Update of Activities within APEC
February 2001

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
Activities of APEC Fora

The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) was established by the Declaration on an APEC Trade and Investment Framework in November 1993. The CTI coordinates APEC’s work on the liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment (refer to the Bogor Declaration 1994). It works to reduce impediments to business activity in 15 specific areas as outlined in the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA): tariffs and non-tariff measures; services; investment; standards and conformance; competition policy; government procurement; dispute settlement; mobility of business people; and implementation of WTO obligations. CTI also provides a forum for discussion of trade policy issues. Activities in CTI’s 14 work areas are outlined under the relevant sections in the Update.

Business and Private Sector Participation

The CTI engages in regular outreach efforts to business via the APEC Business Advisory Council and more directly through seminars, speeches, the Internet, publications, and media relations. The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) regularly attends CTI meetings, providing analytical and business input. The CTI seeks active private/business sector participation and a role for technical work. (See, for example, standards and conformance) by providing specialised input.

Achievements

During 2000, the CTI intensified its implementation and enhancement efforts on the Collective Action Plans (CAPs), making significant progress towards the OAA objectives and Bogor goals in response to Leaders’/Ministers’ instructions. CTI (APEC individual) achievements are outlined under the relevant sections. In addition, CTI pursued all aspects of the work program on the Individual Action Plan (IAP) review, including the development of the electronic prototype IAP (e-IAP) system, the review and development of OAA/Improved guidelines for use by member economies to show how they intended to achieve Bogor goals, and the improvement of the Peer Review Process.

Tariffs

Tariffs and non-tariff measures (NTMs) are two of the 15 specific areas under the CTI as outlined in the Osaka Action Agenda through which APEC member economies are working to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. Each member economy is committed to creating a region of free and open trade and investment no later than 2010 for industrialised economies and 2020 for developing economies.

A new Market Access Group (MAG) was established in 1998 to handle the CTI’s work on tariffs and NTMs.

The Collective Action Plans for Tariffs and NTMs require APEC members to keep the data in the computerised tariff database (APCE Tariff Database) up-to-date, provide increased transparency of trade and investment (refer to the Osaka Action Agenda for use as the e-IAP template for reporting progress on liberalisation in tariffs by member economies).

Business and Private Sector Participation

APEC member economies consult their private sectors regularly. Business and academia provide important input to the CTI’s work on tariffs and NTMs particularly through the analytical work performed by PECC. Businesses that would like to become more involved in the CTI’s work on tariffs and NTMs should contact the APEC office in their member economies. (See page 30 for member economies’ contact information.)

Achievements:

- Consulted IISL sectional coordinators on NTMs identified through their respective sector’s work programme and developed a list of generic NTMs for APEC’s consideration on progressing its NTM work programme.
- Discussed follow-up work: mechanisms to progress INVL NTM work.
- Requested members to provide regular updates of tariff information and progress on reviewing their NTM work programme.
- Undertake a stock-take of work in the NTMs area by various fora, including identifying types of NTMs, with a view to intensifying work on reducing NTMs.
- Liaised with the WTO Secretariat on the possibility of conducting a second seminar on WTO Integrated Database in February 2001.
- Developed improved format for the NTMs chapter of the IAP for use as the e-IAP template for reporting progress on liberalisation in tariffs.
- Undertake a stock-take of work in the NTMs area by various fora, including identifying types of NTMs, with a view to intensifying work on reducing NTMs.

Next Steps

- Undertake study in the tariffs area with respect to trade data and tariff information, including issues of particular interest to developing member economies, with a view to building capacity to participate in the WTO negotiations.
- Develop improved format for the tariffs chapter of the IAP for use as the e-IAP template for reporting progress on liberalisation in tariffs by member economies.
- Develop improved format for the NTMs chapter of the IAP for use as the e-IAP template for reporting progress on their reduction.
- Undertake a stock-take of work in the NTMs area by various fora, including identifying types of NTMs, with a view to intensifying work on reducing NTMs.

See page 50 for member economies’ contact information.
1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Services

The Group on Services (GOS) was established in the CTS as an informal subgroup in 1997 to address the TILF tasks in the area of services as mandated in the Osaka Action Agenda and instructed by Leaders, Ministers, SOM and CTI. Since 1997, the GOS has held 13 meetings, with the last one held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 17-18 September 2000. The current Convener of the GOS is in Chinese Taipei.

In addition to the continuous progress on various CAP items, including information gathering and analysis, experience sharing and transparency, the GOS completed in 2000 the development of a broader policy framework for APEC work on services, which is a task commenced in 1999 pursuant to the mandate of the CTS. The Policy Framework to be adopted takes into account the cross-cutting nature of service work and therefore facilitates better organisation of APEC services work and better coordination of APEC service-related fora/sub-fora.

To implement the Policy Framework, the GOS also accomplished Phase I of the “Menu of Options for Voluntary Liberalisation, Facilitation and Promotion of Economic and Technical Cooperation in Service Trade and Investment” in 2000, which presents a better organised framework for GOS future work and also provides concrete elements for individual member economies to adopt for advancing their services work.

2 Collective Actions Achieved

• Assisted the development of service chapter template for the Prototype Individual Action Plan (IAP), which will improve information gathering and analysis of the service sectors of IAPs, and providing a concrete framework for individual member economies to adopt for advancing their services work.

• Implemented a project on the identification of measures affecting trade and investment in service sectors other than education services, such as telecommunications, tourism services, financial services and distribution services, through the process of case presentation by volunteer member economies as well as the process of consultations by the Convener with other service-related fora for issues relating to the latter’s expertise, e.g. consulting with the CTI, SCCP and TPTWG for issues of air carrier services.

• Held a seminar on Statistical Reporting on Service Trade, which built up the partnership between services authorities and statistical authorities of member economies and complemented the international efforts to improve statistical reporting on service trade for more accurate assessment.

• Improved the understanding of the impact of the liberalisation of financial services, telecommunications, tourism services as well as services as a whole by voluntary experience sharing among member economies.

• Pursuant to CTI’s instructions, supported the ongoing ESSL initiatives by completing the initial assessment on education services for the development of the environment of ESSL.

• Improved the dissemination of GOS activities-related information by better organising the contents of the existing GOS web page on the APEC Secretariat’s website, and providing useful links to other service-related sites, aiming to enhance transparency in services sectors.

• Supported the development of the possible APEC Trade Facilitation Principles by suggesting the elements to be incorporated therein for services trade, and organise a services trade facilitation workshop to generate more valuable inputs.

• Monitored the development of the WTO negotiation on environmental services with an aim to assist the process where possible and appropriate.

• Contributed to the WTO’s work on services as a whole by discussions of “innovation in services” and a Study on Possible Economic and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Trade in Services, both of which could enhance the capacity of developing member economies to compete effectively in the global service market and therefore promote their active participation in WTO service work.

• Developed a broader policy framework (Policy Framework for Work on Services) to strengthen APEC’s work in the service area. The framework, which will also provide useful elements for other service-related fora, could enhance the capacity of developing member economies to compete effectively in the global service market and therefore promote their active participation in WTO service work.

• Completed Phase I of the “Menu of Options for Voluntary Liberalisation, Facilitation and Promotion of Economic and Technical Cooperation in Service Trade and Investment.”

2 New Collective Actions Agreed

• Implement the Policy Framework for Work on Services.

• Complete Phase II of the Menu of Options and develop a project to support Phase III of the Menu.

• Promote the use of service chapter template of the Prototype IAPs for services IAP reporting.

• Propose a study on the impact of service trade liberalisation on education services and exchange views on experience sharing.

• Build up APEC support for WTO’s work on negotiations on services trade.

• Continue the development of the GOS work on education services, existing CAPs, including improving the understanding of the impact of the liberalisation of services trade by voluntary experience sharing among member economies.

• Explore the possible best practices in innovation in services that could help in the development of capacity in developing economies.

• The group will build up closer interrelationship among the GOS and other service-related fora, which will integrate different efforts in advancing APEC services work and produce coherent service work programs for APEC. In addition, the framework will provide the public with a clear and comprehensive picture of APEC’s work in the service areas.

• The GOS Menu of Options under development will better organise the GOS current and future work and facilitate more efficient operation of the GOS. It can also facilitate the IAP process for it will provide concrete elements for individual member economies to adopt based on the needs of each economy, in advancing their work on service trade and investment.

• The project on the identification of Measures Affecting Trade and Investment in Education Services, will enhance transparency in the area of education services and also increase the understanding of the impact of liberalisation on such sector. As a result, government bodies, education services providers and recipients of education services also benefit from the improved transparency and the increased understanding of the service trade.

• The development of a seminar for participants from APEC governments will be strengthened through the cooperation with the CTI, SCCP and TPTWG for issues of air carrier services.

• The 2000 Service Trade Facilitation Workshop was aimed at improving understanding of important facilitations in service trade and investment. It will also contribute to the development of APEC’s Trade Facilitation Principles.

• All of the above collective actions will also add “APEC value” to the WTO services work for their implementation. They either complement on-going WTO services negotiations, work in progress or increase APEC members’ capacity for full participation in the WTO process.

• Enhancement of information dissemination by improving and fully utilising the GOS web page at the APEC Secretariat’s website will increase transparency and make the information flow among member economies more efficient. The collective action can also facilitate the dialogue of the GOS and other service-related fora to improve coordination in the WTO services work.

• Study on Possible Economic and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Trade in Services.

• Implementation of measures affecting trade and investment in education services, with participation of volunteer member economies.

• Recommendation for possible inclusion into 2001 APEC Ministerial Declaration on APEC’s contributions to the WTO services.

Next Steps

For 2001, the GOS will endeavour to develop Phase II of the Menu of Options and continue contributing, where possible and appropriate, to the WTO’s work on services, particularly in the on-going negotiation process.
Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Investment

The Investment Experts’ Group (IEG) is a sub-group of the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI). It was established in 1994 to bring together officials in the region involved in the regulation of foreign investment. Its main role is to assist the CTI in achieving the investment-related components of APEC’s liberalisation and facilitating agendas.

BUSINESS AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION

The IEG seeks views from the private/business sector about priorities for APEC’s investment liberalisation and facilitation agendas through its annual Investment Symposium and Business Survey. Business people were also invited to participate in the 1st APEC Investment Mart held in Seoul, Korea in June 1999.

Achievements

Major achievements in 2000 include:

• Holding policy discussions to review the investment regimes of Papua New Guinea and Russia (March 2000); Brunei and Japan (May 2000); and Thailand (September 2000).
• Conducted the 5th APEC Investment Symposium in China in March 2000.
• Initiated discussions on start-up companies and venture capital.
• Agreed to make cross-reference to the Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures initiative.
• Finalised the new IAP-IEG format on investment.
• Developed the Menu of Options.

Next Steps

• Organizes the 6th APEC Investment Symposium in Korea in March 2001.
• Organizes the 2nd APEC Investment Mart in China in June 2001.
• Considers updating and expanding the Menu of Options.

Standards and Conformance

The CTI Sub-committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) was established by the Declaration on an APEC Standards and Conformance Framework (November 1994).

The principal objectives of the SCSC are to:

• Encourage alignment of member economies’ standards with international standards.
• Achieve mutual recognition among APEC economies on conformity assessment in regulated and voluntary sectors.
• Promote cooperation for technical infrastructure development in order to facilitate broad participation in mutual recognition arrangements in both regulated and voluntary sectors.
• Ensure the transparency of the standards and conformity assessments of APEC economies.

Business and Private Sector Participation

Representatives from Specialist Regional Bodies are invited to SCSC meetings, and business people also attend SCSC meetings. In 2000, SCSC has developed a work program on trade facilitation in information technology products in collaboration with the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI).

Achievements

Highlights of TIFL Outcomes in 2000:

• Endorsement of Principles and Features of Good Practice for Technical Regulation and Information Notes on Good Practice for Technical Regulation.
• Adoption of a work program on trade facilitation in information technology products in collaboration with the ITI.
• Completion of a comprehensive review of processes on alignment with international standards in the four priority areas.
• Review of the APEC Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program to be completed by February 2001.
• The 3rd APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance (September 2000, Bandar Seri Begawan).

SCSC – Key Contacts

Chair
Mr. K. Tsuji
Director/General Manager
International Cooperation and Administration Department
APEC Secretariat
Chungmin-dong 133-1
Seoul 130-790
Korea
Tel: +82-2-810-8010
Fax: +82-2-810-8045
Email: scsc@apsec.org

CTI Coordinator
Dr. Hua Zhou
Director
China National QMS Certification Centre
No. 3, Zhongguancun Street
Haidian District
Beijing 100088
China
Tel: +86-10-6232-4822
Fax: +86-10-6231-4600
Email: apsec@apsec.org

APEC Secretariat
CTI Coordinator
Mr. Lin Zilin
Director/General Manager
APEC Secretariat
Chungmin-dong 133-1
Seoul 130-790
Korea
Tel: +82-2-810-8010
Fax: +82-2-810-8045
Email: apsec@apsec.org

Achievements

• Establishment of Principles and Features of Good Practice for Technical Regulation and Information Notes on Good Practice for Technical Regulation.
• Adoption of a work program on trade facilitation in information technology products in collaboration with the ITI.
• Completion of a comprehensive review of processes on alignment with international standards in the four priority areas.
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SCSC – Key Contacts

Chair
Mr. K. Tsuji
Director/General Manager
International Cooperation and Administration Department
APEC Secretariat
Chungmin-dong 133-1
Seoul 130-790
Korea
Tel: +82-2-810-8010
Fax: +82-2-810-8045
Email: scsc@apsec.org

CTI Coordinator
Dr. Hua Zhou
Director
China National QMS Certification Centre
No. 3, Zhongguancun Street
Haidian District
Beijing 100088
China
Tel: +86-10-6232-4822
Fax: +86-10-6231-4600
Email: apsec@apsec.org

APEC Secretariat
CTI Coordinator
Mr. Lin Zilin
Director/General Manager
APEC Secretariat
Chungmin-dong 133-1
Seoul 130-790
Korea
Tel: +82-2-810-8010
Fax: +82-2-810-8045
Email: apsec@apsec.org

Achievements

• Establishment of Principles and Features of Good Practice for Technical Regulation and Information Notes on Good Practice for Technical Regulation.
• Adoption of a work program on trade facilitation in information technology products in collaboration with the ITI.
• Completion of a comprehensive review of processes on alignment with international standards in the four priority areas.
• Review of the APEC Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program to be completed by February 2001.
• The 3rd APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance (September 2000, Bandar Seri Begawan).

