

# **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation**

## **1998 CTI Annual Report to Ministers**

**APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)**

**1998**

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# Message from the Chair

It is my pleasure to submit this 1998 Annual Report on the work of the Committee on Trade and Committee to the APEC Ministers.

Since its establishment in 1993, CTI has addressed itself to the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation agenda of APEC, particularly the Collective Action Plans on the 15 issue areas and related work in the Working Groups. The core of this work deals with impediments to trade, investment and services flows; facilitation work in customs and standards; the mobility of business people; and the improvement of human and institutional resources in APEC economies, particularly the developing economies, to adapt to the new disciplines and norms of global business relations under the WTO.

Together with the economic and technical cooperation pillar which APEC is pursuing in a more concrete and focused manner, it is hoped that CTI's contribution would provide a forceful synergy to bring forward the vision of free and open trade investment in the APEC region in an accelerated manner.

Ambassador Edsel T. Custodio  
Chair Committee on Trade and  
Investment

## **I. Introduction**

The APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) was established in 1993 with the objective of creating a coherent APEC perspective and voice in global trade and investment issues. It was also aimed at pursuing opportunities to liberalize and expand trade, facilitate a more open environment for investment and develop initiatives to improve the flow of goods, services, capital, and technology within the region.

Initially, CTI's work was focused on a few areas—customs, standards, investment, tariff database, Uruguay Round assessment and implementation and the conduct of trade policy dialogues. This was subsequently expanded to include other areas such as competition policy, government procurement, and rules of origin.

In 1995, APEC Leaders adopted the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA) - APEC's roadmap to free and open trade and investment by the year 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies. The OAA called for APEC actions on three fronts - liberalization, facilitation and economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) - pursued through concerted unilateral liberalization grounded in voluntarism and collective initiatives.

As mandated by Ministers in 1996, CTI's core activity focused on the implementation and enhancement of the Collective Action Plans (CAPs) on the 15 trade and investment liberalization and facilitation (TILF) issue areas. These CAPs, first reported in 1996, are the main vehicles for progressing APEC's trade facilitation agenda. CTI also takes the lead role in coordinating TILF-related activities in the different APEC fora. More recently, it was also mandated to carry forward work on early voluntary sectoral liberalization (EVSL) and the management of the project on Communicating the Impact of Liberalization.

The 1998 CTI Annual Report to Ministers outlines the Committee's accomplishments for the year, assesses how far APEC has gone in relation to its objectives and the OAA and attempts to put forth recommendations on priority areas for 1999.

### **CTI Responsibilities**

- (a) Policy issues on the interrelationship of APEC economies within the global economic environment;
- (b) Impediments and distortions to the movement of goods, services, investment and technology;
- (c) Reduction of transaction costs which affect the flow of trade and investment in the region;
- (d) Trade and investment issues evolving from the work of the working groups; and

- (e) Ways to enhance the contribution of the APEC business/private sector in the evolution of trade policies, identification of barriers to trade within the region and possible solutions of mutual benefit to the region.

## **II. CTI Activities in 1998: An Overview**

CTI met four times in 1998: Penang, 19-20 February; Kuching, 16-17 June; Kuantan, 9-10 September; and a special meeting on EVSL in Kuala Lumpur on 20-24 April. The meetings were chaired by Ambassador Edsel T. Custodio of the Philippines.

Meetings of CTI sub-fora and related events held during the year include:

- Market Access Group (MAG) – Penang, 21 February; and Kuching, 15 June
- Group on Services (GOS) – Penang, 21 February; Kuching 15 June; and Kuantan, 8 September
- Investment Experts' Group (IEG) – Penang, 22-23 February; Kuching, 13-14 June; and Kuala Lumpur, 1-2 October
  
- Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) – Penang, 22-23 February; Kuching, 14-15 June; and Kuantan, 7-8 September
- Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) – Penang, 3-5 February; Kuching, 11-13 June; and Langkawi, 3-5 September
- Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG) – Canberra, 5-6 March; and Singapore, 25-26 August
- Competition Policy/Deregulation Workshop – Kuantan, 7-8 September
- Government Procurement Experts' Group (GPEG) – Penang, 23-24 February; and Kuantan, 8 September
- Dispute Mediation Experts' Group (DMEG) – Bangkok, 29-30 April
- Informal Experts' Group on the Mobility of Business People – Penang, 22 February; Kuching, 14 June; and Kuantan, 7 September
- Informal meetings on Rules of Origin/Uruguay Round Implementation – Penang, 21 February; Kuching, 15 June; and Kuantan, 9 September
- Small Group meeting on Information Gathering and Analysis – Kuantan, 10 September

CTI continued to utilize the informal exchange of views in the Trade Policy Dialogue as a useful means of broadening perspectives and sharing approaches on issues. CTI held two Trade Policy Dialogue sessions in 1998 on APEC's contribution to the 1998 WTO Ministerial Meeting and on Anti-dumping.

As an additional responsibility in 1998, CTI undertook a preliminary review of its role and structure and looked into business sector involvement in CTI activities. CTI maintained close collaboration with the Economic Committee on analytic work concerning the study on Communicating the Impact of Liberalization as well as with

official observers such as the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) to advance the TILF agenda.

## **A. Collective Action Plans (CAPs)**

### **1. Implementation and Enhancement of CAPS in 1998**

1998 marked only the second year of implementation of the CAPs. Notwithstanding this, notable progress has already been achieved by CTI relative to its OAA objectives and in moving towards the Bogor goal. A compilation of Convenor Summary Reports and revised CAPs for 1998 is provided in *Appendix I*.

All CTI sub-fora continued to implement and enhance work on the CAPs. Some of the enhancements were in response to the Leaders'/Ministers' instructions relating to ABAC recommendations, EVSL, support for work in the WTO, and trade facilitation to reduce the costs of business transactions. Highlights of CAP implementation and enhancement are shown in *Box 1* (See pg 6).

#### **Box 1. Highlights of CAP Implementation and Enhancement**

<b>CTI Sub-Forum</b>	<b>CAP Implementation/Enhancement</b>
<i>Market Access Group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAG will collaborate with the WTO on developing an internet mirror site of the WTO Integrated Database relating to APEC economies on the APEC Homepage.</li> <li>• MAG has worked out a mechanism for developing information on NTMs for greater transparency.</li> </ul>
<i>Group on Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies are working on the APEC Directory on Professional Services (i.e. accountancy, architecture and engineering).</li> </ul>
<i>Investment Experts' Group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IEG has developed a list of specific options for investment liberalization and business facilitation to strengthen the APEC economies which member economies could voluntarily choose to include in their IAPs.</li> <li>• IEG continues updating the <i>APEC Guidebook on Investment Regimes</i> published on the Internet.</li> </ul>
<i>Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCSC has agreed to align member economies' standards on electrical and electronic equipment with international standards in respect of safety and electromagnetic compatibility by 2004/2008.</li> <li>• SCSC has agreed on the part of exchange of information of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for electrical and electronic equipment.</li> </ul>
<i>Sub-Committee on Customs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SCCP CAP item on Public Availability of Information is deemed to be complete(as</li> </ul>

***Procedures***

targeted in 1998) as all members have implemented at least 3 methods of information dissemination. This will be an on-going process.

- SCCP has developed a comprehensive work program for the three new items: common data elements, risk management, and express consignment clearance.
- SCCP continues to implement and update the Blueprint for APEC Customs Modernization.
- Establishment of an informal Virtual Customs Group to share experiences, and explore and develop common approaches with the objective of developing a compendium of APEC Customs initiatives on E-Commerce.

***Intellectual Property Rights***

***Experts Group***

- IPEG has upgraded the current CAP, targeted at the next three years, including consideration of the announcement of the full implementation of the TRIPS Agreement by all APEC member economies by year 2000.

***Competition Policy/***

***Deregulation***

***Government Procurement***

***Experts Group***

***Mobility of Business People***

- IPEG has agreed on a Framework for Facilitation of Technical Cooperation on Intellectual Property Rights.
- The possibility of APEC principles for competition policy and regulatory reform is under examination.

- GPEG has agreed on a set of elements pertaining to the principles of transparency, value for money, open and effective competition, and fair dealing together with lists of practices illustrating how these elements could be implemented.

- The informal group has launched a program of technical cooperation on immigration and broader management matters.

- The informal group continues to implement the APEC Business Travel Card scheme in five participating economies, namely: Australia; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Korea and the Philippines.

- The informal group facilitates member economies' implementation of the Trade Ministers' directive to grant multiple entry visas to regular business travelers through unilateral or bilateral agreements.

***Implementation of***

***UR Outcomes***

- A training program on the notification obligations under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures has been implemented.



A number of CTI sub-fora (in particular, GOS, IPEG, and the informal Experts' Group on Mobility of Business People) are moving towards policy-oriented work in support of WTO. GOS is working on a directory of requirements for the provision of professional services in accountancy, engineering and architecture as part of a collective action to study and carry out work on the development and adoption of common professional standards. A new CAP calls for the discussion in IPEG of issues on biotechnology which is especially pertinent to the TRIPS Agreement. The informal Experts' Group on Mobility of Business People conducted a policy dialogue on regulatory regimes relating to short-term travel and business residency.

Work on trade facilitation also got a boost with SCSC and SCCP further intensifying their work in providing greater transparency, reducing transaction costs and forging closer relations and interaction with the private sector. SCSC has agreed to align member economies' standards on electrical and electronic equipment with international standards in respect of safety and electromagnetic compatibility by 2004/2008, while the SCCP has developed a comprehensive work program for the three new CAPs on common data elements, risk management, and express consignment clearance.

## **Box 2. Highlights of TILF Outcomes in Other APEC Fora**

### **APEC Forum**

#### ***Energy Working Group***

### **TILF Outcomes**

- EWG has prepared a set of policy recommendations to be presented to APEC Ministers in October 1998 on ways to accelerate development of natural gas in the APEC region.

#### ***Fisheries Working Group***

- FWG facilitated the preparation of a manual on *APEC Markets for Airshipped Live and Fresh Food Fish* which aims to inform APEC fish and seafood traders of the technical requirements and public health regulations associated with trade in airshipped live and fresh fish and shellfish.

#### ***Telecommunications Working Group***

- TELWG completed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Telecommunications Equipment, and a report on Legal and Regulatory Issues pertaining to Electronic Commerce.

#### ***Tourism Working Group***

- TWG is examining the development of a "Database of Core Statistical Information" to assist industry and governments to develop more effective Marketing and Planning Regimes that will permit the establishment of an up-to-date inventory of tourism statistical information.

- Trade Promotion Working Group** • WGTP launched APECNet through which business can post and search for business opportunities.
- WGTP will hold an APEC International Trade Fair in Kuala Lumpur in November.
- Transportation Working Group** • TPTWG developed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Automotive Products.
- Economic Committee** • EC undertook a project on *Trade-Related Environment Measures and Environment-Related Trade Measures* which includes a survey of the practices of APEC economies in this area with a view to developing an information database for use by APEC members.
- EC contributed a comprehensive literature survey on the impact of trade liberalization and investment liberalization as part of the project on *Communicating the Impact of Liberalization*.

## 2. TILF Outcomes in 1998

In 1998, CTI strengthened its role in coordinating TILF-related activities among APEC fora. Highlights of TILF Outcomes are already listed in Box 1. A report on TILF Activities in Other APEC Fora is attached as *Appendix II* and the highlights noted in *Box 2* (See pg 8). A comprehensive matrix on TILF outcomes in 1998, both within CTI and other APEC fora, is attached as *Appendix III*. The reports reveal an extensive range of activities pertaining to liberalization and facilitation in trade and investment. Some of the outcomes still pertain to information collection or seminar/workshop types of activities which definitely need to be undertaken in some of the recently developed issue areas. Compared to last year's deliverables, however, greater policy orientation and substantive outcomes have emerged. More business interests have likewise been involved.

The TILF outcomes illustrate well the scope and sophistication of the work in which APEC is now engaged. These include measures which will increase the transparency of trade and investment in specific ways, lower the transaction costs of cross-border trade, and result in greater certainty and predictability for the business community.

### Box 3. CTI Response to ABAC Recommendations

<b>ABAC Recommendation</b>	<b>CTI Response</b>
<b>EVSL</b> • has been	Work on the nine priority sectors
To facilitate the APEC process, ABAC believes that prioritization	undertaken to
assist SOM in of certain sectors is necessary to test the applicability of APEC's	

and Leaders objectives and principles.

completing its report to Ministers in November.

- Work on the remaining six sectors will continue.
- MAG is working with PECC towards a framework to identify sectors for further liberalization.

### ***Mobility of Business People***

APEC economies should commit to more applicant-friendly • By end-1998, members will publish on service standards for the issuance of business residency permits

regulations and in 1998.

business temporary

the Internet information on

procedures for obtaining

residency permits and will have begun preparations for raising service standards in this area. APEC has encouraged wider participation in the Business Travel Card scheme and issuance of multiple entry visas for short-term business travel.

### ***Standards and Conformance***

APEC economies should align their national standards with • SCSC continues to identify additional international standards in the priority sectors identified by APEC.

priority areas for alignment with international standards.

APEC economies should adopt mutual recognition arrangements • SCSC has agreed on the part of the in the priority areas identified by APEC within the regulated

MRA sectors by 1998.

exchange of information of the for electrical and electronic equipment.

### ***Services***

APEC should formulate collective action plans addressing • GOS has agreed to consider how to major issues concerning trade in services that apply across respond to this ABAC recommendation all service industries. in 1999.

### ***Government Procurement***

APEC should draw from the WTO Agreement on Government • GPEG aims to complete the Procurement (AGP) to finalize non-binding principles of development of a set of non-binding

government procurement by 1998.  
1999,

completion year

principles on GP by the end of

advancing the target

from 2000 to 1999.

- GPEG has drawn and will continue to draw upon the WTO AGP, other international instruments on GP, as well as the GP regimes of APEC member economies in finalizing the non-binding principles.

### **3. Response to ABAC Recommendations**

CTI examined in detail ABAC's recommendations, which were submitted to the APEC Leaders in 1997, relating to the IAP format guidelines; EVSL; business mobility; intellectual property rights; standards and conformance; professional standards; services; government procurement; competition policy and deregulation; and investment. While it managed to address some of the ABAC recommendations, others will require more time and closer dialogue between ABAC and the relevant fora. CTI therefore encouraged working level dialogues to promote better understanding of the issues involved and to define specific ways of addressing them. The challenge, however, is to identify and implement policy which meets legitimate business needs, within a timeframe that is realistic from both a private sector perspective and that of APEC's official process. (See Box 3, pg. 10)

### **4. Support for Work in the WTO**

With the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in 1994, the focus of WTO work in CTI was concerned primarily with familiarization with, and understanding of, WTO agreements, rules and disciplines as well as HRD and training for institutional building. CTI has now gone into the proactive area of contributing APEC experiences to the WTO process, particularly on new issues (e.g., trade and investment facilitation, competition policy, etc.). CTI has also devoted time to assist APEC economies, particularly developing economies, in the implementation of WTO obligations, including notification requirements. In March of this year, CTI also prepared a report on APEC's work on trade facilitation which was circulated at the WTO Trade Facilitation Symposium in Geneva. Conversely, CTI has taken note of the outcome of the 1st WTO Symposium on Trade Facilitation as a possible benchmark for its facilitation work program. CTI likewise prepared the initial draft of an APEC statement tabled at the Second WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva on 18-20 May 1998 highlighting

APEC's contribution to WTO. *Box 4* presents some of the highlights of CTI work in support of the WTO.

#### **Box 4. CTI Work in Support of WTO**

<b>CTI Sub-forum/ TILF Issue Area</b>	<b>Work in Support of WTO</b>
<i>Market Access Group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification and updating of information on NTMs from the WTO Trade Policy Review Mechanism and notifications made under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.</li> </ul>
<i>Group on Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A seminar and training course on Trade in Services was held in Qingdao, China on 4-8 May 1998.</li> <li>• Work is being carried out on the APEC Directory on Professional Services (i.e. accountancy, architecture and engineering).</li> </ul>
<i>Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced training modules were developed and follow-up workshops on the WTO Valuation Agreement will be held for members in late 1998.</li> <li>• An additional training workshop on how to implement the border enforcement aspect of the WTO TRIPS Agreement may be held for members in late 1998.</li> </ul>
<i>Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPEG established a framework for technical cooperation under which bilateral/multilateral technical cooperation projects will be undertaken with a view to supporting the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.</li> <li>• Intellectual property rights issues relating to biotechnology are being discussed in IPEG.</li> </ul>
<i>Competition Policy Group</i> has been made in 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy input to the relevant WTO Working Group</li> </ul>
<i>Government Procurement Experts' Group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A set of transparency elements and a list of practices in GP were forwarded to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement in December 1997 for reference in its study phase.</li> <li>• The GPEG will continue to monitor progress of the relevant WTO Working Group and consider further contributions, if appropriate.</li> </ul>

### *Implementation of UR Outcomes*

- An APEC training program on the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, with focus on the notification obligations thereunder, was held in Chinese Taipei in June.

### *Electronic Commerce*

- The Second WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva in May called on the General Council to prepare a substantive work program on E-Commerce. Under the APEC Leaders' direction, a Task Force on Electronic Commerce is undertaking a work program to which CTI has provided inputs.

## **B. EVSL**

The OAA called for, among others, collective actions to “identify industries in which the progressive reduction of tariffs and non-tariff measures would have a positive impact on trade and economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization”. Work on the identification of sectors was mandated at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Subic in 1996 for endorsement at the AELM in Vancouver in 1997.

In Vancouver, Ministers called for the development of appropriate agreements or arrangements for market opening and facilitation and economic and technical cooperation measures on 15 sectors, nine<sup>1</sup> of which are to be fast-tracked and the remaining six<sup>2</sup> considered for further action in 1998. Ministers recognized the need for a balanced and mutually beneficial package while acknowledging that the process of early liberalization is to be conducted on the basis of the APEC principle of voluntarism, whereby each economy remains free to determine the sectoral initiatives in which it will participate. In effect, the EVSL timetable was accelerated by two years from 1999 to 1997, a step most welcomed by the AELM.

Having been tasked to progress the work on EVSL, CTI devoted a considerable amount of time and effort to finalize the sectoral arrangements/ agreements on the nine fast-tracked sectors as well as to further develop the proposals relating to the other six sectors.

<sup>1</sup>environmental goods and services, fish and fish products, toys, forest products, gems and jewelry, chemicals, energy, medical equipment and instruments, and telecommunications mutual recognition arrangement.

<sup>2</sup> oilseeds and oilseed products, food, natural and synthetic rubber, fertilizers, automotive, and civil aircraft.

### **C. CTI Contribution to ECOTECH**

While CTI's main focus is on the TILF agenda, the Committee is also contributing, in a substantial way, to APEC's ECOTECH agenda. This underscores the supportive yet important role that ECOTECH plays in the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation process. A matrix of CTI's contributions to ECOTECH is contained in the ECOTECH Sub-Committee's Report to Ministers.

The majority of the activities address the theme "Developing Human Capital". These include training programs for most of the TILF issue areas. *Appendix IV* pulls together the training and technical cooperation programs underway in CTI and its various sub-fora. SCCP has strategically undertaken a package of multi-year technical training programs to ensure that member economies can implement the CAPs by the established target dates. IPEG has agreed on a Framework for Facilitation of Technical Cooperation for IPRs. Another set of multi-year training programs (Partners for Progress) have been organized in the areas of Standards and Conformance, Intellectual Property and Competition Policy. MAG, GOS, IEG and the informal Experts' Group on the Mobility of Business People likewise initiated their own training programs this year.

There are also a number of activities which address the ECOTECH priorities of strengthening economic infrastructure; fostering safe, efficient capital markets; harnessing technologies of the future; and encouraging the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Notable of these were those undertaken by the IEG to enhance the environment for investment. IPEG is working to promote technology transfer in the area of intellectual property protection and SCCP is dealing with Electronic Commerce and Electronic Data Interchange in harnessing technologies of the future.

### **D. Impact of Liberalization: Communicating with APEC Communities**

Recognizing that support among the people of the region for continuing trade and investment liberalization is essential, Ministers and Leaders in Vancouver requested a work program to promote a broad-based understanding of the impact of liberalization within domestic communities.

CTI, through the Steering Group on Communicating the Impact of Liberalization, developed a two-phase implementation plan for this initiative. The first phase or the analytical phase involves five case studies on the impact of liberalization on the following sectors and economies, along with a module undertaken by the Economic Committee to draw on existing literature to distill in simple terms their key findings regarding the impact of liberalization:

- telecommunications - Philippines
- financial services – Peru
- furniture manufacture – Canada
- wine production – New Zealand
- textiles – Thailand

The five case studies will provide APEC communities with a better understanding of the liberalization process. They identify some common issues, including the adjustment costs, arising for firms and policy-makers from the liberalization experience. The EC module aims to draw together in a simple and clear way the key themes of the large body of research on the impact of liberalization.

As the objective of the exercise is to assist APEC economies develop strategies to communicate with their communities, the second phase of the project will focus on developing communications tools for use by APEC members. Activities are being developed to allow economies to learn from shared experiences in this area and to develop and trial new communications strategies.

#### **E. Business/Private Sector Involvement in CTI Activities**

CTI has advanced APEC initiatives for a broad outreach to business/private sector as mandated by the Leaders. It will make use of new guidance provided by SOM for CTI and its sub-fora to be given greater flexibility to invite business/private sector people or organizations to attend their meetings and/or dialogues.

#### **F. CTI Management Review**

In response to the overall review undertaken by SOM on APEC's structure, CTI started realigning its activities within its internal structure. CTI plans further reviews to provide more focus and direction to sub-fora activities with a view to having them deliver more tangible outcomes, while adhering to a more streamlined and effective management structure within APEC.

#### **G. Cooperation with Observers**

##### **1. Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)**

CTI continues to maintain a close working relationship with PECC. The latter has played a facilitating role in channeling business as well as academic sector inputs into the work of CTI. PECC developed the Information Resource Study on Sectoral Liberalization providing a framework for identifying priority sectors for the APEC EVSL process. PECC is also set to collaborate with ABAC to conduct an independent survey and assessment of impediments to trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific Region. PECC continues to participate actively in CTI working groups. In particular, PECC has submitted various inputs, and had experts in attendance, at the Group on Services and at the Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop. PECC has, in fact, distributed its draft set of competition principles to CTI for feedback.

