**Seminar for Assessing 2012-2014 CBNI Programs and Mapping the Future**

**July 22-23, 2014**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea**

**(as of June 17)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Republic of Korea**

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| This information note provides administrative and logistical arrangements, along with other relevant information pertaining to the participation in the APEC Seminar for Assessing 2012-2014 CBNI Programs and Mapping the Future. The information in this note is subject to change and will be updated as necessary. |

# **1. PURPOSE**

This information note provides general information (administration and logistics) about the APEC Seminar for Assessing 2012-2014 CBNI Programs and Mapping the Future to be held in Seoul, Korea from July 22 to 23.

# **2. BACKGROUND**

The Asia-Pacific is the most dynamic and robust economic region in the world, even in the face of the global economic slowdown. This region has played a key role in boosting trade and investment, as well as providing jobs in the global economy. This region is also most vibrant in producing regional economic arrangements. The number of FTAs in the region has increased to as many as 75 from only 3 back in 1989, when APEC was founded.

In 2008, APEC Leaders “instructed Ministers and Officials to undertake further steps in examining the prospects and options of a possible FTAAP, including by conducting further analytical work on the likely economic impact of an FTAAP, and discussing the possible capacity building requirements for any possible future negotiations.”

Responding to this instruction made by the Leaders, Korea, in collaboration with Australia, China and New Zealand, conducted an “Analytical Study on the Likely Economic Impact of an FTAAP” in 2009. The Study showed that “there are significant economic benefits from an FTAAP, as well as the challenges of establishing such an agreement,” as reflected in the 2009 APEC Leaders’ Declaration. Given the gap of the capacities of APEC economies in pursuing FTAs, the Study stated that “carefully targeted capacity-building would obviously have to be another key component … to ensure that negotiating parties are prepared for making the right decisions.” In 2010, Korea, Chile, Peru and the Philippines conducted a survey to identify capacity-building needs in the APEC economies in an effort to explore a possible pathway to achieving an FTAAP.

Based on the results of the survey, Korea proposed the multi-year work plan called “Action Plan Framework for the REI Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI)” in 2011, and APEC Ministers “welcomed the decision to approach capacity building activities with strategic foresight by undertaking multi-year projects, such as supporting APEC’s work to strengthen and deepen regional economic integration, and facilitating the realization of FTAAP” in the 2011 AMM statement.

According to the Action Plan Framework for the REI CBNI, capacity building workshops have been held with broad support from APEC economies since 2012. With the Action Plan Framework scheduled to end by this year, the proposed seminar will provide a timely opportunity to assess the overall performance of the CBNI programs and discuss possible future initiatives for the eventual realization of the FTAAP.

## 3. OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the seminar are:

* to enhance understanding of the overall performance of the CBNI workshops through lead economies’ presentations;
* to assess the outcomes of the capacity building workshops held from 2012 to 2014;
* to share ideas on possible areas with additional or in-depth capacity building needs and explore ways to improve the programs; and
* to design the future of the REI CBNI.

## 4. PARTICIPANTS

Project overseers of the CBNI workshops from lead economies who are able to share their views and experiences will be invited to take part as speakers or moderators. Selected participants from member economies are also expected to make a presentation on the review of the CBNI or participate as a designated discussant. Active participants will include government officials from APEC economies, officials in charge of capacity building programs in other international organizations, prominent scholars and policy implementers.

FTA negotiators and trade policymakers of APEC economies are invited to participate and are requested to nominate two participants and one alternative participant for the seminar. Member economies are strongly requested to consider government officials that have participated in one of the previous CBNI workshops, as there will be opportunities to assess 2012-2014 CBNI programs and to map the future efforts.

Financial support will be offered to one or two participant(s) from the 11 travel-eligible economies. Participants from other APEC economies are also welcome on a self-funded basis.

**5. MEETING DATES AND VENUE**

The seminar will be held in Seoul and will start on July 22and will conclude on July 23. The venue is the Grand Ballroom at the Plaza Hotel Seoul.

**6. PROGRAM AND LANGUAGE**

The program is included in Annex I. English is the working language of the seminar. No interpretation will be provided.

