



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

APEC Senior Officials' Report on
**Economic and
Technical
Cooperation 2013**





**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat

35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119616

Telephone: (65) 6891 9600 Facsimile: (65) 6891 9690

Email: info@apec.org Website: www.apec.org



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Economic Cooperation**

2013 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation

**SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical
Cooperation**

October 2013

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A Letter from the SCE Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2013 SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH Report.

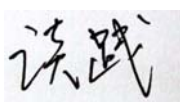
The key focus of the SCE in 2013 was on improving APEC's ECOTECH work to ensure ECOTECH continue to play a critical role in accelerating Regional Economic Integration and in implementing the APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy. Based on the views sought from fora and economies on where improvements in our practices could be made SCE, and subsequently the Senior Officials Meeting, agreed to twelve recommendations that will be implemented over the next year. By way of making APEC's ECOTECH work more effective, member economies are committed to bridging development gaps and helping developing economies achieve the Bogor Goals by 2020.

The new approaches aim to retain practices that help to keep SCE fora focused on the key priorities identified by Leaders and Ministers and in the meantime reduce the administrative burden of reporting that currently exists. The way SCE meetings are organized in 2014 will be amended to reduce routine reporting and allow for greater opportunities to identify areas of synergy and coordination of cross-cutting issues. There will be renewed focus on improving the quality of capacity building within APEC. A set of APEC capacity building guidelines will be developed and high quality or successful capacity building projects will be highlighted to the APEC community in order to showcase good work and provide good examples for others to follow. The SCE will support work being undertaken by the Budget and Management Committee to institutionalize a monitoring and evaluation framework for APEC funded capacity building projects. Finally, SCE fora will be encouraged to make greater use of the Policy Support Unit, especially to support efforts that promote regional economic integration, APEC's highest ECOTECH priority area. More details on the key achievements over the past year are provided in this report.

SCE and its fora have worked actively in 2013 to support APEC's ECOTECH agenda. This work relies upon the outstanding commitment, hard work and contributions of fora and member economies. I would like to thank all SCE members, especially the SCE Vice-Chair, Ambassador Yuri Thamrin, for their support during my chairmanship. I wish to make special mention of the commitment and dedication displayed by fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds. I appreciate the great effort involved in leading the fora and thank you for your work in 2013 that is so vital to APEC progressing its ECOTECH agenda.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Philippines as the new Chair of SCE in 2014 and wish them well in the coming year. I look forward to coordinating and working closely with the Philippines.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Tan Jian
Chair, SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH

Executive Summary

In 2013, the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) met on three occasions in the margin of SOM meetings. The Committee achieved all commitments outlined in its annual work-plan¹. The focus this year was on improving ECOTECH through seeking bottom up views from SCE fora, increasing synergy between groups and improving capacity building. A survey was conducted seeking views from all SCE fora and APEC economies on how the SCE's work, communications and capacity building could be improved. The report of this survey, the SCE Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC (Annex 2), resulted in ten recommendations that are designed to improve the flow of information and increase coordination between SCE fora and help focus activity on areas of greatest value. In addition two additional recommendations were developed based upon a review of project monitoring and evaluation undertaken by the Budget and Management Committee (BMC). SCE resolved to support BMC's efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of capacity building funded by APEC funds. All 12 recommendations were adopted by SCE and SOM and will be implemented over the next year.

During 2013 SCE continued its focus on fora strategic planning to help ensure APEC's ECOTECH work is as focused as possible on the highest priority areas as determined by Leaders and Ministers. All SCE fora have or are preparing strategic plans under SCE's supervision with full implementation of the plans due in early 2014.

SCE also held the eighth SCE – Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting with Chairs and Lead Shepherds of APEC committees and fora to consider fora plans for the year and discuss policy issues and plan for coordinated activity on cross-cutting issues. The survey SCE conducted in 2013 noted the SCE-COW meeting as an area of activity that could be improved. Consequently one of the recommendations adopted following the survey will see that meeting restructured in 2014 to allow for a freer flowing format with moderated thematic discussions aimed more closely at coordination of key cross-cutting policy areas. In conjunction with the SCE-COW meeting a Dialogue on Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues was held. Members supported further focused and specific dialogues being held in future as a useful way to assist coordination of cross-cutting issues.

SCE also considered and approved the annual work-plans of 16 working groups and task forces. The SCE endorsed a request from the Counter-Terrorism Task Force to be upgraded to a working group. SCE assessed and ranked all project proposals of SCE fora applying for APEC funding ahead of presentation to BMC.

Section 3 of this report provides a progress report on the APEC Growth Strategy. This update serves as the follow-up the Leaders' request that Senior Officials conduct "annual progress reviews on APEC's relevant work programs while finding ways to take stock of progress, and making any needed adjustments in the work programs to maximize APEC's efforts to promote the Five Growth Attributes."

¹ A copy of the 2013 Annual Work Plan is contained in Annex 1 to this report.

Section 4 of this report highlights some broad information on the projects undertaken by various SCE fora to support economic and technical cooperation. Notably, during the period from October 2012 to August 2013, SCE fora have registered 121 ECOTECH-related projects. These include 84 projects approved by the BMC for APEC funding for SCE fora, 23 approved by BMC for APEC funding for other APEC committees and groups undertaking ECOTECH activities and 14 self-funded projects initiated and implemented by individual economies and/or groups of economies.

Section 5 of this report 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 2013 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM):

1. Endorse the 2013 SOM Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation;
2. Welcome the Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC and the recommendations contained within it;
3. Welcome the achievements of the Working Groups and Task Forces and welcome the ongoing improvements that have been achieved through the Program of Independent Assessment of all SCE fora; and
4. Welcome 2013 contributions to the APEC Support Fund from Australia and Japan.

1. Introduction

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 prioritization and effective implementation of ECOTECH activities by various APEC fora. In 2009, SOM agreed to further strengthen SCE’s policy guidance role as recommended by SCE’s internal review, the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the SCE were revised in 2010 and again in 2012 to reflect the working arrangements of the Committee.

In 2013, the SCE was chaired by Mr Tan Jian, APEC Senior Official from China. The Vice Chair of the SCE was Ambassador Yuri Thamrin, APEC Senior Official from Indonesia.

The Committee met on three occasions during the year to discuss:

- (a) improving the effectiveness of SCE’s work, capacity building and communication through undertaking a survey of fora and economies.
- (b) strategic planning by sub-fora to better align APEC’s work with its overall vision and objectives;
- (c) improving coordination on cross-cutting issues;
- (d) continuation of past SCE priorities including fora annual work planning and the conduct of independent assessments.

