



APEC INTEGRATED OCEAN MANAGEMENT

FORUM TWO

Canberra, 3-7 June, 2002

***BACKGROUND PAPER ON THE MARINE-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF TEN APEC
WORKING GROUPS***

June 2002

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| APEC | Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation |
| CBN | Capacity Building Network |
| EC | Economic Committee |
| ECOTECH | Economic and Technical |
| EduNet | Education Network |
| EEZ | Exclusive Economic Zone |
| ESC | SOM Sub-Committee on ECOTECH |
| EVSL | Early Voluntary Sector Liberalization |
| EWG | Energy Working Group |
| FWG | Fisheries Working Group |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| GPA | Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities |
| HRDWG | Human Resources Development Working Group |
| ICAO | International Civil Aviation Organization |
| IMO | International Maritime Organisation |
| IMTA | Intermodal Transport Association |
| IOM | Integrated Ocean Management |
| ISO | International Standards Organization |
| IT | Information Technology |
| LBS | Land-Based Sources of Pollution (marine pollution from land-based activities) |
| LSP | Labour and Social Protection Network |
| ISTWG | Industrial Science and Technology Working Group |
| MRCWG | Marine Resources Conservation Working Group |
| OAA | Osaka Action Agenda |
| OMISAR | Ocean Model and Information System |
| Osaka Action Agenda | The Osaka Action Agenda: Implementation of the Bogor Declaration |
| PATA | Pacific Asia Travel Association |
| PECC | Pacific Economic Cooperation Council |
| R&D | Research and Development |
| SME | Small-to-Medium Size Enterprise |
| SOM | Senior Officials' Meeting |
| S&T | Science and Technology |
| TELWG | Telecommunications and Information Working Group |
| TILF | Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation |
| TWG | Tourism Working Group |
| TPTWG | Transportation Working Group |
| UNCED | United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| WG | Working Group |

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF PAPER

This background paper was prepared in March 2002 as a summary survey of marine activities of selected APEC bodies to be used as an input document for the preparation of papers by APEC Working Groups and for discussion in the plenary and break-out sessions of the APEC Integrated Ocean Management Forum Two, convened in Canberra, 3-7 June 2002. The cut-off date for this paper was 31 March and consequently developments in and outside of APEC after this date are not covered. The paper surveys the marine-related activities of the following APEC Committees and Working Groups:

- Economic Committee (EC)
- SOM Sub-Committee on ECOTECH (ESC)
- Energy (EWG)
- Fisheries (FWG)
- Human Resources Development (HRDWG)
- Industrial Science and Technology (ISTWG)
- Marine Resources Conservation (MRCWG)
- Telecommunications and Information (TELWG)
- Tourism (TWG)
- Transportation (TPTWG)

In the overall APEC structure the SOM Sub-Committee on ECOTECH and the Economic Committee fall directly under the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM). The Working Groups are under the SOM, but are also linked to the Sectoral Ministerial Meetings.

2. WORKING DEFINITION OF "MARINE"

This paper surveys "marine" activities. "Marine," which is used interchangeably with "ocean," is understood in a broad sense to include the full range of uses comprehended by integrated ocean management, the theme of this forum. At a minimum, and in a modern management context, "marine" has to be understood in spatial (including the coastal zone, i.e., the land-sea interface), ecosystemic and functional (i.e., nature, purpose and impact of activity) senses. In this paper, intra-sectoral activities and interests which may have no apparent relationship to other ocean uses (e.g., e-commerce in shipping) are also covered.

3. SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

This paper was used in Canberra in a draft format and was finalized after the Forum on the basis of additions or corrections communicated to the consultant. The paper is part of the Forum's output record.

Information is drawn from two principal sources: 1) the APEC website and individual websites of committees and working groups, in particular meeting/activity reports, action plans and related statements; 2) questionnaires prepared by the author and circulated to all Committee

Chairs and Working Group Shepherds/Chairs; and 3) inputs by the Forum Two organizers and other participants.

The Committees and Working Groups concerned are divided into two major groups. The first group consists of those bodies with generally direct marine programming interests, whereas the second consists of those bodies with generally indirect marine programming interests. The survey of every Committee and Working Group describes the stated mandate and vision, actual marine activities and other activities that are potentially relevant for ocean management.

