

APEC Symposium on Socio-economic Disparity

<Background>

One of APEC's core goals is to promote economic prosperity and stability in the Asia-pacific region for the common good of the people by reinforcing the multilateral trading system and eliminating barriers to trade and investment. There is no doubt that trade and investment liberalization greatly contributes to the economic growth and welfare of the people in the APEC region. The positive outcome of the Midterm Stocktake on the progress toward achieving the Bogor Goals also confirmed this.

The rapidly transforming global economic landscape and increased integration, however, have been associated with problems such as widening disparity among sectors and groups in both developed and developing economies. In this regards, we are confronted with the common task of addressing the problems of the socio-economic disparity in APEC economies, so that the benefits of trade and investment liberalization and economic growth can reach all people and further liberalization can be promoted. In response to meet this challenge, APEC Leaders have agreed to conduct a research on socio-economic disparity issues at the Leaders' Meeting in Busan in November 2005.

<Purpose>

The purpose of "APEC symposium on socio-economic disparity" to be held in Seoul during 28-29 June is to deepen the understanding of socio-economic disparity issues and to share experiences and policy responses among APEC members. The symposium will also be the opportunity to explore model policy examples that help to reduce the socio-economic disparity with a view to ensuring that all people have the opportunity to share the benefits generated by trade liberalization and economic growth. Expanding the circle of beneficiaries of trade liberalization and economic growth will also contribute to further liberalization and sustainable economic growth through fostering a favorable environment for globalization and the enlargement of total demand in an economy.

Representatives from APEC member economies, experts from international organizations such as ADB, OECD and renowned scholars will participate in the symposium to discuss challenges and impediments related to socio-economic disparity issues and share the ideas on policy measures to reduce socio-economic disparity.

Symposium Program¹

Day/Time	Program
June 28 (Wednesday)	
18:30-20:00	Welcoming Reception: Hosted by Mr. Yu Myung-hwan, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
June 29 (Thursday)	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Welcoming Remarks (<i>Mr. Han duck-soo, Deputy Prime Minister for Economy, Korea</i>)
09:15-09:30	Congratulatory Remarks (<i>Le Cong Phung, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs & APEC 2006 SOM Chair</i>)
09:30-10:20	<p>Keynote Speech:</p> <p>Old Issues, New Challenges - Socio-Economic Disparity in Global Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr. Peter Orszag (Director of Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution)</i> <p>Globalization and Socio-economic Disparity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Professor Richard Cooper (Harvard University)</i>
10:20-10:30	Coffee Break
10:30-11:50	<p>Session I. <u>Socio-Economic Disparity in APEC and the World</u> <u>(Scope, Current Situation and Trends)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator: <i>Dr. Fraser Cameron (European Policy Centre/ European Commission)</i> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade/Investment Liberalization and Socio-economic Disparity – <i>Mr. Raymond Torres (OECD)</i> - Socio-economic Disparity and Economic Growth – <i>Dr. James W. Dean (Professor, Simon Fraser University)</i> - Social Safety Net and Socio-economic Disparity – <i>Prof. Hsiao-hung Nancy Chen (APEC SSN CBN)</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Open Discussion</p>

¹ The venue of the symposium is Emerald Room at Shilla Seoul in Seoul, Korea.

12:00-13:30	Luncheon: Hosted by Deputy Minister for Trade, MOFAT
13:30-14:40	<p>Session II. <u>Case Studies in Socio-Economic Disparity of APEC Economies (Backgrounds, Major Factors and Policy Experiences)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator: <i>Dr. Peter Orszag (Director of Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution)</i> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Crisis and Development of Socio-economic Disparity in Korea - <i>Dr. Woo, Cheon-sik (KDI)</i> - Experience in Chile – <i>Mr. Hernán Gutiérrez (Commercial Attache, Embassy of Chile in Korea)</i> - Experience in China – <i>Ms. Zhang Yali (Deputy Director-General for Int’l Cooperation, Ministry of Labor and Social Security)</i> - Experience in Japan – <i>Mr. Nobutaka Tanimoto (Deputy Director - Economic Assessment and Policy Analysis, Cabinet Office)</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Open Discussion</p>
14:40-14:50	Coffee Break
14:50-16:00	<p>Session II. (Continued)</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Professor Richard Cooper (Harvard University)</i></p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience in New Zealand – <i>Mr. Ross Judge (General Manager for Strategic Social Policy, Ministry of Social Development)</i> - Experience in Peru – <i>Mr. Javier Edmundo Abugattas Fatule (Deputy Minister of Economy)</i> - Experience in Thailand – <i>Dr. Pattama Teanravisitagool (Director Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board)</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Open Discussion</p>
16:00-16:10	Coffee Break

16:10-17:30	<p><u>Session III. Sharing Policy Experience Towards an APEC Community</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Professor James W. Dean (Simon Fraser University)</i></p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Social Model in Challenges and Prospects - <i>Dr. Fraser Cameron (European Policy Centre/ European Commission)</i> - Policy Experience in Indonesia – <i>Mr. Tb.A. Choesni (Director, Trade, Investment and International Economic Cooperation, State Ministry for National Development Planning-National Planning Agency)</i> - Policy Experience in the U.S.A – <i>Mr. Joseph Yun (Minister-Counselor, US Embassy in Korea)</i> - Policy Options Tackling Socio-economic Disparity in APEC – <i>Dr. Heungchong Kim (KIEP)</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Open Discussion</p>
17:30-18:00	<p><u>Session IV. Wrap-up & Closing</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Dr. Kyung Tae Lee (KIEP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Participants