



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

APEC Senior Officials' Report on

# Economic and Technical Cooperation

2009

Advancing Free Trade for Asia-Pacific Prosperity



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

**APEC Secretariat**

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**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

**2009 Senior Officials' Report on  
Economic and Technical Cooperation**

**SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation**

**November 2009**

Printed electronically, November 2009

Published by

APEC Secretariat  
35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace Singapore 119616  
Tel: (65) 6891 9600 Fax: (65) 6891 9690  
Email: [info@apcc.org](mailto:info@apcc.org) Website: [www.apcc.org](http://www.apcc.org)

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APEC#209-ES-01.5 ISSN 0219-8932

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## A Letter from the SCE Chair

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*I am pleased to report that 2009 has been a very productive year for the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) with a significant amount of work that has been accomplished. SCE successfully implemented its tasks as outlined in the 2009 work program. We have completed two information-gathering exercises i.e. the stocktake on capacity building activities of APEC fora and the survey on capacity building needs of developing member economies. We have concluded independent assessment of six working groups and task forces to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. A new set of policy criteria for ranking 2009 project proposals has also been developed. Considerable progress has been made on enhancing APEC's collaboration with multilateral organisations and the private sector.*

*In 2009, following the progress made in the previous year on strengthening the SCE policy role, the Committee put priority on developing a framework to guide economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) activities in APEC. The framework is an essential step towards a more effective system of prioritisation and coordination of APEC capacity building activities. This is to ensure that APEC funds are best used in terms of member economies' needs and in terms of meeting APEC goals and priorities. The framework will lay the ground for more reforming measures to be implemented in the coming year.*

*SCE's work responds directly to the reaffirmation by our Ministers of the importance of a strategic and goal-orientated approach to capacity-building that assists APEC economies to achieve the Bogor Goals. SCE will continue the efforts in advancing ECOTECH agenda and strengthening APEC's process to make sure that the Committee can effectively deliver on its mandated role of "providing policy guidance on ways to contribute to APEC's ECOTECH goals."*

*We could not have done so much without strong commitment of member economies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank SCE members for their support to my chairmanship. I would also like to thank various subfora for their hard work and the contributions they made to fulfilling APEC's ECOTECH objectives. I wish everyone well in our efforts towards achieving the APEC's goals.*

*Yours faithfully,*



*Kenji Hiramatsu  
Chair, SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH*





## Executive Summary

In 2009, the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) met on two occasions in the margin of SOM meetings to assess, *inter alia*, the progress of work on strengthening SCE's policy role; the implementation of ongoing independent assessments; and ways to enhance APEC's collaboration with other multilateral organisations and the private sector. SCE also held the fourth SCE-Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting with Chairs and Lead Shepherds of APEC Committees and fora to discuss various policy issues and the third Policy Dialogue on APEC's Engagement with Multilateral Organisations (MOs) entitled "Unlocking our Common Potential".

Intersessionally, the SCE developed a new set of policy criteria for 2009 to strengthen the capacity of the APEC Secretariat and its Budget and Management Committee (BMC) to assess projects and to allocate APEC-managed project funds strategically. The SCE conducted a stocktake of capacity building activities in APEC fora and a survey on capacity building needs of developing member economies. The results of these two exercises provided the SCE with important information for consideration in developing its strategic capacity agenda. To support efforts at sub-fora level towards promoting public-private partnership, the SCE has conducted a survey on APEC's engagement with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). The result of this survey will be considered in 2010.

This year, the Committee successfully met all commitments outlined in its 2009 Workplan. Key achievements include: (a) the development of a framework for better guidance on APEC ECOTECH activities; (b) improvement of SCE's functioning; (c) recommendations for enhancing the cooperation between APEC and other multilateral organizations; (d) successful implementation of independent assessments of six APEC working groups and task forces; and (e) the implementation of a pilot twinning project.

The SCE also approved the 2009 workplan of 16 working groups and task forces and endorsed the extension of the mandate of the Mining Task Force (MTF) and Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) until September and December 2011 respectively.

The SCE assessed and ranked all ECOTECH-related project proposals applying for APEC funding in three project approval sessions.

As of September 2009, APEC working groups and taskforces have registered 93 ECOTECH-related projects. These include 81 projects approved by the Budget and Management Committee for APEC funding and 12 self-funded projects initiated and implemented by individual economies and/or groups of economies.

Section 3 highlights some of the projects undertaken by various APEC fora to support economic and technical cooperation.

Section 4 outlines key achievements of the SCE fora and ongoing efforts to strengthen the implementation of APEC's economic and technical cooperation.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to the 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Ministerial Meeting:

1. Endorse the *2009 SOM Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation*;
2. Welcome the progress of work on strengthening the SCE's Policy Agenda and reforming the SCE, in particular the development of a framework to guide ECOTECH activities;
3. Welcome the achievements of the Working Groups and SOM Task Forces and welcome the ongoing improvements that will be achieved through the Program of Independent Assessment of all SCE fora; and
4. Welcome 2009 contributions to the APEC Support Fund from Australia, China, Japan, Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

## 1. Introduction

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In 1998, the SOM Sub-Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation was established with the mandate to “assist SOM in improving the management and coordination of ECOTECH activities among APEC fora”. The Sub-Committee was later elevated to the SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ESC) in 2002. In 2006, as part of the APEC reform process, the ESC was transformed into the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) with an enhanced mandate to strengthen the prioritisation and effective implementation of ECOTECH activities by various APEC fora. The Terms of Reference of the SCE appears in ([Annex 1](#)).

In 2009, the SCE was chaired by Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, APEC Senior Official for Japan, Deputy Director-General, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In line with the SOM's streamlining of the meeting schedule, the SCE met on two occasions during the year to assess:

- (a) The progress of work on strengthening the SCE's policy role to ensure it is able to effectively implement the mandates and provide relevant policy guidance and recommendations on ECOTECH to Ministers, Senior Officials and APEC fora;
- (b) the implementation of ongoing independent assessments; and
- (c) ways to enhance APEC's collaboration with other multilateral organisations and the private sector.

SCE Core group meetings were convened in the margins of the Second SOM and Concluding SOM to develop the Framework to Guide ECOTECH Activities and recommendations to strengthen existing SCE processes.

The first SCE meeting and the fourth meeting of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH – Committee of the Whole (SCE-COW) were held on 18 February 2009 in Singapore. Prior to the SCE-COW meeting, the third Policy Dialogue on APEC's Engagement with Multilateral Organisations (MOs) entitled “Unlocking our Common Potentials” was held in Singapore on 17 February 2009. Its objective was to examine ways and areas where APEC could strengthen further its cooperation with other MOs for mutual benefit; identify factors, both internal and external, which impede closer inter-organisational cooperation; and develop practical recommendations for consideration at the first SCE meeting (SCE1). The highlight of SCE1 and the SCE-COW meetings was the wide-ranging discussion on how to strengthen economic and technical cooperation in APEC. The discussion covered better prioritising capacity building activities, improving coordination among committees and fora, enhancing APEC's engagement with multilateral organisations and the private sector, and the implementation of multi-year projects. The SCE reviewed progress of the ongoing independent assessments, endorsed its 2009 workplan ([Annex 2](#)), and approved 2009 workplans submitted by working groups and task forces. The SCE also agreed to develop intersessionally a new set of policy criteria to strengthen the capacity of the APEC Secretariat and its Budget and Management Committee (BMC) to assess projects and to allocate APEC-managed project funds strategically. The SCE Policy Criteria for Project Funding in 2009 ([Annex 3](#)) was developed and endorsed in March 2009.

The second meeting of the SCE took place on 23 July 2009 in Singapore. The discussion focused on the internal review of the Committee and the development of a framework to guide ECOTECH activities in APEC and reform the SCE's functioning. The framework was envisaged to be a practical document covering long-term and medium-term priorities as well as short-term priorities or annual SCE policy criteria. During the meeting, SCE also reviewed the implementation of 2009 independent assessments.

This year, the SCE endorsed the extension of the mandate of the Mining Task Force (MTF) and the Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) until September and December 2011 respectively.

With fewer meetings during the year, in 2009, the SCE carried out a significant amount of work intersessionally. The SCE conducted a stocktake of capacity building activities in APEC fora and a survey on capacity building needs of developing member economies. The results of these two exercises have informed the work for a forward-looking and comprehensive ECOTECH framework. A survey on APEC's engagement with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) has been conducted, the result of which will be considered in 2010.

This year, the Committee successfully met commitments outlined in the SCE's 2009 Workplan. Key achievements include the development of a framework for better guidance on APEC ECOTECH activities, improvement in SCE's functioning, recommendations for enhancing the cooperation between APEC and other multilateral organizations, successful implementation of independent assessments of six APEC working groups and task forces, and the implementation of a twinning project.

As mandated, the SCE has been reporting annually on the implementation of various ECOTECH activities and key initiatives under the 10 ECOTECH priorities endorsed in 2006 when Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Manila Declaration. By September 2009, APEC committed to fund a total of 81 ECOTECH projects proposed by SCE, working groups and task forces. A simple analysis of the implementation of the ECOTECH projects is presented in Section 3.

There were seven additional 2009 ECOTECH projects from APEC's other Committees: four (4) projects from the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), two (2) projects from the Economic Committee (EC) and one (1) project from the Senior Officials (SOM), all of which received funding from the APEC Support Fund. To facilitate the BMC's approval process, these projects were ranked against the SCE Policy Criteria together with other projects of the SCE fora. The outcomes of these CTI, EC and SOM projects will be reported in their respective reports to Leaders and Ministers.

Section 4 outlines the key achievements of SCE fora and ongoing efforts to strengthen the implementation of APEC's economic and technical cooperation. The final section provides conclusions and recommendations to the 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Ministerial Meeting.

## 2. 2009 Highlights and Priorities

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### 2.1 Strengthening the policy guidance role of the SCE

In 2009, the SCE gave priority to reforming and strengthening its policy role to ensure it is able to provide effective and relevant policy guidance and recommendations to Ministers, SOM and all fora. The SCE considers it vital to have clear prioritisation of APEC's economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) activities so as to ensure a strategic allocation of APEC's limited financial resources. APEC risks not achieving its core objectives if funds are dispersed too widely.

Building on the achievements of the previous year, the SCE extended the scope of the fora stocktake to include sub-fora of CTI and EC. This helped the SCE to have a comprehensive picture of capacity building activities in APEC. The SCE also undertook another survey on capacity building needs of developing economies to complement the fora stocktake. The rationale was that the needs and priorities of subfora may not necessarily reflect the actual needs and priorities of developing economies. The results of these two exercises provided the SCE with important information for consideration in developing its strategic capacity agenda as called for by the Leaders in the 2007 Report to Leaders on Regional Economic Integration in APEC.

Having recognised the shortcomings of the Policy Criteria format that had been used since 2006, the SCE agreed to the Budget and Management Committee's (BMC) request for strengthening the SCE Policy Criteria by "prioritising APEC's priorities". The SCE developed and endorsed a new set of policy criteria for project funding in 2009. The 2009 Policy Criteria was viewed as an interim solution ahead of the consideration of the outcomes of the consultancy commissioned by the BMC on project assessment and ranking. The major differences of the new Policy Criteria compared with those of previous years are:

- Four-tier rankings based on the nexus between the project proposal and the achievement of APEC's core objectives versus a six-tier ranking framework that seeks to capture the priorities set by Leaders, Ministers at the APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM), the host economy, sectoral Ministers and the SCE;
- The use of illustrative examples rather than prescriptive lists;
- Cross-cutting issues – such as improving the gender balance – should apply to all projects rather than being a capacity building priority per se.

The SCE will further improve the Policy Criteria, taking into consideration feedback from APEC fora, member economies and the Secretariat's Project Assessment Panel (SPAP).

The key achievement of the year is the development of the Framework to Guide ECOTECH Activities. The Framework covers long and medium-term priorities as well as short-term priorities for the policy criteria. The document seeks to balance the specific needs of developing member economies against wider APEC strategic goals. This is to ensure that APEC funds are best used in terms of member economies' needs and in terms of meeting APEC goals and priorities. Issues like coordination between the SCE and other committees and between the SCE and its subfora and SCE's working arrangements are also addressed in the document. The Framework will be submitted to SOM for endorsement in due course.

### 2.2 Enhancing APEC's collaboration with multilateral organisations

The SCE is mandated in its Terms of Reference to encourage active participation of international financial institutions (IFIs), international organisations and other relevant stakeholders in ECOTECH capacity building activities. Given inconsistent progress among APEC fora, in 2008, the SCE agreed to undertake further work to promote more strategic engagement with multilateral organisations. With Australia's assistance, a survey on the extent of APEC's engagement with multilateral organisations

was undertaken. This was followed by a strategy paper on ways to strengthen the engagement, building on the findings of the survey. The paper recommended three broad strategies, which were endorsed by the 20<sup>th</sup> AMM in November 2008.

As a next step, the third Policy Discussion on APEC's engagement with MOs entitled "Unlocking our Common Potentials" was held alongside the SCE-COW meeting in February 2009 in Singapore. The Dialogue was well attended, with panellists drawn from APEC fora, ASEAN Secretariat, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank (WB). The Dialogue examined ways and areas where APEC can strengthen further its cooperation with other MOs for mutual benefit; identified factors, both internal and external, which impede closer inter-organisational cooperation; and proposed practical recommendations for SCE's consideration.

Taking into consideration the SCE and SOM's decisions in previous years, the findings of the fora stocktake, the strategies on APEC's engagement with MOs and the recommendations from the three Policy Dialogues (held in 2003, 2005 and 2009), the APEC Secretariat prepared a list of recommendations for better cooperation with ASEAN and other international organisations. Main recommendations include:

- To prioritise APEC's engagement efforts by targeting limited but relevant organisations including the ASEAN Secretariat, WTO, OECD and the WB;
- To establish a sustainable mechanism to collaborate Secretariat to Secretariat;
- To make use of new technologies;
- To leverage on the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council's (PECC) valuable network of researchers and think-tanks and tap on its rigorous studies on topics relevant to APEC;
- To disseminate information and resources from multilateral organisations available to APEC ; and
- To reactivate within the APEC Secretariat the list of APEC Fora Points of Contact including the designation of a centralised Fora Point of Contact to coordinate inter-organisational cooperation and promote better exchanges of information on issues that cut across the agenda of different fora as agreed by SCE.

The document ([Annex 4](#)) was endorsed by the SCE at its meeting in July 2009 and was conveyed to all APEC fora for implementation.

### **2.3 Enhancing public-private partnership**

The SCE attaches great importance to the contribution of the private sector in the APEC process and understands the need to enhance the collaboration between the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and other APEC fora. The fora stocktake has also revealed that there is much room for improvement in APEC's collaboration with the private sector in general and with ABAC in particular. For this reason, SCE has endorsed the U.S. proposal ([Annex 5](#)) to strengthen APEC's engagement with ABAC. The proposal includes an outreach activity with SCE-related fora Chairs/Lead Shepherds and with ABAC to address this subject. The objective is to gather additional information on what does and does not work in the relationship between APEC groups and ABAC and solicit views of different stakeholders on specific policies/procedures that could be put into place to strengthen APEC's engagement with ABAC. The information gathered would be analysed to develop a set of policies and procedures to support the deepening of APEC's engagement with ABAC; support the BMC's project management review process; and create more synergies between the organisations' capacity building priorities. The results of the survey are to be reviewed by the SCE in 2010.

At the sub-fora level, significant progress has been made towards promoting public-private partnership through activities such as fora inviting private sector representatives to attend meetings, organising policy dialogues on areas of mutual interest, and developing working relationships with the business sector.

The Energy Working Group (**EWG**) engaged local business people in the Forum on Energy Efficiency and organised a workshop to consider renewable energy from the business perspective. The Fisheries Working Group (**FWG**) invited private sector representatives to the workshop on sustainable tuna fisheries and is considering ways to involve private sector in the 2010 Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting. The Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (**ISTWG**) and the Mining Task Force (**MTF**) invited various business and industry representatives to attend its meeting and activities. The Marine Resources Conservation Working Group (**MRCWG**) organised a series of roundtables on the involvement of business/private sector in sustainability of the marine environment and resources. The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (**SMEWG**) involved the U.S. Trade Association CompTIA and business people from other APEC member economies in developing recommendations to implement the APEC SME Strategic Plan for 2009–2012. The group also organised various activities to help SMEs train their workforce and deal with pandemics. The Telecommunication and Information Working Group (**TEL**) collaborated with the private sector in organising various technical workshops. The Transportation Working Group (**TPTWG**) held a symposium between APEC senior transport officials and industry representatives on the development of a regional transport system. Private sector representatives also actively participated in various workshops and training organised by TPTWG. The Tourism Working Group (**TWG**) has developed a cooperative working relationship with private sector organisations operating in tourism such as the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). Collaboration has been elevated from sharing information to jointly undertaking projects. The Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Task Force (**ACT**) invited ABAC to its meetings and sought input from ABAC in developing "APEC Guidelines on Enhancing Government and Anti-Corruption". The Counter-Terrorism Task Force (**CTTF**) is working with the private sector on APEC's secure trade agenda in the spirit of Public-Private Partnership Initiative launched by Russia. The Gender Focal Point Network (**GFPN**) is developing a close working relationship with the Women Leaders' Network (WLN) which includes women leaders from the business sector, academia civil society and government. The Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (**TFEP**) engaged the private sector to advance public-private partnerships in disaster preparedness and management.

## 2.4 Identifying further opportunities for capacity-building in APEC

In 2008, the SCE explored the possibility of merit-based work-attachment arrangement as part of future capacity building activities initiated by various APEC fora. A research study on the feasibility of twinning arrangement within APEC was conducted by Australia and its outcomes were presented to SCE. SCE agreed that twinning arrangements (e.g. work placements and secondments) presented one way to build capacity in the Asia Pacific.

In 2009, SCE kicked-started the application and use of twinning in APEC with a project proposed by Australia. The project concept was designed to support the development of a diversified and sound institutional investor base through targeted work placements. The project involved both bilateral and multilateral work placement. In this project, the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) offered to host finance sector policy officers from an economy such as Viet Nam, while the Securities Industry Development Corporation (SIDC), the training arm of Securities Commission, Malaysia, offered to host officers from the finance ministries and related agencies of economies such as China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Australia provided funding and assistance in the implementation of this project. Lessons learned from the development and implementation of the project will be made available to SCE members and APEC fora upon its completion.

## 2.5 Independent Assessments of SCE fora

In 2009, the SCE completed the independent assessment of six working groups and taskforces, namely the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working group (ATCWG), the High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB), the Energy Working Group (EWG), the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Task Force (ACT), the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL), and the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG). The SCE received required reporting from the APEC Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) on its

implementation of SCE decisions from its 2008 independent assessment. SCE also commenced the review of three other fora including the Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF), the Health Working Group (HWG) and the Tourism Working Group (TWG). The review of the Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) and the Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) is underway and will be considered by the SCE in 2010.

While no fora were disbanded or merged as part of this review process, the recommendations adopted are expected to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the groups reviewed.



### 3. APEC Projects in Action

Since 2007, the SCE has been mandated to report annually against the ten APEC ECOTECH priorities which were endorsed in 2006 when Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Manila Declaration. The priorities for APEC's economic and technical cooperation are:

- Developing human capital;
- Developing stable and efficient markets through structural reform;
- Strengthening economic infrastructure;
- Facilitating technology flows and harnessing technologies for the future;
- Safeguarding the quality of life through environmentally sound growth;
- Developing and strengthening the dynamism of small and medium enterprises (SMEs);
- Integration into the global economy;
- Human security and counter-terrorism capacity building;
- Promoting the development of knowledge-based economies; and
- Addressing social dimension of globalisation.

As of September 2009, APEC working groups and taskforces have registered 93 ECOTECH-related projects. These include 81 projects approved by the Budget and Management Committee for APEC funding and 12 self-funded projects initiated and implemented by individual economies and/or groups of economies. Out of the APEC-funded 81 projects, 7 projects received funding from the Trade and Investment Liberalisation Fund (TILF), 25 projects are funded by the Operational Account and 49 projects by the APEC Support Fund. APEC ECOTECH projects during the period 2006–2009 are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

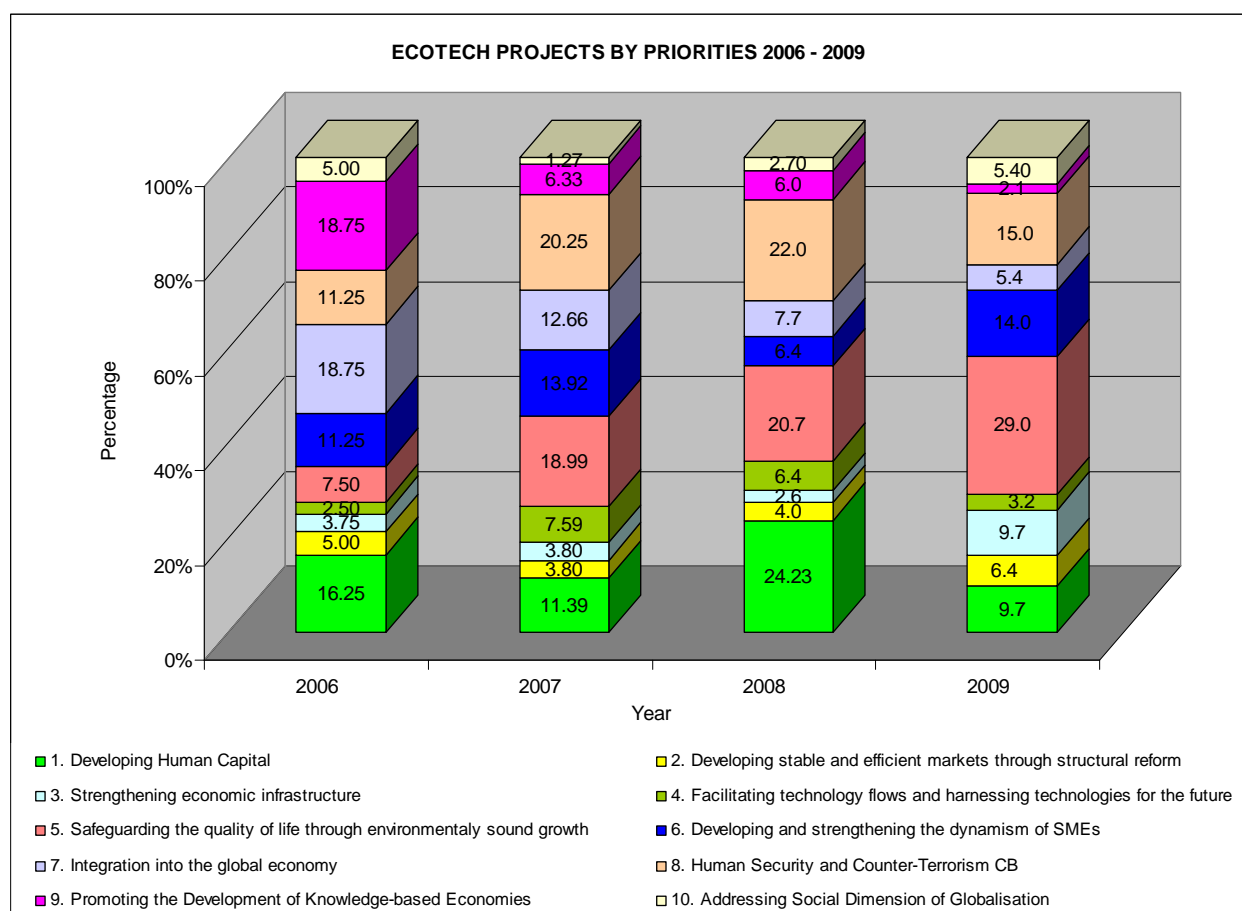
The following section highlights projects/activities undertaken by various APEC fora in 2009 to support economic and technical cooperation.

A table of projects by fora is included in [Annex 6](#).

