



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 2003





Contents

FOREWORD	3	WORKING GROUPS	
INTRODUCTION	4	Agricultural Technical Cooperation	32
APEC STRUCTURE	8	Energy	34
I. ACTIVITIES OF APEC FORA		Fisheries	36
BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	10	Human Resources Development	37
COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT	11	Industrial Science and Technology	38
Tariff and Non-Tariff Measures	14	Marine Resource Conservation	40
Services	15	Small and Medium Enterprises	41
Investment	16	Telecommunications and Information	43
Standards and Conformance	17	Tourism	44
Customs Procedures	18	Trade Promotion	45
Intellectual Property Rights	20	Transportation	46
Competition Policy and Deregulation	21	II. SPECIAL TASK GROUPS	
Government Procurement	22	COUNTER TERRORISM TASK FORCE	49
Rules of Origin	23	ELECTRONIC COMMERCE STEERING GROUP	51
Dispute Mediation	24	GENDER FOCAL POINT NETWORK	52
Mobility of Business People	25	III. OTHER APEC ACTIVITIES	
WTO Capacity Building	27	APEC BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL	55
Automotive and Chemical Dialogues	28	APEC FINANCE MINISTERS' PROCESS	56
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE	30	APEC FOOD SYSTEM	57
SOM COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION	31	APEC STUDY CENTERS CONSORTIUM	58
		LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION FORUM	59
		SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	60
		APEC CONTACTS	
		Member Economies, Official Observers	62
		ABBREVIATIONS	64

Published by

APEC Secretariat

35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace Singapore 119616

Tel: (65) 6775 6012

Fax: (65) 6775 6013

Email: info@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Website: <http://www.apec.org>

©2003 APEC Secretariat

APEC#203-SE- 05.2 ISSN 0219-1113

FOREWORD

Welcome to the October 2003 edition of the APEC *Update of Activities*.

The 2003 APEC work programme has been a demanding one with a succession of both new and unforeseen challenges confronting the region during the course of the year. APEC's commitment to increasing the prosperity and stability of the Asia Pacific region nevertheless remains firmly on track. Contained in this edition are many practical examples of the ways in which APEC as a dynamic process, continues to evolve to respond to serious emerging issues affecting regional and international economic growth.

The theme adopted for Thailand's year as host of APEC, *A World of Differences: Partnership for the Future*, has continued to feature strongly in APEC's work programme. Activities focused on combating ongoing threats to regional security such as terrorism and infectious diseases necessarily remain a high priority. At the same time, momentum has been maintained on work in fundamental areas including structural and financial reform; strengthening of the business environment for small, medium and micro enterprises; promoting support for advancement of WTO multilateral trade negotiations; and delivering effective economic and technical cooperation to ensure that the benefits of globalisation are directly channelled to the people within APEC communities.

There has been a strong emphasis during the year on implementation of past APEC commitments along with further strengthening of the APEC process as a whole. This has resulted in the introduction of a number of new mechanisms to promote accountability in the management of APEC projects as well as the strengthening of the peer review process for reviewing economies' Individual Action Plans. Details of these and other developments are outlined in this issue together with information on several important new initiatives such as the *APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum*.

The *Update* publication is structured to provide a concise summary of APEC work across sectoral as well as specialised areas. We remind readers that the newly revamped APEC website at www.apec.org offers an additional source of information on current developments, issues and programmes within APEC. We invite you to also visit the Thailand APEC 2003 website www.apec2003.org for further information and updates on meetings and events being hosted there during the remainder of this year.



Piamsak Milintachinda
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

Update of Activities

The *Update* provides a concise summary of APEC's activities undertaken by its various committees, sub-committees, working groups, expert groups and special task groups. This first section highlights information about the APEC process, including goals, functions, key stakeholder involvement, action plans and themes for 2003. If you are new to the APEC process, this first section will provide valuable background information before reading the specific updates provided in later sections.

The rest of the *Update* provides specific information about key APEC activities focusing on sectoral cooperation and policy coordination. The information is divided into the APEC groups responsible for each issue. Each entry covers the objectives of the group, latest developments, key outcomes and contact information for further information. Additional information about APEC groups and key issue areas is available on the APEC Secretariat website at www.apec.org.

Introducing APEC

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.

APEC has 21 members – referred to as “Member Economies” – which account for more than 2.5 billion people, a combined Gross Domestic Product of 19 trillion US dollars and 47 percent of world trade. It also proudly represents the most economically dynamic region in the world; an area which generated nearly 70 percent of global economic growth in the first 10 years of APEC.

APEC's 21 Member Economies are: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

Role and Goals

APEC was established in 1989 to further enhance economic growth and prosperity for the region and to strengthen the Asia-Pacific community.

Since its inception, APEC has worked to reduce tariffs and other trade barriers across the Asia-Pacific region, creating efficient domestic economies and dramatically increasing exports. Key to achieving APEC's vision are what are referred to as the 'Bogor Goals' of *free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies*. These goals were adopted by Leaders at their 1994 meeting in Bogor, Indonesia.

Free and open trade and investment helps economies to grow, creates jobs and provides greater opportunities for international trade and investment. In contrast, protectionism keeps prices high and fosters

inefficiencies in certain industries. Free and open trade helps to lower the costs of production and thus reduces the prices of goods and services – a direct benefit to all.

APEC also works to create an environment for the safe and efficient movement of goods, services and people across borders in the region through policy alignment and economic and technical cooperation.

How APEC Operates

APEC operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. It is unique in that it represents the only intergovernmental grouping in the world committed to reducing trade barriers and increasing investments without requiring its members to enter into legally binding obligations.

The forum succeeds by promoting dialogue and equal respect for the views of all participants and making decisions based on consensus to achieve its free and open trade and investment goals.

Every year one of the 21 APEC Member Economies plays host to the major APEC meetings and serves as the APEC Chair. The APEC host economy is responsible for chairing the annual Economic Leaders' Meeting, selected Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials' Meetings, the APEC Business Advisory Council and the APEC Study Centres Consortium amongst others and also fills the Executive Director position at the APEC Secretariat.

APEC's working level activities and projects are guided by APEC Senior Officials from the 21 APEC Member Economies. These activities and projects are implemented by four high level committees –

- Budget and Management Committee
- Committee on Trade and Investment
- Economic Committee
- Senior Officials' Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation

Sub-Committees, Experts' Groups, Working Groups and Task Forces all support the activities and projects led by these four high level committees. Updates from all of these groups are provided in this publication.

Through the APEC process, Member Economies take individual and collective actions to open their markets and promote economic growth.

APEC Secretariat

The APEC Secretariat is based in Singapore and operates as the core support mechanism for the APEC process. It provides coordination, technical and advisory support as well as information management, communications and public outreach services.

The APEC Secretariat performs a central project management role, assisting APEC Member Economies and APEC fora with overseeing more than 230 APEC-funded projects. APEC's annual budget is also administered by the APEC Secretariat.

The APEC Secretariat is headed by an Executive Director and a Deputy Executive Director. These positions are filled by officers of Ambassadorial rank from the current and incoming host economies respectively. The positions rotate annually. For 2003, the Executive Director is Ambassador Piamsak Milintachinda from Thailand and the Deputy Executive Director is Ambassador Mario Artaza from Chile.

The APEC Secretariat is staffed by a small team of approximately 20 Program Directors, seconded from APEC Member Economies. Around 25 permanent staff fulfill support and specialist functions at the APEC Secretariat.

Key Action Plans

Osaka Action Agenda

In order to meet APEC's free and open trade and investment goals, APEC Member Economies follow the strategic roadmap agreed by APEC Economic Leaders in 1995 in Osaka, Japan. This roadmap is known as the *Osaka Action Agenda*. This agenda provides a framework for meeting the 'Bogor Goals' through trade and investment liberalisation, business facilitation and sectoral activities, underpinned by policy dialogues and economic and technical cooperation. As part of this framework, General Principles have been defined for Member Economies as they proceed through the APEC liberalisation and facilitation process.

The following General Principles are provided in the *Osaka Action Agenda* and are applied to the entire APEC liberalisation and facilitation process –

- *Comprehensiveness* – addressing all impediments to achieving the long-term goal of free and open trade.
- *WTO-consistency* – measures undertaken in the context of the APEC Action Agenda are consistent with the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- *Comparability* – APEC Member Economies endeavor to have comparable trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, taking into account the general levels achieved by each APEC economy.
- *Non-discrimination* – reductions in barriers to trade achieved through APEC are available to all APEC Member Economies and non-APEC economies.
- *Transparency* – the laws, regulations and administrative procedures in all APEC Member Economies which affect the flow of goods, services and capital among APEC Member Economies are transparent.
- *Standstill* – APEC Member Economies do not take measures which have the effect of increasing levels of protection.
- *Simultaneous start, continuous process and differentiated timetables* – APEC Member Economies began simultaneously the process of liberalisation, facilitation and cooperation and continuously contribute to the long-term goal of free and open trade and investment.
- *Flexibility* – APEC Member Economies deal with the liberalisation and facilitation process in a flexible manner, taking into account differing levels of economic development.
- *Cooperation* – Economic and technical cooperation contributing to liberalisation and facilitation is actively pursued.

Individual Action Plans (IAPs)

APEC Member Economies report progress towards achieving the free and open trade and investment goals through *Individual* and *Collective Action Plans*, submitted to APEC on an annual basis.

Individual Action Plans record actions taken by each Member Economy to meet its stated goals for free and open trade and investment. APEC Member Economies set their own timelines and goals, and undertake these actions on a voluntary and non-binding basis.

As specified in the *Osaka Action Agenda*, reporting is based on 15 issue areas –

- Tariff
- Non-Tariff Measures
- Services
- Investment
- Standards and Conformance
- Customs Procedures
- Intellectual Property
- Competition Policy
- Government Procurement
- Deregulation/Regulatory Review
- WTO Obligations (inc. Rules of Origin)
- Dispute Mediation
- Mobility of Business People
- Information Gathering and Analysis

Each year, several APEC Member Economies volunteer to have their IAPs reviewed. Known as Peer Reviews, this process involves a formal review team considering each volunteer economy's IAP. The process includes experts conducting independent on-site research and analysis and the involvement of the independent private sector body, the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

Collective Action Plans (CAPs)

Collective Action Plans (CAPs) detail the collective actions of all APEC Member Economies in the 15 issue areas outlined in the *Osaka Action Agenda*. The 15 issue areas mirror those detailed in the Individual Action Plans.

CAPs are used by APEC to outline actions and objectives to meet the free trade and investment goals, as well as to monitor and report on progress.

Stakeholder Participation

Strong and vibrant economies are not built by governments alone, but by partnerships between government and its key stakeholders including the business sector, industry, academia, policy and research institutions, and interest groups within the community. APEC actively involves these key stakeholders because it welcomes participation that –

- Facilitates the attainment of APEC goals through appropriate partnerships,
- Strengthens the quality of APEC's work by drawing on relevant insight and expertise, and
- Strengthens understanding and support for APEC's goals through openness, transparency and broad-based partnership that seeks multiple perspectives from the community.

In general, non-member economies, organisations, business/private sector representatives, academic bodies and other experts may apply or be invited to APEC activities subject to guidelines.

Business Participation

Human and physical capital are widely considered to be the engine behind economic growth and development and the business community, the fuel for this engine. APEC fully appreciates the important role that business plays in any economy and involves the international business community at all levels of the APEC process. At the highest level, APEC Economic Leaders communicate through annual meetings with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). ABAC comprises high-level business people from all 21 Member Economies, including representatives of the Small to Medium Enterprises sector.

At the working level, representatives from the private sector are invited to join APEC working groups and expert groups. This process provides an important opportunity for industry to provide input into various areas of APEC's ongoing work.

Academic and Research Institution Participation

Through the APEC Study Centres (ASC) Consortium, APEC Member Economies actively engage academic and research institutions in the APEC process. Amongst a range of key activities, the ASC Consortium facilitates cultural and intellectual exchanges in the Asia-Pacific region and assists the APEC process by undertaking advanced collaborative interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research from an independent and long-term perspective. There are ASCs in 19 APEC Member Economies, comprising 100 universities, research centres and centres of academic excellence across the APEC region.

Academics and research institutions also participate in the working level of APEC through meetings, seminars and other activities.

Women's Participation

For a number of years, APEC has actively sought the input and participation of women in the APEC process. Currently, the Gender Focal Point Network, which comprises members from all 21 APEC Member Economies, encourages the consideration of gender issues within APEC. All APEC projects and activities are carefully monitored to ensure that gender issues are considered.

2003 Themes

The APEC host economy, in consultation with other Member Economies, develops themes to guide the activities of APEC for that year.

For the APEC Thailand 2003 year, the theme is –

- *A World of Differences: Partnership for the Future*
Bringing together individual strengths of all APEC members to raise regional economic prosperity and making a meaningful contribution towards the World Trade Organization process are the overarching goals of the 2003 APEC Year chaired by Thailand.

As the APEC region moves towards the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment for developed economies by 2010 and for developing economies by 2020, the diversity of the APEC region has been identified as its strength for the future.

This central theme is further developed by a series of sub-themes to guide APEC's Working Groups and Forums in achieving their specific goals for 2003 –

- *Knowledge-Based Economy (KBE) for All*
KBE is the foundation of economic growth in the APEC region. Thailand is calling for APEC to continue its work in support of the knowledge-based economy, maximising the combined potential of information and communications technology, human resource development and a conducive legal and regulatory framework.
- *Promoting Human Security*
Empowering communities to become active and self-reliant in the regional economy is the essence of promoting human security within the APEC context. As the region moves towards the Bogor Goals, the process of change must be properly coordinated and social safety nets strengthened to ensure that economic and social opportunities are accessible to all stakeholders.
- *Financial Architecture for a World of Differences*
Reducing vulnerabilities while enhancing investment and trade between the differing social systems and economies requires sound and compatible market based systems and infrastructure. Attention to best practices of financial regulations and corporate governance is applicable to all economies regardless of the level of economic development.

- *New Growth Enterprises: SMEs and Micro-Businesses*

There is an abundance of untapped entrepreneurial capacity in the APEC region. Encouraging business start-ups and reducing red-tape to make it less complicated and less costly for small to medium businesses to trade across borders will make local economies stronger and create jobs.

- *Act on Development Pledge*

The future prosperity of the APEC region depends on the dedication of APEC economies to set strategy and implement plans of action to meet regional and global pledges. It is crucial for economies to support the APEC process by implementing commitments they have made to the global economy through forums such as the World Trade Organization.

General Enquiries

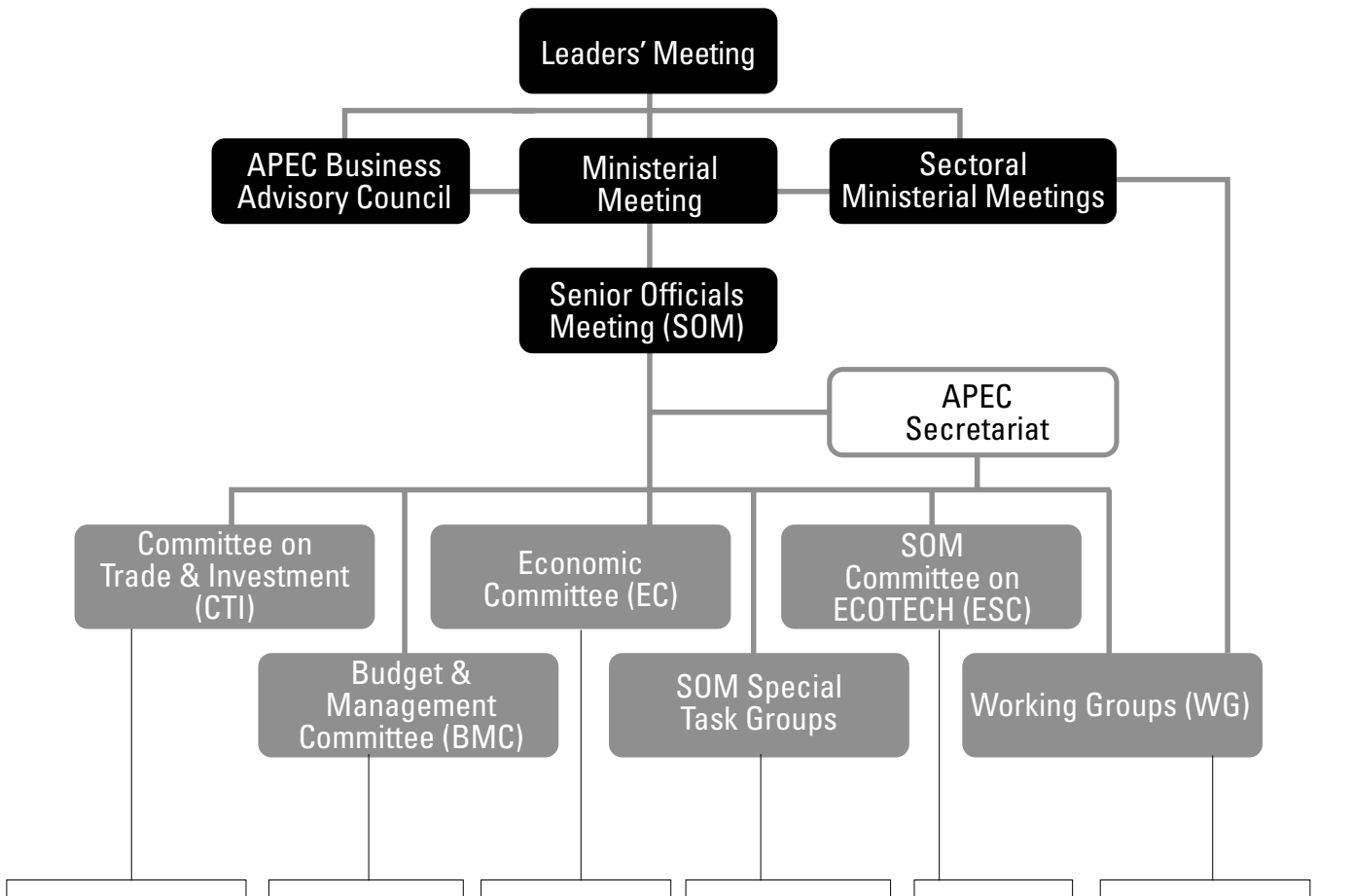
For general enquiries about APEC, please contact the APEC Secretariat –

APEC Secretariat
35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119616
Telephone Number: 65-6775 6012
Facsimile Number: 65-6775 6013
Website: www.apec.org
E-mail: info@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Ms Sheryl Lowe
Director (Communications & Public Affairs)
E-mail: sl@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Contact details for officials in APEC Member Economies can be found in the APEC Contacts section of the *Update*.

APEC STRUCTURE



- since 1994, predecessor RTL from 1992

Sub-committees/Experts Groups:

- Sub-Committee on Standards & Conformance
- Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
- Market Access Group
- Group on Services
- Investment Experts Group
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Government Procurement Experts' Group
- Informal Experts' Group on Business Mobility
- Competition Policy/Deregulation
- WTO Capacity Building
- Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure

Business-Government Dialogues

- APEC Automotive Dialogue
- APEC Chemical Dialogue

- since 1994 (called BAC before 1999)

Sub-group

- EC Outlook Taskforce

- since 1995, predecessor ETI 1991

- Steering Group on E-commerce
- Counter Terrorism Task Force
- Gender Focal Point Network

Sub-group

- since 1998
- Group on Economic Infrastructure, disbanded in 2002

- Agricultural Technical Cooperation
- Energy
- Fisheries
- Human Resources Development
- Industrial Science and Technology
- Marine Resources Conservation
- Small & Medium Enterprises
- Telecommunications & Information
- Tourism
- Trade & Investment Data (since 1990, disbanded in Nov 1998)
- Trade Promotion
- Transportation

Sectoral Ministerial Meetings

• Education	1992, 2000
• Energy	1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002
• Environment Sustainable Development	1994, 1996, 1997
• Finance	1994 and annually
• Health	2003
• Human Resource Development	1996, 1997, 1999, 2001
• Ocean-Related	2002
• Regional Science & Technology Co-op	1995, 1996, 1998
• Small & Medium Enterprises	1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
• Telecommunications & Information	1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002
• Tourism	2000, 2002
• Trade	1994, and annually from 1996
• Transportation	1995, 1997, 2002
• Women's Affairs	1998, 2002

I. ACTIVITIES OF APEC FORA

BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Budget and Management Committee (BMC) advises the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on budgetary, administrative and managerial issues. Its key responsibility is to prepare the budget for APEC and recommend the approval of projects. The BMC also monitors and evaluates project management aspects of the operations of Committees and Working Groups and makes recommendations to SOM for improved efficiency and effectiveness. The BMC meets twice a year, usually at the end of March and July.

Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation Special Account

Cooperative projects in support of trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation (TILF) which aim to assist APEC Member Economies to meet the free trade and investment goals, are funded by the TILF Special Account.

In 1995 at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Japan expressed its intent to contribute up to 10 billion yen over several years to the APEC Central Fund to fund projects which expand cooperative programs, encouraging trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation. Japan also expressed its view that other APEC Member Economies should actively engage in cooperation in the future. The TILF Special Account has been established to accommodate such contributions.

Latest Developments

Guidebook on APEC Projects

The Guidebook on APEC Projects provides direction on managing the financial aspects of APEC projects, including reporting and evaluation. In October 2002, the fifth edition of the Guidebook on APEC Projects was released, following a major review. In 2003 the BMC began a process of fine-tuning the *Guidebook* and is currently working in conjunction with the SOM Committee on ECOTECH on improving the format for project proposals as part of the work on improving the evaluation of projects and programs.

APEC Sponsorship Policy Guidelines

The APEC Sponsorship Policy Guidelines were issued in May 2003 to provide a framework for standardisation of sponsorship management procedures across APEC. The Guidelines are to ensure that the benefits of sponsorship agreements are maximised for both APEC and sponsors, while minimising risks to APEC.

Budget and Management Committee - Key Contacts

Chair

Ms Flavia V. Farinetti
Director
APEC Economic and Technical Cooperation
Affairs and Bilateral Relations with Asia-Pacific
Ministry of the Economy
Alfonso Reyes #30, 17th floor
Mexico 06140, D.F.
Mexico
Tel: (525 5) 5729 9365
Fax: (525 5) 5729 9313
E-mail: ffarinet@economia.gob.mx

APEC Secretariat

Mr Geoffrey Woodhead
Director (Finance)
E-mail: gw@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Mr Masanori Wada
Director (Program/Project Evaluation Coordinator)
E-mail: mmw@mail.apecsec.org.sg

COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) works to reduce impediments to business activity in 15 key areas outlined in the *Osaka Action Agenda*—tariffs and non-tariff measures, services, standards and conformance, customs procedures, intellectual property rights, competition policy, government procurement, deregulation, rules of origin, dispute mediation, mobility of business people and implementation of World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations.

In addition to its ongoing work in the 15 key issue areas, the CTI meets three times a year and provides a forum for APEC's 21 Member Economies to discuss trade and policy issues.

Specific issues are addressed by Sub-Committees and Experts' Groups under the direction of CTI and updates of these issue areas are provided in the subsequent sections of the *Update*.

Latest Developments

Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System

APEC supports an open, rules-based multilateral trading system in the WTO, which benefits both developing and developed economies, enabling them to trade more effectively. The CTI provides capacity building support to APEC Member Economies which require institutional training and knowledge to take full advantage of the WTO process. It also provides a forum for economies and sub-fora to discuss explore and identify areas where CTI and its sub-fora could contribute to the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) discussions in the WTO.

Recent outcomes include –

- Publication of a *Report on APEC's WTO Capacity Building Activities*.
- Conclusion of a *Forum on Trade and Investment*, which is a new WTO Issue in Beijing on 14-15 August 2003.

APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan

The *APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan* provides the framework and schedule for the implementation of actions and measures to meet APEC's trade facilitation objectives. The objectives are outlined in the *Shanghai Accord* and include the aim of substantially reducing transaction costs to business. The Plan also includes a menu of concrete actions and measures developed by APEC Member Economies in consultation with the private sector. The menu is intended to provide examples of the types of measures that each APEC Member Economy may wish to undertake from 2003 onwards. Developments include –

- Submission by all 21 Member Economies of the selection of trade actions and measures from the Menu that they will implement this year and beyond.
- Presentation of case studies by six economies on selected trade facilitating actions and measures they were undertaking and the cost reductions to business associated with their actions.

- Presentation by an expert from the World Customs Organization (WCO) on the WCO survey on time required for the release of goods as one possible proxy to measure the reduction in trade transaction costs.
- Implementation of projects that promote the understanding of methodologies in measuring the reduction in transaction costs and assist in the identification of an appropriate methodology.
- Implementation of a TILF-funded capacity building project to assist APEC Member Economies develop the expertise required to implement trade facilitation measures
- Further progress reported by all sub-fora in implementing the APEC Trade Facilitation Principles

APEC Statement to Implement Transparency Standards

This statement demonstrates that APEC is committed to the implementation of transparency standards to help provide business and investors comprehensive and clear information on the rules and regulations of each APEC Member Economy.

Recent outcomes include –

- Development of a work plan to implement the Leaders' Transparency Standards Statement by January 2005
- Agreement for CTI and its sub-fora to work interessionally between Phuket to Bangkok to finalise the sector-specific transparency standards for submission to the Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting (CSOM) for onward transmission to Leaders and Ministers in October
- Agreement to finalise work on how the General Transparency Standards could be reflected in the Individual Action Plans (IAPs) for SOM's adoption and use by economies to report in 2004 (and thereafter) on how they implement these Standards
- Agreement to develop a communication plan to demonstrate the importance of transparency standards and how they can benefit the business community.

Collective Action Plans

Collective Action Plans (CAPs) detail the collective actions of all APEC Member Economies in the 15 issue areas outlined in the *Osaka Action Agenda*. CAPs are used by APEC to outline actions and objectives to meet free trade and investment goals, as well as to monitor and report on progress.

Recent outcomes include –

- Updated and enhanced CAPs to ensure that these plans assist APEC to meet its goals.
- Agreed to continue with the on-going review of the implementation of CAPs to ensure that they are effective.
- Approved the Comprehensive Strategy on Intellectual Property Rights in APEC
- Rationalised reporting requirements amongst CTI sub-fora to make reports more useful and accessible to the public.
- Agreed on an initial list of ideas on how work of the CTI and its sub-fora could be streamlined.

APEC Pathfinder Initiatives

APEC uses an approach known as Pathfinder Initiatives to enable groups of Member Economies to pilot the implementation of cooperative initiatives prior to their adoption by all APEC Member Economies. This approach allows APEC Member Economies who are ready and willing to commit to move faster in specific areas to do so and is seen as a way to invigorate progress towards the free trade and investment goals.

APEC Economic Leaders endorsed several Pathfinder Initiatives in 2002, including some relating to trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation. These were –

- Unilateral Advance Passenger Information Systems.
- Revised Kyoto Convention on the Simplifications and Harmonisation of Customs Procedures.
- Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Conformity Assessment on Electrical and Electronic Equipment Parts II and III.
- Electronic Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) certificates.
- Electronic Certificates of Origin.
- Statement to Implement the APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy.

Recent outcomes include –

- Advancing the implementation of the TILF-related pathfinder initiatives.
- Commencing work to developing a concept paper to follow up on the Sectoral Food MRA pathfinder that was endorsed by Ministers Responsible for Trade in June 2003.
- Developed a “Next Steps” paper for implementing *Leaders’ Statement to Implement the APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy*.
- Submission of reports by a number of economies outlining how they are implementing the Pathfinder Statement’s objectives on e-commerce, services, intellectual property and tariffs.
- Commenced work to identify other new areas that may be important for the digital economy.
- Held an *APEC Digital Trade Seminar on defining an Environment that Facilitates Trade in the Digital Economy* jointly with the E-Commerce Steering Group in Phuket on 16 August 2003.

Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure (SELI)

APEC works to build capacity in the area of economic legal infrastructure, including regulatory and institutional reforms and corporate governance. Work in this area focuses on assisting members to improve legal infrastructure and encouraging open market policies to achieve maximum and sustained economic growth in the region. This work is coordinated by the SELI Coordinating Group under the Guidance of CTI. Developments include –

- Adoption of a mechanism for economies to report on implementation of SELI issues to meet the objectives of the new chapter on SELI in Part 1 of the Osaka Action Agenda.
- Implementation of the *APEC Training Program on Competition Policy*, jointly conducted by Japan, Thailand, Viet Nam and Malaysia with the main objective to implement *APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform*.
- Implementation of self-funded activities such as –
 - The *Study on Debt Collection Litigation/ Arbitration in APEC Economies*, conducted by Japan to identify how the insolvency law and related legal system function as a part of the economic legal infrastructure in APEC Member Economies.
 - *Intensive Training in Commercial Laws Seminars, SELI and Structural Reform Seminars*, organised by Australia. The seminars succeeded in canvassing possible strategies and initiatives to address SELI needs and sharing information and exchanging views on examples of best practices in structural reform.
 - *Capacity Building Program for Implementing an Accounting System*, led by Japan.

Industry Dialogues

CTI recognises that importance of public-private sector dialogues for improving the mutual understanding of key imperatives for the development of future policy and for enhancing the competitiveness of the relevant industries. It continues to support SOM in monitoring the developments in the Automotive and Chemical Dialogues. It also saw to the establishment and the convening of the inaugural meeting of the Life Sciences Innovation Forum in Phuket on 14-15 August 2003.

Brief History

The Committee on Trade and Investment was established in November 1993 by the *Declaration of an APEC Trade and Investment Framework*. The scope of CTI's work was expanded and further clarified by the *Osaka Action Agenda* in 1995.

Committee on Trade and Investment – Key Contacts

Chair

Ms Ng Kim Neo
Consultant
Ministry of Trade and Industry
100 High Street #09-01
The Treasury
Singapore 179434
Tel: (65) 6332 7253
Fax: (65) 6334 7113
Email: ng_kim_neo@mti.gov.sg

APEC Secretariat

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

CTI Coordinator

Mr Takumi Fukino
Director (Program)
Email: taf@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Tariff and Non-Tariff Measures

Tariff and non-tariff measures (NTMs) are two of the 15 specific areas outlined in the *Osaka Action Agenda* through which APEC Member Economies are working to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. Elimination of these barriers will help APEC to achieve the *Bogor Goals*, encourage greater and freer trade and investment flows and create new business opportunities and jobs in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Market Access Group (MAG), which reports to the Committee on Trade and Investment, is responsible for APEC's work on tariffs and NTMs. MAG addresses tariff and NTMs to support the WTO and to facilitate trade through information sharing and projects that build on the existing knowledge-base of the group and its capacity for trade analysis.

Latest Developments

MAG met three times in 2003 in the margins of the Senior Officials' Meetings. MAG made significant progress this year, completing its entire agenda. Recent developments include –

- Planning a capacity building workshop, scheduled for 8 – 10 October 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand, on quantitative methods for assessing NTMs and trade facilitation. WTO, World Bank and regional representatives will be invited to deliver presentations on quantitative assessment of trade policies other than tariffs. Key topics include: *A Conceptual and Empirical Assessment of the Rules Determining Origin in Preferential Trade Agreements*, *the Reasons For And The Impact Of Antidumping Protection*; *the Case of the People's Republic of China*, *Developed Economies Non-Tariff Measure Protection and its Impact on Developed and Developing Economies*; and *New Estimates of the Effects of NTMs in the Global Economy*.
- MAG has decided to hold a trade policy dialogue on market access concerns for small and medium size enterprises at its next meeting in Chile, February 2004.
- Preparation of a MAG paper on "Best Practice in Domestic WTO Consultations" that draws on members' experiences and processes. This paper will assist APEC Member Economies to conduct WTO consultations more effectively in the future.
- Preparation of a paper on "Transparency Standards on Tariffs and Non-Tariff Measures". This paper is currently being discussed by APEC Members Economies.

Key Outcomes

Improving the MAG section of the APEC website, to make it an effective tool to keep the public informed about MAG activities has been a great concern of all MAG members. It was agreed at MAG 1, 2003 that a small group, led by New Zealand, would review the content and design of the MAG section of the APEC website and suggest possible changes. As a first step, New Zealand prepared a discussion paper on possible improvements for the website for MAG II. These valuable recommendations were incorporated into the newly revamped APEC Website which includes a MAG section. When the new APEC Website was launched at SOM III in August 2003, MAG delegates expressed their satisfaction with progress. Member economies were also enthusiastic to update their links in the MAG section on import regulations and other business information.

MAG produced a paper on "Regional Trade Agreements and Free Trade Agreements," which draws on members' approaches to regional trading arrangements. The paper will act as a stepping stone for further MAG work on market access issues in regional trading arrangements. The paper will help facilitate an exchange of views in APEC on regional and bilateral trade agreements.

MAG continued to assist member's preparations for the Doha Development Agenda round by providing up-to-date data to the WTO IDB, and increasing business awareness of APEC efforts to improve market access, including highlighting efforts of trade facilitation in the region through its inaugural biannual newsletter. At its recent meeting, MAG decided to continue the publication of its internet-based MAG newsletter, making full use of the newly revamped and user-friendly MAG section of the APEC website to reach out MAG members, business, academic and other audiences.

Tariff and Non-Tariff Measures – Key Contacts

Convenor

Mr David Garner
Trade & Investment Liberalisation Section
APEC & Regional Trade Policy Branch
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT)
R.G. Casey Building
Barton ACT 0221, Australia
Tel: (612) 6261 3326
Fax: (612) 6261 3009
Email: david.garner@dfat.gov.au

APEC Secretariat

Mr Tong Xianguo
Director (Program)
E-mail: txg@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Brief History

The Market Access Group (MAG) was established in 1998 by the Committee for Trade and Investment (CTI) to handle the CTI's work on tariffs and NTMs. The MAG is designed to work through its three regular meetings of the year held in the margins of the three formal Senior Officials' Meetings.

Services

The services sector generates significant economic growth, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. This sector is also a significant employer of people in the region. To encourage further growth and development in this sector, APEC's Group on Services (GOS) works on trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation issues related to trade in services, and coordinates APEC's work in this area. GOS works in close collaboration with four service-related Working Groups: Telecommunications and Information; Transportation; Tourism; and Energy.

Latest Developments

The GOS is continuing to exchange information related to the WTO services negotiation in order to help APEC Member Economies to participate actively in that negotiation and at the same time to contribute to the progress of international trade in services.

The GOS has recently completed two year's work on Phase III of the Menu of Options for Voluntary Liberalisation and Facilitation, and Promotion of Economic and Technical Cooperation in Services Trade. The Menu of Options (MOOs) will provide an organisational framework for GOS and will set out a list of measures for APEC Member Economies to use in their Individual Action Plans. GOS has begun to discuss the relevant follow-up measures for the MOOs.

The GOS will finalise by the end of this year a study project on the *Cost and Benefits of Services Trade Liberalisation*, which will provide policy makers with useful information about the value of undertaking liberalisation of services trade. Additionally, the study will provide information about the economic and supervisory conditions that must be developed to provide reasonable assurance that liberalising trade in services will be beneficial to people in APEC Member Economies while providing domestic service providers with an opportunity to be competitive with imported service providers. The GOS also undertook a project on trade in environmental services which is to be completed by next year.

The GOS is also developing a substantive list of experts in services trade in APEC Member Economies.

Key Outcomes

The GOS finished its multi-year project on the Menu of Options carried out through three phases since 2000. The MOOs includes a comprehensive list of measures APEC Member Economies could undertake to liberalise trade in services. It is designed to not only help APEC Member Economies to liberalise services trade but to also promote economic and technical cooperation in services trade.

The GOS has been discussing sectoral transparency standards for services area targeting to finalisation in 2003.

Brief History

The GOS was established in 1997 by the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) as a subgroup to address trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation tasks in the area of services.

TARIFF AND
NON-TARIFF
MEASURES

SERVICES

Services – Key Contacts

Convenor

Mr Seok-young CHOI
Deputy Director General
Multilateral Trade Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Korea
Tel: (82 2) 2100 7619
Fax: (82 2) 2100 7975
E-mail: sychoi79@mofat.go.kr

APEC Secretariat

Mr Kang Jae-Kwon
Director (Program)
E-mail: kjk@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Investment

Investment is integral to economic growth and development in the Asia-Pacific region. To encourage and facilitate free and open investment in the region, the Investment Experts' Group (IEG) assists the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) to achieve the investment-related components of APEC's liberalisation and facilitation agenda.

Latest Developments

The *Guide to the Investment Regimes of the APEC Member Economies* was updated in 2003. This tool helps government officials to exchange information on each other's investment regimes and to enhance transparency. It also provides business people and investors with information to better understand the regulations and procedures in doing business and making investments in APEC Member Economies. The latest version of the Guide containing information on the investment regimes of the 21 APEC Member Economies is available on the APEC website.

The fourth *APEC Investment Mart* will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 16–21 October 2003 under the theme, *Asia-Pacific – Invest with Confidence, Benefit from Diversity*. It provides opportunities for networking and industrial linkages between business and investors. The event will showcase the economic potential, industrial technological advances and investment opportunities of APEC Member Economies in order to stimulate investment in the Asia-Pacific region.

A Seminar on *International Investment Instruments and their Legal Interpretations* was held on 13 August 2003 in Phuket, to strengthen the technical capacity of investment negotiators of APEC Member Economies. The study is available in the APEC website.

Key Outcomes

A study on *Venture Capital Investment in APEC Economies* was conducted in 2003. The report discussed recent developments in venture capital in the Asia-Pacific region and analysed policies and economic environments in APEC economies. The report identifies best practices in APEC as well as regulatory barriers to the development of an efficient venture capital industry for financing small and medium enterprises. The report is available on the APEC website.

A study on "Cross Cross-border Mergers & Acquisitions: Case Studies of Korea, China, and Hong Kong, China" was also conducted in 2003. The purpose of this project was to enhance the understanding of cross-border Mergers & Acquisitions in the APEC member economies. A deeper analysis of this issue through various case studies is critical in order to understand benefits and costs of cross-border Mergers & Acquisitions for host economies. The study concluded that there are more benefits than costs of cross-border Mergers & Acquisitions on host economies.

Brief History

The CTI established the IEG in 1994 to develop a set of Non-binding Investment Principles. In 1995 the IEG was reconvened to provide advice to the CTI on investment issues and to develop the *Osaka Action Agenda*.

Investment – Key Contacts

Chair

Mr Juan Orduña
Ministry of Economy
Insurgentes Sur 1940
8th Floor Colonia Florida
Mexico DF 01030
Tel: (52 55) 52 296 100
Fax: (52 55) 52 296 507
E-mail: jorduna@economia.gob.mx

APEC Secretariat

Mr Julio A. Bravo
Director (Program)
E-mail: jab@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Standards and Conformance

The Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) assists the Committee on Trade and Investment to achieve the standards and conformance related components of APEC's trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation agenda. This agenda includes the reduction of negative effects on trade and investment flows caused by differing standards and conformance arrangements in the region. The agenda also involves further developing open regionalism and market-driven economic interdependence through a number of activities including encouraging greater alignment of APEC Member Economies' standards with international standards.

Ultimately, more harmonised standards and conformance will improve the efficiency of production and facilitate the conduct of international trade, resulting in more rapid trade flows, reduced costs and greater integration of production networks in the region.

Latest Developments

At the first SCSC meeting in February 2003, the Work Program for the year 2003 was discussed and adopted. The main areas in which the SCSC is working collectively are –

- Alignment of Member Economies' standards with International Standards,
- Recognition of Conformity Assessment in the Regulated Sector,
- APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs),
- Related Arrangements and Recognition of Conformity Assessment in the Voluntary Sector, and
- Technical Infrastructure Development.

The SCSC will also consider how to respond to APEC Economic Leaders' calls for APEC Transparency Standards with regard to standards and conformance.

The SCSC will also contribute information to the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

One of the new items considered in 2003 was the effect of standards and conformance on small and medium enterprises (SMEs). In order to reduce the compliance costs for SMEs, SCSC discussed options in the SCSC II meeting with the Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group Chair.

Another important issue is cooperation between regulators and authorities in charge of standards and conformance.

Key Outcomes

In the tenth APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration, *Parts II and III of APEC MRA on Conformity Assessment of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEMRA)* was adopted as a Pathfinder Initiative. APEC Member Economies are encouraged to participate in this initiative.

The SCSC also made a presentation in March 2003 of its activities on technical infrastructure development to the WTO/ Technical Barriers to Trade Committee.

Brief History

The SCSC was established in 1994 and contributes to trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation through technical areas of standards and conformance.

INVESTMENT
STANDARDS AND
CONFORMANCE

Standards and Conformance – Key Contacts

Chair

Mr Surachai Thaleongchok
Secretary-General
Thai Industrial Standards Institute
Rama VI St, Ratchathewi
Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Tel: (66 2) 202 3400
Fax: (66 2) 246 4085
E-mail: surachai@tisi.go.th

APEC Secretariat

Mr Takumi Fujino
Director (Program)
E-mail: taf@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Customs Procedures

The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) aims to simplify and harmonise regional customs procedures to ensure that goods and services move more efficiently, effectively and safely through the region. The work of the SCCP supports APEC's Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation (TILF) agenda.

The business community directly benefits from the work of the SCCP. Business confidence has increased and transaction costs have reduced as a result of the SCCP's work to increase consistency, transparency and simplification of customs procedures.