##### **2. ASEAN Secretariat**



The presence of ASEAN Secretariat serves the dual function of keeping APEC informed of ASEAN activities and keeping ASEAN informed of APEC activities, especially, for the non-APEC members of ASEAN. This is to promote closer coordination between the activities in APEC and ASEAN. Aside from the trade and investment liberalization, facilitation and cooperation measures which are undertaken in APEC, ASEAN cooperation activities also cover functional areas such as social development, science and technology and environment. Through the ASEAN Secretariat, CTI is made aware of relevant developments in ASEAN. The ASEAN Secretariat complements the already active and positive contribution and participation of ASEAN member countries in the APEC process.

### **3. South Pacific Forum (SPF)**

SPF has provided regular updates on its members' economic reform action plan which is in line with initiatives and reforms being undertaken by APEC. Commitment to improving the business climate, working towards achieving free and open trade and investment, improving trade and investment facilitation, and promoting regional interests in multilateral trade fora are some of the important initiatives being undertaken by the Forum Island Countries. SPF, through its participation in the CTI meetings, has been able to keep SPF members better informed of the experiences of APEC in key issue areas.

## **III. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Ministers:

- *endorse* the CTI's 1998 Annual Report and the revised/enhanced CAPs it contains;
- *welcome* the commendable achievements in 1998 as appears in Appendix III (Matrix of 1998 TILF Outcomes);
- *note* the following activities in:
  - advancing the liberalization process through work in EVSL and the study on Communicating the Impact of Liberalization;
  - initiating CTI restructuring through:
    - i) the consolidation of Tariff and NTMs under MAG
    - ii) the distribution of work in Rules of Origin (ROO)
    - iii) the decision to assign work on Information Gathering and Analysis to the APEC Secretariat
  - advancing the mandate for greater business/private sector outreach by providing a new and flexible guidance to allow CTI and its sub-fora to invite wider participation; and
  - advancing work in trade facilitation and on Electronic Commerce through participation in the Task Force on

Electronic Commerce by CTI sub-fora.

- *agree* that continuation of work on the basis of the revised/enhanced CAPs, and in the progressive manner envisaged by the Osaka Action Agenda, provides a sound basis for CTI's work in 1999;
- *direct* CTI, in executing its 1999 work program, to also address the further development of the Action Plans and the expansion and improvement of collective actions required by the Osaka Action Agenda, with emphasis on:
  - Further work on EVSL
  - Trade in Services;
  - Competition Policy/Deregulation;
  - Trade facilitation, including:
    - i) the development of the arrangements relating to electrical and electronic equipment and food in the area of Standards and conformance, and
    - ii) Customs Procedures;
  - completion of a set of non-binding principles on Government Procurement;
  - implementation of the menu of options approach in Investment;
  - contribution to work on Electronic Commerce; and
  - technical assistance for human resource development and institutional capacity building for UR implementation, including technical cooperation in TRIPS implementation.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORTS AND COLLECTIVE ACTION PLANS**

# **CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON TARIFFS AND NON-TARIFFS MEASURES**

## **1. Introduction**

At the St. John's CTI meeting in August 1997, the Market Access Group (MAG) was created to coordinate and undertake necessary work relating to the Tariff/Non-tariff Measures (NTM) Collective Action Plan (CAP) and voluntary sectoral liberalization. MAG convened its first meeting in February 1998 in Penang to discuss its work plan and deliverables. The Penang meeting also saw members' adoption of the Group's Terms of Reference as approved by the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI). A progress report on the Group's CAP was first circulated at the second meeting in June 1998 in Kuching for members' endorsement and was subsequently finalized at the meeting following receipt of confirmations and comments from member economies.

## **2. Collective Actions Achieved**

- Collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat to conduct a seminar on the WTO Integrated Database (IDB) on 14 June 1998 in Kuching, Malaysia.
- Commencement of process for economies to verify information on NTMs collated from the Individual Action Plans (IAPs), Trade Policy Reviews of APEC members who are WTO members, and from notifications under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.
- Commencement of process of submission of information on NTMs by members in accordance with the Chair's suggested formats for developing a framework for reporting progress on NTMs.
- Commencement of process of verification and updating of information used in the APEC Impediments Measurement System (AIMs) developed by the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) to assist its assessment of the selection of sectors for liberalization and their economic impact on APEC. This is to ensure the reliability of data inputs used by PECC for its Information Resource Study on Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization.

## **3. New Collective Actions Agreed**

*Members agreed to:*

- Review and implement suggested enhancements by users of the APEC Tariff Database (TDB) in consultation with the Sub-Committee on Customs and Procedures (SCCP);
- Explore with the WTO Secretariat the possibility of constructing an Internet mirror site of the WTO IDB relating to APEC economies in the APEC Secretariat Homepage. To ensure the reliability of the subset of the WTO IDB, members agreed to submit updated information to the WTO Secretariat for the purpose of updating the WTO IDB; and

- Evaluate and verify findings in PECC's Information Resource Study on Voluntary Sector Liberalization.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The development of the proposed mirror site of the WTO IDB will address APEC's need for an enhanced tariff database for trade policy analysis. This approach would mean that member economies only need to make one submission on tariff/trade information which would meet the needs of both WTO and APEC. In addition, the exchange of information on NTMs would lead to greater transparency of NTMs that may impact on trade flows, thereby benefiting the export community. Lastly, PECC's Information Resource Study will help APEC members to identify possible sectors for liberalization in the medium to long-term.

#### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- A seminar providing a broad overview of the WTO IDB was conducted by two WTO officials in June 1998 in Kuching, Malaysia.
- The development of AIMs by PECC to assist its assessment of the selection of sectors for liberalization and their economic impact on APEC.

## TARIFFS & NON-TARIFF MEASURES 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<p><b>Early Voluntary Liberalization</b></p> <p>(a) <i>Identify industries in which the progressive reduction of tariffs may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization.</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Identify industries in which the progressive reduction of non-tariff measures may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization.</i></p> <p>(* Note: referred to elsewhere as “priority industry sectors”)</p>	<p><u>Short-term</u></p>	
	<p>Collective: develop and implement detailed modalities for liberalization of agreed list of priority sectors endorsed by Ministers and Leaders in November 1997.</p>	1998 onwards
	<p>Collective: where necessary, refine the coverage in terms of specific products and/or non-tariff measures and HS tariff lines in the agreed list of priority sectors endorsed by Ministers and Leaders.</p>	1998
	<p>Collective: consider those associated facilitation and economic and technical cooperation activities which are relevant and agreed for incorporation into sectoral liberalization initiatives.</p>	1998 onwards
	<p>Collective: consider developing a list of further priority sectors for submission to Ministers as and when directed by CTI.</p>	1998 onwards
<p>Collective: develop a framework and database for reporting progress on liberalization in tariffs and NTMs, including product specific information about tariff peaks and about any tariff quotas.</p>	1998	

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<p><b>Tariffs</b></p> <p><i>(c) Develop and keep a computerized tariff database (APEC tariff database) and work towards establishing a database network without duplicating but rather supporting WTO work in this area</i></p>	<p>Individual: verify and update data used in the APEC Impediments Measurement System (AIMs) developed by PECC to assist in its assessment of the effects of alternative liberalization scenarios and the selection of sectors for liberalization.</p>	1998/1999
	<p><u>Ongoing</u></p> <p>Collective: invite private sector inputs/responses from regional business representatives through ABAC and other appropriate regional fora such as PECC and PBEC on APEC's voluntary sectoral liberalization initiatives.</p>	1998 – 2010/2020
	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Collective: explore with the WTO Secretariat, the possibility of constructing an Internet mirror site of the WTO Integrated Database (IDB) relating to APEC economies on the APEC Secretariat Home Page.</p>	1998/1999
	<p>Individual: submit current data, and any other information which is collectively agreed to be required to implement suggested enhancements by users of the APEC Tariff Database (TDB), to the Tariff Database Manager (Federal Express).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Collective: review existing and explore new partnerships with the Tariff Database Manager/other service providers to ensure the continuous development and maintenance of the APEC Tariff Database in ways that meet the needs of users.</p>	1999/2000

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<p><b><i>Non-Tariff Measures</i></b></p> <p><i>(d) Pursue incorporation of information on non-tariff measures into a future version of the APEC tariff database and compile a list of measures recognized as non-tariff impediments and a list of products affected by those impediments.</i></p>	<p><u>Ongoing</u></p> <p>Individual: provide regular updates of tariff information as changes occur, and provide annual updates of trade and other agreed data to the APEC database. To support WTO, provide tariff and trade data annually in accordance with WTO obligations. Non-WTO members may provide the information required as a voluntary measure.</p>	1998-2010/20
	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Individual: verify and augment information on NTMs collated from the Individual Action Plans, Trade Policy Reviews of APEC-WTO members and notifications to WTO under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.</p>	1998/1999
	<p>Individual: exchange through CTI, and where possible make available electronically (e.g., through the APEC Internet Homepage), information on non-tariff measures utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference.</p>	1998/1999
	<p>Collective: examine how information on non-tariff measures can be made available on electronic or other platforms for sharing and exchange so as to help businesses to better understand member economies' trade regimes/practices.</p>	1999 onwards



OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<p><i>(e) Progressively reduce export subsidies with a view to abolishing them.</i></p>	<p>Collective: on the basis of information exchanged, compile a list of measures recognized as non-tariff impediments and a list of products affected by those impediments, and examine the UNCTAD Coding System of Trade Control Measures as a possible reporting system.</p>	1998/1999
	<p><u>Short-term and Ongoing:</u></p> <p>Collective: develop and update the contents of the APEC database in association with other international organizations (e.g., WTO and UNCTAD).</p>	1998-2010/20
	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Individual: exchange through CTI, and where possible make available electronically (e.g. through the APEC Internet Homepage), information on all export subsidies, utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference. As a starting point, individual members could use their respective notifications to WTO under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.</p>	1998/1999
	<p>Collective: consider using the information collated from notifications under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures to develop a reporting system on export subsidies so as to enhance transparency and thus facilitate trade.</p>	1998/1999

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<p><i>(f) Abolish unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions and endeavor to refrain from taking any such new measures.</i></p>	<p><u>Medium-term</u></p> <p>Collective: discuss further measures to enhance transparency of export subsidies, building on the exchange of information among APEC members and consider what further APEC collective actions are appropriate and possible.</p>	<p>2000</p>
	<p><u>Medium- to Long-term</u></p> <p>Collective: develop approaches leading to the progressive reduction of export subsidies by members, with a view to abolishing them in support of WTO agreements.</p>	<p>1999-2010/2020</p>
	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Individual: exchange through CTI, and where possible make available electronically (e.g., through the APEC Internet Homepage), information on all export prohibitions and restrictions utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference.</p>	<p>1998/1999</p>
	<p>Collective: consider using information collated from the Trade Policy Reviews of APEC members who are WTO members to develop a reporting system for export prohibitions and restrictions.</p>	<p>1998</p>

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
	<p><u>Medium-term</u></p> <p>Collective: discuss further measures to enhance transparency in unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions, building on the exchange of information among APEC members and consider what further APEC collective actions are appropriate and possible.</p> <p><u>Medium- to Long-term</u></p> <p>Collective: develop approaches leading to the progressive reduction of unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions by members, with a view to abolishing them.</p>	<p>2000</p> <p>1999-2010/2020</p>

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON SERVICES

## 1. Introduction

The Group on Services (GOS) is an informal subgroup of CTI mandated by the Committee to address the TILF tasks in the area of services contained in the Osaka Action Agenda and in directions from Leaders, Ministers, SOM and CTI. GOS has held seven meetings since 1997, with its last meeting of 1998 being in Kuantan, Malaysia on 8 September. The bulk of its meetings have been devoted to information gathering and analysis, experience sharing and transparency. The implementation of the Services CAP containing the aforementioned elements (other than for Energy, Telecommunications, Tourism, and Transportation) commenced during 1998 and was enhanced to reflect the progress of these items. The current Chair of GOS is Mr. Juan Bournas of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Voluntary presentations on trade in sub-regional services arrangements within APEC have been made.
- PECC provided a compilation and comparison of all existing services trade arrangements within APEC.
- A training seminar on trade in services, with private sector representation, was held to promote understanding of the said issue amongst public sector officials.
- A document, *The IAP Summary on Services*, was produced and will be continually updated for analysis and as a basis for discussions.
- A voluntary exchange of views through presentations on services sectors was initiated commencing with education services.
- A brief compendium was made by the APEC Secretariat on the various existing databases containing statistical information on trade in services.
- Member economies have shared experiences on the identification of what a free and open trade in the services sector means.
- An agreement was made for undertaking a questionnaire on the requirements for the provision of three priority professional services.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- PECC to undertake follow-up work on the compilation and comparison of all existing services trade arrangements within APEC based on the directions from GOS.
- Building upon work in APEC and other international fora, disseminate research and analysis on services trade liberalization.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The collective actions will enhance greater transparency in APEC services regimes, promote services liberalization and provide ease of reference for the provision of services by the private sector. The activities of GOS provide a unique opportunity for public sector officials and private/business sector of APEC member economies to voluntarily exchange views on **various** trade in services issues. This, in turn, provides an essential foundation for the better understanding of these issues with a view to progressively achieving the OAA objective of free and open trade and investment in services in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- A joint session with the Competition Policy Group was held on 7 September 1998, which analyzed financial services, telecommunications services and professional services.
- A training program on trade in services was held in Qingdao, Peoples' Republic of China on 4 - 8 May 1998.
- An APEC Directory of Professional Services to be elaborated, commencing with architecture, engineering and accounting.
- GOS agreed to continue in 1999:
  - To take forward ongoing/outstanding actions in its CAP; and
  - To consider ways to respond to the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) recommendations that APEC should formulate collective action plans addressing major issues concerning trade in services that apply across all service industries.

## SERVICES 1998/1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

### Preamble

OAA Objectives: APEC economies will achieve free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region by:

- a) progressively reducing restrictions on market access for trade in services, and
- b) progressively providing for, *inter alia*, most-favored-nation (MFN) treatment and national treatment for trade in services.

OAA Collective Actions: APEC economies will take the following Collective Actions:

<b>All Sectors other than Energy, Telecommunications, Tourism, and Transportation.</b>		
<b>Collective Action</b>	<b>Steps to Implement</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
a. Review and exchange information on all trade and investment in services arrangements within APEC and study common elements.	Voluntary presentations on trade in services arrangements to be made with regard to all sub-regional groupings, on an ongoing basis.	Ongoing
	PECC to submit a compilation and comparison of all the existing trade in services arrangements within APEC.	Completed
	Conduct seminars and workshops in services-related issues to enhance understanding and enable exchanges of views with private sector representatives.	Completed
	PECC to undertake follow-up work based on directions of GOS and the compilation completed.	Short-term (1999-2000)

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
b. Gather and analyze information on the services section contained within the Individual Action Plans.	A document titled "The IAP Summary on Services" to be continually updated according to the annual revisions of IAPs, for analysis and use as a reference and a basis for discussions.	Ongoing
c. Identification of measures affecting trade and investment in all service sectors.	<p>Member economies, taking into account the views of the private/business sector and academia, will identify priority sectors to be addressed by GOS on the basis of information voluntarily supplied by member economies.</p> <p>Compile a list of measures which affect, either positively or negatively, these services, as a basis for collective work towards achieving OAA objectives in services.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
d. Compile information on services trade statistics.	A brief compendium to be made by the APEC Secretariat on the various existing databases containing statistical information on trade in services relevant to member economies. Consult work done by the Trade and Investment Data Working Group.	Completed
e. To improve understanding of the impact of liberalization of services.	<p>Economies will volunteer papers and studies that will allow the sharing of experiences in this area and what could be considered "best practices" cases.</p> <p>Economies will undertake an evaluation of the role of services trade liberalization in economic development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
	<p>Member economies, in consultation with business, e.g., ABAC and other relevant fora such as academia, share experiences and consult, <i>inter alia</i>, on the identification of elements of what a free and open trade in the services sector means.</p> <p>Building upon work in APEC and other international fora, disseminate research and analysis on services trade liberalization.</p>	<p>Short-medium-term (1999-2005)</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>f. Study and carry out work concerning the development and adoption of common professional standards, in conjunction with professional accreditation bodies and needed legislative measures.</p>	<p>In response to ABAC recommendations, complement the work underway in HRDWG. Due attention will be paid to the work carried out at the WTO.</p> <p>In consultation with the private sector, identify priority professions for consideration.</p> <p>Conduct a survey of the requirements for provision of priority professional services in member economies and make such information available to business in accessible and user-friendly format.</p>	<p>Short-medium term (1997-2005)</p> <p>Short-medium term (1999-2005)</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>g. Pursuant to SOM instructions, GOS will provide support to the ongoing EVSL initiatives.</p>	<p>As directed by SOM</p>	<p>Short-term (1999-2000)</p>



<b>Collective Action</b>	<b>Steps to Implement</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
h. Enhance transparency in service sectors.	Establish focal points where information on laws and/or regulations related to trade in services could be made available. Uploading of relevant information on the World Wide Web will be considered.  Selected documents to be published for the benefit and information of the private sector.	Ongoing  Ongoing
i. Continue discussion of issues related to possible APEC principles or guidelines that may be necessary to achieve free and open trade and investment in this area.	Building upon the work conducted within GOS and other relevant fora, including WTO, as well as papers submitted by individual member economies, exchange views on issues related to possible APEC principles or guidelines.	Ongoing
j. Monitor, and where possible and appropriate, contribute to the WTO's work on services.	Engage in analysis and exchange of information to allow members to better understand the issues involved, identify their interests, and contribute positively to the WTO's work.	Short-term (1997-2000)
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>		
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>		
<b>ENERGY</b>		
<b>TOURISM</b>		

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON INVESTMENT

## 1. Introduction

In response to the mandate by APEC Leaders to develop a set of non-binding investment principles for APEC, CTI established the Investment Experts Group (IEG) in 1994. The Group was reconvened in 1995 to provide advice to CTI on investment issues. The current Chair of IEG is Dato' J. Jegathesan, Deputy Director General I of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA).

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Updating of the electronic version of the APEC Investment Guidebook on the Internet.
- Consideration of further actions to enhance the environment for investment in APEC economies. A list of options for investment liberalization and business facilitation to strengthen APEC economies has been developed for voluntary inclusion in IAPs .
- Holding of the Fourth APEC Investment Symposium in Malaysia on 29-30 September 1998.
- Compiled and published papers presented at the Third APEC Investment Symposium in Hong Kong, China in October 1997.
- Conducted the Second Business Survey.
- Policy discussions were held to review the investment regimes of Malaysia and Chinese Taipei (February 1998), Australia and the Philippines (June 1998) and Mexico (September 1998) as well as on a report on the investment chapter of the Mexico-Chile Free Trade Arrangement (September 1998).
- Conducted a training program in China on 6-10 July 1998 on improving member economies' capabilities on statistical reporting and data collection.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Hold the Fifth APEC Investment Symposium in China in the year 2000.
- Publish a new edition of the investment guidebook.
- Compile a compendium of Initiatives, Development Efforts, Aspiration and Strategies (IDEAS) of the four major stakeholders in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) themes, i.e., the Foreign Direct Investor, the Home Economy, the Host Economy, and the Domestic Investor.
- Undertake new activities that contribute to capacity building.
- Conduct an annual exchange of experience program for APEC investment officials and private sector.
- Conduct an awareness program for APEC investment/trade officials to understand and be informed of the various options for investment liberalization and business facilitation

#### **4. Benefit and Beneficiary**

The collective actions will enhance transparency of APEC investment regimes, facilitate investment activities and promote investment liberalization. The activities also provide an opportunity for the private sector and government officials to exchange views on investment issues, help create better understanding of the aims and aspirations of member economies, identify means to enhance the investment environment and promote investment flows in the region.

#### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- A training program to improve member economies' capabilities on statistical reporting and data collection was held in China on 6 - 10 July 1998.
- The Fourth APEC Investment Symposium was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 29- 30 September 1998.
- Launched the following initiatives:
  - An options paper for investment liberalization and business facilitation to strengthen APEC economies for voluntary inclusion in IAPs;
  - Development of a matrix of IDEAS to foster greater understanding of the needs of the critical stakeholders in FDI, i.e, the Foreign Direct Investor, the Home Economy, the Host Economy and the Domestic Investor.
  - A special forum is being initiated geared towards capacity building within APEC economies in areas where such initiatives are needed.
- The Second Business Survey was conducted.