**Table 1: ECOTECH Projects by Priority 2006–2009**

Priority	Number of Projects			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. Developing human capital	13	9	18	9
2. Developing stable and efficient markets through structural reform	4	3	3	6
3. Strengthening economic infrastructure	3	3	1	9
4. Facilitating technology flows and harnessing technologies for the future	2	6	5	3
5. Safeguarding the quality of life through environmentally sound growth	6	15	17	27
6. Developing and strengthening the dynamism of SMEs	9	11	4	13
7. Integration into the global economy	15	10	5	5
8. Human security and counter-terrorism capacity building	9	16	16	14
9. Promoting the development of knowledge-based economies	15	5	3	2
10. Addressing social dimension of globalisation	4	1	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>93*</b>

(\*including self-funded projects)

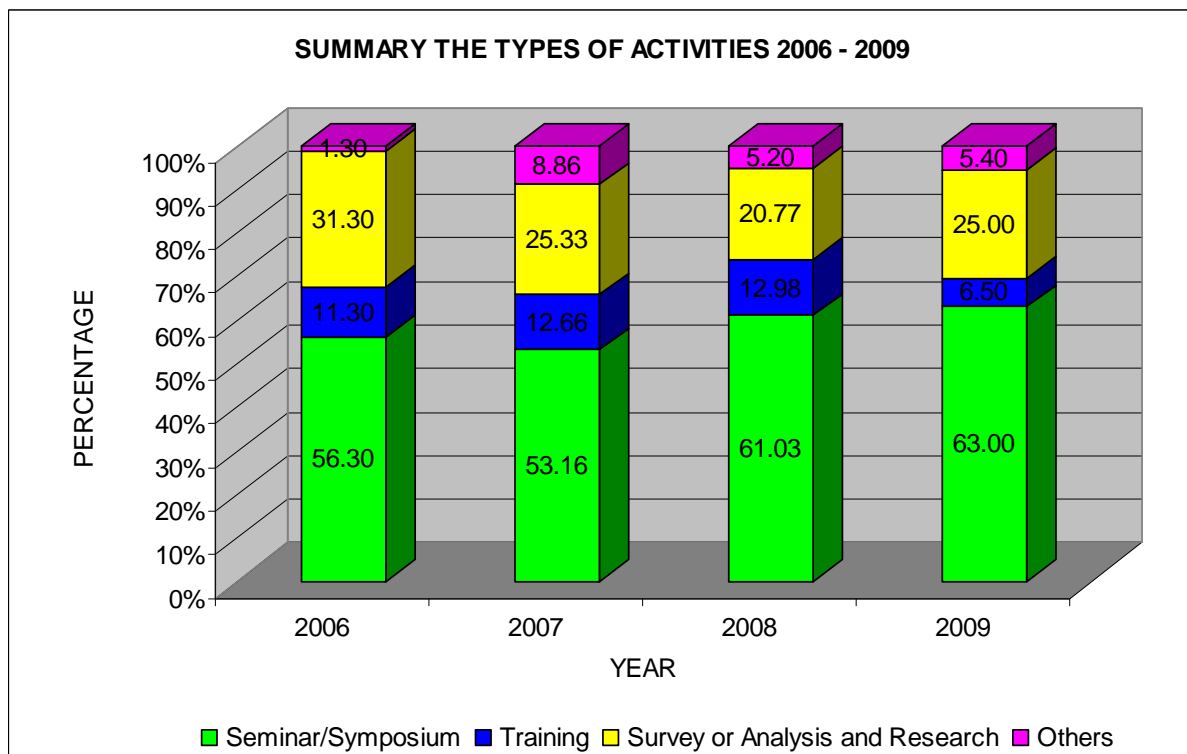


**Table 2: ECOTECH Projects by Priorities 2006–2009**

PRIORITIES	PERCENTAGE (%)			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. Developing human capital	16.25	11.39	24.23	9.7
2. Developing stable and efficient markets through structural reform	5.00	3.80	4	6.4
3. Strengthening economic infrastructure	3.75	3.80	2.60	9.7
4. Facilitating technology flows and harnessing technologies for the future	2.50	7.59	6.40	3.2
5. Safeguarding the quality of life through environmentally sound growth	7.50	18.99	20.70	29.0
6. Developing and strengthening the dynamism of SMEs	11.25	13.92	6.40	14.0
7. Integration into the global economy	18.75	12.66	7.70	5.4
8. Human security and counter-terrorism capacity building	11.25	20.25	22.00	15.0
9. Promoting the development of knowledge-based economies	18.75	6.33	6	2.1
10. Addressing social dimension of globalisation	5.00	1.27	2.70	5.4

**Table 3: Summary of the Types of ECOTECH Projects 2006–2009**

Type of Activity \ Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Seminar/Symposium</b>	45	42	47	59
<b>Training</b>	9	10	10	6
<b>Survey or Analysis and Research</b>	25	20	16	23
<b>Others</b>	1	7	4	5



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APEC-WIDE ECOTECH PRIORITIES<sup>1</sup>

### 3.1. Developing human capital

Human resources development is one of the most important priorities for many member economies and APEC fora. In 2009, working groups and taskforces implemented a large number of projects that help member economies build capacity in various areas of expertise from agriculture and education, to transportation and science and technology.

The **ATCWG** organised a workshop on *Understanding and Developing Risk Management Options for Market Access* which help strengthen the capacity of APEC developing economies and promoted networking among members to share information and expertise in phytosanitary capacity-building. The *Workshop on Capacity Building for Development and Implementation of Risk Management Systems on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was held on 14–17 October 2008 in Chinese Taipei. ATCWG is undertaking a *Training for Quarantine Officials in Best Practice Auditing for Regulatory Purposes* and two projects on *Evaluation of Readiness of Developing and Applying*

<sup>1</sup> This session reports on activities undertaken in 2009 and part of 2008 (that has not been reported in the 2008 SOM Report on ECOTECH). These activities have been organised by 2009 projects as well as projects of the previous years.

*Traceability System in Agricultural Trade and Production* (held in Ha Noi on 27–28 August 2009) and *Implementation of OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards* (held in Chinese Taipei on 26–29 October 2009).

The **HRDWG** reported three completed projects contributing towards the attainment of this priority including *Measures Affecting Cross Border Exchange and Investment in Higher Education in the APEC Region*, *Developing Effective Public-Private Partnerships in the APEC Region*, and *Mapping of Qualifications Frameworks across APEC Economies*. The group also conducted an *APEC Special IT Training Program* and is currently implementing a project on *Promoting Good Practice and Policies for Young People's Work in APEC economies*. The group has explored the use of public-private partnerships in the APEC region and identified best practice examples by member economies in relation to human resource development through a research report and workshop on *Developing Effective Public-Private Partnerships in the APEC Region*. Another project “*Human Resource Impacts Of The Global Economic Crisis: What Is Working in APEC Members' Social Safety Nets (SSN) and Labour Market System (LMS) Policies*” is underway.

The **HWG** undertook a *Training Course for Rapid Response Team (RRT) on Human Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Containment* and a *Capacity Building Seminar on Social Management Policies for Migrants to Prevent the Transmission of HIV/AIDS*. The HWG also convened a conference to introduce theories and practices concerning the control and prevention of enteroviruses, which included a policy dialogue and information sharing.

The **ISTWG** reported various capacity building workshops and seminars initiated to help member economies build capacity. A *Training Course on Natural Hazard Mitigation in Cities and Coastal Regions* was held at Geological Survey of Japan, AIST during three weeks in November 2008; the 2<sup>nd</sup> *APEC Future Scientist Conference (AFSC)* is under preparation; and the *2009 APEC R&D Management Training Program* was held in February 2009.

The **MRCWG** reported two workshops initiated this year to transfer knowledge to developing economies on marine conservation. These include: a workshop on *Petroleum-based Organic Chemicals and Marine Environmental Safety* (Korea) and a seminar on *Marine Environmental Conservation and Sustainability for Developing Economies of APEC*.

The **SMEWG's** capacity building activities are being implemented in accordance with the Private Sector Development Agenda which was launched in 2006. The Agenda promotes better regulatory and business practices by using the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business indicators as a guide for development of policy and measurement of best practices. As a follow-up to previous activities, this year, the group, in conjunction with the Investment Experts Group, conducted three Ease of Doing Business capacity building seminars on *Trading Across Borders* (New Zealand, February 2009), *Enforcing Contracts* (Singapore, July 2009) and *Access to Credit* (Singapore, October 2009).

The **TPTWG** reported various activities initiated to strengthen capacity of member economies such as a series of *intermodal skills workshops* which provide training on state-of-the art technology to enhance the speed of freight transactions; two sub-regional workshops on the use of the *APEC Manual of Maritime Security Drills and Exercises for Port Facilitates* involving audits and ‘train-the-trainer’ initiatives; and an APEC Training Symposium entitled “*Optimize the use of audits and investigation to strengthen aviation security in APEC economies*”.

The **TEL** organised a capacity building workshop on *Telecom Trade Rules and Regulatory Disciplines* and a training program on *e-Authentication*. The group plans to have three more training courses on e-authentication in the coming years.

The **TWG** organised an APEC Conference under the theme “*Capacity Building on Community Based Tourism as a Vehicle for Poverty Reduction and Dispersing Economic Benefits At The Local Level in Developing Member Economies*”. TWG is also implementing a capacity building project on *A Best practice management of visitor carrying capacity issues for cultural, heritage and natural sites in the APEC region*.

The **CTTF** streamlined and rationalised the *Counter-Terrorism Action Plan* to strengthen it as a tool for identifying capacity building needs. The group also annually prepares a *Summary Report of*

*Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Needs* to assist the group in developing suitable projects and conducted different activities to help member economies enhance capacity.

The **GFPN** organised a *Gender Analysis Workshop* in 2009 in order to continue the efforts on capacity building among APEC officials from economies and fora on the advancement of gender issues and the promotion of women.

The **ACT** has undertaken various capacities building activities to advance the implementation of the APEC Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency adopted by APEC Leaders in Santiago in 2004. The Taskforce also continues to pursue a rigorous capacity building programme to ensure that member economies effectively implement the *APEC Guidelines on Enhancing Government and Anti-Corruption* and the *Declaration on Strengthening Governance, Enhancing Institutional Integrity & Combating Corruption*. For example, a capacity building workshop on *Effectively Addressing Corruption in the Developing Economies* was held on 16–17 September 2009 in Seoul, Korea and a series of seminars on the *Implementation of the APEC Code of Conduct for Business* were conducted in Viet Nam, Chile and Thailand in 2009.

The **TFEP** has designed its activities in a way that will build the skills and provide knowledge and tools to officials and business people involved in the field of disaster preparedness, management and response. In 2009, TFEP has several projects aimed at assisting member economies build capacity like the *Workshop on Damage Assessment Techniques* (3–6 August, 2009, Indonesia) and *Workshop on the Framework of Long-Term Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction in APEC* (22–23 October, 2009 in Chinese Taipei).

### 3.2. Developing stable and efficient markets through structural reform

Although most of the activities supporting structural reform are undertaken by the Economic Committee and its sub-groups, and by the Finance Ministers Process, SCE fora do have projects contributing to the achievement of this ECOTECH priority.

The **MTF** has been working to fulfil its mandate to serve as a platform for member economies in fostering investment in the APEC mining sector through the pursuit of clear and predictable investment policies; the fostering of regular exchange concerning experiences with regulations affecting the mining sector; and the promotion of transparency.

The **HRDWG** has completed two projects that support this priority – one is on *Measures Affecting Cross Border Exchange and Investment in Higher Education in APEC Region* and the other is on *Developing Effective Public-Private Partnerships in the APEC Region*.

Significant progress was made in the public-private effort to fight corruption. The **ACT** has piloted a project to implement the APEC Code of Conduct in Business to selected APEC economies. ACT also conducted four workshops on issues relating to governance and its impact on anti-corruption; strategy for strengthening inter-agency cooperation mechanism in fighting corruption; systematic approach for anti-corruption capacity building; and conflict of interest and applying anti-corruption principles. These workshops included significant participation from the private sector and ABAC.

The **TPTWG** held the *APEC New Aviation Technologies Workshop II* in June 2009 in Thailand to promote new aviation technologies and systems and discuss the role of institutional, operational and regulatory procedures to advance and promote aviation modernization. The group also completed a project on *facilitation of international shipping – competition policy related to liner shipping* to develop guidelines to address anti-competitive aspects of non-ratemaking agreements among Liner Shipping companies.

The **TEL** regularly discusses at its meetings regulatory and policy approaches that correspond to a continuously changing market environment. This year, the **TEL** expanded its collaboration with other organisations in dealing with issues of liberalisation, ICT development, security and prosperity; building confidence in the use of telecommunications; and supporting policy and regulatory reforms that facilitate competition. The group also organised a workshop on *Telecom Trade Rules and Regulatory Disciplines* to assist members in the formulation of domestic regulatory measures,

promote the implementation of WTO telecommunication disciplines, and facilitate the adoption of telecommunication elements in Plurilateral/Bilateral Free Trade Agreements.

### 3.3. Strengthening economic infrastructure

Besides the TEL and the TPTWG which are the two main SCE fora undertaking activities to strengthen economic infrastructure, other groups like the MTF and the CTF have also made contributions to work under this priority.

The **TPTWG** is collaborating with CTI and EC on implementation of initiative on Supply Chain Connectivity (SCI). The group is also undertaking projects on (i) *Using More Inland Rivers in Intermodal Transport* – a study and seminar to identify advantages of intermodal transfer for ocean-river and rail-river operations and to analyze the effectiveness of policies and measures for promoting inland waterway transportation and its important role in intermodal transportation; and (ii) establishing a web site to Web-based Atlas of Trade and Transportation Corridors. The website is designed to illustrate the container trade flows; to identify impediments and barriers in the gateways, hub-ports, intermodal connectors and infrastructure in each economy; and to analyze the security measures and customs procedures both implemented and planned in each gateway port region.

The **TEL** continues efforts in dealing with issues of critical information infrastructure protection, including the importance of protecting undersea cables for ICT connectivity within the region and to expand the reach of networks to attain the Leaders' endorsed goal of achieving universal access to broadband by 2015. This goal and the 2015 target date ties in well with the UN MDGs and the target dates of the World Summit on the Information Society. The group organised the *Workshop on Information Sharing on Submarine Cable Protection*, in collaboration with the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) and the International Telecommunications Users Group (INTUG), to build telecommunication capabilities in case of emergency, including natural disasters, and share experience and expertise on resilient and sustainable telecommunication systems. A comprehensive paper on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) by Singapore was presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> TEL meeting.

The **CTF** has been implementing the *Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR)* initiative which aims to secure and enhance the flow of goods and people through measures that protect cargo, ships, international aviation and people in transit. The *STAR VII Conference* was held in Singapore in August 2009. CTF developed and endorsed the *Best Practices on the Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure* initiative launched by the Russian Federation. The main purpose of this document is to outline common trends and to give basic recommendations that could be used both by APEC and non-APEC economies, and other international fora and organizations.

In the **MTF**, Canada, Chile, the United States and the Russian Federation are conducting research and analysis on how to attract investment in the mining sector. The group has agreed to prepare periodic studies on the situation in the mining sector including new developments, important events, trends and other initiatives and to develop project proposals on "*Investment Facilitation in Mining*" and "*Research of the Tax Regimes in Mining*" for tabling in 2010.

### 3.4. Facilitating technology flows and harnessing technologies for the future

In 2009, nine fora reported activities supporting the development of industrial science and technology in the Asia Pacific.

The **ATCWG** undertook a project on "*Application of new technologies to improve and harmonise training standards in the management of fresh post-harvest quality of fruit and vegetables in developing APEC economies. Part II: development of multilingual training modules*" from 12 to 20 January, 2009 in Bogor - Indonesia, Ho Chi Minh City - Viet Nam, Bangkok - Thailand and Kunming - China.. The objective is to increase food safety and productivity through quality improvement. The group is also implementing two other projects on *Information Exchange about the Epidemics of Migratory Insect Pests and Diseases and its Effect on Food Security in APEC Member Economies* and *Implementation of Important World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Aquatic Animal Health Standards*.

The **EWG** has been implementing a series of projects on new and renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency. For example, the group conducted a project on “Successful Business Models for New and Renewable Technologies (NRETs) Implementation in APEC” to develop best practice principles that will assist developers in establishing commercial arrangement for NRETs. In another project, the group focused on implications of bio-refineries for energy and trade in the APEC region with the aim to providing decisions makers with recent advances in bio-refinery development and bringing together experts to discuss the future of bio-refineries. The reports are due in November 2009.

The **HWG** has undertaken a number of activities that help member economies improve health outcomes through advances in health information technology. For example, the group held an eHealth Initiative Seminar on 1–3 December 2008 in Seoul, Korea. **SMEWG** implemented a workshop on *APEC SME Technology Entrepreneurship* on 3–5 June 2009 in Kuala Lumpur that brought together over 200 participants, 19 speakers and over half of APEC’s member economies to develop recommendations on SMEs’ skills development, update of technology, and innovation-related topics.

The **ISTWG** reported three activities including: (a) a project which collected examples of policies that economies had found worked effectively under five policy areas including industry relevant research and feedback loops, technology brokering and transfer, industry: research partnerships, research spinouts and developing entrepreneurs, and knowledge exchange and mobility between industry and research; (b) a workshop on “*Establishing Academia Industry Network to Develop Bio Energy and Conserve the Natural Ecosystem in APEC Economies*”; and (c) an *APEC Symposium on Research and Innovation: Policy Mechanisms for Science and Technology Planning and Building Public/Private Partnerships*. The main outcome of the third project was to provide the participants with perspectives on science and technology planning in innovation policy and examples for building sustainable and productive partnerships between governments, academia and industry, to connect research and innovation.

The **TEL** has been implementing several activities to facilitate the transfer of technology among APEC member economies. These include (a) an ongoing joint research and testing under the Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII) Testbed; (b) second grid projects showcase held at 39<sup>th</sup> TEL meeting as a platform to share and exchange latest grid developments, uses and benefits; (c) information sharing and discussion on Green ICT at DSG meeting in April 2009; (d) Workshop on Universal Access to Broadband Services held on 13-14 April 2009 and; (e) Project TSUBAME sensors deployed in multiple economies to collect scanning data and share data analysis resources.

The **TPTWG** has reported three projects under this priority including: (a) project on *Secure and Smart Container Technology Development for Intermodal Transport* which helps coordinate the development of technology and international standards for the new secure and smart container concept; (b) *The APEC New Aviation Technologies Workshop II* held in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2009 to promote new aviation technologies and systems and discuss the role of institutional, operational and regulatory procedures to advance and promote aviation modernization; and (c) information sharing exercise to assist APEC economies in implementing new Air Traffic Management (ATM) technologies.

The **MRCWG** has two projects that specifically sought to facilitate and transfer the know-how of the utilization of satellite images in the design, development, and monitoring of marine-related economic resources by providing free satellite images to the less developed APEC economies.

The **GFPN** supported a project on Digital Economy for Women initiated by E-commerce Steering Group (ECSG).

The **ISTWG** has proceeded with diverse ECOTECH projects in the area of science, technology and innovation in 2008–2009. Key achievements include: (a) *Symposium on Utilization and Protection of Water Resources - Taihu Lake Basin Case Study* in Suzhou, China on 22–23 September 2009; (b) *APEC Nanoproducts Measurement Technology Forum* (APEC Nano Forum 2009) on 7–8 October 2009 in Chinese Taipei; (c) *ART (APEC R&D Management Training Program) 2009* in Busan, Korea during 23–27 February 2009; (d) *APEC Symposium on Research and Innovation: Policy Mechanisms for Science and Technology Planning and Building Public/Private Partnerships* on 10–11 September 2008 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The primary outcome of the fourth project was to provide the participants with perspectives on science and technology planning in innovation policy and examples for building

sustainable and productive partnerships between governments, academia and industry, to connect research and innovation.

### 3.5. Safeguarding the quality of life through environmentally sound growth

In response to the 2007 APEC Leaders' Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development, SCE fora have initiated many activities that contribute to APEC's efforts on sustainable development. Seventeen new projects in this area have been approved by the BMC for the year 2009.

The **ATCWG** has a number of projects that address issues related to organic agriculture, natural ecosystem and greenhouse gases. Two activities have been organised over the past two years including a *Workshop on Development of organic agriculture in terms of APEC food system and market access* (16–18 July 2008 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam) and an *International Organic Agriculture Symposium* (19–21 August 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand). ATCWG has also held three other activities namely the *Workshop on Agricultural Land Use and its Effect in APEC Member Economies* held in Beijing, China, on 20–22 October 2009; an *International Workshop on Greenhouse Gases from Livestock Industries in APEC Member Economies* held on 7–10 July 2009 in Seoul, Korea; and the *APEC Workshop on Developing Bio-energy and Conserving the Natural Ecosystem in APEC Member Economies* held in Seoul, Korea, on 14–17 September 2009.

The **EWG** has a series of projects implemented by various Expert Groups that contribute to environment-friendly growth. Some examples are: (a) Project to develop *Guidelines for Making New Coal-Fired Power Generation Plants in Developing APEC Economies CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Ready*; (b) Project entitled "Assessment of the Capture and Storage Potential of CO<sub>2</sub> Co-Produced with Natural Gas in South-East Asia" which responds directly to the call for action on reducing greenhouse gas emission by APEC Leaders; (c) *APEC Peer Review on Energy Efficiency* which is intended to share information on energy efficiency policies/measures and to identify effective energy efficiency approaches among member economies. This third project is also designed to review how energy efficiency goals and action plans could be effectively formulated, to monitor progress toward efficiency goals, and to provide recommendations for voluntary implementation for member economies hosting a peer review. A fourth EWG project was the *APEC Workshop on Sustainable Energy Development in the Built Environment*, held in April 2009 in Singapore with discussion focusing on database development, building energy performance benchmarking, and building energy efficiency improvement through building codes and regulatory frameworks. Under the APEC Energy Security Initiative, projects in relevant areas are under progress.

The **FWG** continues its efforts to build capacity for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management practices, which are increasingly being linked to market access. The group completed a project on *Economic Security and Sustainable Tuna Fisheries in the Coral Triangle*. The project explored new options for sustainable economic management and regional trade in tuna. A workshop *Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the context of broader Marine Ecosystem-based Management (EBM)* was held on 28–29 May, 2009 in Vancouver, Canada to examine best practices and gaps in application of EBM, along with potential future initiatives.

The **MRCWG** has commenced Part 2 (APEC Large Marine Ecosystems (LME)) of the project on Marine Ecosystem Assessment and Management in the Asia-Pacific Region. FWG and MRCWG have been working together on a joint project addressing issue of *Ecosystem-Based Management* and the preparation for the 2010 APEC Ocean Ministerial Meeting. Regarding the *Bali Plan of Action Stock-Take*, the two groups have made progress related to the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA), information exchange on invasive species and climate change, wetland conservation and strengthened measures to conserve vulnerable marine habitat.

Sustainable development, including climate change and energy security, is being effectively addressed in the **ISTWG's** workplan, with a particular focus on "science & innovation". The *APEC Climate Symposium 2009 – "Climate prediction and applications - relevance for climate adaptation strategies"* was held in Singapore on 12–15 July 2009. The symposium provided a unique opportunity for deliberations on the challenges that extreme climate events have posed for the Asia-Pacific community under rapid climate change, and on strategies to upgrade climate prediction capability for the benefit of society. The symposium also addressed the new challenges of regional climate prediction and techniques to translate climate information into effective adaptation measures to



manage climate-related risks and opportunities in various sectors of Members' Economies. The *APEC Climate Center (APCC)* has provided up-to-date and optimized climate prediction information & technology and also contributes to the capacity building of climate monitoring and predicting of member economies. The APEC Climate Center, responding to needs of developing economies, has also implemented the *Climate Information Tool Kit (CLIK)*, which promotes technology transfer and collaborative research on local climate prediction to reduce the impact of harmful weather and climatic conditions. ISTWG has made much progress with regards to its ongoing projects including "*Promoting Sustainable Development through Environmentally Sound Recycling*"; "*Developing the Cleaner Production Approaches through Partnership build-up for the Sustainable Development of Electronics Sector in APEC 2006-2009*", "*Research on the Futures of Low Carbon Society: Climate Change and Strategies for Economies in APEC Beyond 2050*", and "*Utilization and Protection of Water Resources*".

Through its Aviation Emissions Task Force (AETF), the **TPTWG** is complementing the emissions-related work of the International Civil Aviation Organization (including air traffic management) and involving airline, airport, air navigation service providers, government and tourism interests in a regional approach to managing aviation emissions. AETF developed the Survey of Aviation Emissions Management Measures in APEC Economies and identified as APEC-wide priorities the collaboration to improve air traffic management practices in the region and the measuring and reporting aviation emissions. AETF agreed to develop a paper and an associated recommendation to the APEC Leaders meeting in November 2009 to encourage greater regional cooperation to enhance the operational efficiency of air traffic management across Asia Pacific. The group is undertaking a joint project with the **TWG** on international visitor flows and greenhouse gas emissions. The objective is to inform sustainable policy approaches to international tourist air travel emissions in APEC. TPTWG is also collaborating with EWG on several projects related to biofuels. The group has completed the project on *Examination of the Role of the Sediment in Ship Source Introductions of Aquatic Invasive Species in the APEC region* with the final report been considered at the last 32<sup>nd</sup> TPTWG meeting in July 2009.

The **TWG** is implementing two projects aiming at identifying best practices in key rural tourism resources managed by local communities and in the use of clean technologies as a source of energy in hostelry.

The **MTF** organised a conference on "*Sustainable Development of Mining Sector in APEC*" to identify the trends and drivers for mineral commodities markets that facilitate and impede the sustainable development of mining sector and to compile data and recommendations to ensure sustainable development of mining in APEC region. The final deliverable of the project will be a draft APEC report for submission to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development (UNCSD).

The **HRDWG** organised the *APEC Youth Camp: Caring for the Sustainable Development of the Asia-Pacific Region* from 1 to 6 October 2008, in Puno, Peru.

The **TEL** conducted an information sharing exercise and discussion on Green ICT at its recent Steering Group on ICT Development (DSG) meeting in April 2009.

### 3.6. Developing and strengthening the dynamism of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

Strengthening SMEs is one of the priorities that involve many working groups. This year, besides SMEWG, seven APEC fora also reported activities in this area.