**7. CONTACTS**

1. **Logistics**

**Janny HWANG (Ms.)**

Team Manager | Convention Team, INEPA (International Exchange Promotion Association)

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1. **Program**

**Su-Eun KIM (Ms.)**

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Tel +82-10-6656-8218

**8. REGISTRATION DESK**

There will be a registration desk in the main entrance of the seminar.

## 9. VISA REQUIREMENTS

All participants are required to possess valid passports to enter the Republic of Korea. Participants are responsible for arranging their visas, if required. Please contact your local Embassy or Consulate General of the Republic of Korea for more information regarding Korea visas.

## 10. ACCOMMODATION

The following hotel is designated for the seminar participants:

**The Plaza Hotel Seoul**

119 Sogong-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea

Phone: 82-2-711-2200, Fax: 82- 2-755-8897

<http://www.hoteltheplaza.com/eng/index.jsp>

Subway: Take line No. 1 or 2 to get to City Hall Station, and walk out exit No. 6 or 7

**11. TRANSPORTATION**

Participants are responsible for their transportation from/to the airport and the hotel. You may use international taxis ([www.intltaxi.co.kr](http://www.intltaxi.co.kr)) or the limousine bus, subway, and taxi.

1. Airport Limousine Bus

You may get information on limousine buses and purchase tickets at the Transportation Information Counter (near exit No. 2, 4, 9, and 13) on the arrival floor (1fl.) of the passenger terminal at Incheon International Airport. All limousine buses operate between the hours 05:35 and 21:00 to major hotels.

Kal limousine

* Route: City Hall / Travel Time: 70 min. / Interval: 20 min. / Fare: KRW16,000 (USD15)
* Operating Hours: 04:47~22:35 (Airport→Hotel);
                             05:00/05:20/05:40/06:00/06:25~18:30 (Hotel→ Airport)
* Gate Number : 4B or 11A
1. Subway

The subway is connected from Incheon Int’l Airport to Gimpo Int’l Airport. To get to the Plaza Hotel Seoul, take the Incheon airport subway system → Transfer to Line no. 5 at Gimpo Airport Station → Transfer to Line no. 2 at Chungjeongno Station → Get off at City Hall Station (Exit No.6).

1. International Taxi

International taxis can provide English, Japanese and Chinese speaking services. These taxis operate on a 100% reservation basis, and taxi fees can be calculated by meter, by destination, or by time. For your reservation, please contact 82-1644-2255. The phone line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Reservations may also be made online at <http://www.internationaltaxi.co.kr>.

1. Hotel Pick-up Service

You are required to make a reservation in advance for the hotel pick-up service. The price is 140,000 KRW for a one-way trip from the Airport to the Hotel and 130,000 KRW from the Hotel to the Airport. International Inquiries: +82-2-771-2200

**12. EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCE**

Financial support will be offered to one or two participant(s) from the 11 travel-eligible economies for the round trip economy class airfare and per diem including accommodation for 3 nights in accordance with the APEC guidelines. (The 11 travel-eligible APEC economies are Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Peru, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam.) If a travel-eligible economy wishes to send more than two participants, the expenses for additional participants will be borne by the participants’ economy.

Participants from other APEC economies are welcome on a self-funded basis.

Participant(s) from travel-eligible economies who wish to seek financial support for their travel expenses (airfare and per diem including accommodation for 3 nights) should submit their best airfare quotation (with restricted economy class round-trip airfare for the most direct and economical route) and detailed travel itinerary directly to the APEC Secretariat and the aforementioned contact persons for approval. APEC funded participants and speakers assume responsibility for other expenses and shall make their own arrangements for any other financial matters of private nature. At the same time, these participants are required to strictly follow the entire schedule and guidelines of APEC. Please note that if you wish to combine your APEC-funded trip with a non-APEC-funded trip, you will have to submit two quotations to the APEC Secretariat: one for the APEC-funded-only trip and one for all non-APEC-funded schedules. A cost-sharing proposal for the non-APEC trip is also required.