## INVESTMENT 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p><b>Transparency</b> <i>Short-term</i></p> <p>A. Increase in the short-term the <b>transparency</b> of APEC investment regimes by:</p> <p>(i) updating APEC guidebook on investment regimes;</p> <p>(ii) improving the state of statistical reporting and data collection</p> <p>(iii) increasing understanding among member economies on investment policy-making issues</p>	<p>Members to provide information to APEC Secretariat to update the guidebook when changes to investment regimes are made.</p> <p>Publish a new edition of the investment guidebook.</p> <p>Contribute to the work of the Trade and Investment Data Review Working Group on investment statistics.</p> <p>Conduct a training program for investment officials on statistical reporting and data collection.</p> <p>Identify and develop matrix of Initiatives, Development Efforts, Aspirations and Strategies (IDEAS) of the four stakeholders (foreign direct investor, home economy, host economy and domestic investor) involved in the international flow of FDIs.</p> <p>Compile the compendium of IDEAS.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>1999</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>1999</p> <p>1999</p>
<p><b>Policy Dialogue</b> <i>Short-term</i></p> <p>B. Promote, in the short-term, <b>dialogue with the APEC business community</b> on ways to improve the APEC investment environment.</p>	<p>Update, in conjunction with the business sector, a menu of options for investment liberalization and business facilitation to strengthen the APEC economies for voluntary inclusion in IAPs.</p> <p>Update, in conjunction with ABAC, arrangements for enhanced investment protection.</p> <p>Organize the Fifth Investment Symposium.</p> <p>Identify mechanisms for periodic discussions with business representatives in individual member economies.</p> <p>Consult ABAC, PECC and other relevant regional business organizations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2000</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
	<p>Request comments from these bodies on major APEC investment initiatives through inclusion of representatives of such organizations in APEC Investment Symposia.</p> <p>Conduct a second business survey.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>C. Establish, in the short-term, a <b>dialogue process with the OECD and other international fora</b> involved in global and regional investment issues.</p>	<p>Establish policy dialogue process with other fora, where appropriate.</p> <p>Consider possible contributions by APEC to the WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>D. Undertake an <b>evaluation of the role of investment liberalization</b> in economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.</p>	<p>Continue the dialogue on facilitation, cooperation and liberalization, with a view to improving understanding of the implications of the non-binding investment principles.</p> <p>Define collective review mechanisms for individual action plans.</p> <p>Review the Economic Committee's work (and other relevant work) on the impact of investment liberalization on growth in the region with a view to identifying possible regional policy implications.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>1999</p>
<p>E. Study possible <b>common elements between existing subregional arrangements relevant</b> to investment.</p>	<p>Review the investment provisions of current subregional arrangements.</p> <p>Consider further study of possible relationships between these provisions in the future.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>1999 onwards</p>
<p><i>Medium-term</i> F. Refine, in the medium-term, <b>APEC's understanding of free and open investment.</b></p>	<p>Assess evolving elements of global investment disciplines and policy debate with a view to reaching agreement on the end point objective for APEC investment liberalization.</p>	<p>Medium-term</p>
<p><i>Long-term</i> G. Assess, in the long-term, <b>the merits of developing an APEC-wide discipline on investment</b> in the light of APEC's own progress through the medium-term as well as developments in other international fora.</p>	<p>To be determined in the light of progress with policy dialogue in the medium-term.</p>	<p>Long-term</p>

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p><b>Facilitation</b> <i>Short-term and continuing</i></p> <p>H. Undertake practical facilitation initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progressively work towards reducing impediments to investment.</li> </ul>	<p>Drawing on business and other advice, identify possible areas for improved practices.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Economic and Technical Cooperation</b> <i>Short-term</i></p> <p>I. Identify, in the short-term, ongoing <b>technical cooperation</b> needs in the Asia-Pacific region and organize training programs which will assist APEC economies in fulfilling APEC investment objectives.</p>	<p>Identify target areas for technical cooperation including 'best practice' policy/administrative frameworks.</p> <p>Conduct training programs for officials concerned with investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a training program for investment officials of member economies on statistical reporting and data collection;</li> <li>• a training program on strategies to identify and facilitate investment in specific areas, e.g., Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) development and industrial linkages, high-tech industries, and R&amp;D activities;</li> <li>• a seminar on foreign direct investment policy and administration adjustment;</li> <li>• coordinate efforts with other relevant bodies involved in technical cooperation;</li> <li>• an annual exchange of experience program for APEC investment officials and private sector; and</li> <li>• an awareness program for APEC investment/trade officials to understand and be informed of the various options for investment liberalization and business facilitation.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>1999</p> <p>1999</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>1999 onwards</p> <p>2000</p>



# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE

## 1. Introduction

The Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) was established in 1994 in response to APEC Ministers' recognition that standards and conformance was a priority area for the realization of APEC's goals. Major objectives are to: (a) encourage alignment of members' standards with international standards; (b) achieve mutual recognition among APEC economies of conformity assessment in regulated and voluntary sectors; (c) promote cooperation for technical infrastructure developments; and (d) ensure the transparency of the standards and conformity assessment of APEC economies. The 1998 SCSC Chair is Mr. A. Aziz Mat, Director-General of Department of Standards, Malaysia.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Training Program on Standards and Conformity Assessment Schemes 1998 (APEC Partners for Progress Project). (*Approximately 30 trainees to participate in the program on 23 November - 3 December.*)
- Held a 2<sup>nd</sup> APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance on 4 - 5 September. (*There were approximately 150 participants from the APEC region.*)
- Enhanced business involvement with a closer relationship with ABAC. (Invited a representative of ABAC to the 2<sup>nd</sup> SCSC.)
- Undertook European Commission/SCSC dialogue. (In the margins of 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> SCSC meetings.)

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Develop Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls and Food Recall Guidelines.
- Develop a Guide to Good Regulatory Practice.
- Encourage additional participation in APLAC-MRA. (*Response to the directions from Ministers to expand a network of accreditation.*)
- Implement TILF projects on Partners in Food Safety. (*To facilitate trade in food sectors.*)
- Develop new specific projects to assist developing economies in reinforcing technical infrastructure.



#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

Alignment with international standards as well as networks of mutual recognition arrangements contribute to expanding regional trade and investment flows by reducing unnecessary costs and time-consuming delays associated with differences in standards and conformance in the APEC region.

#### **5. Highlights of TILF Outcomes in 1998**

- Agreed to align member economies' standards on electrical and electronic equipment with international standards in respect of safety and electromagnetic compatibility by 2004/2008.
- Publication of *Voluntary Action Plan Report* to make public the progress in the areas where member economies were committed in 1996 to aligning their standards with international standards by 2000/2005.
- Agreement on the part of exchange of information of Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Electrical and Electronic Equipment.
- Expected additional participation in APLAC-MRA.
- Completion of APEC-specific survey on Technical Infrastructure Development for Measurement Standards, Laboratory Management and Accreditation to identify the areas where technical infrastructure is needed for developing economies.

## STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
<b>1. Alignment</b>		
APEC economies will align their mandatory and voluntary standards with international standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to develop an <i>APEC Guide on Alignment on Member Economies' Standards with International Standards</i>.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b> 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to align their standards with international standards in the following priority areas: electrical and electronic appliances (air conditioners, televisions, refrigerators, radios and their parts, and video apparatus); food labeling; rubber gloves and condoms; and machinery.</li> </ul>	1996 to 2000/2005
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to align their standards with international standards in the additional priority area of electrical and electronic equipment to include all electrical safety (IEC 60335) and relevant EMC (CISPR) standards.</li> </ul>	1998 to 2004/2008
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to continue identifying additional priority areas for alignment with international standards.</li> </ul>	From 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to actively participate in the standardization activities of international standardization bodies (ISO &amp; IEC) in the following priority sectors: building and construction and hazardous area equipment.</li> </ul>	From 1996
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to establish ad-hoc Technical Groups, which would work with PASC in developing coordinated regional input into the development of international standards in selected areas.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b> 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to participate in ad-hoc Technical Groups, which work with PASC in developing coordinated regional input into the development of international standards in selected areas.</li> </ul>	From 1997

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
<p>APEC economies will conduct a comprehensive review of progress on alignment with international standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to participate in APEC seminars on WTO-TBT/SPS Agreements, Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), Bulk Pharmaceuticals, and Environmental Management Standards.</li> <li>● Member economies to develop <i>APEC Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption, and Review of Technical Regulations</i> and to promote their use by regulatory agencies.</li> <li>● Member economies will continue to develop a Guide to Good Regulatory Practice.</li> <li>● Member economies to conduct comprehensive reviews of their alignment work.</li> <li>● Member economies to develop a common format for reporting on progress of alignment with international standards.</li> <li>● Member economies to publish the results of the first review of the alignment work.</li> <li>● Member economies to update these results on their respective home pages.</li> <li>● Member economies to continue to report on the progress in aligning their standards with international standards.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>Guidelines completed 1997</b></p> <p>From 1998</p> <p>2000 and 2005</p> <p><b>Completed 1997</b></p> <p><b>Completed 1998</b></p> <p>From 1998</p> <p>From 1998</p>
<b>2. Mutual Recognition of Conformity Assessment</b>		
<p>Achieve mutual recognition among APEC economies of conformity assessment in regulated and voluntary sectors.</p>	<p><b>Regulated sector:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to develop bilateral, multi-sectoral, and plurilateral mutual recognition arrangements.</li> <li>● Member economies to develop and endorse an <i>Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety</i>.</li> <li>● Member economies to consider participation in the <i>Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety</i>.</li> </ul>	<p>From 1997</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>From 1996 (12 economies)</p>

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to develop and endorse an <i>Umbrella Arrangement for Mutual Recognition on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products</i> (APEC Food MRA).</li> <li>● Member economies to consider participation in the <i>APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products</i>.</li> <li>● Member economies to develop an APEC mutual recognition arrangement on conformity assessment of electrical and electronic equipment.</li> <li>● Member economies to develop Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recall and Food Recall Guidelines.</li> <li>● Member economies agreed to review the implementation and use of the mutual recognition arrangements.</li> <li>● Member economies to continue to further consider additional priority areas for MRA in the regulated sector.</li> </ul> <p><b>Voluntary sector:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to enter into mutual recognition agreements (bilateral and multilateral) in cooperation with Specialist Regional Bodies, where applicable.</li> <li>● Member economies to encourage participation in APLAC-MRA and PAC MRA.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>From 1997 (6 economies)</p> <p>From 1997 <b>Part I Completed 1998</b></p> <p>From 1998</p> <p>From 1998</p> <p>From 1997</p> <p>1996 to 2000/2010</p> <p>From 1998</p>
<b>3. Technical Infrastructure Development</b>		
Promote cooperation for technical infrastructure development to facilitate broad participation in mutual recognition arrangements in both regulated and voluntary sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to identify specific requirements, assistance and/or activities for technical infrastructure development.</li> <li>● Member economies to consider the provision of assistance for the improvement of other economies' technical infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>From 1996</p> <p>From 1996</p>

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Member economies to develop and adopt a Mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Program.</li> <li>● Member economies to undertake a Survey on Technical Infrastructure Development for Measurement Standards, Laboratory Management and Accreditation.</li> <li>● Member economies to undertake specific follow-on activities from among those recommended in the Report of the Survey.</li> <li>● Member economies to conduct reviews of the mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Program implementation.</li> <li>● Member economies to strengthen participation in Specialist Regional Bodies activities.</li> <li>● Member economies to support and actively participate in APEC Conferences on Standards and Conformance.</li> <li>● Member economies to support and actively participate in Round Table Meetings with the Specialist Regional Bodies.</li> <li>● Member economies to participate in Partners for Progress (PFP) projects on standards and conformity assessment schemes.</li> <li>● Member economies to cooperate with the HRDWG in designing and providing a training program for HRD in quality management and environmental management systems.</li> <li>● Member economies to actively participate in the TILF projects on Partners in Food Safety.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed</b> 1996</p> <p><b>Completed</b> 1998</p> <p>From 1998</p> <p>Medium- to long-term</p> <p>From 1996</p> <p>From 1996 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Conference completed 1998</b></p> <p>From 1997 <b>1st Round Table completed in 1997</b></p> <p>1997-2001</p> <p>From 1997 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Training Program completed in 1997</b></p> <p>From 1999</p>

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
<b>4. Transparency</b>		
Ensure the transparency of the standards and conformity assessment of APEC economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to designate central contact points to respond to inquiries on standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures.</li> <li>• Member economies to respond to the transparency survey. After an evaluation, recommendations will be prepared to ensure transparency of standards and conformance.</li> <li>• Member economies to update <i>the APEC Contacts Points for Standards and Conformance Information</i>, and agreed that this information should be maintained on the APEC Home Page.</li> <li>• Member economies to endeavor to establish Internet websites to disseminate standards and conformance information.</li> <li>• Member economies to help carry out a TILF project to compile and publish information on food labeling laws, regulations and standards in the APEC region.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed</b> 1995</p> <p><b>Completed</b> 1997</p> <p>From 1997</p> <p>From 1997</p> <p>From 1998</p>
<b>Cross-Cutting Activities</b>		
<b>5. Closer Links with the Business Sector</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to pursue closer links with the business sector and ABAC, and solicit increased input from business into the work of SCSC.</li> </ul>	From 1997
<b>6. Closer Cooperation with Other APEC Fora</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to promote closer cooperation between SCSC representatives and representatives of other APEC fora involved in standards and conformance issues.</li> </ul>	From 1997
<b>7. Cooperation with Specialist Regional Bodies</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to pursue closer cooperation between their SCSC representatives and their members of the Specialist Regional Bodies.</li> </ul>	From 1997

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
<b>8. European Dialogue</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to commence and carry out a practical dialogue with the European Commission on technical issues of mutual interest in the area of standards and conformance.</li> </ul>	From 1997 <b>2 Dialogue Sessions completed in 1998</b>
<b>9. ABAC Recommendations</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to, in light of ABAC recommendations, endeavor to accelerate timetables for implementing commitments in the areas of alignment and mutual recognition.</li> </ul>	From 1997
<b>10. Interface with other international institutions</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to consider the outcomes of the Triennial Review under the TBT Agreement.</li> </ul>	From 1998
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to send a representative of SCSC to ISO/CASCO Workshops on MRAs.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed 1998</b>

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

## 1. Introduction

The CTI Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) was established in 1995 in response to the priority which APEC Ministers accorded to harmonizing and simplifying customs procedures in order to facilitate trade between APEC economies. The SCCP's Terms of Reference, including a new mandate, was endorsed by Ministers in November 1997. The Chair of SCCP for 1998 is Mr. Madehi bin Kolek, Deputy Director-General, Royal Customs and Excise Department, Malaysia.

During 1998, SCCP continued to implement the second stage of its multi-year technical assistance programs to ensure that all its members will be equipped to put in place various customs-related procedures/systems to meet its CAP target dates. Two new technical assistance programs, on Risk Management and Express Consignment Clearance, were approved.

To continue and engage the private sector in SCCP activities, an APEC Customs Industry Dialogue was held on 8 - 9 June 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The anniversary edition of the Blueprint for APEC Customs Modernization will be published to highlight key achievements by SCCP in 1998. SCCP has also taken steps to develop a compendium of customs initiatives on electronic commerce and develop better tools to enhance its engagement with the private sector.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- The CAP item on Public Availability of Information has been completed by all members. All member economies would have made available to the public information on customs laws and regulations and administrative guidelines. Such improvements in the transparency of APEC Customs Administrations would ensure that pertinent information is provided accurately, consistently and in a user-friendly manner. Individual members would strive to enhance and improve this information dissemination process.
- Two new technical assistance programs, namely on Risk Management and Express Consignment Clearance, were developed and approved by the Budget and Administrative Committee (BAC) in July 1998;
- The second stage of the various multi-year technical assistance activities were carried out to ensure that all SCCP members can implement the CAP by the agreed target dates.
- The APEC Tariff Database and SCCP websites were, and will continuously be, updated.

## 3. SCCP's Work Programs for 1998/1999

- To develop a Code of Conduct along the lines of the Arusha and Columbus Declarations to resolve further the issue of integrity within customs administrations.
- To improve direct involvement of the business sector in SCCP activities. The SCCP Convenor agreed to invite interested business sector groups to establish partnerships to progress its CAP work programs.
- Development of a mechanism to manage private sector funding for SCCP projects.



- Establishment of an informal Virtual Customs Group to share experiences, explore and develop common approaches with the objective of developing a compendium of APEC customs initiatives on Electronic Commerce.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

Both the private sectors and customs administrations in the region will benefit by working together to facilitate cross border transactions. The SCCP's comprehensive collective action plans to simplify and harmonize customs procedures would result in a speedier and more certain clearance of goods through customs which ultimately lead to lower costs to business as well as customs administrations. Simple, modern and computerized customs processes would increase the coordination and efficiency of the customs administrations in the region. This would result in time and cost savings as well as increased revenue collection by customs administrations. By harmonizing customs documentation requirements and providing the private sector an access to pertinent, current and consistent information on customs-related matters, this would provide greater transparency, certainty and fairness for traders in the region.

#### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- APEC Customs Industry Dialogue held on 8 - 9 June 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The anniversary status report of the Blueprint for APEC Customs Modernization 1998.
- Develop better tools for forging strategic partnerships with the private sectors and explore possible partnerships with the private sector to progress the work on its CAPs.
- Advanced work to implement SCCP's multi-year technical assistance programs of its CAPs. Some of these activities include:
  - A seminar on the Kyoto Convention was held in the People's Republic of China (PRC) in April 1998.
  - Two training workshops for technical staff and functional managers on UN/EDIFACT were conducted in Singapore in April 1998, following field trips to member economies conducted by a consultant.
  - Conducted follow-up on-site training sessions in member economies in connection with the implementation of the WTO Valuation and Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreements.
  - A workshop on the Harmonized System (HS) Convention was held in the Philippines on 18 - 20 August 1998.
  - Collated information and held a basic training course for member economies in the area of risk management in Sydney in May 1998.
  - A seminar on Temporary Importation Procedures (ATA Seminar) was held in Chinese Taipei on 22 - 24 September 1998.
  - Assessment missions on Express Consignment to two member economies were conducted in March and May 1998. The missions were funded and participated in by the International Express Carriers Conference (IECC) and Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC).
  - Collection of information on data elements required for customs import processes in member economies was completed. To follow-up with visits to member-economies in 1998/1999.
  - Workshops on the implementation of Clear Appeal Provisions will be held in the second half of 1998.

## (A) SCCP COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES<sup>1</sup>

### **1. Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention**

To ensure consistency of application, certainty and a level playing field for business through the HS Convention, the standard international harmonized system for the classification of goods.

### **2. Public Availability of Information**

To ensure traders have all the pertinent information for business decisions through the provision of accurate, consistent and user-friendly information.

### **3. Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Kyoto Convention**

To improve efficiency in customs clearance and the delivery of goods in order to benefit importers, exporters and manufacturers through simplified customs procedures and best practice.

### **4. Adoption and Support for the UN/EDIFACT**

To use the standard UN electronic messaging format for automated systems, the United Nations/Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, to promote an electronic highway for business.

### **5. Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement**

To facilitate administration of the World Trade Organization's Valuation Agreement on standard procedures for valuing goods.

### **6. Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement**

To implement border enforcement procedures for protecting intellectual property rights.

### **7. Introduction of Clear Appeals Provision**

To provide business with an opportunity to challenge potentially erroneous or inequitable Customs decisions through mechanisms for transparent, independent and timely appeals.

### **8. Introduction of an Advance Classification Ruling System**

To establish simplified procedures for providing classification information prior to importation, thus bringing certainty and predictability to international trading and helping traders to make sound business decisions based on legally binding advice.

### **9. Provisions for Temporary Importation, e.g. acceding to the A.T.A. Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention**

To help business move goods such as commercial samples, professional equipment, tools of trade and exhibition material across borders with a high degree of certainty in how these goods will be treated by Customs by having standard procedures for admitting goods on a temporary basis.

### **10. Harmonized APEC Data Elements**

To develop a comprehensive directory supported in UN/EDIFACT which includes a simplified "core set" of data elements, largely derived from commercially available data, that would satisfy the standard data requirements of the majority of APEC trade transactions and so facilitate the exchange of information and provide a foundation for common forms and electronic commerce.

### **11. Risk Management Techniques**

To focus Customs enforcement efforts on high-risk goods and travelers and facilitate the movement of low risk shipments, through a flexible approach tailored to each APEC economy.

### **12. Guidelines on Express Consignments Clearance**

To implement principles contained in *the WCO Guidelines on Express Consignment Clearance*, the international standard procedures for clearance of express goods, working in partnership with express industry associations.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Associations and business groups are invited to participate in work related to the above. For more information, please consult the SCCP Home Page (<http://www.sccp.org>), the guidelines presented in the Appendix, or contact the SCCP Chair or a local SCCP member.



**TABLE 2: SCCP COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE<sup>2</sup>**

	HS Convention	Public Availability of Information ?	Kyoto Convention	UN/EDIFACT	WTO Valuation Agreement	TRIPS	Clear Appeal Provisions	Advance Classification Ruling System	Temporary Importation's	Common Data Elements	Risk Management	Express Consignments Clearance
<b>Plan Coordinators</b>	Japan	HK, China Singapore	New Zealand Japan	Australia Philippines	Canada USA	USA	Canada Philippines	New Zealand Korea	USA Chinese Taipei	Canada Australia	Australia USA	USA China
<b>Target Dates</b>	1996	1998	1998*	1999	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	1999	2002	2000
<b>Australia</b>	?	?	?	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	?	?
<b>Brunei</b>	?	?	*	1999	1998	1998	2000	2000	2000	1999	2002	2000
<b>Canada</b>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	1999	?	?
<b>Chile</b>	?	?	*	?	2000	2000	?	?	2000	1999	?	?
<b>China</b>	?	?	?	1999	+	?	?	1999	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>HK,China</b>	?	?	*	1999	N/A	?	?	N/A	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Indonesia</b>	?	?	*	?	2000	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Japan</b>	?	?	?	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	?	?
<b>Korea</b>	?	?	?	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Malaysia</b>	?	?	*	?	2000	2000	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Mexico</b>	?	?	?	1999	?	?	?	?	1999	1999	2002	2000
<b>New Zealand</b>	?	?	?	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>PNG</b>	?	?	*	?	?	2000	2000	2000	2000	1999	2002	2000
<b>Philippines</b>	?	?	*	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Singapore</b>	?	?	*	1999	?	1999	?	?	?	1999	?	?
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>	?	?	*	?	?	?	?	2000	2000	1999	2002	2000
<b>Thailand</b>	1998	?	*	1999	1998	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>United States</b>	?	?	?	1998	?	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000

Legend	
+	Actual implementation date subject to China's accession to WTO
?	Improving public availability of information is an on-going process
?	implemented
N/A	not applicable
*	actual implementation date subject to progress in the WCO

<sup>2</sup>Peru, Russia and Vietnam are to be included in the CAP implementation schedule. These economies have been APEC members-designate and observers since January 1998 and will become full members of APEC at the November 1998 Economic Leaders' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

For each CAP item, the level of implementation will vary among Customs Administrations. For the most recent additions to the CAP (common data elements, risk management and express consignments clearance), although the implementation date is shown as the target date, some economies have already implemented the item in full or in part. All member economies will have implemented the CAP item to varying degrees by the target date.



# **CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

## **1. Introduction**

The Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG), a CTI sub-forum is mandated to address work required on IPR issues by the Osaka Action Agenda. IPEG was established with explicit Terms of Reference in August 1997, reconstituting the IPR Get-Together that was established in early 1996. The current Chair is Mr Yoshifumi Saeki, Director of International Cooperation Office, the Japanese Patent Office, Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan.

IPEG had two meetings (IPEG VI and VII) in 1998: March and August. A Workshop on the Asia-Pacific IP Office in the New Millennium was also held in Canberra in conjunction with IPEG VI.

In 1999, IPEG will put emphasis on the commitment towards the full implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

## **2. Collective Actions Achieved**

- Held a Workshop on the Asia-Pacific IP Office in the New Millennium.
- Initiated policy dialogues on issues of mutual interest, such as biotechnology and electronic commerce.
- Conducted a survey on the practices concerning the protection of well-known trademarks.
- Compiled information on IPR enforcement systems.
- Held a Partners for Progress (PFP) Course on Management of IPRs in Thailand from October to November 1998.