The first SCE meeting of 2013 was held on 5 February, following the eighth annual SCE-COW meeting on 4 February in Jakarta, Indonesia on the margin of the SOM1 meetings.

The SCE-COW was attended by representatives of ten fora and offered a time for discussion with SCE members on the work fora had planned for the year ahead. Coordination among fora has been a focus in recent years and progress was noted at the meeting. The Travel Facilitation Initiative that was established in 2011 continued in 2013. Fora noted the Dialogue on Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues that had been held on the morning before the SCE-COW meeting. That dialogue had helped crystalize the issues that were to be focused on and the various responsibilities that would fall to fora. SCE-COW also reviewed fora progress on preparing strategic plans, with plans due to be finalised during 2013.

At the first SCE meeting economies agreed to the Chair’s suggestion to conduct a survey of fora and economies aimed at identifying ways to improve the SCE’s work, communications and capacity building. The survey was intended to collect views from the bottom up to complement the existing top down directions from leaders, ministers and SOM. SCE discussed the ongoing need to coordinate better on cross-cutting issues. The Travel Facilitation Initiative was a positive step and the dialogue on oceans would lead to a workplan that would better coordinate fora work in that area. SCE also considered the state of capacity building activity in APEC. The importance of capacity building in facilitating economic integration, deepening community spirit and reducing disparities made its effective delivery especially important. Members noted the need for APEC to

improve the way in which the effectiveness of capacity building was evaluated and undertook to continue to focus on this throughout the year.

The second SCE meeting of 2013 took place in Surabaya, Indonesia on 17 April in the margin of the SOM2 meetings. During this meeting the SCE noted progress on the SCE survey and the development of the survey report. Discussion focused on the importance of capacity building being linked strongly to strategic aims and the usefulness of having business and the private sector engaged. SCE reviewed some existing capacity building evaluation tools that were available on the APEC website and noted the work commencing in the Budget and Management Committee (BMC) on monitoring and evaluation of capacity building in APEC funded projects. The importance of the BMC and SCE work being brought together to provide an overall improvement in APEC's capacity building was noted. SCE noted that infrastructure development and financing was a further area where coordination on cross-cutting issues would be required. The meeting also agreed to the ACTWG's request that they not implement recommendation 1 in their 2012 independent assessment that the chair should rotate every two years but instead retain the chair being held each year by the host economy.

The third SCE meeting of 2013 was held in Medan, Indonesia on 3 July in the margins of the SOM3 meetings. The main item of discussion was the report of the SCE survey and its recommendations (Annex 2). SCE accepted the ten recommendations in the report that included changing the way the SCE-COW met to allow more discussion and coordination of cross-cutting issues; formally providing opportunities for fora chairs and lead shepherds to meet to encourage collaboration and joint planning; developing a brief set of capacity building guidelines and encouraging fora to work with the Policy Support Unit more. The meeting also noted the conclusions from BMC on monitoring and evaluation and supported two further recommendations that included agreeing to ask fora to include capacity building needs in strategic and annual workplans. SCE discussed how the policy partnership model was unfolding practice and noted that as a new approach for APEC this model would require further attention and guidance. The continued progress of fora in preparing strategic plans was noted and economies were asked to provide feedback on the draft plans that had been tabled. SCE considered progress on the 2013 independent assessments of EGILAT, EWG, TPTWG and CTTF. SCE endorsed the CTTF Chair's request that the task force be transformed into a working group. The meeting agreed that independent assessments would continue in 2014 with HRDWG, HWG, TWG and the MTF to undergo assessment.

With the endorsement of the five medium term ECOTECH priorities in the Framework to Guide APEC ECOTECH Activities in 2010, this report includes a summary of the work undertaken in 2013 on the implementation of these priorities. During the period from October 2012 to August 2013, APEC committed to fund a total of 84 ECOTECH projects proposed by the SCE and its fora tot a total value of US\$9,324,190. There are also six SCE fora multi-year projects underway, of which two commenced activity in 2013. In addition, 14 projects initiated and self-funded by individual member economies or group of economies were undertaken to advance work in priority areas and support economic and technical cooperation in APEC.

There were 23 additional ECOTECH projects from other Committees of APEC totaling US\$3,138,881. Of these 10 projects were from the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), 11 projects were from the Economic Committee (EC) and 2 projects were from the Finance Ministers Process (FMP), all of which received funding from the APEC Support Fund. Further there are four multi-year ECOTECH projects underway by non-SCE fora of which one commenced activity in 2013. The outcomes of these projects will be reported in the reports to Leaders and Ministers from the respective forum.

2. 2013 Highlights and Priorities

2.1 Improving ECOTECH in APEC

a. SCE Survey and Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC

The major activity for SCE in 2013 was the conduct of a survey of fora and economies to assess the effectiveness of SCE's work, capacity building and communication. SCE and SOM endorsed twelve recommendations set out in the report of the survey.

Under the recommendations fora will continue to prepare annual workplans for submission to SCE and will report on progress implementing the plans through the Fora Report at SCE3, however to reduce the administrative burden fora will no longer be required to provide an update on progress at SCE2. The Secretariat will be asked to undertake a strategic assessment of synergies within the ECOTECH agenda after SOM1. This timing allows consideration of fora workplans as well as priorities arising from Senior Officials discussions and will allow SCE the opportunity to provide guidance and clear direction to fora on priorities, an area many survey responses noted that could be strengthened.

The format of the SCE-COW meeting will be amended to promote a greater level of discussion. Fora will not be required to make presentations on their workplans at the meeting, instead SCE members will be given the opportunity to make comments or seek clarification. The SCE-COW meeting will involve moderated thematic discussions aimed at identifying directions, synergies and defining responsibilities. Fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds will be given the opportunity to meet separately in the morning as many survey responses noted that such discussions were among the most effective ways for fora to identify and coordinate cross-cutting work.

SCE reiterated that priority in ECOTECH activities should be given to cross-cutting multiyear work that aligns to Leaders' and Ministers' instructions. Policy dialogues were identified as a useful tool, so long as they were focused and expected outcomes were clear. A brief set of capacity building guideless will be developed to help guide good practice in the preparation of projects and activities. Examples of high quality capacity building projects will be identified each year and highlighted for the information of the broader APEC community. SCE also encourages fora to work more with the Policy Support Unit with a particular focus on work that support regional economic integrations and supports the achievement of the Bogor Goals.

Concurrent with SCE's survey the BMC tasked a small group to examine how monitoring and evaluation of the activities funded by APEC projects could be improved. The findings of the small group complimented the sentiments expressed in the SCE survey. SCE resolved to support the BMC in its efforts to institutionalize an evaluation framework for capacity building projects and will be encouraging fora to identify capacity building needs as part of their strategic planning and annual work plan processes.