The **SMEWG's** key achievements under this priority are: (a) the 16<sup>th</sup> APEC SME Ministerial Meeting held in October 2009 in Singapore under the theme "*Helping SMEs Access Global Markets and Overcome Trade Barriers*"; (b) Development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor and evaluate progress on the SME Strategic Plan 2009–2012 (c) the fourth *APEC Ease of Doing Business* capacity-building seminar on *Trading Across Borders* (February 2009, New Zealand); (d) *APEC Symposium on SME Strategies to Manage the Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis* held on 8–9 June 2009 in Taipei to address a number of critical issues concerning SMEs' capacity in surviving the crisis and to develop a list of principles and checklist of financial crisis management for APEC SMEs; (e) *APEC SMEWG Technology Entrepreneur Seminar* held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2009 which produced recommendations to further inform future work by the SMEWG in implementation of its new Strategic Plan for 2009–2012; (f) *Capacity-Building Seminar on Access to Finance for SMEs*

held in the margin of MEMM in October 2009 in Singapore with focus on improving SMEs' access to finance both by reducing the compliance costs of getting credit and by stimulating the development and deepening of markets for supplying capital for SME growth; (g) SMEWG, in cooperation with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UN International Trade Committee (ITC), has been working to hold three train the trainer workshops on "*Empowering Women in the APEC Region through Trade*" as a pilot program in Peru in 2009. These workshops will train women-owned microenterprises about the basics of doing business ranging from finances to recordkeeping to computers to reap the benefits of free trade agreements. Also the 4<sup>th</sup> *APEC Pandemic Preparedness for SMEs Train the Trainer Workshop* was held in October 2009 in Singapore. This successful series of seminars are based on the "APEC Guide to Pandemic Flu Preparedness for SMEs" endorsed by APEC SME Ministers in 2007.

The **HRDWG** has undertaken evaluations of the SMEs development policy under the APEC SMEWG strategic plan 2009–2012 and a research on the impact of performance-based remuneration system to assist SMEs survive in a globalised environment, especially in terms of labour cost and productivity. The group also has other initiatives to help SMEs, like the business matching programme, and the cluster development and supplementary programme.

The **ACT** has been working on a pathfinder initiative for the implementation code of conduct for business that focuses mainly on SMEs. Seminars on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Business were conducted in Viet Nam, Chile and Thailand.

The **EWG** in collaboration with SMEWG developed a joint project proposal titled "*APEC SME Rural Energy Infrastructure Blueprint—Report on Economic Benefits*" and will submit it to BMC for consideration.

The **ISTWG** organised the APEC Forum on "*Business Incubators Promote Regional Innovation*" in October 2008 in Xi'an, China. The project's objective was to search for an internal collaboration mechanism among incubators and their organisations. The mechanism will further promote the sharing of technology and markets; and help the growth of international-oriented SMEs. ISTWG also undertook a project, in cooperation with the Osaka Prefecture, on *Asia Environment Business* with the aim of providing a platform for environmental business in Asia.

The **TEL** developed guidelines on VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) Security that are geared towards SMEs. The guidelines will be translated into various local languages. The working group organised an Industry Roundtable in April 2009 with discussions focusing on SMEs and ICT, such as the shift from SMEs being consumers of ICTs to being creators of content; how applications enable SMEs to use ICTs without having to make their own investments; concerns of SMEs on reliability and risk; and the role of government.

The **GFPN** has always been actively involved in the Private Sector Development Agenda initiative of the SMEWG since the initiative began in 2006. In 2009, GFPN commenced a project on best practices in micro-finance and micro credit for SMEs. The project includes a workshop on microenterprise financing best practices held during the Women Leaders Network program in August 2009 in Singapore and a follow-on policy workshop aimed at APEC member economic officials in December 2009 in Indonesia. The project is envisioned to be multi-year and strategic in its approach. 2009 workshop outcomes (best practices, case studies, recommendations, resources) will help clarify the next topic to be addressed at future microfinance workshops to be proposed for 2010 and 2011.

### 3.7. Integration into the global economy

Assisting member economies to integrate into the global economy has always been one of APEC's primary objectives. This year, a significant number of projects/activities were undertaken by SCE-related fora to support this priority.

The **ATCWG** organised several activities that assist member economies participate more effectively in the regional market such as (a) a *Workshop on Understanding and Developing Risk Management Options for Market Access* held on 13–17 October, 2008 in Melaka, Malaysia; (b) a workshop on "*Postharvest Technologies for Quality Maintenance and Food Safety of Fresh and Fresh-Cut Produce in APEC Member Economies*" as a part of the effort to develop a harmonized food safety and quality assurance systems for fresh agricultural produce in APEC; (c) workshops "*Evaluation Readiness of*

*Developing and Applying Traceability System in Agricultural Trade And Production*” held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 6–7 May and 27–28 August 2009.

The **EWG** has finalised the APEC Energy Trade and Investment Action Plan and will submit it to APEC Energy Ministers for approval at their upcoming meeting in 2010. EWG also established and held the first meeting of APEC Energy Trade and Investment Task Force, tasked with improving transparency, promoting flexibility and the enhancing the efficient operation of energy markets in the APEC region. A Workshop on *Reducing Barriers To Trade Through Development Of A Common Protocol For Measuring The Seasonal Energy Efficiency (SEER) Of Air Conditioners* was held in Taipei in October 2009. This project builds an analytical platform to evaluate the SEER values for traded air conditioners and to help to improve global energy savings, reduce barriers to trade, and to stimulate the air-conditioning markets in APEC economies.

The **HRDWG** produced a report on *Measures Affecting Cross Border Exchange and Investment in Higher Education in the APEC Region* which offers a comprehensive, updated assessment of barriers to trade and investment in higher education services as well as recommendations to facilitate trade and increase levels of economic activity for member economies and for the region. The HRDWG’s project “*Mapping of qualifications frameworks across APEC economies*” identified formal and informal qualifications frameworks systems, associated descriptors and quality assurance frameworks, and recognition agencies across APEC economies and complemented other recent activities undertaken in the region with a qualifications frameworks component, including activity undertaken by other regional networks.

The **ISTWG** organised two seminars on “*Traceability in Materials Testing to Reduce Technical Barriers to Trade*”. The discussion covered new features of biomaterials, traceability and uncertainty evaluation approach in the region, as well as on institutional efforts on materials characterizations.

The **SMEWG** reported two projects under this priority namely (a) *Empowering Women in the APEC Region through Trade* – a pilot program being implemented in Peru to help increase the export capacity of women through training and mentoring; explaining the benefits of free trade agreements; and offering matchmaking services for women micro and small business owners; and (b) the *APEC SME Consumer Education and Protection Initiative (CEPI)* – where workshops and seminars held in Peru (2009) and Viet Nam (2008–2009) aimed at enabling women-owned microenterprises to set up businesses in the APEC member economies. CEPI’s goal is to educate consumers, businesses, and government officials on a range of consumer protection issues such as: consumer rights and responsibilities; fraudulent business practices; developing a consumer friendly regulatory environments; consumer re-dress options; and meeting the challenges presented by advanced technology. CEPI celebrated its tenth anniversary as an APEC SME program this year.

The **TEL** reported four activities related to this priority including: (a) *APEC-TEL PKI and e-Authentication Training Program* (Oct–Nov 2008); (b) *Workshops on International Mobile Roaming Services* (April 2009, Singapore and September 2009, Mexico); (c) *Capacity Building Workshop on Telecom Trade Rules and Regulatory Disciplines* (April 2009) to assist members in the formulation of domestic regulatory measures, promote the implementation of WTO telecommunication disciplines, and facilitate the adoption of telecommunication elements in plurilateral/bilateral Free Trade Agreements.

The **TPTWG** continues to implement the Action Plan for liberalisation and facilitation of air services with particular focus on the multiple airline designations. The group examined the benefits of air freight liberalization as a solution to a choke point identified by the APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Symposium in May 2009 in Singapore. It also encouraged member economies to further implement the Air Services Roadmap based on the 8 Options as priorities for the liberalization of air services in APEC and adopt measures to promote the transparency in air services arrangements for further liberalization.

The **TWG** is implementing a capacity building project on *Tourism Satellite Accounts* as basis for promoting liberalization and facilitation of tourism services.

### 3.8. Human security and counter-terrorism capacity building

Work in human security and counter-terrorism capacity building continues to be a priority for Leaders and SCE fora are implementing their instructions in several areas. Actions are being taken in many areas from trade security and human security to emergency preparedness and cyber-security.

The **CTTF** successfully completed a series of activities on counter-terrorism. These include the *APEC Capacity Building Workshop on Trade Recovery Program* (July 2008); *Workshop on Effective Public - Private Partnership in Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade* (August 2008); *The STAR VII Conference* (July 2009); two *Aviation Security Emergency Points of Contact Network tests* (August and November 2008); two *Workshops on Detecting and Deterring Cash Couriers and Bulk Cash Smuggling* (December 2008 and June 2009); *Symposium on Optimize the Use of Audits and Investigation to Strengthen Aviation Security in APEC Economies* (April 2009); *the APEC Trade Recovery Programme Pilot Exercise* (April 2009); *Workshop to Improve Regulation of Non-Profit Organizations to Prevent Misuse by Terrorist Groups* (May 2009). *Second APEC Food Defense Pilot Project with Thailand: Putting Principles into Practice* (March–July 2009); a number of on-spot presentations by Russia on the *Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure* at CTTF meetings (2008–2009); and a *Multi-lateral Food Defense Pilot Project Wrap-up Session* (August 2009). CTTF is also implementing a series of seminars on *Current and Emerging Trends in Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing* (2009-2010). Republic of Korea and Russia will hold the *Second APEC Seminar on Protection of Cyberspace from Terrorist Use and Attacks* (November 2009). The 2009 Summary Report of Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Needs was endorsed.

In the **ATCWG**, Australia led a project entitled “*Emergency Disease Toolkit To Deal With The Avian Flu*” in 2008 in Viet Nam. (ATC02/2008S). At the ATCWG meeting in June 2009, members discussed ways to further ATCWG’s contribution to the Senior Officials’ Work Plan on Food Security. Members considered project proposals to further cooperation in food security and address the food price issue. *The Workshop on Information Exchange about the Epidemics of Migratory Insect Pests and Diseases and its Effect on Food Security in APEC Member Economies* looked at minimizing damages of rice from insect pests and diseases through international management of migratory pests in the rice cultivation areas of APEC region

The **HWG** is overseeing a range of projects relating to (a) enhancing preparedness for, and response to, public health threats, including avian and human pandemic influenza and vector-borne diseases; and (b) fighting against HIV/AIDS in the APEC Region. This year, HWG organised its first policy dialogue on the impact of the global economic crisis on health.

The **ISTWG** held a training course entitled “*Human Capacity Building for Natural Hazard Mitigation in Cities & Coastal Regions*” in Tsukuba, Japan on 7–25 November 2008. The objective of this project was the development and dissemination of an information platform - Disaster Reduction Hyperbase-Asian Application (DRH-Asia), which is a web-based facility disseminating disaster reduction technology and knowledge of implementation strategies.

The **SMEWG**, under the leadership of the United States organised its fourth *APEC Pandemic Preparedness for SMEs Train The Trainer Workshop*, held in October 2009 in Singapore. The workshop helped government officials from Health and SME Agencies assist SMEs in APEC member economies be better prepared for an influenza pandemic. In collaboration with Harvard University, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted an *APEC SMEWG Assessment of SME Planning for an Influenza Pandemic*. This study provided “real world examples” of how governments, companies and families have responded to an infectious disease outbreak and informed the updating of course materials for the APEC Pandemic Preparedness for SMEs Train the Trainer Workshops. With the H1N1 influenza pandemic underway, the workshop series will continue in 2010.

The **TEL** continues to undertake work to address cyber-security, cyber crime and critical infrastructure issues through raising awareness of emerging security trends and malicious activity involving ICTs, promoting network security and cooperation among computer emergency response teams, providing assistance to economies in drafting legislation on cybercrime, reviewing issues relating to the protection of critical infrastructure, and providing for capacity building activities for cybercrime experts, law enforcement officials and legislators. Highlights of this year include: (a) a *Bilateral Cybercrime Legislative Drafting Workshop* to assist economies in developing legislation consistent with the

Convention on Cybercrime; (b) a *Telecommunications for Disaster Management: Best Practices Workshop*; (c) a *Workshop on Promoting Safe Internet Environment for Children*; and (d) security awareness campaigns undertaken by member economies.

The **TPTWG** continues its collaboration with the CTTF to exchange information on transport related matters and to support the work of the Trade recovery Program Study Group in relation to port recovery in the event of major terrorist attack. In 2009, TPTWG reported several activities supporting this priority including: (a) TPTWG - Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF) joint workshop to strengthen collaboration with APEC member economies in countering piracy and armed robbery; (b) a seminar of the *APEC International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code Implementation Assistance Program*; (c) a *Survey on Screening Capabilities and Practices* to ascertain what APEC member economies perceive to be the greatest threat to civil aviation security, to aggregate the spectrum of screening technologies and protocols for passengers and their baggage and to facilitate discussion on whether these measures are focused on addressing the threat; (d) APEC Training Symposium “*Optimize the use of audits and investigation to strengthen aviation security in APEC economies*”; (e) Port Security Visits Program conducted in the Philippines in October 2008 aiming at identifying capacity building needs, sharing best practice, and harmonizing international maritime security standards; and (f) a project on *Land International Security and Commuters’ Advocacy Protocol (Land IS-CAP)*.

The **GFPN** has completed the project on “*Women in Times of Disaster*”. The project assessed the achievement and obstacles and also weaknesses of economies to integrate gender issues in disaster management and suggested ways for APEC to effectively contribute to integrate gender into disaster management. The group is working with TFEP in preparation for the *Workshop on Damage Assessment Techniques* to highlight the impact of disasters on women.

The **TFEP** ran three major events this year namely: (a) *Third APEC Emergency Management CEOs’ Forum* to explore ways to integrate disaster risk awareness and management education into school curricula (b) *Workshop on Damage Assessment Techniques* with the development of *APEC-wide principles on disaster damage and loss assessments*; and (c) a *Workshop on the Framework of Long-Term Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction in APEC* to bring coherence and logic to the region’s capacity building efforts. TFEP has endorsed a four-year initiative - *the Social Economic Recovery and Development Programme after Large-scale Disaster*, which will commence in 2010.

### 3.9. Promoting the development of knowledge-based economies

Activities related to the priority on promoting the development of knowledge-based economies were led by various working groups such as HRDWG, TEL, TPTWG, MRCWG and MTF. Many activities have concentrated on assisting member economies to build the necessary policy environment conducive to a Knowledge-Based Economy.

In the **HRDWG**, a series of APEC and self-funded education projects are geared towards equipping students with higher level skills in languages, mathematics and science and ICT to participate and thrive in knowledge-based economies. These projects promote more information and knowledge exchange among government – business – university, contribute to the creation of knowledge community and platform. Besides different skill training projects, the group has completed projects on *Measures Affecting Cross Border Exchange and Investment in Higher Education in the APEC Region* and on *Mapping of Qualifications Frameworks across APEC Economies*.

The **HWG** has been undertaking different projects to enhance understanding amongst key stakeholders of how information technology can be best applied to combat avian influenza and other infectious diseases and to improve health outcomes through advances in health information technology. For example, an *eHealth Initiative Seminar* was held in December 2008 in Seoul, Korea to discuss e-health technologies, the application of mobile healthcare service, remote healthcare services and e-hospital services and its effect on former health industry. HWG is also in the process of developing an *Information Platform for Avian Influenza Community management and Engagement*. The platform is to provide accurate timely info, strengthen community empowerment, promote community training and capacity building, and reinforce knowledge sharing and risk communications.

The **MRCWG** reported two projects *Satellite Application in Knowledge-based Economies* which aim to promote the development of knowledge-based economy through providing training in the utilisation of satellite images in marine conservation.

The **SMEWG** organised a series of public-private partnership supported seminars under the theme “*APEC SME Technology Entrepreneur*” to discuss the connection between innovation and technology and develop recommendations for future work by the SMEWG in implementation of its new Strategic Plan for 2009-2012. Seminars were held in August 2008 in Chiclayo, Peru and in June 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The **TEL** held a *Workshop on Universal Access to Broadband Services* in April 2009 to help design a plan of action to achieve the 7<sup>th</sup> APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry (TELMIN7) goal of universal access to broadband services. **TFEP** is cooperating with HRDWG to develop an electronic library of disaster risk reduction school education material.

The **TPTWG**: The *APEC New Aviation Technologies Workshop II* was held in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2009 to promote new aviation technologies and systems and discuss the role of institutional, operational and regulatory procedures to advance and promote aviation modernization. A joint workshop with the International Organization for Standards (ISO) to address international Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Standards took place in November 2008 in Ottawa, Canada.

### 3.10. Addressing social dimension of globalisation

The **ATCWG** is working on a research project about the *Role of SMEs on Poor Power Empowerment: Lesson Learned and Sharing Experiences*. The seminar will discuss programs and policies to enhance poor rural community participation in economic development through small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and identify key factors and policy formulation regarding the role of SMEs in combating poverty. The seminar will also highlight gender issues such as the important role of woman in SME activities in rural areas.

The **HRDWG** is implementing a project called *Human Resource Impacts Of The Global Economic Crisis: What Is Working in APEC Members’ Social Safety Nets (SSN) and Labour Market System (LMS) Policies*. The overall purpose of the project is to assess the human resource impacts of the global economic crisis and to identify what is working and what is not working in creating employment and earnings. The HRDWG also has a project called *Promoting good practice and policies for young people’s work in APEC economies* to analyse the current situation of young workers in APEC economies, including how young people are being affected by the global economic crisis and identify appropriate responses to the current and future labour market challenges affecting young people, with particular reference to employment and working conditions.

The **HWG** convened a *Policy Dialogue on the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on the Health Sector* in August 2009. In addition to considering the impact on the region, members shared information about the responses of economies as well as the benefits of investing in the health sector.

The **ACT** organised several activities including: (a) a workshop on *Special International Cooperation to Facilitate Asset Recovery within the scope of the Fight against Anticorruption* in October 2008, in Lima, Peru; (b) a *Governance in Public & Private Sector & Its Impact on Anti-Corruption* workshop conducted by Singapore from 24 to 25 February 2009; and (c) a Stocktaking of Bilateral and Regional Arrangements on Anti-corruption Matters Between/Among APEC Member Economies.

The **MTF** held one workshop under the project, *Creating a Framework for Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Dialogue: Mining Industry Operations* in September 2009 in Lima, Peru. The objective was to bring together stakeholders from government, industry, and civil society groups to discuss how to establish the framework for dialogue on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in APEC economies and to identify methodology for the mining sector to be used as a template for initiating similar CSR Dialogues in other industry sectors.

## 4. Key Outcomes

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### 4.1 Selected key achievements of SCE fora

#### Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)

- Updated its Terms of Reference that has incorporated new priorities (environmental sustainability, productivity and diversification, biotechnology, regulatory cooperation, and structural adjustment) to better respond to APEC priorities and contribute to APEC Food System.
- *Workshop on Understanding and Developing Risk Management Options for Market Access* held on 13–17 October, 2008 in Melaka, Malaysia.
- *Workshop on Capacity Building for Development and Implementation of Risk Management Systems on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* held on 14–17 October 2008 in Chinese Taipei.
- *APEC Forum on the Construction of Agricultural Product Market System* held on 18–22 November 2008 in People's Republic of China.
- Workshops on “*Application of new technologies to improve and harmonise training standards in the management of fresh post-harvest quality of fruit and vegetables in developing APEC economies. Part II: development of multilingual training modules*” from 12–20 January, 2009 in Bogor, Indonesia; Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam; Bangkok, Thailand; and Kunming, China.
- Workshops on “*Evaluation readiness of developing and applying traceability system in agricultural trade and production*” held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 6–7 May and 26–28 August, 2009.
- Workshop on “*The Approach Of Organic Agriculture: New Markets, Food Security and A Clean Environment*”, held on 19-21 August, 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- “*Role Of SMEs On Poor Power Empowerment: Lesson Learned And Sharing Experiences*”, held in October 2009 in Bali, Indonesia.
- Workshop On ‘*Agricultural Land Use and its Effects in APEC Member Economies*’ to be held in Beijing, China, on 20-22 October 2009.
- *APEC-ATCWG Symposium on the Implementation of Important OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards* to be held on 26 -29 October, 2009 in Chinese Taipei.

#### Energy Working Group (EWG)

- APEC Peer Review on Energy Efficiency (PREE) Reports: The review reports for New Zealand and Chile have been completed; PREE for Viet Nam was conducted in June 2009 and the review report will be submitted to the 38<sup>th</sup> EWG meeting to be held in Bali, Indonesia in November 2009; PREE for Thailand is under preparation.
- The *APEC Energy Trade and Investment Action Plan (ETIAP)* has been finalized at the Energy Working Group level and it will be submitted to APEC Energy Ministers in 2010.
- The APEC Energy Trade and Investment Task Force (ETITF) was established with the objective of improving transparency, promoting flexibility and enhancing the efficient operation of energy markets in the APEC region. The 1<sup>st</sup> ETITF meeting was held on 20 April 2009 in Santiago, Chile.
- *APEC Workshop on Sustainable Energy Development in the Built Environment* held in April 2009 in Singapore
- *The 11<sup>th</sup> Report on Implementation of the Energy Security Initiative* has been completed and presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> EWG meeting.

- Series of projects on new and renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency and conservation, clean energy, reducing greenhouse gas emission and biofuel such as EGEEC's *Survey of Policies and Programs to Measure and Promote Energy Efficiency in Industry in APEC Economies*, EGNRET's *Best Practices in New and Renewable Energy Technologies in APEC Urban Areas* or EGCER's *Reducing Trade, Regulatory, and Financing Barriers to Accelerate the Uptake of Clean Coal Technologies by Developing Economies*.
- Workshop on *Reducing Barriers to Trade through Development of a Common Protocol for Measuring the Seasonal Energy Efficiency (SEER) of Air Conditioners* will be held in October 2009, in Chinese Taipei.

### **Fisheries Working Group (FWG)**

- Workshop on effective implementation of ecosystem based management (EBM), including for fisheries and broader marine ecosystems, was held on the margins of the FWG meeting (28–29 May) in Vancouver, Canada. The workshop helped examine best practices and gaps in application of EBM, along with potential future initiatives.
- Commissioned analysis of economic importance of fisheries and aquaculture to APEC region, including examining increasing link between sustainability issues and market access, as tool to teach non-fisheries experts (including Senior Officials and Ministers) in APEC of the link between fisheries and broader APEC objectives.
- Establishment of a small subgroup to further explore the role for APEC in addressing Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing; a network of contact points on EU-IUU implementation to facilitate communication within APEC and with EU, and a small subgroup on small-scale fisheries.
- Progress in the implementation of project on "*Harmonizing Quality and Traceability Standards for Pecten Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region*".
- Implementation of *Bali Plan of Action (BPA)*: completion of BPA report and Regional Stock-Take of Current Situation Compared with Ministers' Objectives.

### **Health Working Group (HWG)**

- The first policy dialogue held in August 2009 with focus on the impact of the global economic crisis on health.
- Documented collection of successful experiences and lessons learned in avian influenza and pandemic prevention and control.
- Further development of the Emerging Infectious Diseases Network as a mechanism to facilitate communication and information sharing to increase pandemic preparedness in the Region.
- Progress in the development of an information platform for avian influenza community management and engagement.
- Enhanced understanding amongst key stakeholders of how information technology can be best applied to combat avian influenza and other infectious diseases and Improved capacity of member economies for the surveillance, treatment, laboratory diagnosis, research on enteroviruses.
- Report on advancing information technologies to address public health needs.
- *APEC Training Course on Response to Human Infections with Avian Influenza H5N1 and Pandemic H1N1 2009 Viruses* held on 16–18 September, 2009 in People's Republic of China.
- *APEC Conference for the Surveillance, Treatment, Laboratory Diagnosis and Vaccine Development of Enteroviruses* organised on 13–14 August 2009 in Chinese Taipei.



- Workshop on *Animal Health, Human Health and the Environment: Exploring the 'One Health, One World' Concept and Applying it to Risk Communications* held on 13–15 August 2008.
- *Follow-up to the HIV/AIDS Workplace Guidelines: A Workshop on HIV as an episodic disability in the workplace* organised on 13–15 February 2009 in Singapore.
- Capacity Building Seminar on Social Management Policies for Migrants to Prevent the Transmission of HIV/AIDS held on 18–19 August 2008 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

### **Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG)**

- Progress in developing *The Strategic Plan for English and Other Languages in the APEC Region*
- *APEC Special IT Training Program* held on 18 November–6 December 2008 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.
- *Study of Best Practices in Teaching and Learning Languages in APEC Economies: Lesson Study Applications: Workshop on Lesson Study for languages* was held on 21–22 March, 2009 in Chinese Taipei.
- Final report on *Measures Affecting Cross Border Exchange and Investment in Higher Education in the APEC Region* (May 2009).
- Final report on *Developing Effective Public-Private Partnerships in the APEC Region*. (February 2009).
- Final report on *Mapping of Qualifications Frameworks across APEC Economies* (June 2009).
- *Workshop on Comparability Qualifications in the Health Sector within the APEC Region* held in October 2008;
- *TVET and HRD Training Program for Experts* – a training was held in May 2008 in Seoul, Korea;
- *APEC e-Learning Training Program Program – 13<sup>th</sup> round of e-Learning Training program and 4<sup>th</sup> round of Advance e-Learning Training Program* were completed in October and November 2008, respectively.