Other achievements include:

• The development of better tools for forging strategic partnerships between the business/private sector and exploring possible partnerships with the private sector to improve the work on its CAPs.

1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Customs

The Customs Procedures Group of APEC’s Investment Experts (OEC) was converted into a formal CTI Sub-committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) in 1995. Its objective is to facilitate trade in the Asia-Pacific region by simplifying and harmonising customs procedures.

Next Steps

The SCCP will continue to implement and improve CAPs in the areas of standards and conformance. SCCP’s future work program includes:

• Alignment with international standards in the additional priority areas related to standards and guides on conformity assessment and management systems by 2002/2005 as well as safety of information technology equipment by 2004/2008.
• Review of the APEC Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program.
• Compilation of member economies’ regulatory profiles of the food/drug interface.

Next Steps

The SCCP will continue to implement and improve CAPs in the areas of standards and conformance. SCCP’s future work program includes:

• Alignment with international standards in the additional priority areas related to standards and guides on conformity assessment and management systems by 2002/2005 as well as safety of information technology equipment by 2004/2008.
• Review of the APEC Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program.
• Compilation of member economies’ regulatory profiles of the food/drug interface.

Joint activities are carried out with the business/private sector to support SCCP’s work programme, for example, on Temporary Importation.

Achievements

• The Simplification and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures initiative has already resulted in significant cost savings for exporters and importers.

Among other outcomes, the SCCP is promoting risk management techniques to APEC Customs administrations to enable them to better target enforcement efforts and facilitate the movement of low-risk shipments and “paperless trading” in the region.

Other achievements include:

• Developing better tools for forging strategic partnerships with the business/private sector and exploring possible partnerships with the private sector to improve the work on its CAPs.

About half of the SCCP’s Collective Action Plans were focused on important customs areas such as WTO Valuation, WTO TRIPs Agreement (on border controls), Clear Appraisals Procedures, Advance Classification Ruling, Temporary Importation and Export Consignment will be completed by this year.

P. Huan and Viet Nam became full APEC members in 1999. In response to their needs, the SCCP is considering issues on таможенно and schedules for technical assistance for our new members.

The SCCP has included “paperless trading” as a new work area for collective action. As electronic commerce rapidly spreads to all sectors of economic activity and regions in the world, the SCCP felt incumbent that it should build upon existing infrastructure and exploit modern technologies to further lower transaction costs for business, including SMEs. The SCCP has also embarked on a timely task of developing an assessment approach to measure the effectiveness of its work programme.

The SCCP’s work programme is considered as a comprehensive technical assistance programme, which was first developed five years ago. In addition, the SCCP has developed plans to improve the levels of “friendly” to Customs Administrations, a collective action newly introduced last year.

Next Steps

The SCCP will continue to implement and improve the Collective Action Plans in the areas of customs procedures. Future SCCP work programme includes:

• Improving direct involvement of the business/private sector in SCCP activities.
• Publishing the 2000 and 2001 Blueprint for APEC Customs Modernisation.
• Continue promoting and facilitating “paperless trading”.
1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Customs Procedures (cont’d)

- Developing a proposed work program on “priority” which was submitted to CAP status at the end of last year.
- Developing a proposed Best Practices Handbook on Trade, Customs and Assessment.
- Development of an Assessment/Evaluation Approach to measure the implementation of IPEG CAPs and core milestones.

APEC/IPEG – Key Contacts

Chair
Mr. Duong Tu Nhu
Deputy Commissioner
2000 APEC/IPEG Coordination Committee
Vietnam Customs Administration
Hanoi 10000
Tel: +84-04-956-1670
Fax: +84-04-956-1670
Email: stp@ca.gov.vn

Convener
Mr. Qiu Jiadong
Director, Program Office
International Intellectual Property Office, China
Tel: +86-10-6506-6998
Fax: +86-10-6506-6999
Email: qiadi@ippc.gov.cn

SCCP – Key Contacts

Chair
Mr. Kлементий Белега
Chairman
2000 APEC/SCCP Coordination Committee
Department of International Cooperation
Chinese Customs General Administration
Li Juan Cao Mei Wei Ave.
Beijing 100739
Tel: +86-10-6506-8473
Fax: +86-10-6506-8484
Email: sccp@cgca.gov.cn

APEC Secretariat
Mr. Jimmy Fernandez
Director (Program)
Email: jfernandez@apec.org

Achievements

- Key achievements of the IPEG Experts Group for 2000 included:
  - Joint Statement on the WTO/TRIPS Agreement Implementation. The IPEG members agreed on the draft of the Joint Statement on the WTO/TRIPS Agreement Implementation and it was adopted at some modifications at the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade held in June 2000.
  - Establishment of general guidelines for administrative system of trademarks, patents and copyrights.
  - Joint Recommendation Concerning Procedures on the Protection of Well-known marks. Taking account of the proposal by International Trademark Association (INTA), the IPEG members endorsed the WIPO Joint Recommendation Concerning Procedures on the Protection of Well-known marks and the text of Recommendation by APEC/IPEG concerning the Protection of Well-known Marks was agreed in March 2000.

APEC/IPEG – Key Contacts

Convener
Mr. Masato Taka
International Relations Coordinator
INDECOPI (National Institute for the Defence of Competition & Protection of Intellectual Property)
Calle La Prosa 138, San Borja
Lima 41
Peru
Tel: +51-1-224 7800 ext. 1634
Fax: +51-1-224 0348
Email: mtrillo@indecopi.gob.pe

SCCP – Key Contacts

Chair
Mr. Duanmu Jun
Director International Cooperation Office
International Affairs Division
Japanese Patent Office (JPO)
Tel: +81-3-3581-1898
Fax: +81-3-3581-0762
Email: ipr@jpo-miti.go.jp

Achievements

- Six annual workshops have been held, covering issues such as approaches and exceptions to competition policies and law; technical assistance; linkages between competition policy and trade policy; objectives and mechanisms of competition policy; the internationalisation between competition policy and deregulation; regulation of national monopolies; occupational regulation; and regulatory reform. The 6th workshop was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam from 27-28 May. The workshop included presentations by Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea, New Zealand; Peru; United States; and the delegate from PECC on effective ways to implement the APEC Principles of Competition and Regulatory Reform. It discussed this theme, noting the importance of working jointly with other APEC and sub-APEC, the private sector and academia in the implementation of the principles. In 2001, work focused on the implementation of the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition Policy and Regulatory Reform. The Principles provide a template for future work by APEC in developing competition policies and applying competition principles and frameworks across all sectors of APEC member economies.
- The Group agreed on a Co-operative Initiative on Regulatory Reform with the OECD. The agreement is based on a series of related events in 2000 and 2001 that will focus on the exchange of information on good regulatory practices and concepts built around a common agenda established between APEC and OECD economies.

Next Steps

- Work on Competition Policy for the next two years will focus on the implementation of the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition Policy and Regulatory Reform, specifically from the “APEC Competition Law for Developing Economies” study.
- To organise an Opening Conference and three workshops on competition and regulatory experiences to build-up domestic capacities needed for high-quality regulatory regimes.
- The conference and workshops will deliver a combination of technical skills and knowledges on competition and regulatory problems. They will provide discussions for participants to share, exchange and discuss current developments and challenges related to competition policies and regulatory regimes.
1. Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

**Government Procurement**

The Government Procurement Experts’ Group (GPEG) was established in 1995. The Osaka Action Agenda of November 1995 commits APEC economies to “develop a common understanding on government procurement policies and systems” and to “achieve liberalisation of government procurement markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Bogor Declaration.”

**Business and Private Sector Participation**

Business people have attended GPEG educational programs.

**Achievements**

- GPEG has completed a set of non-binding principles on government procurement (GP) based on the free-trade principles already embraced by APEC. These principles, endorsed by Ministers in Auckland in September 1999, include transparency, value for money, open and effective competition, fair dealing, non-discrimination, accountability and due process. In addition, the GPEG has developed practices illustrating how these elements could be implemented.
- GPEG has contributed to the WTO’s study on Transparency in GP by providing to the WTO information on APEC members’ GP regimes, commitments on CP in their individual action plans, and APEC views on several of the principles listed above.
- GPEG has continued its educational programs with a February 2000 seminar, sponsored by New Zealand, on unilateral liberalisation of GP and use of electronic tendering and a July 2000 workshop on GP practices sponsored by China. Earlier programs included a GP training program, a seminar on existing international GP agreements, and a seminar on GP principles.
- GPEG is updating the surveys members have completed on their government procurement systems and their publication arrangements for GP-opportunities. These are available on the APEC GP homepage (http://www.apecsec.org.sg/govtproc/gp.htm) along with other information about GPEG activities.

**Next Steps**

- Now that the GPEG has finished the full set of GP non-binding principles, GPEG members are reviewing their individual action plans regarding the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles. Several economies have already carried out voluntary reviews before the GPEG meets next New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong, China. At the GPEG meeting held in Brunei Darussalam in September 2000, GPEG members also agreed that all members would voluntarily review their individual action plans with respect to the transparency meeting at the first GPEG meeting in China in 2001.
- Through this process, members are continuing to explore how best to implement the principles and voluntarily bring their systems into conformity with the principles. The Group will also continue its educational and information-sharing activities. It will also work more closely with other APEC groups, in particular the Electronic Commerce Steering Group and the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Working Group, looking at a number of issues including paperless trading.

**Dispute Mediation**

The Rules of Origin (ROO) issue is covered by the CTI primary APEC member economies, through the CST, will:
- gather information on APEC economies’ respective rules of origin and develop a compendium of rules of origin for the use of the business/private sector;
- facilitate, complement and accelerate, in the short-term, World Trade Organisation/World Customs Organisation (WTO/WCO) work on harmonisation of non-preferential rules of origin, and
- study the implication of rules of origin on the free flow of trade and investment.

**Achievements**

- Members agreed to use the more detailed format guidelines for ROO approved in 2007 to report on implementation of the procedural obligations of the WTO agreement on ROO in a manner aimed at establishing a more transparent and predictable ROO regime.

**Next Steps**

- The CST will continue its information exchange among member economies on rules of origin requirements, and also continue its monitoring of member economies’ compliance with the procedural obligations in the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin.

**Rules of Origin**

- The CST is expected to continue its efforts in facilitating the implementation of ROO, as well as providing support to other APEC fora on related issues.

**Unilateral liberalization by APEC economies makes an important contribution to trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation.**

**Transparency in regulatory regimes and the elimination of trade-impeding or unnecessarily restrictive regulations are the key objectives of APEC work in the deregulation area.**

**The work is undertaken by the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI). In 1996, the Osaka Action Agenda work programs for Competition Policy and Law, and for deregulation were combined, in view of the linkages between the two issues.**

**Next Steps**

**Achievements**

- The focus of the group remained on the promotion of information sharing and dialogue on deregulation issues through the annual GPEG educational programs. The Group’s work continues to improve its educational and information-sharing activities. It will also work more closely with other APEC groups, in particular the Electronic Commerce Steering Group and the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Working Group, looking at a number of issues including paperless trading.

**Rules of Origin – Key Contacts**

- APEC Secretariat
- Ms Florence SIU
- Director (Programs)
- Email: fsiu@apecsec.org.sg

**Policy and Regulatory Reform and specific projects arising from it**

- Disregulation
- Key Contacts
- Convener
- Ms Margarita Trillo
- International Relations Coordinator
- INDECOPI (National Institute for the Defence of Competition & Protection of Intellectual Property)
- Calle La Prosa 138, San Borja
- Lima 41
- Peru
- Tel: +51-1-224 7800 ext. 1634
- Fax: +51-1-224 0348
- Email: mtrillo@indecopi.gob.pe

- Government Procurement
- Key Contacts
- Chair
- Mr Tony Cranston
- Director (Programs)
- Ministry of Economic Development
- P.O. Box 1473
- Wellington
- New Zealand
- Tel: +64-4-472-0030
- Fax: +64-4-499-1791
- Email: tony.Cranston@med.govt.nz

- Mediation
- Key Contacts
- Convener
- Mr Richard Eason
- Director (Programs)
- Email: rme@mail.apecsec.org.sg

- APEC Secretariat
- Apart from fulfilling the on-going objectives of promoting information sharing and dialogue and increasing transparency in regulatory regimes, work will continue to focus primarily on the implementation of the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition
1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Dispute Mediation (cont’d)

Achievements
• Agreement to maintain the Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies on the Internet.

Next Steps
• Consider extending the Australia-Indonesia Alternative Dispute Resolution Pilot Project to other APEC economies over the period of July 2000 – June 2005.

Mobility of Business People

The Osaka Action Agenda of November 1995 commits APEC members to enhance business mobility by exchanging information on regulatory regimes, streamlining the processing of short-term business visitor visas and procedures for temporary residence of business people, and maintaining a dialogue on these issues with the business community.

Australia is the Convener for business mobility.

Achievements
• Developed a strategic plan to build capacity to implement WTO Agreements.

Next Steps
• Consider extending the Australia-Indonesia Alternative Dispute Resolution Pilot Project to other APEC economies over the period of July 2000 – June 2005.

Implementation of WTO Outcomes

Since its creation in 1994, APEC has taken the position that it should build on the open multilateral trading system.

The task in this area is to promote opportunities for training and exchange of views on and experiences of challenges and solutions related to implementation of the Uruguay Round outcomes.

APEC Seminar on New Areas (Investment and Competition) was held on 23 August 2000 in Lima, Peru and the second seminar was held in November 2000 in the Philippines.

Next Steps
CIT will consider developing a mechanism to implement and follow-up on the strategic plan to build capacity in APEC to implement WTO agreements.

Develop a strategic plan to build capacity to implement WTO Agreements.