The SCE Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC also noted the importance of SCE being allotted the resources required to play an active role in supporting APEC's ECOTECH work. In particular the ability to provide the required technical experience and cooperation among economies to support growth will require the provision of sufficient funding for capacity building activities.

b. Strategic Planning

SCE continued its focus on fora strategic planning in 2013 and continues to work towards all ECOTECH fora having a strategic plan completed in 2013. This follows on the work of the SCE in 2011 to help fora better align their work plans with APEC's overall vision and objectives as well as establish a foundation allowing all of APEC to know what is planned and what is expected of the working group. The approach agreed at the SCE-COW in 2012 envisages that all fora have a final strategic plan before CSOM 2013, with a view to presenting it at SCE-COW 2014. All fora are actively working on strategic plans and most have a draft plan completed. SCE, with the assistance of the APEC Technical Assistance and Training Facility (TATF), will provide comments as appropriate to guide the finalisation of focused and effective plans.

The development of strategic plans has continued to benefit from the support and assistance of the TATF which provided a consultant to hold meetings with chairs, lead shepherds and fora throughout the year to provide specific advice and assistance.

c. SCE Fora

Policy Partnership on Innovation, Science and Technology

The PPSTI commenced operation in 2013 after transforming from the former Industrial Science and Technology Working Group. Its focus during the year has been on establishing its operational arrangements and developing a strategic plan. To help facilitate their operations SCE agreed to a request from PPSTI that they not follow their terms of reference in respect of the chairing arrangements this year. The terms of reference require that one of the vice-chair positions must be held by the host economy. However the inaugural chair was from Indonesia which, if the terms of reference were followed, would mean that two of the three leadership positions in PPSTI in 2013 would be held by that economy. SCE agreed that in the circumstances it was sensible to not follow the terms of reference and not require the host economy to hold a vice-chair position in 2013.

Counter-Terrorism Task Force

The Chair of the CTF requested that SCE agree to that forum transforming to a working group. The SCE, and subsequently SOM, agreed to the request. The establishment of a working group recognizes that the threat, frequency and intensity of disruption caused by terrorism will continue to exist in the decade ahead. Through changing to a working group the forum will be able to better undertake long term planning and support capacity building.

Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group

Following the independent assessment of the ACTWG in 2012 SCE had accepted a recommendation that the working group change its chairing arrangements from annual rotation to biennial rotation, in line with most other fora. When reporting on the implementation of that assessment the ACTWG requested that SCE allow the forum to retain the annual rotation. The forum argued that the arrangement had not hindered their work, with a five year strategy successfully in place. Their current arrangement involved the host economy chairing with the past and future hosts serving as vice-chairs. SCE accepted that this arrangement gave sufficient stability to the group's leadership and agreed that the ACTWG did not need to implement recommendation 1 of their 2012 independent assessment.

d. Coordination Among APEC Fora

SCE continued its focus on coordination among fora in 2013 with some existing areas of cooperation continuing and new areas beginning. The Framework to Discuss Cross-Cutting Issues that was introduced in 2012 continued to be the guiding policy for recognising and implementing cooperation among fora.

Travel Facilitation Initiative Steering Council

This Steering Council was endorsed in 2012 to coordinate, guide and report on the work being undertaken within APEC towards the Travel Facilitation Initiative. The United States took on the coordination role for the TFI Steering Council and, to facilitate its operations, all fora involved nominated their United States members to represent them on the Steering Council. Three SCE fora, CTF, TWG and TPTWG, have been actively involved in the initiative in conjunction with two CTI fora, SCCP and BMG. The TFI is focusing on six areas: airport partnership; APEC business travel card; trusted traveler; facilitation of air passenger security screening; advanced passenger information; and checked baggage facilitation. The TFI Steering Council aims to coordinate the activity and communications of the fora involved in the initiative and provides an update report to SOM annually. The TFI is scheduled to operate until the end of 2015.

Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues

Indonesia organised a Dialogue on Mainstreaming Ocean Issues in conjunction with the SCE-COW meeting on 4 February 2013. The Dialogue focused on developing marine connectivity, maintaining ocean sustainability through eco-friendly policies in the transportation sectors, and on the importance of a healthy ocean and its significant contribution to food security. The topic was recognized as supporting the attainment of inclusive growth, which is one of the pillars of the APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy. Throughout 2013 Indonesia led the development of a workplan to support APEC activity on this topic, which will be finalised at CSOM 2013 in Bali. The proposal may also involve establishing a steering council supervised by SCE with an initial operating period of 2014 to 2018.

Cross Border Education Cooperation

Throughout the year the SCE Chair and the HRDWG were involved in an *ad hoc* coordinating committee on promoting cross-border education cooperation. This committee is working towards the development of an APEC workplan on that topic that will be considered at CSOM 2013 in Bali.

Infrastructure Investment and Development

During 2013 Indonesia has been leading the development of a Multi-Year Plan on Infrastructure Development and Investment. The plan will be a joint initiative of SOM and the Finance Ministers Process. The plan aims to assist economies to execute infrastructure projects, by identifying (i) impediments faced by economies in the region, and (ii) ways to address the impediments including by adding value to ongoing work. The plan will be considered by Leaders at their 2013 meeting in Bali. It is intended that SCE will coordinate the development and implementation of the SOM components of the plan for the initial period of 2013 to 2016.

2.2 Independent Assessment of SCE Fora

In 2013, the SCE conducted four independent assessments involving the: Energy Working Group, Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, Transportation Working Group and

Counter Terrorism Task Force. The SCE's decisions related to the independent assessment of these groups are set out respectively in Annexes 4, 5, 6 and 7. All groups were requested to implement SCE's decisions and report progress regularly to SCE. The Industrial Science and Technology Working Group had been due to undergo independent assessment in 2013, however given it was in the process of transforming into the Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation that assessment was postponed and the assessment of the Transportation Working group brought forward.

The Committee received reports on the implementation of the independent assessment recommendations from the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group, Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group and the Telecommunications and Information Working Group. The Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy held its annual meeting in September and will report on independent assessment implementation later in the year.

The SCE also commenced the review of four other fora the: Human Resource Development Working Group, Health Working Group, Tourism Working Group and Mining Task Force. Independent assessments will be conducted for these fora in 2014. The SCE decided that the independent assessment of the Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation should be postponed again to give that forum sufficient time to have their organisational arrangements in place and operations underway before assessment in 2015. The independent assessment of the Mining Task Force was therefore brought forward.