### **Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG)**

- *APEC Climate Symposium 2009 – “Climate prediction and applications - relevance for climate adaptation strategies”* held on 12–15 July, 2009 in Singapore
- *Symposium on Utilization and Protection of Water Resources - Taihu Lake Basin Case Study* held on 22–23 September 2009 in Suzhou, China
- Seminar on *“The Traceability in Materials Testing to Reduce Technical Barriers to Trade”* on 29–30 September 2008 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea & on 21–23 September 2009 in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China
- *“APEC Nanoproducts Measurement Technology Forum”* (APEC Nano Forum 2009) on 7-8 October 2009 in Chinese Taipei
- APEC R&D Management Training Program 2009 (ART) organised on 23–27 February 2009 in Busan, Korea
- Training course under the theme *“Human Capacity Building for Natural Hazard Mitigation in Cities & Coastal Regions”* held from 7–25 November, 2008 in Tsukuba, Japan.
- *APEC Symposium on Research and Innovation: Policy Mechanisms for Science and Technology Planning and Building Public/Private Partnerships* on 10–11 September 2008 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam
- Workshop on *Promoting Sustainable Development through Environmentally Sound Recycling* to be held in late 2009.

- Project on “*Disaster Reduction Hyperbase – Asia Application (DRH-Asia)*”: Activities in September 2008 – March 2009 include: 1) Enhancement of the DRH-Asia production web system, 2) Generation of the DRH-Asia contents and compilation, 3) Project management / facilitation of DRH contents compilation, and 4) Dissemination and publicity efforts

#### **Marine Resource Conservation Working Group (MRCWG)**

- 10<sup>th</sup> APEC MRCWG Roundtable on private sector involvement in marine sustainability and projects relating to marine invasive species will be held in October 2009. This is a forum to share information, to address common concerns, and to evaluate future options in APEC.
- 9<sup>th</sup> APEC MRCWG Roundtable Meeting on the involvement of Business/Private Sector in sustainability of the marine environment was held in Chinese Taipei, on 16–18 September 2008. It aims to enhance private-government-link programs across APEC member economies on marine resource conservation activities.
- *Capacity building workshops for APEC Economies - Petroleum-based Organic Chemicals and Marine Environmental Safety* held in 2008 to assess, adapt and develop suitable analytical methodology for marine environmental studies.
- Progress in implementation of project “*Marine Ecosystem Assessment and Management in the Asia-Pacific Region: Part 2*”.
- Collaboration with FWG - holding joint meetings as well as cooperating in areas such as the Bali Plan of Action stock-take and a developing a joint MRCWG-FWG project to develop tools for an ecosystem based management towards marine management.

#### **Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG)**

- 16<sup>th</sup> SME Ministerial Meeting held in October 2009 in Singapore under the theme “*Helping SMEs Access Global Markets and Overcome Trade Barriers*”;
- Development of Key Performance Indicators to monitor and evaluate progress on the APEC SME Strategic Plan 2009 – 2012
- 3<sup>rd</sup> APEC Ease of Doing Business capacity building seminar on “*Obtaining Business Licenses*” in August 2008, in Chiclayo, Peru).
- 4<sup>th</sup> APEC Ease of Doing Business capacity-building seminar on *Trading Across Borders* in February 2009 in Wellington, New Zealand;
- 5<sup>th</sup> APEC Ease of Doing Business capacity building seminar on *Enforcing Contracts* in July 2009, in Singapore.
- 6<sup>th</sup> APEC Ease of Doing Business capacity building seminar on *Access to Credit* in October 2009 in Singapore.
- *APEC Symposium on SME Strategies to Manage the Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis* held on June 8-9, 2009 in Taipei
- *APEC SMEWG Technology Entrepreneur Seminar* held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2009
- *APEC Pandemic Influenza for SMEs Train the Trainer Workshops* held in Lima and Chiclayo, Peru in August 2008 and in Singapore in October 2009 to assist SMEs in APEC member economies to be better prepared for an influenza pandemic.
- *Harvard University Assessment of SME Planning for Influenza Pandemic*;
- Workshops on “*Empowering Women in the APEC Region through Trade*” held in August 2009 in Arequipa, Peru
- *APEC SME Consumer Education and Protection Initiative (CEPI)* – activities in Peru and Viet Nam in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

### Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL)

- Joint IPEG-TEL *Workshop on Effective Implementation of Best Practices Concerning Cable and Satellite Signal Piracy and Enforcement* to be held in Indonesia on 16–17 November 2009 in partnership with ASEAN;
- *Workshop on Universal Access to Broadband Services* held on 13–14 April 2009 to help design a plan of action or set of activities to achieve the TELMIN7 goal of universal access to broadband services
- *Submarine Cable Protection Information Sharing Workshop* organized by Australia on 13 April 2009
- *Telecommunications for Disaster Management: Best Practices Workshop* organized by Peru to build the capacity of economies to successfully deal with telecommunication services problems in case of disasters.
- APII Testbed Project of Korea conducted 12 international joint research and testing projects. Recent activities include live TV pilot broadcast of the Sapporo Festival, operation of the global IP based sensor network testbed; and 10G switch performance testing over APII Testbed.
- APII Testbed Project of Japan undertook activities on real-time video transmission over DTV, dynamic circuit network, service oriented network monitoring architecture, internet protocol-ubiquitous sensor network experiments and deployment of large scale distributed computing environment.
- *Workshop on International Mobile Roaming Charges* held on 14 April 2009 in Singapore with a follow up workshop scheduled on 25–26 September 2009 in Mexico.
- *Grid projects and showcase* held at 39<sup>th</sup> TEL meeting such as HD Streaming Applications in Environmental Research & e-Culture by Chinese Taipei; Framework for Integration of Distributed & Heterogeneous Sensor Data Sources by Singapore and Japan; Access Grid for Distance Learning by Singapore, Malaysia and Australia; Korea@Home; Self-Service Grid Service Provisioning with Grid-based Digital Rendering / Simulation Solutions by Canada and Singapore; SaaS Innovation Centre by Singapore; Open Cirrus Cloud Computing Testbed by Singapore and USA ; and Cloud Innovation Centre by Canada and Singapore
- *Workshop on Promoting a Safe Internet Environment for Children* held on 15 April 2009 in Singapore.
- *Guidelines on VoIP Security* geared towards SMEs to understand risks involved in VoIP technology – the guidelines will be translated into local languages.
- *Industry Roundtable* held on 14 April 2009 with discussions focused on SMEs and ICT.
- *Training courses and workshop on Development of Model Government Chief Information Officer (CIO)* between Oct-Dec 2008 were conducted by the APEC e-Government Research Center; books on 'ICT Investment Management' and 'New Role of CIO' were published.
- *APEC-TEL PKI and e-Authentication Training Program* - organized by Chinese Taipei from October 29 to November 4, 2008 in Taipei with three more training courses to be held in the following years.
- *Capacity Building Workshop on Telecom Trade Rules and Regulatory Disciplines* held on 6–11 April 2009.

### Transportation Working Group (TPTWG)

- 6<sup>th</sup> Transportation Ministerial Meeting held on 27–29 April in Manila, the Philippines.
- Collaboration with CTI and EC on the implementation of initiative on Supply Chain Connectivity Initiative (SCI).

- Seminar on *APEC International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code Implementation Assistance Program* held on 18–20 November 2008, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Two sub-regional workshops on the use of the *APEC Manual of Maritime Security Drills and Exercises for Port Facilities* involving audits and ‘train-the-trainers’ initiatives were conducted: the first in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 22–24 July 2008, and the second in Vancouver, Canada, on 25-27 February 2009.
- Joint TPTWG and Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF) workshop to strengthen collaboration with APEC member economies to counter piracy and armed robbery was held on 29 July 2009 in Singapore.
- Joint TPTWG-TWG Study of international visitor flows and greenhouse gas emissions.
- *APSN Training Workshop for industry participants on Port Facility Security* held from 21-25 September 2009 in Tiajin, China.
- APEC Training Symposium “*Optimize the use of audits and investigation to strengthen aviation security in APEC economies*” was held on 15-16 April 2009 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.
- A series of intermodal skills workshops providing training on state-of-the art technology to enhance the speed of freight transactions has been conducted in the Philippines and Viet Nam.
- *The APEC New Aviation Technologies Workshop II* was held in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2009 to promote new aviation technologies and systems and discuss the role of institutional, operational and regulatory procedures to advance and promote aviation modernization.
- Survey on Screening Capabilities and Practices;
- The Port Security Visits Program conducted in the Philippines in October 2008;
- *Land International Security and Commuters’ Advocacy Protocol (Land IS-CAP) – Conference on project findings* held on 15–16 July 2009 in the Philippines.
- A joint workshop to address *International Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Standards* with the International Organization for Standards (ISO) held on 12 November 2008 in Ottawa, Canada.
- Survey of Aviation Emissions Management Measures in APEC economies

#### **Tourism Working Group (TWG)**

- APEC Conference on “*Capacity Building on Community Based Tourism as a Vehicle for Poverty Reduction and Dispersing Economic Benefits at the Local Level in Developing Member Economies*” held on 20–23 April, 2009 in Sandakan, Malaysia.
- Collaboration with private sector organizations in tourism such as the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) for mutual benefit.
- APEC-TWG Forum on the developments in cruise tourism in the APEC region held in May 2009 in Singapore.
- Enhanced cooperation with other international organisations such as United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia (ESCAP), UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the Getty Conservation Institute.

#### **Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts’ Task Force (ACT)**

- *The Singapore Declaration On Strengthening Governance, Enhancing Institutional Integrity & Combating Corruption*;
- *APEC Guideline On Enhancing Government and Anti-Corruption*
- *The Lima Anti-Corruption Declaration on Financial Markets Integrity.*

- *The Guidelines on Private-Public Actions against Corruption.*
- Seminar on *Special International Cooperation to Facilitate Asset Recovery* held on 2–3 October 2008 in Lima, Peru.
- Workshop on *Governance in Public & Private Sector & Its Impact on Anti-Corruption* conducted by Singapore from 24 to 25 February 2009.
- *Stocktaking of Bilateral and Regional Arrangements on Anti-corruption Matters Between/Among APEC Member Economies*
- Symposium on “*Systemic Approach for Anti-Corruption Capacity Building*” held on 16–17 September, 2009 in Republic of Korea.
- ACT Corruption Prevention Seminar “*Applying Anti-Corruption Principles, Preventing Conflicts of Interest*” to be held in Beijing, China from 14 to 16 October.
- ACT Capacity Building Workshop “*Formulating Strategies for Strengthening Inter-Agency Mechanisms on Combating Corruption Related to Money Laundering*” to be held from 21 to 23 October, 2009 in Thailand.
- Seminars on the *Implementation of the APEC Code of Conduct for Business* (pathfinder project) - were conducted in 2009 in Viet Nam, Chile and Thailand.
- *Capacity Building Workshop on Effectively Addressing Corruption in The Developing Economies* held on 16–17 September 2009 in Seoul, Korea

#### **Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF)**

- *Best Practices on Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure* initiated by Russia.
- *STAR VII Conference* held in Singapore on 30–31 July 2009;
- *Trade Recovery Program – Pilot Exercise* with the participation of Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, United States of America, Singapore and Viet Nam conducted from February 2008 to April 2009.
- *APEC Seminar on Securing Remittance and Cross Border Payments from Terrorist Use* held on 23–24 October 2008, in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- *APEC Workshop on Improving Regulation of the Non-Profit Organisation Sector* held in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2009.
- Two workshops on *Detecting and Deterring Cash Couriers and Bulk Cash Smugglers* were held in Manila in December 2008 and Sydney in June 2009 respectively.
- *APEC initiative Food Defense Pilot Project: Putting Principles into Practice*: three regional Food Defense Awareness Raising workshops were held in Ica, Lima, and Trujillo, Peru from 15–20 September 2008.
- Workshop on “*Effective Public-Private Partnerships to Counter Terror and Secure Trade*” held on 19 August in Lima, Peru.
- Symposium on *Optimize the Use of Audits and Investigation to Strengthen Aviation Security in APEC Economies* held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam in April 2009.
- Two *Aviation Security Emergency Points of Contact Network Tests* conducted in August and November 2008.
- *2009 Summary Report of Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Needs.*
- *Second APEC Seminar on Protection of Cyberspace from Terrorist Use and Attacks* to be held by the Republic of Korea and Russia in Seoul in November 2009.

#### **Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN)**

- Establishment of a Project Assessment Standing Committee (PASC) to assist the fora and Project Management Unit (PMU)/Secretariat Project Assessment Panels (SPAP) in

overseeing the submission of high quality project proposals to the Budget Management Committee (BMC), to assess all proposed APEC projects submitted to Secretariat during the year against the gender criteria and provide feedback, and to advise the Project Overseers (PO) accordingly.

- *Guide in Gender Criteria for APEC Project Proposals* (which has also been incorporated into the Guidebook on APEC projects)
- Workshop “*Public Policies to Promote Women Entrepreneurs*” held in Peru on 25–26 June 2009.
- Joint GFPN – ECSG project “*Digital Economy for Women*” held in Singapore in August 2009.
- Development of a gender and trade database to be posted on the APEC/GFPN website;
- Completion of project “*Women in Times of Disaster*” in May 2009.
- *Gender Analysis Workshop* in August 2009 in Singapore.

### **Mining Task Force (MTF)**

- First Report on the Situation in Mining Sector (new developments, important events, trends and other initiatives in mining sector);
- Conference on “*Sustainable Development of Mining Sector in APEC*” held on 23–24 July, 2009 in Singapore.
- Progress in research and analysis of the best practices in attracting investments in mining sector in the world;
- Contacts established with the UNCSD, Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development, World Bank’s Oil Gas and Mining Policy Department.
- Extension of MTF’s mandate until September 2011.
- MTF’s Workplan for 2010.

### **Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP)**

- Establishment of TFEP Steering Committee
- Establishment of Emergency Management CEOs’ Steering Group
- *APEC Climate Symposium–Impact of Climate Change for Disaster Management Professionals* held on 14–16 July, 2009 in Singapore.
- Development of *APEC-Wide Principles on Disaster Damage and Loss Assessments*.
- *Workshop on Damage Assessment Techniques*, held on 3–6 August, 2009 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- *Third APEC Emergency Management CEOs’ Forum*, held on 15–17 September, 2009 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam
- *Workshop on the Framework of Long-Term Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction in APEC*, to be held on 22–23 October, 2009 in Chinese Taipei.
- Finalisation of an electronic library of disaster risk reduction school education material.

## **4.2 Strengthening implementation of APEC’s ECOTECH activities.**

### **(i) Independent Assessment of the APEC working groups**

In 2009, the SCE completed its review of the independent assessment of six working groups and task forces, namely the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working group (ATCWG), High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB), Energy Working Group (EWG), Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Task Force (ACT), Telecommunications and Information Working Group

(TEL), and Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG). SCE welcomed the reports on independent assessment of ACT and TEL and requested these groups to discuss and implement the recommendations (Annexes 7 and 8), and regularly report progress to SCE. SCE's decisions related to independent assessment of EWG, ATCWG and HLPDAB, and ISTWG appear respectively in Annexes 9, 10, and 11. The SCE also received required reporting from the APEC Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) on its implementation of SCE decisions from its 2008 independent assessment.

The review of Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) and Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) is ongoing and expected to be submitted for SCE's consideration in 2010. In 2009, SCE commenced the review of three other fora including Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF), Health Working Group (HWG) and Tourism Working Group (TWG).

### **(ii) Renewal of the mandate of Mining Task Force (MTF)**

In December 2009, the mandate of MTF was due to expire. Having considered the deliverables, future workplan and relevance of the group in achieving the APEC goals, the Senior Officials endorsed the extension of the mandate of MTF until September 2011.

### **(iii) APEC Support Fund**

In 2004, Ministers endorsed the Australian proposed APEC Support Fund (ASF) to provide a flexible funding mechanism to support capacity building activities for APEC developing economies. Australia committed to providing A\$2.5 million (US\$1,972,800) over three years to establish the Fund and followed with a A\$4 million (US\$3,235,600) contribution to help developing APEC economies bolster their defenses against emerging and infectious diseases such as avian influenza in 2005. Since its inception, further contributions have been received by Chinese Taipei (US\$1 million), China (US\$2 million), Korea (US\$2 million), and the United States (US\$795,000). This has significantly boosted resources available to build capacity in the region for economic and technical cooperation activities.

At SOM1 2008, Hong Kong, China announced a contribution of US\$500,000 to the ASF in 2008. The funds are for projects in support of capacity building in APEC's developing economies which contribute to the implementation of *APEC's Second Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP II)*. An MOU was signed at the margins of SOM1 in Lima, Peru and the full contribution was received in March 2008.

In September 2007, Russia announced it would contribute US\$500,000 to the APEC Support Fund over the period of 2009–2010 to support human security and science and technology initiatives. An MOU was signed at the margins of AMM in November 2008. The basic part of the contribution, US\$340,000 will be channelled into the existing Human Security Sub-Fund. The remaining part—US\$160,000—will be earmarked for the specific purpose of funding capacity building activities for APEC developing economies in support of facilitating technology flows and harnessing technologies for the future. The first part of Russia's contribution totalling US\$250,000 was received in April 2009.

In February 2008, Australia committed A\$4.5 millions (US\$3,743,490) for the ASF General Fund to be disbursed in the period from 2008 to 2010. During the Leaders' Week in 2008, Australia announced that she would provide A\$1.3 million (US\$944,380) to the ASF, including A\$1 million (US\$717,700) to the Human Security sub-fund and A\$0.3 million (US\$226,680) to the ASF General fund.

At SOM2 2009, Japan signed with the APEC Secretariat an MOU for Japan's contribution of JPY120,000,000 to a newly set-up ASF sub-fund on Energy Efficiency. The United States announced that she would contribute US\$392,000 to ASF Sub-fund on Energy Efficiency and US\$400,000 to the Trade and Investment Liberalisation Fund.

By September 2009, the ASF funded 49 ECOTECH capacity-building projects in different areas ranging from human and energy security, structural reform, and anti-corruption to capacity for small to medium enterprises.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are proposed to the 21<sup>st</sup> APEC Ministerial Meeting:

1. Endorse the *2009 SOM Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation*;
2. Welcome the progress of work on strengthening SCE's Policy Agenda and reforming SCE, in particular the development of a framework to guide ECOTECH activities;
3. Welcome the achievements of the Working Groups and SOM Task Forces and welcome the ongoing improvements that will be achieved through the Program of Independent Assessments of all SCE fora; and
4. Welcome 2009 contributions to the APEC Support Fund from Australia, China, Japan, Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.



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## **SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation Terms of Reference**

### **Introduction**

In 1996, Ministers adopted the Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development to further strengthen economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) in APEC. To effectively implement the ECOTECH agenda, the SOM Sub-Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation (ESC) was established in 1998. This was later elevated to the SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation in 2002. As part of the reform process, with effect from 2006, the ESC was transformed into the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) with an enhanced mandate to strengthen the prioritisation and effective implementation of ECOTECH activities by various APEC fora.

### **Objectives**

- To strengthen implementation of the APEC's ECOTECH activities by prioritising in accordance with Leaders' and Ministers' commitments, coordinating and providing oversight of the work of APEC fora.
- To provide policy guidance on ways to contribute to APEC's ECOTECH goals.
- To coordinate ECOTECH objectives and priorities between the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting and Ministerial Meetings.

### **Membership**

All Senior Officials of APEC economies

- A core group of 11 Senior Officials, including the SCE Chair will be nominated by the SOM Chair at CSOM to assist the SCE Chair the following year.
- Chairs/Lead Shepherds of relevant APEC fora will be invited to participate in the first SCE meeting of the year at SOM I as the Meeting of the ECOTECH Committee of the Whole (SCE-COW).

### **Internal organisation arrangements**

- The operation and effectiveness of the SCE will be reviewed periodically, no less than every two years.
- SCE will report directly to the SOM.
- Chair to be the incoming Senior Official of the host economy.
- The core group will include Senior Officials of the previous (immediate past) and current host economies.
- Core group membership will be for a one-year term.
- SCE will be assisted by the APEC Secretariat.

### **Meeting arrangements**

- SCE will meet three times a year in the margins of SOM. At SOM I it will be convened as the SCE-COW and include Chairs/Lead Shepherds of relevant APEC fora.
- SCE will convene as close as possible to SOM meetings.

### **Work mandate**

The SCE will coordinate action-oriented and integrated strategies in accordance with Leaders' and Ministers' commitments and the 1996 APEC Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development and 2003 ECOTECH priorities. It will:

- Provide policy recommendations on APEC ECOTECH-related issues to SOM.
- Develop a short-term plan and priorities to best implement APEC's ECOTECH activities for the coming APEC year.
- Coordinate and supervise ECOTECH-related Working Groups and SOM Special Task Groups and provide policy guidance to these groups on the ECOTECH agenda.
- Assess and direct realignment of individual work plans of Working Groups and SOM Special Task Groups with the SCE's medium- and long-term work plans; to this purpose, all Working Groups and SOM Special Task Groups should submit their annual work plans to the SCE four weeks prior to SOM I for consideration at the SCE-COW.
- Approve and rank (in terms of relevance to policy priorities), all ECOTECH-related project proposals ahead of presentation to the Budget Management Committee (BMC).
- Evaluate the progress of Working Groups and SOM Special Task Groups in implementing and achieving APEC's ECOTECH priorities.
- Compile progress and evaluation reports of Working Groups and SOM Special Task Groups for review and report to SOM.
- Review the role and operation of Working Groups, Task Forces and Networks, with a view to making recommendations to the SOM on establishing, merging, disbanding or reorienting these bodies.
- Review the 1996 Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development and the four APEC-wide ECOTECH priorities identified in 2003 and make recommendations to SOM.
- Encourage active participation of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), relevant international organisations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders such as the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in the capacity-building activities of economic and technical cooperation through the creation of linkages.

## **SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2009 Work Program**

### **1. Proposed Work Plan for 2009 in Response to Leaders'/ Ministers'/SOM Decisions and SCE Priorities.**

- Strengthen the SCE's policy role in guiding ECOTECH activities in APEC, including development of a framework to guide ECOTECH activities to be submitted to AMM in November 2009;
- Provide policy recommendations on issues related to ECOTECH to SOM;
- Coordinate and supervise all ECOTECH-related Working Groups and SOM Special Taskforces, and provide strategic policy guidance to these fora on the ECOTECH agenda;
- Conduct internal review of the SCE;
- Conduct survey on capacity building needs of developing member economies;
- Conduct Independent Assessments of APEC fora in accordance with the approved schedule and monitor the implementation of previous reviews' recommendations by relevant fora;
- Develop policy criteria to guide the assessment of ECOTECH-related project proposals;
- Approve and rank all ECOTECH-related project proposals ahead of presentation to the Budget Management Committee (BMC);
- Work further on twinning initiative;
- Prepare annual SCE Report to Ministers.

### **2. Proposed Activities in Response to Ministers' Call for Greater Engagement with:**

- A) International Organisations other than APEC; and**
- B) Asia-Pacific Business Community**

- Enhance APEC's collaboration with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other international organisations;
  - Organise Policy Dialogue on APEC's engagement with Multilateral Organisations
- Promote public-private partnerships to achieve APEC's ECOTECH objectives;
  - Undertake Work to Strengthen APEC's Engagement with ABAC. Develop set of policies/procedures to Strengthen APEC's Engagement with ABAC for consideration by SOM and AMM.

### **3. Identify cross cutting issues and explain how they will be coordinated across Fora.**

- Coordinate with CTI, BMC and EC on capacity-building activities;

### **4. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables For 2009.**

- Development of the strategic direction for strengthening the policy guidance role of SCE, including a framework for endorsement to APEC Ministers;
- Progress in enhancing the cooperation between APEC and IFIs and other international organizations, including staging the third Policy Dialogue in 2009;

- Progress in enhancing public-private partnerships in APEC;
- Progress related to twinning initiative;
- Identification of policy criteria for 2009-2010 and further streamlining of APEC project management and funding allocation;
- Successful implementation of the Independent Assessments of the fora scheduled for completion this year, specifically the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) and High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB), the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Task Force (ACT), Energy Working Group (EWG), Telecommunication Working Group (TELWG), Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG) and Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG);
- Commencement of new independent assessments for 2010;
- Submission of the annual SCE Report to Ministers in November 2009.

## SCE Policy Criteria for Project Funding in 2009

**Core Group Recommendation:** *SCE adopt the attached SCE Policy Criteria for Project Funding in 2009 intersessionally to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat and BMC to assess projects and to allocate APEC-managed project funds strategically, ahead of the first project proposal approval round in 2009 (proposal submission deadline is 20 March 2009).*

### Request by BMC

BMC requested (2009/SOM1/SCE/011) that SCE consider strengthening the SCE Policy Criteria for 2009-10 Projects by 'prioritizing APEC's priorities' to aid project assessments. SCE1 agreed and formed a Core Group to consider the matter (2009/SOM1/SCE/SUM).

BMC suggested that the SCE consider: rankings based on the strength of the nexus between the project proposal and the achievement of APEC's core objectives; the use of illustrative examples rather than prescriptive lists; and, fewer policy criteria. BMC also judged that cross-cutting issues – such as improving the gender balance – should apply to all projects rather than be a capacity building priority *per se*.

### Priorities

APEC Leaders, Ministers and Senior Officials agree that the most pressing priority for APEC, APEC economies and the Asia-Pacific region at this juncture is addressing the global economic crisis. Leaders have instructed APEC to focus on its core business and:

- advance the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies – the key organizing principle and driving force for APEC;
- accelerate APEC's Regional Economic Integration (REI) agenda; and
- intensify work on structural reform.  
[AELM Statement, 2008]

During SOM1 and related meetings in February 2009, SOMs identified three priorities to accelerate REI (2009/SOM1/SUM) and the Economic Committee commenced prioritizing the capacity building programs relating to the Leaders' Agenda on Implementing Structural Reform (LAISR). SCE also continued its exploration of ways to maximise project outputs and cooperation.