WTO Outcomes - Key Contacts

APEC Secretariat
Special Assistant to CIT Chair
Ms Catherine Wong
Director (Program)
Mr Ed Killesteyn
Business and Private Sector Participation

Chair
Mr Joseph M Damond
CTI Chair
Mr Richard Eason
Director (Program)
Deputy Assistant US Trade Representative
Asia & Pacific-APEC Affairs
Office of the US Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington D.C. 20508
USA
Tel: +1-202-395-6813
Fax: +1-202-395-3512
Email: jdamond@ustr.gov

Mr Sun Yuanjiang
Director (Program)
APEC Secretariat
Deputy Assistant US Trade Representative
Asia & Pacific-APEC Affairs
Office of the US Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington D.C. 20508
USA
Tel: +1-202-395-6813
Fax: +1-202-395-3512
Email: jdamond@ustr.gov

Mr Edward Killesteyn
Director (Program)
Chief Information Officer
Business Solutions Group
Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs
P.O. Box 25
Belconnen ACT 2617 Australia
Tel: +61-2-6264-3632
Fax: +61-2-6264-3954/2632
Email: apec@immi.gov.au (main)
Edward.killesteyn@jasa.gov.au

Ms Catherine Wong
Special Assistant to CTI Chair
Director (Program)
APEC Secretariat

Deputy Assistant US Trade Representative
Asia & Pacific-APEC Affairs
Office of the US Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington D.C. 20508
USA
Tel: +1-202-395-6813
Fax: +1-202-395-3512
Email: jdamond@ustr.gov

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) has made facilitation of business travel a priority. The CTI’s agenda on business mobility has been guided by ABAC’s recommendations, and the Informal Experts Group on Business Mobility has informed ABAC’s work.

APEC members have also been closely consulted in development of the APEC Business Travel Card scheme and introduction of other APEC initiatives.

The IEGM Chair met with the APEC Business Facilitation working group at the February 2000 APEC meeting in Bangkok, Thailand and ABAU has been invited to attend IEGM meetings.

Achievements
• Have agreed in principle to adopt improved service information for processing applications for and extensions of temporary residence permits for executive, managers and specialists transferred within their companies to other APEC economies.

• Have collectively agreed to issue multiple-entry visas to frequent business travellers from other APEC economies and have acted individually to facilitate business travel, for example by expanding visa-waiver programs or extending the validity of multiple-entry visas.

• Have launched a technical cooperation program to help members implement advanced border management techniques.

• Maintained up-to-date information on requirements for short-term business visas and temporary business residency permits in the Internet version of the APEC Business Travel Handbook.

(http://www.apecsec.org.sg). This Handbook also includes contact information on offices that issue visas across the APEC region.

• Australia, Chile, Hong Kong, China, Korea, and the Philippines began implementing a trial of the APEC Business Travel Card scheme, which offers accredited business travellers visa-free travel and expedited airport processing when visiting participating economies.

• Malaysia and New Zealand joined the Business Travel Card scheme in 1999, while Thailand joined in February 2000, Peru in August 2000, and Brazil in December. This brings the current number of participants in the ABTC to ten.

• APEC had called on APEC to increase the number of participants to 12 by year-end, although these new economies joined the Scheme, ABAU’s target proved to be just out of reach.

Next Steps
Members will begin implementation of their agreement to streamline processing of temporary business residency permits. Technical cooperation in 1999 focused on members’ capacity to detect document fraud as a means to streamline entry for legitimate business travellers and a number of training sessions were undertaken in this regard by Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, China, and the US.

Economies participating in these and other sessions included Brazil, Durians McIntyre, China, Chile, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, and Viet Nam. Similar training was offered in 2000 at a session held in the U.S. in August 2000 to discuss the standards essential for transparent and open immigration systems as well as the capacity building needed to implement them.

Mobility of Business People – Key Contacts

Chair
Ms Catherine Wong
Director (Program)
Email: cw@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Ms Catherine Wong
Special Assistant to CTI Chair
Email: sy@mail.apecsec.org.sg
1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalisation (EVSL)

In Vancouver, APEC Leaders agreed to early voluntary sectoral liberalisation (that is, liberalisation before the agreed goal of 2010 for industrialised economies and 2020 for developing economies) in 25 areas. They are environmental goods and services; fish and fish products; forest products; medical equipment and instruments; telecommunications; mutual recognition arrangement (MRA); energy sector; toys, gems and jewelry; chemicals; oleochemicals and oleo products; food sector; natural and synthetic rubber; fertilisers; automobiles; and civil aircraft.

The EVSL initiative is unique in that it enforces a three-track approach to liberalisation – including market opening measures, trade facilitation activities and economic and technical cooperation initiatives. APEC participating member economies decided that the tariff elements of the EVSL should be negotiated within the WTO. With the decision to transfer the tariff element of EVSL to the WTO, work focused on non-tariff measures, facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation components of the sector initiatives.

Business and Private Sector Participation

Since the early stages of the EVSL, economies have emphasised the importance of taking into account private sector interests. Member economies have consulted business in developing the liberalisation initiatives for each sector. In some sectors it is envisaged that the private sector would be directly involved in implementation, for example, in economic and technical cooperation activities.

In the automotive sector, an APEC Automotive Dialogue was established to serve as a forum for government officials and senior industry representatives to work together to map out strategies for increasing integration and development of the automotive sector within the region. The Dialogue met in Manila on 6-8 April 2000 for the second time to address a comprehensive range of issues affecting the automotive industry. Participants reaffirmed that seeking a sustained recovery of the auto industry in the economies, seriously affected by the financial crisis, should remain the first priority for the Dialogue. It emphasised the need to develop practical measures to assist the industry achieve global benchmarks of quality, reliability and price competitiveness. A substantive work programme has been set in train, which will require close consultation with other APEC fora, particularly in the areas of standards, customs and intellectual property rights. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Bangkok, Thailand on 3-5 April 2001.

Achievements

• APEC has agreed to a proposal by the Asia-Pacific Chemical Industry Coalition (APACC) to set up a Chemical Dialogue, in which senior government and industry representatives would most regularly to discuss trends and challenges facing the industry, opportunities for expanding trade, non-tariff measures, facilitation and ECOTECH. The terms of reference for the Dialogue will be developed for CTI’s review in 2001.

Next Steps

• The Committee on Trade and Investment to continue playing a coordinating role in carrying forward the work on the non-tariff measures, facilitation and ECOTECH in the 15 EVSL sectors.

Trade Facilitation

An ad hoc Task Force on Trade Facilitation was established under the auspices of CTI to pursue work in developing a set of APEC non-binding principles on trade facilitation in response to a Ministerial directive. Such principles are intended to assist policy-makers of APEC economies in formulating and implementing pro-business trade and investment measures.

Achievements

The Task Force met twice in 2000, on 20 May and 10 September. It reviewed work by member economies and relevant sub-fora in advancing the trade facilitation agenda. The Task Force has drawn up a list of core elements of the trade facilitation principles that would form the basis for further development of the set of non-binding principles.

Next Steps

• The task force will expedite its work with a view to making further substantive progress by mid-2001, including an implementation and technical assistance issues relating to the trade facilitation principles.

Economic Committee

The Economic Committee (EC) was established at the Sixth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta in November 1994, when the Ministers agreed to transform the Ad Hoc Group on Economic Trends and Issues into a formal policy committee. The Committee is responsible for research on economic trends and issues in the APEC region, and serves as a forum for member economies to exchange information and views. The Committee currently operates under the two guiding principles for its activities, as set out at the beginning of 1999. First, the Committee focuses on demand-driven work in support of APEC Ministers’ and Leaders’ meetings and policy-oriented work of other forms. The Committee’s work addresses central economic issues of priority concern for Leaders and Ministers, and provides the analytical basis useful for advancing TLF and ECOTECH agendas. Second, the Committee aims at delivering high-quality research outputs by tightening its work program, in order to fulfill its core role as APEC’s analytical body.

Business and Private Sector Participation

The Committee makes efforts to reach out to the research community and businesses. Scholars, researchers, and businesspersons participate in ad hoc and special senior seminars held under the auspices of the Committee as part of its implementation of the research projects.

Trade Facilitation – Key Contacts

CTI Chair
Mr. Jaime Pomareda
Director (Program)
Email: jpm@mail.apecsec.org.sg

APEC Secretariat
Special Assistant to CTI Chair
Mr. Kenneth Wong
Director (Regional)
Email: ctional@apec.org.sg
1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

The report identified potential areas for cooperation in promoting KEIs in APEC, such as business environment, human resource development, and information and communication technology. The report also made three specific recommendations for promoting KEIs: (1) establishment of a KEI Clearing House; (2) generation of igniting policies for triggering the transition to KEIs; and (3) inclusion of KEI status indicators in the Economic Outlook. Detailed plans for their implementation will be developed.

Korea hosted the APEC Symposium on Knowledge-based economies in Seoul in June 2001, which served as an occasion to review the draft reports and also to solicit views from the scholars, academics, and government officials who participated. The reports were well received by Ministers and their major findings were highlighted in the Ministers’ Joint Statement. All three reports are available on the APEC website.

Another major EC activity was the follow-up work on the EC’s report on “Impact of Expanding Population and Economic Growth on Food, Energy and the Environment (FEEEP).” The EC’s plenary meeting was used as an information exchange platform and to discuss the studies of agricultural trade liberalisation and reform policies.

Next Steps

The EC will hold its first plenary meeting for the year 2001 in Beijing, China on 15-16 February. A new work program will be developed and the leadership of the newly-elected Chair. Reporting the 2001 APEC Economic Outlook, Hong Kong, China is the coordinator for the preparation of the report. It will address financial development and its role in economic growth in APEC economies.

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Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

The ECOTECH Sub-Committee of the SOM was established in 1998 to assist the SOM in coordinating and managing APEC’s Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) agenda, and in identifying value-added initiatives for cooperative action. It also oversees the activities of the Group on Economic Infrastructure.

ECOTECH Sub-Committee of the SOM

Chair: Dr. Bambang Bintoro Soedjito
Deputy Chairman for Infrastructure
National Development Planning Agency
Jalan Taman Suropati No 2
Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62-21-33-4731
Fax: +62-21-33-4731
Email: summer@indo.net.id

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The ESC seeks to advance effective implementation of Part II of the 1995 Osaka Action Agenda and the 1996 Manila Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development through consultation with APEC fora and the development of policy management tools and guidelines for projects.

Achievements

- The ESC: examined and reported on the 220 ECOTECH projects that were on-going or completed in 2000 with assistance from the APEC Secretariat;
- evaluated completed HDR ECOTECH projects;
- reviewed the implementation of Part II of the Osaka Action Agenda;
- monitored and reported on the implementation of priority initiatives that flowed from the Kuala Lumpur Action Programme on Skills Development and the APEC Agenda for Science and Technology Cooperation into Industry (the 21st Century endorsed by APEC Leaders in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1999);
- established regional focal points (working groups) to co-ordinate progress in the implementation of the six priority ECOTECH themes under the 1996 Manila Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development;
- proposed the implementation by APEC fora of its Guidance on Strengthening Management of APEC Activities;
- proposed refinements to the ECOTECH Weightings Matrix; and
- proposed a new ECOTECH project analysis system.

Next Steps

The ESC will develop further the Joint Activities/Dialogue sections on Part II of the Osaka Action Agenda, coordinate work on cross-cutting issues including human capacity building, consider the possibility of establishing Individual Action Plans on ECOTECH and report on the implementation of ECOTECH guidelines and initiatives. It will also contribute to APEC’s outreach programmes by highlighting how ECOTECH activities are benefiting governments, businesses and the community.

In its deliberations, the ESC will take into account the application of the Framework for the Integration of Women.

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group

In recognition of the importance of work on agricultural technical cooperation, the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Experts’ Group (ATCEG) was established in November 1996 at a formal APEC body with a continuing role. Prior to that decision, two meetings of experts had been held. The meetings (in Chinese Taipei, 1996; and Australia, 1996) agreed on a work program of joint activities to enhance agricultural’s contribution to the region’s economic growth and social well-being and develop a framework for undertaking those cooperative activities.

In accordance with the directions from New Zealand SOM I in 1999, the ATC has expanded the scope of its priority areas incorporating part of FEEP joint activities: (a) food and agricultural related research and development; (b) trade and other matters; and (c) food and agricultural related environmental issues.

The ATC’s seven sub-groups are focused on: (a) food and agricultural related environmental issues; and (b) food and agricultural related environmental issues.

Accordingly, the ATC’s seven sub-groups were re-formed to reflect these developments at the 3rd ATC meeting held in June 1999 in Japan.

The sub-groups are: Conservation and Utilisation of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources, Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology, Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products, Plant and Animal Quarantine and Post Management, Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System, Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues.

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APEC’s work on strengthening economic and technical cooperation in infrastructure is mainly carried out by the Group on Economic Infrastructure (GEI) – previously known as the Infrastructure Workshop (I/W), a forum that had been operating under the auspices of the Economic Committee. However, following recommendations arising from the 1998 Management Review, Ministers at the Auckland, New Zealand, meeting in September 1999 agreed that the I/W should be reconstituted as an ad hoc forum under the ECOTECH Sub-Committee of the SOM.

Achievements

- The joint APEC-PECC-private/public sector initiative Regional Integration for Sustainable Economies (RISE), which aims to develop an approach to rural development based on integrating rural economies into the broader marketplace. It supports rural-urban linkages, development of secondary urban economies: hubs and integrated infrastructure investment.
- Pilot work in regional growth centers (RGCs) in Jiangsu, China, and Maharashtra, India has commenced. Further information on the RISE initiative can be obtained from its website (http://www.riselink.net/).

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In its deliberations, the ESC will take into account the application of the Framework for the Integration of Women.

The ATC has been working closely with PECC, particularly in the area of production, marketing and distribution of agricultural products.

In cooperation with PECC, the contact list of agricultural exports was prepared and recently updated. The Trade Facilitation Manual, which describes the outline of each economy’s regulations on standards and conformances, was also prepared.