Since commencing in 2007, independent assessments have been funded by a SCE sponsored project using funds from the Operational Account. During 2013 the Budget and Management Committee decided that from 2014 funding should be allocated from the Secretariat's Administrative Account. This change recognizes that independent assessments have become a longer-term activity and that funding space was available in the Administrative Account. This change will have the effect of making more funding available for APEC projects in the Operational Account.

2.3 APEC Support Fund

In 2004, Ministers endorsed the Australian proposal to set up the APEC Support Fund (ASF) to serve as a flexible funding mechanism to complement the existing Operational Account (OA) and Trade and Investment Liberalisation Fund (TILF). The ASF aims to meet the capacity building needs for developing economy members in APEC's agreed high priority sectors for economic and technical cooperation. Since its inception, the fund has received contributions from many economies including Australia; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Russia; Chinese Taipei; and the United States. This has significantly boosted resources available to build capacity in the region for economic and technical cooperation activities.

Contributions to the ASF in 2013 (as of 31 July) were received from Australia and Japan.

Australia provided a contribution to the 2013 ASF General Fund of USD1,580,550, this was part of the AUD10.1 million provided in the years 2008-2013 under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the APEC Secretariat which was revised in 2011.

During 2013 Japan has provided funds for the ASF totaling USD2,519,524. These funds were designated for ASF Sub-Fund D - Energy Efficiency.

From October 2012 to August 2013, the ASF funded 88 ECOTECH capacity-building projects in wide range of areas such as renewable energy, emergency preparedness, communicable diseases and harmonization of standards.

3. Progress Review of the APEC Growth Strategy

In 2010 APEC Economic Leaders agreed upon a Growth Strategy aimed at ensuring that economic growth in the region was more balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure. Leaders requested APEC Senior Officials to conduct “annual progress reviews on APEC’s relevant work programs while finding ways to take stock of progress, and making any needed adjustments in the work programs to maximize APEC’s efforts to promote the Five Growth Attributes”.

SCE sub-fora have undertaken work to promote all five growth attributes during 2013. In particular Sustainable Growth, Inclusive Growth, and Secure Growth each form an aspect of APEC’s medium term ECOTECH priorities, structural reforms that will gradually unwind imbalances a raise potential outputs is an important component of Balanced Growth and is also a medium term ECOTECH priority.

Balanced Growth

In the area of balanced growth APEC Leaders have stated that they “seek growth across and within our economies through macroeconomic policies and structural reforms that will gradually unwind imbalances and raise potential output. Three SCE fora reported activities in 2013 which support this priority.

The EWG is working on the development of an APEC Energy Database and Analysis which aims to improve the quality of energy policy decision making leading to a more efficient regional energy market and in turn strengthening regional energy security.

The SMEWG is considering the possibility of developing an APEC SME Monitoring Index that would measure the health of SMEs every two to three years in areas such as entrepreneurship, policy, demographics and economic contribution.

The TELWG focusses on telecommunications regulation as areas to help promote balanced growth. TELWG held a workshop on the transparency of internet broadband access speeds and another on the quality of service for regulators.

Inclusive Growth

In the area of inclusive growth APEC Leaders have stated that they “seek to ensure that all our citizens have the opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from global economic growth.” Six SCE fora reported activities in 2013 which support this priority.

The HWG continued work in 2013 in the area of strengthening health systems through an APEC Non-Communicable Disease Action Plan which is currently in the implementation phase and which will be reported separately to AMM. A workshop was held focusing on the prevention of non-communicable diseases through risk factors control and community based intervention. A training project was held aimed at building public health emergency response capability.

The OFWG aims to advance inclusive growth through strengthening the role of fisheries and aquaculture products in food security. To assist meeting this goal the “14th APEC Round Table Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine

Environment” will be held. This meeting brings together representatives from the private sector, academia, NGOs and other stakeholders to share views with government officials on public marine affairs and on shaping ocean and coastal management.

HRDWG efforts in the area of inclusive growth included participation in the preparation of the Work Plan on Promoting Cross-Border Education Cooperation. The groups is also undertaking a number of projects that aim to promote and improve the standard of vocational training in the region through working with enterprises, training instructors and improving the employability of disabled people.

The PPWE continued the implementation of their multi-year project on innovation for women and economic development to facilitate women’s’ livelihood development and resilience through greater use of ICT.

During 2013 the SMEWG continued work on their multi-year project on Business Ethics Capacity Building for SME’s in the medical devices, construction and bio-pharmaceutical sectors. Work on this project has been focused on business ethics compliance and stakeholder awareness. In 2013 the APEC ministers responsible for SMEs and women will hold a joint meeting to recognize the work underway on promoting women’s’ entrepreneurship. The SMEWG conducted an “APEC SME Trade Finance Conference” to consider innovative trade finance programs to assist SME access necessary finance. In addition a workshop will be held to identify government policies that promote venture capital investment. Another seminar will examine how IPR policies can be used to encourage SME research and development.

The TELWG held a workshop in 2013 on enhancing competence in implementing ICT universal services programs in APEC.

Sustainable Growth

In the area of sustainable growth APEC Leaders have stated that they “seek growth compatible with global efforts for protection of the environment and transition to green economies.” Eight SCE fora reported activities in 2013 which support this priority.

The ATCWG ran a training course on biogas technology that aimed to initiate and sustain information exchange to build an adaptation strategy for energy recovery from agricultural waste treatment.

The SMEWG has completed its project examining a Green Technology Initiative which has helped develop a green technology innovation network and share best practices on the promotion of green technology based SMEs. A workshop was held examining best practices on the benefits of carbon labeling and how SMEs are affected by it.

The OFWG continued its project on “Potential Contribution of Small Pelagic Fish to Food Security within Asia Pacific Region.” The project is aimed at contributing to long-term food security by offering a sustainable source of high-quality protein at low cost. A project providing advanced training for marine spatial planning aims to increase knowledge of the marine environment and appropriate management responses to address multiple use conflict.

Work contributing to sustainable growth is a major component of the EWG agenda. Projects have focused on improving the quality of life and the environment through measures including low-carbon cities, energy efficiency, green transport, electric vehicles, smart grids, carbon capture, renewable energy, lean utilization of coal, natural gas, unconventional gas, marine current energy

and nuclear energy among others. The EWG continues to work on a major cross-cutting element – Low Carbon Model Towns.

TELWG supported sustainable growth in 2013 through holding a workshop on broadband network development for green growth.

The EGILAT held a private sector dialogue on efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote trade in legal forest products. EGILAT also held a joint meeting with the ACTWG to promote collaboration between the two groups to strengthen law enforcement in the forestry sector.