### SCE Policy Criteria for Project Funding in 2009

APEC has limited financial resources. This means that the clear prioritisation of APEC's economic and technical (ECOTECH) cooperation is vital to ensure a strategic allocation of projects funds. APEC risks not achieving its core objectives if funds are dispersed too widely. In this context, the Core Group agrees with the BMC that the substance of a project proposal is more important than the originating forum.

The Core Group therefore recommends that SCE accept the BMC's recommendations regarding the revision/upgrade of the Policy Criteria (see 'Request by BMC' above) and endorses the attached SCE Policy Criteria for Project Funding in 2009. SCE's first mandated objective is to strengthen the implementation of APEC's ECOTECH activities by prioritising cooperation in accordance with Leaders and Ministers commitments.

The APEC Secretariat has signalled that the revised Policy Criteria is a sensible way forward and would aid the work of the Secretariat Project Assessment Panel (SPAP).

SCE's ongoing work to maximise cooperation, leverage other resources, focus on APEC's strengths and avoid duplication through stronger engagement with other multilaterals and the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and the exploration of new capacity building models (eg. twinning) complements this strengthened prioritization process (refer to SCE1 Summary Report for further details).

### Parameters

As has been the case since their inception, the attached SCE Policy Criteria for Project Funding in 2009 are designed to guide the assessment and approval of project proposals – predominantly from SCE fora (87% at BMC3 in 2008) – that seek funding from APEC's Operational Account (OA) and the APEC Support Fund (ASF) and its sub-funds, and SCE fora – not the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Finance Ministers' Process (FMP), Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) or Economic Committee (EC) fora – seeking funding from the Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation (TILF) Special Fund. The SCE Policy Criteria thus sets the funding priorities for approximately two-thirds of total APEC project funds. A strengthened Policy Criteria will help the BMC, supported by the SPAP, to better allocate the limited financial resources managed by APEC.

The revised Policy Criteria does not limit in any way the **scope** of APEC's policy debates or APEC's capacity to support economic and technical cooperation among economies that is funded by other means (e.g. self-funded).

The responsibility for establishing the **nexus** between the project proposal and APEC funding priorities rests primarily with the Project Overseer. The Project Overseer should be encouraged to draw on, and the Secretariat's recommendations and the BMC's decisions should be informed by, the Manila Framework goals and other existing frameworks and plans, including the:

Bogor Goals:	Osaka Action Agenda; Busan Roadmap; Hanoi Action Plan
REI:	APEC Framework for Strengthening Regional Economic Integration; second Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP II); and Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP)
Structural Reform:	Leaders' Agenda on Implementing Structural Reform (LAISR)

The Core Group recommends that **fora-specific medium-term plans** and capacity-building needs **stocktakes** that align with the SCE Policy Criteria also be encouraged and that they be taken into account in the project design, application and assessment.

Particularly for Approval Session One, Program Directors may need to assist Project Overseers with this task to expedite the process and ameliorate the impacts of the proposed late change to the SCE Policy Criteria.

It is also noted that the project quality assessment phase considers the issues of **timeliness, relevance and impact**, which will increase the prospect of funding for projects that seek to address topical challenges such as the global economic crisis.

As recommended by BMC, the projects topics listed under each rank are **illustrative examples** rather than prescriptive lists. Project topics not identified are not excluded.

It is acknowledged that these funding priorities may shift over time. SCE should continue to **review** the SCE Policy Criteria at each of its meetings.

The Core Group agrees that **cross-cutting issues** such as gender integration and engaging the private sector/other fora are not capacity building priorities *per se* and have listed such issues alongside the rankings with a view to them being applied universally.



Further to the BMC's request for guidance on SCE's preferred **allocation of financial resources**, the Core Group recommends that SCE suggest BMC allocate funds sequentially as resources permit, beginning with Rank 1 projects, then Rank 2 projects, etcetera. This will ensure the bulk of funding is allocated to APEC's top capacity building priorities.

Noting that the ASF **sub-funds** support focused capacity building relating to human security, avian influenza, TFAP II and technology flows, the Core Group judged that the revised Policy Criteria was an equally useful tool to help assess bids for ASF sub-fund funding.

As underlined in the BMC request, the strengthened Policy Criteria are to be an **interim solution** ahead of the consideration later this year of the outcomes of the consultancy commissioned by BMC on project assessment and ranking. Accordingly, this exercise does not set a precedent and the revised Criteria are expected to have only a limited lifespan.

Finally, should SCE agree to endorse these amendments, it is recommended that SCE reiterate its commitment to the **Manila Framework** (1996) and its goals of sustainable growth and equitable development, reduced economic disparities, improved economic and social well-being, and a deepened spirit of community. ECOTECH priorities (updated in 2006) such as developing human capital, facilitating technology flows and harnessing technologies, environmentally sound growth and knowledge-based economies will remain the vehicles and platforms for APEC's economic and technical cooperation. The other ECOTECH priorities – relating to integration into the Global Economy, structural reform, economic infrastructure, small and medium enterprises, human security and the social dimensions of globalization – are captured by the Policy Criteria.

## SCE POLICY CRITERIA FOR PROJECT FUNDING IN 2009

In assessing economic and technical cooperation projects in 2009, priority should be given – pursuant to the Manila Framework – to funding capacity building activities targeting developing economies in accordance with the following rankings:

<p><b>Rank 1:</b> Cooperation <b>necessary</b> to the furtherance of the Bogor Goals, accelerating Regional Economic Integration or intensifying structural reform among and in APEC economies and addressing the current global economic crisis</p>
<p>For example, projects related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ trade and investment liberalisation 'at the border', including making Rules of Origin more business-friendly, identifying vehicles for an FTAAP, and deepening analysis on FTAAP</li> <li>○ improving the business environment 'behind the border', including priority regulatory reforms related to the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business indicators.</li> <li>○ enhancing physical connectivity 'across the border'</li> <li>○ strengthening financial markets, including cooperation that links private infrastructure finance and growth and development [AELM 2008] and supports trade financing</li> <li>○ implementation of TFAP II priorities, particularly cooperation that reduces transaction costs</li> <li>○ implementation of IFAP priorities</li> <li>○ implementation of LAISR priorities</li> <li>○ social security, social resilience and employment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rank 2:</b> Cooperation that <b>supports</b> the furtherance of the Bogor Goals, accelerating Regional Economic Integration or intensifying structural reform among and in APEC economies</p>
<p>For example, projects related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ contingency planning for major natural, accidental or deliberate disruptions to the region's economic, trade, investment and financial systems, including terrorism, disasters, communicable diseases and pandemics, unsafe food or products, and climate change</li> <li>○ combating corruption</li> <li>○ energy security and clean energy</li> <li>○ reducing the digital gap and building capacity and skills needed to benefit from an open trade and investment system</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rank 3:</b> <b>Other priorities</b> identified by Leaders and Ministers not closely linked to the furtherance of the Bogor Goals, accelerating Regional Economic Integration or intensifying structural reform among and in APEC economies</p>
<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ implementation of some recommendations of, and some lead-up activities to, sectoral ministerial meetings, including the 2008 meetings of Tourism, Telecommunications, Education and Finance ministers, the 2009 meetings of SME, Finance and Transportation ministers, and the 2010 Human Resources Development Ministerial Meeting</li> <li>○ some initiatives associated with addressing the social dimensions of globalisation and the promotion of corporate social responsibility in social and environmental development</li> <li>○ some food security initiatives</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rank 4:</b> <b>Lower priority</b> cooperation</p>
<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ resolution of an issue mainly of interest to a few economies but where the solution may have broader applicability</li> </ul>

**Cross-cutting issues.** All projects should maximise: gender integration and balance; engagement of other APEC fora, ABAC and the private sector and other multilateral organisations; multi-year capacity building opportunities; and the spectrum of capacity building models and activities.

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## Policy Dialogue on APEC's Engagement with Multilateral Organisations Recommendations

Recommendations in the report to SCE	Initial comments from APEC Secretariat	Action suggested	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation	Agreement on suggested action  (Yes/No)
<p><b>APEC fora to look critically at the recently revised invitation and approval guidelines for non-member participation, and report back to the SCE whether they consider these revised guidelines are flexible enough to facilitate more strategic engagement with MOs.</b></p>	<p>APEC Secretariat. Any decision to modify/amend the Consolidated Guidelines on Non-member Participation in APEC Activities would have to be made at the Senior Officials' level given the political sensitivities involved in this issue.</p> <p>For SCE's background information, an attempt last year by the Secretariat to revise the said guidelines did not meet with SOM consensus in October 2008. Given the success of the second trial period of the revised guidelines from 2005-2008, the Secretariat had suggested a revision of the guidelines delegating the SOM authority to APEC fora under the SOM direct supervision to approve non-member participation permanently from 1st January 2009. There was no consensus at SOM level on the recommendations and the trial period was extended by another three years to 2011. The revised guidelines were endorsed by AMM in November 2008.</p> <p>Given the recent nature of this decision, SCE members may wish to discuss further this recommendation before requesting the SCE related fora to report on this issue.</p>	<p>SCE members to discuss further this recommendation.</p>	<p>Intersessionally or at SCE2</p>	

Recommendations in the report to SCE	Initial comments from APEC Secretariat	Action suggested	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation	Agreement on suggested action (Yes/No)
	The result of this discussion could significantly reduce the reporting burden of APEC fora.			
<p><b>Each APEC working group and taskforce to establish a point of contact for inter-organisational coordination. Consideration should also be given to the desirability of asking the Program Director for each APEC forum to act as a contact point for that forum.</b></p>	<p>APEC Secretariat. One of the recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> APEC-IFIs and International Organizations Policy Dialogue on ECOTECH held in Gyeongju, Korea in September 2005, endorsed by SOM and noted by Ministers was that all Working Groups and SOM Taskforces should identify contact points for liaising with International Financial Institutions and other International Organizations.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation, APEC fora were requested to identify a contact point and the APEC Secretariat compiled a list in November 2006 which was later updated in May 2008. For those groups that did not provide a contact point, the Lead Shepherd/Chair was identified by default.</p> <p>It was noted that the high turnover of Chairs/ Lead Shepherds and economy representatives inhibits the ability to establish and develop strong relationships with MOs.</p> <p>To respond to the recommendation from the Policy Dialogue held this year and to address the need for a current and up-to-date list of contact points, the APEC Secretariat suggests to:</p>	(i) APEC Secretariat to update the APEC Fora contact points with MOs, including PD-POCs; and to maintain the list updated.	The Secretariat has updated the list as of June 2009 (the list is enclosed at Annex A)	

Recommendations in the report to SCE	Initial comments from APEC Secretariat	Action suggested	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation	Agreement on suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>(i) update the list of APEC fora contact point prepared in 2006 and include the relevant Program Director's contact details in the list.</p> <p>It is important to emphasize that the need to engage and the level of engagement with MOs will be discussed and assessed by members of each group and the decision has to be reached by consensus and in accordance with the non-member participation guidelines.</p> <p>APEC fora should also decide and designate its <b><i>fora point of contact with MOs</i></b> (F-POC) to <u>coordinate and follow-up inter-organisational collaboration</u> as agreed by the group only.</p> <p>The inclusion of the Program Director as point of contact (PD-POC) is to <b><i>facilitate the collaboration</i></b>. The PD-POCs will advise the APEC fora and MO representatives on APEC guidelines for collaboration with MOs; (ii) facilitate the communication by assisting the group to identify MOs point of contacts as requested by the group; (iii) channel request for exchange of information/collaboration from MOs to fora contact point and Chair for further discussion within the group; (iv) maintain updated the list of fora point of contact with MOs.</p> <p>The F-POCs and the PD-POCs will NOT have the authority to initiate or engage the fora in any collaboration that has not been discussed</p>			

Recommendations in the report to SCE	Initial comments from APEC Secretariat	Action suggested	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation	Agreement on suggested action (Yes/No)
	and agreed by consensus by the group.			
<p><b>A centralized point of contact be established in the APEC Secretariat to coordinate inter-organisational cooperation and promote better exchanges of information.</b></p>	<p><u>APEC Secretariat</u>. The Strategies for Enhancing Engagement with MOs commissioned by AusAID and prepared for the SCE identified that:</p> <p><i>“Consideration should be given to establishing a unit, or assigning liaison officers, within the APEC Secretariat to act as a point of contact with multilateral organizations and to coordinate APEC’s relations with them. It is not clear, given its current resources, whether it is realistic for the APEC Secretariat take on this role. This implies extra demands on the resources of the APEC Secretariat and would need to be examined closely by the SCE and SOM. An alternative would be to identify a contact point in each relevant APEC forum who could serve as the interface for coordination and communication with the organizations: but there may still need to be a mechanism for coordination across these contact points on issues that cut across the agenda of different fora”.</i></p> <p>Taking into consideration this information and complementing the above suggestion from the APEC Secretariat to include the list of PD-POCs, the Secretariat also suggests that the Program Director supporting the Dialogue with Multilateral Organizations serves as the <b>centralized point of contact</b> (CPOC) to <b>facilitate</b>, in collaboration with the PD-POC the</p>	<p>(i) The Program Director supporting the Dialogue with Multilateral Organizations will act as the <i>centralized point of contact</i> (CPOC) to <b>facilitate</b>, in collaboration with the PD-POCs the communication and exchanges of information across APEC fora and MOs contact points.</p> <p>(ii) SCE to further discuss and designate an SCE member as the <b>Centralized fora point of contact</b> (CF-POC).</p>	After SCE decision	



Recommendations in the report to SCE	Initial comments from APEC Secretariat	Action suggested	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation	Agreement on suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>communication and exchanges of information across APEC fora and MOs contact points. The C-POC and PD-POCs will <b>facilitate</b> cross-cutting inter-organizational cooperation and exchange of information.</p> <p>SCE may wish to further discuss and designate an SCE member to serve as the <b>Centralized fora point of contact</b> (CF-POC) to <b>coordinate</b> inter-organisational cooperation and promote better exchanges of information on issues that cut across the agenda of different fora as agreed by the SCE only.</p>			
<p><b>The Secretariat to identify ways to promote closer cooperation with Multilateral Organizations, including ASEAN Secretariat and other APEC observers.</b></p>	<p><u>APEC Secretariat.</u></p> <p>(i) <b>Prioritization.</b> Given the limited resources of the APEC Secretariat, the Secretariat would be prioritizing its engagement efforts targeting the ASEAN Secretariat, WTO, OECD and the WB in order of importance. A progress report of recent efforts by the APEC Secretariat is enclosed at Annex. B. A list of APEC Secretariat meetings with MOs and official observers in 2009 is also enclosed at Annex C.</p> <p>(ii) <b>Establish sustainable mechanism to collaborate Secretariat-to Secretariat.</b> The focus of the engagement would be to seriously learn from their best practices of its counterparts as well as to leverage on the expertise and experiences of the other MOs in the areas of research (access to</p>	<p>SCE to discuss this paper and suggestions and provide further guidance/feedback to the APEC Secretariat.</p>	<p>Intersessionally</p>	

Recommendations in the report to SCE	Initial comments from APEC Secretariat	Action suggested	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation	Agreement on suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>statistics/databases/publications/reports) as well as project management.</p> <p>(iii) <b>Make use of new technologies.</b> The Secretariat is also exploring mutual capabilities to make use of new technologies such as the Global Distance Learning Network (GDLN) and Digital Video Conference (DVC) facilities to maintain frequent communication by conducting regular videoconferences Secretariat-to-Secretariat; and to facilitate and benefit from the participation of experts/speakers in APEC activities using these technologies.</p> <p>(iv) <b>Collaboration with PECC.</b> The APEC Secretariat aims to leverage on PECC's valuable network of researchers and thinktanks throughout the region as well as tap on its rigorous studies on topics relevant to APEC.</p> <p>(v) <b>Disseminate information and resources from MOs available to APEC fora.</b> With greater awareness of the capabilities, priorities and interests of other MOs, the Secretariat will then be well-placed to disseminate recommended priority areas as well as areas of synergy to the relevant APEC fora for their consideration.</p>			
<b>APEC host (Singapore), together with the APEC Secretariat, considers ways to promote high-level networking</b>	APEC Secretariat. SCE to note that annual high-level networking is already taking place with the regular participation of the WTO	SCE to further discuss this recommendation and	Intersessionally before or after SCE2	

Recommendations in the report to SCE	Initial comments from APEC Secretariat	Action suggested	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation	Agreement on suggested action (Yes/No)
<p>among APEC Ministers and heads of relevant multilateral organizations to enable them to exchange views on a few priority issues of common interest. This could take the form of a policy dialogue in the margins or during the APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) this year.</p>	<p>Director-General to the MRT and the Secretary-General of ASEAN to AMM.</p> <p>SCE may wish to further discuss this recommendation taking into consideration the time constrain of APEC Ministers, particularly during the AMM and, if agreement is reached by consensus, submit this recommendation to SOM consideration and final decision.</p>	<p>if agreement is reached by consensus, submit this recommendation to SOM consideration and final decision.</p>		
<p>Where possible, APEC fora should focus their joint activities with MOs on where the benefits are expected to be highest, as this is likely to lead to better outcomes – these activities should be on issues of relevance and more resources-focused.</p>		<p>SCE to encourage APEC fora to implement this recommendation.</p>	<p>Intersessionally before or after SCE2</p>	

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## Strengthening APEC's Engagement with ABAC

APEC Leaders and Ministers have consistently called for greater engagement by APEC and its constituent groups with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). In 2007, decisions were taken by APEC Ministers to make ABAC an official participant to all of APEC's plenary meetings and by ABAC to institute its Dialogue with Senior Officials during the first ABAC meeting of the year.

Senior Officials have also discussed the need to strengthen APEC's engagement with ABAC for the past several years. In 2008, the United States received approval from the SCE to conduct outreach with the SCE-related fora Chairs/Lead Shepherds to address this subject. We note that some responses to the SCE Fora Capacity Building Stocktake addressed the groups' "involvement with the private sector," including ABAC.

Objective of this year's exercise is to gather additional information on what does and does not work in the relationship between APEC groups and ABAC and solicit views of APEC groups, member economies, ABAC, and the APEC Secretariat on specific policies/procedures that could be put into place to strengthen APEC's engagement with ABAC. The information gathered would be analyzed to develop a set of policies and procedures for consideration by Senior Officials and ABAC members, with the intention of having the set of policies and procedures approved by Senior Officials and Ministers [and Leaders, if appropriate] to: support deepening APEC's engagement with ABAC; support the Budget and Management Committee's project management review process; and create more synergies between the organizations' capacity building priorities.

Timeline: 2009 Singapore Year

SCE-COW:	Discuss parameters of work with SCE Fora Chairs/Lead Shepherds and SCE members (see attached Questions for discussion)
By February 27:	1) Ambassador Haslach issues formal tasking letter and Questions to SCE Fora Chairs/Lead Shepherds, SOMs, and APEC Secretariat Executive Director, copying Chairs of the BMC, CTI and EC  2) Ambassador Haslach (or SCE Chair Hiramatsu) communicates with ABAC Chair regarding exercise and seeks ABAC's input
By May 1:	Responses to Questions due to the United States and APEC Secretariat
By June 12:	Analysis of Responses and Recommended Policies / Procedures distributed to SCE members by United States and APEC Secretariat
SCE II	Consider outcomes and consider policies / procedures recommended
ABAC III (8/25-27)	Discussion of outcomes and consider policies / procedures recommended; ABAC Chair shares outcomes of discussion with Ambassador Haslach, and ABAC Chair incorporates recommendations into Annual Report to Leaders
By September 25:	Final list of recommended policies / procedures developed for intersessional approval by the SCE
November 14:	Approval by CSOM and endorsement by APEC Ministers [and Leaders, if appropriate], November 9-15, 2009

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## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AT SCE-COW AND SCE 1, FEBRUARY 18, 2009 IN SINGAPORE

### ***Suggested Questions for Response by APEC Chairs/Lead Shepherds:***

#### The nature of APEC's Engagement with ABAC

- 1) Are you aware of the decision to grant ABAC official participant status across APEC's groups? (yes/no) Are you aware of the list of ABAC Liaison Representative to APEC Fora?
- 2) Has an ABAC member consistently attended your APEC group's plenary meetings?

If so, which meetings (in past 2 years)? {Please supply name of meeting, date of meeting and which ABAC member (name, economy) attended}

How active is the he or she in the discussion of the group?

Is an ABAC member expected to attend your group's 2009 plenary session?

If yes, please supply name of meeting, date of meeting and ABAC member (name and economy):

Has ABAC attend your group's activities (seminars, workshops, training programs)?

If so, which (in past 2 years)? {Please supply name of activity, date of activity, and which ABAC member(s) (name, economy) attended.}

- 3) If so, does the Chair/Lead Shepherd (and/or relevant project overseers) invite the ABAC member?

If not, what can be done by the Chair/Lead Shepherd to engage ABAC?

- 4) Does your APEC group include consideration of ABAC's recommendations to Leaders in the annual Work Plan?

How responsive is your group to ABAC's recommendations?

- 5) Are you aware of ABAC's work related to your group's area of expertise?

If so, how useful do you think it is?

If ABAC is not undertaking work related to your group's area of expertise, do you believe it should be? (Do you require ABAC and/or private sector assistance with your Workplan?)

### ***Suggested Questions for Response by APEC Chairs/Lead Shepherds, APEC Economy Members, APEC Secretariat, ABAC***

#### Suggested Policies / Procedures for Strengthening APEC's Engagement with ABAC

Please think about the following when suggesting specific policies/procedures:

Who should be responsible for outreach to ABAC? – APEC Secretariat? SOMs? Chairs/Lead Shepherds? Project Overseers?

Should engagement of ABAC be required, who should be the recipient of APEC group's communications? ABAC Chair? ABAC Secretariats? Individual ABAC members?

- 1) What specific suggestions for new policies/procedures do you have for strengthening APEC's engagement with ABAC at APEC plenary sessions?

- 2) What specific suggestions for new policies/procedures do you have for strengthening APEC's engagement with ABAC at APEC activities?
- 3) What specific suggestions do you have for procedure(s) for capturing ABAC's reaction to APEC project proposals being developed?
- 4) What specific suggestions do you have for procedure(s) for capturing ABAC's reaction to APEC policy initiatives?
- 5) What specific suggestions do you have for capacity building activities that could be undertaken jointly by APEC and ABAC?
- 6) Other specific suggestions for policies / procedures for consideration by APEC?
- 7) Other specific suggestions for policies / procedures for consideration by ABAC?