Please note that APEC-funded speakers and travelers need to sign a per diem form at the end of the seminar. The form will be one of the supporting documents for the attendance of speakers and participants.

The organizer will NOT be indemnified or liable for any medical expenses, accidents, disabilities or loss of life. Participants are advised to make their own insurance arrangements.

**13. EVALUATION**

Participants are required to complete and return the pre-seminar survey and satisfaction questionnaire form. In the evaluation form, each participant is encouraged to discuss the benefits of the seminar and provide suggestions for future CBNI programs.

**14. DRESS CODE**

Participants are advised to dress business casual unless otherwise announced.

**15. SIGHTSEEING**

If you plan a sightseeing tour which is not included in our seminar itinerary, you may refer to the hotel website or the following website for more information and reservation:

[http://www.tourdmz.com/english/main.php](http://www.tourinkorea.com/index.html) or <http://english.triptokorea.com/english/portal.php>

**16. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Weather**

The climate of Seoul, Korea in July is hot and humid with the average temperatures ranging from +22°C to 28°C (72-82°F) over the course of the month.

**Electricity and Water Supply**

The supply voltage in Korea is 220 volts. It is desirable to boil tap water before drinking. We also advise the participants to consume bottled water which can be purchased at the hotel or any nearby convenience store.

**Useful Phone Numbers**

* Police 112
* Fire and Ambulance 119
* Medical Referral Service 1339 (English, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese)
* Telephone Directory Service 00794 (English)
* International Telephone Call Operator 00799 (English)
* Tourist Information Center 1330 (English, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese)