The TPTWG continued work to promote climate-friendly, low-carbon and energy efficient transport in 2013. Projects included looking at transport, energy and environmental benefits of intermodal freight strategies; a performance based navigation regulatory review and evaluation program; sharing best practices for seamless intermodal cargo movement; and increasing the environmental benefits of transit development.

The TWG will hold a workshop on the sustainable development of tourism destinations, which seeks to help deliver on one of the goals in the APEC Tourism Strategic Plan to promote and enhance the sustainability of businesses and destinations by providing and enabling an environment based on sound principles of sustainable tourism.

Innovative Growth

Innovative Growth, which seeks to create an economic environment that promotes innovation and emerging economic sectors, was supported by the work of six SCE fora in 2013.

The PPSTI is working to build greater cooperation on innovation in the APEC region through a project that aims to develop a measurement framework that would reflect the level of cooperation between economies and seek to influence the development of their innovation systems. Another project will focus on overcoming the regulatory challenges involved in the commercialization of modern biotechnology.

The SMEWG worked on ways to boost innovation, job creation, economic growth, and business opportunities in the APEC region through projects focused on start-up policies and best practices to promote entrepreneurship in the APEC region.

The ATCWG undertook a number of projects in 2013 focused on improving food security in the APEC region including through innovation to increase food productivity.

While also being part of inclusive growth, the HWG undertook a workshop on the development of e-health systems as a tool for health management.

The TELWG were active in supporting innovative growth opportunities including through activities that focused on promoting mobile payment technologies, cloud computing and helping to ensure the future stability of internet use through facilitating the transition to IPv6 (internet protocol version 6).

The HRDWG commenced a project in 2012 which examined entrepreneurship skills development for the unemployed by developing an APEC basic entrepreneurial training courses. Work on that project continued in 2013 with a particular focus on public employment services.

Secure Growth

Secure Growth, which seeks to protect the region's citizens' economic and physical well-being and to provide the secure environment necessary for economic activity, was supported by the work of thirteen SCE sub-fora in 2013.

A joint effort multi-year project to enhance SMEs' resiliency to natural disasters between the EPWG and the SMEWG, that began in 2012 continued in 2013. The project is being implemented through three phases: 1) a survey to assess the status of business continuity plans in the APEC region; 2) holding of a Focal Point Network Meeting and an Expert's Meeting; and 3) hold a "Symposium on Promoting Business Continuity Plans to Enhance SMEs' Participation in Global Production Chains". The second Focal Point Network and Expert Meeting was held in 2013. The project aims to deliver guidelines on promoting SME business continuity plans to strengthen the reliability of supply chains.

The SMEWG conducted an APEC train-the-trainer workshop on promoting SME business continuity planning and a high level policy dialogue on SME disaster resiliency.

The EPWG held a Policy Dialogue on Emergency Response Travel Facilitation in conjunction with members of BMG and SCCP. This initiative aims to develop a network for emergency information exchange and ultimately lead to better travel facilitation for emergency first responders. Workshops on capacity building for business continuity planning; applying geo-spatial hazard and risk information; application of satellite technologies for emergency preparedness; search and rescue at sea have also been held.

The ATCWG continued efforts to implement the Niigata APEC Action Plan on Food Security and the ATCWG 2010-2015 work plan to strengthen regional food security. ATCWG Projects conducted in 2013 examined other issues affecting food security including capacity building for food safety risk assessment; application of remote sensing and GIS technology on crop productivity; sustainable land management to enhance food production; and information sharing on principles for responsible agricultural investment.

The EWG conducted work in the area of energy security, principally through the Energy Security Initiative (ESI) through which members address short and long term energy security challenges in a sustainable manner in APEC. The ESI comprises a series of short-term measures to respond to temporary energy supply disruptions and longer-term policy responses that are practical and achievable to address the broader challenges facing the region's energy supply. Through the APEC Oil and Gas Security Exercises 2013-14 the EWG is investigating domestic systems for emergency preparedness and developing scenarios of oil and gas emergency situations to build capacity to cope with future energy security challenges. To support these exercises an Oil and Gas Security Forum was held in 2013.

The PPSTI is undertaking a project to hold a new a renewable energy technology development and application forum that will bring together experts from business, regulatory bodies and research institutes.

The HWG has undertaken a wide range of projects under secure growth. A pilot study to evaluate dengue early warning signs through virus analysis and data sharing was undertaken. An international seminar on food trade safety to prevent avian influenza was held. A number of activities focused on strategies to prevent anti-microbial resistance.

The OFWG will conduct a project on marine ecosystem assessment and management that aims to identify best practice management for increasing productivity and fishery yields.

The TWG completed and endorsed APEC Guidelines on Ensuring Tourist Safety and will now move to implement the guidelines in economies.

The TPTWG worked to develop a consolidated approach on counter-terrorism and secure trade. Areas focused on in 2013 included: implementation of an International Ship and Port Facility Security guideline and capacity building to help economies implement it through a Port Security Visits Program; continuation of the APEC Airport Safety Evaluation Visit Program; a project on canine explosives detection; and low cost/no cost aviation security checkpoint work in conjunction with the CTTF.

The TELWG has implemented a number of projects relevant to secure growth. A symposium on disaster management and ICT was held. TELWG also hosted a cybercrime expert's group meeting and training sessions. Cybersecurity awareness raising is a standing item at TELWG meetings and cooperation with organisations such as the OECD and APEC TEL take place each year. A workshop on comparing approaches to botnet prevention, identification and mitigation was also held in 2013.

In 2013 the ACTWG implemented two projects advancing APEC work in the area of Secure Growth. The first was a workshop on "Challenge and Strategy of Strengthening Anti-corruption Bodies and Other Enforcement Agencies in Combating Corruption in the Modern World". The second project held a workshop entitled "Strengthening Integrity Through Public-Private Partnership: Preventing Facilitation Payment and Managing Gift Rules". The ACT continued work under its Multi-Year Project on "Capacity Building Workshops on Designing Best Models on Prosecuting Corruption and Money Laundering Cases Using Financial Flow Tracking Techniques and Investigative Intelligence for Effective Conviction and Asset Recovery to Promote Regional Economic Integration" with the first workshop being held in June 2013. The ACT is also considering the possibility establishing a broader anti-corruption and transparency network.

The CTTF is undertaking several capacity building initiatives in each of the four cross-cutting activity areas of the APEC Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy: Secure Supply Chains, Secure Travel, Secure Finance, and Secure Infrastructure. Activities undertaken in 2013 in these areas include: a major events security framework; protecting designated non-financial businesses and professions from terrorist financing; aviation security canine screening; developing low-cost/no cost security and checkpoint optimization capabilities; critical infrastructure protection; and developing a policy on secure infrastructure.