Achievements

- The ATC served as a main body of APEC in undertaking recommendations in APEC food system report. In accordance with the Leaders’ instruction, the ATC submitted a report on progress in the implementation of relevant recommendations.
- The ATC’s framework report on “Regional Integration for Sustainable Economies” (RISE), which is being conducted by Indonesia with support from Canada, the United States, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, was presented to the ATC meeting held in 1999.
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Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (cont’d)

a. capacity building: Activities related to improved regional coordination and efficient use of risk assessment resources;

c. completion of a Best Practices Guide to communicating agricultural biotechnology;

d. updating the APEC internet site related to agricultural biotechnology;

e. discussion of key international activities such as the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

f. development of case studies on the release of crops in centers of origin and diversity; and

g. addressing issues related to intellectual property rights for transgenic crops and livestock of specific regional interests in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group.

- Undertake the importance of public awareness and understanding of biotechnology.
- Ensure APEC member economies to a. ensure a transparent, science-based approach to the safe introduction and use of biotechnology products, recognizing the important contribution that biotechnology can make to the economies of the region;

b. enhance their efforts to address public information needs with a view to increasing public awareness and understanding of agricultural biotechnology; and

c. act as a forum to discuss issues of relevant international fora such as the biosafety, standards, guidelines or recommendations; or, research, are being contemplated.

- Support Canada’s proposal for year 2001 funding of the workshop to address these topics under the Trade and Investment Liberalisation Facilitation (TILF) special account.

- Funding would provide a focus for the outcomes of the Vancouver 2000 meeting on agricultural biotechnology, including initiatives related to technical cooperation and capacity building.

- Workshop on Agricultural Biotechnology (Vancouver, Canada, October 2000) As a concrete step to implement the biotechnology report, the ATCWG organised the workshop in biotechnology. The workshop consisted of two sessions managing technical capacity, safety and communications into the 21st century and environmental safety and food safety. It aimed to exchange information and develop scientifically sound national process and procedures for evaluating biotechnology products. Its major objectives include Best Practices Guide to communicating agricultural biotechnology, review of different approaches to risk management and recommendations for a comprehensive communication strategy.

- Workshop on Conservation and Utilisation of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources (Tai-Chung, Chinese Taipei, October 2000) This workshop focused on analysis of the current status of conservation and utilisation of aquatic genetic resources in the APEC region and sharing expertise on aquatic genetic resources. The APEC region included major workshops on the conservation and utilisation of: plant, animal and aquatic resources among member economies.

- Training on Agricultural Finance (Tokyo, Japan, September 2000) The training aimed to enhance the knowledge of and understanding within member economies of the process involved in developing health import risk analysis as well as of principles. The SPS agreement and other standards and guidelines used in import risk analysis.

- Symposium on Rural Issues in the APEC region (Tokyo, Japan, April 2000) This workshop addressed the importance of rural areas in national socio-economic and sustainable agriculture in rural revitalisation was reconfirmed, and the necessity for continuing discussion on rural revitalisation in the ATCWG was recognised.

- Workshop on Agricultural Technology Transfer (Jakarta, Indonesia, January 2000) This workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of the current status of agricultural technology transfer and training activities and future recommendations. A business sector/Ministerial dialogue has been held in conjunction with the Fourth Energy Ministers Meeting to discuss rural issues to the Ministers and Leaders in 2001. In the area of conservation and utilisation of plant and animal genetic resources, the ATC will hold a workshop on genetic information management systems in October 2001. This workshop aims to identify potential information needs and cost-effective collection methods as the framework for information-based system databases and to share and develop the information of genetic resources among member economies by integration into the global information network. The other activity is to prepare and publish an APEC booklet on indigenous animals and their implications for local agricultural practices.

- Business and Private Sector Participation: The business/private sector is involved in the work of the EWG through the EWG’s Five Expert Groups and is represented at EWG meetings by the EWG’s Business Forum. Business participates in, and supports, EWG events such as seminars, training programs and technology consultations. The EWG’s Business Network (EBN) as an interface between the private sector and the EWG.

- The Ministerial Declaration notes the central role of energy in the region’s future prosperity, energy security and environmental protection and highlights the work done in the EWG on initiatives to sustain energy market reform and facilitate economic and technical cooperation. The message to the EWG’s Economic Leaders’ committed to implementation of these initiatives, especially through a new implementation strategy; agreed to send a message to APEC Economic Leaders on the contribution energy market reforms can make to sustain economic growth in the region, and issued a Joint Statement on Clean Energy and Sustainable Development.

- The EWG’s Business Network (EBN) as an interface between the private sector and the EWG.

- The Network comprises two business representatives from each economy.

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1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Energy (cont’d)

- Concluded a program of seminar, training courses and information exchange activities aimed at promoting new and renewable energy technologies, more efficient energy production and use, and the mitigation of the environmental impact of energy production and use, e.g. through the application of clean fossil energy technologies.
- Completed and published a comprehensive Regional Energy Supply and Demand Outlook to the year 2010.
- Concluded IEA visits to Thailand in November 1998 and August 2000 to maintain the momentum on the gas reform process and developed recommendations specific to the needs of Thailand’s energy market reform process. PTT and the Philippines have also invited an IEA visit.
- Launched implementation of the voluntary pledge and review system aimed at improving energy efficiency.
- Launched implementation of the Energy Efficiency Standards Notification Procedure.

Next Steps

The EWG will continue its work program based on the Osaka Action Program for Energy and the priorities established by Ministers and Energy Leaders. During 2001 the EWG will;

• Develop further its energy database and enhance its website to enable policy makers and businesses to be better informed on energy and demand related issues.
• Facilitate implementation of the Best Practice Principles for Independent Power Producers and promote private sector investment in power infrastructure. A number of energy users are the Principals as a guide in the reform of their power sector.
• Secured endorsement by Ministers of a set of non-binding principles for good environmental practices aimed at ensuring that new power infrastructure additions in APEC economies are environmentally sound.

Fisheries

The Fisheries Working Group (FWG) was created by the SOM in 1991. It aims to promote:
- the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources;
- sustainable development of aquaculture and habitat protection;
- development of solutions to common resource management problems;
- the enhancement of food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products.
- sector specific work relating to trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation.

Business and Private Sector Participation

The FWG held its 11th annual meeting in Seattle, USA on 17–21 July 2000. This meeting included for the first time a Business Forum hosted by the USA and sessions on gender issues, fisheries management and aquaculture along with the normal business of the meeting. This forum provided an opportunity for APEC economies to discuss issues of common interest with the USA industry and the International and the International Coalition of Fisher People’s organisations (ICOF) and from Universities. Industry interests included harmonisation of trade information and documentation schemes; support for IUU fishing through the RAMCO support for strong Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO’s); and reduction in non-tariff measures and the implementation of the US Fish Stowt Agreement. There are issues that include the lack of APEC interest (with the exception of New Zealand), efforts in cooperation with the IMO. Other suggestions included support of HACCP and technologies to mitigate seaweed by-catch.

Fisheries Management

The meeting took reports from a number of key conferences on Fisheries Management that had been held in APEC member economies and from the FAO. A number of suggestions were made for agenda items on Fisheries Management for PWG12 and these were included in the agenda. The PWG was agreed that fisheries management in terms of the role described above was an important aspect of the PWG work program.

Aquaculture

There were a number of reports in this session including a report on the recommendations from the conference, Aquaculture in the 3rd Millennium held in Bangkok in February 2000, the Medan Grouper Workshop and the Expert Consultation on Aquaculture Education held in Hanoi.

Discussion on future work areas

The meeting included presentations from the nature Conservancy and the World Resources Institute on farming the Komodo National Park in Indonesia. There was much focus on aquaculture and grouper and that freshwater and alternative species for aquaculture should also be considered.

Next Projects

PWG projects for commencement in 2001/02 were endorsed at the PWG meeting held from 26–28 July 2000 and included;

- Collaborative APEC Centre for Research and Development Network (PWG 02/2001), Management of Marine Algal Toxins in Seafood Products in the APEC Region (PWG 02/2001);

- Enhancement of food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products.
- Conducted a program of seminars, training courses and information exchange activities aimed at promoting new and renewable energy technologies, more efficient energy production and use, and the mitigation of the environmental impact of energy production and use, e.g. through the application of clean fossil energy technologies.
- Completed and published a comprehensive Regional Energy Supply and Demand Outlook to the year 2010.
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- Develop further its energy database and enhance its website to enable policy makers and businesses to be better informed on supply and demand related issues.
- Facilitate implementation of the Best Practice Principles for Independent Power Producers and promote private sector investment in power infrastructure. A number of energy users are the Principals as a guide in the reform of their power sector.
- Secured endorsement by Ministers of a set of non-binding principles for good environmental practices aimed at ensuring that new power infrastructure additions in APEC economies are environmentally sound.
- Implement the work program on environmentally sound power infrastructures.
- Continue its efforts to promote energy efficiency and conservation through the exchange of information on technologies, policies and practices and implementing the Voluntary Pledge and Review Program to foster improvements in the production, delivery and use of energy.
- Implement the standards notification procedures.
- Strengthen the operational aspects of APEC micro-economic reform within the power sector to achieve economic and environmental gains.
- Encourage the uptake of new and renewable energy technologies through the development of the 21st Century Renewable Energy Development Initiative.
- Conduct a 5th meeting of the EWG in Mexico (February 2001).
- Conduct EWG22 in Australia (May 2001) and EWG22 in Papua New Guinea (October 2001).
- Consider what additional measures might be taken to further enhance market reforms, in promoting energy security including in respect of oil and alternative energy sources.

Energy – Key Contacts

Manager
Mr. John Butterfield
APEC Section, Energy Division
Department of Industry, Science & Resources
GPO Box 9839
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Tel: +61-2-6213-7833
Fax: +61-2-6213-7900
Email: john.butterfield@isr.gov.au

APEC Sectoral
Dr Helena F Gaytan
Director (Program)
Email: hfg@mail.apecsec.org.sg

APEC Assistant Team
Dr Helena F Gaytan
Director (Program)
Email: hfg@mail.apecsec.org.sg
The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) was established in 1990 and conducts work programmes on human development, training and education. The Group's work focuses on poverty and education, and is concerned with the development of human capital. The Group is also involved in the development of new capacity building initiatives.
The ISTWG is based on the working group’s vision for the 21st Century of a dynamic and prosperous Asia-Pacific region built on the development and application of industrial science and technology that improves the quality of life while safeguarding the natural environment and achieving sustainable development. The ISTWG’s mandates were established as part of the Osaka Action Agenda. In 1997 at their Vancouver meeting, the Leaders called for APEC fora to review their mandates and at the 14th ISTWG meeting a new version of ISTWG action agenda was finalised, which represented the six key priorities and adopted them formally. The six key priorities are: active involvement of academia; improved human resources development; improved business/private sector cooperation for sustainable development; enhanced policy dialogue and review; facilitating networks and partnerships. The ISTWG activities are focussed in light of three major leaders’ and ministers’ initiatives which are closely related to the group’s APEC agenda for the 21st Century, the Mexico Declaration on the APEC Preferential Trade Arrangement and the Cleaner Production Strategy. 

### Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

#### Industrial Science and Technology

The ISTWG activities include: 

- **Business and Private Sector Participation**: The ISTWG has undertaken a close cooperation between the group and business/private sector in many activities such as the “Technomart,” Workshop on Business incubation and Information Flow Improvement for Business Incubators and the APEC Science and Technology Industrial Parks Network. The business/private sector is encouraged to participate in the ISTWG activities. The group held a business conference on biotechnology/health and environmental issues in conjunction with its 17th meeting in August 1999. The 4th Technomart to be held in Sept 2001 will serve as another major occasion for private sector to participate in the ISTWG’s activities. In addition, the ISTWG has been active in involving academia in its activities. The ISTWG invited a representative from the Asia Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) to an informal dialogue on the merits of its 18th meeting in Brunei in October to explore possible relationship in the future.

- **Achievements**: The ISTWG issued the ISTWG Handbook for Members to ensure that its members are well informed and that the group is effectively organised. The Handbook describes the current aims, policies, procedures and practices of the group. To support the integration of women into the APEC process, the ISTWG has gender informationsession and implemented gender related projects.

- **In view of the advantageous position and Technology Industry Cooperation into the 21st Century**

- **APEC Symposium concentrating Public Understanding of Science and Technology (S&T)**

- **The Establishment of the APEC Science Festival (AStF)**

- **The Establishment of the APEC Coordinating Center for Good Clinical Practice**

- **Held an APEC Symposium discussing an informed dialogue on the margins of its 19th meeting in Singapore in October to explore possible relationship in the future.**

- **Next Steps**

- **The ISTWG activities are based on the working group’s vision for the 21st Century and the work plan in 2001 in addition to preparing an annual operational plan. The ISTWG issued the ISTWG Handbook for Members to ensure that its members are well informed and that the group is effectively organised.**

- **The ISTWG’s mandates were established as part of the Osaka Action Agenda. In 1997 at their Vancouver meeting, the Leaders called for APEC fora to review their mandates and at the 14th ISTWG meeting a new version of ISTWG action agenda was finalised, which represented the six key priorities and adopted them formally.**

- **The ISTWG’s activities are focussed in light of three major leaders’ and ministers’ initiatives which are closely related to the group’s APEC agenda for the 21st Century, the Mexico Declaration and the Cleaner Production Strategy.**

- **Recognising that marine resources are crucial to the economic and well-being of the people in the region, APEC established the Marine Resources Conservation Working Group (MRC) in 1990. The MRC working group is continuing its efforts to implement the Action Plan on Sustainability of the Marine Environment to protect this collective resource, and to making dramatic progress toward a sustainable marine environment to ensure continued socio-economic and environmental benefits. Chinese Taipei is currently serving as the lead ship of the group until June 2001, and other ships of the group are Canada, China, Indonesia, and Thailand. As called for by MNC Australia, Canada, Chile and Thailand formed a MRC project evaluation team to strengthen management of MRC projects. The last working group meeting (MRC14) was held in June 2001, in Lima, Peru and the 14th Working Group meeting (MRC15) will be held in Hong Kong, China.**

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1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Marine Resource Conservation (cont’d)

**Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)**

**Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group**

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group was established as an APEC Sector Working Group in December 1998. Its basic mandate was to facilitate expertise and information exchange, to develop human capital, and to encourage the involvement of the private sector in APEC-related activities.