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## Summary of ECOTECH Projects

### NUMBER OF PROJECTS INITIATED BY APEC FORA IN 2009 UNDER EACH ECOTECH PRIORITY THEME

Priority Theme	APEC Forum																				Total SCE Fora	Total			
	ATCWG	ACT	CTI	CTTF	EC	EWG	FMP	FWG	GFPN	HRDWG	HWG	HLPDAB	ISTWG	MRCWG	MTF	SCE	SME	SOM	TEL	TFEP			TPTWG	TWG	
1. Developing Human Capital	1									6						1			1					9	9
2. Developing stable and efficient markets through structural reform	1	3			2														2					6	8
3. Strengthening economic infrastructure						1													6		2			9	9
4. Facilitating technology flows and harnessing technologies for the future										1			2											3	3
5. Safeguarding the quality of life through environmentally sound growth	5					14		1					2	1	1							1	2	27	27
6. Developing and strengthening the dynamism of SMEs		1							2								10							13	13
7. Integration into the global economy	2		4			2													1					5	9
8. Human Security and Counter-Terrorism CB	2			3							2						1			4	2			14	14
9. Promoting the Development of Knowledge-based Economies											1								1					2	2
10. Addressing Social Dimension of Globalisation	1									2					1			1				1		5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>	

## SUMMARY OF THE TYPES OF ECOTECH PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY APEC FORA IN 2009

<i>APEC Forum</i>	ATCWG	ACT	CTI	CTTF	EC	EWG	FMP	FWG	GFPN	HRD	HWG	HLPDAB	ISTWG	MRCWG	MTF	SCE	SME	SOM	TEL	TFEP	TPTWG	TWG	Total	
<i>Type of Activity</i>																								
Seminar/Symposium	11	4	4	3	1	3			2	7	3		4		2		8	1	6	4		2	<b>65</b>	
Training					1	1				1							2		2				<b>7</b>	
Survey or Analysis and Research	1					12		1		1				1		1			1		5		<b>23</b>	
Others						1				1							1		1			1	<b>5</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	

SUMMARY OF THE TYPES OF ECOTECH PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY APEC FORA IN 2009  
ACCORDING TO FUNDING SOURCES

<i>APEC Forum</i>	ATCWG	ACT	CTI	CTTF	EC	EWG	FMP	FWG	GFPN	HRDWG	HWG	HLPDAB	ISTWG	MRCWG	MTF	SCE	SME	SOM	TEL	TFEP	TPTWG	TWG	Total	
<i>Source of Funding</i>																								
Operational Account	1	1		2		10		1		4			1	1	1	1	1	1			1		<b>25</b>	
APEC Support Fund	9	3	4	1	2	4			2	4	3		2	1	1		7		2	4	4	3	<b>55</b>	
TILF Special Account						3				1							2		1				<b>7</b>	
Self-funded	2												1				1		8				<b>12</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	

## Independent Assessment of the ECOTECH Implementation of APEC Working Groups and SOM Task Forces: Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Group – Recommendations

The following are recommendations to be considered by the ACT and the wider APEC process:

1. That the ACT, building on the current assessment of ACT activities since 2005, should consider commissioning from within its membership for its next meeting a draft medium term strategy document, which lays out for a 3-5 year period the ACT's direction and deliverables. This document would include, *inter alia*:
  - a. A core, integrated work programme
  - b. An explicit statement of the actions to be undertaken to integrate ACT activities with those of other APEC fora, and with, in particular, the TILF agenda;
  - c. An explicit statement of the actions to be taken to integrate ACT activities with non-APEC agencies working in the same field, and, in particular, with the UNCAC process;
  - d. A commentary and recommendations on the appropriate institutional location and status of anti-corruption and transparency activities within the APEC process;
  - e. A quality management framework for the evaluation of ACT projects, reflecting the current APEC project evaluation requirements;
  - f. A communication and dissemination strategy for ACT deliverables, over and above the established requirements laid down by APEC;
  - g. Any required revision of the ToR of the ACT which might follow from the adoption of a medium-term strategy;
2. That, notwithstanding the outcome of Recommendation 1, the ACT should:
  - a. Explore with other APEC fora, especially the CTI, Economic Committee and ABAC, the opportunity for joint projects and activities with the intention of grounding ACT expertise in important areas of APEC work such as regional and corporate governance, management capacity building in both public and private sectors, and in Corporate Social Responsibility activities;
  - b. Consider the idea of a joint workshop on collaborative work, to be attended by non-APEC agencies involved in anti-corruption and transparency activities. One aspect of this activity would be exploration of joint financing of projects and programmes. In doing this, the ACT may consider the feasibility of the ACT hosting, or facilitating, a summit of international agencies engaged in anti-corruption and transparency activities
3. That the ACT develops a communication and dissemination strategy, which brings its work to the attention of other interested parties with and beyond the APEC process. To this end, electronic means (for example, a wiki) might be considered;
4. That the ACT introduces and manages effectively deadlines for the circulation of documents before ACT meetings. These deadlines should, at a minimum, meet established APEC requirements for document circulation;
5. That the ACT continues with its structure of two annual meetings with associated activities, but ensures that the meeting agendas are orientated to substantive issues and discussion;

6. That the ACT continues with the 'troika' model of leadership, and that continuing emphasis is placed by the ACT's leadership on strategic direction and substantive deliverables;
7. That the ACT leadership sounds out member economies' views about the current status of the Task Force, with a view to assessing whether there is a considered consensus for an 'upgrading' of the status of ACT activities within the APEC process;
8. That the ACT considers the introduction of an induction programme for new members, immediately prior to each ACT meeting;
9. That the ACT considers the development of a project, seminar or other activity which explores the gender dimensions of anti-corruption and transparency. This may be undertaken in conjunction with the GFPN and/or other international agencies. The ACT should consider inviting a GFPN representative to attend an ACT meeting to begin a dialogue around possible gender-based activities by the ACT.

## Independent Assessment of the ECOTECH Implementation of APEC Working Groups and SOM Task Forces: Telecommunications and Information Working Group – Recommendations

After locating the role of TEL in APEC and analysing, activities, meetings, projects, survey answers, documentation, and interviews here are two decision points for consideration by SCE and five decision points for consideration by TEL<sup>1</sup>.

### DECISION POINTS FOR THE SCE

#### 1. Cohesion : SCE's way to enhance collaboration

APEC's vertical organisation and the dynamics of working groups, subcommittees and task groups make it difficult to communicate with each other to better understand common interests to develop projects and joint collaboration to avoid duplication of work within APEC.

#### **SCE has to summon ad hoc meetings for Chairs/Shepherds**

SCE should encourage and engage fora in developing the SCE-COW agenda, and even consult if Chairs/Lead Shepherds would like to brief SCE on a particular area.

From the information available and informal consultations it appears TEL Chair has only attended this duty in few occasions, to present TEL's progress for the rest of the attendants to listen. However, it might be more relevant to guarantee Chairs of different fora meet in a less formal and structured agenda, where they could exchange views and find out if there are real connecting topics among working groups, subcommittees and task groups.

#### 2. Insight : Understanding TEL

Direct communication from SCE to TEL is rarely noticed. Communication flows indirectly through the APEC Secretariat and the Program Director during TEL meetings informing its member economies of the progress made by SCE on different issues.

#### **SCE has to participate in TEL planning meetings**

One of the decision points for TEL described below is to create **virtual meetings** (video conference) for TEL HODs and EXCOMM before every meeting. The purpose is to plan with sufficient time those policy issues that may arise in the preparation of TEL meetings, to adequately review new project proposals and the progress of implementation of already approved projects and to review compliance with TEL's goals and objectives in the short, medium and long terms according to its roadmap. The **virtual participation** (videoconference) of the SCE Lead Shepherd/Chair or a representative would be highly desirable as he/she could help TEL in its decision making when policy issues need support information from higher levels in the hierarchy.

Maintaining regular mechanisms of communication will impact on better articulating Regional Economic Integration, Structural Reforms and Economic and Technical Cooperation within the APEC ecosystem and its outreach to non APEC fora. For example, SCE Chair can write a letter to all APEC fora Chairs highlighting main outcomes of SCE meeting and work that will have an impact on fora's work, this could also be done during the videoconference of a planning meeting of a fora such as TEL.

<sup>1</sup> Complementary recommendations to TEL are included in Section A of the addenda.

## DECISION POINTS FOR TEL

### 1. Outreach : Spreading TEL's word

Being one of APEC's main concerns making its work widely known, TEL has not been effective in making the non-APEC ecosystem aware of its work and achievements.

#### TEL has to develop an outreach strategy

TEL's outreach can be improved by increasing the number of publications from the very large volume of research papers, best practices, guidelines, workshops, and other know-how elements that TEL generates as a result of its diverse and busy working agenda, of which few become published material for extra-TEL reference.

Publications would better position TEL as a key reference source and a best practices and benchmark model for other parties<sup>2</sup>. It would also trigger, and multiply the number of, joint collaboration opportunities.

Utilising mass-media and periodicals via press-releases, insertions, newsletters and other forms of communications would complement the strategy. Also TEL being an active and frequent speaker in other fora will increase its visibility.

TEL's website should be conceived as one of its main communications channels instead of an information repository. This necessarily calls for a thorough rethinking of the way information is organised, structured and presented. Best practices and recommendations should be gathered in a single, accessible, searchable repository to support their outreach.

### 2. Prioritising : TEL's Achilles heel

TEL has been dealing with a very broad scope of work since its inception. The ever increasing and broadly encompassing APEC goals, objectives, priorities, emerging priorities, action plans, action agendas, leaders' instructions, and ministers' instructions make it fairly easy to fit almost any TEL activity in one, or even several, of APEC's/TEL's main objectives. Thus, the issue is not if the working group activities support the main objectives of TEL and APEC, the real issue is focus and prioritisation of priorities to effectively use available resources.

#### TEL has to delimit its scope of work

To help in delimiting its scope of work, TEL should consider answering these questions:

- Does TEL have the capacity to tackle such a broad scope of work?
- What are the real priorities?
- Is such a broad scope necessary to achieve Bogor and Seoul Declaration goals?
- Is TEL doing what needs to be done?
- Should TEL continue being everything for everybody?
- Is TEL dedicating capacity to lines of action that are being taken care of elsewhere?
- Should TEL be an infrastructure enabler or an applications developer?

TEL should conduct a thorough introspection exercise to assess its own execution capacity.

Being everything to all is very difficult and cannot be done effectively neither sustained for long.

TEL is viewed by APEC as the creator and developer of the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII). While understanding that TEL's responsibility since its 1995 mandate has included both infrastructure and applications, there is great benefit in TEL focusing exclusively in infrastructure development. Applications should be the focus of specialists in other fora and TEL should only deal with the technology enabling aspects of such applications when in line with its telecommunications

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<sup>2</sup> Compare for example the case of OECD's widely referenced published material.

mandate i.e.: ICT infrastructure and capacity building, and even then only when such applications are aligned with the group's strategic roadmap.

### **3. Roadmap : Charting TEL's course**

Until now, TEL has tried to adjust its course by modifying its structure. This has been helpful but not enough to cope with its ever-changing and broadening scope of work. And, in the absence of a roadmap, this has led the working group to wander and be distracted from the real priorities.

#### **TEL has to have its own roadmap**

Based on its new delimited scope of work, TEL's goals achievement can be better reached by drawing -and committing to follow- a step by step single roadmap with achievable and specific milestones and middle- and long-term goals. The roadmap should of course address stake-holders' needs. This effort would necessarily call for a TEL's ad-hoc long term vision and planning. Improvements would be brought to shortest-term impact on the ground, longer-breath consistent management of projects and activities, beyond two years, and better handling of emerging priorities without challenging TEL's focus on key longer term ICT projects.

Activities should be prioritised in relation to the roadmap. Ongoing activities would also benefit from this as their relative importance changes through time and revising or closure need to be addressed.

Once the roadmap is drawn, TEL's ToR can be re-drafted to reflect for the new delimited scope and roadmap. The new ToR has to include strategic and tactical measures that describe TEL objectives that render its ToR into actionable items, in fewer and clearer terms, -more in tune with key objectives, short term actions and long term horizon, priority areas of work and mandates turned into workable instructions-. This will better enable TEL to share and materialise its understanding of which activities the working group should be undertaking.

Finding the TEL unique contribution to each stake-holder and to the region is needed and should also be incorporated in its ToR.

It is desirable that TEL seeks clarity and direction from SCE on the relevance of the roadmap to contribute to APEC main goals.

The roadmap will serve as a useful vehicle for clearly articulating medium and longer term tangible outcomes and checking whether they are being achieved.

### **4. Wants & Needs : Understanding stake-holders' expectations**

It is evident from several sources, including the responses to the survey, that different stake-holders have different expectations leading to misconceptions of what TEL is and what it should be doing. These different expectations are driven by the singular wants and needs of each stake-holder. Thus the necessity to understand the benefits sought by each stake-holder when approaching TEL. Recognising stake-holders wants & needs does not imply perfect TEL alignment is possible, but favours dealing with their being different. Finding the TEL unique contribution to each stake-holder is paramount.

#### **TEL has to integrally address stake-holders' needs**

The TEL should carry out a wants & needs assessment based on periodic one to one consultations with each stake-holder, to understand and list the drivers, priorities and expectations that regulate the way they relate with the TEL. The opportunity should be also taken to clarify misconceptions, while developing specific TEL-stake-holder milestones that would feed back into the aforementioned roadmap. Impact on the ground and associated benefits would be greatly enhanced as well as the overall stake-holders' perception of value.

The way to perform the consultations will vary depending on the kind of stake-holder; for member economies it can be one-to-one dialogues, or through surveys or roundtables. For the academia, private sector and user groups the consultation could follow TEL's proven mechanisms in place, such

as the periodical dialogues and roundtables which have been successful in eliciting these stakeholder's wants & needs.

In particular, understanding and tending to the needs of developing economies will enable TEL to help them achieve their development agendas and increase their perception of value in participating in TEL. The working group could gain insight when exploring further collaboration with international development agencies and organisations. Once the needs of the different stake-holders have been assessed, these must be used to guide the delimitation of TEL's scope of work and its roadmap. In tending to stake-holders needs, TEL should also take into consideration the stake-holder's execution capacity before committing an entry into TEL's roadmap.

## **5. Inside TEL : Running smoothly**

Most TEL processes work well and some are even considered as best practises or models for other APEC fora, a few other are still subject to improvement, streamlining or fine tuning.

### **TEL has to further streamline processes**

Setting standard operating processes in place, that incorporate current best practices is needed. The best way to do this is by means of reviewing, improving and streamlining TEL's processes and then porting them into intranet web applications that become the single way of doing things. The latter should also address the additional functionality being asked for by members. All processes involving information gathering, submittal, review, follow-up, reference, etc. would be greatly simplified, thus also alleviating the lack of continuity and disconnects resulting from the rotation of people occupying the different roles involved, with the additional benefit of an increased economies' responsiveness and participation.

Project related processes (proposal, evaluation, approval, funding, life-cycle overseeing, adequate project termination reports and publication), meeting co-ordination, programme director functions, information search and retrieval are key processes that lend themselves to the intranet approach. The recently created Project Management Unit (PMU) should also be leveraged.

Due to outcomes of other meetings like TELMIN, and due to late submissions, there is valuable time spent during TEL meetings to analyse and reach agreement on these topics. Thus EXCOMM and HoDs should hold a -virtual- meeting prior to TEL's to ensure that these are gauged against the roadmap.

Creative mechanisms need to be set in place in an organisation as vertical as APEC's, for collaboration to happen among its horizontal working groups. Aligning SOM and TEL through the attendance of TEL's shepherds to SOM meetings is, of all other alignment concerns, that of the most impact regarding joint collaboration and timely awareness of other APEC fora initiatives and of Leaders' and Ministers' forward vision.

An approved job description and additional role empowerment are necessary, as the programme director is key to identify possible duplication of efforts among fora, assess coherence between TEL and APEC working directions and facilitate TEL with APEC resources. It also has a relevant role in the flow of information of TEL within APEC and its outreach, therefore is the natural liaison with APEC stake-holders and interested parties.

TEL's website should be revised, updated and organised in such a way that information can be found easily through advanced search mechanisms. This set-up would allow HoDs and EXCOMM to rapidly compare project proposals with activities already accomplished in previous meetings to avoid duplication or deviation from the goals and objectives.

The project overseer, in conjunction with the project proposing economy, should prepare a final report at the end of each project clearly stating the conclusions attained, the list of participants/attendees, evaluations of the project itself from the attendees, identifiable outcomes, identifiable impact, and suggestions for the betterment of future projects. This information cannot be found at the AIMP, it should be part of the database.



The AIMP database has to be thoroughly reworked and reorganised making sure that all projects and their information are entered. Project information shall also include participating and attending economies and individuals, a comprehensive project completion report, an impact assessment, attendees' feedback, project overseer comments and suggestions, and links to specific project deliverables as well as any additional project info such as the ranking sheet. Full-text search capabilities must be integrated. Furthermore, projects in the AIMP should be classified/indexed to relate them to specific items on TEL's strategic roadmap.

## COMPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS TO TEL

### Projects

1. While reviewing for compliance of new project proposals against TEL's established processes and procedures, it was observed that none of the APEC TEL39 submittals, as listed in the website, met established deadlines. As indicated in the survey by member economies, *"Economies point out that the use of proven standard documents and procedures is falling behind. Timely handling of the inherently high volume of communications is not helped by this, nor communications happening shortly before meetings as a result of late projects submissions. Thus proposal circulation, agenda discussion (HoDs) and other activities find members hard pressed in time and affect meeting effectiveness, hindering outcome potential."* TEL should abide by its established processes and procedures.

### Gender

2. Even though gender consideration is seemingly taken into consideration, more creative ways are required to promote a much more proactive and integral participation of women in TEL's activities, with particular emphasis from the very inception of projects, by design and not only to comply.
3. A review of most TEL project proposals, in the section where gender applicability is requested, shows "does not apply", "not applicable" or "no impact". Among the steps that TEL activities should take to ensure benefiting gender are: include women in the planning, management, allocation of resources and implementation, making special efforts to disseminate activities results to women and using sex-disaggregated data for activity assessment. Activities have to show how their objectives benefit women and APEC Ministers have indicated that benefits might include increasing the involvement of women in the economy and economic institutions and reducing gender inequalities through education and training.

### Internal Communications

4. TEL should approach ABAC again to reactivate ABAC's intention to create a telecommunications and information committee within its own organisation, originally meant to collaborate with TEL, as it could become a formal communication channel of value while clearly eliciting private sector interests.
5. Interest aroused in the GOS Chair by the well received presentation on liberalisation that TEL's deputy convenor on LSG recently made<sup>3</sup> shows a way to trigger other fora collaboration that could become a best practice.

### Roadmap

6. The Vision Statement and Policy Objectives TEL's document should be revisited in light of the evolving nature of telecommunications and information sectors, as well as the APEC strategies being adopted since acknowledgement of the REI and SR.

### Outreach

7. Making TEL's reports more appealing by leveraging APEC's Secretariat Communications and Press department and learning from OECD's successful experience, would render these better suited for marketing and reference.

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<sup>3</sup> As reported in TEL 39 LSG report.

### **Closing remark**

Bringing to fruition the above recommendations, TEL will be able to fulfil the “endeavour to make the telecommunications and information sector a ‘model’ sector in achieving the goals set by the APEC economic leaders at Bogor”.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Joint Statement TELMIN1, May 29-30, 1995 in Seoul, Korea.

## Independent Assessment of the ECOTECH Implementation of APEC Working Groups and SOM Taskforces: Energy Working Group

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<b>Recommendations to SCE</b>				
<p><b>Recommendation SCE1.</b> As a matter of urgency, the SCE should initiate a project to carry out a review of the performance measures for ECOTECH activities currently used in APEC economies with the aim of identifying suitable principles for measuring the performance of APEC fora. SCE should then establish and publish guidelines for use by individual APEC fora in developing specific performance measures appropriate to their activities.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We support this recommendation. The development of robust performance measure benchmarks is essential for a meaningful assessment of the effectiveness of APEC subfora.</p> <p>Agree with suggested action for SCE, this should not detract from the drafting of the Framework for ECOTECH activities in APEC fora. Also agree with Secretariat's view about forum performance</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> Although this recommendation is valuable, it may be neither urgent nor desirable to implement it immediately.</p> <p>It is our view that revisiting this recommendation after the completion of the Framework for ECOTECH activities in APEC and the development of an action-oriented, forward-looking comprehensive ECOTECH work plan could add more value to the entire</p>	<p>SCE to revisit this recommendation after the completion of the Framework for ECOTECH activities in APEC and its work plan. .</p>	<p>Intersessionally before SCE1 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>process than its immediate implementation.</p> <p>In particular, the development of the ECOTECH work plan will be essential to have a better understanding about its impact in other SCE processes or activities that may also need to be revised, improved, implemented or developed to facilitate the measurement or monitoring progress on ECOTECH activities in APEC fora.</p> <p>It is also useful to note that the performance of a forum is not necessarily linked to the <i>performance</i> of activities. There may be value in assessing how a fora carried out its project responsibilities, but the effect of the project may not have any relevance to the performance/effectiveness of the fora itself.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation SCE2.</b> To support the development of longer-term strategic plans by APEC fora, the SCE should provide longer-term guidance on priorities, rather than an announcement of annual priorities at the SCE February meeting.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We support this recommendation. Longer-term guidance on priorities from SCE would also be helpful to subfora in making their longer term strategic planning.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> This recommendation addresses two key elements that SCE is already taken into considering as part of its initiative to Strengthen ECOTECH activities in APEC: (i) longer-term strategic plans by APEC Fora; and, (ii) SCE long-term guidance on priorities.</p>	<p>SCE to implement this recommendation.</p> <p>(i) SCE to take into consideration the template to be presented in the consultancy report to BMC and the SCE strategic and longer-term priorities in developing the new standardised work plan template to</p>	<p>(i) by middle of December 2009</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>Regarding the first issue, the SCE currently requests SCE related Fora to submit Annual Work Plans in a standardized template for consideration and approval at the first SCE meeting of the year.</p> <p>Given the BMC work on multiyear projects and ongoing SCE work, it is compelling for the SCE to develop a new standardize work plan template to guide APEC fora in preparing longer-term strategic plans, including clear priorities, objectives and specific actions against which to measure or monitor progress periodically.</p> <p>It is expected that the consultant engaged by the BMC to analyze and recommend possible ways to establish an effective system of categorizing and ranking projects will propose a template in the consultancy report to BMC in July 2009. SCE could take into consideration the template in developing the new standardised work plan template to guide APEC fora in preparing an action oriented and multiyear (longer-term) strategic plans.</p> <p>Regarding the long-term priorities, the SCE endorsed new SCE Policy Criteria in March. In his letter to BMC and Chairs/Lead shepherds, the SCE Chair informed that: 1) the SCE Policy Criteria for funding in 2009 was an interim solution; 2) the SCE will review the Policy Criteria periodically to timely reflect shifts in</p>	<p>guide APEC fora in preparing an action oriented and multiyear (longer-term) strategic plans.</p> <p>(ii) SCE to agree on more strategic and longer-term priorities.</p>	<p>(ii) SCE Core Group to circulate the first draft on more strategic and longer-term priorities by the end of August for further consideration and SCE endorsement before CSOM in November.</p>	

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>funding priorities; and, 3) the SCE will wait for the outcomes of the consultancy commissioned by the BMC and the stocktakes/surveys on capacity building needs to inform its decision on a longer-term approach. It is expected that the consultants will present the final report to BMC in July this year.</p> <p>SCE Core Group members also agreed that there is scope to refine the SCE prioritisation procedure further.</p> <p>As a next step, the SCE, through the Chair, is seeking feedback from the SPAP and SCE fora applying for APEC funding with the aim of potentially strengthening the criteria ahead of the third project proposal submission deadline (4 September) and informing the Budget Management Committee (BMC) work on project assessment and ranking.</p> <p>SCE Core Group and interested economies could further discuss intersessionally the 2009 SCE policy criteria jointly with the outcomes of the stocktakes on capacity building needs and the consultant's report to BMC2 in July.</p> <p>SCE Core Group could then propose recommendations for SCE consideration to strengthening the policy criteria that could be used to provide APEC fora with longer-term guidance on priorities.</p>			

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<p><b>Recommendation SCE3.</b> To remove a major barrier to collaboration with other international organisations, the SCE should recommend that the Senior Officers' Meeting eliminate or streamline the lengthy approval processes involved in APEC for a member attending meetings of other international organisations, and in APEC fora jointly sponsoring activities with other international organisations.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We support to enhance the links between APEC and other international organizations, making full use of each party's advantages. Bearing that in mind, SCE has approved many activities aiming at strengthening links and working relations between APEC and other international organizations, and we are happy to see the closer relations for the two parties. The SCE approval process has proved to be effective and smooth, and should be maintained in the future.</p> <p>The revised guidelines have streamlined the process. The new system could be reviewed if further issues are identified.</p> <p>It is up to SOM to decide if APEC would formulate new guidelines on interactions with other international organizations. Without prior authorization from SOM, SCE should not take action in this regard. This should be made clear to the Independent Consultant, as well as to the APEC fora.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> It is important to note that APEC has two different procedures to collaborate with other International Organizations (IO).</p> <p>One for the participation of IO's representatives in APEC activities and other for APEC</p>	None		Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>representatives to participate in IO's activities.</p> <p>The Revised Consolidated Guidelines on Non-member Participation in APEC Activities are followed to approve the participation of IO in APEC activities.</p> <p>Non-member participation in APEC activities was discussed by SOM in 2008 and they recommended revising the guidelines to extend the trial period to delegate the authority to APEC fora to invite non-members to participate in their activities for the period 2009-2011. The trial period for three years initiated in 2003 and was extended in 2005 and 2008.</p> <p>The Revised Guidelines were approved by the 20<sup>th</sup> APEC Ministerial Meeting in Lima on 19-20 November 2008.</p> <p>For APEC's participation in IO's meetings or activities, APEC does not have clear written guidelines. APEC fora have followed the practice to request Senior Official's approval after consensus has been reached within the relevant APEC Fora.</p> <p>According to the APEC Secretariat's records, over the past two years, Senior Officials have only disapproved one request from APEC Fora to participate in other IO's meetings or events (MTF requests not approved in 26 May 2009).</p>			



Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<p><b>Recommendation SCE4.</b> The SCE should consider allowing exemptions from its recommendation that a two-year fixed term arrangement be put in place for all lead shepherds when it is clear that significant benefits in relation to the stability and reliability of support would result from one economy carrying out the Lead Shepherd and Secretariat role for an APEC forum over a lengthy period.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We understand that the current arrangement endorsed in 2007 is that each APEC working group and subfora should select a Lead Shepherd/Chair, who will have a minimum two-year term (two calendar years), and no more than two consecutive two-year terms. We believe that the objective is to enhance wider participation and shared leadership, and that subfora should adhere to the rule as far as possible. That said, given that every working group has its own characteristic, we understand that should one finds it necessary to have a chair with a longer term, the group concerned could ask for exemption from the SCE. We trust this would be better than revising the present rule.</p> <p>We support continuance of the rule for reasons outlined in members' comments. Note that exemptions have been allowed if considered appropriate (e.g. ACT – annual chairs).</p> <p>Yes to the member economy's suggestion. No revision to the TOR for Lead Shepherds, but allows exception.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> Additional information about the arrangement mentioned by this member economy can be found in our Guidelines for Lead Shepherd/Chair and Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC working groups and</p>	None		Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	SOM task forces endorsed by the SCE in 2007.			
<b>Recommendations to BMC</b>				
<p><b>Recommendation BMC1.</b> To provide greater transparency and opportunities for feedback, the BMC should consider whether the weightings of various components of project scores assigned by the Project Management Unit and BMC could be clearly stated at the start of each project proposal cycle and whether more time could be allowed for revision of project proposals between the initial evaluation by the PMU and the final decision whether to fund a project.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We note the disappointment of the EWG in the last project approval cycle. Is there any particular area EWG has difficulties with? If so, the BMC and PMU could provide clarification or if necessary, review the assessment criteria of that particular area. For example, the BMC reviewed the assessment criteria of gender in 2008. With the introduction of four project approval cycles each year as from 2010, it is expected that the approval sessions will be closely adhered to each other and it would be probably difficult to allow more time for subfora to revise their project proposals. Project proponents may wish to closely consult the project guidelines as well as the Secretariat in developing their proposals to reduce the need to substantially revise the proposals afterwards.</p> <p>The weightings were clearly stated prior to BMC's second round of project funding. The broader issue of ranking and categorization is also being considered by consultants. Agree BMC could review the time allowed for revision of project proposals as part of its review of the new intersessional project approval system.</p>	None (BMC and the APEC Secretariat work on this area is already ongoing)		Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>BMC has done something in this area.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> The BMC and the APEC Secretariat are already discussing these and other relevant elements to improve future project approval sessions.</p> <p>The Secretariat distributed to all APEC fora the timeline and quality criteria, including weighting, for assessing APEC projects - 2<sup>nd</sup> Approval Session in 2009.</p> <p>Regarding past weightings of each assessment criteria, there is no documentation indicating BMC's consideration of the relative weighting of each of the criteria. The weightings applied through the 2008 sessions and first approval session this year were agreed to in the Project Management Unit (PMU), rather than BMC, and posted on the PDB via the assessment sheets.</p> <p>The Secretariat is seeking BMC's direction as to the relative weightings of assessment criteria that should be applied for future sessions and is very willing to contribute to the BMC Small Working Group's work on this matter.</p> <p>The Secretariat is also seeking greater clarity about how BMC would like intersessional approvals to operate, including timeframes for</p>			