HRDWG implemented a project, commenced in 2012, on "Building natural disaster response capacity – sound workforce strategies for recovery and reconstruction" with a view to sharing knowledge on the design and effect of different approaches taken by government, business and community stakeholders to maintain employment and support recovery in various disaster situations.

4. APEC Projects in Action

With the endorsement of the new Framework to guide ECOTECH activities in APEC, from 2010, SCE reports annually against the five medium-term priorities. These priorities for APEC's economic and technical cooperation are:

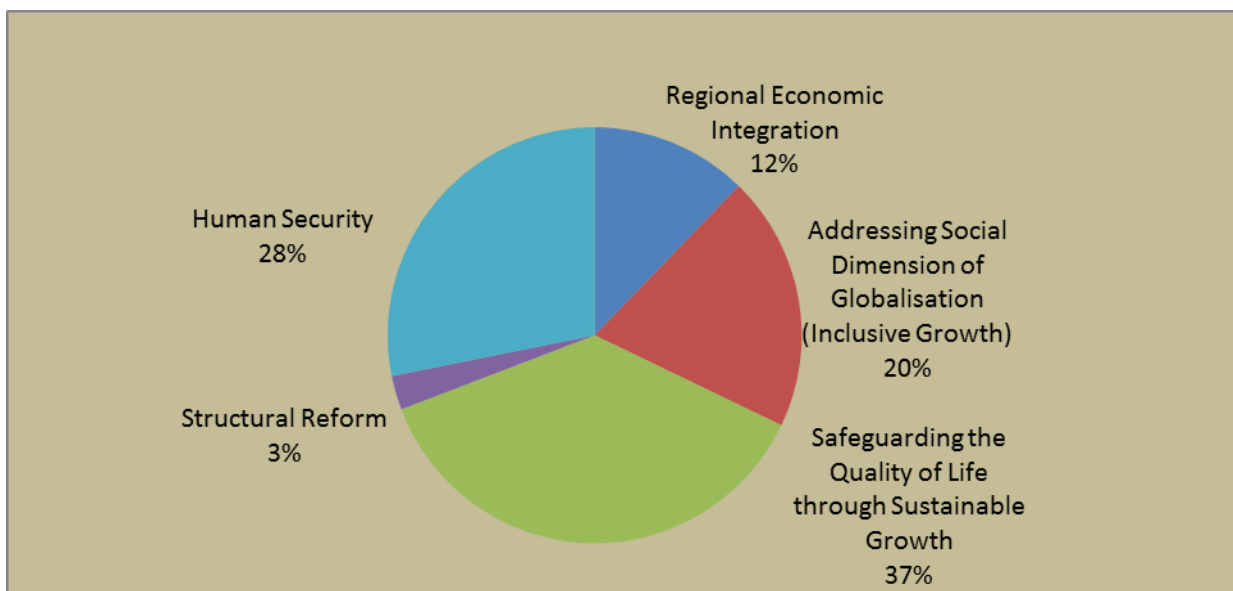
- Regional Economic Integration;
- Addressing Social Dimension of Globalisation (Inclusive Growth);
- Safeguarding the Quality of Life through Sustainable Growth;
- Structural Reform; and
- Human Security.

During the period from October 2012 to August 2013, APEC committed to fund a total of 84 ECOTECH projects proposed by the SCE and its fora. Out of the 84 projects, one project received funding from the TILF Special Account, 18 projects were funded by the OA and 65 projects by the ASF. There are also six SCE fora multi-year projects underway, of which two commenced activity in 2013. In addition, 14 projects initiated and self-funded by individual member economies or group of economies were undertaken to advance work in priority areas and support economic and technical cooperation in APEC. There were also 23 additional ECOTECH projects from other Committees of APEC: 10 projects from the CTI, 11 projects from the EC and 1 project from the FMP, all of which received funding from the APEC Support Fund. Further there are four multi-year ECOTECH projects underway by non-SCE fora which are funded from the APEC Support Fund. The outcomes of these projects will be reported in the reports to Leaders and Ministers from the respective forum.

The following section highlights projects/activities undertaken by various SCE fora to support economic and technical cooperation. Projects approved for APEC funding during the period from October 2012 to August 2013 are summarized in the following charts; self-funded projects are not included in the data unless specifically noted.

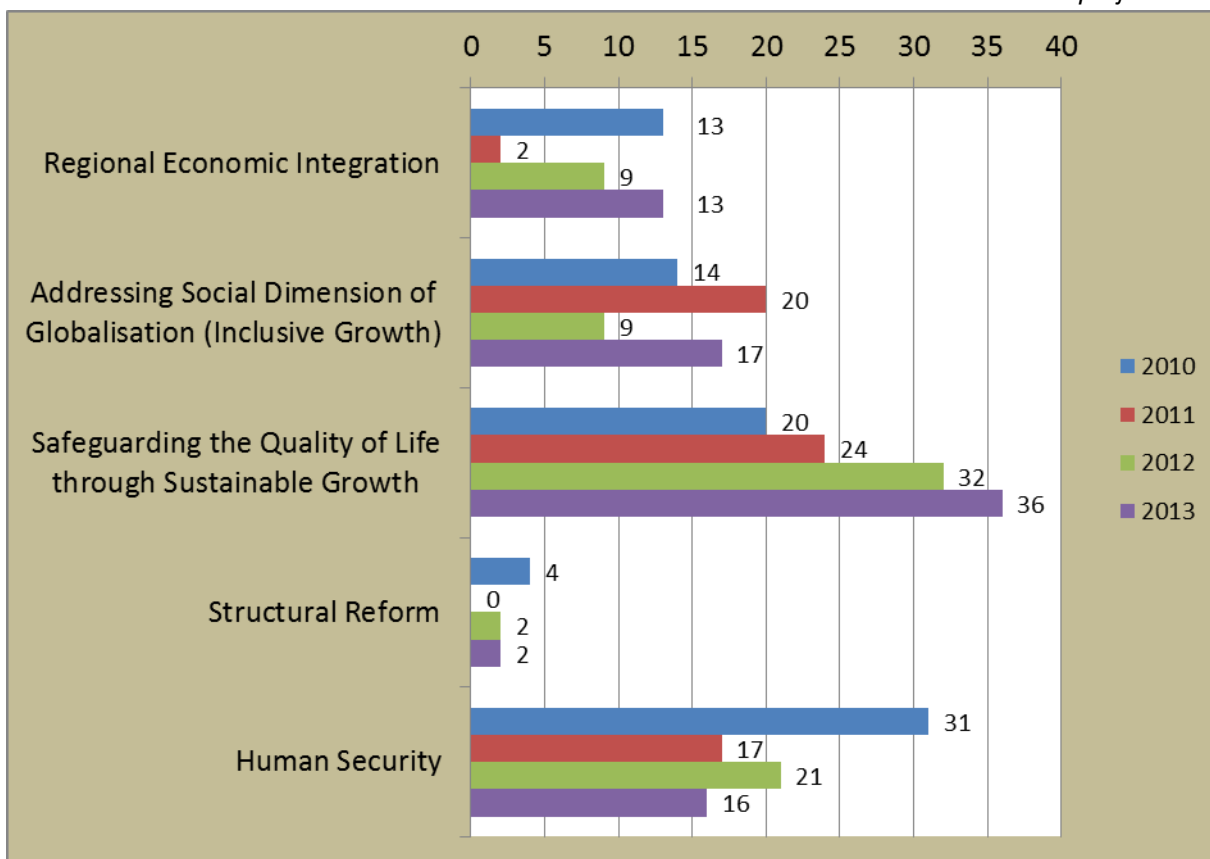
ECOTECH PROJECTS BY PRIORITIES (PERIOD 2010 – 2013)