The Group has adopted more strategic approaches to develop collaborative action identified in the Declaration of the APEC Ocean Conference and its recommendations within four general areas: Balancing Coastal Development and Resource Protection, Rotating Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, Understanding and Observing the Oceans and Seas, and Economic and Technical Cooperation related to resource management.

1. Promoting coordinated development of APEC’s marine-related networks (O&MIS), the Sustainable Development Training and Information Network, and the FishNet Integrated Coastal Management Network to facilitate the exchange of information.

2. Expanding closer coordination and cooperation with other APEC fora to implement the Action Plan for Sustainability of the Marine Environment and developing collaborative action.

3. Continuing its efforts to implement the Action Plan on Sustainability of the Marine Environment and developing collaborative action.

4. To explore closer coordination and cooperation with other APEC fora to implement the Action Plan for Sustainability of the Marine Environment and developing collaborative action.

5. To take concrete action to involve the business/private sector in Assessing and Maintaining the Integrity of Existing Offshore Oil and Gas Infrastructure, Preventing and Implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Sources of Pollution (GSP), marine ecosystems, sustainable marine aquaculture and coastal engineering, and pollution control.

6. To take concrete action to involve the business/private sector in Assessing and Maintaining the Integrity of Existing Offshore Oil and Gas Infrastructure, Preventing and Implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Sources of Pollution (GSP), marine ecosystems, sustainable marine aquaculture and coastal engineering, and pollution control.

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Achievements

The MRC Working Group has accomplished the Ministers’ directives of “Environmentally Sustainable Growth, Developing Human Resources and Harnessing Technologies for the Future” in the following activities in 1998:

- APEC Round Table on Action Strategies and Work Programs for Private-Public Sector Partnership on Sustainability of Marine Environment, Chinese Taipei, 11-12 April

- Task Team and Program Steering Committee Meetings on Management of Red Tides and Harmful Algal Blooms in the APEC Region, Hainan, China, 13-14 April

- APEC Workshop on the Establishment of APEC Marine Environmental Training and Education Center, Cheju Island, Korea, 20-21 April


Business and Private Sector Participation

There is a growing private/business sector participation in APEC SME-related activities. A majority of SME-related activities have the involvement of the private/public sector either as participants/speakers in training/workshops or respondents to surveys. Meetings included the 4th and 5th SME Ministerial Meetings, a number of private/business sector activities were organized. These were organized by the USA Business Forum, the Women Leaders’ Network meeting; the Young Entrepreneurs Organization meeting and the meeting of Export Credit Agencies and Export Financing Institutions from APEC member economies. At the 6th and 7th SME Ministerial Meetings, 300 business participants in the Business Forum held a joint session with the Ministers. The inputs from the private/business sector formed a critical part of the deliberation of the Ministers in their joint statement.

Next Steps

The SMEWG will continue to focus more on policy-related issues and long-term strategic plans and activities. In this regard, it will collaborate with other APEC fora to ensure that the
The APEC Telecommunications Working Group (TEL) was formed in 1990 under its first Chair, the United States. Under its first Chair, the United States, TEL was charged to address human resource development, technology transfer, and regional cooperation; opportunities for on-site visits, observances and fellowships; and telecommunications standardisation. TEL's activities support the goals set out by APEC economic leaders in the 1994 Bogor Declaration and are consistent with the work programme of the 1995 Osaka Action Agenda. The work of the TEL is accomplished by four steering groups, which propose, implement and monitor projects and activities to achieve the overall goals of APEC. Each steering group addresses a specific priority area: liberalisation, business facilitation, development cooperation, and human resource development.

APEC ministers regulate the Telecommunications and Information Industry have to date met four times to review the work of the TEL, and to provide direction for the development of the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII). At their first meeting in Nusa Dua, Korea in 1996, ministers agreed on the objectives and 10 core principles for the APII which are contained in the Seoul Declaration. At the 2nd Ministerial Meeting held in Queensland, Australia in 1996, ministers issued the Gold Coast Declaration which contained a Program for Action for the Telecommunications and Information sector in APEC economies. The Program for Action focuses on continuing liberalisation efforts, including endorsement of a Reference List of a Fully Liberated Telecommunications Service. At the 3rd Ministerial Meeting, the Seoul Declaration was issued. A highlight of the meeting was the Ministerial endorsement of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment marking the first success of APEC's newly established Voluntary Sectoral Liberalisation (TEL) initiative. Ministers also approved a Reference Framework and support for Actions on Electronic Commerce and a set of principles for use by economies wishing to provide universal access to telecommunications services.

The 4th Ministerial Meeting held in Cancun, Mexico in May 2000 focused on the theme of "Convergence", which sets out a number of goals for the TEL, including: placing emphasis on bridging the digital divide at the domestic, regional and international level; and need to engage the private sector in this effort through co-operation and collaboration. Ministers agreed to promote co-operation and collaboration with the private sector to expand participation in infrastructure investment and upgrade access to networks, especially in rural and under-served areas. Ministers also agreed to continue to encourage the development of APEC countries in the digital economy, with emphasis on life-long learning and giving priority to the development of skills required to assist APEC members to establish a more pro-competitive policy and regulatory environment. APEC would focus on co-operative efforts that encourage competition in communication services, and address non-tariff barriers to trade and continue work to ensure that policy and regulatory environments foster the uptake of e-commerce.

At Cancun, Ministers directed the TEL to carry out a number of new tasks including:

- Review the functions, structure and activities in light of a converged information communications environment.
- Encourage the participation of the private sector in its work.
- Accelerate the realisation of the Asia-Pacific Information Society Initiative (APISI) by expanding cooperative development projects.
- Continue discussions on the "APEC Principles of Interconnection." Continue to foster discussions between private and government parties on International Channelling Arrangements for Internet Services.
- Encourage information sharing on the electronic government initiatives, spectrum access issues, Internet services and critical information protection.
- TEL will continue to carry out a number of on-going projects, including:
  - A Techno-economic Modelling project which aims to integrate decision-making tools to help regulators, management teams and network engineers make sound decisions.
  - A Telecommunications Equipment Technology project to facilitate timely implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment for Telecommunications Equipment.
  - Distance Learning Training Courses project and APEC Distance Learning project on Basic Telecommunication Technology.
  - A Symposium for International Channelling Arrangements to provide universal access to telecommunications transport networks or services in order in order to facilitate convergence of economics participating in e-commerce.

APII framework is established by APEC economic leaders in the 1994 Bogor Declaration and is consistent with the work programme of the 1995 Osaka Action Agenda. The work of the TEL is accomplished by four steering groups, which propose, implement and monitor projects and activities to achieve the overall goals of APEC. Each steering group addresses a specific priority area: liberalisation, business facilitation, development cooperation, and human resource development.

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1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Tourism

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) was formed in 1991 based on the recognition that the tourism industry is of growing importance in promoting economic growth and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. The TWG brings together tourism administrations to share information, exchange views and develop areas of cooperation on trade and policies. The current Chair is China.

Business and Private Sector Participation

Participation by the business and private sector has been channelled through the active involvement of representative trade organisations such as the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), and the World Tourism Organization (WTO). On 20 April 2000, Hong Kong, China hosted the 5th APEC Tourism Forum, “A Charter for the New Millennium.” The proceedings provided an occasion for fruitful dialogue on the draft APEC Tourism Charter between APEC member economies’ government representatives and key players from the regional business/private sector.

The importances of cooperation were reiterated at the Senior Official’s Meeting held prior to the First APEC Ministerial Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7-9 July 2000 in Seoul, Korea. The document reflects a collective commitment to improve the economic, cultural, social and environmental well being of APEC member economies. The 4th APEC International Trade Fair was held in Indonesia in October 2000. The Charter recognises the significant contribution tourism makes to APEC economies and the overall goals of APEC. It serves as a Statement of Ministerial Purposes and processes adopted in the Charter are consistent with the goals of free and open trade and investment established in the APEC Declaration.

The Seoul Declaration on an APEC Tourism Charter was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2001. The WTO has compiled a comprehensive inventory of barriers to travel in the APEC region and agreed to a series of collective actions to address impediments to tourism growth. Its work program includes activities in the areas of Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation, and Economic and Technical Co-operation.

One major outcome of the TWG has been the publication of “The Economic Impact of Tourist and Tourism Development in the APEC Region.” This report was the product of a jointly funded project between the APEC Tourism Working Group and the WTO to examine the economic impact and potential of travel and tourism in the APEC region. The report provides the first comprehensive analysis of the economic impact of travel and tourism in the APEC region, together with relevant projections to the year 2010. It highlights the enormous potential of the sector to the region’s economy and the exciting potential for continuing economic and employment growth, which this industry offers. Also, this report represents a significant example of cooperation between APEC and the private sector as represented through the WTTC. An update, with revised figures and statistics will be produced, incorporating the data that becomes available after the Asian financial crisis.

In 2000, the TWG produced two new publications with a focus on tourism, the community and human resource development. Moreover, it was agreed that the full adoption of the Tourism Charter will increase mobility of visitors and demand for tourism goods and services in the APEC Region, (3) sustainable management tourism outcomes and impacts; and (4) enhance recognition and understanding of tourism as a vehicle for economic and social development. Commitment to the policy goals in the Charter will be demonstrated by submitting and implementing individual and collective action plans by identifying issues for consideration by other relevant APECFonts. Ministers directed the WTWC to enhance working relationships with other APEC Fonts, in particular, on issues regarding human resources development; mobility of people; services, transportation; customs procedures and other relevant issues, for the purpose of implementing the APEC Tourism Charter.

Ministers adopted the following Deliverables for the Tourism Sector in APEC, “Sustainable Management of Tourism Outcomes”, “Establishment of a Tourism Information Network” and the “ Tourism Tablet Accords”. Ministers agreed to take immediate actions for their implementation as of the last WTWC Meeting held in Mobila, Moscow, as well as during the Second APEC Tourism Forum, scheduled for April 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The next WTWC Meeting will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7-9 July 2001. The Meeting’s theme will be “Building Marketing Partnerships in the APEC Region”.

Best Cases

Moreover, it was agreed that the dialogue and cooperation between both sectors should be continued, expanded and deepened for the development of tourism in the APEC Region.

The Chairman of the Tourism Working Group (Chairman) to the APEC Ministerial Meeting in June 2000. His objectives is to contribute to sustainable economic development and improved standard of living of the people of the Asia-Pacific region by promoting the dynamism of intra-regional trade through a range of activities.

The WTWC’s work centers on trade promotion activities, trade financing, trade skills and training, trade information, and facilitating business cooperation between the private sector and public agencies including trade promotion organizations.

The WTWC has noticed the rapid development of e-commerce and increasing importance of logistic management in contemporary trade. These issues were discussed at the 12th WTWC Meeting held in Lima, Peru on 6-8 March 2000. Development of e-commerce projects, promotion of technology trade and the implementation of a concrete project on logistic management were also discussed.

Tourism – Key Contacts

Chair
M. Tetsu Hattori
General Director of Marketing and Communications Department
China National Tourism Administration
A9, Jianguomennei Avenue
Beijing, 100740
People’s Republic of China
Tel: +86-10-65201528
Fax: +86-10-65223175

APEC Secretariat
4th Floor
Add: Metro Arts
Tangerigame
E-mail: apec@email.apec.org.sg
Tel: 65-6233-7474

Trade Promotion

The Working Group on Trade Promotion (WTPT) first met in Seoul in June 2000. Its objectives is to contribute to sustainable economic development and improved standard of living of the people of the Asia-Pacific region by promoting the dynamism of intra-regional trade through a range of activities. The WTPT’s work centers on trade promotion activities, trade financing, trade skills and training, trade information, and facilitating business cooperation between the private sector and public agencies including trade promotion organizations.

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1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont’d)

Transportation

The Transportation Working Group (TPW-WG) fosters economic development in the Asia-Pacific region through recommendations to increase the efficiency, sustainability and safety of the regional transportation system. The vast distances that characterise the Asia-Pacific region and the dynamic growth of its economies highlight the importance of an efficient transportation system to guarantee further development.

The TPW-WG is organised into three ‘steering committees’ covering its areas of focus: (1) more competitive transportation industry (including infrastructure); (2) safe and environment-friendly transportation systems (including new technologies); and (3) human resources development. Reporting to each of the steering committees are expert and project groups, which undertake much of the detailed work on individual projects and activities.

Business and Private Sector Participation

Member economies regularly include business representatives as part of their delegations. TPW-WG meetings often include one-day seminars on transportation topics, to which business representatives are invited. For example, a 1999 seminar on electronic commerce attracted considerable private sector participation. In October 2000, seminars on earthquake preparedness at ports, and road vehicle safety standards harmonisation were held.

Council International (ACI). Individual economies consult regularly with their private sector and the TPW-WG has a standing contact point with ACI’s Transport Committee.

Achievements

Major achievements in 1999 and 2000 include:

• An interactive web-based Port Database to which all economies are encouraged to contribute data.
• Establishment of a “Virtual Centre for Transportation Research, Development and Education” website.
• Completion of a compendium of training materials to assist with the harmonisation of vehicle safety standards in member economies.
• Development of a regional action plan for Global Navigation Satellite Systems implementation, in consultation with relevant international bodies such as ICAO and INAO.
• A project on the identification of needed intermodal skills and development of required training programmes will suggest methods to ensure how these skills can be supplied to the workforces of APEC economies. A review of the implementation of each of the TPW-WG’s eight recommendations for more competitive air services, taking account of the benefits and difficulties of implementation; and
• seek to identify further steps to liberalise air services on a voluntary basis. Two possible options are the exploration of a pluri-competitive arrangement by like-minded APEC economies, and the widening of the existing recommendations for more competitive air services.

The 88th meeting of the TPW-WG took place at Miyazaki, Japan on 16-20 October 2000, with the 89th meeting to be hosted by Brunei Darussalam in April 2001. The TPW-WG is preparing for the 3rd Transportation Ministerial Meeting to be held in Lima, Peru in October 2001 (following previous meetings in 1995 and 1997).