## **3. New Collective Actions Agreed**

- Conduct a technical cooperation program in Korea in the middle of 1999 to assist member economies in implementing the TRIPS Agreement.
- Exchange information in 1999 on the progress by member economies towards the full implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, due by 2000.
- Consider announcing the completion of TRIPS implementation by all APEC member economies in 2000.
- Develop guidelines for the simplification and standardization of administrative procedures in 1999.
- Hold a joint symposium between public and business sectors in February 1999 in Japan.
- Conduct a survey on jurisprudence and administrative guidelines and upload the results of the survey to the APEC homepage in 1999.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The compilation and/or dissemination of information on the protection of well-known marks, administrative systems and enforcement systems would increase the transparency of IPR systems and facilitate the use, simplification and standardization of IPR systems in the APEC region. Information exchange on the progress of TRIPS implementation and various types of technical cooperation programs would promote and ensure the full implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

#### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- Launched a Policy Framework for Technical Cooperation Facilitation in March under which offers and requests of technical cooperation from developed/developing economies have been compiled.
- Compiled and disseminated through the Internet information on current IPR administrative systems.
- Prepared and distributed a pamphlet to publicize the Contact Point Lists for the government, business/private sector and academic contacts.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><b>a. Deepen the dialogue on intellectual property policy among APEC economies</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Hold/participate in seminars and symposia on intellectual property rights.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Lead Economy: Convenor</div> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</i></p> <p>Member economies have held/participated in various APEC related seminars and symposia.</p> <p>The calendar of IPR-related meetings and events has been put on the Homepage of the Japanese Patent Office since April 1997 and linked with the APEC Internet Homepage since June 1997.</p> <p>The APEC Secretariat is sending a reminder to each economy to provide Japan with information to update the Calendar once every six months so that it can be updated twice a year.</p>
<p><i>Second step:</i> Deepen the dialogue on mutual interest in particular the implementation of the Collective Actions, through working-level meetings as well as seminars and symposiums held on a regular basis.</p>	<p>Member economies have been deepening the dialogue on issues of mutual interest, in particular the implementation of the Collective Actions, especially through the Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group meetings (IPEG).</p>
<p><i>Third step:</i> Hold/participate in working-level/ministerial meetings on intellectual property rights policies.</p>	<p>At the IPEG meetings, member economies have had policy dialogues on issues of mutual interest, including biotechnology and electronic commerce.</p> <p><i>Future plans in and after 1999:</i></p> <p>Regarding biotechnology, members will explore the feasibility of a questionnaire survey and technical cooperation.</p> <p>IPEG will maintain contact with other fora pertaining to Electronic Commerce.</p> <p>While continuing to implement the above-mentioned actions, member economies will hold/participate in ministerial meetings on intellectual property rights policies.</p>



Item	Summary of member economies' actions	
<p><b>b. Survey the current status of intellectual property rights protection in each APEC economy including the related statutes and corresponding jurisprudence, administrative guidelines and activities of related organizations</b></p> <p><b>First step:</b> Specify what should be surveyed in regard to laws and regulations and submit this information to the collator economy by the deadline.</p>	<p>Lead Economy: Australia</p> <p>&lt;Survey of related statutes&gt;</p> <p><b>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</b></p> <p>Member economies specified what should be surveyed in regard to laws and regulations.</p> <p>Australia circulated a questionnaire to member economies in April 1996. Most economies submitted the information to Australia by June 1996.</p>	<p>&lt;Survey of jurisprudence, administrative guidelines and activities of related organizations&gt;</p> <p><b>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</b></p> <p>Australia circulated a revised questionnaire in May 1997 and an indicative example of the questionnaire in June 1997. Some economies had submitted their replies to Australia.</p>
<p><b>Second step:</b> Distribute the collated information to member economies. Extend the coverage of the survey to corresponding jurisprudence, administrative guidelines, activities of related organizations, and others.</p>	<p>The consolidated information on related statutes had been distributed.</p>	<p><b>Future plans in and after 1999:</b></p> <p>The survey of jurisprudence and administrative guidelines, making use of the TILF Special Account funding, will be finalized and published through the Internet by the end of 1999.</p>
<p><b>Third step:</b> Update the information on a regular basis and consider providing it to the private sector.</p>	<p>The consolidated information had also been put on the Homepage of the Japanese Patent Office and linked with the APEC Internet Homepage.</p> <p><b>Future plans in and after 1999:</b></p> <p>The APEC Secretariat will send a reminder to each economy to provide Australia with information to update the survey of related statutes once every six months so that the survey will be updated twice a year.</p>	

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><b>c. Develop a contact point list of public and business/private sector experts on intellectual property rights and a list of law enforcement officers, the latter list for the purpose of establishing a network to prevent cross-border flow of counterfeits</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Complete each member economies' respective lists by the deadline and publish these, maintaining appropriate confidentiality in the case of the law enforcement officers' list.</p>	<p>Lead Economy: Australia</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</i></p> <p>All Member economies completed their respective lists.</p> <p>The contact point lists for the government, business/private sector and academic contacts were published in August 1996 and have been disseminated through the APEC Home page since January 1997.</p>
<p><i>Second step:</i> Update the lists on a regular basis.</p>	<p>The APEC Secretariat is sending a reminder to each economy to provide Australia with information to update the lists once every six months so that the lists can be updated twice a year.</p> <p>With the remaining budget allocated for establishing the Contact Point Lists, a pamphlet for publicizing the Lists for Government, Professional and Academic Contacts has been produced and the copies of the pamphlet are to be distributed to member economies for dissemination.</p>
<p><i>Third step:</i> Enlarge the coverage of the lists, where appropriate.</p>	<p><i>Future plans in and after 1999:</i></p> <p>Australia, in consultation with other member economies, will review the role and effectiveness of the lists, and consider the necessity for improvement. Australia will make the appropriate proposals.</p> <p>Member economies will enlarge the coverage of the lists, where appropriate.</p>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><b>d. Exchange information on well-known trademarks as a first step in examining the possibility of establishing an APEC-wide trademark system</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Exchange information on current practices concerning protection of well-known marks, including ongoing developments in other international fora, to understand better how well-known marks are protected in the region.</p>	<p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</i></p> <p>Thailand circulated the draft version of the questionnaire for the exchange of information on current practices concerning the protection of well-known trademarks. The revised questionnaire was approved at the IPEG VI meeting in March 1998. A number of economies have submitted their replies to Thailand.</p> <p><i>Future plans in and after 1999:</i></p> <p>Thailand will compile the replies to develop a directory of member economies' practices concerning the criteria for well-known trademarks.</p> <p>Based on the directory, Thailand will develop a discussion paper on current practices concerning the criteria for well-known trademarks.</p>
<p><i>Second step:</i> Conduct comparative studies, and explore ways in which the protection of well-known marks can be further enhanced through the region</p>	<p>Member economies will consider the possibility of setting up a small group to conduct a comparative study.</p> <p>Member economies will conduct comparative studies, and explore ways in which the protection of well-known marks can be further enhanced in the region.</p> <p>Thailand will introduce an update on ASEAN work on the protection of well-known trademarks.</p>
<p><i>Third step:</i> Explore the possibility of an APEC-wide well-known mark directory, consistent with member economies' legal systems, and an APEC-wide trademark system.</p>	<p>All member economies will explore the possibility of an APEC-wide well-known mark directory, consistent with member economies' legal systems, and an APEC-wide trademark system.</p>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions		
<p><b>e. Exchange information on current intellectual property rights administrative systems with a view to simplifying and standardizing administrative systems throughout the region</b></p> <p><b>First step:</b> Identify issues of concern, submit suggestions as to possible ways in which administrative systems can be simplified and standardized and provide information on member economies' experiences in managing their intellectual property rights administrative systems.</p>	<p>Lead Economy: the United States of America</p> <p>&lt;Electronic Filing&gt; led by the U.S.</p> <p><b>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</b></p> <p>The U.S. proposed a Trademark Application Mailbox in August 1996 to facilitate the application for trademark registration in multiple APEC economies.</p> <p>Most of the economies submitted information regarding trademark application systems in accordance with the questionnaire developed by the U.S.</p> <p>The U.S. circulated a suggested form of multilateral agreement on the Mailbox system for further discussion at the IPR Get-Together V.</p>	<p>&lt;Information Exchange&gt; proposed by Mexico</p> <p><b>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</b></p> <p>Mexico proposed information exchange on current IPR administrative systems in January 1997.</p> <p>Mexico circulated a questionnaire with an indicative example to which member economies had responded.</p> <p>The information compiled was circulated and uploaded to the APEC Homepage in July 1998.</p>	<p>&lt;IP Information Mall &gt; proposed by Japan</p> <p><b>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</b></p> <p>Japan proposed an IP Information Mall in February 1997 so as to encourage member economies to provide their IP information through the Internet.</p> <p>An initial product of IP Information Mall was put on the Homepage of the Japanese Patent Office and linked with the APEC Internet Homepage in August 1997.</p>
<p><b>Second step:</b> Develop the discussions.</p>	<p>Recognizing that electronic filing would deliver the same benefit as a Trademark Mailbox would have provided, member economies agreed to initiate information exchange on electronic filing.</p> <p><b>Future plan in and after 1999:</b></p> <p>Member economies which have already accepted electronic filing or are planning to do so will provide IPEG with their experience on the development of their electronic filing systems.</p>	<p>Member economies agreed on the next step proposed by Mexico at IPEG VI in March 1998.</p> <p>Based on the results of the survey, Mexico submitted draft analyses on the current IPR administrative systems, and draft guidelines for the simplification and standardization of administrative procedures.</p>	<p>Member economies endorsed a revised proposal at IPEG VI in March 1998 and agreed to conduct a survey on users' needs for IP information.</p> <p>Japan circulated a questionnaire to which several member economies had submitted their replies.</p>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions		
<p><b>Third step:</b> Explore the possibility of simplification and standardization of their administrative systems with a view to reducing unnecessary burdens on members' respective systems and right owners.</p>		<p><b>Future plans in and after 1999</b> Member economies will submit comments on the draft analyses and guidelines.</p> <p>Based on the comments, Mexico will revise the draft analyses and guidelines.</p> <p>Members will endorse the revised analyses and guidelines and upload them to the APEC Homepage in 1999.</p>	<p><b>Future plans in and after 1999</b> Based on the survey, Japan will present a draft proposal for the improvement of the IP Information Mall.</p> <p>Member economies will decide on the proposal for improvement of the IP Information Mall in 1999.</p>
<p>Member economies will explore the possibility of simplification and standardization of their administrative systems with a view to reducing unnecessary burdens on members' respective systems and right owners, while continuing to discuss the above-mentioned proposals.</p>			

Item	Summary of member economies' actions	
<p><b>f. Study measures, including development of principles, for the effective enforcement of intellectual property rights</b></p> <p><b>First step:</b> Exchange views on the current status, including statistics if available and appropriate, on activities of member economies and on future plans concerning enforcement.</p>	<p>Lead Economy: Mexico</p> <p><b>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</b> Mexico proposed a format to exchange information on current practice concerning enforcement of IPR and statistics at the IPR Get-Together IV in February 1997. Mexico revised and circulated the proposal to member economies with the completed format in March 1997. Member economies had submitted information on their IPR enforcement systems. Mexico compiled and circulated the information.</p>	<p>&lt;information exchange on enforcement&gt; proposed by Australia</p> <p><b>Implemented actions in 1998:</b> Australia proposed new activities concerning enforcement, including the exchange of general information and dialogue with invited guests acquainted with enforcement.</p> <p><b>Future plans in and after 1999:</b> Members will make a presentation on the status of their enforcement activities.</p>
<p><b>Second step:</b> Conduct studies, including case studies.</p>	<p>Mexico presented analyses of current practices concerning the enforcement of IPRs. Mexico also presented a proposal on the way to undertake a case study for the enforcement of IPR in member economies.</p> <p><b>Future plans in and after 1999:</b> Member economies will submit comments on the proposal for the case study by the end of October 1998. Based on member economies' comments, Mexico will present a revised proposal on the case study by the end of November 1998. Member economies will conduct case studies, where appropriate, on specific areas with a view to developing the guiding principles for IPR enforcement in member economies.</p>	
<p><b>Third step:</b> Develop guiding principles on enforcement.</p>	<p>Member economies will update the information on a regular basis. Mexico will submit draft guiding principles for effective enforcement. Member economies will discuss and develop guiding principles on enforcement.</p>	

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><b>g. Implement fully the TRIPS Agreement no later than January 1, 2000 and examine ways to facilitate technical cooperation to this end</b></p> <p><b><i>First-to-Second step:</i></b></p> <p>Present the way in which member economies have already achieved implementation of the standards established in the TRIPS Agreement in their national laws and regulations or present plans for modifying their national laws and regulations to implement these standards. Non-WTO member economies may also present their plans on how they will implement TRIPS levels of protection.</p> <p>Present offers and requests of cooperation in the various fields and develop bilateral/multilateral technical cooperation projects.</p> <p>Coordinate activities with those in other international fora and link requests and offers accordingly.</p>	<p>Lead Economy: Korea</p> <p><b><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1998:</i></b></p> <p>In 1996, most of the member economies completed part II of the survey, regarding the current status of the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.</p> <p>The survey on the IPR regime and offers/requests of technical cooperation has been conducted in order to facilitate technical cooperation among member economies by providing information on the compatibility of their IPR systems. Korea circulated the questionnaire in May 1997, and most of the member economies submitted their replies. Korea circulated the compilation on replies at the IPR Get-together V in July 1997.</p> <p>Based on the survey, a Policy Framework for Technical Cooperation Facilitation was proposed by Korea and agreed by members at IPEG VI in March 1998. Member economies which could offer technical cooperation (hereinafter referred to as 'offering economies') provided Korea with the outlines of their cooperation to facilitate the request for technical cooperation further.</p> <p><b><i>Future plans in and after 1999:</i></b></p> <p>Under the above-mentioned framework, technical cooperation programs will be provided on a bilateral basis. The member economies will notify the lead economy (Korea) of the development of the cooperation programs so that Korea could report on the development on a regular basis.</p> <p>A Multilateral cooperation program will be held in June 1999 funded by APEC TILF Special Account funding to assist the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.</p> <p>Recognizing the importance of practical, hands-on and result-oriented technical cooperation for all member economies to fulfil full TRIPS implementation, 'offering economies' will accelerate their efforts to carry out such technical cooperation in a more effective manner. Korea, as the lead economy, will cooperate with 'offering economies.'</p> <p>Member economies will coordinate their technical cooperation activities with those in other international fora by communicating requests and offers accordingly.</p>
<p><b><i>Third step:</i></b></p> <p>Review information exchanges in order to review progress towards full TRIPS implementation and examine the possibility to improve further the intellectual property systems after implementation of the TRIPS Agreement</p>	<p>In 1999, member economies will exchange information on the progress made towards the full implementation of TRIPS.</p> <p>Member economies will consider announcing the completion of the TRIPS implementation by all APEC economies in 2000.</p> <p>Member economies will examine the possibility of improving further the intellectual property systems after the full implementation of TRIPS Agreement.</p>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Others</i></p> <p><b>Public education</b> (proposed by Australia)</p>	<p><b><i>Implemented actions in 1998:</i></b> Australia proposed to collect existing materials for public education.</p> <p><b><i>Future plans in and after 1999:</i></b> Member economies will send, if any, materials for public education to Australia. Australia will collate the materials.</p>
<p><b>Business involvement</b></p>	<p><b><i>Implemented actions in 1998:</i></b> IPEG invited a representative of ABAC to IPEG VII to seek its views in the area of IPR.</p> <p><b><i>Further plans in and after 1999:</i></b> IPEG will continue to respond to ABAC recommendations. A joint symposium between public and private sectors will be held in February 1999, with an invitation to ABAC.</p>
<p><b>Partner for Progress</b></p>	<p><b><i>Implemented actions in 1998:</i></b> APEC/PFP course was held three times.</p> <p><b><i>Further plans in and after 1999:</i></b> APEC/PFP course will be held annually up to 2000.</p>



# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON COMPETITION POLICY

## 1. Introduction

At the international level, Competition Policy is a relatively new and challenging work area and consequently APEC members' views on how exactly to achieve the objectives of the OAA on Competition Policy are still developing.

The main focus of the short-term and ongoing objectives of the Competition Policy CAP, is to promote information sharing, dialogue and study on competition policy/laws and their enforcement, and their inter-relationship with other policies related to trade and investment, and to increase the transparency of existing competition policies. It was recognized that these actions are important first steps in building a common understanding of competition policy within APEC.

Nearly all actions defined in the matrix are collective, in the sense that the objectives can only be achieved collectively, or are dependent on information sharing processes that are still being designed. Where longer-term objectives have been defined, steps to implement these will be considered as policy dialogue develops.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Continued dialogue, information exchange and study of competition policy, competition laws, their enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment. This was advanced through the annual Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation, the Symposium on Regulatory Reform, both held in September 1998, and the competition policy and law Internet database. A study on competition laws for developing economies has also been initiated.
- Continuation of training activities.
- Maintenance of dialogue with other international organizations considering competition policy and law issues, for example, the WTO and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

The major focus of the CAP will continue to be information sharing, dialogue and study on competition policy/laws. It is anticipated that further collective actions will be defined as policy dialogue develops. In 1999, a further Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation will be held.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The information exchanged and policy dialogue in this area facilitates transparency in regional competition laws and policies. This will be enhanced by the completion of the competition policy and law Internet database which will provide free information to the business community.

#### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- The 1998 APEC Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation was held in Kuantan on 7 - 8 September 1998.
- The Symposium on Regulatory Reform was held in Kuantan on 5 - 6 September 1998.
- An APEC PFP seminar on Competition Policy was held in Bangkok on 9 - 14 February 1998.
- Information exchange and deepened policy dialogue on the region's competition laws and policies.





Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
b) Deepen competition policy dialogue between APEC economies and relevant international organizations;	<p>A. Collective action: maintain dialogue with other international organizations considering competition policy and law issues.</p> <p>B. Collective action: continue to respond positively to interest by the WTO Working Group on the Interaction Between Trade and Competition Policy in sharing information on APEC's competition policy/deregulation work, in accordance with the mandate given by APEC Trade Ministers.</p>	Ongoing
c) Continue to develop understanding in the APEC business community of competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures;	Collective action: Individual economies to further develop dialogue with the business community on competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures.	Short-term
d) Encourage cooperation among the competition authorities of APEC economies with regard to information exchange, notification and consultation;	<p>A. Collective action: consider further actions for promoting cooperation among competition authorities.</p> <p>B. Individual economies to list and update contact points of competition authorities no later than 1 January 1998 with a view to information exchange, consultation and communication where deemed necessary.</p>	Short-term
e) Contribute to the use of trade and competition laws, policies and measures that promote free and open trade, investment and competition; and	Collective action to be considered as policy dialogue develops.	Long-term
f) Consider developing non-binding principles on competition policy and/or laws in APEC.	Collective action to be considered as policy dialogue develops.	Long-term

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

## 1. Introduction

The Government Procurement Experts' Group (GPEG) was established in 1995 to consider ways to increase the transparency of, and liberalize, GP markets in accordance with the goals of the Bogor Declaration. The current Chair is Miss Adeline Wong, Assistant Director-General, Trade Department; Hong Kong, China.

In 1998, the GPEG's work focused on educational events, enhancing the transparency of member economies' GP regimes, and the ongoing work on the medium-term goal of developing non-binding principles on GP.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Conducted an annual update of the surveys on members' GP systems and publication arrangements for GP information.
- Reviewed the educational events conducted in 1996-1997 and identified topics for further educational events.
- Conducted a seminar on non-binding principles on GP in Kuantan, Malaysia in September 1998.
- Developed the elements pertaining to the principles of value for money, open and effective competition and fair dealing, together with practices illustrating how these elements could be implemented.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Encourage members to develop databases or expand their existing databases on GP to include information such as legal framework, requirements for participation in tendering procedures, procurement opportunities, outcomes of tenders, bid-challenge procedures and contact points, consistent with the elements of transparency in GP identified by GPEG, and on a voluntary basis, link their databases on GP up with the APEC GP Homepage.
- Aim to complete the development of a set of non-binding principles on GP by the end of 1999 (i.e., advancing the target completion year from 2000 to 1999).
- Continue to draw upon the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO AGP), other international instruments on GP, as well as the GP regimes of APEC member economies in developing the non-binding principles.
- Encourage members to include in their IAPs plans to review the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles and, if there are inconsistencies, voluntarily bring their systems into conformity with the non-binding principles, with progress and results reported to GPEG.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The updated APEC GP Homepage will enhance transparency of members' GP regimes and provide suppliers with easy access to GP policies, procedures and tendering opportunities. The seminar on non-binding principles on GP in September 1998 improved members' understanding of principles on GP and better prepared them for the ongoing work on the development of a set of non-binding principles on GP. The development of non-binding principles on GP supports member's efforts to establish more open GP systems.

#### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- Updated the APEC GP Homepage, making comprehensive GP information in the APEC region easily accessible to suppliers all over the world.
- Agreed on the elements pertaining to the principles of value for money, open and effective competition and fair dealing, together with practices illustrating how these elements could be implemented.
- Agreed to aim to complete the development of a set of non-binding principles on GP by the end of 1999 (i.e., advancing the target completion year from 2000 to 1999).

## GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

	Objectives	Actions	Status / Target Date
<b>1.</b>	<b>Short-term</b>		
1.1	To improve understanding of members' Government Procurement System	(a) Maintain contact points to facilitate ongoing exchange of information.  (b) Update annually members' returns to the surveys on their GP systems and publication arrangements for GP information and publish this information on the APEC Homepage.	Ongoing  June each year from 1998
1.2	To build a solid foundation for future work	Workshops, seminars, training courses on GP procedures, laws, regulations, regional/plurilateral/multilateral agreements :  (a) Review the educational events conducted in 1996-1997.  (b) Identify topics for further educational events.  (c) Seminar on Non-binding Principles on GP.  (d) Workshop on GP Practices.	Completed  Completed  Completed  Early 1999
1.3	To increase transparency in GP through the dissemination of publicly available information	Encourage members to develop databases or expand their existing databases on GP to include information such as legal framework, requirements for participation in tendering procedures, procurement opportunities, outcomes of tenders, bid-challenge procedures and contact points, consistent with the elements of transparency in GP identified by GPEG; and to, on a voluntary basis, link their databases on GP up with the APEC GP Homepage.	Ongoing
<b>2.</b>	<b>Medium-term</b>		
2.1	To broaden Members' understanding of GP systems including regional / plurilateral / multilateral agreements	Continue a policy dialogue and continue to exchange information on GP in the APEC region.	1997-2000



	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status / Target Date</b>
2.2	To develop a set of non-binding principles on GP	<p>Draw up a set of non-binding GP principles, taking into account free trade principles already embraced by APEC, for adoption by members on a voluntary basis :</p> <p>(a) identify elements pertaining to the principles of transparency, value for money, open and effective competition and fair dealing, and practices illustrating how these elements could be implemented;</p> <p>(b) identify elements pertaining to the principles of accountability and due process and non-discrimination, and practices illustrating how these elements could be implemented;</p> <p>(c) encourage members to include in their IAPs plans to review the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles and, if there are inconsistencies, voluntarily bring their systems into conformity with the non-binding principles, with progress and results reported to GPEG.</p>	<p>1997-1999</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>1999</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2.3	Contribution to the WTO's work on Transparency in GP	Continue to monitor progress of the WTO Working Group on Transparency in GP and consider further contributions, if appropriate.	Ongoing
<b>3.</b>	<b>Long-term</b>  To achieve liberalization of GP markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region in accordance with the principles and objective of the Bogor Declaration.	Liberalize GP markets in the APEC region, contributing in the process to the evolution of work on GP in other multilateral fora.	2010/2020

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON DEREGULATION

## 1. Introduction

The work areas on competition policy and deregulation have been combined since early 1996 because of the linkages between the deregulation and competition policy agendas. New Zealand is the convenor economy for these work areas.