4. WORKING GROUPS WITH DIRECT MARINE PROGRAMMING INTERESTS

4.1 Marine Resources Conservation Working Group¹

4.1.1 General

The MRCWG was established in 1990 and now operates within the *Osaka Action Agenda* (OAA) and the *APEC Action Plan for Sustainability of the Marine Environment*, endorsed by Environment Ministers in 1997. *The Osaka Action Agenda Implementation of the Bogor Declaration (Osaka Action Agenda)* identified coastal zone planning and management, coordination in the implementation of relevant UNCED recommendations, and marine algal toxin issues as priority concerns.

In 1998 the “APEC Oceans Conference: Realizing the Opportunities for APEC Economies” convened in Hawaii produced an important declaration with objectives for integrated coastal and ocean management. Among other, the Declaration highlighted implementation of the GPA, the pursuit of integrated management, response to algal blooms, promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture (strengthening regional organizations, combatting destructive fishing methods, domestic registries of fishing vessels), ocean research and monitoring.

The *Action Plan* is an important instrument with main objectives in integrated coastal management, marine pollution and sustainable resource management. It identifies goals and performance measures for each one of these objectives, and proposes the following tools for implementation: research, exchange of information and expertise; capacity-building, education

¹ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 16 October 2001); communications from Sam Baird, IOM Forum Two, Canadian Lead (19 and 25 March 2002); MRCWG, Summary Conclusions, Fourteenth Meeting of Marine Resource Conservation Working Group, Hong Kong, China, 15-18 May 2001; MRCWG, Integrated Ocean Management Workshop Statement, Vancouver, 12-15 December 2000; MRCWG, Report of the Workshop on Integrated Ocean Management in the APEC Region, Vancouver, 12-15 December 2000; Declaration, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Oceans Conference;

Realizing the Opportunities for APEC Economies, Honolulu, Hawaii, 14-16 October 1998;

Action Plan for Sustainability of the Marine Environment, APEC Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development, Toronto, 9-11 June 1997; Osaka Action Agenda.

and training; and public and private sector participation and partnership.

Of particular interest to integrated ocean management, the *Action Plan* affirms sustainability as a theme that cuts across APEC and consequently directs the MRCWG to coordinate efforts across APEC fora. Meeting of Ministers also directed that closer coordination and cooperation between APEC WGs was needed. The Integrated Ocean Management Forum One in Vancouver in 2000 identified a new path for ocean management within its *Action Plan* mandate. That important meeting recommended a workplan for ocean governance that would include:

- Updating and refinement of an inventory of current and developing ocean governance arrangements in APEC WGs and member economies (including identification of gaps).
- Convening of an ocean governance multi-sectoral workshop to review integrated ocean management and governance in APEC.
- Convening of an all-APEC WG ocean forum to improve collaboration, coordination and cooperation in ocean-related project programming and to review the institutional linkages across APEC.

4.1.2 *Marine activities*

This WG's current or new work program includes initiatives or activities relating to:

- Ocean governance:
 - < Inventory of current and emerging oceans governance arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region.
 - < Oceans governance forum.
- Integrated management approaches:
 - < Member economies' profiles of integrated coastal and ocean management initiatives.
 - < Mechanisms for integrated coastal management.
 - < Integrated oceans management.
 - < Regional Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA).
- Marine management issues:
 - < Analytical methods, standards and reference materials for seafood product safety and certification.
 - < Management of marine algal toxins in seafood products.
 - < Development of a management framework for APEC economies for use in the control and prevention of introduced marine pests

- < Management of red tide and harmful algal blooms.
- < Information exchange and improvement of Pacific response capabilities to spills of oil and hazardous materials.
- Marine science:
 - < Modern approaches to linking exposure to toxic compounds and biological effects.
 - < Ocean model and information system.
- Marine technology:
 - < Application of monitoring and mitigation technologies of harmful algal bloom.
 - < Assessment and integrity of existing offshore oil and gas infrastructure.
- Capacity-building:
 - < Marine environmental training and education program.
 - < Law and policy knowledge base in support of integrated coastal and ocean management decision-making in APEC marine programming.