Establishment of a “Transportation Security Initiative” that provides a mechanism for increased cooperation and communication on transportation security within the APEC region. An aviation security working meeting was held in June 2000.

• Completion of a project “Safety Shipping in the Asia Pacific Region,” which will form the basis for future work in the Maritime Safety Experts Group.

APEC Seminar on Product Marketing Strategies, June 2000, Indonesia

Transport Harmonisation Project (RTHP) has led to many concrete actions with respect to the harmonisation of vehicle safety standards. Member economies have decided to adopt United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) regulations regarding automotive product. In 1998 the United States signed the UN/ECE 100 Agreement on Global Technical Regulations and Japan signed the UN/ECE 1981 Agreement (concerning the adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts). Other APEC economies have adhered of their intentions to sign one or both of these agreements.

4th APEC International Trade Fair, April 2000, Chinese Taipei

APEC Seminar on Product Marketing Strategies, June 2000, Indonesia

The APEC Study Centers Consortium

The APEC Study Centers (ASC) were established as part of the APEC Leaders’ Education Initiative in 1993. Currently, there are 18 ASCs in 18 member economies, comprised of some 100 of the best universities, research centres and centres of academic excellence across the APEC region.

A full contact list is available from the APEC website. APEC member economies participate in the Annual ASC Consortium meetings (usually held in the economy hosting APEC in that particular year) and other bilateral or multilateral research activities in accordance with their areas of interests. The mission of the ASC Consortium is to:

• Promote cooperation in higher education and advanced research, and facilitate cultural and intellectual exchanges in the Asia Pacific region, recognising the importance of educational links in developing a sense of community and fostering understanding of the diversity of the region.

APEC Pastoral – Key Contacts

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APEC Study Centers Consortium

Trade Promotion (cont’d)

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APEC Study Centers Consortium

The APEC Study Cente

1 Activities of APEC Fora (cont'd)

APEC Study Centers
Consortium (cont'd)

1. The Malaysian APEC Study Centres

The Malaysian APEC Study Centres function as a consortium of seven universities, related institutions, and research institutions. Its secretariat is located at the Institute of Malaya. While the Malaysian APEC study centres were established during the Asian financial crisis, and received no direct funding from the Malaysian Government, the APEC-related activities included have been numerous. Research projects include "Globalisation of the Malaysian Economy," "Technology Transfer and Income Distribution in Malaysia," and "Democratization in Southeast Asia." In November 2000, APIAN published its first report entitled "Learning from Experience" based on questionnaires sent to experts in APEC member economies.

2. The Mexico APEC Study Centre

The Mexico APEC Study Centre at El Colegio de Mexico is a founding member of a domestic and regional Latin American research network of APEC Study Centres. The Centre, which now has become the leading institution in Mexico on APEC affairs, has been active, for example, with Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, and the US, continuing to manage the study centres and the APEC-related activities. Of particular interest, the Mexican Study Centre is involved in providing assistance and training to China as it prepares for APEC 2001. Two Chinese officials have visited the Monash University, home of the Australian Study Centre, attending a special program of preparation.

Highlights of APEC 2000 ASCC

In the context of the joint APEC/TPF Conference, the management of regional trading arrangements, and the ongoing development of trading arrangements were of principal concern. Some of the themes developed included:• Building consensus for a new round of trade negotiations comprising a balance of agenda items and complimentary activities in the WTO as well as APEC.
• The importance of the development of trade negotiations comprising a balance of agenda items and complimentary activities in the WTO as well as APEC.

Achievements

The APEC 2000 Study Centres Consortium (ASCC) was held at the International Conference Centre, Brunei Darussalam on 26–28 May 2000. Delegates present were from all member APEC economies, except Papua New Guinea. The APEC Study Centres Consortium (ASC) was also represented at the Meeting. The attendance of so many delegates, given the growth in APEC membership in recent years, made a milestone in the history of the ASC as new members appreciated the importance of study and research to the APEC process.

The Brunei ASCC was unique in that it was a combined conference with the PESC Trade Policy Forum, and in conjunction the APEC Human Resource Development Working Group. The Conference culminated in a Joint Dialogue on Human Resources Development on 29 May 2000. The joint APEC/TPF Conference as an experiment in joint dialogue, was an outstanding success. Over 150 delegates combined with vibrant and engaging sessions, deliberation and interaction, and high-quality presentations. The APEC Study Centres have shown much interest in active participation of the academic sector not only in APEC-related activities but also in APEC-related activities.

Further to these discussions, the Special Dialogue between the ASC, TPF and HRD Working Group proved to be of particular significance as the idea of championing issues for APEC to focus on and develop was tabled. Since APEC's conception, many issues have been discussed and much progress has been made, but it was suggested that it is perhaps time to identify several issues to be championed to bring APEC's resources to bear on achieving a number of desired outcomes. Certainly, the collaborative effort to conduct surveys of APEC implementation in member economies by the ASC is an adventurous undertaking. But the ASC continues to look for ways to contribute by way of its research and deliberations into the APEC process.

Next Steps

• The ASCC is to continue to provide a forum for the reporting and peer review among the consortium members on the management of regional trading arrangements.
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Resources as part of the liberation package.

The role of regional trading arrangements in the trading system for the region. As new RTAs come into play, there is a need to consider again the nature of open liberalization and the consistency between RTAs and liberalization policies.

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2 Other APEC Activities

Sustainable Development

The APEC Leaders’ Economic Vision Statement at Blair Island, Seattle, USA in November 1993 stated, “Our environment is improved as we protect the quality of our air, water and green spaces and manage our energy resources and renewable resources to ensure sustainable growth and provide a more secure future for our people”. This statement provides the mandate for APEC’s work on sustainable development.

Minister of the Environment met in Canada in March 1994 and adopted an Environmental Vision Statement and a Framework of Principles for integrating economic and environment issues. The APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration for Action issued during the Leaders’ Meeting in Osaka in November 1995 reaffirmed the integration of environment and sustainable development into APEC activities.

The APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration in Vancouver in November 1997 stated that “Achieving sustainable development at the heart of APEC’s mandate”, and reiterated their commitment at their 1998 Meeting in Kuala Lumpur: “to advance sustainable development across an entire spectrum of our workplan …”.

Business and Private Sector Participation

At the Environment Ministers’ Meeting for Environment and Development held in Toronto, Canada (June 1997), an APEC Business and Municipal Leaders’ Forum on Sustainable Cities was held. The meeting attracted participants from all levels of government and provided an opportunity for APEC business and municipal leaders to give input into the APEC Environment Ministers’ Meeting. The three-day forum on Sustainable Cities incorporated eight workshops on topics such as air pollution, water, wastewater management, corporate citizenship, cleaner production, public-private partnerships, prioritization of environmental services, policy and regulatory reform, and financing strategies.

Achievements

The APEC Ministers in 1996 decided that the APEC Senior Officials were to prepare an annual review of activities of sustainable development in APEC to monitor the development and implementation of sustainable development initiatives as well as to coordinate and provide guidance to APEC. There have been four annual reviews: 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 reviews. Through these reviews, it was found that the number, scope and significance of the APEC activities in sustainable development being undertaken are considerable, indicating that the issue is being addressed fairly broadly across APEC. Almost all the APEC forums have demonstrated responsiveness to sustainable development concerns, and in several cases, forums were working together to jointly implement sustainable development activities.

Next Steps

The Senior Officials review the APEC activities in sustainable development regularly in consultation with Chairs and Lead Shepherds of all APEC forums, including the APEC Senior Economic and Environment officials.

In addition, as one of the six priorities of the Mandala Framework is “Safeguarding the Quality of Life through Environmentally Sound Growth”, the Environment Task Committee reviews the progress of this cross-cutting ECOSTECH theme and reports in its implementation across APEC forums to the Ministers every two years.

Gender Integration

The SOM in strengthening the institutional capacity of the implementation of the Framework, established the SOM-Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration (AGGI). The role of the AGGI is to provide gender advice and expertise in SOM and other APEC forums on the implementation of the Framework. The Group will complement the responsibility and accountability of individual APEC forums for the implementation of the Framework.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group was tasked by the Framework with four critical tasks:

• The publication, dissemination and distribution of the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC;
• Holding Gender Information Sessions (GIS) - the AGGI has developed gender information sessions for the APEC Forum on the Framework and process of implementation of its elements. GIS have been undertaken by 17 APEC forums, including SOM and the APEC Secretariat;
• Gender Criteria for use in APEC project proposals, approval and evaluation forms have been developed for incorporation into APEC project proposals, approvals and evaluation forms. These Gender Criteria have been incorporated into the revised APEC Project Proposals, Approvals and Evaluation Forms;
• Gender Mainstreaming Good Practices Book: AGGI is overseeing the compilation of good practices of gender integration in APEC forums and economies. These good practices link the work of various fora and provide a practical source of case studies on gender analyses and mainstreaming.

Introduction

Throughout the APEC region, economic recovery from the 1997-98 financial crisis is firmly entrenched in many economies. Most economies are well on their way to recovery and many are returning to substantial levels of economic growth. The main focus of APEC members in the year 2000 was to ensure that this recovery continues and strengthens and that there is no return to crisis. There is a concern by some that the recovery may lead to complacency and that needed reforms may not be undertaken. APEC members hope to guard against that possibility and instead implement the changes in economic and financial infrastructure to make a new crisis less likely. The recent high oil prices have reminded economic policy-makers that their economies are still very much reliant on imported oil and susceptible to external economic shocks. Should oil prices be sustained at these levels, there is growing concern about the impact on economic growth and stability. This concern was reflected in the comments that the APEC Finance Ministers issued at the end of their 9-10 September meeting in Brunei Darussalam, which is summarised below. At their 15-16 November meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, APEC Economic Leaders took up the same theme, calling for appropriate measures to promote stability for both consumers and producers.

Sustainable Economic Recovery

At their November meeting in Brunei Darussalam, APEC Economic Leaders reiterated their resolve to work together to support a sustained recovery in the region and to avoid complacency in continuing to improve their economies. Their specific directives included:

• ensuring that APEC’s economic and technical cooperation programs are closely targeted and focused;
• committing to developing and implementing a policy framework to enable the people of urban, rural and community to have access to the Internet by 2010; including tripling the number in the region with individual and community-based access by 2005;
• launching a wide-ranging Action Agenda for the case economy to outlines programs to boost productivity, stimulate growth and extend services to the whole community;
• calling for further exchanges between a broader group of systemically significant economies on how best to meet the challenges of globalization;
• endorsing work to strengthen the international financial architecture, particularly in the areas of surveillance and crisis prevention;
• applauding the work of the APEC Finance Ministers in the area of building capacity in a number of different areas, including skills development of financial regulators and insurance regulators and in working towards insolvency laws reform and financial disclosure.

Leaders also welcomed the work undertaken in several forums to strengthen the international financial system and supported continuing it in a process involving both established and emerging market economies. Leaders encouraged the efforts of Finance Ministers to strengthen domestic financial system development the foundation for the return of capital to the region by;

• developing a Voluntary Action Plan for Fraser and More Stable Capital Flows, calling on APEC members to implement sound and credible financial policies;
• establishing an APEC working group to survey the domestic legal and regulatory frameworks for fighting financial crime;
• establishing an APEC working group to examine issues related to electronic financial transactions;
• producing a study of APEC economies’ experiences in managing bank failures that illustrate lessons based on managing bank failures in the APEC region.
Leaders also welcomed the recommendations from the APEC Business Advisory Council and thanked the member states for their contribution in areas such as capacity building, finance, and e-commerce.

The Finance Ministers

Ministerial Outreach

The APEC Finance Ministers’ process continues to advance its work on collaborative initiatives to promote development of regional financial and capital markets, and to support fiscally and stable financial systems in the Asia-Pacific. Reflecting closer coordination with the rest of APEC, Finance Ministers now meet in the economy that holds the APEC Chair. At their September 2000 meeting in Banque Set Begson, Brunei Darussalam, Finance Ministers welcomed the significant progress the cooperative growth strategy has yielded in stabilizing financial markets and improving the economic outlook. However, they also stressed that continued strengthening of macroeconomic fundamentals and the pursuit of structural reforms are needed to secure financial stability and sustainable economic growth in the region.

Finance Ministers also:

- Welcomed the progress made in developing international standards and best practice guidelines in a wide range of areas, including regulation and supervision of banking, securities, and insurance; corporate governance; accounting standards; data dissemination; and transparency of monetary, financial, and fiscal policies.
- Called on all International Financial Institutions to continue their efforts to strengthen their own governance and accountability, and to improve transparency. and
- Asserted that private sector participation in the prevention and resolution of crises remains a major challenge. In that regard, the Finance Ministers hailed their Deputies to work with business and other private sector groups such as the APEC Finance Group, ABAC, and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) to study business recommendations for strengthening financial markets and institutions and implementing them in on-going work.
- Finance Ministers also reviewed progress on their various collaborative initiatives to strengthen regional financial and capital markets and to support fiscally and stable capital flows in the Asia-Pacific region. Work has proceeded on a range of initiatives, as described below.

Promoting stable and free capital flows in the region. The Finance Ministers resolved to continue policy reforms that enable economies to take advantage of the opportunities available in international capital markets. They resolved to establish within APEC a voluntary policy dialogue on strengthening financial markets, particularly focusing on issues related to the implementation of international financial standards and codes.

Strengthening financial systems. Ministers instructed their Deputies to undertake a study of APEC member economies’ experience in managing bank failures, with the goal of developing a set of recommendations based on cases that illustrate the various lessons drawn from the management of bank failures in the APEC region. The Ministers welcomed the progress made in strengthening financial systems and institutions, particularly in the area of transparency of financial systems and institutions.

Medium Enterprises (SME)

While the APEC Prime Ministerial meeting in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on 8–10 October, 2000, welcomed efforts of the OECD and the World Bank to promote SMEs and to improve regulatory environments in the region, Ministers agreed that the implementation of the 2000 Action Plan on SMEs, under the Chairmanship of the United States, must remain a priority. At the APEC Finance Ministers’ Meeting in Shanghai, China, on 3–5 September, 2000, Ministers welcomed the report on the 2000 APEC Ministerial Meeting on SMEs and the draft recommendations from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) for presentation at the Forum in Shanghai.