The main focus of the collective action plan on deregulation in the short-term is to promote information sharing and dialogue, and increase the transparency of existing regulatory regimes and regulatory reform processes. 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.

Nearly all actions defined in the matrix are collective, in the sense that the objectives can only be achieved collectively.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Continued dialogue on deregulation issues through the annual Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop.
- A Regulatory Reform Symposium was held on 5 - 6 September 1998, to discuss the role of regulatory reform and its impact on trade and investment, between people from business, academia and government.
- The 1998 *Annual Report on Deregulation Initiatives in APEC Member Economies* will be published on the Internet by the end of this year.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

The main focus of the collective action plan is to promote information sharing, dialogue and study in regard to best practices in deregulation. In 1999, a further Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation will be held and a 1999 *Report on Deregulation Initiatives* will be published.

## 4. Benefits and Beneficiary

The main benefit from activities in this area is information sharing on policy approaches between APEC officials and with the private sector. Businesses and academia provide input to APEC's work on deregulation, particularly through analytical work performed by PECC and seminars. The symposium and Internet publication of the annual report allows this information to be easily accessed by the business community.

## **5. 1998 Highlights**

- The 1998 APEC Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation was held in Kuantan on 7 - 8 September 1998.
- The Symposium on Regulatory Reform was held in Kuantan on 5 - 6 September 1998.

## DEREGULATION 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
(a) Publish annual reports detailing actions taken by APEC economies to deregulate their domestic regulatory regimes.	Individual economies to report on reforms to their domestic regulatory regimes and to update reports annually.	Starting 1996
(b) Develop further actions taking into account the above reports, including:  i) Policy dialogue on APEC economies' experiences in regard to best practices in deregulation, including the use of individual case studies to assist in the design and implementation of deregulatory measures, and consideration of further options for a work program which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identification of common priority areas and sectors for deregulation;</li> <li>• provision of technical assistance in designing and implementing deregulation measures; and</li> <li>• examination of the possibility of establishing APEC guidelines on domestic regulation.</li> </ul>	A. Collective action: take stock of information already gathered in APEC on regulatory regimes and regulatory reform with a view to identifying common experiences, and technical assistance needs and availability.	Short-term
	B. Collective action: promote dialogue and understanding within APEC, through focused discussion, on the experiences of APEC economies and on the principles applied to and best practices in, regulatory reform (drawing on the short-term information gathering exercise).	Medium-term
	C. Collective action: following the Davao workshop on competition policy and deregulation, develop a common understanding of the interrelationships between competition policy, deregulation and trade liberalization.	Ongoing
	D. Collective action: examine the possibility of establishing non-binding APEC guidelines on domestic deregulation.	Ongoing

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
ii) Regular dialogue with the business community, including a possible symposium.	<p>A. Collective action: individual economies to begin dialogue with domestic business interests.</p> <p>B. Collective action: a symposium was held on regulatory reform on 5-6 September 1998.</p> <p>C. Collective action: obtain the views of the business sector on regulatory reform through business organizations, including ABAC and PECC.</p>	Short-term/ Medium-term

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON DISPUTE MEDIATION CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON DISPUTE MEDIATION

## 1. Introduction

The CTI established a Dispute Mediation Experts' Group (DMEG) in 1995. The current Chair is Ms. Valerie Hughes, General Counsel of the Trade Law Division of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The CAP reflects the report of DMEG to CTI. It also reflects ongoing activities of DMEG, including an approved APEC project for a seminar on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) and the updating and uploading of the *Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies*. Experts are undertaking an increasingly ambitious agenda.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Declaration of principles for guiding discussions on APEC Dispute Mediation.
- Development and implementation of a symposium on settlement of transnational commercial disputes organized by Thailand and featuring speakers from several APEC member economies.
- Publication of a guidebook on arbitration, mediation and conciliation services in each member economy.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Updating and uploading the *Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies*. The Guidebook will be updated to include changes in the practices and institutions of member economies, information from those member economies that have yet to provide their input, and input from member economies-designate. The Guide will also be placed on the APEC website so as to facilitate access by all APEC member economies.
- Organization and hosting of an advanced seminar on the WTO Dispute Settlement will be done by Canada and Mexico for 1999, to be followed by seminars on private-to-government and private-to-private seminars in the future.

## 4. 1998 Highlights

- Symposium on Alternative Mechanism for the Resolution of Transnational Commercial Disputes, organized by Thailand under the auspices of DMEG in Bangkok on 27 – 28 April 1998.
- Publication and dissemination of the *Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies*.

## DISPUTE MEDIATION 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION REPORT

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p><b>a. Regarding disputes between APEC economies:</b></p> <p>(i) promote dialogue and increased understanding, including exchange of views on any matter that may lead to a dispute, and cooperatively examine on a voluntary basis disputes that arise, utilizing policy dialogue such as the "Trade Policy Dialogue" of CTI.</p>	<p>At their 1998 meeting, Experts again noted that the Trade Policy Dialogue is available to member economies that may wish to take advantage of its informal, off-the-record, non-adversarial procedures to exchange views on particular disputes or issues that may lead to disputes, where they consider it appropriate to do so. Experts considered the possibility of preparing a paper on the subject for the benefit of CTI. They therefore requested the Chair to consult with the Chair of CTI to determine, in view of the special mandate of the DMEG as the sub-forum of the CTI responsible for dispute mediation, how the DMEG could contribute to such discussions.</p>	<p>Experts observed that dispute mediation is scheduled to be discussed in the TPD in mid- to late-1999.</p>
<p>(ii) give further consideration as to how the above Trade Policy Dialogue or similar functions of other fora may be used by APEC economies for the exchange of information, enhanced dialogue and mediation</p>	<p>Experts acknowledged the important contribution already being made to dispute avoidance by the Trade Policy Dialogue through transparency and exchange of information. Experts agreed that the Trade Policy Dialogue could provide an appropriate forum to promote liberalization and commonality in regulation among APEC economies by review of Individual Action Plans.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>(iii) examine the possible future evolution of procedures for the resolution of disputes as the APEC liberalization and facilitation process develops</p>	<p>Experts will continue consideration at future meetings of government-to-government dispute mediation in keeping with the evolution of APEC's work on trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>(iv) organize information seminars on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding</p>	<p>Experts noted that as with any dispute settlement mechanism, WTO dispute settlement presented a number of challenges: in the management of disputes, in the management of financial and human resources, and in the implementation of recommendations adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO. Experts recognized the need of member economies, and in particular developing member economies, to acquire additional expertise in the law and practice of WTO and reaffirmed the role that DMEG could play in providing an opportunity to exchange experiences and to foster the development of such expertise.</p>	<p>Experts agreed to provide by May 18 proposals for a WTO seminar to be held in 1999, and asked the Chair to circulate a compendium of proposals for DMEG consideration and consensus approval prior to the submission of such a proposal to CTI in anticipation of the July 1998 BAC meeting.</p>

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
	<p>Following the success of the 1997 DMEG seminar on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, organized by Australia, with assistance from the APEC Secretariat, and in view of the above considerations, Experts determined that future seminars on WTO dispute settlement would be particularly useful in advancing the objectives of DMEG, including addressing the special needs of developing member economies. Experts agreed that any such future seminars should be specifically focussed on a more advanced and detailed discussion of the DSU and the submission stage of the panel process, including the technical and managerial aspects of the dispute settlement process.</p>	
<p><b>b. Regarding disputes between private parties, and between private parties and APEC economies:</b></p> <p>(i) provide CTI with a listing of arbitration, mediation, and conciliation services available to private entities or other APEC economies, including a description of any such service which might provide a useful model for private-to-government dispute resolution in the Asia-Pacific region, and make such information widely available to the business/private sector in the Asia-Pacific region</p>	<p>Experts also noted the successful and timely publication of the <i>Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies</i> just prior to the Vancouver Summit of 1997. Of the 1,000 copies published, 800 had already been distributed to public and private interests, testament to its value and appeal.</p> <p>Experts acknowledged that the next challenge on this front would be to ensure that those economies that had not been able to provide their contributions on time would do so in preparation for an updated version of the Guide. Experts agreed that it would be desirable to invite the new member economies of APEC to provide information with respect to dispute mediation services available in their economies in accordance with the questionnaire adopted by Experts at their 1997 Singapore meeting. Experts considered ways of developing a mechanism to keep the Guide up-to-date and accessible to the public.</p>	<p>Experts directed the Chair to prepare a request for funding to the BAC for uploading an updated Guide to the APEC website. The appropriate URL would not only be directly accessible to the public at large, but could be incorporated as a “hotlink” in the websites of member economies to reach an ever wider audience.</p> <p>Experts agreed that the Guide, including the appropriate additions and revisions, should, subject to funding, be uploaded by October 1998.</p>



Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
(ii) accede, where appropriate, by 1997 to international agreements for the settlement of disputes between governments and private entities such as the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States and to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention)	Experts conducted a review of Individual Action Plans in respect of accession of member economies to ICSID and the New York Convention, where appropriate. Experts expressed satisfaction with the fact that most member economies are parties to ICSID, and almost all have already implemented the New York Convention.	Ongoing
(iii) organize information seminars on private dispute mediation and settlement	<p>Thailand reported on the Symposium on Alternative Mechanisms for the Settlement of Transnational Commercial Disputes, held in Bangkok on April 27-28 under the auspices of DMEG and organized by the Arbitration Office of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand.</p> <p>Experts commended Thailand for a well-attended and well-organized Symposium. They noted the high quality of the speakers and the broad participation by public and private interests, contributing to increased transparency and enhanced confidence building in alternative dispute resolution in the APEC region. Experts agreed that the substance of the program was particularly well-suited to the objectives of DMEG and fully advanced those objectives.</p>	Experts agreed on the need for further seminars on private dispute resolution. However, in the light of their identification of the priority of organizing a technical and detailed seminar on the WTO DSU, Experts resolved to consider organizing such further seminars in the coming years.
<p><b>c. Transparency on an APEC-wide basis:</b></p> <p>(i) prompt, transparent and readily accessible laws and regulations</p>	Experts reaffirmed the importance of greater transparency of all laws and regulations. In particular, Experts noted the new media, such as the Internet, for achieving the transparency and confidence building objectives of DMEG and encouraged member economies to make use of such new media.	A number of economies undertook to provide Experts with URLs or other appropriate electronic addresses for easy and direct access to laws and regulations on the Internet on an on-going basis.
(ii) designating a central contact point	At their 1997 Singapore meeting, Member economies had been invited to submit further ideas on contact points and other information with a view to providing a basis for further discussion of transparency and dispute avoidance at the next meeting of DMEG. No such ideas were submitted to the Chair prior to the 1998 meeting.	Ongoing

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p><b>d. Further discussions on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding</b></p>	<p>Experts from a number of economies that have had experience with the WTO dispute settlement process exchanged their experiences with other Experts. Experts observed that APEC member economies have been very active in their use of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism and that the experience of member economies with WTO dispute settlement has been positive. The mechanism, used by developing and developed member economies alike, has provided an effective and efficient means of resolving disputes. The exercise provided the basis on which proposals for further seminars on the WTO DSU might be made.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>e. Progress report, with recommendations</b></p>	<p>The Fourth Report of the APEC Experts' Group on Dispute Mediation, which includes recommendations for CTI, was adopted by DMEG on April 30 1998.</p>	<p>The Chair of the Experts' Group will prepare a letter to the Chairman of CTI, summarizing the recommendations of the Experts' Group.</p>

# **CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON MOBILITY OF BUSINESS PEOPLE**

## **1. Introduction**

1998 has been a year of consolidation and achievement for work under CTI on the Mobility of Business People (MOB). Building on the initial meetings held last year, three informal meetings of border management experts were convened under the chairmanship of Australia. These meetings further explored the scope for regional cooperation to improve the mobility of business people.

Taking its lead from the recommendations of ABAC, key achievements of these meetings included a collective commitment to the expanded issue of Multiple Entry Visas to APEC business travelers and the completion of the second phase of the trial of the APEC Business Travel Card involving the participation of five economies. Work also commenced on developing a collective approach to the streamlining of processing arrangements for business people applying for temporary residency in APEC economies.

Technical Cooperation Groups have been formed on a broad geographical basis to improve the flow of information between border management agencies and to encourage further technical training and assistance between economies.

Consideration of the formalization of the Experts Group on Business Mobility was deferred until the review of APEC structures is completed.

Mr. Ed Killesteyn, First Assistant Secretary, Migration and Temporary Entry Division, Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, has replaced Mr. Rod Smith as the Convenor of MOB.

## **2. Collective Actions Achieved**

- Collective commitment to expand the availability of Multiple Entry Visas to APEC business travelers.
- Completion of Phase two of the APEC Business Travel Card trial involving five participating economies.
- Publication on the APEC Internet homepage of a guide to business temporary residency entry requirements for each economy.
- Establishment of immigration technical assistance and training programs. Initial focus to be on travel document fraud detection and streamlining entry procedures for genuine business people.
- Development of mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of immigration data between economies.
- Survey of members' regulations and requirements relating to the temporary residency of business people.
- Collective agreement in principle to raise service standards for issuance and extension of business residency permits for executives, managers and specialists transferred within companies.

### **3. New Collective Actions Agreed**

- Establishment of Technical Cooperation Groups to assist in the provision of technical assistance and training in visa and border management systems.
- Implementation of plan to raise service standards for business temporary residency permits, pending final agreement.

### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

- Business travelers – both short-term visitors and those transferred to other economies for longer periods – benefit from streamlining of procedures for visas and permits.
- Border management authorities benefit from expanded technical assistance activities, which in turn also benefits business travelers.

### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- Collective commitment to expand the availability of Multiple Entry Visas to APEC business travelers.
- Completion of Phase two of the APEC Business Travel Card trial.
- Establishment of immigration technical assistance and training programs.
- Publication on the APEC Internet homepage of a guide to business temporary residency entry requirements for each economy.

## MOBILITY OF BUSINESS PEOPLE 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

OAA Objectives <sup>3</sup>	Steps to Implement	Timeframe
<p>1. <i>Exchange information on regulatory regimes relating to the mobility of business people in the region</i></p>	(i) Survey members' regulations and requirements relating to short-term entry for business people.	Survey completed
	(ii) Survey members' regulations and requirements relating to temporary residency of business people.	1998-1999
	(iii) Regularly update Internet version of the <i>APEC Business Travel Handbook</i> informing the business community of members' short-term business travel requirements. Add to it information on members' requirements relating to temporary residency as the survey is completed.	1998-ongoing
	(iv) Facilitate policy dialogue between border management and other relevant officials on regulatory regimes relating to short-term travel and business residency.	1998-ongoing
<p>2. <i>Examine the possibility of setting the scope for cooperation at a regional level aimed at streamlining and accelerating (i) processing of visas for short-term travel</i></p>	(i) Identify possible areas for regional cooperation including, <i>inter alia</i> :	Completed in 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● multiple entry visas</li> <li>● visa waiver arrangements</li> <li>● development of and participation in special travel pass schemes, including APEC Business Travel Card</li> <li>● application of new technologies</li> <li>● application of risk management techniques</li> <li>● information sharing between border management agencies</li> <li>● technical assistance and training in visa and border management systems</li> </ul>	
	(ii) Develop mechanisms for cooperation.	1998-ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trade Ministers issued a collective commitment to issue multiple-entry visas to business travelers from other APEC economies unless there are sound reasons in individual cases not to do so.</li> <li>● Five economies participate in Phase 2 of the APEC Business Travel Card trial.</li> <li>● Existing mechanisms for information sharing reviewed.</li> </ul>	<p>June 1998</p> <p>1998-ongoing</p> <p>September 1998</p>

<sup>3</sup>Objectives reflect *verbatim* the OAA Collective Actions on Mobility of Business People

OAA Objectives <sup>4</sup>	Steps to Implement	Timeframe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Survey identifying technical assistance needs completed and mentoring system developed.</li> <li>● Technical assistance to be provided on travel document fraud.</li> </ul>	<p>1998</p> <p>1999</p>
<p>3. <i>Examine the possibility of setting the scope for cooperation at a regional level aimed at streamlining and accelerating (ii) arrangements for temporary residency for business people to engage in trade and investment</i></p>	<p>(i) Identify possible areas for cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreement in principle reached to raise service standards for issuance and extension of business residency permits for executives, managers and specialists transferred within companies.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) Develop mechanisms for cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of plan to raise service standards to commence pending final agreement.</li> </ul>	<p>1998</p> <p>September 1998</p> <p>1999-2000</p> <p>1999-2000</p>
<p>4. <i>Establish and maintain a dialogue on mobility issues with the business community</i></p>	<p>(i) Engage in dialogue with business representatives in member economies, and with ABAC, on impediments to mobility of business people.</p> <p>(ii) Examine the feasibility of implementing ABAC recommendations relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– short-term travel</li> <li>– business residency</li> </ul> <p>(iii) Encourage feedback from business representatives on utility of APEC Business Travel Handbook.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Done 1997</p> <p>Done 1997-98</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<sup>4</sup>Objectives reflect *verbatim* the OAA Collective Actions on Mobility of Business People

# **CONVENOR'S REPORT ON URUGUAY ROUND IMPLEMENTATION AND RULES OF ORIGIN**

## **1. Introduction**

Collective action on Uruguay Round (UR) implementation is focused in seven areas. These include participation in UR implementation seminars, implementation of follow-on work from these seminars, technical assistance based on discussions at UR seminars, participation in cooperative training projects targeted at prevalent implementation problems, planning and participation in periodic seminars for business on steps planned to liberalize trade as part of UR implementation, annual review of and reporting to Ministers and the private sector on progress made in APEC members' UR implementation, and identification of provisions in UR agreements that, when implemented, would have the most positive impact on furthering common APEC goals.

In 1997 in Vancouver, Canada, Ministers restated their commitment to the general goal of implementation of UR, one of the fourteen OAA action areas. To this effect, CTI has met regularly to informally discuss the progress of collective actions in this area. Seminars were held in 1998 to continue the focus on notification requirements in meeting UR obligations, and the need for additional seminars was considered. In addition to considering the need for new seminars, CTI has also amended CAP to reflect that CTI subgroups have made, and will in future, as appropriate, make specific contributions to the work of WTO. Members also decided to undertake a survey to assess their needs for additional training and education on UR Agreements and to coordinate more closely with WTO on technical cooperation in the APEC region.

Activity on Rules of Origin (ROO) is currently focused on assessment of compliance with procedural obligations in the WTO Agreement on ROO, including notification responsibilities, and those disciplines applicable to non-preferential rules of origin. In addition to focusing on the transparency aspects of APEC member practices on ROO, members continued to work on harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin by actively participating in meetings and negotiations in the WTO and World Customs Organization (WCO). Members discussed ongoing negotiations in WTO and agreed on the need for a seminar on the resulting agreement when the negotiations were completed. Members agreed to use the more detailed format guidelines for ROO approved in 1997 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.

## **2. Collective Actions Achieved**

- A seminar and training course on the General Agreement on Trade in Services was held in PRC;
- A seminar on the Notification Obligations under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Duties was held in Chinese Taipei;
- A training workshop on implementing the WTO TRIPS Agreement is proposed to be held in late 1998; and

- Workshops on the WTO Valuation Agreement were scheduled to be held in late 1998.

### **3. New Collective Actions Agreed**

- A seminar on notification Obligations in State Trading Enterprises has been proposed to be held in 1999 in Chinese Taipei.
- A seminar on the new WTO agreements has been proposed to be held in 1999 in PRC.

### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The benefits of collective actions taken to implement UR have consistently been recognized by Ministers since the completion of the Marrakesh agreements. A series of seminars on the basic agreements has been completed. Subsequent actions in this issue area will focus on notification obligations, on new agreements and on APEC CTI subgroup contributions to ongoing WTO work. It is expected that all APEC member economies, and related private sector concerns, will benefit from these actions. Likewise, all member economies will benefit from continued work on ROO.

### **5. 1998 Highlights**

- A seminar and training course on the General Agreement on Trade in Services was held in PRC.
- A seminar on the Notification Obligations under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Duties was held in Chinese Taipei.