With plans to continue the implementation of the *Action Plan* and in closer coordination and cooperation with other APEC fora, the future directions of this WG include promotion of sustainable growth, harnessing technologies for the future and development of human resources. In particular, *Action Plan* implementation will focus on four areas:

- *Integrated coastal management*: balancing coastal development and resource protection.
- *Food production*: ensuring sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.
- *Marine science*: understanding and observing the oceans and seas.
- *Capacity-building*: economic and technical cooperation for ocean management.

Other MRCWG cooperative initiatives will include:

- *Working relationship with FWG*: cooperation with the FWG (see below).
- *Networking*: promote coordinated development of APEC's marine related networks to facilitate information exchange for decision-making, joint research and monitoring (e.g.s of networks: OMISAR, Sustainable Development Training and Information Network and EduNet Integrated Coastal Management Network).

- *Partnerships for marine pollution from land-based activities (LBS)*: convene a partner market meeting to include donors, assistance beneficiaries and private sector for domestic LBS plans of action.

4.1.3 Cooperation between the MRCWG and FWG²

There is considerable scope for overlap between the work of the MRCWG and the FWG, and this in part has been addressed through a first joint meeting in 1999. Calls for greater integration and cooperation have been issued. Shared concerns and interests in both WGs include the following issues/initiatives:

- Management and enforcement strategies for marine parks, aquaculture and fishery resources.
- Exotic marine species introduction.
- Capacity-building for marine and fishery resources and coral reef conservation.
- Strategy to address destructive fishing practices.
- Ministerial meeting on ocean-related issues.
- Information sharing and cooperation mechanisms between the two WGs.

In addition to the above, in 2001 the 14th MRCWG Meeting concluded that “In the future, the Lead Shepherd and APEC Secretariat will be tasked to take a more active role in information exchange and communication between the MRC and the Fishery Working Groups” (APEC/01/MRC14/18).

It has been agreed that a task group is needed to develop a joint work program for common interest areas. Joint action would include cooperative strategy development to address the problem of destructive fishing of reefs, sustainability of reef fisheries and implementation of partnerships between local fishers and fishing communities.

4.1.4 Other relevant activities

All the MRCWG’s activities are marine activities.

² Sourced from: MRCWG, Summary Conclusions, Twelfth Meeting of the Marine Resource Conservation Working Group, Cairns, Australia, 17-19 May 1999; MRCWG, Summary Conclusions, Fourteenth Meeting of the Marine Resource Conservation Working Group, Hong Kong, China, 15-18 May 2001; FWG, Final Report, Twelfth Meeting of the Fisheries Working Group, Hong Kong, China, 14-18 May, 2001.

4.2 Fisheries Working Group³

4.2.1 General

A Senior Officials Meeting created this WG in 1991 and today it promotes conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, sustainable development of aquaculture and habitat preservation, development of solutions to common resource management problems, enhancement of food safety and quality of fish products, and sector-specific work relating to trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation.

More specific objectives in the FWG's vision include:

- To facilitate and encourage cooperation in promoting fisheries in the Pacific by complementing and assisting work being done by appropriate international and regional fisheries organizations in the Pacific including other APEC working groups and the PECC task force on fisheries.
- To enhance dialogue and strengthen cooperation among APEC members where there are fisheries management and related issues requiring international cooperation, both within EEZs and/or 200-nautical mile zone, and on the high seas. This requires cooperation to ensure through an appropriate framework the provision of catch and fishing effort statistics to support management regimes.
- The development of fisheries resources and the promotion of trade through enhanced training and education programs in fisheries management and marketing, improvements in value adding and technology transfers, and cooperation in human resources development generally.
- The development of regional cooperation and trade facilitation for fish and fish products to promote economic growth in the region.
- To encourage private sectors' participation and cooperation, as appropriate, in Working Group activities.

As can be discerned from its responsibilities, the FWG's functions have a particularly close relationship to those of the MRCWG.