SME Ministers will meet next on 26–31 August 2001 in Shanghai, China.

Other APEC Forums

Other APEC Forums will include:

- Korea sponsored the APEC Forum on Shared Prosperity and Harmony that was held in Seoul on 30 March to 1 April. Prime Minister Kim Dae Jung, in his keynote address, highlighted the importance of macroeconomic stability.
- APEC’s Ministers for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) met in Banque Set Begson on 25–26 June, 2000, to discuss how to continue to improve the business environment for SMEs in the region.
- The APEC Energy Ministers met in San Diego, USA, on 26–31 August, 2000, to discuss the region’s energy security and energy efficiency. Ministers welcomed the efforts of the OECD and the World Bank to promote SMEs and to improve regulatory environments in the region.
- The APEC Environment Ministers met in San Diego, USA, on 26–31 August, 2000, to discuss the region’s energy security and energy efficiency. Ministers welcomed the efforts of the OECD and the World Bank to promote SMEs and to improve regulatory environments in the region.
- The APEC Finance Ministers met in Shanghai, China, on 3–5 September, 2000, to discuss the region’s energy security and energy efficiency. Ministers welcomed the efforts of the OECD and the World Bank to promote SMEs and to improve regulatory environments in the region.

APEC’s Ministers for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) met in Banque Set Begson on 25–26 June, 2000, to discuss how to continue to improve the business environment for SMEs in the region. Ministers welcomed the report on the 2000 APEC Ministerial Meeting on SMEs and the draft recommendations from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) for presentation at the Forum in Shanghai.

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2 Other APEC Activities (cont’d)

Sustainable Economic Recovery (cont’d)

(3) Towards Knowledge-Based Economies in APEC

All reports address central economic issues of interest for Leaders, Ministers, and the APEC community. Major issues taken up this year include:

- Economic conditions
  - Recent developments and short-run prospects in the APEC region
  - Trade
  - Growing interest in forging regional trade arrangements (RTAs)
  - Challenges for future growth
  - Implications of the Asian crisis, information technology, and entrepreneurship
  - Long-term projection
  - (Projections of growth and trends over the next decade)
  - Knowledge-based economy (KBE)
    - Full analysis on the emerging trend towards KBEs
    - Specific actions to promote KBEs in the APEC region

The following are some highlights of the three reports:

- 2000 Economic Outlook: Examining developments in APEC economies to date, the Outlook confirms that the Asian crisis has been contained, and economic recovery is now more prevalent in the APEC region as a whole. The prospects over the next twelve months remain generally positive. Yet, there are some significant downside risks including the recent surge in oil prices. The Outlook revisits the Asian crisis, giving final estimates that the crisis was exacerbated by a combination of several factors including structural weaknesses in the financial and corporate sectors, and that economic reforms must squarely address these factors. Finally, the Outlook looks at the structural issue of the emerging trend towards regional trade arrangements (RTAs), bearing in mind its implications to the multilaterial trading system.

- The Beyond-the-Crisis Report focuses on long-term prospects of APEC economies beyond the Asian crisis, highlighting key issues for building the future of APEC economies. The report identifies two major challenges for future growth: the remaining challenges from the Asian crisis and the emerging challenges of the new economy. The Asian crisis has had important long-term implications for APEC economies that future growth would be hindered unless structural weaknesses revealed by the crisis are addressed. The new economy-driven by information technology presents both opportunities to promote higher living standards and huge challenges in taking advantage of new technologies. Restructuring entrepreneurship has become an effective way to promote growth and employment. The well-developed SME sector is the backbone for small businesses. A case study on Chinese Taipei’s economy underlines the dynamic role of SMEs in economic development. Finally, APEC must also master efforts to build future growth through strengthening markets, E-commerce and international cooperation, entrepreneurship and SME development, education and lifelong learning, and social safety nets.

- Towards Knowledge-Based Economies in APEC aims to provide the analytical basis useful for promoting KBEs in the APEC region. A survey of the status of KBE of various APEC economies suggests that certain characteristics are preconditions for moving toward a KBE. They include:
  - High quality education services both widely available and widely used;
  - Advanced communications network and policy-regulatory framework that encourages competition and supports the development and use of information hardware and applications; cultural background being open to new ideas, especially those from outside; social, political, economic and legal framework conducive to the development of the characteristics above. APEC economies have been adopting the policies that have been adopted to build the infrastructure of a KBE from other APEC members both at the same stage of development and at different stages of development. Much scope exists for cooperation within APEC in four key dimensions related to promoting KBEs: business environment, innovation systems, human resource development, and information and communication technology. The report recommends three specific actions for APEC cooperation:
    - Establish a “Knowledge Clearing House”, which aims to exchange various types of knowledge, especially “Learning Policies” for triggering the transition to KBEs; include “KBE Status Indicators” in the APEC Economic Outlook, which provide information regarding how APEC is progressing towards KBEs.
    - The 1999 Infrastructure Workshop undertook analytical work on the impact of the economic crisis on infrastructure demand, supply and government policies. Its main project, on regional integration for sustainable development, highlighted the importance of having the right infrastructure in place to support economic development – a key issue for economies emerging from the crisis.
    - The 4th APEC Investment Symposium in September 1999 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, included a session on the impact of the crisis on investment trends and government policy responses, including changes to investment regimes. The discussion addressed changes in business perceptions of investing in the region in the wake of the financial turmoil and uncertainties that led investors to rethink their strategies and to shift investment to more stable regions.

- APEC is developing, using these institutions, mechanisms to exchange information on social safety net issues for crisis-affected economies, drawing on APEC and other initiatives in this area.

- the United States created a Virtual Task Force on the Social Impact of the Financial Crisis, and
- Australia established the Asia Recovery Information Center (ARIC), a resource housed at the ADB.

APEC is developing, using these institutions, mechanisms to exchange information on social safety net issues for crisis-affected economies, drawing on APEC and other initiatives in this area.
Electronic Commerce

The APEC Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) was established by the SOM in February 1999. The role of the Steering Group is to ensure continued coordination of APEC e-commerce activities and to pursue the work programme set out in the APEC Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce. The ECSG meets once a year and has continued to use the year-end meeting as a forum for sharing electronic commerce progress. The first ECSG was held on 22–25 July 1999 in Bali, Indonesia.

Next Steps

• Follow-up on the MRT and SOM by reviewing a proposed questionnaire for the paperless trading matrix. Some potential overlap or confusion may exist between the SCP and the TPT. A final questionnaire will be completed in time to provide a report to SOM I in 2001.

Mr Jonathan Menes
Director, Office of Trade & Economic Analysis
US Department of Commerce
Washington DC, USA
Tel: 1-202-482-5145
Fax: 1-202-482-4614
Email: Jonathan_Menes@ita.doc.gov

Business and Private Sector Participation

It is generally recognised that the private sector is taking the lead in the development and application of electronic commerce. The role of government is to provide an environment, particularly the legal/regulatory framework, that conducive to the development of e-commerce. Therefore the APEC E-Commerce Blueprint for Action specifically recognises the necessity of government and the private sector working together. The private sector has been active participants in all ECSG meetings. APEC e-commerce activities such as the APEC E-Commerce Convention in May 2000, the APEC 2000 SME E-Commerce Workshop in Brunei Darussalam in June 2000, and the Consumer Protection Workshop in Bangkok in July 2000 all had extensive private sector participation.

Achievements

The E-Commerce Steering Group has met 20–22 July 2000 in Bangkok. The one-day workshop on electronic commerce and consumer protection was held followed by a day and one-half meeting of the Steering Group. The Workshop and ECSG meeting addressed three objectives: (1) carry out the mandates of the 1999 Ministerial Meeting specifically on Consumer Protection; (2) follow-up on the guidance on paperless trading from Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) and results of the Tokyo E-Commerce Convention; and (3) review progress in carrying out APEC e-commerce Blueprint.

Mr Thawatchai Sophastienphong
Director, APEC E-Commerce Work Programme
Director, Office of Trade & Economic Analysis
US Department of Commerce
Washington DC, USA
Tel: 1-202-482-5145
Fax: 1-202-482-4614
Email: Jonathan_Menes@ita.doc.gov

Since its formation in 1989, APEC has evolved rapidly and has grown in substance and purpose. Member economies have developed a comprehensive and co-operative strategy to promote economic growth, and have undertaken activities to carry them forward. To keep the process streamlined, to produce practical results in line with APEC’s objectives, to ensure that the limited resources of member economies are deployed most effectively, APEC embarked upon a three-year (1998–2000) management review program. It aimed to examine and rationalise the structure within which APEC business is operated by reviewing the mandates, roles and interrelationships of the various committees, working groups and other parts of the APEC network.

Management Review

Management Review – Key Contacts

Mr Jonathan Menes
Director, Office of Trade & Economic Analysis
US Department of Commerce
Washington DC, USA
Tel: 1-202-482-5145
Fax: 1-202-482-4614
Email: Jonathan_Menes@ita.doc.gov

Mr Jonathan Menes
Director, Office of Trade & Economic Analysis
US Department of Commerce
Washington DC, USA
Tel: 1-202-482-5145
Fax: 1-202-482-4614
Email: Jonathan_Menes@ita.doc.gov
APEC Food System

In November 1998, APEC Economic Leaders issued their resolve towards creating a prosperous Asia-Pacific community. Part of this resolve included Leaders’ endorsement of joint actions to be launched in the area of food in relation to economic and population growth in the region and an instruction to implement these joint actions. Leaders instructed APEC Ministers to study the APEC Business Advisory Council’s APEC Food System proposal. Following this instruction, at SOM I in February 1999, APEC Senior Officials established an ad hoc task force to study AFS’s proposal for an APEC Food System. The report on APEC Food System was submitted to and endorsed by the Ministers and Leaders meeting in Auckland in 1999.

Business and Private Sector Participation

The Task Force was established to study the AFS’s proposals. The Task Force also examined input from research conducted by the APEC Study Center. The Task Force recommendations to SOM include:

(i) SOM recommends to Ministers that they note that achieving the objectives of APEC Food System proposal is an essential part of achieving sustainable growth, equitable development and national stability in the APEC region and of achieving the specific goals and objectives agreed by Bogor in line with the Osaka Action Agenda;

(ii) The Infrastructure Working Group places high priority on addressing the issue of rural education, and member economies undertake cooperative measures with non-government, non-profit organisations to improve the availability of rural education;

(iii) The Infrastructure Working Group’s joint initiatives in infrastructure development will be actively encouraged by, and the benefits of these initiatives communicated to, member economies;

(iv) The APEC Investment Experts’ Group, in conjunction with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Food and the Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other bodies as appropriate, investigates new and innovative ways to attract the necessary investment to build facilities and rehabilitate existing rural infrastructure;

(v) The Small and Medium Enterprises Policy Level Group could undertake high priority on addressing the issue of rural education, and member economies undertake cooperative measures with non-government, non-profit organisations to improve the availability of rural education.

- maximise the contribution of the public and private sectors in food sector through such efforts as restructuring import tariffs, eliminating unnecessary impediments to trade in food and promoting the availability of rural education.

- harness the resources of the region in food sector through such efforts as restructuring import tariffs, eliminating unnecessary impediments to trade in food and promoting the availability of rural education.

- efficiently link together food sector stakeholders, including processors and consumers;

- harmonise the measures of the region in order to move more securely towards common food needs and policies;

- maximise the contribution of the public and private sectors in food sector through such efforts as restructuring import tariffs, eliminating unnecessary impediments to trade in food and promoting the availability of rural education.

- ensure maximum achievement of ABAC’s APEC Food System proposal.

- relevant APEC fora, including the Committee on Trade and Investment, Economic and Technical Sub-Committee and the ATC EG continue to undertake and intensify their work on trade facilitation, economic and technical cooperation and capacity building on food-related issues including:

- provision of clear, predictable and easily understood regulatory frameworks and standards;

- prioritising to those projects that assist the facilitation and growth of regional trade in food products and improve the technical infrastructure for developing economies;

- provision of reports to SOM on the status of new initiatives, such as the Safe, Quality and Reliable Food Network;

- furthering cooperation in research and development and dissemination of food-related technology;

- building partnerships between the public and private sectors in food sector to further technology transfer, training facilities and training programs;

- fostering environmentally sound agricultural practices; and

- maintaining an awareness of and contributing to international developments in research and policies related to genetically modified foods, and increasingly science-based approaches to the introduction and use of biotechnology products.

(APEC member economies continue to encourage full implementation of the commitments on food arising from the Uruguay Round and Nagoya Ministerial recommendations, with the exception of SCSS, have not implemented APEC recommendations in a direct sense but the progress achieved in advancing APEC’s agendas on trade and investment facilitation and liberalisation indirectly support APEC. The SCSS’s project on food and drug interface aims to seek specific guidelines for good regulatory practice for food and drug interface. Such projects (exploration of APEC agreed form of certification).

Some members do not have mechanisms to influence the prioritisation of proposals by APEC fora that assist with the facilitation and growth of regional trade in food products, and improve the technical infrastructure for developing economies. However, with the completion of the Individual Action Plans on how they are going to meet the long-term Bogor goals in the food sector:

- actively and constructively participate in the forthcoming WTO negotiations on agriculture that would further consider steps to upgrade educational and non-tariff measures in the context of Article 20 of the WTO’s Agreement on Agriculture; and

- in the forthcoming negotiations on agriculture, convey to the WTO membership APEC’s support for the abolishment of agriculture support subsidies and unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions.

(ii) SOM, through relevant forums, provides annual reports to Ministers on what progress is being made by APEC member economies towards building a robust APEC Food System.

SOM I tasked member economies and relevant fora/sub-fora to submit a report on progress in implementation of the APEC Food System recommendations. A summary of the compiled reports includes:

- On the whole, the AFS recommendations are being implemented by most of the tasked fora individually and in broader terms. CTI and its sub-fora, with the exception of SCSS, have not implemented APEC recommendations in a direct sense but the progress achieved in advancing APEC’s agendas on trade and investment facilitation and liberalisation indirectly support APEC. The SCSS’s project on food and drug interface aims to seek specific guidelines for good regulatory practice for food and drug interface.

