

7. CONCLUSIONS

– RECOMMENDATIONS TO APEC SCSC

As an outcome of the project survey, interviews, and workshop, Members shared various ideas and then offered suggestions for APEC SCSC to improve regional cooperation when developing and managing the next generation of human resources in the area of standards and conformance.

The preliminary recommendations were presented and discussed at the plenary of the 2014 APEC SCSC II meeting in Beijing. At that meeting, four prioritized actions items were put on the table for consideration, and Members then expressed their support for the following three actions — (1) More active information exchange and programs on the next generation that involve students, internships, and young professionals; (2) Developing Career Path/Model Best Practices (Case Studies) ; (3) Developing Competency Requirements (Blueprint). More detailed sub-actions items for APEC SCSC are further described below in this chapter.

7.1 More Active Information Exchange and Joint Programs

This recommendation supports in general the joint programs in APEC SCSC to encourage further development of the next generation of standards professionals. From the workshop and survey/interviews, the following specific items were suggested:

- Organize APEC young generation program
(example) Standards Australia Young Leaders Program
(example) Korea ‘Standards Olympiad Program – inviting foreign students’
(example) U.S. NIST Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program
- Engagement of young generation in international programs
(example) IEC YP programs
- Develop an APEC standards professional bank
- Organize APEC Training of Teacher Program
- Establish APEC standards and conformance HRD center

- Promote participation- based programs
- Promote joint activities to improve awareness levels of standards and standards professionals
(example) PASC Guide to setting up a Young Professionals program for PASC members

7.2 Developing Career Path/Model Best Practices (Case Studies)

A career path or model is a good way of showing the next generation the precise paths/models for current leaders or executives in small and large companies, standards specialty organizations, governments, and for women. The following actions can be considered for future collaboration within APEC SCSC:

- Develop & promote APEC good practices for standards professionals
- Develop & disseminate a Career Map(Guide) for standards professionals
- Initiate an APEC award for best practices of standards professional career development -- for companies, standards specialty organizations, and individual experts through sharing best practices of standards professionals

7.3 Developing Competency Requirements (Blueprint)

In general, project survey responses and speaker recommendations indicated a high level of interest in competency requirements. The development of competency requirements may first of all provide guidance to individuals and companies and their policy- makers. Second, it can raise awareness and organize professional networking/associations, and finally, it can enhance the mobility of skilled experts in the region.

It should also be explained here that the SCSC has discussed ‘Developing a qualification scheme or personnel certification’. It was agreed in the 2014 SCSC II meeting that the personnel certification issue may require more discussion before taking joint action in the SCSC. A few economies have concerns that, at this stage, it might be too early to collaborate on personnel certification of standards professionals, but did suggest that this idea merits further study. Noting these concerns, the personnel certification issue may require additional discussion before any joint activities are undertaken.

7. Conclusions – Recommendations To APEC SCSC

In terms of developing competency requirements, the following actions were recommended for SCSC future collaboration:

- Develop competency requirements
(example) Korea developed ‘competency requirements for the standards professional’
(example) Japan developed ‘skill standards for standardization professionals’
- Pay attention to the job (occupation) standards
- Promote Incorporation standards professionals for a domestic classification of occupations
(example) China incorporation includes ‘standard engineering technical personnel’ in the National Occupation Classification (NOC)
- Collaborate on incorporating standards professionals into an International Standard classification of occupations (ISCO) by the International Labor Organization (ILO)

Although APEC SCSC is responsible for regional cooperation in developing capacity building and promoting professionals in the areas of standards and conformance, it is recommended to closely collaborate with other APEC fora and external organizations. The primary APEC fora for future collaboration would be the HRDWG, which is responsible for higher education and professional development in general. Also, future collaboration with the five Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs), and International Cooperation for Education about Standardization (ICES) is recommended.

Based on these recommendations, any follow-up projects and joint activities will be proposed, discussed, and decided on by APEC Members mainly through the umbrella of APEC SCSC with the goal of inspiring the next generation of standards professionals and increasing competitiveness of both private and public stakeholders in the region.

(This is the end of the main report followed by Annex A, Annex B, and Annex C)