## URUGUAY ROUND IMPLEMENTATION 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p>a) Utilize and encourage participation in UR implementation seminars. Consider holding periodic seminars for the private sector on steps planned to liberalize trade as part of UR implementation</p>	<p>In 1998, various CTI sub-groups organized seminars or workshops, including a seminar on the General Agreement on Trade in Services, which was held in PRC, and a seminar on Notification Obligations under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, which was held in Chinese Taipei. Advanced training modules were developed and follow-up workshops on the WTO Valuation Agreement were held, and an additional training workshop on how to implement the border enforcement aspect of the WTO TRIPS Agreement may be held for members in late 1998.</p> <p>A seminar on the New WTO Agreements is planned to be held in PRC in 1999. Members will be surveyed in 1999 to determine what are their needs for additional seminars. In addition, plans are under way for cooperation with WTO on technical assistance in UR implementation in the region. Members are also conducting seminars or engaging in technical assistance programs on UR implementation on a bilateral and plurilateral basis.</p>	<p>Completed, and short-term</p> <p>Short-term, and ongoing</p>
<p>b) Consider implementation of follow-on work from these seminars. Decide whether to hold a follow-on series of UR seminars to enhance participation in the UR built-in agenda and maintain the momentum for liberalization in APEC and WTO.</p>	<p>A compilation of follow-on work from seminars on Uruguay Round Implementation was compiled by the Secretariat and distributed to Members in 1998.</p> <p>Members will collectively continue to consider what follow-on work is appropriate based on the compilation of follow-on work, and the survey of their needs and will collectively determine what additional technical assistance is necessary.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Short- to medium-term</p>

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
c) Undertake technical assistance based on discussions at UR seminars, including cooperative training projects targeted at prevalent implementation problems.	<p>Members will participate and are participating in projects, which involve WTO and regional private and public institutions, and which are aimed at providing technical assistance to APEC members and to non-APEC WTO members on the implementation of the UR agreements.</p> <p>APEC members also participate in technical assistance projects developed in CTI sub-groups and targeted toward implementation of UR agreements.</p>	<p>Short-term and ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
d) Annually, review and provide for reporting to Ministers and business on progress made in APEC members' UR implementation.	<p>Members contribute annually in their IAP's information on implementation, and changes to implementation, of UR commitments. Members also provide annually updated tariffs, customs, and other information to the APEC tariff databases.</p>	Ongoing
e) Identify provisions in UR agreements that, when implemented, would have the most positive impact on furthering common APEC goals.	<p>Members participate in the identification of provisions of UR agreements which will particularly advance common APEC goals, as well as in identifying members' technical assistance needs on implementing such provisions. For instance, IPEG has established a framework for technical cooperation under which bilateral/multilateral technical cooperation projects will be undertaken with a view to supporting the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.</p>	Short- to medium-term
f) Encourage the CTI sub-fora to contribute to the WTO in ways that are appropriate and relevant to implementation of the Uruguay Round, in their areas of expertise.	<p>Sub-fora contributed to WTO through CTI, on issues of relevance to the WTO. Subjects of these contributions included transparency in government procurement, trade and investment facilitation, and competition policy. The CTI also prepared a report on APEC's work on trade facilitation which was circulated at the WTO Trade Facilitation Symposium in Geneva.</p>	Ongoing

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
g) Other areas of concentration	<p>Further suggestions for CAP activities or revisions of the CAP included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● revision of CAP to better reflect coordination with WTO on technical assistance, and</li> <li>● revision of CAP to refocus activities on other areas of APEC interaction with WTO, e.g., policy dialogue, new issues, and implementation of new agreements.</li> </ul>	Short-term

## RULES OF ORIGIN 1998 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p>a) Undertake an assessment of compliance with procedural obligations in the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin, including notification responsibilities, and those disciplines applicable to preferential and non-preferential rules of origin.</p>	<p>Members have conducted assessments of their compliance with procedural obligations in the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin, including notification requirements, and are participating in negotiations in the WTO and WCO concerning non-preferential rules of origin. Members will consider holding a seminar or workshop on the results of these negotiations at the time of their completion, with the aim of:</p> <p>(a) generating a project proposal for the training of relevant personnel to ensure that each member can implement the eventual harmonization agreement and the procedural obligations of the UR agreement; and (b) drawing up a checklist of other steps required to implement both agreements, and creating an “APEC template.”</p>	<p>Short-term</p>
<p>b) Develop a compendium of members’ Rules of Origin for the use of the business/private sector. Ensure a more transparent, predictable, and consistent application of rules of origin.</p>	<p>The Subcommittee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) has completed and published the <i>Compendium on Rules of Origin</i> called for in the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA).</p> <p>The CTI has now adopted more detailed format guidelines for ROO, in particular focusing on the procedural obligations of the WTO agreement on ROO, ensuring that members will now report thoroughly on ROO implementation on an ongoing basis through their IAPs.</p> <p>On the basis of past IAPs and the current, improved versions, it is suggested that the APEC Secretariat conduct an analysis of member economy steps in implementing the WTO ROO agreement.</p>	<p>Short-term</p>

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
c) Facilitate, complement, and accelerate, in the short-term WTO/WCO work on harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin.	<p>Members will continue active participation in meetings of WTO and WCO, discussing WTO/WCO harmonization work in APEC, submitting contribution papers to WCO, and organizing consultations with domestic industries. The harmonization program is scheduled for completion by July 1998, with an outcome that reflects and supports APEC's overall objective of expanding trade.</p> <p>Members may also indicate in their IAPs their level of participation in WTO/WCO harmonization, and/or any technical or other impediments to participation.</p>	<p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p>
d) Study in due course the implication of rules of origin on the free flow of trade and investment, with a view to identifying, in the longer term, both positive and negative aspects and effects of rules of origin related practices.	<p>There have already been studies of the effect of ROO on trade and investment by the PECC and Korea completed this year, and a thorough trade policy dialogue at CTI I in January.</p> <p>Members are prepared to continue participation in joint work to explore the trade and investment implications of rules of origin, taking into account views of business. The suggestion was made that the terms of reference and guidelines for conducting a study should be established.</p>	<p>Longer-term</p>

## INFORMATION GATHERING AND ANALYSIS 1998-1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Collective Action	Follow-up by APEC Forum	Time Frame
(a) Conduct surveys as necessary of trade and investment impediments	CTI (MAG): develop a database on non-tariff measures and products affected by them	By 1998-99
	CTI (MAG/SCCP): work with FedEx to maintain and upgrade the APEC Tariff Database of applied tariffs of member economies	Ongoing
	CTI (MAG): Tariff/NTM Information Resource Study	By 1998
	CTI: compile information on members' regulations and requirements relating to temporary residency of business people and publish it on the Internet	By November 1998
	CTI (IEG): conduct a second survey of business views on measures economies could take to improve regional investment conditions	1998-99
	CTI (GOS): PECC to compile and list all services trade arrangements and common elements	By September 1998
	EC: compile and analyze information on trade-related environmental measures and environment-related trade measures	By end-1998
	TELWG: study legal and regulatory barriers to effective use of electronic commerce and post report on the Internet for general reference	Done March 1998
HRDWG: survey impediments to and opportunities for cooperation among members in education and training services	By May 1998	

Collective Action	Follow-up by APEC Forum	Time Frame
	<p>FWG: study fisheries sector barriers: tariffs, non-tariff measures, investment measures and subsidies</p> <p>EWG: identify existing technical, regulatory and other barriers to improving the operation of international markets for primary fuels (oil, LPG, gas, coal and uranium) in the APEC region, and issues relevant to their early elimination and/or harmonization, where practicable</p> <p>EWG: study the current situation and make recommendations for improving the climate for investment in natural gas development</p> <p>EWG: develop strategies to facilitate and liberalize coal trade and investment, including through removal of managerial and technical impediments</p> <p>EWG: identify similarities and differences among members' energy efficiency standards in order to reduce impediments to trade in energy-using products</p> <p>MRCWG: compile information on algal toxin problems that impede seafood trade</p> <p>TWG: study of the impediments to growth of trade and investment in tourism</p> <p>PLG-SME: survey 300+ SMEs on the obstacles and challenges found in the business operating environment in China</p>	<p>1996-2001</p> <p>By October 1998</p> <p>Done August 1998</p> <p>By end-1998</p> <p>By end-1999</p> <p>By end-2000</p> <p>Ph. I: completed 1997 Ph. II: ongoing</p> <p>By August 1998</p>

Collective Action	Follow-up by APEC Forum	Time Frame
(b) Review and analyze the impact of trade liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region	CTI: identify industries in which early reduction of tariffs and NTMs would have a positive impact on trade, investment and economic growth in the region, and for which there is broad support for early liberalization	1998 and ongoing
	CTI: quantitative analysis of suppliers, markets and trade flows with respect to particular sectors, to assist consideration of early voluntary sectoral liberalization initiatives	By end-1998
	CTI: compile information on the benefits of trade liberalization for communication to APEC communities to build public support for liberalization	1998-99
	CTI (GOS): identify measures affecting trade adopted by economies in specific service sectors	Short-term
	EC: conduct literature survey for the study the positive and negative impacts of trade liberalization on APEC economies and societies	By September 1998
	EC: analyze the impact on regional growth and development of the information society	By end-1998
	EC: study on the Impact of Investment Liberalization, Phase II	By end-1998
	TWG: study the economic impact of tourism in the APEC region	Done August 1998
	EWG: quantitative analysis of the costs and benefits of liberalizing energy trade and investment in APEC member economies	By end-1998
	FWG: economic analysis of the costs and benefits of tariff removal in the APEC fisheries sector	By September 1998



Collective Actions	Follow-up by APEC Forum	Time Frame
	<p>HRDWG: quantitative analysis of the impact of trade liberalization in APEC on the sectoral demand for labor; predict resulting changes in demand for labor</p> <p>TELWG: study of the political, economic and social impacts of APII</p>	<p>By mid-1998</p> <p>By September 1998</p>
(c) Study and monitor the impact of sub-regional trade arrangements such as NAFTA, AFTA and ANZCERTA	<p>CTI: study the implications of rules of origin on the free flow of trade and investment with a view to identifying in the longer term both positive and negative aspects of ROO-related practices</p> <p>CTI (GOS): voluntary presentations on the trade-in-services arrangements of sub-regional groupings to be made on an ongoing basis</p>	<p>Long-term</p> <p>Short-term</p>
(d) Develop databases with regard to merchandise trade, trade in services and direct investment, and update these regularly	<p>CTI (IEG): update the <i>Guidebook to APEC Investment Regimes</i> on the Internet</p> <p>CTI (GPEG): expand and update annually the Government Procurement Home Page on the Internet, containing information on members' policies and procedures and links to member websites with specific trade opportunities</p> <p>CTI: update the <i>APEC Business Travel Handbook</i>, listing members' regulations affecting short-term business travel</p> <p>CTI: prepare a <i>TILF Information Directory</i>, an annotated reference of information sources for the 15 areas of Part I of the Osaka Action Agenda</p> <p>CTI: establish and maintain competition policy and law database</p> <p>CTI (SCSC): compile and publish information on members' food labeling laws, regulations and standards</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Done June 1998</p> <p>Phase I operational. Complete early 1999</p> <p>By end-1998</p>

Collective Actions	Follow-up by APEC Forum	Time Frame
	<p>CTI (IPEG): compile and publish on the Internet information on members' laws and regulations on intellectual property</p> <p>CTI (IPEG): compile and disseminate through the Internet information on members' IPR administrative systems</p> <p>CTI (GOS): prepare a directory on members' requirements for professional service providers in accountancy, engineering and architecture</p> <p>EC: update the matrix of bilateral stocks of foreign direct investment in the APEC region</p> <p>EC: regularly update and further develop the Infrastructure Demand Information Database (ID<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>TIDWG: maintain the database on trade in goods and services and on foreign direct investment</p> <p>TELWG: compile information on use of electronic commerce by SMEs</p> <p>TELWG: compile information on the TELWG Website on financial assistance resources in each economy</p> <p>TELWG: update compiled information on legal and regulatory environment for telecommunications in all economies</p>	<p>Done mid-1998</p> <p>By end-1998</p> <p>Short to medium term</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>By end-1998</p> <p>By end-1998</p> <p>By November 1998</p>

Collective Actions	Follow-up by APEC Forum	Time Frame
	TELWG: maintain the TELWG website on radio-frequency spectrum management policies and practices in member economies	Ongoing
	EWG: establish a database on opportunities and the legal framework in the mining and energy resource sectors in each economy	Phase 2 by end-1999
	EWG: update and further develop the APEC Energy Database, with future issues to include special analysis of one economic sector, such as transportation	Ongoing
	EWG: produce Energy Demand and Supply Outlook for the APEC Region for the Year 2010	Done April 1998
	EWG: study the trade flows among APEC members of eight energy-using appliances/ equipment to lay the basis for cooperation in energy standards	By late 1998
	FWG: develop a fisheries industry and seafood market information related to facilitation of seafood trade and investment	By end-1999
	HRDWG: expand and further develop the labor market information (LMI) database and Internet home page	By end-1998
	HRDWG: develop a database with comparable information on wages and labor productivity and include it as a regular element of the LMI	By end-1999
	ATC: develop a database of information and experts on agricultural finance systems and an agricultural credit information network	By 2000
	ATC: establish a database of institutions involved in agricultural technology transfer	By 2001

Collective Actions	Follow-up by APEC Forum	Time Frame
	<p>WGTP: establish the APECNet website with information on WG contact points and activities, links to members' domestic websites, and business-matching services</p> <p>WGTP: establish the APEC Information Center for Trade Information, which compiles data on trade promotion measures among member economies</p> <p>WGTP: compile and publish information on the characteristics of trade promotion organizations in member economies</p> <p>PLG-SME: provide a benchmarking database of 100 SMEs meeting internationally validated performance standards</p> <p>TWG: develop a database of core statistical information on tourism</p>	<p>By end-1998</p> <p>By end-1998</p> <p>By end-1998</p> <p>By end-1998</p> <p>Medium-term</p>
(e) Adopt international standards for trade in services and international investment data such as those developed by the IMF	<p>CTI (SCCP): undertake a program (seminar, training needs assessment and follow-up missions) to implement UN/EDIFACT electronic message standards</p> <p>CTI (SCCP): develop a training program to help members adopt the Harmonized System (HS) of Classification</p> <p>EWG: review of energy efficiency test standards and regulations in member economies</p> <p>ISTWG: study current use of the EDI network and its possible wider application</p> <p>PLG-SME: identify an APEC set of key indicators for SME activities</p>	<p>1997- 1999</p> <p>By end-1998</p> <p>Medium term</p> <p>By end-1999</p> <p>By end-1998</p>

## **APPENDIX II**

### **REPORT ON TILF ACTIVITIES IN OTHER APEC FORA**

## REPORT ON TILF ACTIVITIES IN OTHER APEC FORA

### Energy Working Group

The Energy Working Group (EWG) has nine TILF deliverables in 1998. Member economy governments and business sectors as well as society as a whole within the APEC region are expected to benefit from these deliverables. Seven of these deliverables were presented to Energy Ministers at their October 1998 meeting in Okinawa.

At their August 1997 meeting, APEC Energy Ministers launched an initiative based on the proposal by the United States and related proposals from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to look at ways to accelerate investment in natural gas supplies, infrastructure and trading networks in the APEC region. Following a consultancy study undertaken to examine impediments to the accelerated development of natural gas infrastructure and trading within APEC and two workshops to receive business output, EWG developed a set of recommendations to overcome these impediments which were endorsed by the Energy Ministers in October in Okinawa.

A detailed regional energy supply and demand outlook for 2010 was published by the Asia Pacific Energy Research Center and distributed to EWG members in March 1998. A revised report was issued in September 1998. The outlook will facilitate better business and government policy decisions on energy-related trade and investment and was discussed by Energy Ministers in Okinawa.

A report commissioned by EWG entitled *Promoting Energy Security in APEC Member Economies through Improved Operation of International Markets* identified existing technical, regulatory and other market impediments and proposed options for their early elimination. A series of recommendations were presented to Energy Ministers at Okinawa. Following the study commissioned by Canada entitled *Environmentally Sound Infrastructure in APEC Electricity Sectors*, EWG examined ways of promoting the dual objectives of investment and environmental protection in the development of the region's power sectors. A work program, based on the recommendations in the study, was endorsed by the Energy Ministers at Okinawa.

The EWG also compiled a compendium on the implementation of the actions consistent with the Independent Power Producers' Best Practice Principles and presented it to Energy Ministers in Okinawa. The Energy Ministers endorsed these principles at their August 1997 meeting in Edmonton and made a commitment to consider them within domestic policies as an important way to encourage greater business sector investment in power sector infrastructure in the APEC region. Also in response to the request by Energy Ministers in Edmonton (to promote greater cooperation in energy standards), the EWG's Steering Group on Energy Standards developed a proposal for Standards Notification Procedure which was endorsed by the Energy Ministers in Okinawa. Under the proposal, the EWG's website would provide links to other members' websites giving information on the efficiency standards and procedures in each participating

economy. In this way, member economies could ensure that in introducing new standards they were in conformity with the notification procedure.

Other 1998 TILF deliverables result in the completion of the following projects. First, the phase 1 of construction of a *Database on Mining-Related Opportunities and Relevant Legal Frameworks* in the region undertaken by the EWG's Experts' Group on Minerals Exploration and Development was completed in September 1998. The database provides APEC member economies with a complete and up-to-date assessment of their respective mining sectors as well as information on regulatory and other investment requirements. Second, "APEC Coal Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation Workshop" was held in the Philippines in April 1998 and its proceedings were published and distributed to member economies in June 1998. The aim of the series of workshops is to enhance understanding of the current status of the coal industry and examine issues affecting the removal of managerial and technological impediments to its further development.

### **Fisheries Working Group**

In June 1997, the Fisheries Working Group (FWG) completed a study on tariffs related to the sector. Work on non-tariff measures is underway. The subsidies component is being fast-tracked to facilitate the EVSL process.

The FWG has also facilitated the preparation of a manual on *APEC Markets for Airshipped Live and Fresh Food Fish* which aims to inform APEC fish and seafood traders on the technical requirements and public health regulations associated with trade in airshipped live and fresh fish and shellfish. The manual is expected to be printed and distributed in late 1998.

The FWG also has ongoing projects relating to compliance issues and coordination based on member economies' inspection systems, standards, and other requirements aimed at improved seafood inspection regimes in APEC member economies. An on-site in-plant training workshop on HACCP is proposed to be held in Peru in late 1998 as part of the FWG project *Moving Towards Improved Seafood Inspection Regimes (Phase II)*.

The FWG will also be undertaking a TILF related project in 1999, *Seafood Information Systems*, to test the feasibility of improving and expanding the market and industry information service provided by GLOBEFISH and the FAO Regional Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products.

### **Human Resources Development Working Group**

The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) contributed to the TILF agenda through the development of human capital. The Working Group has been active in improving labor market efficiency by developing Labor Market Information (LMI) databases and capacity in the region. Ongoing maintenance and updating of the LMI database and development of strategies for technical assistance on capacity building will be carried out in

1998. HRDWG is also researching on the impact of trade liberalization on labor markets in the Asia-Pacific region, with the view to laying the ground work for effective policy responses to labor market adjustments caused by trade liberalization in the Asia-Pacific economies.

HRDWG is continuing with Phase II of the Trade and Investment Insurance Training Program collaborating with the Trade Promotion Working Group, with the intention to train those who are working with institutions that provide trade and investment insurance in APEC economies, with a view to contributing to TILF. HRDWG is also collaborating with SCSC to study HRD requirements in promoting quality assurance systems and in increasing opportunities for training in standards and conformance.

HRDWG is also continuing with a multi-stage project titled *Towards Mutual Recognition of Qualifications*. HRDWG identified, as Stage II, a comprehensive framework of best practices in accreditation, recognition and development of professional engineering qualifications. The group will establish the APEC Engineer Register as a way to advance the best practices framework.

### **Industrial Science and Technology Working Group**

In 1998, the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG) launched a multi-year study on the role of science and technology industrial parks (STIPs) for improved flow of technological information and technology in different APEC economies, focusing on issues relating to trade emanating from STIPs. ISTWG is also developing a discussion paper outlining various issues on data gathering in the Science and Technology service industry with a view to establishing a proposal for follow-up actions.

### **Telecommunications Working Group**

Following the direction received from Ministers and Leaders in 1997, TELMIN 3 endorsed the Mutual Recognition Agreement for Telecommunications Equipment, the first agreement to be completed under the EVSL initiative. Estimates show that this agreement will lead to an estimated 5% reduction in the cost of developing new products and cut six months off time to market, while reducing marketing costs for new products by up to 30%. This will likely result in savings of well over \$100 million per year. To ensure that economies at all levels of development will benefit, the Telecommunications Working Group (TELWG) has developed a TILF-funded training program to provide detailed analysis and advice to economies individually and collectively on implementation requirements.

The Telecommunications Ministers also supported expanded work to achieve effective interconnection. An Interconnection Task Force was created in 1997 and held a Workshop in Papua New Guinea in September 1998 to assist economies. At the same time, TELMIN supported the development of a training course to help economies implement the WTO Agreement to the greatest extent possible. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the *1996 Reference List of Elements of a Fully Liberalized Telecommunications Services Sector*,



and called upon economies to use the *Indicators to Measure the Benefits of Liberalization* completed by TELWG this year.

The TELWG also responded quickly and constructively to the stress APEC Leaders placed on Electronic Commerce in 1997. In 1998, a report on *Legal and Regulatory Issues* pertaining to Electronic Commerce was completed, and an APEC-PECC Policy Forum on Electronic Commerce was held in Brunei Darussalam which effectively outlined the requirements to facilitate trade and investment in electronic commerce in the region. TEL continued to work cooperatively with other fora and with the APEC Electronic Commerce Task Force to expand its work plan to achieve this end. A second Workshop was held in September in Papua New Guinea which advanced economies' understanding of developments and requirements to facilitate authentication as a fundamental technology to support reliable electronic transactions of all types.

### **Tourism Working Group**

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) is focusing on the development of criteria for establishing priorities for action under the EVSL initiative. To this end, it is coordinating closely with other APEC fora and is engaged in a process of information exchange.

The TWG is also looking into the development of a "Database of Core Statistical Information" to assist industry and governments develop more effective marketing and planning regimes that will permit the establishment of an up-to-date inventory of tourism statistical information. Through this, TWG hopes to achieve a better understanding of the state of tourism in APEC member economies. The creation of a credible database is also expected to assist tourism representatives in promoting tourism and lobbying on issues affecting the sector as well as spur private sector investments through the identification of opportunities.

### **Trade and Investment Data Review Working Group**

The Trade and Investment Data Review Working Group (TIDWG) continues to update the data on the Trade and Investment Data Database (TIDDB). TIDWG is expected to complete the loading of 1997 data on merchandise trade on to TIDDB by late 1998. The 1997 data for trade in services and foreign direct investment will be loaded in January 1999. All the data on TIDDB will also be made available to the public in late 1998. TIDWG will also complete work on the Trade and Investment publication. The publication which contains information on TIDDB is scheduled for formal release in November 1998. The text and tables from the publication will be loaded on the Internet.

### **Trade Promotion Working Group**

In APEC, trade promotion has been a significant area for TILF activities. The Trade Promotion Working Group centers its work on trade promotion activities, trade financing, trade skills and

training, trade information and networking, and cooperation between the business/private sector and public agencies, including trade promotion organizations. The Working Group provides the business community with trade-related information through APECNet, the publication of an APEC Trade-Show Directory, the holding of a venture capital workshop, the conduct of a seminar on credit guarantee system, and a training program on trade promotional skills to exchange views on trade financing and trade promotions. It demonstrates its interest in business engagement through the APEC International Trade Fair and the holding of its meetings back-to-back with the meetings of the APEC Trade Promotion Organization.