- Further, APEC member economies in line with the Osaka Action Agenda, noting ABAC’s call for the elimination of unnecessary impediments to trade in food products ahead of the Uruguay round, have taken concrete steps to upgrade educational and non-tariff measures in the context of Article 20 of the WTO’s Agreement on Agriculture, and in the forthcoming negotiations on agriculture, convey to the WTO membership APEC’s support for the abolishment of agriculture support subsidies and unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions.

- Efficiently link together food sector stakeholders, including processors and consumers.

- Harmonise the measures of the region to move more securely towards common food needs and policies.

- Maximise the contribution of the public and private sectors in food sector through such efforts as restructuring import tariffs, eliminating unnecessary impediments to trade in food and promoting the availability of rural education.

- Efficiently link together food sector stakeholders, including processors and consumers.

- Harmonise the measures of the region to move more securely towards common food needs and policies.

- Maximise the contribution of the public and private sectors in food sector through such efforts as restructuring import tariffs, eliminating unnecessary impediments to trade in food and promoting the availability of rural education.

- Ensure maximum achievement of ABAC’s APEC Food System proposal.

- Relevant APEC fora, including the Committee on Trade and Investment, Economic and Technical Sub-Committee and the ATC EG continue to undertake and intensify their work on trade facilitation, economic and technical cooperation and capacity building on food-related issues including:

- Provision of clear, predictable and easily understood regulatory frameworks and standards;

- Prioritising to those projects that assist the facilitation and growth of regional trade in food products and improve the technical infrastructure for developing economies;

- Provision of reports to SOM on the status of new initiatives, such as the Safe, Quality and Reliable Food Network;

- Furthering cooperation in research and development and dissemination of food-related technology;

- Building partnerships between the public and private sectors in food sector to further technology transfer, training facilities and training programs;

- Fostering environmentally sound agricultural practices; and

- Maintaining an awareness of and contributing to international developments in research and policies related to genetically modified foods, and increasingly science-based approaches to the introduction and use of biotechnology products.

- Somali member economies continue to encourage full implementation of the commitments on food arising from the Uruguay Round and Nagoya Ministerial recommendations, with the exception of SCSS, have not implemented APEC recommendations in a direct sense but the progress achieved in advancing APEC’s agendas on trade and investment facilitation and liberalisation indirectly support APEC. The SCSS’s project on food and drug interface aims to seek specific guidelines for good regulatory practice for food and drug interface.

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The APEC Secretariat is responsible for providing advisory, operational and logistic/technical services to member economies and APEC fora to coordinate and facilitate the work of the organization.

On behalf of member economies, it provides preparatory advice on formulation of APEC projects, manages project funding and evaluates projects funded from the APEC Operational and TILFA Accounts.

The Secretariat provides information and public affairs support to promote APEC’s role and activities through its publications, media, business and outreach programmes and through the maintenance of websites. It also performs public affairs functions on behalf of APEC member economies.

The Secretariat maintains a capacity to support research and analysis in collaboration with APEC Study Centres and PREC as required by APEC fora.

The Executive Director is responsible to APEC Senior Officials through the SOM Chair and manages the Secretariat in line with priorities set by SOM on behalf of Ministers.

The APEC Secretariat, located in Singapore, was established in 1993 to serve as the core support mechanism for the APEC process. It currently comprises 23 officials seconded by member economies for fixed terms and a similar number of locally recruited support staff.

The Secretariat’s operational plan comprises six outputs (and four services) based on the following Statement of Business, approved by member economies.

Statement of Business

- The Secretariat is the core support mechanism for the APEC process.
- The Secretariat provides advisory, operational and logistic/technical services to member economies and APEC fora to coordinate and facilitate the work of the organization.
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- The Executive Director is responsible to APEC Senior Officials through the SOM Chair and manages the Secretariat in line with priorities set by SOM on behalf of Ministers.

Achievements

- Presentations delivered to a wide variety of business, government and student groups.
- Visits with an outreach focus made during 2000 to Chile; China; Hong Kong; Indonesia; Korea; Mexico; Peru; Russia; Taiwan; China; USA; and Viet Nam. Successful outcomes were achieved in educating the public and related institutions on the mechanics of APEC and effective involvement in the APEC process.
- On-the-ground media liaison support provided to host economies of major APEC meetings and assistance provided in advance of and during key events to support coverage by international, regional and local media outlets.
- Media releases and advisories issued and disseminated regularly via email gateway and posted on the APEC website. Regular contact maintained with journalists to encourage media coverage of key APEC events and activities.
- A wide range of general information resources on APEC produced including scheduled publications for 2001 as part of the Secretariat’s publishing programme and production of publications on behalf of APEC fora. An updated APEC video/CD-ROM will also be produced as an outreach resource tool for use by the Secretariat, member economies and APEC fora and for use by media for broadcast purposes.
- Total net revenue of approximately S$11,000 was realised from the sale of APEC publications and CD-ROMS for the year through sales/marketing agreements with book agents/distributors in Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Hong Kong; China; Malaysia; New Zealand; Singapore; USA and the United Kingdom. With increasing use of online and free downloadable versions of publications off the website, the Secretariat will continue to maintain a close watch on sales patterns and monitor print runs, sales figures and web statistics to ensure electronic/hard-copy publishing combinations support both information dissemination objectives and user needs.
- Redvelopment of the APEC website. Uploading and maintenance of new APEC web site for business users. Support for promotion and marketing of the APEC ECO/TECH Clearing House Site.
- Management and continuous improvement of APEC’s document access policy to facilitate access to APEC records via electronic means.
- Assistance to China as APEC Chair for 2001 to develop its external communications and outreach programmes to more effectively promote APEC’s role and achievements and promote community input and engagement in APEC. The APEC Secretariat will also provide public affairs support to China as APEC Chair for 2001.

Communications and Database System

The APEC website is one of the key management vehicles to fulfill the Secretariat’s mandate. Users can access a wide range of information including the APEC calendar of events and documents from meetings on the APEC website at http://www.apecsec.org.sg.

Business and Private Sector Participation

The business and private sector is not involved with the communications and database system. The system is now maintained by the APEC Secretariat.

Achievements

- All APEC member economies, working groups, committees and the private sector can easily communicate with the Secretariat via Email. Users can access selected APEC publications and CD-ROMS for the year through sales/marketing agreements with book agents/distributors in Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Hong Kong; China; Malaysia; New Zealand; Singapore; USA and the United Kingdom. With increasing use of online and free downloadable versions of publications off the website, the Secretariat will continue to maintain a close watch on sales patterns and monitor print runs, sales figures and web statistics to ensure electronic/hard-copy publishing combinations support both information dissemination objectives and user needs.
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4 Contact List

Inquiries about APEC may be directed to the Secretariat or to the following officials in the member economies:

Australia
Director
APFCA & Brochure Section
APEC & Regional Trade Policy Branch,
Ministry of Development Division
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: 61-2-6261-8348
Fax: 61-2-6261-3000
Email: apcf@apc.gov.au

Bruno Daraisaism
Director
APEC National Secretariat
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Banieret St Benignus BE2710
Tel: 673-2-261-177
Fax: 673-2-262-418
Email: APEC2000@symp.net.iq

Ms Beata Zaleska
Assistant Director
APEC National Secretariat
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
World Trade Centre
Koszykowa 22
00-014 Warsaw
Tel: 48-22-531-5900
Fax: 48-22-531-5926
Email: apec@apc.gov.pl

Mr Bao Hai Nguyen
APEC National Coordinator
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
24 Le Lai St, Hanoi
Tel: 84-4-393-5000
Fax: 84-4-393-5001
Email: apec@apc.gov.vn

Mr Periklis Spanos
APEC National Coordinator
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mitsakis St, Athens
125 36 Athens
Tel: 30-210-965-4940
Fax: 30-210-965-4941
Email: apec@apc.gov.gr

Mr Wladyslaw Baranowski
APEC National Coordinator
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
22 Martyrs St, Warsaw
00-185 Warsaw
Tel: 48-22-616-3772
Fax: 48-22-616-3773
Email: apec@apc.gov.pl

Mr Peter Aris
APEC National Coordinator
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Anzac House, 19-21 Anzac Parade
Hyde Park, 2020
Tel: 61-2-9320-7000
Fax: 61-2-9320-7001
Email: apec@apc.gov.au

Mr Delson E. Yeh
APEC National Coordinator
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Room 223, 2F, Ministry Bldg.
1235 Aoyama Dori,
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8021
Tel: 81-3-3590-8181
Fax: 81-3-3590-8182
Email: apec@apc.gov.jp

Argentina
Director
APEC Office
Ministry of Foreign Trade
Av. Corrientes 865
1024 Buenos Aires
Tel: 54-1-4307-5500
Fax: 54-1-4307-5501
Email: apec@apc.gov.ar

Director
APEC Office
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security
Av. de Mayo 1331
1051 Buenos Aires
Tel: 54-1-4307-5502
Fax: 54-1-4307-5503
Email: apec@apc.gov.ar

Australia
Director
APEC Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: 61-2-6261-8000
Fax: 61-2-6261-8001
Email: apec@apc.gov.au

APEC Official Observers (3)

Australia
Secretary General
The ASEAN Secretariat
7th Floor, Promenade Building
P.O. Box 30/27, Koh Phnom Phnom
Bangkok 10300
Tel: 66-2-653-2489/9
Fax: 66-2-653-5247
Email: apec@eon.asia

Indonesia
Director General for Asia Pacific & its Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Paseo de la Reforma #175, 10 Piso
Col. Cuauhtemoc 06500
Mexico D.F. Mexico
Tel: 52-5-241-3440
Fax: 52-5-591-0645
Email: dgpa@sre.gob.mx

Russia
Director
APEC Liaison Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
100 High Street #09-01
The Treasury
Singapore 179434
Tel: 65-332-7249
Fax: 65-334-8135
Email: MTI_APEC@mti.gov.sg

United States of America
Director
APEC Office
Ministry of Commerce
1370 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: 1-202-482-8000
Fax: 1-202-482-8228
Email: apecusa@ita.doc.gov

United States of America
Director
APEC Office
Ministry of Commerce
1370 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: 1-202-482-8000
Fax: 1-202-482-8228
Email: apecusa@ita.doc.gov

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Director
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1370 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: 1-202-482-8000
Fax: 1-202-482-8228
Email: apecusa@ita.doc.gov

Viet Nam
Director
APEC Office
Ministry of Industry & Trade
100 High Street #09-01
The Treasury
Singapore 179434
Tel: 65-332-7249
Fax: 65-334-8135
Email: MTI_APEC@mti.gov.sg

Viet Nam
Director
APEC Office
Ministry of Industry & Trade
100 High Street #09-01
The Treasury
Singapore 179434
Tel: 65-332-7249
Fax: 65-334-8135
Email: MTI_APEC@mti.gov.sg

Weekend News:

[...]
5 Abbreviations

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<tr>
<td>ABAC</td>
<td>APEC Business Advisory Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>APEC</td>
<td>Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation</td>
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<td>APF</td>
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Foreword

Welcome to this first edition for 2001 of the Update of Activities within APEC.

As we enter the new century, prevailing global and regional macroeconomic conditions offer us continuing confidence for better prospects and economic outlook for the APEC region. At their annual meeting held in Brunei Darussalam last November, APEC Leaders were much encouraged by the improvement of economic and social conditions in the economies affected by the crisis and by the signs of a return to strong economic growth in the region as a whole. At the same time they reaffirmed the importance of continuing APEC’s work on reform and restructuring to enhance the sustainability of this growth.

APEC Leaders are mindful also of the wide range of social and economic challenges associated with the process of globalisation and have called for further strengthening of the APEC cooperation agenda to enable developing economies to participate more meaningfully in the new globalised economy. APEC’s vision of shared economic prosperity and social improvement is reflected strongly in the theme set by China for their coming year of hosting APEC, “Meeting New Challenges in the New Century: Achieving Common Prosperity through Participation and Cooperation.”

The Update provides a concise summary of the activities and work programs of APEC fora through which Ministers’ and Leaders’ directives are implemented. We remind readers that the main APEC website www.apecsec.org.sg offers a source of continuously updated information for those interested in tracking issues and developments more closely. Links to other APEC fora websites are also provided, to cater for sectoral and specialised interests.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit the APEC China 2001 website www.apec-china.org.cn for more detailed information and background on meetings and events to be hosted in China this year.

Ambassador Zhang Yan
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Sub-committees/Experts Groups:
- Sub-Committee on Standards & Conformance
- Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
- Market Access Group
- Group on Services
- Investment Experts Group
- Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group
- Government Procurement Experts Group
- Informal Experts Group on the Mobility of Business People
- Competition Policy/Deregulation Workshop
- Group on Economic Infrastructure
- Economic Outlook Taskforce
- Group on Gender Integration (AGGI) (since 1999)
- Steering Group on E-commerce (since 1999)
- Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (since 1996)
- Energy (since 1990)
- Fisheries (since 1991)
- Human Resources Development (since 1990)
- Industrial Science and Technology (since 1990)
- Marine Resources Conservation (since 1991)
- Small & Medium Enterprise (since 1994)
- Telecommunications (since 1990)
- Trade Promotion (since 1990)
- Transportation (since 1991)
- Tourism (since 1991)
- Trade & Investment Data (since 1990, and disbanded in Nov 1998)

Informal Meeting of Economic Leaders since 1993
Ministerial Meeting since 1989
Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)

APC Business Advisory Council since 1996
APC Secretariat since 1995

SOM Task Force (11)
Economic Committee (EC) since 1995
Committee on Trade & Investment (CTI) since 1994
Committee on Trade & Investment (ECOTEC) since 1998
SOM Sub-committee on Economic Infrastructure

Sub-group:
- Group on Economic Infrastructure

Budget & Management Committee (BMCD) since 1996

Sectoral Ministerial Meetings
- Education 1992, 2000
- Finance 1996 and annually
- Small & Medium Enterprises 1996 and annually
- Trade 1996 and annually since 1996
- Women 1996
- Tourism 2000