

OVERVIEW OF APEC ACTIVITIES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR 1998

1. INTRODUCTION

The ministerial meeting on sustainable development held in Manila 11-12 July 1996 recommended that APEC Senior Officials annually review sustainable development work in APEC. Senior Officials tasked the APEC Secretariat to prepare a stocktaking exercise on sustainable development and report back on the findings in 1997.

This overview is to update the stocktaking exercise on sustainable development for 1998.

2. VANCOUVER FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Environment Ministers' meeting on Sustainable Development, held in Toronto, Canada, 9-11 June 1997, agreed to advance work in the three areas identified in Manila; i.e. 1) clean technology/clean production, 2) sustainable cities, and 3) the sustainability of the marine environment. The Toronto meeting emphasized that APEC activities in the three areas should be collaborative and mutually reinforcing.

- On clean technology/clean production, the meeting congratulated the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group for completing the Cleaner Production Strategy and commended the strategy to the Leaders' meeting in November 1997.
- On the sustainability of the marine environment, the meeting congratulated the Marine Resources Conservation Working Group for completing their Action Plan, endorsed it and commended it to Leaders.
- On sustainable cities, a fourteen point "Agenda for Cooperation: A Program of Action" was agreed to by minister. The program's objective is to complement activities already going on in international fora and work in those areas where APEC can bring value. Recognizing that, by the 21st century, most of APEC's population will be living in cities, the program sets forth 17 initiatives to address the issues of sustainable urbanization.

The issue of "the Impact of Economic Growth and Expanding Population on Food, Energy and Environment"(FEEEP) was also discussed at the Toronto meeting and ministers urged environment officials to be actively involved in ensuring that environmental considerations be addressed as an important element in the FEEEP exercise.

Overall, the ministers called for improved coordination to integrate the many sustainable development initiatives within APEC.

In November 1997, APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration in Vancouver stated that "Achieving sustainable development at the heart of APEC's mandate. Equity, poverty alleviation and quality of life are central considerations, and must be addressed as an integral part of sustainable development. We have a commitment to advance sustainable development across the entire scope of our workplan".

3. SPECIFIC INITIATIVES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BEING CONDUCTED BY APEC FORA.

A. Committee Initiatives

The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) is responsible for coordinating APEC's work in pursuit of trade and investment liberalization facilitation as outlined in the Osaka Action Agenda. The CTI and its sub-fora assist, where appropriate, in integrating relevant environmental concerns into APEC's TILF activities.

A particular activity this year will be the International Quality Assurance Systems (self-financed) project, co-sponsored by the CTI/SCSC and HRD-WG. The project will include the trainer's training to be held on September 28 to October 2 in Philippines.

The Economic Committee (EC) has undertaken a number of initiatives focussed on sustainable development that will yield results in 1998.

The Committee is responsible for coordinating APEC's response to the Leaders' request to study "The Impact of Economic Growth and Expanding Population on Food, Energy and the Environment" (FEEEP). An interim report on the interlinkages between these issues was presented to APEC Economic Leaders in Vancouver 1997, and the Committee is preparing the final report which will draw on information prepared by the Task Force on Food, the Energy Working Group, the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group and the Senior Environment Officials, amongst others. The final report, setting out options for possible joint actions to respond to FEEEP issues, will be presented to Leaders in Kuala Lumpur in 1998. The Committee will also be publishing the proceedings of the FEEEP Symposium held in Canada in September 1997, which brought together 175 participants, including government officials, businesspersons, experts from non-governmental organizations and representatives of a broad range of APEC fora involved in FEEEP-related work.

The Committee is also working to complete a project launched in 1997 under the leadership of China on "Trade -Related Environment Measures and Environment-Related Trade Measures". This study will review the practices of APEC economies in this area to provide a first-ever overview of how APEC member policy regimes interact in these important areas. A Workshop was held in July 1998 to discuss the preliminary findings of the survey. The Committee will consider publication of the results of the survey and the proceedings of the Workshop. The project is scheduled for completion in 1998.