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	revisions.			
<p><b>Recommendation BMC2.</b> The BMC should consider whether it would be possible for APEC fora to have a larger role in deciding which projects are funded each year.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We understand that the APEC fora's suggestions, particularly the project's ranking in the fora, had been fully taken into account during BMC's decision making process in funding projects. The APEC Senior Officials have directed BMC to better manage the limited resources of the APEC fund, and the PMU in the APEC Secretariat has been established to achieve this goal. It is desirable if the PMU could have more consultations with APEC fora in deciding APEC funding projects.</p> <p>No. This would undermine APEC's ability to fund only top priority and top quality projects. Fora need to show how their projects contribute to APEC's broader objectives.</p> <p>Let BMC decide who should have a larger role in project funding.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> BMC commissioned a consultant to analyze and recommend possible ways to establish an effective system of categorizing and ranking projects. The final report will be submitted for formal consideration at the July 2009 BMC2 meeting.</p> <p>The BMC will inform continuous improvements in the categorizing, ranking and approval</p>	None (BMC and the APEC Secretariat work on this area is already ongoing)		Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	process to Lead shepherds and Chairs.			
<p><b>Recommendation BMC3.</b> During its deliberations about focusing the project approval process on more strategic and longer-term projects, the BMC should consider developing more appropriate funding arrangements for APEC fora activities that are ongoing rather than discrete time-limited projects.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We understand that BMC has commissioned a consultant to look at project management, including the funding arrangements for long-term strategic projects.</p> <p>Yes. A US-led BMC Small Working Group has been commissioned to do this.</p> <p>Waiting for the result of BMC and the APEC Secretariat ongoing research.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> A number of project management reforms were endorsed by APEC Ministers in Lima. As a result, 2009 has been a transition year as APEC prepares for three to four project approval sessions in 2010, and the introduction of new project management approaches.</p> <p>BMC also commissioned a consultant to develop an effective mechanism for the approval and implementation of multi-year projects. The final report will be presented to BMC2 in July.</p> <p>The BMC Chair will inform the outcomes of BMC2 meeting on this area to Lead shepherds and Chairs.</p>	None (BMC and the APEC Secretariat work on this area is already ongoing)		Yes

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<b>Recommendation to EBN</b>				
<p><b>Recommendation EBN1</b> (page 24). To attract larger numbers of industry representatives, the Energy Business Network (EBN) should consider hosting more events focused on information sharing, discussion of current issues and decision making.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> Industry representatives from one APEC member economy commented that the participation rate of business representatives at the EBN in regular meeting agendas has declined in recent years.</p> <p>Participation by business representatives in meetings at diverse locations is time consuming. They recommend that EBN meetings be held every second EWG meeting in more easily accessible locations than is the current practice.</p> <p>Development of best practices by the EBN and their adoption by the EWG has been a valuable exercise, but the implementation and follow-up by individual economies has been patchy. Industry representatives are afraid that the recent adoption of the APEC Energy Trade and Investment Action Plan will suffer from similar inattention.</p> <p>They are also concerned that the EWG may have very little involvement in climate policy development when close industry/government collaboration across borders is called for.</p> <p>EWG has had significant influence in assisting the development of APEC economies' energy policy, but has lacked meaningful cross border</p>	<p>EWG and EBN to discuss the recommendation from the consultant and to take into consideration the concerns from the Industry.</p>	<p>EWG to report progress to SCE 1 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	projects which would provide the basis for more efficient markets across the region, most especially in the development of gas pipelines and grid interconnections, which would assist development of integrated energy markets in the region.			
<b>Recommendations to EWG</b>				
<b>Recommendation EWG1.</b> The EWG should develop robust performance measures to assess the effectiveness and impact of its work. These performance measures should be compatible with any relevant guidelines published by the SCE.		EWG to wait for SCE decision on this issue after the completion of the Framework for ECOTECH activities in APEC and its work plan.		Yes
<b>Recommendation EWG2.</b> To ensure that the EWG proactively responds to both directives and instructions from APEC Leaders and Ministers and to new challenges facing the energy sector in the APEC region, the EWG Secretariat should work with APEC economies and EWG subfora to develop a new format and content for the EWG Work Plan that provides a specific, proactive and forward looking schedule of work to be carried out over rolling periods of a minimum of two years into the future.	<p><u>Member economy</u> It is a very useful recommendation. Having such a plan would lead to more project proposals focused on the priorities of Ministers and Leaders. It would also facilitate the prioritization and selection process for project proposals.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> SCE currently requests APEC SCE related Fora to submit their Annual Work Plan in a standardized template for consideration and approval at the first SCE meeting of the year.</p> <p>It is recommended that SCE ceases this</p>	EWG to wait for SCE to develop a new standardised work plan template to guide APEC fora in preparing an action oriented and multiyear (longer-term) strategic plan.	EWG to submit work plan in new format by SCE1 in 2010.	Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	request and develop a new standardize work plan template to guide APEC Fora in preparing longer-term strategic plans, including clear priorities, objectives and specific actions against which to measure or monitor progress periodically.			
<p><b>Recommendation EWG3.</b> The EWG Secretariat should consult with APEC economies to determine whether it is necessary to establish a mechanism, additional to Energy Ministers' meetings, that will enable the rapid formulation of APEC-wide policy responses to urgent issues that arise in the APEC region energy sector.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We have some concerns that creating an additional mechanism may be somewhat onerous for the EWG.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> EWG to further discuss this recommendation and, if necessary, priority should be given to streamline the EWG structure and improve policy making process rather than establishing a new mechanism.</p> <p>EWG could explore alternative ways to respond to the rapid formulation of APEC-wide policy responses to urgent issues that arise in the APEC region energy sector. A sample could be to form <i>ad hoc groups</i> that will not physically meet but will intensify the use of the AIMP, video or teleconferences.</p>	EWG to further discuss this recommendation and, if necessary, consider/propose alternative ways to enable the group to rapidly respond to urgent issues in this sector.	EWG to report decision or progress to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation EWG4.</b> The EWG Secretariat should consult with APEC economies about the advisability of establishing a schedule of economies responsible for hosting Energy Ministers'</p>	<p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> In February, SCE members noted that the SMEWG27 meeting would not be organized in April as originally scheduled due to unexpected circumstances in Thailand. The United States</p>	EWG to wait for SCE decision regarding the APEC Secretariat's paper on this issue.	EWG to submit the schedule of host meetings to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes



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meetings for up to 10 years in advance.	<p>proposed that SCE should look at the issue of meeting schedule to avoid similar cases in the future.</p> <p>The APEC Secretariat is preparing a paper on current practices in APEC working groups to select host economies for future Ministerial or working group meetings. The paper will include suggestions on how to develop the schedule for groups that not have developed one yet. It will be circulated intersessionally for SCE consideration/approval. SCE would inform all Leadshepherds and Chairs before/after SCE2.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation EWG5.</b> The EWG Secretariat should consider alternative ways to organise the five-day EWG meeting period so as to maximise the time available for information sharing, for discussion and debate about relevant issues, and for economy representatives to work together making decisions to achieve specific results.</p>	<p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> In 2006, as part of the APEC Fora Review, the SCE endorsed the recommendation 12 related to <i>Recommendation for Improving Working Arrangements</i>. One of the recommendations is that all fora minimize events and meeting schedules and ensure they are well timed, consistent with APEC processes, and well targeted to ensure relevant participation</p> <p>It is important to note that Indonesia is already preparing to host the next EWG meeting in Bali prior to the AMM and AELM according to the current meeting schedule. The EWG could take into consideration this recommendation in preparations for the first meeting in 2010.</p>	EWG to implement this recommendation.	EWG to report to SCE2 in 2010.	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation EWG6.</b> The EWG Secretariat should consult with the Expert</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We support this recommendation. Perhaps one</p>	EWG to further discuss this	EWG to report progress to SCE2 in	Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
Group and Task Force Chairs to develop and propose to the next EWG meeting a mechanism to achieve closer interaction between the EWG and the activities of those EWG subfora with broadly-specified mandates, specifically EGCFE, EGEE&C and EGNRET.	back-to-back meeting each year could be considered.	recommendation together with recommendation EWG5 and implement it.	2010.	
<b>Recommendation EWG7.</b> The EWG Secretariat should work with EGEDA and APERC to establish a mechanism whereby APEC economy representatives can provide increased input and oversight of the subject selection process for APERC research projects.		EWG to further discuss and implement this recommendation.	EWG to report progress to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes
<b>Recommendation EWG8.</b> The EWG should encourage the management of APERC to take action to retain locally appointed skilled research staff.		EWG to further discuss this recommendation.	EWG to report outcomes of discussion to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes
<b>Recommendation EWG9.</b> APEC economies should work with the management of APERC to ensure that suitable skilled research staff are available for secondment to APERC.		EWG to further discuss this recommendation.	EWG to report outcomes of discussion to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes
<b>Recommendation EWG10.</b> The EWG Secretariat should continue its efforts to improve the dissemination of the results of EWG projects.	Member economies Yes. The APEC Secretariat should also play an increasing role for that purpose.	EWG to implement this recommendation.	EWG to report to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<p><b>Recommendation EWG11.</b> The EWG Secretariat should provide more specific information to the membership of the Energy Business Network about the lead times required in preparing material for tabling at Energy Ministers' meetings and about the role of the EBN at Energy Ministers' meetings.</p>		EWG to implement this recommendation.	EWG to report to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation EWG12.</b> The EWG Secretariat should initiate a major review of the APEC Energy Security Initiative, particularly to determine whether the current structure for handling long-term energy security issues is still relevant and appropriate.</p>		EWG to further discuss this recommendation.	EWG to report outcomes of discussion to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation EWG13.</b> The EWG Secretariat should consider allocating additional resources to assist in establishing collaborative activities between the EWG and international energy organisations and between the EWG and other APEC fora.</p>	<p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> SCE is currently considering the recommendations from the Policy Dialogue on APEC's Engagement with Multilateral Organisations held in Singapore in February this year.</p> <p>It is recommended that the EWG takes into consideration SCE recommendations to further discuss its collaborative activities with international energy organisations.</p> <p>Regarding EWG collaboration with other APEC fora, last year the SCE agreed that the Committee should not seek to micro-manage how SCE fora collaborate with each other and</p>	EWG to further discuss this recommendation and implement this recommendation.	EWG to report to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	SCE should encourage greater communication between fora.			
<p><b>Recommendation EWG14.</b> The EWG Secretariat should consider whether modifications are required to the EWG's process for determining its strategic direction and priorities, particularly to enable the EWG to respond to the impact of the global financial crisis on the energy sector in the APEC region.</p>		EWG to further discuss this recommendation.	EWG to report to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation EWG15.</b> The EWG Secretariat should increase its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is achieved in all EWG activities.</p>		EWG to implement this recommendation in close consultation with the GFPN.	EWG to report progress to SCE1 in 2010.	Yes
<p><b>Recommendation EWG16.</b> The EWG Secretariat, in conjunction with the APEC Secretariat and the APEC economies, should carry out a review to determine whether all the current EWG Secretariat functions should be carried out by Australia, or whether some functions could be transferred to other bodies, such as to the EWG Program Director in the APEC Secretariat, or to other APEC economies.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> The APEC Secretariat should provide increasing assistance to the EWG work, particularly in the transitional period of change-hand the EWG Secretariat</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> Australia handed over the EWG Leadership to the United States at the last EWG meeting held in Santiago in April. Australia and the United States are working to ensure a smooth transition in the leadership and EWG Secretariat roles prior to the next meeting.</p>	None		Yes

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE, BMC, or EWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	The APEC Secretariat to provide assistance to the EWG work as required by EWG Lead Shepherd and member economies.			
<p><b>Recommendation EWG17.</b> In concluding this independent assessment of the APEC Energy Working Group, it is recommended that the EWG should continue and should not be terminated or merged with any other APEC forum and that the EWG's Terms of Reference should remain as currently formulated.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> We support this recommendation.</p>	EWG to note this recommendation.		Yes

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**Independent Assessment of the ECOTECH Implementation of APEC Working Groups and  
SOM Taskforces: Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group and  
High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology**

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/ HLPDAB	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<p><b>Improvement of Project Information on APEC Project Database.</b></p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> We fully support this recommendation.</p> <p>Projects are the main output and focus of the ATCWG, and play an important role in the HLPDAB. The database is critical in submitting projects for APEC consideration, and is the only mechanism to track projects' progress and results. Despite this, the database's design and function has been impediment to collaboration on projects. It is also very difficult to use the database as a mechanism to report on project results, and enable other project overseers to design projects that complement / advance the findings of previous projects.</p> <p>We agree with the recommendation, and note that the Secretariat and BMC are already working on improving project information on APEC Project Database (PDB).</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> At BMC3 in 2008, the Secretariat presented an initiative to upgrading the PDB of the APEC</p>	<p>None (APEC Secretariat and BMC work already ongoing)</p>		<p>Yes</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/ HLPDAB	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>Information Management Portal (AIMP).</p> <p>At BMC1 in 2009, to ensure the upgrading efforts are in line with the recommendations of BMC Small Working Group (SWG) on Project Management Reform, the Secretariat proposed to re-scope the upgrade of the PDB and AIMP to prevent unnecessary work/resources being expended on issues that might become obsolete, irrelevant and/or substantially changed.</p> <p>It is important to note that the consultants engaged by the BMC reviewed recommendations in previous APEC fora independent assessment reports, related to the PDB and concerns expressed will be taken into consideration while upgrading the PDB.</p> <p>In addition, the APEC Training Assistance and Training Facility (TATF) staff will fully review the final report and recommendations of the consultants and prepare an analysis of recommendations related to the APEC Secretariat IT systems, including the Project Database and highlight gaps that the TATF may be able to fill.</p> <p>BMC and the APEC Secretariat will keep members informed on progress in this area.</p>			
<b>Merge the ATCWG and the HLPDAB</b>	<u>Member economies</u> We do not support this recommendation.	(i) ATCWG and HLPDAB to continue	ATCWG to report to SCE 2 in 2010.	Yes



Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/HLPDAB	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>Merger could significantly impact the quality of engagement in the HLPDAB. It would give the ATCWG a dominating focus on biotechnology that could negatively impact its other work in agricultural capacity building. The two organizations have very different focus. A policy dialogue is significantly different than a technical one. Merger would likely result in disjointed discussions and unclear outcomes for both bodies. Merger is not necessary to improve the integration between these organizations, and the results for economies. Merger would significantly reduce the financial and technical support from the Convenor, and consequently the HLPDAB's results. The HLPDAB is a well functioning forum which member economies would continue to benefit from on-going discussion within the HLPDAB.</p> <p>In recommending a merger, the Assessment fails to take into account the recent improvements and modifications to the HLPDAB and ATCWG, as well as the differences in the responsibilities and expertise of the personnel who participate in these meetings.</p> <p>We note that the HLPDAB and ATCWG have worked diligently to address many of the original concerns of the APEC SCE and have implemented several mechanisms to improve cross-communications.</p>	<p>implementing current and new measures to improve the collaboration between both groups;</p> <p>(ii) ATCWG and HLPDAB to review the complete report and take into consideration the strengths and weaknesses identified to improve their work and efficiency; and,</p> <p>(iii) ATCWG and HLPDAB to take solid steps to ensure the high level participation of delegates attending the HLPDAB and the number of member economies attending the ATCWG.</p> <p>(iv) ATCWG and HLPDAB to consider holding a back to back meeting.</p>		

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/HLPDAB	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>Since 2006, both the ATCWG and the HLPDAB have improved their cross-communication on the issue of agricultural biotechnology. Both groups now have a representative at each other's annual meetings to learn of ongoing activities. In addition, these representatives are required to provide readouts of their respective group's biotechnology activities during the year.</p> <p>Also to improve communication and attendance for APEC discussions on agricultural biotechnology, the RDEAB and HLPDAB are now held consecutively at SOM I allowing for attendance at both meetings. This scheduling change was also to meet one of the suggested requirements of the SCE.</p> <p>We are concerned with the lack of a quorum at past ATCWG meetings.</p> <p>We do not support the merger of the ATCWG and HLPDAB. We agree with the proposed (4) actions to improve the work and efficiency of the two fora; their collaboration, including back-to-back meetings; and the level participation in fora meetings.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> SCE members may wish to request ATCWG and HLPDAB to continue implementing current and new measures to improve the collaboration between both groups and</p>			

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/ HLPDAB	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>recommend them to review the complete report and take into consideration the strengths and weaknesses identified to improve their work and efficiency.</p> <p>Members may also wish to request that both groups should take solid steps to ensure the high level participation of delegates attending the HLPDAB and the number of member economies attending the ATCWG.</p> <p>SCE members may also wish to consider suggesting SOM to look into the HLPDAB leadership to ensure that more members assume the role and responsibility and to enhance wider participation and shared leadership.</p> <p>Regarding the concern about the lack of quorum, the APEC Secretariat is currently preparing a paper for SOM consideration, most probably at SOM2, addressing a few issues in relation to APEC fora viability taken into consideration the decision welcomed by Ministers in 2005 regarding the recommendations to pursue <i>Higher Efficiency through Better Coordination</i>, including, among others, that APEC fora should be disbanded if a group does not attract a quorum of more than 14 members (2/3 of APEC membership) at two consecutive meetings.</p>			

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/HLPDAB	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<p><b>Revisit the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB and refocus its priorities from the original seven to five</b></p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> The ATCWG has already voted to reduce the number of subject areas from seven to five, improving the group's focus for future activities.</p> <p>We fully support amending the ATCWG's terms of reference to reflect the new priorities.</p> <p>We agree with the recommendation and proposed action.</p>	<p>ATCWG to amend its terms of reference.</p>	<p>ATCWG to submit revised TOR for SCE endorsement at SCE1 in 2010</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Adopt as a Policy to make the APEC Food System (AFS) as the operational framework of the merged ATCWG-HLPDAB and other Working Groups related to Food and Science</b></p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> This recommendation goes beyond the mandate provided by the SCE. Before this recommendation could be implemented the ATCWG would require extensive guidance from senior levels as to what outputs and results would be expected of it to deliver on the AFS.</p> <p>The recommendation to merge the two bodies to support the AFS is premature for three reasons 1) the Assessment was not asked to consider a merger of the ATCWG and the HLPDAB; 2) the Assessment was not asked to evaluate the implementation of the AFS; and 3) the Assessor did not take into account the most recent directives from APEC Senior Officials, Ministers, and Leaders.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> Regarding the scope of work of this assessment, in the project proposal SCE</p>	<p>(i) SCE member to further discuss the need to seek clear guidance from SOM and SOM FOTC on Food Security regarding the current support to pursue the overall APEC Food System.</p> <p>(ii) SCE to further guide ATCWG and other relevant Fora on the AFS.</p>	<p>Intersessionally/ SCE2 in July/ or after SCE2.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/ HLPDAB	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>01/2007/016 approved by SCE and BMC, it is stated that:</p> <p>In 2006, the SCE For a Review identified the ACTWG and HLPDAB as groups for initial independent assessments due to concerns about their effectiveness. The ATCWG has had poor attendance in recent years and concerns have been raised about its interaction with HLPDAB. Recommendation 2 of the review recommended that further consideration be given to merging the two fora. As a first step, an independent assessment would be undertaken and include a critical assessment of the option to merge the ATCWG with the HLPDAB, and, if applicable, to prepare a plan for merging the fora from 2008 onwards.</p> <p>With regard the AFS, SOM FOTC on Food Security has developed a Work Plan on Food Security and each fora are currently tasked to review it. This should assist in ATCWG's implementation of the food security dimension of the APEC Food System. SCE member may wish to further discuss the need to seek clear guidance from SOM and SOM FOTC on Food Security regarding the current support to pursue the overall APEC Food System which fundamentally advocates a more integrated regional market on food.</p> <p>Guidance from SOM would assist SCE to further guide ATCWG and other relevant Fora</p>			

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Action suggested by SCE	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/ HLPDAB	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	on the AFS.			
<b>Enhance the Participation of the Private Sector and International Organizations in the Newly Merged ATCWG-HLPDAB</b>	<p><u>Member economies</u> We fully support the engagement of other organizations and sectors.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> SCE is currently considering the recommendations from the Policy Dialogue on APEC's Engagement with Multilateral Organisations held in Singapore in February this year.</p> <p>SCE may wish to suggest that the ATCWG and HLPDAB take into consideration SCE recommendations to further discuss its collaborative activities with relevant international organisations.</p> <p>SCE will inform all Chairs/Lead Shepherds about the decision on the Dialogue's recommendations.</p> <p>ATCWG to adopt measure to engage the private sector in its activities.</p>	<p>(i) ATCWG and HLPDAB take into consideration SCE recommendations to further discuss its collaborative activities with relevant international organisations.</p> <p>(ii) ATCWG to adopt measure to engage the private sector in its activities.</p>	ATCWG to report to SCE 2 in 2010.	Yes
<b>Initiate the Holding of Agriculture / Food Ministerial Meeting</b>	<p><u>Member economies</u> A possible Agriculture/Food Ministerial meeting should be driven by the genuine substance (i.e. its objectives and expected outputs), rather than wishful expectation to draw the interests of relevant ministers. It should also bear in mind that a similar proposal was not supported</p>	SCE members to further discuss this recommendation and seek guidance from SOM and SOM FOTC on Food Security.	Intersessionally	Yes

<b>Recommendations by Independent Assessor</b>	<b>Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat</b>	<b>Action suggested by SCE</b>	<b>Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by ATCWG/HLPDAB</b>	<b>Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)</b>
	<p>by SOM in the discussion over the revision of the APEC Food System last year.</p> <p>We need to give further consideration to this recommendation.</p>			

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## Independent Assessment of the ECOTECH Implementation of APEC Working Groups and SOM Taskforces: Industrial Science and Technology Working Group

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<b>Recommendations to SCE</b>				
<p><b>Recommendation to SCE 1.</b> Call for a meeting of APEC Ministers in charge of Science and Technology in the near future. Such a meeting is necessary to consolidate the changes promoted by this set of recommendations and to give a new impetus to the activities of the ISTWG. It would be held soon after the implementation of the reform of the ISTWG.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u></p> <p>1. Before calling for a ministers' meeting, it should be discussed in SOM first to find a way to give a new impetus to the ISTWG activities.</p> <p>2. We do not see the necessity of holding an APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology in the immediate future, for up to now there are no urgent or pressing agenda for APEC S&amp;T Ministers to discuss. Since last year, many APEC economies have been plagued by global financial crisis. Governments have to cut their budget to cope with the revenue reduction. As a result, they have to reduce their international travels. Under the circumstances, it would be unwise to propose an additional APEC Ministerial Meeting.</p> <p>3. Noting that some members have reservations on holding an S&amp;T Ministerial Meeting, we agree that the ISTWG should further discuss the need for such a meeting to be held in the near future. Should it be decided that a Ministerial Meeting is to be held, ISTWG should decide on the focus of</p>	<p>SCE to consult with ISTWG whether it is necessary to hold an APEC Science Ministers' Meeting in the near future.</p>	<p>Intersessionally before SCE2 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>the meeting given that S&amp;T is a cross-cutting issue.</p> <p>4. ISTWG needs to come up with a more strategic view on how to carry out its mandate before proposing a ministerial meeting. ISTWG agenda and work program are often too broad and diffuse. It may be worthwhile for the Working Group to limit itself to a number of clear areas where it can add value and not duplicate.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation to SCE 2.</b> Boost the profile of leadership in ISTWG meetings: this can be accomplished by defining more clearly the respective roles of the Lead Shepherd and the APEC Secretariat as well as that of the SCE Chair. Coordination between these three actors is of course essential and it is necessary to clearly specify the relevant procedures.</p>	<p><u>Member economy.</u></p> <p>1. It would be better to describe how the roles of the Lead Shepherd, the APEC Secretariat, and the SCE Chair should be defined.</p> <p>2. The current meeting format makes the task of chairing and leadership extraordinarily difficult. In our view the current lead shepherd is respected by the delegates to the working group meetings and does as good job than many of his predecessors that we have experienced. However, the Lead Shepherd is handicapped in this by the structural and conceptual realities of APEC, including a weak secretariat. The APEC Secretariat, unlike OECD, has small central office staff who are not expert in their fields, hence its success relies very much on the availability of time, resources, expertise and goodwill of the working group delegates.</p> <p>3. We agree with comments made by member economies. We support greater cooperation between ISTWG, SCE and other APEC fora.</p>	<p>SCE to forward the Guidelines for Lead Shepherds/Chair of WG and TF, and the APEC Secretariat Program Director Job Description to ISTWG for reference and application in the context of ISTWG.</p>	<p>Intersessionally right after SCE approval on this recommendation.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>4. We welcome clarification on the role of the Lead Shepherd and the PD with a view to strengthening ISTWG process. Enhanced communications and coordination between the Lead Shepherd and the Secretariat should help improve the process.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat.</u> In 2007, the SCE endorsed the Guidelines for Lead Shepherds/Chair of WG and TF (please refer to Annex G in the 2007 Senior Official's Report on ECOTECH). These guidelines contain the duties of the Lead Shepherd/Chair or APEC fora and the Level of assistance that the Chair/Lead Shepherd can expect from the APEC Secretariat PD. In addition, the Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat circulated in 2008 to all Chairs/Lead Shepherds the PD's Job Description. These papers can be referred if ISTWG defines the respective roles of the three actors.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation to SCE 3.</b> Intensify the coordinating role of the SCE. To this end a closer and more systematic interaction between the Chair of the SCE and the WG Lead Shepherd will be helpful. Moreover, it is necessary that the SCE encourage and promote more effective channels of interaction among the working groups under its supervision. The current system, with a single and extremely short meeting of the SCE-COW, has proven so</p>	<p><u>Member economy.</u></p> <p>1. At present, SCE-COW meeting is held once a year to enhance coordination between the SCE Chair and sub-fora lead shepherds. It would be better to describe ways to achieve a closer and more systematic interaction between SCE Chair and the working group Lead Shepherds.</p> <p>2. The ECOTECH activities of APEC fora ought to be supervised and coordinated by SCE. However, the chairmanship of SCE rotates</p>	<p>SCE to take this recommendation into account when preparing the policy framework which also addresses the issue of coordination between SCE and its fora.</p>	<p>Intersessionally before CSOM 2009.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
far to be insufficient.	<p>among APEC members every year or every two years. It is therefore impractical to ask the SCE Chair to attend planning meetings of APEC fora. Attention should be given to the enhancement of APEC Secretariat's role in bridging SCE (SOM) and APEC fora. The SCE Coordinator (or the SCE Chair's Assistant) of the APEC Secretariat should play a greater role to assist the SCE Chair in understanding the work done by APEC fora.</p> <p>3. Yes, including to the proposed action for the SCE. SCE-COW should be used to enhance this coordination.</p> <p>4. We support strengthening communications between SCE and SCE fora, as well as, among SCE fora. We agree with the comment that the relevant PDs should enhance their bridging role between SCE/SOM and fora. Noting that the SCE is preparing the Policy Framework which will also address issue of coordination between SCE and fora, we support that SCE should take this issue into account in developing the Policy Framework.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation to SCE 4.</b> Study the potential and modalities for collaborative activities with other Working Groups under the SCE, in particular those existing in the case of the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) and the Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG). A (short-term) Task Force,</p>	<p><b>Member economy.</b></p> <p>1. As SCE is trying to streamline its operation, the need to create a new taskforce is questionable. Each working group can discuss the possibility to enhance collaboration with other working groups. Result of the discussion can be reported to the SCE. SCE can have a discussion on this issue as well, if necessary.</p>	None.	None.	Yes.