This WG does not do fisheries management, and consciously so because of the work of other competent international organizations. The role of the FWG in fisheries management was discussed at the 11th Meeting and again at the 12th Meeting. At the latter Meeting, this WG

³ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 16 October 2001); FWG, Final Report, Twelfth Meeting of the Fisheries Working Group, Hong Kong, China, 14-18 May, 2001; FWG, Report, Eleventh Meeting of the Fisheries Working Group, Seattle, Washington, 17-21 July 2000; Osaka Action Agenda.

“generally affirmed that APEC is neither equipped nor mandated to take on fisheries management roles in the APEC region properly the realm of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations that have the authority to enforce compliance. However, it was agreed that APEC could, in its voluntary cooperative spirit, provide a forum for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned for the implementation of FAO initiatives.” Several representatives of member economies emphasized that APEC is a forum for information exchange, but that it could facilitate policy development, regional implementation of international instruments such as the *FAO Compliance Agreement*, *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing*, various international plans of action on sustainable fisheries and the *UN Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks*. It was agreed that a strategic framework for FWG activities could be useful.

4.2.2 Marine activities

Current or ongoing initiatives of the FWG include:

- Fisheries:
 - < Coastal resource management.
 - < Conservation and management of sharks.
 - < Conservation and management of marine turtles.
 - < Destructive fishing methods in coral reef environments.

- Aquaculture:
 - < Farming reefs.
 - < Collaborative grouper aquaculture research and development network.
 - < Women in aquaculture.
 - < Grouper virus transmission and vaccine.

- Seafood trade generally:
 - < APEC seafood information system (market and industry information service).
 - < Management of marine algal toxins in seafood products.
 - < Capacity and awareness building on import risk analysis for aquatic animals.
 - < Live reef food fish trade.
 - < Subsidies in the fisheries sector.
 - < Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) initiative outcomes to date: (1) a study into the nature and extent of subsidies in the fisheries sector in APEC member economies; (2) a study to reduce impediments to early voluntary sectoral liberalization in the fisheries sector; (3) options for policy model evolution harmonious with EVSL.

4.2.3 *Other relevant activities*

All the WG's activities are marine activities.

4.3 **Transportation WG**⁴

4.3.1 *General*

Together with the MRCWG and FWG, the TPTWG is perhaps one of the most important bodies with marine activities in the APEC structure. Although its mandate is not exclusively marine (other forms of transport are included), nonetheless much of its work is with a direct marine focus, whether in terms of safety, competency, environmental concerns or more generally maritime trade. This is not surprising given the significance of seaborne trade in the fastest growing economic region in the world.

Structurally, the TPTWG functions through three principal steering committees focussing on competitive transportation industry and infrastructure, safe and environmentally-friendly systems, and human resources development. The TPTWG includes relevant international organizations as approved guests of the WG [International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Intermodal Transport Association (IMTA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)].

Again as in the case of the other WGs in this section, the *Osaka Action Agenda* identified the following transportation priorities that serve to guide the TPTWG:

- Facilitating the harmonization, coordination and transparency of transport policies, regulations, procedures and standards.
- Promoting timely rational investment in the transport infrastructure.
- Encouraging the efficient use of existing infrastructure through the application of appropriate trade and transport facilitation techniques.
- Promoting transport system safety and security.
- Promoting, on the basis of fair and equitable access to markets, a more competitive transportation operating environment and cooperating to address institutional constraints which affect the provision of transportation services.
- Facilitating the improvement of productivity, skills and efficiency of labor and management in the transport industry.

⁴ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 16 October 2001); APEC Transportation Working Group, http://www.iot.gov.tw/apec_tptwg/ (Last updated: 12 March 2002); TPTWG, Transportation Working Group Operational Plan; TPTWG, Principles for Action: A Strategic Direction for the TPT-WG (Approved at TPT-WG/17, Singapore, 30 March 2000).

4.3.2 Marine activities

Recent or current marine activities of the TPTWG include the following:

- An interactive web-based *Port Database*.
- Establishment of a Virtual Centre for Transportation Research, Development and Education website.
- Completion of a compendium of success stories on the increased participation of women in the transportation sector.
- Ascertainment of existing standards of training facilities, instructors, examiners and curriculum for seafarers throughout the APEC region's existing maritime training institutions and training equipment in each member economy in order to improve the quality of seafarers in the region.
- A Forum on Intermodalism and Satellite-based Technologies.
- Establishment of a Transportation Security Initiative that provides for a mechanism for increased cooperation and communication on transportation security within the APEC region.
- Completion of a Safer Shipping in the Asia Pacific Region project which will form the basis for future work in the Maritime Safety Experts' Group.