Latest Developments

Communication and cooperation between customs and the business sector was promoted through the 2003 APEC Customs Business Dialogue (ACBD), which was held in Thailand on 11 August 2003, hosted and organised by the Thai Customs Department.

The main theme for one-day, ACBD 2003 was "Trade Facilitation and Supply Chain Security: How they can be Convergent." Approximately 300 participants from business associations, traders, forwarding agents, customs brokers, national chambers of commerce, as well as heads of Customs Administrations of APEC Member Economies and representatives from the World Customs Organization (WCO) and APEC attended the ACBD.

The Dialogue comprised three sessions. Session I was plenary session for the main theme. This session featured guest speakers from the WCO, representatives from the US and Australian Customs, private sector representatives from APEC Member Economies and the APEC SCCP Chair. Session II was syndicate discussion on the sub-themes of "Maritime Security and Air Cargo Security." Session III was a concluding plenary session.

The *2003 Blueprint on Customs Procedures* is being published in October 2003. The Blueprint promotes transparency and informs the private sector about SCCP activities and how these activities can benefit business. It is being disseminated via the Internet and in hard copy with a new format that includes testimonials and endorsements from important industry and business representatives as well as government officials.

The SCCP will conduct its first TILF-funded voluntary peer review process in 2003, involving the independent assessment of its CAP. This review will help APEC Member Economies keep on track to deliver the outcomes of the SCCP CAP.

During its second meeting in Phuket 14-16 August 2003, the SCCP agreed the creation of the *Star Initiative/Counter Terrorism Working Group*, where the SCCP can discuss the impact that Counter Terrorism has placed on Customs Administrations and general terrorism issues.

In the same meeting, an *Ad Hoc Trade Facilitation Working Group* was created, to look into a specific aspect of Customs that contributes to the expectation of the reduction of transaction costs.

Key Outcomes

During its first meeting in February 2003, the SCCP agreed on a strategy to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation in specific areas, by –

- Promoting the adoption and application of *Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements*.
- Implementing appropriate Collective Action Plan (CAP) items to increase the ability of customs administrators to effectively administer customs laws.
- Enhancing the use of existing customs communications networks, including those of international organisations such as the World Customs Organization, to more effectively enforce laws to counter terrorism while minimising the impact on the flow of trade.

Paperless Trading: Phases 1-4 of the *Paperless Trading Project* which aims to reduce the requirement for paper documentation in Customs Administrations through the development and implementation of Paperless Trading Strategies were concluded. Australia, in joint efforts with an academic institution is undertaking the study on APEC Member Economies' progress in paperless implementation. The study will be circulated prior to the next SCCP meeting in February 2004.

Harmonisation of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention: HS 2002 is being applied in 19 APEC Member Economies, and is in the process of being implemented in two others. Technical assistance will be provided to Indonesia, Russia and Thailand by the end of 2003.

Risk Management: The *Risk Management Technical Assistance Program* which comprised six phases was completed in February 2003. Phase 6, *Evaluation of the Program* was conducted as a survey and a copy of the evaluation was circulated to economies in July 2003. Feedback from these economies indicated that all economies participating in the program have utilised the risk management concept to varying degrees.

Express Consignment: To date, all planned activities under Phase 1 and 2 of the *Project Express Consignment Clearance* have been completed. Phase 3 of the Project will consist of follow-up missions to provide additional technical assistance to APEC Member Economies that received an assessment mission under Phase 2. During Phase 3 four missions have been conducted in Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. In addition, two follow up missions were organised for Viet Nam and Indonesia in the third quarter of 2003.

Program to Improve Implementation on Customs Related WTO Agreements: A Seminar on The WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in June 2003.

Customs-Business Partnership: As part of the *Customs Business Initiative*, a compendium on *Best Practices on Customs Business Partnership* was compiled and posted on the APEC and SCCP websites in August 2002. The compendium will be next updated in August 2004.

Pathfinder Initiative—Adoption of the Principles of the Revised Kyoto Convention: The Revised Kyoto Convention aims to make trade more efficient by simplifying and harmonising customs procedures. A project is now underway to implement this Pathfinder Initiative. A Guide Book was developed and a workshop will be held later in 2003 to demonstrate its use and related activities to APEC Member Economies.

Brief History

The SCCP was established in 1994 and reports directly to the Committee on Trade and Investment.

Customs Procedures – Key Contacts

Chair

Ms Naengnoi Na Ranong
Deputy Director General of Thai Customs
The Customs Department
Sunthornkosa Road, Khlong Toey,
Bangkok 10110
Tel: (662) 671 7667
Fax: (662) 249 4016
E-mail: sccp2003@customs.go.th

APEC Secretariat

Mr Julio Cardenas
Director (Program)
E-mail: jcv@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Intellectual Property Rights

The Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG) is implementing a work program aims to –

- Deepen the dialogue on intellectual property policy.
- Survey and exchange information on the current status of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection and administrative systems.
- Study measures for the effective enforcement of IPR.
- Fully implement the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- Facilitate technical cooperation to implement TRIPS.

IPEG is working to support a strong and effective IPR system. An effective IPR system is important to trade because it provides confidence to business that rights will be respected and that profits will be returned to IPR holders when goods and services are traded in the region.

Latest Developments

A seminar on *Intellectual Property and Competition Policy* was held in Christchurch, New Zealand on 13 March 2003. The Seminar explored the interface between IPR and competition policy and the frameworks that economies can use in formulate Intellectual Property laws to promote effective competition, innovation and economic growth.

Two-day training workshops were held in Bangkok, Thailand (13-14 May 2003) and in Beijing, China (5-6 August 2003) for developing APEC Member Economies on IPR Implementation with a particular focus on geographical indications. The workshops, in line with the Doha Development Agenda's objectives to enhance capacity of developing economies to manage trade issues, aimed to equip key officials with a framework on geographical indications covering mechanisms for protection, the relationships between geographical indications with trademarks, consumer protection and unfair competition.

A seminar on *Intellectual Property Management and Strategies* was held in Vancouver, Canada, on July 10 to provide government officials with insights into how intellectual property is used, managed and exploited throughout the various commercialisation phases of an innovation.

The *IP Toolkit*, which provides a framework for IPEG enforcement projects, will help APEC Member Economies to increase awareness levels of enforcement and resources, assist APEC Member Economies to implement enforcement activities, improve coordination in donor funding of capacity building projects and publicise enforcement activities of interest to APEC Member Economies.

Key Outcomes

In 2003, the IPEG endorsed a *Joint Declaration regarding Government Use of Computer Software* to combat and prevent illegal software use and piracy by fully implementing international agreements.

In the interest of improving the transparency of intellectual property rights regimes and to conform to the revised Osaka Action Agenda, the IPEG endorsed the *Intellectual Property Rights Service Center* with the understanding that each APEC Member Economy may proceed with implementation as soon as it is ready. The IPR Center will provide information related to protecting IPR, including economy-wide codes, laws, and other enforcement regulations and decrees; contact information for government authorities; and other information economies may wish to make available to the interested public.

Public awareness of IPR issues will be boosted via an APEC funded project on *Public Education and Awareness of Intellectual Property* for Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam.

The IPEG deepened discussions on the progress of TRIPS negotiations under the WTO Doha Development Agenda.

The APEC funded project *IPEG Technical Cooperation of Intellectual Property Offices' Automation in APEC regions*, aims to bridge the widening digital divide, build a cost-effective scheme and facilitate the implementation of integrated Intellectual automation. The first phase of consulting services in Thailand was completed in June 2003.

Brief History

In early 1996, the Committee on Trade and Investment established an Intellectual Property Rights Get Together (IPR-GT) to address the work required on IPR issues by the Osaka Action Agenda. In August 1997, CTI reconstituted the IPR-GT as a Subgroup with explicit terms of reference and renamed it the Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG). Since its establishment the IPEG has held seventeen meetings, with the last one on 8-9 July 2003 in Vancouver, B.C, Canada.

Intellectual Property Rights – Key Contacts

Convenor

Mr Peter S Kang
 Director of General Planning Department
 Intellectual Property Office
 Ministry of Economic Affairs
 29th Floor, 185 Hsin-Hai Road Sec 2
 Taipei, Taiwan
 Tel: (886 2) 2737 3667
 Fax: (886 2) 2737 3183
 E-mail: jyuekang@tipo.gov.tw

APEC Secretariat

Mr Julio A. Bravo
 Program (Director)
 E-mail: jab@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Competition Policy and Deregulation

Unilateral deregulation by APEC economies makes an important contribution to trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation. Transparency in regulatory regimes and the elimination of trade-impeding or unnecessarily restrictive regulations are the key objectives of APEC work in the deregulation area. This work is undertaken by the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI). Under direction from the CTI, the Competition Policy and Deregulation Group (CPDG) works on activities relating to information gathering and analysis as well as experience sharing.

Latest Developments

- Continuing implementation of the next phase of the *APEC Training Program to promote Economic Competition, particularly in Telecommunications and Financial Services sector*.
- Implementation of the next phase of the project, *APEC/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Cooperative Initiative on Regulatory Reform*, which enforces the *Road Map Initiative on Strengthening Markets* through continued dialogue and sharing of experiences among economies dealing with the challenges of regulatory reform.
- Continuing cooperating with the Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure (SELI) Group, particularly by coordinating the needs of APEC Member Economies with specific projects based on the *Menu of Options on Competition Policy*.
- Undertaking new capacity building programs to assist economies in implementing the *APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform*.
- Continuing to develop an understanding of competition policies and/or laws within economies and within relevant domestic constituencies, thereby fostering a culture of competition.
- Deepening the dialogue with other APEC fora and subfora on the understanding and reporting of the implementation of the *APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform*.
- Future work will continue to focus primarily on the implementation of the *APEC Principles to Enhance Competition Policy and Regulatory Reform* and specific projects arising from it.

Key Outcomes

The competition database covering all APEC Member Economies has been completed and is available for public access. This database provides the private sector, including academic organisations and business enterprises, with useful information on competition law of all APEC members.

Three projects related to competition policy and deregulation were carried out during 2002 –

- *APEC/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Cooperative Initiative on Regulatory Reform*. This initiative contributed to deepening the dialogue and technical assistance between regulatory agencies of economies inside and outside APEC.
- *Training Program to promote Economic Competition in APEC Economies*. This program aimed to promote the implementation of the *APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform* through the organisation of seminars focusing on regulation in the energy and transportation sectors.

- *APEC Training Program on Competition Policy submitted* jointly by the CPD and SELI. The main objective of this program was to provide developing economies with technical co-operation and assistance by taking advantage of the accumulated APEC knowledge and expertise on competition policy.

These projects represent a concrete benefit for the private sector of the participant economies. Improving processes within competition/regulatory agencies increases the technical quality of the application of Competition Law and will create the conditions for the establishment of clear rules for all the economic agents involved in the functioning of markets.

Brief History

The globalisation of business has highlighted the importance of competition issues. APEC's objective in this work area is to enhance the competitive environment of the region. In November 1994, APEC Ministers agreed that the CTI would develop an understanding of competition issues, in particular competition laws and policies of economies in the region and how they affect flows of trade and investment in the APEC region. They would also identify potential areas of technical cooperation among member economies. In 1996, the *Osaka Action Agenda (OAA)* work programs for competition policy and deregulation were combined.

Remembering the Asian financial crisis of the 1990s APEC Ministers endorsed the *APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform* and approved a "road map" which established the basis for subsequent work on strengthening the markets in the region (Auckland, New Zealand, 1999).

In 2001, Leaders agreed that the *OAA* should be broadened to "reflect fundamental changes in the global economy" since Osaka, including *Strengthening the Functioning of Markets*. The implementation of competition policy/deregulation area provides markets with a framework that encourages market discipline, eliminates distortions and promotes economic efficiency. Therefore, competition policy/deregulation area is one of the key elements contributing to both the "road map" and the broadening of the *OAA*.

Competition Policy & Deregulation – Key Contacts

Convenor

Dr Ernesto Estrada González
International Regulation General Director
Federal Competition Commission
Monte Libano No 225
Col. Lomas de Chapultepec
CP 11000, Mexico, D.F.
Tel: (52 55) 9140 0360/61
Fax: (52 55) 9140 0359
E-mail: eestrada@cfc.gob.mx

APEC Secretariat

Mr Benyamin Carnadi
Director (Program)
E-mail: bc@mail.apecsec.org.sg

INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY RIGHTS

COMPETITION
POLICY AND
DEREGULATION

Government Procurement

A basic principle of government procurement is to provide ample and equal opportunities for participation to interested and qualified bidders for government work, thereby ensuring healthy and effective competition. To help facilitate this outcome, the Government Procurement Experts' Group (GPEG) aims to develop a common understanding of government procurement policies and systems and to achieve liberalisation of government procurement markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The GPEG reviews and reports on APEC Member Economies' government procurement regimes against non-binding principles. The group is currently undertaking voluntary reviews of the consistency of government procurement regimes against these non-binding principles. Members will continue to provide updates on any changes to their procurement frameworks that may enhance the non-binding principle of Transparency.

Information about GPEG activities can be found in the Government Procurement section of the APEC Secretariat website at, www.apecsec.org.sg/content/apec/apec_groups/committees/committee_on_trade/government_procurement.html

Latest Developments

- The GPEG –
- Continues the process of collecting voluntary reviews of APEC Member Economies' government procurement regimes against the *Non-Binding-Principles of Value for Money, Accountability and Due Process*.
 - Delivered a two-day symposium and workshop provided SME's and the business sector with the opportunity to provide input into strategies for the e-procurement enablement of governments and businesses in APEC economies. The symposium and workshop helped to build relationships between the business sector and GP officials in the Asia-Pacific region and increased awareness e-procurement in government procurement.
 - Continues to share information on government procurement capacity building and developments within APEC Member Economies' government procurement frameworks.
 - Continues to share information about APEC Member Economies' e-procurement adoption and systems.
 - Is developing a greater understanding of APEC Member Economies' free trade agreements.
 - Is increasing government procurement transparency by cooperating with each other through information sharing and technical assistance to increase the application and scope of electronic government procurement (e-GP).

Recent Key Outcomes

The majority of GPEG members completed their voluntary reviews and reports of their government procurement systems against the non-binding principle of Transparency during 2001–2002. Through this process, members are exploring how best to implement the principles and to voluntarily bring their systems into conformity with the principles. The group also agreed to begin voluntary reviews of the next principle of Value for Money in 2003.

Brief History

The Government Procurement Experts Group (GPEG) was established in 1995 to consider ways to increase transparency of government procurement markets in accordance with the goals of the *Bogor Declaration*. Australia has chaired the GPEG since August 2001.

In 2003 GPEG met twice in Thailand, in February and August. The focus of GPEG's work has been on continuing the agreed process of voluntary reviews and reports by APEC Member Economies on the consistency of their government procurement framework with the APEC GPEG Non-Binding Principles (NBPs) on government procurement.

The APEC GPEG NBPs are Transparency; Value for Money; Open and Effective Competition; Fair Dealing; Accountability and Due Process; and Non-Discrimination. APEC member economies are encouraged to align their procurement framework with the APEC GPEG NBPs.

Government Procurement – Key Contacts

Convenor

Mr Mike Loudon
Branch Manager
Department of Finance and Administration
GPO Box 1920
Canberra, ACT 2601
Tel: (612) 61253859
Fax: (612) 62153366
E-mail: Mike.loudon@finance.gov.au

APEC Secretariat

Mr Benyamin Carnadi
Director (Program)
E-mail: bc@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Rules of Origin

Rules of Origin are the laws and regulations that determine the economy origin of goods. Globalisation has made it increasingly difficult to determine where a product “originally” comes from since raw materials and parts used to make finished goods are drawn from all over the world. Rules of Origin are important when implementing trade policy tools such as anti-dumping and countervailing duties, trade mark, and safeguard measures. As such, the Committee on Trade and Investment Plenary work to harmonise these rules among APEC Member Economies.

Latest Developments

A comparative matrix will be available by the first quarter of 2004 and it will demonstrate the regulations of the various APEC Member Economies on *Rules of Origin and Customs Procedures relating to Preferential Rules of Origin*. This matrix will be used by APEC Member Economies in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

In February 2004, a *Guideline and Handbook on Rules of Origin* will be distributed among members.

Key Outcomes

Two workshops on Rules of Origin were conducted 17–21 March 2003 in Thailand and 24–28 March 2003 in China. These workshops provided technical assistance to Thai and Chinese customs officials to implement the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin.

GOVERNMENT
PROCUREMENT

RULES OF ORIGIN

Rules of Origin - Key Contacts

APEC Secretariat

Mr Julio Cardenas
Director (Program)
E-mail: jcv@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Dispute Mediation

Trade and other economic disputes have negative impacts on the efficient flow of goods and services through the Asia-Pacific region and on the cooperative work of APEC. Over the past few years, the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) has worked on methods for cooperatively resolving disputes, focusing particularly on APEC Member Economy and business/private sector disputes. The CTI has also worked on promoting the transparency of laws and regulations as a means of dispute avoidance.

APEC regards the WTO Dispute Settlement process as the primary channel for resolving disputes and supports this channel by helping to avoid disputes through non-adversarial and voluntary approaches.

Latest Developments

At the CTI meeting in February 2003, it was decided that regular reporting on dispute mediation was no longer necessary. However, APEC Member Economies can still raise dispute mediation issues as required.

Key Outcomes

The *Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Mediation in APEC Member Economies* was updated by all Member Economies in October 2002. This site contains information on arbitration laws, rules and practices in each of the APEC Member Economies together with other material on alternative dispute resolution. It helps businesses and business advisers to assist in reducing the costs of doing business in the region through providing transparent and authoritative information on methods of resolving commercial disputes that do not involve litigation.

Brief History

In 1992, an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was created to examine trade and economic issues confronting APEC. In August 1994, the EPG recommended that APEC create a Dispute Mediation Service (DMS) to provide assistance in resolving and, over time, perhaps avoiding economic disputes among its members. The proposal was endorsed by APEC Economic Leaders in Bogor, Indonesia, in November 1994. In response to the Bogor Declaration, APEC established a Dispute Mediation Experts' Group (DMEG), to explore how such a dispute mediation service might be created within APEC.

With the advent of the WTO and implementation of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, the proposal for an alternative DMS specifically providing dispute settlement services at the Government level for APEC members was not pursued. The desire for greater transparency, easier access to relevant laws and policies and a trend internationally towards greater consistency of laws relating to commercial dispute resolution was however, recognised as a worthy objective and the preparation of a guidebook was endorsed by Experts.

APEC published *International Commercial Disputes; A Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies* in 1997 and a revised version in 1999. An internet version of the Guide was also created in 1999. In 2000 the DMEG was disbanded and its responsibilities were subsumed in the CTI.

Dispute Mediation – Key Contacts

APEC Secretariat

Mr Julio A Bravo
Director (Program)
E-mail: jab@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Mobility of Business People

APEC Member Economies are committed to enhancing business mobility by exchanging information on regulatory regimes, streamlining the processing of short-term business visitor visas and procedures for temporary residence of business people, and maintaining a dialogue on these issues with the business community. This work is coordinated by the Informal Experts' Group on Business Mobility (IEGBM). Australia currently chairs this group.

Business and Private Sector Participation

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) has made facilitation of business travel a priority. The Committee on Trade and Investment's agenda on business mobility has been guided by ABAC's recommendations, and the IEGBM liaises closely with ABAC on developments. The business/private sector has also been closely consulted in the development of the *APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)* scheme and the introduction of other APEC initiatives. ABAC continues to be a strong promoter of the *ABTC* and was instrumental in expediting Japan's participation in the scheme.

Latest Developments

The IEGBM is continuing work on initiatives to improve immigration processing, to make it faster and smoother for travellers, and to more effectively assure passenger safety and border security. Specifically, members are continuing on a pathfinder basis, the implementation of Advanced Passenger Information (API) systems. Additionally, the IEGBM is progressing work to examine the concept of developing a new Regional Immigration Alert System, which would enhance security through coordination without noticeably impeding travellers' movements.

The IEGBM is also developing standards that will assist economies in improving the quality and consistency of their immigration services and systems. Standards have been developed for: professional conduct for immigration officers; immigration legal infrastructure; improved travel document security and related issuing and storage systems; and transparency. The IEGBM's agreed capacity building is to set best practice standards against which all economies can self-assess their existing regimes and develop their own tailored strategic action plans to implement the agreed standards. Technical and training assistance is provided to economies to build their capacity to implement the standards.

Also, economies continue work, on a 'best endeavours' basis, to streamline processing of temporary business residency permits and process applications from intra-company transfers within 30 days, where all documentation is complete.