**Based upon number of projects*



ECOTECH PROJECTS BY PRIORITIES 2010 – 2013²

**Number of projects*



² APEC’s medium term ECOTECH priorities were set in 2010

NUMBER OF APEC FUNDED PROJECTS INITIATED BY SCE FORA UNDER EACH ECOTECH PRIORITY WORK STREAM (10/2012 – 08/2013)³

APEC Forum	ACTWG	ATCWG	CTTF	EPWG	EGLAT	EWG	HRDWG	HWG	MTF	OFWG	PPSTI	PPWE	SMEWG	TELWG	TPTWG	TWG	Total
Regional Economic Integration				1		2	2				1		3	1	3		13
Addressing Social Dimension of Globalisation (Inclusive Growth)	1	1				1	2	4					7		1		17
Safeguarding the Quality of Life through Sustainable Growth		1				21				2	6		2		4		36
Structural Reform														1		1	2
Human Security			1	3		2	1	3			1				5		16

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY SCE FORA ACCORDING TO FUNDING SOURCE (10/2012 – 08/2013)

APEC Forum	ACTWG	ATCWG	CTTF	EPWG	EGLAT	EWG	HRDWG	HWG	MTF	OFWG	PPSTI	PPWE	SMEWG	TELWG	TPTWG	TWG	Total
Operational Account		1				4	3			1	1		4		3	1	18
APEC Support Fund	1	1	1	2		23	2	7		1	7	1	8	2	9		65
TILF Special Account															1		1
Self-Funded			3	3			4							2	2		14
Total	1	2	4	5	0	27	9	7	0	2	8	1	12	4	15	1	98

a. Funding criteria for all APEC projects

The introduction of holistic funding priorities is designed to ensure that all proposals are prioritized in line with APEC Leaders' and Ministers' instructions, and that there is a common basis for making funding decisions given that the demand for project funding significantly exceeds the supply.

In 2009, SCE took the first step to strengthen the SCE Policy Criteria by replacing the old six-tier ranking framework with the new four-tier rankings based on the nexus between the project proposal and the achievement of APEC's core objectives. In 2010 the SCE oversaw the creation of a uniform set of three-tier funding criteria for all of APEC regardless of the originating forum; the CTI and EC were also involved in the development of these funding criteria. These criteria are aligned with the APEC medium-term ECOTECH priorities, but are reviewed and revised each year to meet Leaders' and Ministers' instructions and APEC annual objectives. The 2013 funding criteria are attached as Annex 8.

³ Includes approved projects from session 3 2012 and session 1 2013 and concept notes approved in-principle from session 2 2013 (due to approved project data not being available by the publishing deadline of this report).

5. Implementation of the APEC Medium-term ECOTECH Priorities

Section 3 of this report contains a progress review of the implementation of the APEC Growth Strategy and provides a breakdown of the activities of APEC sub-fora contributing to the five growth attributes. Also noted in the APEC Growth Strategy Review is that the five growth attributes sought by APEC coincide significantly with the five medium-term ECOTECH priorities. In order not to duplicate the information already provided, this current section will only highlight the 2013 implementation of the ECOTECH priority of Regional Economic Integration, the one priority area not already discussed with the APEC growth strategy. A brief summary of the four ECOTECH priorities already covered previously:

1. *Addressing Social Dimension of Globalization (Inclusive Growth)*: Six groups (HWG; HRDWG, OFWG, SMEWG, TELWG, PPWE) reported activities supporting this priority area.
2. *Safeguarding the Quality of Life through Sustainable Growth*: Eight groups (ATCWG, SMEWG, OFWG, EWG, TELWG, TPTWG, TWG, EGILAT) reported activities supporting this priority area.
3. *Structural Reform*: Three groups (EWG, SMEWG, TELWG) reported activities supporting this priority area.
4. *Human Security*: Thirteen groups (EPWG, SMEWG, ATCWG, EWG, HWG, OFWG, TPTWG, TEL, ACTWG, CTF, HRDWG; TWG; PPSTI) reported activities supporting this priority area.

a. Regional Economic Integration

Activities to support regional economic integration occur across many fora and cover various areas from supply chain connectivity, environmental goods and services to investment in specific sectors. In 2013 nine groups reported activities supporting this ECOTECH priority.

The ATCWG held a seminar on “Strengthening Public-Private Partnership to Reduce Food Losses in the Supply Chain”, which brings together work to support regional economic integration and human security as well as linking with the goals of the Policy Partnership on Food Security.

The SMEWG has prepared a policy paper on “SMEs’ Participation in Global Production Chains” that will guide the development of work throughout 2013 and 2014. To expand beyond work on global chokepoints under way in the CTI the SMEWG will focus on problems particularly faced by SMEs that seek to enter into international trade, particularly: IP protection, attracting and retaining skilled labour, financing, contractual obligations for working with multinationals and dealing with product standards. Specific projects underway include: developing an internet based integrated information tool; and developing a directory of initiatives available in economies to assist SMEs’ with access to global markets.

The EPWG has held workshops focusing on global supply chain resilience that support work under the APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework.

The TELWG continues to work on issues relating to regulatory cooperation on issues related to the telecommunications industry, including through the promotion of Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) through the work of the TELWG MRA Task Force. One specific example is work to develop guidelines for MRA of equivalence of technical requirements implementation.

The TWG worked to promote recognition and understanding of tourism as an engine of growth and prosperity in the region, especially through further development of the trusted traveler and advance passenger information programs.