Sustainable development initiatives received a high priority in the Committee's 1998 infrastructure work program. The 1998 APEC Public-Business/Private Sector Dialogue held

in Chinese Taipei in May focused on the theme of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development, and noted the critical need for sound infrastructure, if pressing economic, environmental and social goals were to be met. The Committee's Infrastructure Workshop commenced work on implementing the Vancouver Framework recommendations and the focused outcomes on Infrastructure for Sustainable Cities and Infrastructure for Rural Integration and Diversification, both of which contribute to advancement of sustainable development objectives.

In March 1998, the Committee published its "Survey Results on the Use of Economic Instruments in APEC Economies", which reviewed APEC member economies' experiences with the use of economic instruments for environmental protection. The instruments included in the survey were environmental user charges, deposit/refund systems, tradable permits/quotas, and financial incentives/environment liability. The section on 'lessons learned' indicated what works and what does not and thus assists members in designing and implementing measures that are suitable for their own particular circumstances.

B. Working Group Initiatives

The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRD WG) has designated a focal point on sustainable development to more efficiently coordinate working group activities in this area, not only within the HRD WG but also in relation to other APEC fora. Management for sustainable development continues to be one of the priorities of the Business Management Network of the Working Group. The Human Resources for Sustainable project aimed at establishing a sustainable network to share information on education to promote academic collaboration, and to develop a continuing education program has been transformed into a self-funded project with the completion now targeted for the year 2000. A project to develop case studies highlighting "lessons learned" by companies that have entered into Joint Implementation Projects, a particular approach to responding to global change involving a collaborative approach between producer and user of emissions control technology, is expected to be completed in October this year. Another project which seeks to promote awareness of the human resource management skills and knowledge required to implement cleaner production principles, specifically in the food industry, will be completed within the year. An ongoing self-funded project is the APEC Sustainable Development Training and Information Network which is designed to promote capacity building for sustainable development. A support office, a home page, and an advisory Group have been established with participation from member economies.

The Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (IST WG), is concerned to ensure that the development and deployment of industrial science and technology contribute to sustainable development. The working group will continue to implement projects in support of the APEC Cleaner Production Strategy. It will support the work of the APEC Center for Environmental Technology Exchange, the APEC Coordinating Center for Good Clinical Practices and the International Molecular Biology Infectious Diseases and seek activities related to disaster mitigation.

The Energy Working Group (EWG) is committed to the sustainable development of the energy sector and to mitigating the environmental impact of energy use. It continues to implement a broad range of programs (symposiums, workshops, seminars, best practices and

demonstration projects) to promote adoption in member economies of environmentally-sound policies and technologies.

Current projects focus on clean fossil energy technologies, energy efficiency and conservation, new and renewable energy technologies, and cooperation on energy standards. The EWG is implementing the Osaka Energy Action program, which has as one of its central planks the integration of 14 principles for rational energy consumption into the energy policies of member economies and the uptake of environmentally sound energy technologies and processes. The third meeting of Energy Ministers, which will be held in Okinawa in October 1998, will examine the policy implications of the forecast increased demand for energy in the region. Ministers will be presented with a set of policy recommendations to accelerate investment in natural gas development in the APEC region. Ministers will also consider a work program to promote the development of environmentally sound power infrastructure. In addition, Ministers will consider strengthening policy dialogue with the aim of achieving the sustainable energy production and use in the APEC region.

The Transportation Working Group has established a Steering Committee on Safe and Environment-Friendly Transportation Systems (including new technologies) to deal with projects and activities which pursue the achievements of the overall safety and environment-related goals agreed upon by APEC Transport Ministers. Specific TPT-WG projects which address environmental concerns include the following:

- Completion of an Inventory of Regional Cooperation on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Arrangements, a summary of which is available in the APEC web site;
- Preparation of a best practice manual to address urban transport problems;
- Preparation by Maritime Safety Expert Group of a summary of maritime safety issues and problems in the region and a set of recommendations for improvements as well as preparing to undertake a project to reduce or eliminate substandard shipping in the APEC region which will, among other things, contribute to decreasing the threat of major environmental incidents and the sustainability of the marine environment;
- Promotion of high quality instruction for seafarers consistent with requirements of the revised provisions of the IMO Convention on the Standard of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) which will contribute to greater safety in maritime transport as well as safeguards to the marine environment; and
- Examination of environmental considerations as part of the Ports Experts Group's efforts to identify common issues and recommendations for improved capacity and efficiency of APEC ports is currently underway with the collection of basic data and information (e.g. dredging).

