

## Preface

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a framework which promotes economic and technical cooperation for sustained development of the Asia Pacific Region, with 21 member economies. This project entitled “Capacity Building for a Recycling-based Economy (RBE) in APEC” is one of the important activities of the APEC human resource development field in recent years to achieve the objective of sustainable development.

In order for us to enjoy continued well-being for human life, we cannot afford to waste scarce natural resources or energy. Neither can we get away with polluting the environment, nor monopolizing wealth at the expense of others. It is indispensable, and inevitable, to establish a recycle-based society in this region as expeditiously as possible, to achieve sustainable development, maintaining a sound global environment.

Within APEC economies, some areas and some industries are ahead of others in reduction, reuse or recycling of resources. However, in most APEC members, such efforts are still at their starting points. In some cases, the efforts encounter the situation where no one economy can solve the problems alone. Therefore, it is of great importance for APEC as a whole to share experiences and best practices amongst its members, and identify common issues and address them jointly to develop capacity in APEC economies.

APEC is the most appropriate forum to tackle these environmental challenges that all economies are now facing in this region, taking into account the differences of situation amongst member economies as well as the cooperative features of the APEC capacity building exercise.

It should also be noted that this Recycling-Based Economy (RBE) project was carried out jointly through APEC-ABAC<sup>1</sup> collaboration for the first time, in which ABAC’s recommendation was implemented as a project under the initiative of APEC’s human resources development. Throughout the project implementation, ABAC representatives were involved. Since the nature of the project requires all sectors in the society, including government, business and general public, to be involved in order to achieve RBE, the business representation such as ABAC’s in the project was extremely important.

In the course of the project implementation, we received an overwhelming cooperation both by the host economies for the various events and the participating experts who joined the project at various stages. The purpose of the project was to trigger a movement called “a Recycling-based Economy” with its acronym “RBE”, the project achieved its purpose, firmly establishing a strong network of experts in this field, who willingly shared their expertise with others. The names of experts and host organizations contributed to this project are listed at the end of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> APEC Business Advisory Council is composed of members of 21 economies appointed by their leaders. These representatives make recommendations from the business point-of-view, to APEC leaders' meeting.

In preparing this report, the experts made sincere efforts to collect the available information describing the current situation. The information presented does not necessarily represent the official views of the individual economies in APEC.

As the Project Overseer, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the cooperation extended by the experts and their organizations to make this a successful project. I would also like to acknowledge continued support of the officers and staff at the APEC Secretariat. Last, but not least, I would like to express my thanks to the staff of IIST, who have worked very hard to bring this project to this final stage.

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