

# FOREWORD

APEC Economic Leaders, APEC HRD Ministers and the APEC Business Advisory Council have all stressed the need to work towards improved mutual recognition of professional qualifications in APEC.

This Manual, *‘THE APEC ENGINEER MANUAL – THE IDENTIFICATION OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE’* is a dynamic document setting out the results of intensive negotiations among APEC economies committed to the development of a practical framework to improve mobility for professional engineers.

The Manual sets out the methodology for assessing the academic and professional experience of professional engineers against a standard established by the economies for determining substantial equivalence for practising professional engineers.

The project commenced in 1995. Members of the Professional Engineering Institutions and officers of the supporting government agencies are to be congratulated for persevering with the significant and necessary detail required to be understood and discussed before reaching the agreements included in this Manual.

It is expected that continuing activities between economies will lead to an increase in the number of participating economies together with additional engineering disciplines being scheduled for registration.

The project has demonstrated the practicability of applying the criteria and procedures agreed for the registration of APEC Engineers. This now allows initial operation of authorised APEC Engineer Registers by participating economies from the agreed date of 1st November 2000.

The next key activity will be the negotiation of bilateral and/or multilateral agreements to support the Mutual Exemption Framework. It is expected that model agreements will be included in the revision of this Manual following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordinating Committee meeting planned for October 2001.

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1st November 2000.