The Telecommunications Working Group (TEL WG) is promoting the development and improvement of information infrastructure among APEC economies. As part of this initiative the TEL WG is developing a model of electromagnetic compatibility which will assist economies to manage the problems of electromagnetic interference and support information systems which facilitate sustainable development. TEL WG is also compiling a Practical Telework Manual that will help member economies promote Telework, since the promotion of Telework contributes to sustainable development especially because it helps reduce emission of greenhouse gases. Finally, through its work to develop the Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII), many TEL WG projects contribute to the sustainable

development of the region. Examples include the APII Test-bed Project, aiming to develop networks and applications supportive of sustainable development, and the Advanced Telecommunications System for Disaster Mitigation and Emergency Management which is helpful to the development of sustainable cities.

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) has developed an action program focused on the long term, environmental sustainability of the industry. Given the growing importance of the tourism industry in promoting economic growth, the TWG is committed to implementing the concepts of environmental sustainability and eco-tourism in tourism development in the region. A report on environmentally sustainable tourism was completed earlier in 1997 promoting “best practices” in developing tourism models which are environmentally and socially sustainable.

The Marine Resources Conservation Working Group (MRC WG), has implemented a number of workshops to create awareness of the major issues of sustainability of the marine environment and obtain commitment from the stake-holders, including government agencies, scientists, private sectors, and non-government organizations. Various goals and action were set up, they include: 1) apply GPA to domestic action to prevent the land-base pollution to the marine environment; 2) work out policy strategy and action plan for preventing ship-base pollution to the marine environment, 3) make recommendations for applying friendly fishery technology, regulatory and management implication to prevent the impact of destructive fishing practices on the marine environment. Some projects provided the forum of capability building for 1) detecting, monitoring, and managing of harmful algal disasters; 2) applying available ocean information systems and ocean models for forecasting the impact of marine environment; 3) applying environmentally friendly technology to decommission the offshore oil and gas platforms. The networks of ocean research and ocean information were established, and task forces were set up to develop common analytical methods and standard for harmful algae.

The Fisheries Working Group (FWG): Sustainable development and growth in aquaculture industry is a major focus of the current Fisheries Working Group (FWG) work program, and this reflected in the current proposed projects relating to development of grouper aquaculture and the training aquaculturalists to focus on the long-term sustainability and environmental integrity of the aquaculture industry.

The FWG has also implemented an *APEC Aquaculture Forum* which provided a forum where economies with an investment and interest in the sustainable development and growth in aquaculture as an industry could share information about new technologies; and discuss and plan initiatives that will progress and improve the industry.

The FWG is continuing to implement a number of projects to address environmental and sustainable development issues including the preparation of a draft manual on airshipping live fresh fish to facilitate the sustainable development of seafood industries, as well as continuing to implement its comprehensive regional program of on-site plant training HACCP sessions relating to seafood inspection regimes and quality and safety of fishery products.

Trade Promotion Working Group (TPWG) addressed issues on sustainable development indirectly through its ongoing activities. In this regard, its Third APEC International trade

Fair will focus on “Enhancing Global Competitiveness Through Technology And Human Resource Development” and “Emergency Preparedness in APEC”. The web-site of PAEC WGTP, APECNet, enables the business/private sector to search for business opportunities or post inquiries which cover also energy, chemicals and engineering/technological services.

The Ad Hoc Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises (PLG-SME) has as one of its priorities the strengthening of the managerial and technical capabilities of SMEs to sustain of the role of SMEs in economic development. In March this year it had completed the project, “Eco-Efficiency in the Small and Medium Enterprises”. Through in-depth research, the project gathered the eco-efficient measures that some APEC member have successfully undertaken in different industrial sectors to that SMEs in the region can apply them for their own economical and environmental benefits. The Group is now discussing a proposed SME Plan for Action, which will adopt a holistic approach to SME development in the region by ensuring, among other things, that policies for SME development from an integral part of overall development policy among APEC member economies. The proposed Plan will be presented to the Ministers responsible for SME this September.