APEC Business Travel Card scheme

The ABTC scheme provides bona fide frequent business travellers with visa-free travel and expedited airport processing when visiting participating economies. Japan commenced its APEC Business Travel Card operations on 1 April 2003. Australia, Korea and the Philippines successfully trialed the ABTC scheme in 1998, and have since been joined by Brunei Darussalam; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; New Zealand; Peru; Chinese Taipei; and Thailand bringing the total number of participating APEC Member Economies to 14. Other economies are expected to announce their participation in 2003 and 2004.

Key Outcomes

Key outcomes in the area of business mobility include –

- Agreement on standards for the implementation of advance passenger information systems across the region, with benefits for travellers in increased safety and security.
 - The development of best practice travel document examination regimes across the region to assist the detection of fraudulent documentation.
 - The development of standards to improve the standard and security of travel documentation and of standards for immigration legal infrastructure, to enhance the security of borders and address illegal movement of people.
 - Continued progress by economies to improve the standard of professional immigration service.
 - Agreement to improved service standards for processing applications for, and extensions of, temporary residence permits for executives, managers and specialists transferred within their companies to other APEC Member Economies.
- Collective agreement to continue to examine ways to streamline processing procedures for business travellers, and individual action to facilitate business travel, for example by expanding visa-waiver programs or extending the validity of multiple-entry visas or by joining the ABTC scheme.
 - Maintenance of up-to-date information on requirements for short-term business visas and temporary business residency permits in the Internet version of the *APEC Business Travel Handbook*, which is available on the IEGBM's website (www.businessmobility.org). The Handbook also includes contact information on offices that issue visas across the APEC region.
 - Launch of a project to develop a regional immigration alert system designed both to assist in the detection of persons of concern and fraudulent travel documents, thereby enhancing border security and the safety and streamlined processing of business people.

Mobility of Business People - Key Contacts

Convenor

Mr Ed Killesteyn
Deputy Secretary
Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs
& Indigenous Affairs
P.O. Box 25
Belconnen ACT 2617
Australia
Tel: (61-2) 6264 2468
Fax: (61-2) 6264 3954/2632
E-mail: apec@immi.gov.au (main)
Edward.killesteyn@immi.gov.au

APEC Secretariat

Mr Scott A. Smith
Director (Program)
E-mail: sas@mail.apecsec.org.sg

WTO Capacity Building

The fundamental principles of the multilateral trading system—non-discrimination, predictability, stability and transparency—are supportive of development and essential to serve the interests of developed and developing economies throughout the world, including APEC Member Economies. The WTO Capacity Building Group (WCBG) supports APEC activity in strengthening the multilateral trading system. The group does this by actively promoting opportunities for training and exchanges of views on the implementation of the *Uruguay Round (UR)* outcomes.

It also helps APEC Member Economies to prepare for implementation of the *Doha Development Agenda (DDA)*. This agenda focuses on the needs of developing economies and the WCBG is working hard to co-ordinate the involvement of APEC Member Economies in the delivery of WTO-related capacity and confidence building efforts. APEC's WTO-related capacity building agenda was cooperatively developed by the WTO Capacity Building Group. This agenda turns into action the objectives of the APEC Strategic Plan in this area.

The group, which is co-chaired by Japan and Canada, meets twice a year to initiate and advance its proposed work program.

Latest Developments

The development of appropriate capacity and confidence building activities remains a priority for 2003. At the last WCBG meeting in August, APEC Member Economies were encouraged to identify and prioritise needs and areas for confidence and capacity building relating to the Cancun WTO Ministerial Conference. It was agreed that all members would provide their lists of WTO experts for uploading into the newly developed *APEC Capacity Building for WTO Project Directory* website. The Group published and submitted to *WTO Secretariat the Report on APEC WTO Capacity Building Activities*. Developing economies and those joining the WTO were also asked to provide a list of requests for WTO-related technical assistance. This list of requests will be a useful resource to help identify where APEC should focus its attention in this area.

Key Outcomes

In 2003, the WCBG met on 22 May (the fifth meeting) and 14 August (the sixth meeting) and made significant progress on developing "The APEC Capacity Building for the WTO Project Directory" website as well as publishing the report on *APEC WTO Capacity Building Activities*.

The WCBG implemented the following capacity and confidence building projects –

- An APEC Seminar on WTO new issues focusing on Trade and Investment.
- A Confidence Building Workshop on Trade and Environment.
- An APEC Seminar on WTO Trade Facilitation.
- An Investment Seminar.

Brief History

In May 1999 CTI decided to realign its work to enable substantive work on Uruguay Round (UR) implementation to be carried out in more effective way. An Implementation of WTO (*earlier UR*) Obligations Group was created. In 2001 after adoption of the *APEC Strategic Plan on Capacity Building in implementing of WTO obligations (2000)*, this group was re-named the WCBG.

WTO Capacity Building – Key Contacts

Co-Convenor

Mr Kazuo YUHARA
 Director
 Multilateral Trade System Department
 METI, Trade Policy Bureau
 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
 1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
 Tokyo 100-8901
 Japan
 Tel: (81-3) 3501-5923
 Fax: (81-3) 3501-5983
 E-mail: yuhara-kazuo@meti.go.jp

Co-Convenor

Mr Syed Sajjadur Rahman
 Director-General,
 Strategic Planning and Policy Division
 Asia Branch, CIDA, Canada
 Tel: (1-819) 997-4701
 Fax: (1-819) 997-0945
 E-mail: SAJJAD_RAHHMAN@acdi-cida.gc.ca

APEC Secretariat

Mr Sergey Shipilov
 Director (Program)
 E-mail: sbs@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Automotive and Chemical Dialogues

In 1997, APEC Economic Leaders agreed to “early voluntary sectoral liberalisation” in 15 areas. Since the early stages of this initiative, Ministers have emphasised the importance of taking into account the interests of the private sector in these discussions. APEC’s sectoral dialogues grew out of this desire.

In the automotive sector, an APEC Automotive Dialogue was established to serve as a forum for APEC Member Economy officials and senior industry representatives to work together to map out strategies for increasing integration and development of the automotive sector within the region. Similarly, the Chemical Dialogue was established in recognition of the cross-cutting nature of the industry and the broad benefits to many economies of liberalisation and facilitation in the sector. These public-private sector dialogues are seen as a way of improving mutual understanding for developing future policy and enhancing the competitiveness of these sectors.

Latest Developments

Automotive Dialogue

The fifth APEC Automotive Dialogue was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA on 25-27 June 2003. The Dialogue was attended by 90 government and industry representatives from APEC Member Economies.

Participants discussed –

- Interaction with other relevant working groups in the Dialogue.
- Future directions of the Automobile Industry in APEC.
- Implications of trade negotiations in the automotive sector.
- Non-tariff measures.
- IPR and the automotive sector.

Dialogue participants also received –

- A presentation from the Indian automotive sector.
- A report from Indonesia on future automotive product development
- A presentation on the *Chemical Dialogue and the European Union’s (EU) new Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) System*.

It was agreed that the Dialogue would send a letter to the EU expressing concern about the proposed regulations.

In addition, the Dialogue agreed to propose that APEC Ministers reaffirm at their October 2003 meeting that they will try not to use measures which would have the effect of increasing levels of protection in the automotive sector.

The 11th Steering Committee meeting will be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, from 6-10 October 2003. The next Auto Dialogue meeting, will be held in Shanghai, China, in May/June 2004. Exact dates will be confirmed at the Steering Committee meeting.

Chemical Dialogue

The second Chemical Dialogue was held in Khon Kaen, Thailand on 22-23 May 2003 and was attended by 40 participants from industry and government. Subsequently, the Chemical Dialogue Steering Group (CDSG) met in Phuket, Thailand on 14-15 August 2003.

The Dialogue made further progress in the implementation of the *Globally Harmonised System (GHS) on Hazard Classification and Labeling of Chemicals and Safety Data Sheets*. Chinese Taipei hosted a capacity building GHS seminar 22-24 September 2003 and there was some discussion in the CDSG of possible follow-up seminars. The Group is also developing a calendar of events that could be used to promote understanding and facilitate adoption of GHS among APEC Member Economies.

The Dialogue agreed to send a collective comment to the European Commission expressing concerns over the EU’s proposed legislation – known as “REACH” (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals) – which will establish a new regulatory regime for chemicals. Industry representatives provided a paper listing priority concerns that officials from APEC Member Economies could draw from in meetings with EU officials and, in particular, at the WTO meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

The Chemical Dialogue also discussed ways of contributing to the WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations and to liberalisation and facilitation efforts in APEC. The CDSG agreed to work on a consolidated list of priority non-tariff measures of concern to the sector, and to explore ways to coordinate with other APEC fora working on issues like customs, standards, and transportation.

Brief History

APEC's Industry Dialogues evolved from the Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalisation initiative of 1997, which sought to take into account more directly private sector interests and to harvest early benefits from trade liberalisation and facilitation. The Automotive Dialogue first met in 1999 in Indonesia and has met five times. The Chemical Dialogue first met in 2002 in Mexico on the margins of the APEC Senior Officials' Meetings and has met twice.

Industry Dialogues - Key Contacts

Automotive Dialogue Chair

Mr Agus Tajahajana Wirakusumah
c/o Steven T. C. Sit
Special Technical Advisor to DG – ILMEA
Ministry of Industry and Trade
Republic of Indonesia
Tel: (62-21) 527-4384
Fax: (62-21) 527-4385
E-mail: 5steven5@rad.net.id

Automotive Dialogue Steering Group Chair

Mr Jonkie Sugiarto
Email: tusecretariat@apec.automotivedialogue.indo.net.id

APEC Automotive Dialogue Secretariat

Mr Steven Sit
Office Address:
9F, DG-II, MEA, Kav. 52-53 Jl. Gatot Subroto,
Jakarta Selatan 12950
Jakarta, Indonesia
Mailing Address:
P.O Box 1120 JKP 10011, Jakarta, Indonesia
Tel: (62-21) 527 4384,
(62-21) 525 5509 ext.2332/2356
Fax: (62-21) 525 1449
Email: stevensit@dpri.go.id,
secretariat@apec.automotivedialogue.indo.net.id

Chemical Dialogue Co-Chair

Ms Meredith Broadbent
Assistant US Trade Representative
For Industry and Telecommunications
Office of USA Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th ST., NW
Washington, DC 20508
Tel: (1-202) 395 5656
Fax: (1-202) 395 9674
E-mail: mbroadbent@ustr.gov

Co-Chair

Datuk Mohamed Al-Amin B. HJ Abdul Majid JP
Director
Ancom Berhad
1002 Block A, Pusat Dagangan Phileo Damansara 1
No 9, Jalan 16/11, Off Jalan Damansara
46350 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan
Malaysia
Tel: (603) 7660 0008
(603) 7955 0212
Fax: (603) 7660 0010
E-mail: daa@ancom.com.my

Chair of the Chemical Dialogue Steering Group

Ms Barbara Norton
Director for Industry
Office of USA Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th ST., NW
Washington, DC 20508
Tel: (1-202) 395 6061
Fax: (1-202) 395 9674
E-mail: bnorton@ustr.gov

APEC Secretariat

Mr Scott A. Smith
Director (Program)
E-mail: sas@mail.apecsec.org.sg

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The Economic Committee (EC) conducts research on economic trends and issues in the APEC region in support of APEC's priority agendas. It also serves as a forum for APEC Member Economies to exchange information and views on economic trends and issues.

The EC operates under two guiding principles. Firstly, the EC focuses on demand-driven work and addresses central economic issues of priority to APEC Economic Leaders and Ministers and other APEC groups. The EC's work provides an analytical basis for advancing APEC's agenda. Secondly, the EC fulfills its role as APEC's core analytical body by focusing its work program to deliver high-quality research outputs.

Latest Developments

The EC's 2003–2004 Work Program includes the following research projects–

- *2003 APEC Economic Outlook*, including *Regional Outlook and Prospects*, and *The Role and Development of Specialised Financial Institutions*.
- An investigation of corporate restructuring to examine factors that promote or inhibit restructuring, benefits of restructuring and the economic costs of avoiding restructuring. A major conference will be held on 6-7 November 2003 in Seoul, Korea, focusing on cross-economy topics relating to corporate restructuring.
- The New Economy and Knowledge-based Economy (KBE) issues, including Patterns and Prospects of Technological Progress in the APEC Region, Development of Industrial Clusters towards KBE, and the Construction and Operation of Knowledge Clearing House.
- Projects in support of APEC's trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation agenda, including the development of a common methodology to assess the progress of APEC member economies in meeting the Shanghai Accord's goal of reducing transaction costs by 5 percent by 2006. Japan and Korea are also updating their respective parts of their joint research study *The Benefits of TILF in APEC* published in 2002.

Key Outcomes

Completed research projects under the 2003–2004 Work Program are the EC's deliverables for 2003.

2003 APEC Economic Outlook

The *2003 APEC Economic Outlook* summarises recent developments and analyses the short-term prospects of all 21 APEC Member Economies. The second part of the report examines the role and development of specialised financial institutions (SFIs). The study shows the economic as well as social impact of SFIs, and offers policy recommendations for the further development of SFIs in APEC.

The Drivers of the New Economy: Innovation and Organizational Practices

This volume is a collection of the following research projects under the broad theme of New Economy / Knowledge-Based Economy: *Innovative Business Strategies and Firm Performance in the New Economy*, *Mapping Singapore's Knowledge-Based Economy*, and *Economic Contributions of Research and Development in Singapore*.

Brief History

The EC was established at the sixth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia in November 1994.

Economic Committee - Key Contacts

Chair

Professor Choong Yong Ahn
President
Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)
300-4 Yomgok-Dong
Seocho-Gu, Seoul 137-747
Korea
Seocho P O Box 235, Seoul
Tel: (82 2) 3460 1100 to 02
Fax: (82 2) 3460 1111
E-mail: cyahn@kiep.go.kr

APEC Secretariat

Mr Charles C Jose
Director (Program)
E-mail: ccj@mail.apecsec.org.sg

SOM COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE

SOM COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC
AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION

The SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ESC) assists APEC Senior Officials in coordinating and managing APEC's economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) agenda, as well as identifying initiatives for cooperative action by APEC Member Economies.

ECOTECH is the pursuit of APEC's common objectives and goals through cooperative activities, aimed at attaining sustainable growth and equitable development, while reducing economic disparities among APEC economies and improving economic and social well-being. Such activities include research, the sharing of information and experiences, and training. The ESC seeks to advance effective implementation of key ECOTECH initiatives, including the *Osaka Action Agenda (OAA)* and the *Manila Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development*.

Latest Developments

APEC-wide ECOTECH priorities for the next few years were agreed at the Senior Officials Meeting held in Chiang Rai, Thailand in February 2003. These APEC-wide ECOTECH priorities include –

- Integration into the Global Economy.
- Counter-terrorism Capacity Building.
- Promoting the Development of Knowledge-Based Economies.
- Addressing the Social Dimensions of Globalisation.

Senior Officials also recognised that to further strengthen APECs work in ECOTECH, consideration should be given to the work being done in these four priority areas by other organisations such as International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Thus, the first *Roundtable Discussion on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) Partnership between APEC and IFIs* took place in Phuket, Thailand on 19 August 2003. Representatives from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank exchanged views and information with APEC members.

These discussions were a means of setting the foundation for further collaboration with IFIs. Collaboration between APEC and IFIs will be pursued in the four ECOTECH priorities areas to create synergies, reduce inefficiencies and avoid duplication. Possible areas of collaboration with IFIs include, but are not limited to, joint projects, sharing of expertise, training materials, information on project planning, and cross attendance of meetings.

In order to ensure closer coordination between the ESC and other APEC fora on ECOTECH, the ESC will be hosting an ESC/Fora Coordination Meeting at SOM I in Santiago, Chile. Topics for discussion are now being developed with the aim of encouraging participation by Lead Shepherds of APEC working Groups and other relevant fora.

A draft paper on "Evaluation Frameworks" prepared by Australia on behalf of the ESC Small Group on Evaluation was presented for consideration at SOM III. This initiative is to serve two purposes; firstly to foster good quality project proposals and secondly to assist in strengthening relationships between fora. Input is being solicited from working groups and committees so as to ensure that the ESC can present a comprehensive "Evaluation Frameworks" package for SOM endorsement.

Key Outcomes

As part of its evaluation work, the ESC completed an assessment of the ECOTECH Action Plans (EAP). EAPs were intended to be a tool to demonstrate the progress APEC Member Economies have made in the ECOTECH agenda. Most members agreed that there were shortcomings with the EAPs, particularly with respect to the format, the lack of clear objectives, and the lack of clarity with regard to end-users. Thus the ESC decided that a small group of interested economies may continue to work on them, but the ESC will not further develop nor use the EAP.

Improvements in accessibility, navigation and content categorisation made during recent upgrading of the APEC website have resulted in faster and more efficient retrieval of information and resources of the website. Information housed on the ECOTECH Clearing House (ECH) site is drawn directly from the APEC website. The only unique feature of the ECH is the Information Exchange. Given that the Information Exchange has never been fully utilised by ESC members, and now that ECOTECH information is readily available on the APEC Website the ESC decided that the ECH be discontinued as a separate website.

Brief History

The ESC (Sub-Committee on ECOTECH) was established in 1998 to assist SOM with its work on economic and technical cooperation. In 2002 the ESC was renamed as the SOM Committee on ECOTECH while retaining the acronym ESC and the original mandate.

SOM Committee on ECOTECH - Key Contacts

Chair

Ambassador Juan Carlos Capuñay
Senior Official of Peru to APEC
Director of Asia and Oceania Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Jr Lampa No. 545, 4th floor
Lima 1, Peru
Tel: (51 1) 311 2573
Fax: (51 1) 311 2564
E-mail: jcapunay@rree.gob.pe

APEC Secretariat

Ms Anita J. Douglas
Director (Program)
E-mail: ad@mail.apcecsec.org.sg

WORKING GROUPS

Agricultural Technical Cooperation

The Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) continuously develops a cooperative scheme in the field of agricultural technology in the APEC region. This scheme is designed to improve the economic development and social welfare of APEC Member Economies by improving agricultural cooperation and capacity building.

Representatives of the business/private sector participate as members of their economy's delegation to ATCWG and are invited to collaborate in the cooperative activities undertaken by the group. In recent seminars on the Agricultural Finance System as well as the 3rd Biotechnology Workshop, business/private sector representatives were invited and made significant contributions to the work carried out.

The ATCWG works closely with Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), particularly in the areas of production, marketing, processing, and distribution of agricultural products. In cooperation with PECC, the contact list of agricultural experts was prepared and recently updated.

Key Outcomes

The Seventh Plenary Meeting of the ATCWG was held on 18-20 June 2003 in Vancouver Canada to wrap up and build plans on the following activities—

Conservation and Utilisation of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources

- 1 The *Fourth Workshop on Conservation and Utilisation of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources* was held in Chinese Taipei from 29 October to 2 November 2002. The workshop focused on the utilisation of aquatic genetic resources. The outcome will be disseminated through a publication on the *Relationship between Indigenous Animals and Humans in the APEC Region*, which will be published by the end of 2003.
- 2 The ATCWG will continue to hold workshops on plant genetic resources, including –
 - The Fifth Workshop (the second aquatic meeting) back to back with the 7th Asian Fisheries Forum, on 29 November – 3 December 2004.
 - The *Sixth Workshop on Plant Genetic Resources* co-hosted by Chinese Taipei and Mexico.

Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology

The *Workshop on Technical Cooperation and Information Exchange on Safety Assessment in Agricultural Biotechnology* was held in Chinese Taipei in August 2002. The ATCWG will hold the following two workshops in 2003 –

- *Conference on Agricultural Biotechnology in Centres of Origin* in Mexico City, Mexico in November 2003, and
- The *Seventh Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology Sub-Group (REDAB) Workshop* in Beijing, China from September 15-23, 2003.

ATC also plans to carry out one more project in this regard in 2004, pending approval.

The ATCWG has been discussing the establishment of closer links with the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB) to help inform discussion on policy and technical matters.

Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products

The ATCWG has been discussing a work plan for (a) continuation of work on the *Cold Chain Technical Assistance Program*, an update on the work of the PECC, and (b) provision of information on best practices regarding pollution caused by the Food Processing Industry.

The ATCWG continues to discuss the relationship of work in this area with the FEEEP (Impact of Expanding Population and Economic Growth on Food, Energy, and Environment) and the APEC Food System. In this regard the ATCWG discussed suggestions regarding a partnership with the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance and an internet gateway to existing data sources on supply and demand of food. It will also work on continued capacity building on policies and services to support farmer organisations on product marketing.

The ATCWG also organised the following related workshops –

- *Linking Farmers to Markets: the Role of Farmers Organization*, in Tokyo, Japan in March 2003.
- *APEC Institutional Linkage for Human Resources Development in Post Harvest Technology*. The outcomes of this APEC-funded project will be followed up pending approval.
- *Workshop on Strengthening Cooperation in Post-harvest Technology Transfer within APEC Economies*, in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 28 - 31 October 2003.

Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management

The ATCWG held a *Symposium on Detection, Monitoring and Management of Invasive Plant Pests*, in Chinese Taipei, from 30 September to 3 October 2003. The ATCWG decided to further carry out –

- An *International Standards Workshop*, hosted by the United States during 2004-2005.
- A *Workshop on Diagnostic Standards*, which was held in Malaysia in August 2003, in conjunction with a related event.
- The *APEC Symposium on the Management of Golden Apple Snail* in October 2004.

A website was established concerning lists of invasive plant pests, information on practical management measures for invasive pests, and symposium proceedings and papers.

The ATCWG discussed the E-CERT, a web-based system for electronic health certification of agricultural exports. E-CERT relates to the pathfinder initiative on paperless trading which was endorsed by APEC Economic Leaders in 2002.

Cooperative Development of an Agricultural Finance System

A *Training Course on Agricultural Finance* will be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 17-28 November 2003. This course is a follow up of *3rd Training Course on Agricultural Finance*, which was hosted by Japan in Tokyo in 2002.

Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training

The *second Seminar on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training* was held in Bali, Indonesia on 24 -26 July 2003.

Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues

The *third Workshop on Sustainable Agricultural Development* will be held from 16 - 23 November 2003 in Chinese Taipei.

- The ATCWG will further carry out –
- A study on Biomass Utilization for Sustainable Agriculture Production.
 - The APEC Regional Study on Gender and Globalization in Agriculture.

The ATCWG continues to highlight the importance of sustainable agriculture for APEC Member Economies and has agreed that all economies should make a concerted effort to fully engage in the activities in this priority area. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) also highlighted this important issue.

Brief History

In November 1996 the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Experts' Group (ATCEG) was established to undertake important work on agricultural technical cooperation. Earlier meetings of experts (in Chinese Taipei, 1995 and Australia, 1996) had agreed on a work program of joint activities to enhance agriculture's contribution to the region's economic growth and social well-being and developed a framework for undertaking cooperative activities.

In accordance with the directions from the First Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM I) in New Zealand in 1999, the ATCEG expanded the scope of its priority areas by incorporating part of Food, Energy, Environment, Economic Development Population (FEEEP) joint actions. This included –

- Food and agriculture-related research and development.
- Trade and other matters.
- Food and agriculture-related environmental issues.

The ATCEG's seven sub-groups were renamed to reflect these developments at the 3rd ATCEG Meeting held in June 1999 in Japan. Ministers, at their meeting in Brunei in 2000, agreed on the renaming of the ATCEG as the ATC Working Group (ATCWG) in an attempt to rationalise the various names of APEC fora.

Agricultural and Technical Cooperation - Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Mr Seik OH
Senior Researcher
Korea Rural Economic Institute
1 Jungang-dong, Kwacheon-si
Kyubggi-do
Korea
Tel: (82-2) 3299 4281
Fax: (82-2) 968 8164
Email: apec@maf.go.kr

APEC Secretariat

Mr Kang Jae-Kwon
Director (Program)
E-mail: kjk@mail.apecsec.org.sg

The Energy Working Group (EWG) is a voluntary consensus-based regional forum, established in recognition that energy is an essential input into economic activity and consequently economic prosperity of the APEC region. The EWG members also recognise that energy goods and services are a major component of international trade. Therefore, trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation are high on the agenda of this working group. The EWG is one of 11 Working Groups operating under the APEC umbrella, bringing together twenty-one economies from the APEC region who currently account for around 60% of world energy demand.

The EWG has a comprehensive work program, which is developed and delivered in accordance with its *Future Directions Strategic Plan*. Its various initiatives, projects and activities, which seek to further regional trade, energy market reform, energy security and sustainable development, include the *APEC Energy Security Initiative* and *Energy for Sustainable Development*, a Type 2 Partnership Initiative submitted to the WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002.

Members of the EWG usually meet twice a year. It recently held its 25th meeting in Portland, USA and its 26th meeting will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in late 2003.

Business and Private Sector Participation

The EWG has long recognised that business can make an important contribution to the development and implementation of its work program.

To facilitate this, the EWG established the APEC Energy Business Network (EBN) in 1999. The EBN comprises business representatives from APEC economies and meet twice yearly, providing a private sector perspective on key energy issues affecting the region.

As endorsed by EWG members in late 2002, the EBN and EWG held their Meetings back-to-back for the first time in Portland, with EBN members invited to participate fully in EWG25. The initiative was deemed a major success, with EBN members participating in a range of EWG activities and contributing to EWG discussion on key energy issues.

In addition to continuing with this initiative, EWG-EBN interaction will be further enhanced through a series of EBN-hosted workshops on key energy issues. The first of these, *Engaging financial institutions in EWG activities*, is planned for early 2004.

Meetings of APEC Energy Ministers

Energy Ministers' Meetings provide policy guidance and momentum for the work of the EWG in implementing measures consistent with the goals established by APEC Economic Leaders. APEC Energy Ministers have up to date met five times since their first meeting in Sydney, in 1996. Their 6th meeting is scheduled to be held in the Philippines in the first half of 2004.

Latest Developments

Strengthening energy security

For several years, the EWG has been actively working to strengthen energy security within the APEC region.

Efforts are undertaken through the *APEC Energy Security Initiative (ESI)*, a comprehensive strategy developed by the EWG that comprises short-term measures to respond to temporary supply disruptions and longer-term policy responses to address the broader challenges facing the region's energy supply.

To date, the EWG has held workshops on sea-lane security and oil emergency preparedness, is developing a real-time emergency information sharing system and continues to participate in the *Joint Oil Data Initiative*. The EWG has also undertaken activities to facilitate increased energy exploration and development, improve energy efficiency and diversify the energy mix of APEC Member Economies.

Overpowering barriers to interconnection

The physical interconnection of electricity grids is crucial to the integration of power systems. It enables larger and more robust power systems to be established and more diverse power generation forms to be exploited, bringing significant benefits to many economies.

With energy market liberalisation and increased international cooperation in recent years, interconnection across international frontiers is becoming an increasingly attractive proposition, providing economies with economic and technical benefits and significant trading opportunities.

Interconnection is a complex activity, however, giving rise to a range of political, technical, economic, regulatory, treaty, legal and financing barriers. To help facilitate electricity interconnection within the APEC region, the EWG undertook a project (EWG03/2001T) to identify the various barriers and recommend ways in which they can be overcome these barriers.

Buoyed by the outcomes of the project, APEC Energy Ministers has requested that the EWG broaden its work to also address the interconnection of natural gas.

Powering the uptake of renewable energy

Renewable energy is becoming an increasingly significant energy source in the APEC region, helping member economies diversify their energy mix, strengthen the security and reliability of affordable energy, and further sustainable development.

Through the *21st Century Renewable Energy Development Initiative (REDI)*, the EWG is supporting these efforts. REDI is a series of collaborative efforts to foster a common understanding of regional renewable-energy issues, facilitate trade and investment in renewable-energy technologies and services, and reduce the environmental impact of the energy sector through the applications of renewable-energy technologies.

Managed by the Expert Group on New and Renewable Energy Technologies (egnret), REDI has already held several stakeholder dialogues, undertaken a study into training and accreditation needs and capabilities within APEC, and helped the City of Melbourne develop a strategy for zero net greenhouse emissions by 2020.

Key Outcomes

The EWG held its 25th meeting in Portland, USA, on 19-20 June. The meeting was originally to be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, but was relocated in response to the outbreak of the SARS virus. EWG25 was held in conjunction with the 9th Meeting of the EBN, the 10th Meeting of Expert Groups Chairs and an Oil Emergency Response Workshop.

EWG25 achieved a number of important outcomes –

Energy security – an implementation plan for the ESI (including timeframes, where appropriate) was developed. Economies shared experiences on energy emergency preparedness plans and considered establishment of a real-time emergency information sharing system.

Sustainable development – explored the Energy for Sustainable Development’s link with the ESI and established mechanisms to better incorporate sustainable development into EWG projects.

Energy infrastructure development – agreed to conduct a workshop to engage financial institutions in EWG activities fostering investment in energy infrastructure in the APEC region.

Energy education – supported development of *Energy Literacy Initiative*.

Energy exploration and development – held a public-private dialogue on impediments to exploration and development.

Nuclear energy – progressed a development of framework for discussing nuclear energy within the EWG.

Further information is available from the APEC Secretariat or the EWG Secretariat at www.apecenergy.org.au/welcome/index.html

Energy – Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Mr John Ryan
Deputy Secretary
Department of Industry, Tourism & Resources
GPO Box 9839
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Tel: (61-2) 6213-6692
Fax: (61-2) 6213-6657
E-mail: John.Ryan@industry.gov.au

APEC Secretariat

Mr Tong Xianguo
Director (Program)
E-mail: txg@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Fisheries

The Fisheries Working Group (FWG) was created by the SOM in 1991. It aims to promote –

- The conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources.
- Sustainable development of aquaculture and habitat preservation.
- Development of solutions to common resource management problems.
- The enhancement of food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products.
- Sector-specific work relating to trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation.

Latest Developments

In its 13th annual meeting in Lima, Peru, on 20–24 May 2002, the FWG focused on the following issues –

Fisheries Management

The meeting discussed the utility of APEC Member Economies in the Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Network (MCS Network) and the implications on regional and sub-regional fisheries management organisations and APEC Member Economies of the entry into force of the *UN Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks Agreement (New York Agreement)*. Members agreed that experience sharing in regional fisheries management organisations will be discussed at next year's meeting.

Aquaculture

There were reports on the FAO Subcommittee on Aquaculture Meeting for members' information. Members presented on the issue of challenges and priorities for expanding the Aquaculture sector. Consumers' concern on food safety was also presented.

Results of the first APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM)

On 25–26 April 2002, the first Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM) was held in Seoul. In this Ministerial Meeting, the *Seoul Oceans Declaration* was adopted. In the 13th FWG meeting, the results of AOMM were presented and discussed. Based on the *Seoul Oceans Declaration* and the report of Fisheries Senior

Officials Meeting, members discussed the importance of working on ways to incorporate the *Seoul Oceans Declaration* into respective domestic fisheries policy.

The 14th FWG meeting will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 13–16 October 2003.

Key Outcomes

In 2002, the *Capacity and Awareness Building on Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for Aquatic Animals* project was implemented. As part of the project, regional training courses and workshops on IRA for aquatic animals were organised. A network of people involved in IRAs was established, which will facilitate future exchanges of experiences and expertise on IRA for aquatic animals. A manual on IRA for aquatic animals was developed.

The result of this project benefits the business sectors and rural farmers by effective legislation and policies on aquatic animal health that will contribute to increasing aquaculture production through measures that will safeguard the industry from disease incursion.

Another project, *Developing Industry Standard for the Live Reef Food Fish Trade* will assist in the formulation of a set of industry standards for the live reef food fish trade (LRFFT), and create regional and national frameworks for implementation of such standards. The standards will be developed transparently through participation and will stimulate environmentally sustainable fisheries trade among APEC Member Economies, and reduce the pressures on the region's coral reefs from over- and destructive fishing practice.

Fisheries - Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Mr Stetson Tinkham
Senior Fishery Officer
Office of Marine Conservation
Department of State
United States of America
OES/OMC, Room 5805
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520-7818
USA
Tel: (1-202) 647-3941
Fax: (1-202) 736-7350
E-mail: tinkhamsx@state.gov

APEC Secretariat

Mr Timothy Hsiang
Director (Program)
E-mail: tth@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Human Resources Development

The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) was established in 1990 and conducts work programs to develop human resources on issues ranging from education to labour to capacity building. The HRDWG conducts its work program through its three networks: the *Capacity Building Network (CBN)*; the *Education Network (EDNET)*; and the *Labour and Social Protection Network (LSP)*. Work developed and undertaken in the HRDWG is based on an Annual Workplan, the short list of four Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) priorities endorsed by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in February 2003 and the eight priority areas identified in Part II of the Osaka Action Plan (OAA). The eight priority areas are:

- Quality basic education.
- Improved labour market information and analysis.
- Enhanced skills in key sectors including Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs).
- Lifelong learning.
- Improved curricula, teaching methods and instructional materials for the 21st century.
- Mobility of qualified persons.
- Enhanced quality, productivity, efficiency of the labour force and work places.
- Strengthening cooperation to support trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation.

Latest Developments

- The 25th HRDWG Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 1 to 4 July 2003, endorsed the Annual Workplan, Tasking for 2003 and approved nine new projects, six for APEC funding and three self-funding. In spite of the SARS outbreak, 120 participants from 18 economies attended the meeting. Cambodia was accorded guest status and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) representative attended the meeting as an observer.
- Korea volunteered to host the 26th HRDWG Meeting between April and May 2004.
- The Third APEC Education Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) is scheduled for 15-16 April 2004 in Valdivia, Chile with the theme *Joy of Learning*.

Key Outcomes

- The Labour and Social Protection Network (LSPN) in response to the directive by SOM, discussed the issue of workforce retraining and a general consensus emerged that there is a need to concentrate on workforce retraining in all APEC economies. To strengthen workforce retraining, the LSPN discussed the proposal to develop and disseminate digital English instruction media which would enable workforces to access and benefit more fully from the internet and English-language printed materials. By addressing the scarcity of English-language printed materials, APEC could begin to narrow the difference between basic education and workforce retraining to enable overall upgrading of skills.
- EDNET reviewed the progress report of ten on-going projects, six completed projects and endorsed five new projects. A committee chaired by the Philippines was established to review, consolidate and prioritise projects in accordance with the OAA and ECOTECH priorities.
- CBN reviewed the progress reports of seven on-going and three completed projects. The network also endorsed two new projects.
- To strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of HRDWG projects, a Small Group on Project

Evaluation with four members was established by the 25th HRDWG Meeting.

- The APEC Thematic Dialogue on the issue of *Patenting Biotechnology Inventions and Commercialisation of Biotechnology* was held in the National Institute of Public Administration, Malaysia (INTAN) in conjunction with the 25th HRDWG Meeting. The thematic dialogue was proposed by the 24th HRDWG Meeting in Hanoi, Viet Nam with the purpose to allow economies to focus on specific issues of interest.
- It was agreed that there should be closer collaboration between the HRDWG and the Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) to address and integrate gender perspectives into HRDWG activities. APEC Fora including the HRDWG, should include information on gender integration activities in their reports to SOM.
- The HRDWG has and will continue to give priority to youth activities. Various activities have been formulated for youth in HRDWG projects. A community on e-learning through the Sister Schools Networking project, developed in May 2002, has promoted interactive e-communication between students, administrators and teachers. In conjunction with this project, the *2003 APEC International Youth Camp* was successfully hosted by Thailand from 7 to 17 July with the theme *Coastal Ecosystem for Sustainable Development*. The 2004 International Youth Camp will be hosted by Chinese Taipei.

Human Resources Development - Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Dr Haji Mohd Nasir Mohd Ashraf
Under Secretary, Human Resources Division
Ministry of Health
Block A, 1st Floor, Jalan Cenderasari
50590 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel: (6-03) 2692 0036 (DL), 2698 5077 ext. 123
Fax: (6-03) 2691 6767
E-mail: DrMohdNasir@moh.gov.my

APEC Secretariat

Mr Joseph Doraisamy
Director (Program)
Email: jd@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Industrial Science and Technology

The Industrial Science and Technology Working Group's (ISTWG) objective is to fulfill the APEC vision for the 21st century, being "a dynamic and prosperous Asia-Pacific region built on the development and application of industrial science and technology that improves the quality of life while safeguarding the natural environment and achieving sustainable development." In its first *ISTWG Medium-term Workplan* (MTWP), the following issues/themes have been identified for future work –

- Connecting Research and Innovation.
- Human Capacity Building for S&T for the New Economy.
- Establishing an APEC S&T Policy Forum.
- Expanding APEC Cooperation in Key Technologies for the 21st century.
- Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.
- Science, Technology, and Innovation to meet the Environmental Challenge.

The ISTWG currently has four *ad hoc* groups covering different IST issue areas. They are -

- *Ad Hoc* Group A: Key technologies and Human Resource Capacity Building.
- *Ad Hoc* Group B: Connecting Research and Innovation and Dialogue on Industrial S&T Policies.
- *Ad Hoc* Group C: Infectious Diseases and other health issues.
- *Ad Hoc* Group D: Cleaner production and other environmental issues.

Latest Developments

The ISTWG agenda for 2002–2003 includes –

- Implementation of the HIV/AIDS Strategy.
- Follow-up to the APEC S&T Policy Forum.
- Preparation for the Fourth IST Ministerial Meeting in March/April 2004.
- The already extensive project activity within ISTWG.

Key Outcomes

In order to implement its agenda and handle ISTWG activities more efficiently, a *Proposal to Restructure the Management and Operation of the APEC Industrial Science and Technology Working Group* was agreed in the 22nd ISTWG meeting held on 16–17 April 2002 at the APEC Secretariat.

The 25th meeting was held on 16-17 September in the APEC Secretariat. The meeting agenda of the fourth IST Ministerial Meeting was finalised in the meeting.

Other key outcomes include –

- The successful conclusion of the *APEC S&T Policy Forum* with the theme of *Science, Technology, and Innovation in the New Economy: Building Capacity across APEC*. Two background papers *Human Capacity Building for S&T across APEC*, and *Human Capacity Building for Science, Technology & Innovation across APEC: Preconditions and Key Issues for Success* were prepared for the forum.
- The APEC strategy to combat HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases was prepared. The strategy, entitled *Infectious Diseases in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Reason to Act and Acting with Reason*, was accepted and endorsed in the APEC Economic Leaders meeting of 2001. The strategy builds on the existing *APEC-ISTWG Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Action Plan* and emphasises opportunities for collaboration not only among APEC Member Economies, but also with external organisations and other interested parties concerned with global and regional health issues. In the SOM I in 2002, the *APEC Infectious Disease Initiatives* prepared by the ISTWG and based on this strategy was endorsed. Progress on implementation was presented at SOM II and SOM III.

- In 2002, the *APEC Forum on Venture Capitals Role in Science Parks and Business Incubators* project was successfully implemented. The successful practice and experience of Seed Fund and Venture Capital in Science Parks and Business Incubators were shared and exchanged among participants. The results of this project benefit members in the fields of Venture Capital and Financing for SMEs by improving the management skills of managerial personnel and providing more cooperative opportunities in the field of technology for enterprises in Science Parks and Business Incubators.
- The paperless meeting successfully conducted in Chinese Taipei has established an example that could be copied in future APEC meetings.

Brief History

The ISTWG has evolved from the Working Group on Expansion of Investment and Technology Transfer, which was formed at the APEC Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in 1990. The policy directions of ISTWG were set by APEC Economic Leaders, and are guided by APEC Ministers responsible for Science and Technology. In 1997, the Leaders called for APEC fora to review their mandates and at the 14th ISTWG meeting on 17-18 March 1998 a new version of the ISTWG action agenda was finalised. Six key priorities were adopted. They 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. ISTWG's activities are focused on the implementation of three major initiatives - the *APEC Agenda for S&T Industry Cooperation for the 21st Century*, the *Mexico Declaration* and the *Cleaner Production Strategy*.

Industrial Science and Technology - Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Dr Widyantoko Sumarlin
Director
BPPT Center for Innovation Policy
BPPT Building II, 13th floor
Jl. M.H. Thamrin No. 8
Jakarta 10340
Indonesia
Tel: (62 21) 316 9447/316 9439
Fax: (62 21) 323 582
E-mail: widy@linklogisticsworldwide.com

APEC Secretariat

Mr Timothy Hsiang
Director (Program)
E-mail: tth@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Marine Resource Conservation

The Marine Resource Conservation Working Group (MRCWG) was established in 1990 to protect the collective marine resource. The main task of this group is the implementation of the *Action Plan on Sustainability of the Marine Environment*. Dramatic progress is being made in this project, and APEC Member Economies will benefit from the socio-economic and environmental gains which will result from this initiative.

Latest Developments

The 16th MRCWG meeting will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 11–13 October 2003.

In June 2002, the *Integrated Ocean Management Forum* was successfully held in Canberra, Australia. This Workshop contributed to achieving the objective and goal of the action plan and utilised the three central tools identified in that plan. This project benefits all stakeholders including government agencies responsible for ocean management and business with interests in the marine environment. It helps APEC Member Economies to develop strategies for future sectoral and multi-sectoral oceans management in the region and to share information on integrated oceans management.

On 24–26 April 2002, the first APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting was successfully held in Seoul, Korea. Ministers endorsed the *Seoul Oceans Declaration*. In the Declaration, recommendations on marine environmental protection and integrated coastal management were agreed and it has laid the direction for future MRCWG activities.

Key Outcomes

Progress was made on the preparation of the *Strategic Implementation of the APEC Action Plan on Sustainability of Marine Environment* at MRC14 in May 2001. Three key objectives were identified –

- Integrated approaches to coastal management.
- Prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution.
- Sustainable management of marine resources.