Through its project on harmonization of energy efficiency standards for air conditioners the EWG is working to create an enabling regulatory environment to transform the market in favor of higher efficiency air conditioners. Likewise the building code harmonization in energy smart community project aims for greater integration for cross border provision of services. The EWG is also undertaking work to reducing barriers to energy trade and investment, particularly in the areas of alternative fuels.

The PPSTI is undertaking a project that maximizes road safety and increase transportation efficiency by integrating communications and transport technologies to support safe and efficient transport of goods and people.

A significant aspect of the work of the TPTWG is related to the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework (SCC) which is led by the CTI and is focused on REI. Specific activities in this regard in 2013 included projects on transborder control and logistics; improving performance measurement of supply chains; developing common principles on shipping policy; improving intermodal efficiency; and improving maritime container transportation.

The HRDWG is implementing a project on skills mapping across APEC economies to promote regional economic integration and address skills shortages. The work involves individual economy reports, the design of a region wide tool and seminars.

6. Key Outcomes

Selected key achievements of SCE fora

Fora	Achievements and Deliverables for 2013
ACTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APEC-ASEAN Pathfinder Project on Combating Corruption and Illicit Trade • Workshop on "Challenge and Strategy of Strengthening Anti-Corruption Authorities in Combating Corruption in a Modern World" • Workshop on Maintaining Integrity through Gift Rules and Facilitation Payment Regulation • To develop Law Enforcement Authority network under the ACTWG • Capacity-Building Workshops on Designing Best Models on Prosecuting Corruption and Money Laundering Cases Using Financial Flow Tracking Techniques and Investigative Intelligence for Effective Conviction and Asset Recovery to Promote Regional Economic Growth
ATCWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Mapping of Vulnerability to Food Insecurity under Climate Change to Strengthen Household Food Security with livelihoods' Adaptation Approaches. (Japan, Philippines and FAO) • Workshop on the application of remote sensing and GIS technology on crops productivity among APEC economies. (China) • Scientific Workshop on "Sustainable Land Management to Enhance Food Production on APEC members. (Thailand) • APEC International Conference on Natural Resources and Infrastructure Management for Agriculture (Thailand) • APEC Agricultural Data Collection Study (USA) • International Symposium on Food Security in Asia and the Pacific (Canada) • The Potency of Local Source and Establishing Network Among Research Centre on Food Diversification (Indonesia).
CTTF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd APEC Aviation Security Canine Screening Workshop (Joint Project with TPTWG Aviation Security Experts' Group) • APEC Aviation security (low cost/no cost) security and checkpoint optimization capabilities workshop • Policy Dialogue on Critical Infrastructure Protection Major Events Security Framework
EGILAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Ministers' Responsible for Forestry Meeting
EPWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on promoting SME business continuity plans (BCP) to strengthen reliability of supply chains • Disaster Recovery Checklist • EPWG Strategic Plan • Continued work on the 2008 APEC Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the ASIA Pacific Region: 2009-2015 • Seventh APEC Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum
EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing the Energy Smart Communities Initiative • Progress in Renewable Energy and Natural Gas Trade, Cleaner Production of Coal-fired Power, and Carbon Capture and Storage. • Intensify work on standards and testing methods for key energy-intensive appliances and building components in cooperation with the SCSC • Progress with APEC Peer Review of Energy Efficiency (PREE) and Cooperative Energy Efficiency Design for Sustainability (CEEDS) • Collaborating with TPTWG on joint activities The APEC First Joint to implement the APEC Transportation and Energy Ministerial Conference Action Agenda

Fora Achievements and Deliverables for 2013

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing Energy Investment and Trade Barriers • Harmonization on Standards and Testing Methods.
HRDWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APEC Vocational Training Project in Cooperation with Enterprises • APEC Advanced Training for Vocational Instructors • Building Natural Disaster Response Capacity – Sound Workforce Strategies for Recovery and Reconstruction
HWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Dialogue on Getting to Zero on HIV and AIDS to Support Sustainable Growth in Asia Pacific Region • Progress on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as input for a Model for Sustainable Healthcare System
OFWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Annual Work Plan • Pathfinder Interim project on Enhancement of Partnership of APEC Economies on Combating IUU Fishing and Associated Trade by Undertaking Voluntary Obligations on Nonproliferation Flags of Convenience Practices • Draft framework for the Marine Sustainable Development Report • Progressing the establishment of the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Center
PPSTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the PPSTI including establishing organisational arrangements and preparing a strategic plan
PPWE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Ministerial Meeting on SME and Women • High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy
SMEWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed format for a SME Monitoring Index • A Directory of Initiatives Used by APEC Economies to Assist SMEs' Access to Global Markets • APEC Start up Accelerator Initiative – Start up Leadership Summit 2013 • APEC Carbon-Labeling Workshop • Establishing Green Technology Innovation Network to Support SME Development • International Symposium and Workshop – Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs through the Innovative Cooperative Business Model • APEC SME Trade Finance Conference • Business Ethics Capacity Building for SMEs in the Medical Devices, Construction and Bio-Pharmaceutical Sectors • A guidebook on Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment
TEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Interoperable ICT: semantic, linguistic and other aspects • Workshop on Botnet prevention • Symposium on Disaster Management and ICT for APEC Region • Forum on Information Integration on Disaster Prevention and Relief in the Asia-Pacific region • Workshop on 'Promoting the Development of ICT Revolution to Assist the Economic Growth of Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs) and the Small Medium Micro Enterprise (SMMEs) • Workshop on the Quality of Service for Regulators • APEC-OECD Symposium on Security Risk Management in the Internet Economy • Workshop on multi-languages email address technology • Workshop on APEC e-Government Research Center

Fora Achievements and Deliverables for 2013

TWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concept Papers representing TWG's perspectives on Trusted Traveller and Advance Passengers Information Programs• Updates of TWG Medium Term Work Plans
TPTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote port and port-related industries cooperation• Address variations in cross-border standards and regulations for the movement of goods• APEC Performance Based Navigation Regulatory Review and Evaluation Program (PBNRREVP)• Advance Aviation Security Workshops• Airport Safety Evaluation Visit Program (ASEVP)• Traffic Flow Management Emissions Reduction Project

7. Recommendations

Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to the 25th APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM):

1. Endorse the 2013 SOM Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation;
2. Welcome the Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC and the recommendations contained within it;
3. Welcome the achievements of the Working Groups and SOM Task Forces and welcome the ongoing improvements that have been achieved through the Program of Independent Assessment of all SCE fora; and
4. Welcome 2013 contributions to the APEC Support Fund from Australia and Japan.