The Agricultural Technical Cooperation Experts Group (ATC EG) agreed in 1997 to include sustainable agriculture as a new area of cooperation. The ATC EG identifies a plan of action which include the preparation of Directory of Experts among member economies and institutional networks on sustainable agriculture, preparation of questionnaire and holding a seminar/workshop on sustainable agriculture. The seminar/workshop on sustainable agriculture is schedule to be held in Davao City, Philippines on 28-30 October 1998 and will cover the elements of sustainable agriculture in four ecosystems: marine/coastal, aquatic/inland, lowland and upland from the perspective of the member economies.

The Trade and Investment Data Working Group has no specific projects addressing sustainable development issues.

C. (1) EVSL in the Environmental Goods and Services

CTI has been given the responsibility for managing the early voluntary sectoral Liberalisation process. The 15 sectoral initiatives selected by Leaders in Vancouver contain a number of activities that contribute to sustainable development. These will reinforce the market opening and trade facilitation measures included in the EVSL package. Proposed Liberalisation in the environmental goods and services area will expand global trade by enhancing market access and removing impediments, thereby assisting the adoption of environmentally friendly practices in APEC economies. In the forestry and fisheries sectors, sustainable management programmes aim to ensure that increased trade does not lead to unsound practices. Both sectors benefit from Ecotech measures which focus on sustainable development measures such as resource conservation and management and human resource development support.

(2) Sustainable Cities

Two initiatives which were endorsed by Environment Ministers in June 1997, have been implemented:

- “Workshop on Economic Instruments toward Sustainable Cities in APEC” (in cooperation with the EC) held in Chinese Taipei, December 1997
- “APEC Symposium on environmental education for sustainable cities” (in cooperation with the HRD WG) to be held in Japan, September 1998.

4. COMPENDIUM OF APEC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. Results of the Stocktaking

The projects respond to the Leaders/Ministerial directives to integrate environmental concerns into ongoing APEC activities. The major areas endorsed by Leaders/Ministers in 1996 for intensified work: i.e. clean technology/clean production; sustainable cities; and the sustainability of marine resources. Priority has been given to these three areas but it has not necessarily translated into a significant focusing of activities in these areas. The volume, scope and significance of the activities are significant, indicating that real efforts are being made to comply with Leaders directives. Problem is not with number of projects but with the lack of focussed, consolidated, well-directed work on sustainable development. All of these activities do promote sustainable development and all are good in their own right but these are taking place on ad-hoc uncoordinated basis.

The 60 projects and activities (the number of last year's was 61 projects and activities) are fairly evenly distributed among the fora. (IST WG is most active to have 20 projects and activities). Study/Research/Report/Publication lead with 17; Workshop/Symposium have 14 activities; Policy Reform/Standards Harmonization have 14; Database/network have 11. The category of Training/Technology is the least of 4 projects. A fairly high proportion of the projects (one quarter) has direct policy relevance. There is no apparent duplication or gaps are difficult to identify given the breadth of this priority area and the varied nature of the projects. Business participation takes the form of attendance in training programs, workshops, conferences, studies, development of databases and networks but level of participation is not high (less than one half of the projects).

B. Expected “Outputs” for 1998

(1) Study / Research / Report / Publication

- “Overview of Trade Flows of Energy – Using Product between APEC Member Economies” – examine the trade flows of eight energy-using appliances/equipment between APEC member economies. The report available in the second half of 1998 – EWG.