The three tools to be used to achieve these objectives are –

- Research (including exchange of information, technology and expertise).
- Capacity building (including training and education).
- Public/ private sector participation and partnership.

The 15th MRCWG meeting was held on 11–13 June 2002 in Canberra, Australia. In its 15th meeting, the Lead Shepherd outlined some new directions for MRCWG to consider. While there was support for strengthening the policy focus of the MRCWG, it was noted that this focus should be complementary to the strong scientific and technical cooperation focus which has been a key strength of the working group to date. MRCWG agreed that –

- The MRCWG pursues a pivotal role in integrating ocean and coastal programming within APEC. This would amount to working closely with other working groups and committees to share information on ocean and coastal matters to encourage participation on projects of joint interest.
- An Informal Group on Ocean Policy should be established to: analyse the MRCWG traditional and historic roles; consider the newer policy directions arising from Leaders' statements; and develop a strategic policy direction for the MRCWG that strengthens its policy role on ocean and coastal matters within APEC.
- A team will be established to undertake a review of MRCWG operations in relation to the *APEC Action Plan for the Sustainability of the Marine Environment*. It should also identify gaps and recommend future actions.
- The meeting recommended that a proponent be found to scope a project that will define and determine the value of current marine-related activities across both domestic and international jurisdictions in Asia-Pacific, to be used to inform Ministers of the economic context of marine-related activities in the APEC region.

Marine Resource Conservation - Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Donna M. Petrachenko
Assistant Deputy Minister and
Special Envoy for the Asia-Pacific
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Office of the Special Envoy for Asia-Pacific
#200 – 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 3S4
Canada
Tel: (604) 666 8950
Fax: (604) 666 8959
E-mail: Beckmannl@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Bairdsa@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Petrachenkod@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

APEC Secretariat

Mr Timothy Hsiang
Director (Program)
E-mail: tth@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Small and Medium Enterprises

APEC recognises that Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) create most of the employment in the Asia-Pacific region and represent the backbone of regional economic growth. The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group's (SMEWG) main objective is to encourage the development of the SMEs in the region.

Latest Developments

The Tenth APEC SME Ministerial Meeting took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 7-8 August 2003 under the theme *Strengthening APEC Entrepreneurial Society*. Sub themes included –

- Entrepreneurship Development.
- Business Creation, Capital Formation and Financial Access for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Capacity Building and Addressing the Impediments to SME Exporters

In recognition of the need to highlight micro-enterprise related activities throughout the APEC region, the terms of reference for the Sub Group on Micro-Enterprises of the SMEWG, the *APEC Micro-enterprise Action Plan* and the *Micro-Enterprise Annual Work Plan* were endorsed by Ministers. The initiative to promote micro-enterprise development emphasises economic growth and shares prosperity.

The first APEC Incubator Forum, *Business Incubation in the New Century Strategy, Policy, and International Cooperation*, was held in Taipei, Chinese Taipei on 30 July 30 – 1 August 2003. This APEC-funded activity aims to enhance the innovative capacity of SMEs and micro-enterprises, develop innovation-oriented incubation policy, facilitate the development of an incubator system by APEC Member Economies, and strengthen cross-border cooperation and business matching between incubators and other related actors in the APEC region.

An APEC SME Entrepreneurship Development Seminar was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 3 August 2003. The Seminar addressed the entrepreneurship development in four major areas: Entrepreneurial Opportunity, Entrepreneurial Capacity, Social Legitimacy and Finance. Panel discussions covered capital formation initiatives, the role of innovation, entrepreneurial training and the role and responsibilities of government.

Key Outcomes

In the SME Ministerial Meeting, Ministers agreed to promote the definition of “entrepreneur” as individuals who are “innovative, visionary, and ready to take risk of starting-up new business”.

The SMEWG conducted two seminars on *Growing the APEC SME Exporter Community* in February and August 2003. Reducing and removing impediments for SMEs and micro-enterprises to enter international markets is crucial to the development of an entrepreneurial society and the national economy. This initiative addresses the needs of small business exporters and plans to create an enabling environment for the growth of SME exporters. The identification of the primary impediments to trade for regional small businesses, like bureaucratic red tape, lack of finance, and existing non-tariff and regulatory barriers will help government officers to address these issues in order to facilitate trade and exports of small enterprises. A small working committee was formed within the SMEWG to identify future work in this area.

The *APEC SME Portal Hub Project* was completed in 2003. Its purpose is to create a website aimed at growth-oriented SMEs, to provide annotated, tagged links to other relevant sites.

In line with the general e-APEC Strategy endorsed by APEC Economic Leaders in Shanghai in 2001, the SMEWG in its meeting held in August 2003, endorsed a Korean proposal to develop an e-APEC Strategy specifically for SMEs. The Strategy identifies a number of difficulties confronting SMEs attempting to digitise operations and provides a series of solutions to be implemented at a local level by APEC Member Economies.

The e-APEC strategy presents four recommendations for APEC Member Economies –

- Expanding basic services for network utilization.
- Facilitating development of business models for SMEs.
- Promoting partnerships between businesses and economies.
- Building framework for regulation and education.

In Los Cabos, in October 2002, the APEC Economic Leaders noted the progress on the *APEC Integrated Plan of Action for the Development of SMEs (SPAN)*, including the incorporation of micro-enterprises development issues and the addition of a sixth priority area for SMEWG initiatives, which now includes, policy environment, in addition to human resource development, financing, technology, access to markets, and access to information. This document provides a strategic policy framework and action program for SME development within APEC. It is intended to help economies and fora review and implement SME policies and programs, in order to better identify the needs of SMEs and balance competing priorities.

Brief History

In February 1995 an Ad Hoc Policy Level Group on SMEs (PLGSME) was established. The objective of this group was to assist SMEs improve their competitiveness and to facilitate a more open trade and investment environment for these important enterprises. Originally set up for two years its term was extended in 1996 and in 1998. In 2000, this group was renamed the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group and granted permanent status. The SMEWG provides the foundation for other APEC fora to incorporate SME considerations into their mandates and activities. The meeting of Ministers responsible for SMEs has been held annually since 1994.

Small & Medium Enterprise – Key Contacts

Chair

Mr Vivat VINICCHAYAKUL
 Director General
 Office of Small and Medium Enterprises
 Promotion (OSMEP)
 17th & 19th Floor, TST Tower Building 21
 Vibhavadi Rangsit Road, Chatuchak
 Bangkok 10900, Thailand
 Tel: (66 2) 278 8800
 Fax: (66 2) 273 8850
 E-mail: vivat@sme.go.th

APEC Secretariat

Mr Julio A. Bravo
 Director (Program)
 E-mail: jab@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Telecommunications and Information

The Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL) is committed to improving the telecommunications and information infrastructure in the region and to facilitating effective cooperation, free trade and investment and sustainable development. The TEL's Program of Action covers implementation of the e-APEC Strategy, implementation of the Digital Divide Blueprint for Action, promoting policy and regulatory measures to liberalise trade and investment in the telecommunications and information sector, e-security, e-government, mutual recognition arrangements for the conformity assessment of telecommunications equipment, human capacity building and an active dialogue with the business community. More information is available at www.apectelwg.org.

Latest Developments

- A Stocktake of Progress Towards the Key Elements of a Fully Liberalised Telecommunications Sector in the APEC Region.
- Flow-based Internet Traffic Measurement and Analysis.
- E-Commerce Strategies for Rural SMEs in APEC.
- Expanding the Vendor IT Training Materials Database.
- Interconnection Training Workshops.
- Issues related to upgrading from the current Internet Protocol to Version 6.
- WTO Capacity Building.
- Training to implement the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment.
- Progress to overcome the digital divide that limits many economies, rural communities and geographic regions from fully exploiting the benefits of the internet.
- Publication of the report *Optimal Topology of Testbeds and Simplified Commercial Networks in the APEC Region*.
- Contributing details of APEC's achievements in the digital economy to the World Summit on the Information Society.
- A project on equivalence standards to facilitate trade in telecommunications equipment will begin in 2004.

Key Outcomes

At TEL28, from 4-11 October 2003, workshops were held on the WTO, telecommunications liberalisation, website accessibility, online content, broadband deployment and Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

At the fifth APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry (TELMIN) in May 2002 in Shanghai, Ministers agreed to a Statement on the Security of Information and Communications Infrastructures, which comprises the recommendations from the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 55/63 on Combating the Criminal Misuse of Information Technologies. More information is available at www.apec.org.

To implement the Ministers' Statement TEL has disseminated a compendium of IT security standards, undertaken a survey of cybercrime legislation and is strengthening the capacity of institutions through the *Cybercrime Legislation and Enforcement Capacity Building Project* and the *CERTs Awareness Raising and Capacity Building Project*. The TEL has also supported the production of a simple guide to protect internet users from potential problems such as viruses, trojans spyware and the invasion of privacy. This guide is available at www.aoema.org/SafetyNet/

Brief History

The TEL was formed in 1990. Four steering groups on liberalisation, business facilitation, development cooperation, and human resources development, propose, implement and monitor projects and activities to advance the overall goals of APEC.

The business/private sector is actively involved in TEL activities, including all four TEL steering groups. Many projects are both initiated and driven solely by the business/private sector or in cooperation with the public sector. The TEL has a set of *TEL Sponsorship Guidelines* as well as a set of *TEL Website Sponsorship Guidelines*.

Telecommunications & Information – Key Contacts

Chair

Ms Salma Jalife Villalon
 Coordinaciones Generales
 Comision Federal de Telecomunicaciones
 Mexico
 Tel: (52) 5 261 4203
 Fax: (52) 5 261-4055
 E-mail: sjalife@cft.gob.mx

APEC Secretariat

Mr Bruce Bennett
 Director (Program)
 E-mail: bb@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Tourism

Tourism is a key economic issue for the Asia-Pacific region. It creates jobs and promotes investment and development. APEC's Tourism Working Group (TWG) continues to develop a common strategy on tourism which includes the incorporation four policy goals into each economy's tourism strategy, which aim to improve the tourism industry across the region. The four policy goals constitute the *APEC Tourism Charter*. These include –

- Policy Goal One - *Removal of Impediments to Tourism Business and Investment.*
- Policy Goal Two - *Increase Mobility of Visitors and Demand for Tourism Goods and Services.*
- Policy Goal Three - *Sustainable Management of Tourism Outcomes and Impacts.*
- Policy Goal Four - *Enhance Recognition and Understanding of Tourism as a Vehicle for Economic and Social Development.*

TWG looks for ways to generate greater involvement by the private sector, improve the level of awareness of the group's activities and inform people about APEC and the TWG activities. The TWG continues to bring together tourism administrators to share information, exchange views and develop areas of cooperation on trade and policies.

Latest Developments

In response to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) which paralysed the tourism sector in the APEC region, the TWG –

- Issued a statement on *The Impact of SARS on Tourism in the APEC Region* to show solidarity and rebuild confidence in tourism and travel in the region.
- Endorsed a study conducted by Canada on the *Economic Impact of SARS on Tourism in Seven APEC Member Economies.*
- Endorsed a self-funded project led by the APEC International Centre for Sustainable Tourism (AICST) in cooperation with AusAid, PATA (Pacific-Asia Tourism Association) and the WTO (World Tourism Organization) on how governments and tourism operators can best manage risk and respond to crises, whether of human or natural origin.

Other developments include –

- Continuation of phase 2 of the APEC project on *Tourism Impediments Study*, as results of the first phase were considered beneficial to APEC Member Economies. The second phase of the project aims to enable participation by APEC Member Economies which were not able to participate in the first phase.
- TWG agreed to convene its 23rd Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, on 29-30 November 2003.

Key Outcomes

The 22nd TWG meeting was held in Pattaya, Thailand, on 10–11 June 2003, to further implement of the *Tourism Charter* and its four policy goals.

The meeting took note of progress reports on TWG projects, which included –

- (i) APEC Best Practices and Ideas in Safety and Security for APEC Economies to Combat Terrorism in Tourism,
- (ii) APEC Small and Medium Size Tourism Businesses Development Needs
- (iii) Best Practices on Tourism Accessibility for Travellers with Restricted Mobility
- (iv) Tourism Occupational Skills Standards (TOSS) in the APEC Region – Stage 3.

The outcomes of the APEC project on *Tourism Impediments Study, Phase 1* were also presented. Six APEC Member Economies participated in the project which studied impediments to trade, including: national policies such as universal visa requirements; movement controls; application of taxes and infrastructure limitations. The study helped economies to deal with the issue of facilitation amongst various government bodies. It was found that decisions are often made that affect the tourism sector without consulting the Tourism Ministry. The workshop conducted as part of the project, assisted in conveying to all stakeholders the necessity of inter-agency consultation. APEC Member Economies found the study to be useful and proposed to continue with a second phase.

Brief History

The TWG was formed in 1991 when it was recognised that the tourism industry was of growing importance in promoting economic growth and social development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Tourism – Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Mr Auggaphol BRICKSHAWANA
 Director, Planning Department
 Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)
 1600 New Petchburi Road, Makkasan
 Rachdhewee, Bangkok 10310
 Thailand
 Tel: (662) 250 5500
 Fax: (662) 250 5511
 E-mail: pldep@tat.or.th

APEC Secretariat

Mr Benyamin Carnadi
 Director (Program)
 E-mail: bc@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Trade Promotion

The Working Group on Trade Promotion (WGTP) objectives are to improve understanding of the role and functions of the APEC Member Economies' trade agencies and facilitate cooperation between the business/private sector and trade promotion organisations (TPO). Its work centres on trade skills and training, exchanging trade promotion-related information, experience and good practice.

Latest Developments

The 5th Steering group Meeting was held on August 16, 2003 in Phuket, Thailand, in the margin of SOM III and related Meetings. Members reviewed completed and on-going projects conducted by Australia, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia and Mexico. Members discussed how to revitalise and streamline WGTP activity to focus work on policy discussions rather than TPOs' (Trade Promotion Organizations) members presentations. The delegates discussed issues related to the enhancement of private sector involvement in trade promotion activity, including the possibility of conducting joint projects with sharing responsibility and cost.

Mexico delivered a progress report on *Promoting Indirect Exports through Suppliers Development*. This event will take place in Mexico City in 9-10 February 2004. It aims to assist entrepreneurs to upgrade their business ability to promote electric-electronic and automotive export in Asia-Pacific region.

Australia briefed delegates on major outcomes of the *Core Characteristic Survey of APEC Trade Promotion Organisations*, which concluded in 2003. This survey was aimed at exploring activity and trends in APEC TPOs development.

The next 16th WGTP meeting is to be in Auckland in 2004.

Key Outcomes

Major achievements in 2003 include the implementation of the following projects –

- *International Market Analyst Training* by Indonesia on 2–6 June 2003 in Jakarta. This project aimed to improve the knowledge and ability of TPOs and related APEC Member Economy institutions, in the areas of analysing international markets, promoting export trade to the global market, developing marketing strategies and using Information Technology for export promotion.
- *Gender Analysis in TPO Activities* by Chile on 3–5 September 2003 in Santiago. This seminar contributed to the incorporation of Gender Analysis into TPO activities while adopting production-fostering policies aimed at Micro and SMEs' export promotion.
- The *APEC Seminar on Product Branding* by Malaysia on 1–3 April 2003. This event was aimed at educating trainees from APEC Member Economies on the concept of branding in international trade, developing skills in formulating branding strategies and effective implementation and evaluation of branding programs.

Brief History

The WGTP first met in Seoul, Korea in June 1990.

Trade Promotion - Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Mr. Shinichi Saito
Executive Vice President
Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
Toranomon 2-2-5
Minato-Ku,
Tokyo 105-8466
Tel: (813) 3584-6543
Fax: (813) 3587-0219
Email: shinichi_saito@jetro.go.jp

APEC Secretariat

Mr Sergey Shipilov
Director (Program)
E-mail: sbs@mail.apecsec.org.sg

Transportation

The Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) aims to achieve liberalisation of APEC Transport Systems in order to encourage economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. Efforts of the group are focused on facilitation of domestic policy regulations and secure transport activity, including building the capacity of all stakeholders to help them reach the eventual goal of free and open trade and investment in the APEC region.

The TPTWG is organised into three steering committees covering –

- More competitive transportation industry (including infrastructure).
- Safe and environment-friendly transportation systems (including new technologies).
- Human resources development.

Latest Developments

The 22nd TPTWG meeting took place in Busan, Korea on 1-5 September 2003.

The aims of the meeting were to –

- Respond to items relevant to the TPTWG in the APEC Tasking Statement and priorities identified by APEC Transportation Ministers
- Contribute to APEC's Trade Facilitation and Counter Terrorism agenda
- Address management issues related to: revision of the TPTWG structure, non-member participation; the TPTWG management team for 2004-2005; preparations for future meetings; the management of ongoing projects, and consideration of new projects

Shanghai Accord

The TPTWG is exploring the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization's Fifth World Wide Air Transport Conference, which indicated that change may be necessary to the Eight Steps for More Competitive Air Services. The Eight Steps has been the main topic of recent discussions at the Air Service Group (ASG) meeting.

Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH)

The Group has responded to the relevant APEC and TPT Tasking Statements by developing collective actions as identified in the *Osaka Action Agenda* and suggesting short-term and medium-to-long term projects. The TPT-WG is following on the four new ECOTECH priorities and taking into account the linkage of ECOTECH with trade liberalisation and facilitation activity. This linkage relates to the implementation of the Shanghai Accord, including implementation of *APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan*, *Transparency Standards* and *Pathfinder Initiatives*. TPTWG efforts in 2003 have been concentrated on contributing to APEC's Counter-Terrorism agenda and TPTWG's response to SARS.

Key Outcomes

Pathfinder Initiatives

The group endorsed two pathfinder initiatives, namely *100% Hold Baggage Screening (HBS)* and *GIT (Global Navigation Satellite Systems or GNSS Implementing Team)*, which aims to provide safe and secure maritime and air navigation.

Counter Terrorism

The Group attaches great importance to accomplishing two principal objectives. These are enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation and promoting economic growth and free trade. The greatest achievement is TPT-WG'S endorsement of the *Secure Trade in the Asia Pacific Region (STAR) Initiative* and further implementing the outcomes of the first STAR conference held on 23-25 February 2003, in Bangkok, Thailand. Implementation of the outcomes of the Star Conference has included holding a symposium on *Promoting 100% Baggage Screening* held in Hong Kong, China on 26-28 August 2003 and hosting the APEC High-Level Meeting on Maritime Security Cooperation in Manila, the Philippines on 8-9 September 2003.

Projects

Under the TPTWG umbrella the following projects in respect of counter-terrorism activity have been completed or are currently underway –

- Terrorism Crisis Management Exercise.
- Survey of Training Requirements and Capabilities, including Development of a Training Database.
- Enhancing Secure Trade and Efficiency in the APEC Region with Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).
- e-Commerce Technologies (“the APEC Secure Trade Project”).
- Aviation Law Training in APEC Economies.
- Sea and Air Container Track and Trace Technologies: Analysis and Case Studies. This project as a follow-on demonstration project involving ITS technology to track and trace air and sea containers

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation – Key Contacts

Lead Shepherd

Mr Kevin B Sample
Senior Trade Advisor
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400, 7th Street, SW, Suite 10300
Washington, DC 20590
USA
Tel: (1202) 366 9526
Fax: (1202) 366 7417
E-mail: kevin.sample@ost.dot.gov

APEC Secretariat

Mr Sergey B. Shipilov
Director (Program)
E-mail: sbs@mail.apecsec.org.sg



II. SPECIAL TASK GROUPS

COUNTER TERRORISM TASK FORCE

The Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) is committed to coordinating the implementation of the *Leaders' Statement on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth* agreed to in October 2002. Terrorism is a direct challenge to APEC's goals of free, open and prosperous economies and an affront to the fundamental values that APEC Member Economies share. In response the CTTF assists economies to identify and assess counter-terrorism needs, co-ordinates capacity building and technical assistance programs, cooperates with international and regional organisations and facilitates cooperation between APEC fora on counter-terrorism issues. Key priorities include: the *Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR)* initiative to secure and enhance the flow of goods and people through measures to protect cargo, ships, international aviation and people in transit; halting the financing of terrorism; promoting cyber security; the energy security initiative; and the protecting the health of communities. More information can be found at http://www.apecsec.org.sg/workgroup/counter_terrorism.html.

Latest Developments

In the past year each of the relevant members of APEC has signed the International UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The security of airports has been upgraded, coordination between enforcement and intelligence officials has been strengthened, new cyber security standards developed and the *Energy Security Initiative* has been advanced to address disruptions in energy markets.

The CTTF is working closely with the Finance Ministers' Process to halt the financing of terrorism, including the commitment by Leaders that economies implement all measures in UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1390 and ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism no later than October 2003. A seminar to provide legal policy assistance to strengthen Anti-Money Laundering/Anti-Terrorist Financing frameworks is being held in October 2003.