**ANNEX I : Draft Program**

**July 22-23, 2014, Seoul, Republic of Korea**

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| Day 1 |  |
| 8.30 am – 9.00 am | Arrival/Registration/Coffee |
| 9:00 am – 9:05 am | **Welcome Remarks**TBD |
| 9.05 am – 9.15 am | **Introduction/overview of seminar** |
| **Part I****Session 1**9.15 am – 10.40 am | **Stocktaking and Assessing the CBNI Programs****CBNI Programs I***The first session will take stock of and assess CBNI programs that were executed in 2012-2013. This session aims to evaluate the previous CBNI activities in terms of their quality in performance and degree of goal achievement. Sharing experiences from the past efforts will shed light on any capacity building activities in the future. Organizers or reporters of each CBNI workshop will make briefings of the outcome and evaluations of workshops held in 2012-2013. These self-evaluations will be subject to Q&As and free discussions.*Rules of Origin & FTA Implementation: Report by the delegate of KoreaEnvironment & SPS: Report by the delegate of VietnamLabor: Report by the delegate of the U.S.**Discussion (Questions & Answers)** |
| 10.40 am – 11.00 am | **Coffee Break** |
| **Session 2**11.00 am – 12.30 pm | **CBNI Programs II***The second session will take stock of and assess CBNI programs that were executed in 2013-2014. This aims to evaluate the previous CBNI activities in terms of their quality in performance and degree of goal achievement. Sharing experiences from the past efforts will shed light on any capacity building activities in the future. Organizers or reporters of each CBNI workshop will make briefings of the outcome and evaluation of workshops held in 2013-2014. These self-evaluations will be subject to Q&As and free discussions.*E-Commerce: Report by the delegate of ChinaDispute Settlement: Report by the delegate of KoreaPreparation of FTA Negotiation: Report by the delegate of New ZealandSafeguard: Report by the delegate of Indonesia**Discussion (Questions & Answers)**  |
| 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm | **Lunch** |
| **Session 3**2.00 pm – 3.30 pm | **Discussing the Way Forward of the CBNI Initiative***The third session will deal with the result of the survey conducted between April and June this year. An organizer of the survey will report its outcome statistically by summarizing views of APEC economies on the subjects of overall assessment, evaluation of specific modalities and future activities of CBNI activities. Capacity building experts invited from international organizations that are maintaining capacity building programs will make comments as panelists on the report. APEC delegates may express backgrounds of their survey answers and further elaborate views on critical issues for the CBNI initiative.* Reporter, Report of the Outcomes of the Survey Questionnaire**Discussion (Questions & Answers)** |
| 3.30 pm – 4.00 pm | **Coffee Break** |
| **Session 4**4.00 pm – 5.30 pm | **Learning from Experiences in Other Fora and Paving the Way Forward for the CBNI Initiative in the Era of Mega RTAs***Experiences and trials and errors arising from capacity building efforts made in other fora such as WTO, OECD, ESCAP and WIPO need to be learned and inputted to any future APEC CBNI program with proper adjustments. With these lessons, APEC economies’ capacities and their priorities need to be built and made towards the goal of realization of an FTAAP. Particularly, capacities for the negotiation and implementation of mega RTAs need to be actively discussed and built in this new era of mega regionalism.* Speech by Officials in Charge of Capacity Building Programs of the WTO, OECD, ESCAP and WIPO**Discussion (Questions & Answers)** |
| 5.30 pm – 5.40 pm | **Wrap- up and overview of Day 2** |
| Day 2 |  |
| 9.00 am– 9.25 am | Arrival/Registration/Coffee |
| 9:25 am – 9:30 am | **Introduction** |
| **Session 5**9.30 am – 12.20 pm  | **Capacity Building in the context of an APEC Framework of Strengthening Regional Economic Integration***To reinforce APEC’s role as an incubator of the FTAAP vision and provide a foundation for its realization over the longer term, it is necessary to build capacities and strengthen communication and information sharing among member economies in the region. An invited expert or delegate will make a speech about identification of capacity building priorities and sequencing of further capacity building activities in order to realize an FTAAP.*Speech by experts and the delegate of Australia/China/the U.S**Discussion (Questions & Answers)** |
| 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm | **Lunch** |
| **Session 6**2.00 pm – 3.20 pm | **The Era of Mega RTAs and Capacity Building in Asia-Pacific***With multilateral global negotiations stalled, there has been a distinct shift to bilateral and regional FTAs. Major economies are now turning to more aggressive regionalism that could enhance economic growth and offer a quicker route to free trade in a large-scale region. These mega-RTAs including TPP, RCEP, and Korea-China-Japan FTA are likely to have distinct implications in the Asia-Pacific and for global trade. Will this new trend of pursuing mega RTAs complement multilateralism in a mutually harmonious way or will it end up creating friction and fragmentation in the global trade governance by creating a “spaghetti bowl” of conflicting mega rules? In order to avoid possible scenarios of such fragmentation and friction, how should we prepare for the negotiations and the issue of trade governance in this era of mega RTAs? What capacities need to be built in this changed environment of mega RTAs? This part aims to find answers to these questions.*Speech by Jeffrey Schott, Senior Research Fellow, Peterson Institute for International EconomicsPanel discussions by experts and delegates of economies**Discussion (Questions & Answers)** |
| 3.20 pm – 3.30 pm | **Wrap up and evaluations** |

**ANNEX II : Participant Nomination Form**

*Member economies are invited to nominate two participants and one alternate.* ***Nominations are due by July 3, 2014.***

Member Economy:

Nominee 1 Nominee 2

Title: Title:

Name:       Name:

Position:       Position:

Ministry:       Ministry:

Email:       Email:

Telephone:       Telephone:

Fax:       Fax:

APEC funded participant[[1]](#footnote-1)[ ]  APEC funded participant [ ]

Alternate

Name:

Title:

Ministry:

Email:

Telephone:

Fax:

Name of nominating official:

Title:

Ministry:

Email:

Telephone:

Fax:

Nomination forms should be submitted by email to Ms. Janny Hwang (eden21@global-inepa.org) with a CC: to Ms. Su-Eun Kim (suekim06@mofa.go.kr) and Eun-Jung Choi (ejchoi11@mofa.go.kr) of MOFA, Ms. Catherine Wong (cw@apec.org) and Ms. Mary Tan (mt@apec.org) of the APEC Secretariat.

**ANNEX III : Location of the Plaza Hotel Seoul**

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You can walk straight in the direction of the City Hall and easily find The Plaza.

If you need any assistance, please contact + 82.2.771.2200.

1. APEC’s travel-eligible economies are: Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)