The next round of activities is expected to include the following activities:

- A project on non-tariff measures in the transport sector, to be implemented in 2002 with a view to facilitating trade.
- Continue work in the area of electronic commerce, particularly paperless trading.
- Developing examples and case studies of the benefits of regulatory and other institutional changes directed to maritime trade liberalisation and facilitation to demonstrate how this can be achieved and the benefits that will flow from trade liberalisation and facilitation.
- Consideration of measures to promote the mutual recognition of transport professional qualifications.
- Project on APEC accreditation of seafarer manning agencies (2002).
- Development of a regional action plan for global navigation satellite systems implementation, in consultation with relevant international bodies such as the ICAO and IMO.
- A project on the identification of needed intermodal skills and development of required training programmes.

4.3.3 Other relevant activities

The other activities of this working group relate to air and road/rail transport.

4.4 Energy Working Group⁵

4.4.1 General

Established in 1990, the EWG promotes the APEC energy sector's contributions to regional socio-economic development while mitigating the effects of energy supply and use. It acts as a clearing house of information and exchanges on national energy policies and priorities, supply and demand data, regional energy policy implications, and other energy-related issues. As in the case of the other WGs in this section, the *Osaka Action Agenda* set priorities for this sector in APEC: fostering a common understanding on regional energy issues; facilitating investment in the energy sector where appropriate; reducing the environmental impact of the energy sector; and accepting equivalence in accreditation and increasing harmonization of energy standards.

The EWG operates five Expert groups, one Expert Sub-Group and the Asia-Pacific Energy Research Centre. This includes an Expert Group on Minerals and Energy Exploration and Development which operates as Expert Sub-Group on Environmental Cooperation.

4.4.2 Marine activities

To date, the EWG has not had marine-specific activities.

4.4.3 Other relevant activities

The overall energy policy/security purposes and framework of operation of this WG could be relevant for ocean management from an environmental and alternative source of energy perspectives. For instance, recently Canada signed an agreement with a contractor for a marine-based wind farm to generate 700 MW and will require the exclusive use of 81 square kilometres of shallow inshore waters.

Energy Ministers endorsed non-binding principles of good environmental practice with reference to new infrastructures and conducted various knowledge-building activities (seminars, training courses, information exchanges) aimed at new and renewable energy technologies and mitigation of environmental impacts of energy production. Project activities include the international environmental law implications of mining. Additional potential marine relevance of this WG could arise in relation to the offshore energy industries in the region.

⁵ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 16 October 2001); APEC Energy Working Group, <http://www.apecenergy.org.au/welcome/index.html> (accessed on 3 March 2002); returned questionnaire (14 March 2002); communication from Gary Walker, APEC EWG Secretariat (24 March 2002); various communications from Sam Baird, Integrated Ocean Management Forum Two, Canadian Lead (March 2002); EWG, Future Directions Strategic Plan.

4.5 Tourism WG⁶

4.5.1 General

The TWG was established in 1991 with a mandate on the trade aspects of tourism and its socio-economic importance for the APEC region. As in the case of other WGs, there is significant participation by private sector interests. The TWG's priorities as set out in the *Osaka Action Agenda* are as follows:

- Removing barriers to tourism movements and investment and liberalizing trade in services associated with tourism.
- Developing and implementing the concepts of environmental and social sustainability in tourism development.
- Facilitating and promoting human resources development.
- Enlarging the role of the business/private sector.
- Developing cooperation and programs in the fields of information-based services related to trade in tourism.
- Sharing information among APEC economies.

The 2000 Seoul *Declaration on an APEC Tourism Charter* proposes four major policy goals: removal of impediments to tourism business and investment; increased mobility of visitors and demand for tourism goods and services; sustainable management of tourism outcomes and impacts; and enhancement of recognition and understanding of tourism as a vehicle for economic and social development. On the third of these policy goals, the 18th TWG meeting endorsed the *APEC/Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Environmental Code of Conduct for Tourism* for the Second Ministerial Meeting due in Mexico in July 2002.

