independence		
K. Nagn		J/3 Chong Chon Gang		
		Rm/3 Ovi Sunshine		

29/10				

29/10				

29/10				

29/10				

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.



Canada's Finance Minister and G-20 Chairman Paul Martin (L) Australia's Treasurer Peter Costello (C) and Brazil's Minister of State for the Economy Pedro Sampaio Malan stand before a group photo of the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Montreal Wednesday. — AFP photo

US, global growth seen slowing next year

BOCA RATON, Fla., Oct 26: Business leaders believe that economic growth in the United States and around the globe is likely to slow next year according to a survey released by a group of major corporations, says Reuters.

More than three-quarters of the members of the Business Council on Economic Issues — a group of about 300 chief executives — think the blistering pace of US economic growth will moderate next year, while almost two-thirds see global growth slowing from the 2000 clip.

"Things don't look exactly like they did six months ago," Sanford "Sandy" Weill, chairman and chief executive of top US financial services company Citigroup Inc. CN, told reporters at a gathering of top business leaders in the seaside Florida resort town. But he added: "Feeling less ebullient about economic growth, maybe is a good sign that this economy can achieve a soft landing."

Six months ago, business chiefs were more upbeat about prospects for economic growth, particularly in the United

States. But the US Federal Reserve made a concerted push to put brakes on the US economy with six interest rate increases from June last year to May this year.

Higher energy prices are taking a toll, with nearly one-third of the members saying higher oil prices had had an impact on their businesses. However, a majority of members said they were not able to pass higher energy costs through to final product prices.

"We're all seeing the effect in different places of higher energy prices," Weill said. "Those of us that use energy are having a difficult time passing on those higher energy costs to people we sell our products to."

Labour markets remain tight, but more than one-third of executives said they should loosen next year, the survey said.

Although two-thirds of business leaders surveyed saw inflation matching or rising from 2000 levels next year, 75 per cent said their pricing power — or ability to raise prices without impairing business — was either "weaker" or "little

changed and still soft" compared to six months ago.

"We're seeing a lot of pricing pressure across the board," William Estey, chairman and chief executive of telecommunications company Sprint Corp. FON.N, said.

The business leaders foresaw little relief for the tattered euro, currency, which is plunging record low territory against the US dollar.

According to the survey, 44 per cent of members expect the euro to fall further in the next six months while only 24 per cent think a recovery is in the cards.

"It's a problem," Ralph Larsen, chairman and CEO of drugs and medical products maker Johnson & Johnson J.N.N, said of the euro. "We just have to deal with it."

Some 30 per cent of members say the euro has hurt their businesses, with a small majority saying it has added to costs but that they have not been able to pass these through to final products. The euro's tumble has injured the profits of several multinationals in recent months.

China, India are hottest markets for foreign IT investors: Intel

BEIJING, Oct 26: China and India are the hottest markets for foreign investors looking to invest in information technology companies, Intel officials said today, reports AFP.

Foreign investors are also becoming more confident in putting their money in the Chinese market since the government issued new regulations clarifying previously murky investment rules said James Jarrett, outgoing president of Intel China.

"It's a very exciting market. Now we're getting more and more clarity and moving toward WTO (World Trade