To prevent the criminal misuse of information APEC economies are enacting laws relating to Cyber Security consistent with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/63 (2000) and the Convention on Cybercrime (2001) by October 2003. The capacity of institutions to implement these laws is being strengthened by the *Cybercrime Legislation and Enforcement Capacity Building Project*. Another initiative, the *Computer Emergency Response Team (CERTs) Awareness Raising and Capacity Building* project is providing training and developing guidelines for establishing and operating CERTS.

The Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) Conference in February 2003 brought together representatives of all 21 APEC Member Economies, senior executives from major private sector companies, and officials from international organisations such as the IMO, IATA, WCO and the World Bank to discuss how to advance trade efficiency and trade security in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants agreed that investment in security can deliver significant economic returns, not only by reducing the economic costs of terrorism but by facilitating the movement of goods and people. A second STAR Conference will be held on 5-6 March 2004 in Valparaiso Chile.

The *Regional Immigration Alert System (RIAS)* will assist APEC economies to safeguard their borders from unlawful activities related to terrorism as well as illegal commercial activities. The *Support for Aviation Security Audits Phase I: Preparation for ICAO Universal Security Program Audits* project will help developing APEC economies prepare for ICAO security audits through specialised training.

Recent Key Outcomes

By 20 August 2003 all APEC Member Economies had submitted their APEC Counter-Terrorism Action Plan. Each Action Plan is a concise check list of measures being undertaken by economies to implement the Leaders' *Statement on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth* and identifies the capacity building needs of economies. Full details are available at http://www.apecsec.org.sg/workgroup/counter_terrorism.html. Senior Officials also agreed to undertake a thematic cross-analysis of the counter terrorism capacity building needs identified in the CTAPs and by relevant APEC fora.

Business friendly *APEC Private Sector Supply Chain Guidelines* have been endorsed by Senior Officials. The guidelines will be used by the private sector to enhance their supply chain security practices and could be included in the curriculum of courses designed to teach the principles of supply chain security.

In September a High-Level Meeting in Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Manila to devise an APEC-wide framework of exchange information on maritime security, to identify capacity building needs to implement the IMO's ISPS and SOLAS maritime security requirements and to strengthen cooperation with the private sector.

The CTTF is also pursuing closer cooperation with international organisations such as the IMF, the ADB, the World Bank, the UN Counter Terrorism Committee, the G-8's Counter Terrorism Action Group and ASEAN to: identify capacity building needs; provide training and assistance; promote best practices; and exchange information.

Five economies have adopted Advance Passenger Information systems (API) to enhance border security while facilitating faster processing of legitimate passengers. Feasibility studies have been conducted or will take place in 13 other APEC economies. Common standards have also been agreed for the implementation of unilateral API systems.

Brief History

The CTTF was set up by Senior Officials in February 2003. The Task Force meets in the margins of the APEC Senior Officials' Meetings. Counter Terrorism Focal Points from APEC economies also use the opportunity of the CTTF meetings to hold informal talks.

Counter Terrorism – Key Contacts

Chair

Dr Makarim Wibisono
Director General for Asia Pacific and Africa
Department of Foreign Affairs
Jalan Taman Pejambon No. 6
Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia
Tel: (62-21) 381 1083
Fax: (62-21) 384 4867
E-mail: dithenb@deplu.go.id

APEC Secretariat

Mr Bruce Bennett
Director (Program)
E-mail: bb@mail.apecsec.org.sg

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE STEERING GROUP

The Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) was created to provide a coordinating role for APEC e-commerce activities, based on the principles set out in the *1998 APEC Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce*. The ECSG is committed to promoting and facilitating the development and use of electronic commerce by creating legal, regulatory and policy environments in the APEC region that are predictable, transparent and consistent. In addition, the ECSG is working to promote mechanisms to increase trust and confidence of participants in electronic commerce in order to encourage greater use of the internet to perform transactions. Finally, the ECSG is encouraging the use of IT and electronic commerce methods to facilitate trade transactions among economies.

The ECSG meets twice a year and also conducts its business intersessionally.

Latest Developments

The ECSG's program to maximise the benefits of e-commerce for business in the APEC region includes work on data privacy, consumer protection, cyber-security, paperless trading, trade facilitation and spam. Economies have also approved a revised structure for the group and agreed to increase cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce (GBDe). Information on upcoming meetings and workshops can be found at www.export.gov/apececommerce.

Paperless Trading

Fifteen economies have now prepared Paperless Trading Individual Action Plans. These outline the steps APEC economies are taking to meet APEC's target to reduce or eliminate the requirement for paper documents needed for customs and other cross-border trade administration and other documents and messages relevant to international sea, air and land transport, that is, "Paperless Trading" (for trade in goods), where possible, by 2005 for developed and 2010 for developing economies, or as soon as possible thereafter. Find out more at www.apec-iap.org. Pathfinder initiatives on electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates and electronic certificates of origin have been agreed by members.

Consumer Protection

The ECSG is building consumer trust in e-commerce by helping to protect consumers from fraudulent and deceptive practices when buying goods and services online. Work is underway to help economies implement APEC's *Voluntary Consumer Protection Guidelines for the On-line Environment* which were approved by Ministers in October 2002. These cover international cooperation, education and awareness, private sector leadership, on-line advertising and marketing and the resolution of consumer disputes. An *Internet Investigatory Training Workshop for Law Enforcement Personnel* is planned.

Data Privacy

The challenge for economies in addressing the issue of data privacy is protecting the personal information of consumers while also facilitating trans-border data flows. In order to foster the development of compatible approaches to data privacy in the region, in 2002 the ECSG undertook a mapping exercise of APEC economies' approaches to data privacy. In February 2003 the ECSG established a Data Privacy Subgroup to develop a set of

privacy principles and implementation mechanisms, to continue the exchange of information on developments related to data privacy within individual economies and to encourage public awareness by identifying and sharing best practices on data privacy protection. A seminar on *Data Privacy Implementation Mechanisms* will be held in Santiago, Chile in February 2004.

Cyber Security

The ECSG held a forum in August 2003 to address cyber security issues at the individual firm level.

The ECSG's 2002 Stocktake of E-commerce Activities is a business-friendly inventory of the electronic commerce activities currently being undertaken by APEC fora. It is available at www.apec.org.

The business/private sector has been an active participant in all ECSG meetings. In addition, an APEC E-Commerce Business Alliance was established in 2001, and the Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce was granted Guest Status in 2003.

Recent Key Outcomes

Key outcomes of the *Toward a Cross-border Paperless Trading Environment Symposium* held in September were the need to reduce the number of data elements required by government authorities, for economies to establish a single window for the lodgment of import and export data, to encourage all economies to adopt international standardised data sets and e-message formats based on WCO and UN/CEFACT standards, to encourage the cross-recognition of PKI domains, and the adoption by APEC economies of electronic Bills of Lading and Electronic Carnets

More information about the work of the ECSG can be found at www.export.gov/apececommerce.

Brief History

The ECSG was established by the SOM in February 1999. Its mandate has been extended by the SOM to February 2005.

Electronic Commerce – Key Contacts

Chair

Ms Michelle O'Neill
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information
Technology Industries
US Department of Commerce
Tel: (1-202) 482 5908
Fax: (1-202) 501 2548
E-mail: michelle_oneill@ita.doc.gov

APEC Secretariat

Mr Bruce Bennett
Director (Program)
E-mail: bb@mail.apecec.org.sg

GENDER FOCAL POINT NETWORK

Women contribute greatly to APEC economies and there is a need to provide gender equality in the social and economic life of the region. Women account for more than half the labour force in APEC member economies and make a major contribution to trade and investment in the region.

- In 1998 Leaders endorsed the recommendations of the First Ministerial Meeting on Women which was held in Makati, Philippines on 15-16 October 1998. The recommendations included the development of a *Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC*. Accordingly in 1999 the SOM Ad-hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration (AGGI) developed the Framework which was subsequently endorsed by Leaders/Ministers in Auckland, New Zealand in October 1999.
- The AGGI was tasked to complement the responsibility and accountability of individual APEC fora for the implementation of the Framework and provide recommendations on the next steps in gender integration and further implementation of the Framework.
- The AGGI has completed its mandate in 2002 and mindful of the continuing need to sustain the work of gender integration throughout APEC beyond 2002, Ministers endorsed the establishment of Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) in Los Cabos, Mexico in October 2002.
- The first meeting of the GFPN was held in Khon Kaen, Thailand from 21 to 22 May 2003 with 63 participants from 17 economies attending the meeting, which included economy and fora gender focal points. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan (Ms) from Thailand.
- The broad goal of GFPN will be to provide linkages for information sharing and support between APEC Fora, APEC Member Economies and the APEC Secretariat to advance the economic interests of women for the benefit of all economies within the APEC Region. The GFPN will maintain and advance the implementation of the Framework and the work of AGGI in maintaining awareness of gender issues.

Latest Developments

- The GFPN at its first meeting in May 2003 developed the Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR took into consideration the significant contributions of AGGI and the endorsement by Leaders and Ministers in Los Cabos, Mexico in October 2002 for the establishment of GFPN. The TOR reflects the purpose, structure, functions and the implementation strategy for the eight basic tasks endorsed by the Leaders and Ministers.
- The meeting also developed and endorsed the Workplan Template which outlines the annual GFPN cycle and specific current activities including responsibilities, outcomes/deliverables and time frame. The Workplan will include progress reports of ongoing projects such as the United States led study on the economic contributions of women and men in the APEC region and Australia's Gender Resource Kit.
- The meeting endorsed the appointment of Ms Pamela Villalobos from Chile as the Chair for 2004.
- The Eighth Women Leaders' Network Meeting, chaired by Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan (Ms) from Thailand, was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 30 July to 3 August 2003. The theme of the meeting was *Women Make a World of Difference: Partnerships for Gender and Development*.

Recent Key Outcomes

- The GFPN will comprise Fora Gender Focal Points working with Economy Gender Focal Points assisted by the Program Director for Gender Integration of the APEC Secretariat. The APEC Business Advisory Committee (ABAC) and Women's Leaders Network (WLN) are advisory bodies to GFPN.
- The GFPN will report regularly to SOM and assist SOM to report annually to Ministers and Leaders on the continued implementation of the Framework.
- The annual GFPN meeting, including a workshop for Fora Gender Focal Points was held at the margins of SOM.
- Monitoring the implementation of the projects *The Economic Contributions of Women and Men in APEC Economies: The Need for Sex-Disaggregated Data* and the *Gender Resource Kit*.
- Initiating the process of establishing the *Register of Gender Experts and the Register of Best Practices on Gender Mainstreaming* to be located in the APEC Secretariat.
- The Statements of the Eighth WLN Meeting were:
 - The WLN confirms its commitment as an autonomous network ready to play a proactive partnership role within and outside the GFPN to ensure the integration of women in all APEC fora and activities. The WLN agrees to take on the role for the collection of best practices on women's entrepreneurship for GFPN.
 - The WLN reiterates that women in all their social and economic capacities contribute greatly to job creation and economic growth in APEC economies and acknowledge that human security for women and men is the foundation for future economic growth in the region.
- The Recommendations of the Eighth WLN Meeting were to:
 - promote fair and equitable access to financial services, particularly for women led small and micro enterprises.
 - support and provide incentives for comprehensive programs that empower women led micro enterprises.
 - facilitate the collection and dissemination of more extensive data on women's contribution to the informal sector.
 - grant the WLN guest status in the Microenterprise subgroup of the SME Working Group.

Gender Focal Point Network– Key Contacts

Chair

Dr Juree Vichit-Vadakan
Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society
National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA)
118 Klong-Chan Bangkokpi
Bangkok 10240
Thailand
Tel: (662) 377 7206
(662)374 7399
(662) 378 1284
Fax: (662) 374 7399
E-mail: juree@nida.nida.ac.th

APEC Secretariat

Mr Joseph Doraisamy
Director (Program)
E-mail: jd@mail.apecsec.org.sg



III. OTHER APEC ACTIVITIES

APEC BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is unique among international trade organisations in terms of its involvement and partnership with the international business community. APEC recognises industry's critical role in developing and sustaining economic growth and prosperity, especially in the Asia Pacific region. The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) is the private sector arm of APEC. APEC Economic Leaders established ABAC in 1995 as a permanent forum to advise APEC officials on the role of the private sector in the broader pursuit for open trade and investment in Asia Pacific. ABAC provides APEC groups with business perspectives on specific areas of cooperation.

ABAC has a dialogue with APEC Economic Leaders during the annual Leaders' meeting. It also meets four times a year and sends a representative to Ministerial Meetings.

ABAC Membership

ABAC comprises up to three senior business people appointed by APEC Economic Leaders from each APEC Member Economy. ABAC members come from a wide range of industrial and service sectors, and represent a broad spectrum of business interests. One ABAC member from each APEC Member Economy comes from a small to medium-sized enterprise and represents the views of this important sector.

The Chair of ABAC comes from the APEC Member Economy which is hosting APEC. This position changes annually. In 2003, ABAC's Chair from Thailand is Dr Viphandh Roengpithya, President, ASIAN University of Science and Technology.

ABAC Reports to APEC Economic Leaders

ABAC provides annual reports to APEC Economic Leaders, which contain recommendations to improve the business and investment environment in the APEC region.

2002 ABAC Report to APEC Economic Leaders

The 2002 ABAC Report to APEC Economic Leaders urged APEC to implement recommendations found in earlier reports as well as to develop approaches to managing the response to terrorism.

The Finance Task Force focused on measures to strengthen corporate governance, deepen and broaden capital markets, and support implementation of the Basel II Accords.

The Technology Task Force worked on following up some of the 2001 recommendations, particularly in the areas of internet-based training, e-commerce, paperless trading and government online, and in biotechnology.

The Business Facilitation Task Force had the following priorities –

- Increasing the number of participants in the APEC Business Travel Card scheme.
- Moving ahead the APEC Food System project. This project aims to establish an agricultural export subsidy free zone and calls for the abolition of food sanctions. It also calls on APEC Economic Leaders to align local standards to international standards.

2001 ABAC Report to Economic Leaders

In 2001, ABAC focussed on issues of key interest to business and providing real-time advice to APEC policymakers. Key messages included calling on APEC to stay on track with trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, dealing with the global economic slowdown, helping build capacity in APEC financial systems, and improving access to new opportunities through technological progress.

The 1996 - 2000 ABAC Reports to Economic Leaders are from the APEC Website.

APEC Business Advisory Council – Key Contacts

Chair

Dr Viphandh Roengpithya
C/o Mr. Panit Nilubol,
ABAC 2003 Executive Director
Vice President for Administration
Asian University of Science & Technology
89 Moo 12 Highway 331 Banglamung
Chon Buri 20260
Thailand
Tel: (66 38) 754 450, ext. 2818;
Fax: (66 38) 754 460
E-mail: npanit@asianust.ac.th

ABAC Secretariat

Mr Antonio Basilio,
Director for Operations
43/F. Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, 1226 Philippines
Tel: (632) 843-6001/ 845-4564;
Fax: (632) 845-4832
E-mail: abacsec@pfgc.ph

APEC Secretariat

Mr Scott A. Smith
Director (Program)
E-mail: sas@mail.apecsec.org.sg

APEC FINANCE MINISTERS' PROCESS

The APEC Finance Ministers process provides a forum to exchange views and information among members on regional financial developments and to pursue cooperative programs to promote financial sector development and liberalisation. Thailand selected *Local/Regional Link, Global Reach: A New APEC Financial Cooperation* as the theme for this year's meeting. The three priorities of the work programs for this year are the local/regional links and global reach on –

- Grass-root and SME development.
- Regional bond markets.
- Fiscal and financial aspects of regional trade arrangements.

Business and Private Sector Participation

The APEC Finance Ministers process welcomes input to its deliberations from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and the private sector APEC Financiers Group (AFG). The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) also regularly observes Ministerial meetings. Private financial services firms have also supported some projects.

Key Outcomes

The APEC Finance Ministers process led APEC's response to the Asian financial crisis by accelerating its collaborative initiatives to develop regional financial and capital markets and support freer and stable capital flows in Asia-Pacific. In recent years, its work has expanded to include a focus on countering terrorist financing and responding to the economic impact of terrorism.

Under the broad policy theme of *Local/Regional Link, Global Reach: A New APEC Financial Cooperation*, the tenth APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting was held in Phuket, Thailand on 4-5 September 2003, with the three sub-themes as the main focus of discussions –

- 1 Grassroots and SME development.
- 2 Regional bond market development.
- 3 Fiscal and financial aspects of regional trade arrangements (RTAs).

One of the major deliverables from the tenth APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting was the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation among the APEC Financial Institutions Dealing with SMEs*. As an initial step towards the establishment of a network among APEC SME financial institutions, the MOU aims to encourage finance and technical cooperation among the participating institutions.

Recognising the importance of putting in place the institutional framework and structural reforms that allow the most efficient allocation of savings, Finance Ministers likewise encouraged the promotion of regional bond market development as a step towards better mobilising savings, providing investment alternatives, and achieving more balanced financial markets.

Finally, noting the need to enhance efficiency and streamline the tariff regimes and customs procedures to facilitate greater trade and investment among APEC Member Economies, Finance Ministers emphasised that RTAs should be pursued complementarily with the multilateral process under the WTO, but at the same time recognised the role of RTAs in promoting competitive liberalisation of trade within the Asia-Pacific region.

Brief History

APEC Finance Ministers first met in 1994 in Honolulu, USA. Since then they have met annually, most recently in September 2003 in Phuket, Thailand. Meetings are also held between the Ministerial meetings at the Deputies and Technical Working Group levels. The current chair is Thailand.

APEC Finance Ministers' Process - Key Contacts

APEC FMM Thailand Secretariat
International Economic Policy Division
Fiscal Policy Office
Ministry of Finance, Rama VI Road,
Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Tel: (662) 2739020 ext. 3609-12
Fax: (662) 2739059
E-mail: info@apecfmm2003.org
Website: www.apecfmm2003.org

APEC Secretariat
Mr Charles C. Jose
Director (Program)
E-mail: ccj@mail.apecsec.org.sg

The APEC Food System (AFS) is a joint and cross-cutting action being implemented by all APEC Member Economies and APEC fora to achieve three food related goals - the development of rural infrastructure, the promotion of trade in food products, and the dissemination of technological advances in food production and processing. These goals are all aimed at improving the efficiency of food production and trade for the benefit of APEC Member Economies.

Key Outcomes

Recommendation A) Rural Infrastructure Development

In response to recommendation A) *i. Place high priority on addressing the issue of rural education*, the HRDWG Education Network (EDNET) has implemented several activities in three areas through fourteen (14) projects. Most of the on-going and new EDNET projects were on line. These allow rural youth to have access to resources and learning opportunities. The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group has set up the Sub-Group on Micro Enterprises and the Postal Hub, designed to assist rural small and medium sized enterprises have access to relevant information.

Recommendation B) Promotion of Trade in Food Products

Committee on Trade and Investment subgroups, in particular the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance, continued to work on training in the areas of risk assessment in food safety measures, development of food standards, safety assessment of genetically modified foods and the APEC Food Expert Network. In particular, the SCSC is responding to decisions of Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) concerning a pathfinder on the Sectoral APEC Food MRA. FWG reported its project on import risk assessment of food products.

Recommendation C) Dissemination of Technological Advances in Food Production and Processing

The Agricultural and Technical Cooperation Working Group has implemented 4 recommendations in the AFS and carried out four projects and plans to complete 6 more projects. It is working in collaboration with other APEC fora such as the SCSC and has agreed to cooperate with the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology. The Transportation Working Group is implementing a project on *Identification of Competency Standards for Perishable Goods Handling & Development of Training Programs* to improve the perishable goods handling skills of middle level managers, packers, and handlers in the

APEC region.

Recommendation D) Individual APEC Actions and other related actions noted above

Pursuant to the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) decision to include APEC Member Economies' reports on the AFS as a separate chapter of the IAPs and to consequently abolish their progress reports, member economies are to submit their progress reports along with their IAP in accordance with the timeline set out for the submission of the IAPs.

Brief History

In November 1998, APEC Economic Leaders restated their resolve to create a prosperous Asia-Pacific community. They endorsed joint actions in the area of food in relation to economic and population growth in the region and instructed members to implement those joint actions. At the First SOM in February 1999, in response to an instruction by APEC Economic Leaders, APEC Senior Officials established an ad hoc task force to study the APEC Business Advisory Council's (ABAC) proposal for an AFS. Reports on the AFS were submitted to and endorsed by the Ministers' and Leaders' Meetings in Auckland, New Zealand, Brunei Darussalam and in Shanghai, China. APEC Economic Leaders reconfirmed their commitment to address in parallel three areas of cooperation as outlined in the introduction to this section. They urged APEC fora and members to increase momentum in this regard as recommended by the ABAC.