4.5.2 Marine activities

This WG does not have marine activities.

4.5.3 Other relevant activities

Of potential importance to integrated coastal management is the *Environmental Code of Conduct*. It applies to a wide range of tourism-related organizations and commits them to a responsible approach to natural environments, social needs and cultural sensitivities. It enables these organizations to deal with environmental regulation, accounting, ISO standards and reporting schemes for environmental and social impacts.

⁶ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 19 February 2002); APEC/PATA Code for Sustainable Tourism.; Seoul Declaration on an APEC Tourism Charter: A Ministerial Statement of Purposes and Intent.

More specifically, it provides for seven groups of commitments:

- Conservation of the natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Respect and support of local traditions, cultures and communities.
- Maintenance of environmental management systems.
- Conservation of energy and reduction of waste and pollutants.
- Encouragement of a tourism commitment to environments and cultures.
- Education and information of others about local environments and cultures.
- Cooperation with others to sustain environments and cultures.

5. WORKING GROUPS WITH INDIRECT MARINE PROGRAMMING INTERESTS

5.1 Economic Committee⁷

5.1.1 General

The Economic Committee was established in 1994 at the Sixth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta after a brief life as the *Ad Hoc* Group on Economic Trends. It has macro policy-related functions and addresses priority economic issues of concern to APEC Leaders and Ministers. It researches and analyses economic trends and issues, and serves as a clearing house for information. The Committee focuses on demand-driven work in support of APEC Ministers' and Leaders' meetings and policy-oriented work of other fora. The Committee's work addresses central economic issues of priority concern for Ministers, and Leaders, and provides the analytical basis useful for advancing TILF and Ecotech agenda. The Committee also aims at delivering high-quality research outputs by tightening its work program to produce forward-looking research outcomes.

The Economic Committee does not have any marine-specific functions and its work has tended to focus on new challenges to APEC economies, such as trends towards knowledge-based economies and trade liberalization.

What could be of value to APEC marine interests is the modality of its work, and in particular the Committee's efforts in reaching out to the larger research community within academia and the private sector and in encouraging links with APEC Study Centres and the scholarly communities in member economies.

⁷ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 16 October 2001); communication from Sangkyom Kim, Chief Coordinator, Office of the EC Chair (25 March 2002); Economic Committee, Chair's Summary Report, APEC Economic Committee Second Plenary Meeting For 2001, Dalian, People's Republic of China, 20-21 August 2001; Economic Committee, Chair's Summary Report, APEC Economic Committee 2001 First Plenary Meeting, Beijing, People's Republic of China, 15-16 February 2001; Economic Committee, Chair's Summary Report APEC Economic Committee, 2000 Second Plenary Meeting, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 19-20 September 2000.

5.1.2 Marine activities

The Economic Committee does not have marine activities.

5.1.3 Other relevant activities

Some activities can be seen as indirectly relevant from a macro perspective. These included Impact of Expanding Population and Economic Growth on Food, Energy and the Environment and Trade and Environment.

5.2 SOM Sub-Committee on ECOTECH⁸

5.2.1 General

Established in 1998, the ECOTECH (economic and technical) Sub-Committee of the Senior Officials' Meeting (ESC) is the most recent arrival of the Committees and WGs surveyed in this paper. Like the Economic Committee, ESC is a senior policy body with functions that cut across APEC activities. It operates within the framework of the *Osaka Action Agenda* and the 1996 *Manila Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation*. It is a consultative body and is concerned with the development of policy management tools and guidelines for APEC projects.

5.2.2 Marine activities

The ESC has a major mandate with the implementation of Part II of the *Osaka Action Agenda*. It is pertinent to note that this part addresses not only generic concerns such as capacity-building and science and technology, but also sectoral concerns in energy, transport, fisheries, marine resources conservation and tourism, each one of which has actual marine content that forms the basis of the Working Groups discussed above. But perhaps the ESC activity that most singularly and comprehensively addresses marine concerns is the *Action Plan for Sustainability of the Marine Environment*, which was also discussed above in connection with the MRCWG.