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<p>reporting directly to the SOM, might be useful to this purpose. It would be most sensible for this Task Force not to limit its work to the case of the ISTWG but instead examine the potential for collaborative activities among all Working Groups.</p>	<p>2. We agree that setting up a new Task Force is not necessary. Rather than creating a new taskforce, and hence the additional workload, the SCE should aim at strengthening its process and improving the coordination between SCE/SOM and fora, as well as among fora.</p> <p>3. We agree with comments made by member economies, and support greater cooperation between ISTWG and other APEC fora with similar objectives. We recognize that most of the ISTWG agenda and work program deal with cross-cutting issues. It could deliver its work program more effectively if it works in cooperation with other APEC fora and other multilateral organizations, to leverage resources and expertise. It may also be necessary for the Working Group to limit itself to a number of areas where it can add value and not duplicate.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> This Recommendation needs to be considered together with the above Recommendation 3. But it may not be necessary to have a new Task Force.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation to SCE 5.</b> Discuss within the ISTWG, in articulation with the SCE through the SCE Chair, the convenience of establishing Capacity Building as a new cross cutting issue.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u></p> <p>1. Agree.</p> <p>2. Support. Capacity building is itself a cross-cutting issue relevant to all work areas. Agree with the Secretariat that this should be worked into the SCE Policy Framework.</p>	<p>SCE to agree on more strategic and longer-term priorities, including how to strengthen capacity building.</p>	<p>CSOM in November 2009.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>3. ECOTECH is the third pillar of APEC and should be a focus of all APEC fora.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> SCE Core Group and interested economies could discuss intersessionally the SCE policy criteria jointly with the outcomes of the stocktakes on capacity building needs.</p>			
<b>Recommendations to ISTWG</b>				
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 6.</b> Improve pre-meeting arrangements: this can be accomplished by setting a checklist of tasks with an associated timetable for their execution. It is important that information on both the checklist and timetable be provided to contact points in member economies so that it becomes easier for them to plan their own necessary preparatory tasks in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> Support. They are measures aim at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of ISTWG</p>	<p>ISTWG to further discuss this recommendation and decide on implementation plan.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 7.</b> Reorganize meeting scheduling so as to enhance both policy dialogue and project related discussions: this can be accomplished by going back to the previous format of parallel discussions by subgroups during the first day. In addition to allowing for an environment that is more conducive to a frank discussion of</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> 1. We strongly support reverting to the former pre-plenary side group meetings to allow more robust project peer review and policy debate, less hampered by the meeting etiquette and protocols that attend the plenaries. These innovations, we are sure, would improve the quality and relevance ISTWG's deliberations.</p>	<p>ISTWG to further discuss this recommendation and decide on implementation plan.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<p>both new projects and projects under implementation this will free valuable time that can be used for (plenary) policy discussions in the first day. The schedule format of the second day, in principle, would not need adjustments.</p>	<p>2. SCE should not micromanage SCE fora. Support leaving it to the ISTWG to discuss and decide how the recommendation should be implemented.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> In 2006, as part of the APEC Fora Review, the SCE endorsed the recommendation 12 related to <i>Recommendation for Improving Working Arrangements</i>. One of the recommendations is that all fora minimize events and meeting schedules and ensure they are well timed, consistent with APEC processes, and well targeted to ensure relevant participation. ISTWG may consider this recommendation in preparation for future meetings.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 8.</b> Enhance the quality of intersession contacts: this can be accomplished by adopting a more systematic and frequent schedule for these contacts.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> SCE should not micromanage SCE fora. Support leaving it to the ISTWG to discuss and decide how the recommendation should be implemented.</p>	<p>ISTWG to further discuss this recommendation and decide on implementation plan.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 9.</b> Make sure that follow-up and intersession reports reach, in addition to participants in WG meetings, those economies that were unable to attend the meetings: this can be accomplished easily by placing this and other ISTWG information on a <i>ISTWG WebPortal</i> that would be continuously updated. At least part of this portal, which could be a thoroughly revamped version of the ISTWG area in the AIMP</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> SCE should not micromanage SCE fora. But agree that ISTWG information should be easily accessible, making use of existing resources and channels available at AIMP.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> The ISTWG has a collaboration site in the AIMP, which is useful for this purpose instead of creating a new portal for the ISTWG. The ISTWG also has a webpage in the APEC Secretariat</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
Collaborative System, should be accessible to a wider public than ISTWG membership.	official website and the ISTWG meeting documents are posted on the Meeting Document Database and the projects on the Project Database. A new portal would duplicate the existing functions in APEC website/AIMP.			
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 10.</b> Produce and circulate progress reports on projects under implementation: this can be accomplished by requiring Project Overseers, in addition to their current obligation to produce the “Progress Report for APEC Projects” annually submitted to the BMC (see Annex G2 of the Guidebook on APEC Projects), to submit periodic reports containing information in format intended for public dissemination of project achievements. These reports would be used to update the information on the ISTWG Web Portal.</p>	<p><u>Member economy</u> Support keeping ISTWG members well briefed of the implementation progress of its projects, though we should be mindful of creating unnecessary workload. Agree with the Secretariat that SCE should leave it to the ISTWG to discuss and decide how the recommendation should be implemented.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> BMC requires Project Overseers to submit progress reports and a template is available in the APEC Project Guidebook for that purpose. In many groups, the progress reports are presented during the meetings.</p>	ISTWG to implement this recommendation.	ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.	Yes.
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 11.</b> Achieve a better balance between policy discussions and deliberations on specific projects. A proposal on this regard could come either from the leadership of the ISTWG or from the SCE. The reorganization of meeting scheduling makes possible to allocate more time to policy discussions.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u></p> <p>1. The reorganization of meeting schedule is very important. However, it should be discussed in the ISTWG first to achieve a better balance between policy discussion and deliberations on specific projects.</p> <p>2. Agree that meeting scheduling could improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the meeting process. Support leaving it to ISTWG to discuss how the recommendation could be implemented, taking into account Recommendation to ISTWG</p>	ISTWG to further discuss this recommendation together with <b>Recommendation to ISTWG 7</b> and decide on implementation plan.	ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.	Yes.



Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	7.			
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 12.</b> Constitute an advisory body, composed of scientists and policy experts from APEC economies, which will provide assistance to the ISTWG on issues of S&amp;T policy as well as on the current state of science and technology and the substance of specific projects.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u></p> <p>1. It should be noted if the cost of having a permanent advisory body exceeds the benefit of it. It should also be considered whether it is better to have a permanent advisory body or to invite experts to attend the meeting directly as a representative of member economies.</p> <p>2. Being a newly established body, we consider that there is a need to review the effectiveness of the operation of the advisory body before jumping to the conclusion that it is a permanent body.</p> <p>3. We agree that a permanent advisory body, composed of scientists and policy experts from APEC economies, should be created to provide advice on issues of S&amp;T policy to ISTWG. Bearing in mind the APEC reform (streamlining current APEC fora), the proposed permanent advisory body should take the advantage of modern technology, operating mainly in virtual form.</p> <p>4. ISTWG should discuss thoroughly the proposal, including the composition and TORs of the advisory body, as well as the selection criteria of the advisors. We agree that, should ISTWG decide to set up such an advisory body, it is necessary to review the effectiveness of the advisory body before making a decision on whether the body should be a permanent one.</p>	<p>ISTWG to further discuss this recommendation and decide on implementation plan.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 13.</b> Commission a <i>Study on Innovation Systems of member economies in APEC</i>: this study needs to emphasize a comparative perspective and also to identify potential areas for cooperation among APEC member economies.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u></p> <p>1. We doubt the necessity of a study on innovation systems of member economies because the study does not necessarily connect with identifying potential areas for cooperation.</p> <p>2. We agree that the idea commissioning a study of innovation systems throughout the region to focus policy debate has merit. However, the cost (in money and resource terms) and complexity of such a study mustn't be underestimated. We also suggest that the wide span in stages of economic scale and development represented by the APEC region would make intraregional comparisons difficult. Better to concentrate on one or possibly two aspects of the innovation system, with science relevance that would be of widest applicability and interest across economies.</p> <p>3. Support leaving it to the ISTWG to discuss whether to implement the recommendation, taking into consideration the costs and benefits related.</p>	<p>ISTWG to further discuss the benefit of this recommendation and decide whether to implement it.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report decision to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 14.</b> Develop a <i>Strategic Plan of Action on S&amp;T Cooperation</i> for the activities of the ISTWG that is based upon the analysis derived from the study on Innovation Systems within APEC and on additional inputs from the advisory body.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u></p> <p>1. The purpose of a Strategic Plan is not clear. We do not understand well the relationship between the strategic plan and national innovation system.</p> <p>2. Strategic plan should be useful in helping to</p>	<p>ISTWG to develop medium-term work plan which should be closely linked with the SCE medium term workplan which is being developed by</p>	<p>ISTWG to report decision to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	focus and guide ISTWG activities. Should leave it to ISTWG to discuss and decide how this plan should be developed, taking into account at the same time APEC's priorities.	the SCE.		
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 15.</b> Develop efforts, through contacts with member economies, to enhance the level of relevant experience and expert knowledge of future members of the Working Group.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> Agree and support.</p>	<p>ISTWG to further discuss this recommendation and decide on implementation plan.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 16.</b> Establish an <i>Expert Review</i> system that projects will have to face prior to being submitted by the ISTWG to the Budget Management Committee. This review, a supplement to the operation of the Standing QAF Group, established at the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ISTWG (Hong Kong, March 2008), is to be conducted with the assistance of the advisory body and will focus on the substance of the proposal as well as with its consistency with the Strategic Plan of Action on S&amp;T Cooperation.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are afraid that establishing an Expert Review System might extend the examination period.</li> <li>2. As far as we understand, the APEC has recently introduced the Qualification Assessment Framework (QAF) which has been adopted by ISTWG since 2008. The QAF requires that all project proposals have to be reviewed by their QAF group before submission to BMC in addition to according ranking to individual project proposals by member economies at the fora level. We are grateful to know the differences in role/function between QAF and your Expert Review system. We should be mindful whether the establishment of an Expert Review system would be a duplication of efforts by the QAF.</li> <li>3. We support work to improve the quality of proposals. Note that there is an "ISTWG QAF</li> </ol>	<p>ISTWG to consider ways to improve the QAF process. Good experiences from other fora may be helpful.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>Standing Group” to review and evaluate all project proposals, we believe that instead of creating yet another system, ISTWG should identify the shortcomings of the existing QAF Standing Group and improve its operation and effectiveness.]</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> From the 34<sup>th</sup> ISTWG meeting in March 2008, ISTWG has set up a “ISTWG QAF Standing Group” composed of LS + 5 sub-group chairs. According to this new arrangement, all new ISTWG project proposals are expected to be reviewed and evaluated from this Group. However, in practice, this does not work well because of too short noticed request for the QAF review from the Project Proponent and short of interest from QAF Standing members. ISTWG could identify ways to improve the QAF process, rather than creating a new <i>Expert Review</i> System.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 17.</b> Establish a database of institutions dealing on science and technology and S&amp;T policy in member economies: this database should build upon the existing APEC-ISTI Database Project and benefit as well from the Study on Innovation Systems within APEC. It will be instrumental in increasing the reach of activities by the ISTWG.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> 1. We are considering that these recommendations (17, 18, 19) could be realized by utilizing APEC ISTI Database Project (<a href="http://www.apec-isti.org">www.apec-isti.org</a>). 2. We support leaving it to the ISTWG to discuss and decide how to implement the recommendation.]</p>	<p>ISTWG to further discuss Recommendation 17 and 18 and decide on implementation plan.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 18.</b> Develop relations with as many institutions as</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> We support leaving it to the ISTWG to discuss</p>			

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
possible from this database with the purpose of establishing a <i>Network of APEC S&amp;T Institutions</i> .	and decide how to implement the recommendation.			
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 19.</b> Learning from the successes and failures of the ASTWeb, the APEC Science and Technology web portal developed by Australia in 1998 that ceased operations in 2006, establish a new web site to support and disseminate the activities sponsored by the ISTWG. Funding for this venture needs to be secured on a solid basis. In principle, this web site might include a component for communication within the membership of the ISTWG, although the main function envisaged in this item is outreach to the science and technology, policymaking, and business communities.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u></p> <p>1. We agree that web exchange could be an effective and efficient means to strengthen communications between member economies. However, previous experience in the ASTWeb indicated that it takes considerable efforts and resources in developing and maintaining a new web portal. As such, the ASTWeb ceased operation in 2006 and is replaced by the APEC Information Management Portal (AIMP) maintained by APEC Secretariat. In this regard, we suggest exploring the feasibility of improving or strengthening the AIMP to achieve your purpose first before establishing a new web portal for better utilisation of resources.</p> <p>2. Lessons learned from ASTWeb are important for the plan of re-establishing the website. ISTWG could also learn lessons from other APEC websites, still in operation or ceased to exist. Over the years, many APEC fora established their own websites, but few of them last very long. Major reasons behind this fact are that a. no sustainable financial resources to maintain it; b. website managers and staff members change frequently. Re-establishing ASTWeb seems necessary. But it would be better off and last longer if the re-established ASTWeb is maintained by the APEC Secretariat, as the latter has both the continuity and stability.</p>	None.	None.	Yes.

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<p>3. We would caution against reviving the ASTWeb portal concept. In our experience, such purpose built tools work well while the money and enthusiasm lasts; but soon fade away when either falters. The IST WG section of the current APEC website is not the easiest thing to access but we suggest that optimising this is preferable to creating something new that is likely to be under-resourced.</p> <p>4. We support leaving it to the ISTWG to discuss and decide whether and how to implement the recommendation. ISTWG should be reminded however to consider the long-term financial implications of hosting a new web portal.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 20.</b> Produce a Newsletter on S&amp;T Cooperation within APEC for the sake of dissemination of information on ISTWG activities, including projects sponsored by the ISTWG. This Newsletter must be issued periodically and be downloadable from the web portal as well as from the web pages of members of the network of APEC S&amp;T institutions.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> We support enhancing communications and outreach. ISTWG may wish to liaise with the Secretariat's Communications Team on existing resources and channels available for implementing the recommendation.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> ISTWG could contribute articles to the APEC e-newsletter, which is currently issued by the APEC Secretariat's Communications Team.</p>	<p>ISTWG to further discuss this recommendation and decide on implementation plan.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 21.</b> Seek a partnership with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) with the goal of increasing the visibility and impact in the business community of projects</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> Support collaboration with ABAC and the private sector. In addition to increasing the visibility and impact of ISTWG projects, ISTWG may also wish to explore the possibility of drawing on the</p>	<p>ISTWG is to provide input into the questionnaire on APEC's engagement with ABAC.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
sponsored by the ISTWG.	<p>expertise and resources of the private sector.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> In its meeting in February 2009, ABAC identified a list of working groups to work this year to advance its agenda, unfortunately the ISTWG is not included. But ISTWG could approach ABAC to identify areas of cooperation in 2010 and onwards.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 22.</b> Study the potential for collaboration with the Gender Focal Point Network to develop ways of enhancing the role of women in S&amp;T activities in member economies. The SCE Chair can play a coordinating role in this regard.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> Support leaving it to ISTWG to discuss how to implement the recommendation.</p>	<p>ISTWG to implement this recommendation in close consultation with the GFPN.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 23.</b> Broaden the dissemination of the results of the recent “APEC Workshop on Participation of Women and Ethnic Communities in the S&amp;T Workforce” (ISTWG 04/2007) so as to encourage follow-up research on this issue.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> We support enhancing communications and outreach.</p>	<p>ISTWG to implement this recommendation.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 24.</b> Study ways of re-establishing activities on the cross cutting issue of Sustainable Development. Learning from the experience of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Sustainable Development (AHTFSD) it may be convenient to examine this activity</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> Support collaboration with other APEC fora and international organizations on cross-cutting issues.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> Currently we don't have the working group/task</p>	<p>ISTWG to implement this recommendation in close consultation with the Program Director in charge in the APEC Secretariat.</p>	<p>ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
in the context of collaboration with other Working Groups.	force on sustainable development in APEC. But APEC Secretariat appoints one Program Director to coordinate sustainable development issues among all APEC fora.			
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 25.</b> Establish channels of communication between the ISTWG and the ASEAN Science and Technology Network (ASTNet) and explore possible avenues for cooperation and exchange of information.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> Support collaboration with other APEC fora and international organizations on cross-cutting issues.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> APEC Secretariat is in liaison with ASEAN Secretariat to identify areas of APEC-ASEAN cooperation, subject to member economies' agreement. Science and technology cooperation could be proposed in future discussion between APEC and ASEAN Secretariat.</p>	ISTWG to implement this recommendation in close consultation with the Program Director in charge in the APEC Secretariat.	ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.	Yes.
<p><b>Recommendation to ISTWG 26.</b> Establish channels of communications between the ISTWG and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) and explore possible avenues for cooperation and exchange of information.</p>	<p><u>Member economies</u> 1. To establish channels of communications between ISTWG and OECD is a legitimate recommendation. However, APEC has rules to govern the incoming and outgoing interactions with non-APEC organizations. Interactions between ISTWG and OECD should be approved by SOM on a case-by-case basis. 2. Support collaboration with other APEC fora and international organizations on cross-cutting issues.</p> <p><u>APEC Secretariat</u> Generally there are two ways of cooperation with OECD:</p>	ISTWG to further discuss this recommendation and decide on implementation plan.	ISTWG to report progress to SCE3 in 2010.	Yes.



Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested action to be taken by SCE or ISTWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE or ISTWG	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ISTWG to invite OECD to attend its meetings or projects on a one-off basis, subject to ISTWG members' approval.</li> <li>2. ISTWG to grant guest status to OECD for a three-year term, subject to ISTWG members' approval.</li> <li>3. ISTWG to attend OECD activities, subject to SOM approval case by case.</li> </ol>			

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council
ACS	APEC Collaboration System
ACT	Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Task Force
AEF	APEC Education Foundation
AETF	Aviation Emissions Task Force
ADB	Asia Development Bank
AELM	APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting
AI	Avian Influenza
AIMP	APEC Information Management Portal
AMM	APEC Ministerial Meeting
APCC	APEC Climate Center
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASF	APEC Support Fund
ATCWG	Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group
ATM	Air Traffic Management
BMC	Budget Management Committee
CBN	Capacity Building Network
CEPI	Consumer Education and Protection Initiative
CFPN	Cultural Focal Point Network
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CIIP	Critical Information Infrastructure Protection
CLIK	Climate Information Tool Kit
CPDG	Competition Policy and Deregulation Group
CSD	Commission for Social Development (United Nations)
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment
CTTF	Counter-Terrorism Task Force
DRH-Asia	Disaster Reduction Hyperbase-Asian Application
DSG	Steering Group on ICT Development
EBM	Ecosystem-based Management
EC	Economic Committee
ECOTECH	Economic and Technical Cooperation
ECSG	Electronic Commerce Steering Group
EDNET	Education Network
EGCFE	Expert Group on Clean Fossil Energy
EGEDA	Expert Group on Energy Data & Analysis
EGEE&C	Expert Group on Energy Efficiency & Conservation
EGNRET	Expert Group on New & Renewable Energy Technologies
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia
ETIAP	Energy Trade and Investment Action Plan
ETITF	Energy Trade and Investment Task Force
EWG	Energy Working Group
FAO	U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization
FMP	Finance Ministers' Process
FWG	Fisheries Working Group

GEMEED	Expert Group on Mining, Exploration and Energy Development
GFPN	Gender Focal Point Network
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
HLPDAB	High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
HRDWG	Human Resource Development Working Group
HWG	Health Task Force
HWG	Health Working Group
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICPC	International Cable Protection Committee
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFI	International Financial Institutions
IPEG	Intellectual Property Rights Expert Group
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTUG	International Telecommunications Users Group
ISO	International Organization for Standards
ISPS	International Ship and Port Security
ISTWG	Industrial Science and Technology Working Group
ITC	International Trade Committee
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
IUU	Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated
LME	Large Marine Ecosystems
LMS	Labour Market System
LSPN	Labour and Social Protection Network
ME	Micro Enterprises
MESG	Micro-Enterprises Sub-Group
MICE	Meeting, Incentive travel, Conventions/congress, Exhibition/event
MO	Multilateral Organisation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRCWG	Marine Resource Conservation Working Group
MRM	Ministers Responsible for Mining
MTF	Mining Task Force
NRETs	New and Renewable Technologies
NFMD	Non-Ferrous Metals Dialogue
OA	Operation Account
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OPRF	Ocean Policy Research Foundation
PA	Program Assistant
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
PDB	Project Database
PD	Program Director
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PMU	Project Management Unit
POs	Project Overseers
PREE	APEC Peer Review on Energy Efficiency
QAF	Quality Assessment Framework
RDEAB	Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology
REDI	Renewable Energy Development Initiative

RRT	Rapid Response Team
RTEIS	Real Time Emergency Information Sharing System
S&T	Science and Technology
SA	Special Assistant
SAKE	Satellite Application in Knowledge-based Economies
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SCI	Supply Chain Connectivity Initiative
SCE	SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH
SCE-COW	SCE - Committee of the Whole
SEER	Seasonal Energy Efficiency
SELI	Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMEWG	Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group
SPAP	Secretariat's Project Assessment Panel
SSN	Social Safety Nets
SSNCBN	Social Safety Nets Capacity Building Network
STAR Conference	Secure Trade in the APEC Region Conference
TELMIN	APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry
TELWG	Telecommunications and Information Working Group
TFEP	Task Force on Emergency Preparedness
TILF	Trade and Investment Liberalization Fund
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPTWG	Transportation Working Group
TRP	Trade Recovery Program
TWG	Tourism Working Group
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNMDGs	United Nations Millenium Development Goals
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council