### **Transportation Working Group**

In 1997 and 1998, Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) projects contributing to APEC TILF goals included:

- A multi-phase project on road transport harmonization in support of easier cross-border transactions, reduced costs and assured quality standards for producers and users which to date has led to the development of a model Mutual Recognition Arrangement in Automotive Products;
- A seminar on international vehicle standards harmonization which contributed to increased dialogue with UN/ECE in connection with its proposal to establish a global agreement on road vehicle regulations;
- A project on more competitive air services with fair and equitable opportunity that produced a comprehensive final report to Transportation Ministers including recommendations on options for implementation by member economies as well as the TPTWG recommendation that economies provide progress reports on a voluntary basis;
- A workshop on privatization or corporatization of transport infrastructure projects to identify possible areas of increased private sector investment;
- A project on Electronic Commerce that included a seminar on the use of electronic data interchange in the region's transport sector, currently includes a pilot initiative that will facilitate the adoption of Electronic Commerce as widely as possible throughout the region's transport sector, and a proposal to seek assistance from CTI to achieve the goal of eliminating paper requirements for documents in international transport and trade;
- A maritime initiative aimed at promoting an efficient, safe and competitive operating environment for maritime transport which, as a first step, has resulted in the development of a Mission Statement; and
- Two seminars on the International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) that will contribute to improved maritime practices through the implementation of international standards, regulations and safety measures.

## **Economic Committee**

The principal TILF activity for the Economic Committee (EC) in 1998 was the project led by China on *Trade-Related Environment Measures and Environment-Related Trade Measures*. This project includes a survey of the practices of APEC economies in this area with a view to developing an information database for use by APEC members. A workshop was held in July 1998 to discuss the preliminary findings of the survey. The project is scheduled for completion this year. The Committee also finalized its work on the *Impact of Investment Liberalization in APEC: Phase II*, and will publish this research in 1999.

The Economic Committee continued to support other APEC fora in their TILF-related activities. The Committee contributed a review of existing analytical work on the impact of trade liberalization to the CTI-led project on *The Impact of Liberalization: Communicating with APEC Communities*, and undertook to develop an inventory of work on *The Impact of Trade Liberalization on Labor Markets* on behalf of the Human Resources Development Working Group. The Committee continued to update the matrix of bilateral stocks of FDI in the APEC region, which is pending completion by the Trade and Investment Data Working Group of its database on FDI.

## **Ad-Hoc Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises**

The Ad-Hoc Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises (PLGSME) had successfully completed an eco-efficiency project for SMEs which gathered information on specific eco-efficient measures adopted in different industrial sectors of selected APEC economies as well as the obstacles faced in the process. *Best Practices Industry Manuals* have been published which could help SMEs identify the improvements they need to make them more competitive. Also expected to be completed this year is the study on the operating environment of SMEs, funded by APEC economies, which will identify and analyze difficulties faced by SMEs in China and recommend policy adjustment measures. This will be of particular benefit to companies intending to invest in China and other parts of the region. Progress has also been achieved on projects involving the training and certification of small business counsellors and the establishment of a Center for Entrepreneurship in Indonesia. An SME Business Forum was again held this year in conjunction with the Fifth SME Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

**APPENDIX III**

**MATRIX OF 1998 TILF OUTCOMES  
ACROSS THE APEC FORA**

## 1. Tariff/Non-tariff Measures

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI/ MAG	<p>Tariff Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of an internet mirror site of the WTO Integrated Database (IDB) relating to APEC economies in the APEC Secretariat Homepage in collaboration with the WTO Secretariat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 1998/99</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast access by trade policy analysts to valuable trade-related information at minimum cost.</li> </ul>
2. MAG	<p>Non-tariff Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater transparency in the exchange of information on NTMs through the establishment of an APEC NTMs database.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 1998/99</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast access by producers and traders to transparent information at minimum cost.</li> </ul>
3. MAG	<p>PECC's Information Resource Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A menu of approaches for selecting sectors for liberalization and economic impact, at the conceptual and empirical level;</li> <li>• The responses from the private sector and analysts of the potential liberalization including those sectors nominated by Ministers/Leaders in November 1997 as candidates for liberalization;</li> <li>• A framework and database for reporting progress on liberalization in tariffs and NTMs; and</li> <li>• A review of literature and various approaches to the definition, scope and measurement of NTMs to provide input to the planned inclusion of NTMs in the APEC Tariff Database.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 1998/99</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine correlation between tariff reductions and changes in intra-APEC trade flows over a specific time period.</li> <li>• Transparency of tariffs and non-tariff measures.</li> <li>• Objective approach towards selection of priority industries for liberalization.</li> </ul>

## 2. Services

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI/ GOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar and training course on Trade in Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held in Qingdao, China on 4-8 May 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve members' understanding of trade in services, as well as provide an opportunity for the exchange of views with private sector representatives.</li> </ul>
2. GOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of directory on the requirements for the provision of professional services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-term (by 1998/99)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easier access on the requirements for the provision of professional services.</li> </ul>
3. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey of International Value-added Network Services (IVANS)</li> <li><i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The results of the survey will be delivered in 1998.</li> <li>Member economies reported on liberalization of their IVANS sector in their regular reports at TEL18 in September 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate trade in IVANS in the APEC region.</li> <li>Business users of IVANS will benefit.</li> </ul>
4. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of indicators to measure the benefits of liberalization in the telecommunications sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report was delivered in October 1997.</li> <li>The Task Group has been collecting comments from all members on the report, and continues to develop the indicators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A standardized set of appropriate indicators that can be used in measuring the liberalization experience of individual economies.</li> </ul>
5. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conformance, where appropriate, with APEC Guidelines for Harmonizing Procedures for Telecommunications Equipment Certification.</li> <li>Progressive harmonization of administrative procedures governing certification of consumer telecommunications equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current procedures for equipment certification in each APEC economy are complying to the guidelines.</li> <li>Subject to individual action by member economies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced trade in telecommunications terminal equipment, lower costs and assured quality for users.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i></li></ul>		
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Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
6. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation, on an elective basis, of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) for conformity assessment of telecommunications equipment.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framework was agreed in September 1997.</li> <li>• MRA was completed and endorsed by Telecommunications Ministers in June 1998 for implementation by members.</li> <li>• A preliminary survey on MRA implementation was launched in March 1998.</li> <li>• The MRA implementation support project was approved by the BAC Meeting in July 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced trade in telecommunications terminal equipment, lower costs and assured quality for users.</li> </ul>
7. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third HRD Training Course (Regulatory Reform Course)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A final report on the course was delivered in March 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote better understanding among member economies of the procedures involved in regulatory reform, including the establishment of an independent regulator and transparent policy-making processes.</li> </ul>
8. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of model implementation procedure for Harmonized Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) management in the region</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final report was delivered in March 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A nine-step reference model procedure (“how to” guide) was developed which all economies can use to effectively manage their electromagnetic spectrum. A future update may be suggested.</li> </ul>



Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
9. TPTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops on the International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW)</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One workshop was held in the Philippines and the other will be held in Indonesia in 1998.</li> <li>• Following completion of the workshops, a final report for this phase will be prepared for the third quarter of 1999.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the provision of high quality instruction for seafarers consistent with the requirements of the revised provisions of the International Maritime Organization Convention on the Standard of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW).</li> </ul>
10. TPTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging the use of the 'model' Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Automotive Products developed by TPTWG.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide expertise to the Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) proposal for the Automotive Sector on automotive standards/technical regulations.</li> <li>• Development of a recommendation to CTI concerning the proposal on EVSL for the Automotive Sector for consideration at the June Ministerial Meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in ensuring the transparency of automotive approval arrangements throughout the region.</li> </ul>
11.TPTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Road Vehicle Standards Harmonization Seminar (Australia)</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The seminar was held in Mexico City, in conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> TPTWG Meeting on 21 April 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The seminar provided an opportunity to raise awareness among APEC members of standards harmonization activities in the automotive sector and the function of the UN/ECE WP on Transport.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
12. TPTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Road Transport Harmonization Project Phase IV is being undertaken and will be completed in 1998. Phase V of this project will be conducted in 1999 (Australia).</li> <li><i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase IV, to be completed in 1998, will analyze the automotive conformity assessment and certification requirements of APEC members, including associated vehicle safety recall procedures.</li> <li>Phase V will assist APEC member economies over the next five years to achieve the Bogor goals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This project involves the collection, analysis and identification of differences in vehicle regulations and certification systems implemented by member economies.</li> <li>The project is expected to facilitate cross-broader transactions, reduce costs and assure quality standards for producers and users.</li> </ul>
13. TPTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive final report, including recommendations on options for implementation on <i>More Competitive Air Services with Fair and Equitable Opportunity</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two meetings of the Air Services Group were held in Singapore in October 1997 and February 1998.</li> <li>The comprehensive final report had been completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of a more competitive air transportation operating environment, on the basis of fair, reciprocal and equitable access to markets and opportunity for all economies.</li> </ul>
14. TPTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiation of a pilot Electronic Data Interchange trial program to determine future direction in the adoption of E-Commerce as widely as possible throughout the transport sector in the region.</li> <li><i>Cross reference to Customs Procedures</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 3 of the project which involves trial of selected EDI messages was concluded in September 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost and time efficiency for business and customs administrations.</li> <li>Assist all APEC economies to increasingly use E-Commerce in the transport sector in the region.</li> </ul>
15. EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations for promoting Energy Security in APEC Member Economies through Improved Operation of International Fuel Markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A series of recommendations were presented to Energy Ministers at Okinawa in October 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide impetus to the accelerated elimination of barriers to the further development of open markets for primary fuels in the APEC region leading to reduced costs and improved energy security.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
16. EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmentally Sound Power Infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Work Program was endorsed by Energy Ministers at Okinawa in October 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate investment in power sector infrastructure in an environmentally sustainable way.</li> </ul>
17. EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Gas Infrastructure Initiative</li> <li><i>Cross reference to Investment</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A set of recommendations was endorsed by Energy Ministers in Okinawa in October 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Benefits:</i> Removal of impediments to the accelerated development of natural gas infrastructure and trading systems in APEC.</li> <li><i>Beneficiaries:</i> Business, investors, government policy makers and regulators.</li> </ul>
18. EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of a comprehensive outlook report on APEC energy supply and demand</li> <li><i>Cross reference to Information Gathering &amp; Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first report was published in March 1998 and distributed widely around the region. A revised report was issued in September 1998.</li> <li>The report was presented to Energy Ministers in Okinawa in October 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Benefits:</i> Better informed business and government policy decisions on energy-related trade and investment issues.</li> <li><i>Beneficiaries:</i> Business and government policy-makers.</li> </ul>
19. EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Practice Principles for Independent Power Producers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EWG presented a compendium on the implementation of actions consistent with the Best Practice Principles for Independent Power Producers to Energy Ministers at their October 1998 meeting in Okinawa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Benefits:</i> Encourages greater investment in power sector infrastructure.</li> <li><i>Beneficiaries:</i> Business</li> </ul>

20. EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation on Energy Standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proposal on Energy Standards Notification Procedures was endorsed by Energy Ministers at their October 1998 meeting in Okinawa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Benefits:</i> Establishes a basis for greater cooperation in energy standards.</li> <li>• <i>Beneficiaries:</i> Business</li> </ul>
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Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
21. EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of a database on mining-related opportunities and relevant legal frameworks in the region.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Investment and Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 of this project was completed in September 1998.</li> <li>• Phase 2 of this project is being implemented, and is expected to be completed in September 1999.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Benefits:</i> Increased transparency and lower costs of accessing mining-related information in the region for business.</li> <li>• <i>Beneficiaries:</i> Business</li> </ul>
22. EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A series of APEC Coal Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation Workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second workshop was held in the Philippines in April 1998.</li> <li>• The proceedings were published and widely distributed in June 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Benefits:</i> Improved access to competitively priced raw materials and the removal of managerial and other impediments to coal trade and investment.</li> <li>• <i>Beneficiaries:</i> Business</li> </ul>
23. TWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Study on the Economic Impact of Tourism in APEC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of a common set of measurement indicators.</li> <li>• Completed in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness and understanding among governments and APEC fora of the economic significance of tourism.</li> </ul>
24. TWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A study of public and private sectors of APEC economies on the impediments/barriers to tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of criteria for establishing priorities for action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage liberalization of trade and investment in tourism as well as to develop strategies to overcome impediments and network with other sectors and other APEC fora.</li> </ul>
25. ISTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a discussion paper outlining the various issues around data gathering in the science and technology service industry.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper will be posted on ASTWeb for discussion by interested economies.</li> <li>• To be completed in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits from a discussion on the gathering of data in the science and technology service industry.</li> <li>• Determine if there is value for ISTWG to get involved in this issue.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
26. HRDWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards Mutual Recognition of Qualifications, Stage II: Best Practice in Professional Engineering Accreditation, Recognition and Development</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage II was finalized in January 1998. Stage II identified a framework of best practices in accreditation, recognition and development of professional engineering qualifications.</li> <li>• Stage III will establish the APEC Engineer Register as a way to advance the best practices framework.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the mutual recognition of engineering skills in the region and thereby increase the mobility of professional engineers.</li> <li>• Assist professional engineering bodies in establishing cooperative networks.</li> <li>• Provide quality assurance to consumers.</li> </ul>
27. HRDWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of APEC Labor Market Information Database.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Mobility of Business People</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database and website established in 1998.</li> <li>• Provides key economic, demographic, education and training, labor market and temporary migration information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist economies and business in making decisions and developing policy relating to labor market resources and trade and investment in the APEC region.</li> </ul>

### 3. Investment

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI/IEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous updating of the APEC Guidebook on Investment Regimes on the Internet.</li> <li><i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing process to ensure current information on foreign investment regimes of member economies introduced in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance transparency and easy access by businesses to authoritative investment-related information.</li> </ul>
2. IEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fourth APEC Investment Symposium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held in Kuala Lumpur on 29-30 September 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information exchange between business and government participants on investment issues and identify ways to enhance the investment environment and promote investment flows in the region.</li> </ul>
3. IEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Program on Statistical Reporting and Data Collection on Investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of an efficient, accurate technical mechanism for statistical reporting and data collection. The training program was held in Xiamen, China on 6-10 July 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the present foreign investment statistical system and data collection in APEC member economies.</li> </ul>
4. IEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A list of options for investment liberalization and business facilitation to strengthen the APEC economies for voluntary inclusion in the IAPs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A menu of options will be presented to the Ministerial Meeting in November.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the environment for investment in APEC member economies.</li> </ul>
5. IEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEC Second Business Survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Survey was conducted in 1998 and the result will be considered to be translated into action programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More liberal investment environment to facilitate investment.</li> </ul>

Note: Services item nos. 17 (EWG) and 19 (EWG) have cross reference to Investment.

#### 4. Standards and Conformance

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI/SCSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of <i>Voluntary Action Plan Report</i></li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress on the implementation of alignment with international standards from 1997 for the following priority areas: electrical and electronic appliances, food labeling, rubber gloves and condoms, and machinery.</li> <li>• To be published by 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits to producers and consumers from reduced technical barriers to trade, lower transactions costs, and better quality products at competitive cost.</li> </ul>
2. SCSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement to align member economies' standards of electrical and electronic equipment with international standards in respect of safety and electromagnetic compatibility by 2004/2008.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCSC in 1998</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits to producers and consumers from reduced technical barriers to trade, lower transactions costs, and better quality products at competitive cost.</li> </ul>
3. SCSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Electrical and Electronic Equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed on the part of exchange of information of MRA</li> <li>• To be completed in 1999.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced trade in electrical and electronic equipment, lower costs and assured quality for users.</li> </ul>
4. SCSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APEC-specific Survey on Technical Infrastructure Development for Measurement Standards, Laboratory Management and Accreditation (1997 TILF project).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The survey was completed in April 1998.</li> <li>• The survey has identified the areas of technical infrastructure which member economies need to develop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved and maintained level of standards and conformance infrastructure, and facilitated participation in mutual recognition arrangements in both the regulated and voluntary sectors. Ultimately, business sector benefits from lower costs and easier cross-border trade.</li> </ul>



Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
5. SCSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Program on Standards and Conformity Assessment Schemes (APEC/Partners for Progress [PFP] project).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing (1996-2000).</li> <li>• To be held in Malaysia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop human resources by providing knowledge needed to establish and rationalize standards and conformity assessment schemes.</li> </ul>
6. SCSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held in Malaysia on 4-5 September 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ready access to information of benefit to traders in export markets.</li> </ul>
7. SCSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet publication of updated “APEC Contact Points for Standards and Conformance Information”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing.</li> <li>• Updated in August 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast access to authoritative standards and conformance information at minimum cost.</li> </ul>
8. SCSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1998 TILF Project on Compilation of Information on Food Labeling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be completed by the end of 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy access to information on Food Labeling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Region at minimum cost.</li> </ul>
9. FWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of a manual explaining different market and trading requirements for airshipping live and fresh seafood to selected APEC economies.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Tariffs/NTMs and Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual expected to be published in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist government agencies and businesses involved in trade in live and fresh seafood.</li> </ul>
10. FWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop on a seafood inspection training project focusing on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to NTMs</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Workshop was held in Korea in February 1998.</li> <li>• Another workshop is planned for the second half of 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist agencies of member economies responsible for food safety and seafood inspection.</li> <li>• Assist private industry including producers, exporters, importers and processors of seafood.</li> </ul>

Note: Services item nos. 5 (TELWG), 6 (TELWG), 8 (TELWG), 9 (TPTWG), 10 (TPTWG), 11 (TPTWG), 12 (TPTWG), and 26 (HRDWG) have cross reference to Standards and Conformance.

## 5. Customs Procedures

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI/SCCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop work programs on three new areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Work programs in the three new areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a compendium of common data elements has been started and is scheduled for completion in 1999.</li> <li>• The first phase of a technical assistance program on risk management was held on 25-29 May 1998 in Sydney for six member economies.</li> <li>• Conducted assessment visits to some member economies to determine the requirement needs for further technical assistance activities in the area of express consignments.</li> <li>• Two new technical assistance programs, namely on Risk Management and Express Consignment Clearance, were developed and approved by BAC in July 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater certainty for traders as to how their goods will be treated.</li> <li>• Reduced cost for importers/exporters/carriers due to faster service and customs administration through greater transparency of processes.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
2. SCCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An APEC Customs Industry Dialogue (ACID) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 8-9 June 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a result of ACID, SCCP members agreed to develop a Code of Conduct along the lines of the Arusha and Columbus Declarations to resolve further the issue of integrity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inputs from the private sector will assist the SCCP develop customs procedures which best facilitate trade in the Asia-Pacific region.</li> </ul>
3. SCCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update of Blueprint for Customs Modernization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out SCCP's objectives and highlights its key achievements.</li> <li>Demonstrates SCCP's desire to involve business in the modernization of customs procedures by providing guidelines for establishing partnerships between SCCP and business.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inputs from the private sector will assist the SCCP develop customs procedures which best facilitate trade in the Asia-Pacific region.</li> </ul>
4. SCCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established strategic partnerships with relevant business community and/or organizations to facilitate SCCP/APEC goals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secured funding from the Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID) for the first phase of a technical assistance program in the area of risk management.</li> <li>Assistance provided by CAPEC and IECC (funding) in conducting assessment visits to three member economies in the area of express consignments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inputs from the private sector will assist the SCCP develop customs procedures which best facilitate trade in the Asia-Pacific region.</li> <li>Greater certainty for traders with respect to how their goods will be treated.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
5. SCCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued delivery of the second phase of multi-year technical assistance activities to ensure that all SCCP members can implement the SCCP Common Action Plans by established target dates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding approved for multi-year technical assistance activities.</li> <li>Advanced training modules will be developed and follow-up workshops on WTO Valuation Agreement to be held in the last quarter of 1998.</li> <li>Training workshop for technical staff and functional managers on UN/EDIFACT, 13-25 April 1998, Singapore</li> <li>Seminar on Kyoto Convention, 20-21 April 1998, PRC</li> <li>Seminar on Temporary Importation Procedures, 22-24 September 1998, Chinese Taipei</li> <li>Technical Training Workshop on HS Convention, 18-20 August 1998, Manila</li> <li>An Experts' Mission will be dispatched to Chinese Taipei in March 1999 to assist in the implementation of advance classification ruling system.</li> <li>Completed collection of information on common data elements.</li> <li>Workshop on APEC Risk Management Theory, 25-29 May</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved customs clearance and inspection procedures generate faster, more certain and ultimately cut cost of trade transactions for both the private sector and customs administrations.</li> </ul>

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<b>Sub-forum</b>	<b>1998 Deliverable Outcome</b>	<b>Description/Timeframe</b>	<b>Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional training conference on the WTO TRIPS Agreement to be held in 1998.</li> </ul>	
6. SCCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensified its work program to enhance the efficiency of customs procedures in certain areas relating to electronic commerce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work on SCCP CAPs, specifically, on UN/EDIFACT and common data elements are relevant to E-Commerce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computerization of customs procedures results in time and cost savings due to reduced documentation.</li> </ul>

Note: Services item no. 14 (TPTWG) has cross reference to Customs Procedures.