5.2.3 Other relevant activities

The ESC's role is to review the ECOTECH activities of APEC fora, including those relating to marine matters, and to report to SOM and Ministers on progress in the implementation of key initiatives and the attainment of APEC goals and objectives.

⁸ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (last updated: 24 October 2001); Transportation Working Group, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/loadall.htm?http://www.apecsec.org.sg/ecotech/> (last updated: 24 October 2001); communication from Mohan Mathews, APEC ESC Secretariat (25 March 2002); TPTWG, Chair's Summary, Meeting of the ECOTECH Sub-Committee, Dalian, China, 20-21 August 2001; Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Marine Environment; Beijing Initiative on APEC Human Capacity-Building; Cleaner Production Strategy; Mexico Declaration on Science and Technology; Framework for Capacity Building Initiatives on Emergency Preparedness Natural Gas Initiative; and Sustainable Cities.

5.3 Telecommunications and Information Working Group⁹

5.3.1 General

The TELWG was formed in 1990 with a mandate to address human resource development, technology transfer and cooperation, internships and standardization. Operating through steering groups, it has identified a number of priority areas, namely liberalization, business facilitation, development cooperation and human resources development. Its achievements include the *APEC Framework for Telecommunications Interconnection*, the *APEC Principles for Interconnection* and the *Framework for Action on Electronic Commerce*.

5.3.2 Marine activities

TELWG does not have any current activities that are directly marine-related.

5.3.3 Other relevant activities

Although there are no activities that are specific to the marine environment, its work on interconnection of global communications infrastructures, paperless trading, electronic commerce and e-security have some relevance to marine enterprise, such as marine transportation and submarine cables.

5.4 Human Resources Development Working Group¹⁰

5.4.1 General

Established in 1990 and as its name implies, the HRDWG's work relates to the development of human resources for capacity-building, education and labour purposes. Unlike most of the WGs surveyed in this paper, it does not have a sectoral mandate in the sense of a particular field, economic activity or ocean/environmental use. It cuts across a broad range of issues in APEC economies and operates through three principal networks: Capacity-building (CBN); Education (EduNet); and Labour and Social Protection (LSP).

The Second APEC Education Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore in 2000 identified four strategic areas: usage of IT as a core competence; enhanced quality of teaching and teacher development; sound management practices in policy-making; and active engagement by economies in education.

⁹ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 16 October 2001); returned questionnaire (6 March 2002); TELWG, Chair's Report, Twenty Fourth Meeting (TEL 24), Jeju, Republic of Korea, 17 – 21 September 2001.

¹⁰ Sourced from: APEC Website, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 16 October 2001) Human Resources Development Working Group, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/hrd/index.html> (Accessed on: 5 March 2002); communication from Jeong Taik Lee, Lead Shepherd, HRDWG (21 March 2002); HRDWG, Summary Conclusions, Twenty-Third HRDWG Meeting, Mexico City, 26-29 June 2001.

Its vision is based on identified priorities, namely: quality basic education; improved labour market information and analysis; enhanced skills in key sectors including small-to-medium size enterprises (SMEs); lifelong learning; improved curricula, teaching methods and instructional materials; mobility of qualified persons; enhanced quality, productivity, efficiency of labour forces and work places; and strengthened cooperation to support TILF.

Although this WG's relevance for integrated coastal and ocean management has been marginal at the most, it does have significant potential for a major contribution. The *Jakarta Declaration on A Human Resources Development Framework for APEC* 1994 has as a priority

Increasing the supply and enhancing the quality of managers, entrepreneurs, and educators/trainers in areas of the economy central to fostering economic growth and development. Such areas include training in small- and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship and in the management of sustainable growth incorporating economic and environmental considerations.

This priority could be key to the consideration of enhanced education and training capacities for coastal and ocean managers in the region and the building of capacity in existing institutions with ocean management responsibilities.

5.4.2 Marine activities

The HRDWG does not have any marine activities in its current programming.