APEC Food System – Key Contacts

APEC Secretariat
Mr Kang Jae-Kwon
Director (Program)
E-mail: kjk@mail.apecsec.org.sg

APEC STUDY CENTRES CONSORTIUM

The APEC Study Centres (ASC) Consortium aims to achieve the following objectives –

- Promote cooperation in higher education and advanced research, and facilitate cultural and intellectual exchanges in the Asia-Pacific region, recognising the importance of educational links in developing a sense of community and fostering understanding of the diversity of the region.
- Assist the APEC process by undertaking advanced, collaborative, interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research on issues important to APEC from an independent and longer-term perspective.
- Encourage student, faculty and research exchanges among APEC economies and promote training and other educational programs that address regional needs.
- Encourage the informed participation of other sectors of society, especially youth, the private/business sector, NGOs, and the media in dialogues and study relating to APEC.

Latest Developments

The ASC held its annual *Consortium Conference* in Phuket, Thailand on 25–28 May 2003, with *Extending and Reaching Out the Benefits of APEC* as its central theme. Some of the supporting sub-themes discussed were –

- *APEC and the Changing World Trade Situation* - More focus should be placed on the role of bilateral and regional trading arrangements in the context of APEC and the WTO and their relations, and on whether a set of principles to manage bilateral and regional trading arrangements could be developed.
- *Trade and Investment in APEC* - Trade and investment liberalisation remains a critical issue of economic cooperation among APEC Member Economies. Thus, trade and investment liberalisation in APEC is still on the agenda and requires vigilance and constant effort.
- *Knowledge-Based Economy (KBE)* - KBE is the foundation of economic growth in the APEC region. However, strategies to bridge the digital divide and knowledge gap among and within APEC Member Economies must be considered along with the development of KBE.
- *Financial Architecture for a World of Differences* - Reducing vulnerabilities while enhancing investment and trade between the differing social systems requires sound international financial infrastructure. APEC is in a position to play a substantial role in reforming the global financial system.
- *Human Security Issues* - Empowering people to become active and self-reliant in the regional economy is the essence of promoting human security.

Key Outcomes

Output from the ASC has always been part of the whole APEC process. The contribution of the ASC has been mainly in the form of input to component parts of the APEC process, particularly to the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). At the International Symposium entitled *Expanding the Benefits of Economic Growth and Development: Implementing the Vision* held in Mexico City, Mexico in early December 2001, participants suggested that the status of the International Consortium of ASC (ICASC) could be elevated to play a similar role to that of the APEC Business Advisory Council. Such an advisory role could be developed both through its analytical capabilities, and by making a contribution to the consolidation of the multiple initiatives underway in the forum and to the definition of the themes of APEC's renewed agenda.

Brief History

The APEC Study Centres Consortium (ASC) was established in 1993. There are now ASCs in 19 Member Economies, comprising 100 universities, research centres and centres of academic excellence across the APEC region. APEC Member Economies participate in the Annual ASC Consortium meetings and other research activities in their areas of interest.

In 1999, the APEC Study Centres Consortium agreed on a Statement of Common Purpose for the APEC International Assessment Network (APIAN). APIAN is a collaborative, independent project among participating APEC Study Centres to track and assess the design and execution of selected APEC initiatives. APIAN's mission is to enhance knowledge among government officials and the general public with regard to APEC activities, to encourage the fulfilment of APEC objectives and commitments, and to identify ways for APEC to improve its performance. APIAN has published two books and three important reports since 1999, which assess APEC's performance and provide recommendations for improvements.

APEC Study Centres Consortium – Key Contacts

Chair

Dr Suphat Suphachalasai
Director
Thai APEC Study Center
Thammasat University
Rangsit Campus
Pathum Thani, Thailand
Tel: (662) 564-2851-3
Fax: (662) 564-2849
E-mail: suphat@econ.tu.ac.th
tasc@alpha.tu.ac.th
Website: t “_blank” www.apecthai.org

APEC Secretariat

Mr Charles C. Jose
Director (Program)
E-mail: ccj@mail.apecsec.org.sg

LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION FORUM

APEC STUDY
CENTRES
CONSORTIUM

LIFE SCIENCES
INNOVATION
FORUM

The inaugural meeting of the APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) was held in 14-15 August 2003 in Phuket Thailand. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Suwit Khunkitti, Deputy Prime Minister, Thailand. Over 200 participants drawn from academia, government and industry discussed implementation of the APEC Economic Leaders instructions to develop a strategic plan for Life Sciences innovation in the region. Several key themes emerged that were considered vital elements of a framework for the plan.

Life Sciences innovation was recognised as a critical area of growth and socio-economic development - healthy people produce healthy economies. Productivity gains far outweigh the costs of developing innovative products. New product development and use adds significantly to longevity, wellness and economic potential.

Successful Life Sciences industry requires political leadership and commitment from the top and depends on the proper policy environment, public-private partnership, human capacity, and efficient and effective delivery of patient focused products and services. Guiding principles moving forward must include transparency, meaningful dialogue with stakeholders and recognition of due process. Capacity building will be critical to successful implementation.

Because life sciences technology is fast moving it was recommended that the strategic plan be finalised by the time of the APEC Leaders Summit in 2004. It also was recommended that expert groups work intersessionally to develop a road map encompassing best practices for each of the four main segments of the life sciences innovation value chain: research; development; manufacturing and marketing; and health services.

Key Outcomes

A number of immediate outcomes were identified as recommendations for Leaders endorsement at their 20-21 October 2003 meeting in Bangkok including –

- Agreement in principle to harmonise quality standards for life sciences products and services according to international best practices.
- Assessment of the strength of each APEC economy to identify those areas where contributions to life sciences innovation may be established quickly and effectively.

The Framework for the Strategic Plan for Life Sciences Innovation in APEC region is expected to be delivered in 2003.

Life Sciences Innovation Forum – Key Contacts

APEC Secretariat

Mr Timothy Hsiang
Director (Program)
E-mail: tth@mail.apecsec.org.sg

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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

In March 1994 Ministers adopted an *Environmental Vision Statement* and a *Framework of Principles* for integrating economic and environment issues. *The APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration for Action* issued in Japan in November 1995 reaffirmed the integration of environment and sustainable development into APEC activities. The Economic Leaders' Declaration in Canada in November 1997 stated that "Achieving sustainable development is at the heart of APEC's mandate". Leaders also directed Ministers to develop specific initiatives to implement an initial work program for sustainable development in APEC that includes the themes of sustainability of the marine environment, clean technology and clean production, and sustainable cities. In the same year, APEC Environment Ministers endorsed the *Action Plan for Sustainability of the Marine Environment*, the *APEC Sustainable Cities Program of Action*, and the *APEC Cleaner Production Strategy*. Three sub-themes of sustainable cities, cleaner production, and sustainability of the marine environment were added to the ECOTECH priority themes. At their 1998 meeting in Malaysia, Leaders reiterated their commitment, "... to advance sustainable development across the entire spectrum of our workplan..."

Key Outcomes

APEC Ministers in 1996 decided that APEC Senior Officials should prepare an annual review of activities of sustainable development in APEC, to monitor the development and implementation of sustainable development initiatives as well as to coordinate and provide guidance to APEC fora. The APEC Secretariat was tasked to compile an annual overview of sustainable development work across APEC fora. This overview updates the stocktaking exercise on sustainable development for each year. There have been six annual reviews since 1997. These reviews show that the number, scope and significance of the APEC activities in sustainable development being undertaken is considerable, indicating that the issue is being addressed fairly broadly across APEC. Almost all the APEC fora have demonstrated responsiveness to sustainable development concerns, and in several cases, fora were working together to jointly conduct sustainable development activities.

Although there has been no formal meeting of the Senior Environment Officials' group since the Environment Ministers' Meeting in 1997, since sustainable development is a cross-cutting issue, implementation of the related initiatives have been carried out by the relevant sectoral fora continuously. Senior Officials regularly review APEC activities in sustainable development in consultation with the Chairs and Lead Shepherds of other APEC fora. After two Ministerial Meetings which covered issues of sustainable development, related APEC fora will develop future work programs for implementing sustainable development directives.

In the 2001 APEC Leaders' meeting, Leaders noted that many APEC Member Economies would be meeting in Johannesburg for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 to reinvigorate the commitment to sustainable development in pursuit of enhancing economic growth, promoting human and social development and protecting the environment as interdependent objectives. Leaders pledged that APEC, which has undertaken a broad range of activities in this area, would consider how to contribute to the success of the World Summit and take forward the outcomes in its work program.

In order to consolidate APEC's contribution to the WSSD, the APEC Secretariat prepared the *Contribution of APEC on the WSSD* report to highlight the concrete contribution APEC as a whole has made in 2002 on sustainable development. The contribution of APEC to sustainable development in 2002 includes two Ministerial Meetings that on the theme of sustainable development. The report was presented by Mexican delegation to the WSSD and the result was acknowledged by the Ministers and Leaders.

The first APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM) was held in Korea on 25–26 April 2002 with the theme of *Toward the Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Resources*. Sustainable fisheries, ocean science and technology, marine environmental protection and integrated coastal management were discussed in this meeting. In the meeting, Ministers adopted the *Seoul Oceans Declaration*. The Declaration provided new plans for future implementation in the area of sustainable development, especially on maritime affairs.

In the fifth Energy Ministerial Meeting that took place on 23 July 2002 in Mexico City, Ministers acknowledged the essential contribution of energy to maintaining the Asia Pacific region's economic growth and social development and committed to strengthen simultaneously the APEC goals of economic growth, energy security and environmental protection. Ministers also committed to environmentally responsible development and clean use of energy and to the belief that quality of life benefits flow from the availability of cleaner, more affordable energy.

Sustainable Development - Key Contacts

APEC Secretariat

Mr Timothy Hsiang
Director (Program)
Email: tth@mail.apecsec.org.sg

APEC CONTACTS

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

MEMBER ECONOMIES

Australia

Director
Business Facilitation and Secure Trade Section
APEC & Regional Trade Policy Branch
Trade Development Division
R G Casey Building
John-McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221
Tel: (61-2) 6261 2727
Fax: (61-2) 6261 3009
E-mail: apec@dfat.gov.au

Brunei Darussalam

Head of International Relations and
Trade Development Division
Ministry of Industry & Primary Resources
Jln Menteri Besar BB 3910
Tel: (673-2) 381 601/382-822
Fax: (673-2) 382 846
E-mail: irt@brunet.bn

Dept of Multilateral Economics
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bandar Seri Begawan BD2710
Tel: (673-2) 262 483
Fax: (673-2) 262 480
E-mail: fadilah.ahmad@mfa.gov.bn

Canada

Director
International Economic Relations & Summit
Division (EER)
Department of Foreign Affairs &
International Trade
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa
Ontario K1A 0G2
Tel: (1-613) 665 8661
Fax: (1-613) 944 2732
E-mail: apec.canada@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Chile

Head, Trade Policy/WTO Department
General Directorate of International Economic
Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Alameda B O Higgins 20
1315, 2nd Floor, Piso 2, Santiago
Tel: (56-2) 565 9304
Fax: (56-2) 696 0639
E-mail: apecdept@direcon.cl

Head, APEC Department
See address details above
Tel: (56-2) 565 9350
Fax: (56-2) 696 0639
E-mail: apecdept@direcon.cl

People's Republic of China

Director
Asia-Pacific Division
Department of International Organizations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
No 2 Chao Yang Men Nan Da Jie
Beijing 100701
Tel: (86-10) 6596 3162
Fax: (86-10) 6596 3160
E-mail: apec-china@mfa.gov.cn

Hong Kong, China

APEC Liaison Office
Trade & Industry Department
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
17/F, Trade & Industry Department Tower
700 Nathan Road, Kowloon
Tel: (852) 2398 5535
Fax: (852) 2787 7799
E-mail: hkcapec@tid.gov.hk
Website: www.gov.hk/tid

Indonesia

Director for Intra Regional Cooperation
in Asia, Pacific & Africa
Department of Foreign Affairs
Jalan Taman Pejambon No. 6
Jakarta Pusat 10110
Tel: (62-21) 381 1083
Fax: (62-21) 384 4867
E-mail: dirhenb@deplu.go.id
dithenb@deplu.go.id

Japan

Director
Developing Economies & APEC Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sumitomo Fudosan Shiba-koen Tower
2-11-1 Shiba-koen, Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-8519
Tel: (81-3) 6402 2229
Fax: (81-3) 6402 2221
E-mail: keiji.ide@mofa.go.jp
keito-mofa@m2.people.or.jp

Director
APEC Office
Trade Policy Bureau
Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry
1-3-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8901
Tel: (81-3) 3501 1655
Fax: (81-3) 3501 1592
E-mail: takagi-seiji@meti.go.jp
apec-meti@meti.go.jp

Republic of Korea

Deputy Minister for Trade
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Room 811-1, 95-1 Doryum-dong
Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-760
Tel: (82-2) 2100 7649
Fax: (82-2) 2100 7980
E-mail: apeco@mofat.go.kr

Malaysia

Director, Regional Economic Cooperation
Ministry of International Trade & Industry
3rd Floor, Block 10, Government Offices Complex
Jalan Duta, 50622 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: (60-3) 6203 1294
Fax: (60-3) 6203 1293
E-mail: jayasiri@miti.gov.my

Mexico

Director General for Multilateral Trade Affairs
Ministry of the Economy
Alfonso Reyes #30 - 1er. Piso
Col. Hipodromo Condesa
Delg. Cuauhtemoc
C.P. 06179 Mexico D.F.
Tel: (52-55) 5729 9172
Fax: (52-55) 5729 9313
E-mail: apecmx@economia.gob.mx

New Zealand

Director
Economic Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Private Bag 18901, Wellington
Tel: (64 4) 439 8046
Fax: (64 4) 439 8545
E-mail: nzapec@mft.govt.nz

Papua New Guinea

Director-General (PNG APEC Secretariat)
Department of Prime Minister &
National Executive Council
Marauta Haus
P. O. Box 639, Waigani 131 N.C.D
Tel: (675) 327 6684/6574
Fax: (675) 323 3903
E-mail: apecpng@global.net.pg

Peru

Senior Official of Peru to APEC
Director of Asia & Oceania Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Jr Lampa No 545, 4th Floor
Lima 1
Tel: (51-1) 311 2573
Fax: (51-1) 311 2564
E-mail: jcapunay@rree.gob.pe

Republic of the Philippines

Office of the Undersecretary for
International Economic Relations
Department of Foreign Affairs
14th Floor, DFA Bldg.
2330 Roxas Blvd, Pasay City 1300
Metro Manila
Tel: (63-2) 834 3047 / 832 3312
Fax: (63-2) 834 1451
E-mail: ouier@dfa.gov.ph
albertdd@dfa.gov.ph
noelnovicio@dfa.gov.ph
hqs@dfa.gov.ph

The Russian Federation

Head of APEC Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
32/43 Smolenskaya-Sennaya
121200 Moscow
Tel: (7-095) 244 4128
Fax: (7-095) 241 3917
E-mail: apec.des@mid.ru

Singapore

Director, Trade Division
Ministry of Trade & Industry
100 High Street #09-01
The Treasury
Singapore 179434
Tel: (65) 6332 7207
Fax: (65) 6334 8152
E-mail: MTI_APEC@mti.gov.sg

Chinese Taipei

Director General
Department of International Organizations and
APEC Senior Official
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2 Kaitakelan Blvd, Taipei
Tel: (886-2) 2348 2550
Fax: (886-2) 2382-1174
E-mail: apecct@mofa.gov.tw
thcheng@mofa.gov.tw

Thailand

Director-General
Department of International Economic Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
443 Sri Ayudhya Road, Ratchatewee
Phayathai Bangkok 10400
Tel: (66-2) 643 5123
Fax: (66-2) 643 5247
E-mail: apecdesk@mfa.go.th

United States of America

Director
Office of Economic Policy
Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State
EAP/EP Room 5317
Washington, D.C. 20520-6310
Tel: (1-202) 647 4835
Fax: (1-202) 647 0136
E-mail: TsaiS@state.gov
dosapac@state.gov

Viet Nam

Deputy Director General
Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
8 Khuc Hao Street
Ha Noi
Tel: (84-4) 199 3817
Fax: (84-4) 199 3618
E-mail: apec@mofa.gov.vn
apecvn2006@yahoo.com

OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) Secretariat

Director for the Bureau of Economic Cooperation
The ASEAN Secretariat
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja
P O Box 2072, Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta, Indonesia
Tel: (62-21) 726 2991 ext. 361
Fax: (62-21) 739 8234
E-mail: vinh@aseansec.org

Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)

Director General
PECC International Secretariat
4 Nassim Road
Singapore 258372
Tel: (65) 6735 1801
Fax: (65) 6737 9824
E-mail: peccsec@pacific.net

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

Director, Trade and Investment Division
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Ratu Sukuna Road
GPO Box 856
Suva, Fiji
Tel: (679) 3312 600
Fax: (679) 3305 573
E-mail: jaindrak@forumsec.org.fj

ABBREVIATIONS

ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council	BMC	Budget and Management Committee
ABTC	APEC Business Travel Card	CAPs	Collective Action Plans
ACBD	APEC Customs Business Dialogue	CBN	Capacity Building Network
AEMM	APEC Education Ministerial Meeting	CDSG	Chemical Dialogue Steering Group
AFG	APEC Financiers Group	CERTs	Computer Emergency Response Teams
AFS	APEC Food System	CPDG	Competition Policy and Deregulation Group
AGGI	Ad-hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration	CSOM	Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting
AICST	APEC International Centre for Sustainable Tourism	CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment
AOMM	APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting	CTTF	Counter Terrorism Task Force
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	DDA	Doha Development Agenda
API	Advanced Passenger Information	DMS	Dispute Mediation Service
ASC	APEC Study Centres	EAP	ECOTECH Action Plans
ASG	Air Service Group	EBN	Energy Business Network
ATCEG	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Experts' Group	EC	Economic Committee
ATCWG	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group	ECH	ECOTECH Clearing House

ECOTECH	Economic and Technical Cooperation	GBDe	Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce
ECSG	Electronic Commerce Steering Group	GFPN	Gender Focal Point Network
EDNET	Education Network	GHS	Globally Harmonised System
egnret	Expert Group on New and Renewable Energy Technologies	GIT	GNSS Implementing Team
e-GP	Electronic Government Procurement	GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite Systems
EID	Emerging Infectious Diseases	GOS	Group on Services
EPG	Eminent Persons Group	GPEG	Government Procurement Experts' Group
ESC	SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation	HBS	Hold Baggage Screening
ESI	Energy Security Initiative	HLPDAB	High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology
EU	European Union	IAPs	Individual Action Plans
EWG	Energy Working Group	ICASC	International Consortium of ASC
FEEEP	Food, Energy, Environment, Economic Development Population	IEG	Investment Experts' Group
FWG	Fisheries Working Group	IEGBM	Informal Experts' Group on Business Mobility
		IFIs	International Financial Institutions

ABBREVIATIONS

IPEG	Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group	MRCWG	Marine Resource Conservation Working Group
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights	MRT	Ministers Responsible for Trade
IPR-GT	Intellectual Property Rights Get Together	MTWP	Medium-term Workplan
IRA	Import Risk Analysis	NBPs	Non-Binding Principles
ISTWG	Industrial Science and Technology Working Group	NIDA	National Institute of Development Administration
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems	NTMs	Tariff and Non-tariff Measures
JETRO	Japan External Trade Organization	OAA	Osaka Action Agenda
KBE	Knowledge-Based Economy	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
KIEP	Korea Institute for International Economic Policy	PATA	Pacific-Asia Tourism Association
LSIF	Life Sciences Innovation Forum	PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
LSP	Labour and Social Protection Network	PLGSME	Policy Level Group on SMEs
LSPN	Labour and Social Protection Network	REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals
MAG	Market Access Group	REDI	Renewable Energy Development Initiative
MCS	Monitoring Control and Surveillance	RTA	Regional Trade Arrangements
MOOs	Menu of Options	SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangements		

SCCP	Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures	TOR	Terms of Reference
SCSC	Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance	TOSS	Tourism Occupational Skills Standards
SELI	Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure	TPO	Trade Promotion Organisations
SFIs	Specialised Financial Institutions	TPTWG	Transportation Working Group
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises	TRIPS	Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
SMEWG	Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
SOM	Senior Officials' Meeting	WCBG	WTO Capacity Building Group
SPAN	Integrated Plan of Action for the Development of SMEs	WCO	World Customs Organization
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	WG	Working Group
STAR	Secure Trade in the Asia Pacific Region	WGTP	Working Group on Trade Promotion
TAT	Tourism Authority of Thailand	WLN	Women's Leaders Network
TEL	Telecommunication and Information Working Group	WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
TELMIN	Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry	WTO	World Trade Organization
TILF	Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation		