## 6. Intellectual Property Rights

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI/ IPEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pamphlet to publicize IPR contact point lists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be prepared by Australia and circulated in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easier access for business sector and government to authoritative IPR information through use of the lists.</li> </ul>
2. IPEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet publication of information on current IPR administration systems</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be completed and uploaded to the Internet in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate understanding and use of members' IPR systems.</li> </ul>
3. IPEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy framework for technical cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed by Korea and agreed at IPEG VI.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate technical cooperation among APEC members. Also enable members to conduct cooperation programs in areas of common interests.</li> </ul>
4. IPEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APEC/PFP Course on Management of Industrial Property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing (1996-2000).</li> <li>• 3rd Course to be held in Thailand in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better trained and informed personnel on intellectual property rights, related laws and enforcement as well as computerization of IPR administration.</li> </ul>

## 7. Competition Policy

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition policy and law Internet database</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The database will be completed in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transparency in regional competition laws and policies. Free information available to support business decision- making. Cross-fertilization of competition policy approaches.</li> </ul>
2. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy input to WTO Working Group on the Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Implementation of UR Outcomes</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributions will be made, where appropriate, in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of policy-related information will facilitate WTO consideration of multilateral issues.</li> </ul>
3. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Program on Competition Policy (APEC/Partners for Progress [PFP] Project)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going (1996-2000)</li> <li>• Held in Thailand in February 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop human resources by providing knowledge needed to implement and improve competition policy.</li> </ul>



## 8. Government Procurement

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description / Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI/GPEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop, seminars and training courses on government procurement procedures, laws, regulations and regional and plurilateral agreements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminar on non-binding principles on government procurement was held in September 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve members' understanding of principles on GP and to better prepare members for the ongoing work on the development of a set of non-binding principles on GP.</li> </ul>
2. GPEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An updated APEC Government Procurement Homepage.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on APEC Government Procurement Homepage was updated in August.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased transparency and easy access by business to government procurement policies, procedures and tendering opportunities.</li> </ul>
3. GPEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further development of non-binding principles on government procurement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement on elements pertaining to the principles of value for money, open and effective competition and fair dealing and on illustrative ways to put the elements into practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for APEC members' efforts to establish more open GP systems.</li> </ul>

## 9. Deregulation

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of themes and principles of deregulation and regulatory reform in APEC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A public/private sector Symposium on Regulatory Reform was held on 5-6 September 1998 to develop understanding of the role of regulatory policy in trade and investment liberalization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing and cross-fertilization on policy approaches between APEC officials and the private sector.</li> </ul>
2. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet publication of deregulation initiatives undertaken by APEC economies in 1998.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be uploaded by December 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing and cross-fertilization of deregulation policies. Business community would be able to access free information on business opportunities opened by deregulation.</li> </ul>

## 10. Rules of Origin

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analysis of member economy steps in implementing the WTO ROO Agreement.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To be completed in 1998.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improved APEC member economy understanding of the Agreement.</li></ul>

## 11. Dispute Mediation

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI/DMEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symposium: Alternative Mechanisms for the Settlement of Transnational Commercial Disputes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Symposium took place in Bangkok on 27-28 April 1998. It was attended by 150 public and private sector participants from a number of APEC member economies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Symposium has contributed to increased transparency and enhanced confidence building in alternative dispute resolution in the APEC region.</li> </ul>
2. DMEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update of Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new edition will include additional contributions that were not provided in time for the publication of the first edition. The publication includes mechanisms currently in place under the domestic laws of each APEC economy for the mediation of disputes between governments and private companies or between private companies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All APEC member economies will benefit from greater transparency of the existing rules and procedures for dispute resolution.</li> </ul>

## 12. Mobility of Business People

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collective commitment to expand the availability of multiple entry visas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued by Trade Ministers in June 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstration of APEC members' commitment to respond to business sector priorities.</li> </ul>
2. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business residency handbook</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A guide to applying for a business residency visa for each APEC economy. To be published by end of 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convenient reference guide for business people intending to work in other APEC economies.</li> </ul>
3. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical assistance and training capacity-building program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentoring system of assistance provision being developed. Technical assistance and training to commence late 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of new technologies and risk management techniques to improve provision of border management services to business travelers.</li> </ul>
4. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of Phase 2 of APEC Business Travel Card trial.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automated data exchange system initiated for Phase 2 of ABTC trial. Phase 2 has five participating economies: Australia; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Korea; and the Philippines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automated system ensures quicker clearance of card applications. Phase two of the trial includes an increased number of cards available to the public in each economy and a greater number of participating economies.</li> </ul>
5. HRDWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labor Market Information Internet Homepage and construction of an associated database.</li> <li><i>Cross reference to Services and to Information Gathering and Analysis.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides information on labor skills, wages and working conditions in APEC economies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information readily available to enhance mobility of qualified people throughout the APEC region.</li> </ul>

Note: Services item no. 27 (HRDWG) has cross reference to Mobility of Business People.

### 13. Implementation of the Uruguay Round Outcomes

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar on the General Agreement on Trade in Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held in China in May 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved APEC member economy understanding of the Agreement.</li> </ul>
2. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar on the Notification Obligations under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held in Chinese Taipei in June 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved APEC member economy understanding of the Agreement.</li> </ul>

Note: Competition Policy item no. 2 has cross reference to Implementation of Uruguay Round Outcomes.

## 14. Information Gathering and Analysis

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Gathering and Analysis on Trade-related Environment Measures and Environment-related Trade Measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development in 1998 of a database of environmental measures and their effect on trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.</li> <li>• A report on the project will be published and widely circulated in 1998 (tentative).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy-makers on trade and environment issues, business people and academics will benefit from improved information about environmental measures and their effects on trade.</li> </ul>
2. EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study on the Impact of Investment Rule-making and Liberalization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication in 1998 of case studies on investment policy-making in five APEC economies supplemented by case studies for several industries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality information and analysis for use by business and policy-makers.</li> </ul>
3. EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the human resource and social impacts of trade liberalization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make publicly available in 1998 (tentative) report on the information collected and the analysis derived from this information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality information and analysis for use by policy-makers and academics.</li> </ul>
4. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study of policy options for transparent funding of universal delivery of basic telecommunications services in liberalized markets.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Services</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final report was delivered at the Universal Access Seminar and TEL17 in March 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound analysis available for use by APEC telecommunications policy-makers in liberalizing markets.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
5. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Effective Interconnection in the APEC Region</i> – A survey of the current state of telecommunications regulatory regimes.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Services</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report was delivered in March 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on the status of liberalization in interconnection policy will serve as useful reference for regulators and business and as a basis for future work of TEL.</li> </ul>
6. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support ITU process to facilitate the implementation of the global mobile personal cellular service (GMPCS).</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Services</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A short survey to promote information sharing was launched in March 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will serve as reference for regulators and industry on the current status of legal and regulatory environment for implementation of GMPCS.</li> </ul>
7. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecommunications Regulatory Environment in APEC Member Economies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest update of this on-going project was posted to the TEL APII website in Korea (<a href="http://www.apii.or.kr/telwg/">http://www.apii.or.kr/telwg/</a>), and produced on CD-ROM for the Ministerial Meeting in June 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serves as a reference for industry and regulators on the current state of the telecommunications regulatory environment in APEC economies and is a significant product for those seeking to trade and invest in the region.</li> </ul>
8. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report of the Task Force for Clarifying the Key Elements Necessary for Promoting Business/Private Sector Participation in Telecommunications Infrastructure Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report completed in 1998, following extensive work done by a Task Force led by Japan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides APEC economies useful information describing the elements required to encourage business/private sector to engage in infrastructure development.</li> </ul>
9. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Electronic Commerce Law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report completed in 1998 and published at the TEL APII website in Korea and at Baker Mackenzie website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a comprehensive overview of the legal environment for electronic commerce in the region. Useful for both business and governments.</li> </ul>



Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
10. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spectrum Policy and Management Database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a central source to locate economies' information resources concerning policies and management of the radio frequency spectrum. Officially launched in 1998 at the TEL APII website in Korea and ongoing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serves as a convenient reference source for industry and regulators and contributes to trade and investment facilitation in the field of wireless communications.</li> </ul>
11. TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and Financial Resource Catalogue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a central source to locate information resources from APEC economies and other organizations which serve as pointers to resources available to assist in the development of telecommunications and information infrastructure. Launched in 1998, ongoing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serves as a convenient reference source for industry and regulators and contributes to trade and investment facilitation in the fields of telecommunications and information industries.</li> </ul>
12.HRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact of Trade Liberalization on Labor Markets in the Asia-Pacific Region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To lay the ground work for effective policy responses and other forms of intervention to counter the unfavorable effects of trade liberalization on labor demand patterns in Asia-Pacific economies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project would provide information on the extent of efforts needed to develop and train human resources as a means of achieving sustained development in the region.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
13. CTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEC TILF Information Directory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide an updated reference entries of information sources for the 15 TILF issue areas. Published in May 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easy access by APEC member economies to authoritative sources of information.</li> </ul>

Note: The following activities have cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis: Tariff/NTMs item nos. 4 (FWG) and 5 (FWG); Services item nos. 3 (TELWG), 18 (EWG), 21 (EWG), and 25 (ISTWG); Investment item no. 1 (CTI/IEG); Standards and Conformance item nos. 1 (CTI/SCSC) and 9 (FWG); IPR item no. 2 (CTI/IPEG); Competition Policy item no. 1 (CTI); Government Procurement item no. 2 (CTI/GPEG); Deregulation item no. 2 (CTI); Dispute Mediation item no. 2 (CTI/DMEG); and Mobility of Business People item no. 6 (HRDWG).

## 15. TILF General

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEC WGTP Business/Private Sector Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held on 13 May 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadening outreach of APEC to a wider segment of the private sector.</li> </ul>
2. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third APEC International Trade Fair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 13-16 November 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will benefit participating companies from APEC member economies by providing them the opportunity to promote the projects, services and technologies of their respective companies and generating greater trade and business cooperation amongst them.</li> </ul>
3. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exchange of Trade Promotion Experts on Development of Local Industries and Trade and Investment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held in February 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance exchange of information, expertise and experiences among APEC economies.</li> </ul>
4. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEC Information Center for Trade Promotion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up a site on the Internet by end May 1998. (URL: <a href="http://www.city.kitakyushu.jp/~k1208020/apec/right.htm">http://www.city.kitakyushu.jp/~k1208020/apec/right.htm</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easy access to updated information on trade promotion measures within APEC economies through the Internet.</li> </ul>
5. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trade and Investment Insurance Training Program (WGTP/HRD Joint Project).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training programs to be held in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote human resource development in the area of trade and investment insurance.</li> </ul>
6. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEC Net</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prototype website was set up in June 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easy access to trade promotion and related information, activities and opportunities.</li> </ul>
7. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop: International Trade Promotion Skills Training Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held in July 1998 in Chinese Taipei.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop trade promotion capabilities and skills of participants.</li> </ul>

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<b>Sub-forum</b>	<b>1998 Deliverable Outcome</b>	<b>Description/Timeframe</b>	<b>Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries</b>
8. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core Characteristics Survey of APEC Trade Promotion Organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearer understanding of the roles, functions and activities of other trade agencies in APEC.</li> </ul>
9. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitation of Strategic Alliances Among Enterprises in the APEC Region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compilation of profiles of companies interested in developing productive and strategic partnership with other companies in the APEC region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the exchange of information on raw materials, production know-how, and marketing strategies among enterprises within the APEC region.</li> </ul>
10. WGTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case Study on Trade Promotion and Poverty Alleviation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed in 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study the relationship between trade promotion and poverty alleviation through research and analysis.</li> </ul>
11. TIDWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trade and Investment Data Database (TIDDB) – A database containing near-comparable statistics on trade, investment and trade in services in APEC member economies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TIDDB will be available to the public in late 1998.</li> <li>Updating of the data is ongoing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide policy-makers, businesses, academics and the general public with timely and consistent trade and investment data in APEC economies.</li> <li>Promote better understanding of trade and investment activities in APEC member economies.</li> </ul>
12. TIDWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Trade and Investment Data Publication</i> – A publication that promotes awareness of, and access to, TIDDB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The publication will be available in printed form and on the Internet through the APEC Secretariat homepage in November 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotes knowledge of and access to TIDDB, and assists the users in understanding the availability of, and provides a background to, the data.</li> </ul>
13. SME-PLG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross-Border Inter-firm Linkage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase I of the project took place in June 1998.</li> <li>Organize a business-matching event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for SME to seek business/partnerships.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
14. HRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APEC HRD Task Force on Human Resource and Social Impacts of the Financial Crisis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be completed in November 1998.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of information and “best practices” as well as related HR services in labor market programs undertaken by economies; facilitate possible policy and program reforms for coordination, and specific action deliveries to mitigate HR effects of the crises.</li> </ul>

Sub-forum	1998 Deliverable Outcome	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
4. FWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study (assessment) on the economic analysis of tariffs in the fisheries sector in the Asia-Pacific region.</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The study is expected to be published in late 1998.</li> <li>• An electronic version will be available for loading on the Internet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform APEC members of the net economic benefits associated with trade liberalization in the fish sector.</li> </ul>
5. FWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study on non-tariff measures in the fisheries sector</li> <li>• <i>Cross reference to Information Gathering and Analysis</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-year project (1996-2001) covering tariffs, non-tariff measures, investment measures and subsidies.</li> <li>• Phase II on non-tariff measures will be completed in 1998/99.</li> <li>• Investment measures and subsidies will be covered in subsequent years.</li> <li>• In the final year, FWG will synthesize the four sectoral studies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide useful information and assist APEC fora and member economies in implementing trade and investment liberalization.</li> </ul>

Note: Standards and Conformance item nos. 9 (FWG) and 10 (FWG) have cross-reference to Tariff and Non-tariff Measures.

## **APPENDIX IV**

### **TRAINING AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS IN CTI**



## TRAINING AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS IN CTI

OAA Issue Area CTI Sub-forum	Title of Program	Description of Program
<b>1. Tariff &amp; Non-tariff Measures</b> Market Access Group (MAG)	Seminar on the WTO Integrated Database (IDB) 14 June 1998, Kuching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A seminar to educate APEC members on the IDB system and its technical requirements was conducted by two experts from WTO under its IDB Technical Assistance Program.</li> <li>• The seminar promoted a better understanding of the PC-IDB database system pertaining to its data elements, format, structure, etc. It would also assist member economies comply with data submission requirements to possibly meet the requirements of WTO as well as APEC's plan to develop expanded databases for trade policy analysis purposes.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Services</b> Group on Services (GOS)	Training on Trade in Services 4-8 May 1998, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This training program was aimed at promoting a better understanding of the content and impact of liberalization of trade in services. Experts from international organizations and APEC member economies were invited to lecture on the GATS.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Investment</b> Investment Experts Group (IEG)	Training on strategies to identify and promote investment in specific areas (To be held in Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A training program developed to provide investment officials from member economies with the opportunity to enhance their level of knowledge in the promotion and development of SMEs and to further improve the investment environment in APEC member economies.</li> <li>• The program will take the form of lectures, workshops, a case study and visits to high-tech establishments and R&amp;D organizations.</li> </ul>

<b>OAA Issue Area CTI Sub-forum</b>	<b>Title of Program</b>	<b>Description of Program</b>
<b>4. Investment</b> IEG	Training on FDI policy administration and adjustment (To be held in Thailand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A seminar which hopes to provide member economies with an opportunity to acquire more inputs relevant to FDI policy and administration options, thereby assisting the process of investment facilitation and liberalization.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Investment</b> IEG	Training Program on Improving the Capacities on Statistical Reporting and Data Collection 6-10 July 1998, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A training program intended to assist member economies in developing an efficient, accurate technical mechanism for statistical reporting and data collection with a view to improving the present foreign investment statistical system in the APEC region.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Standards and Conformance</b> Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)	APEC/ PFP Project on Standards and Conformity November-December 1998, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ongoing multi-year (1996-2000) training program which aims to assist members establish and rationalize standards and conformity assessment schemes.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Standards and Conformance</b> SCSC/ HRDWG (Joint Project)	International Quality Assurance Systems (IQAS) Project 28 September- 2 October 1998, Manila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A basic training program for executives of SMEs that fully integrates approaches for managing quality, environment and organizational change, following the structure of the ISO management standards.</li> <li>• The program contributed to capacity-building of human resources, managers and business professionals in integrating quality and environmental management systems in the workplace, especially of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).</li> <li>• The first phase of the program was completed in 1997. The next phase, a trainer's training, was held in Manila on 28 September to 2 October 1998.</li> </ul>

OAA Issue Area CTI Sub-forum	Title of Program	Description of Program
<b>8. Customs Procedures</b> Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)	Multi-year technical assistance programs to implement the SCCP Common Action Plans	<p>SCCP has developed the following package of multi-year technical assistance programs to ensure that members can implement the SCCP Common Action Plans by the established target dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure accurate, consistent and uniform application of the HS Convention, a technical training workshop was held in Manila on 18-20 August 1998.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Kyoto Convention               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve efficiency in customs clearance, a seminar on the Kyoto Convention was held in PRC on 20-21 April 1998.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3) Adoption and Support for the UN/EDIFACT               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A training workshop for technical staff and functional managers on the UN/EDIFACT was held in Singapore on 13-25 April 1998. The objective was to promote the electronic highway for business.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4) Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced training modules will be developed and follow-up workshops on the WTO Valuation Agreement are expected to be held in last quarter of 1998. Implementation of the Agreement will facilitate administration of customs procedures relating to the valuation of imported goods.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5) Adoption of the Principles of the WTO TRIPS Agreement               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A technical assistance workshop was held in Vietnam on 8-11 September 1998 in order to assist members in implementing border procedures for the protection of IPRs.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

OAA Issue Area CTI Sub-forum	Title of Program	Description of Program
		<p>6) Introduction of Clear Appeals Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A technical training workshop will be conducted to enable APEC members implement a transparent appeals system in 1998/99. The purpose is to enable the private sector to challenge potentially erroneous customs decisions through transparent, independent and timely appeals.</li> </ul> <p>7) Introduction of an Advance Classification Ruling System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Experts' Mission will be dispatched to Chinese Taipei in March 1999 to assist in the implementation of advance classification ruling system.</li> </ul> <p>8) Provision for Temporary Importation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A seminar on Temporary Importation Procedures was postponed to March 1999 in Chinese Taipei. The seminar would assist in providing a high degree of certainty in international trade when admitting goods on temporary basis.</li> </ul> <p>9) Risk Management Techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assist members in implementing this CAP item, a workshop on APEC Risk Management Theory was held in Sydney on 25-29 May 1998. The purpose was to enable customs focus enforcement on high-risk shipments.</li> </ul> <p>10) Guidelines on Express Consignments Clearance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment missions would be conducted in Chinese Taipei, the Philippines and Malaysia in 1998 for the purpose of assisting members in establishing short-term schedules for the implementation of this CAP item. The objective is to facilitate clearance procedures.</li> </ul>

<b>OAA Issue Area CTI Sub-forum</b>	<b>Title of Program</b>	<b>Description of Program</b>
<b>9. Intellectual Property Rights</b> Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)	Policy Framework for Technical Cooperation Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched a Policy Framework for Technical Cooperation Facilitation in March 1998 under which offers and requests for technical cooperation from developed/developing economies were compiled.</li> <li>• The policy framework was aimed at facilitating technical cooperation in the area of IPRs among APEC members with a view to implementing fully the TRIPS Agreement by 2000.</li> </ul>
<b>10. Intellectual Property Rights</b> IPEG	APEC/PFP project on Management of Industrial Property Rights October-November 1998, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ongoing multi-year (1996-2000) training program to enhance APEC members' understanding of industrial property rights, related law and enforcement as well as to assist members in computerizing IPR administration.</li> </ul>
<b>11. Competition Policy</b>	APEC/PFP project on Competition Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi-year (1996-2000) training program to develop human resources capable of establishing and effectively managing competition policy and law and to help establish an environment enabling fair and free competition.</li> <li>• The program involves competition experts from government, international organizations, academia and business.</li> </ul>
<b>12. Government Procurement</b> Government Procurement Experts Group (GPEG)	Seminar on Non-binding Principles on Government Procurement 6-7 September 1998, Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The seminar was aimed at laying the foundation for the development of a set of non-binding principles on GP and liberalization of GP markets throughout the region.</li> <li>• The seminar enhanced members' understanding of GP principles and prepared them for the discussions on the development of a set of non-binding GP principles by end of 1999.</li> </ul>

<b>OAA Issue Area CTI Sub-forum</b>	<b>Title of Program</b>	<b>Description of Program</b>
<b>13. Mobility of Business People</b>	Border management technical assistance program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A program intended to improve capacity to deliver more efficient and secure border management services via the provision of technical training in a range of areas.</li> <li>• Following a survey of members' needs and capacities to provide technical assistance, an initial project will seek to improve members' ability to detect travel document fraud in order to streamline border processing for legitimate business travelers.</li> </ul>
<b>14. Uruguay Round Agreement Implementation</b>	Training Program on the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures June-July 1998, Chinese Taipei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A training program designed to deal with issues which arise in the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, focusing on the notification requirements of the Agreement.</li> </ul>

## DIRECTORY OF TERMS

ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council
ABTC	APEC Business Travel Card
ACID	APEC Customs Industry Dialogue
AELM	APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting
AGP	Agreement on Government Procurement
AIMs	APEC Impediments Measurement System
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APII	Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure
APLAC	Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATC	Agricultural Technical Cooperation
AUSAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BAC	Budget and Administrative Committee
CAP	Collective Action Plan
CAPEC	Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carriers
CASCO	Committee on Conformity Assessment
CISPR	International Special Committee on Radio Interference
CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment
DMEG	Dispute Mediation Experts' Group
DSU	WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding
E-Commerce	Electronic Commerce
EC	Economic Committee
ECOTECH	Economic and Technical Cooperation
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EMC	Electromagnetic Compatibility
EVSL	Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization
EWG	Energy Working Group
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FWG	Fisheries Working Group
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GMPCS	Global Mobile Personal Cellular Service
GOS	Group on Services
GPEG	Government Procurement Experts' Group
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Classification System
HRDWG	Human Resources Development Working Group
IAP	Individual Action Plan
ICSID	International Convention for the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States
IDB	WTO Integrated Database
IDEAS	Initiatives, Development Efforts, Aspirations and Strategies
ID <sup>2</sup>	Infrastructure Demand Information Database
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IECC	International Express Carriers Conference
IEG	Investment Experts' Group
IPEG	Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights

IQAS	International Quality Assurance Systems
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISTWG	Industrial Science and Technology Working Group
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
IVANS	International Value-added Network Services
LMI	Labor Market Information
MAG	Market Access Group
MFN	Most Favored Nation
MOB	Mobility of Business People
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement
NTM	Non-Tariff Measures
OAA	Osaka Action Agenda
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PAC	Pacific Accreditation Council
PASC	Pacific Area Standards Congress
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PFP	Partners for Progress
PLGSME	Ad-hoc Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises
PRC	People's Republic of China
ROO	Rules of Origin
SCCP	Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
SOM	Senior Officials' Meeting
SPF	South Pacific Forum
SPS	WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SCSC	Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance
STCW	International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers
STIP	Science and Technology Industrial Park
TBT	WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
TDB	APEC Tariff Database
TELMIN	APEC Telecommunications Ministers' Meeting
TELWG	Telecommunications Working Group
TIDDB	Trade and Investment Data Database
TIDWG	Trade and Investment Data Review Working Group
TILF	Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation
TPD	Trade Policy Dialogue
TPTWG	Transportation Working Group
TRIPS	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
TWG	Tourism Working Group
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UR	Uruguay Round
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
WCO	World Customs Organization
WGTP	Working Group on Trade Promotion
WTO	World Trade Organization