5.4.3 Other relevant activities

Several current activities that the HRDWG conducts are aimed at building a human infrastructure, knowledge and skills that could have an impact on coastal and ocean development and management. These include HRD policies generally in the APEC region, educational-system capacity-building, scholar mobility and focus on IT skills.

5.5 Industrial Science and Technology Working Group¹¹

5.5.1 General

Originally established in 1990 as the Working Group on Expansion of Investment and Technology Transfer, this WG underwent various mutations and is now known as the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group. It operates within the formal framework of APEC. Policy directions are set by Leaders and the *Osaka Action Agenda* and guided by statements of APEC Ministers responsible for science and technology.

¹¹ Sourced from: APEC, <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/> (Last updated: 16 October 2001); AST Web Homepage, <http://www.apecst.org/site/index.cfm> (Accessed on 7 March 2002); communications from Stuart Wilson, ISTWG, Marketplace Innovation, Industry Canada (6 and 25 March 2002); Shauna Hamilton, International, Innovation Policy, Industry Canada (18 March 2002); APEC Agenda for Science and Technology Industry Cooperation into the 21st Century, 1998.

The *Osaka Action Agenda* provides the following visionary statement for this Working Group: “Our vision for the 21st century is of a dynamic and prosperous Asia-Pacific region built on the development and application of industrial science and technology which improves quality of life while safeguarding the natural environment. Elements related to the ISTWG set the broad vision, goals and priorities for the Working Group.”

The *Osaka Action Agenda* also identifies some non-binding principles for effective industrial science and technology, which have been consolidated by the ISTWG into the following six priorities: strengthening APEC cooperation in key technologies; connect research and innovation across APEC economies; build human capacity in science and technology for the new economy; meet environmental challenges through science, technology and innovation; help ensure the prevention and control of infectious diseases; and undertake dialogue on industrial science and technology policies across APEC.

Since 1997 the six key priorities for the ISTWG are: improved availability of information; improved human resources development; improved business climate; contribution to sustainable development; enhanced policy dialogue and review; and facilitation of networks and partnership. It is pursuing these priorities in science and technology policies and programs with reference to targets to be achieved by the year 2020:

- Enhanced economic growth, trade and investment opportunities.
- Better quality of life and a clean environment.
- A well-balanced industrial structure which builds on the diversity of the region.
- Improved levels of scientific knowledge promoting economic activities, particularly private/business sector growth, as well as technological sophistication in the region.
- The smooth flow and application of information, technology and expertise.
- Consistent and transparent policy measures in key areas such as industrial standards.
- Enhanced links between government agencies, the private/business sector (including SMEs) and academic institutions engaged in collaborative industrial science and technological research and development.
- Efficient and effective support for industrial science and technology cooperation projects and programs.

The overall mission of the ISTWG is generic to industrial science and technology, and consequently should not be expected to have a particular marine focus. However, the WG’s vision for the promotion of industrial science and technology to improve quality of life while at the same time safeguarding the natural environment (*Osaka Action Agenda*), and specific initiatives in human capacity-building, health issues and APEC food system could conceivably comprehend marine activities. The *APEC Agenda for Science and Technology Industry Cooperation into the 21st Century* 1998 proposes as yet under-explored and potentially marine-relevant areas for joint activities that include transportation, resource management technology, energy, sustainable agriculture, emergency preparedness and exploitation of natural resources.

5.5.2 *Marine activities*

This WG has had very few directly-marine activities. It has convened and continues to convene occasional meetings with some marine-related content or relevance. One example is the APEC Technomart (I-IV) meetings which have addressed marine technology issues. Technomart has been described as “a bridge which links companies, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), R&D institutes, universities, science and technology industrial parks, business incubators and venture capital firms together,” and providing opportunities for follow-up cooperation. A second example is a meeting in 2000 that focussed on earthquake and tsunami mitigation technologies.

5.5.3 *Other relevant activities*

The ISTWG’s activities’ current relevance to the marine environment is indirect and perhaps in an infrastructural sense. Much emphasis is placed on cooperation in general science and technology capacity-building, networking, study of issues concerning exchanges of researchers and information exchange which could be relevant in the future networking of marine scientists in the APEC region. These activities include those concerned with cleaner production.

ANNEX
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