- “Study on Environmentally Sound Infrastructure in APEC Electricity Sectors” – environmental soundness and efficiency are built into the APEC region’s energy infrastructure as new capacity additions. A work program presented to Ministers in October 1998 – EWG.
- “Use of Industrial Environmental Indicators by APEC economies to set environmental improvement objectives and track progress” – explore a possibility for APEC benchmarks for environmental performance of key industry sectors. Conference scheduled in November 1998– IST.
- “Acid Rain Monitoring System” – Study on development of sensors for measuring the primary components of acid rain. Field test in 1998 – IST.
- “APEC Joint Research on Bio-diversity and its Bioconversion” – identify and initiate joint research projects, symposia. Completion in December 1998 – IST.
- “APEC Joint Research on Marine Environment” – A training workshop on trace metals, focusing on sampling and analytical techniques. Completion in December 1998 – IST.
- “APEC Emerging Infections Disease” – Development of an APEC action plan on emerging diseases. The project will help to reduce human and economic burden from emerging infectious diseases. Completed in March 1998 – IST.
- “Promote best practice models for sustainable development in the APEC region” – compile and publish tourism and environmental best practice case studies in APEC economies. The electronic version in 1998 – TWG.
- “Promote best practice models for Sustainable tourism development and local community involvement” – Compile and produce a hard copy publication and a web site on the best practice models on tourism activities. Commenced in 1998 - TWG
- “Oil Spills Preparedness and Response” – publish an inventory on oil spills preparedness and response arrangement in the APEC region. Inventory has been distributed in 1998 - TPT.
- “Study of the Impact if Economic Growth and Expanding Population on Food, Energy and the Environment” – 1998 Report to Leaders on the conclusion of the study and presentation of possible joint activities to be undertaken by APEC. A report presented to Leaders in 1998 – EC
- “Economic Instruments for Environmental Protection”. Gather factual information on the use of economic instruments for environmental protection. Results published in March 1998 – EC.
- “Eco-efficiency in the Small and Medium Enterprises” – Provide assistance to the SMEs in the APEC region in reflecting environmental concerns and requirements. Publication in March 1998 – SME.
- “ Guide to phasing lead out gasoline”. The guide assists such countries in addressing a range of issue, from designing a feasible lead phase-out schedule to developing a list of priority activities. The Guide published October 1998 – SEOM.

(2) Workshop/Symposium

- “Environmental Cooperation Workshop for Sustainable Development of Mining Activities” – Review the Environmental impact of mining activities in APEC economies. The workshop scheduled in September 1998. – EWG
- “APEC Aquaculture Forum” – promote the sustainable development of aquaculture and helps to solve common fisheries resource management problems and aquaculture disease control. The workshop held in June 1998 – FWG.
- “Human Resources Management for Cleaner Production Needs in APEC” – conduct workshop/symposium with industry, government and education experts to trial and assess teaching and training materials produced, April 1998 – HRD.
- “APEC Environmental Technology Verification workshop” – develop a coordinated approach to verify the performance of environmental technology. Workshop held in August 1998 – IST
- “Enhanced implementation of ISO 14001 Environmental Management System for APEC economies” – Develop information and tools to promote implementation of ISO 14001 EMS. Workshop held in September 1998 – IST.
- “APEC Workshop on the Impact of Destructive Fishing Practices on the Marine Environment”. Address incidence and impact of destructive fishing practices, the recommendation was developed on legislative and regulatory attains. The report available 1998 – MRC.
- “The Workshop on the Regional Implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources of Pollution” – Discuss the application of the GPA in the Asia pacific area. Workshop held in April 1998 – MRC.
- “Working Together: Regional Workshop on Preventing Maritime Accidents and Pollution in the Asia-Pacific Region” – Review current initiatives and program which address maritime pollution and accidents in the region. Workshop held in April 1998 – MRC.
- The Second APEC Ocean Model and Information System Workshop – to exchange the new technology, such as Satellite, remote sensing technology for collecting the ocean information for sustainable marine environment management. The workshop was held in July – MRC.
- “Workshop on the Decommissioning of Offshore Oil & Gas Platforms” – to explore environmentally friendly technologies for decommissioning of offshore oil & gas Platforms and the potential for new uses for such structure, as artificial reefs. The workshop is scheduled to be held in October 27 to 29, 1998 – MRC.
- “Conservation of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources” – collaboration on collect of information on plant and animal genetic resources. The workshop held in November 1998 – ATC.

- “APEC Symposium on environmental education for sustainable cities”. Share ideas and experiences on environmental education exchange views between environmental engineers and educators. The symposium held in September 1998 – SEOM.
- “Workshop on Economic Instruments toward Sustainable Cities in APEC” – Provide an opportunity to discuss best practices and exchange information on economic instruments. - SEOM

(3) Database/Network

- “Energy Benchmark System Development and Implementation” – institute a regularly scheduled, uniform system for energy benchmark data collection and dissemination for use by APEC members. Refinement late 1998 – EWG.
- “APEC Sustainable Development Training and Information Network” – Assessment of sustainable development information and training needs – Phase II in 1998 – HRD.
- “Determination of Priority Needs for Molecular biology and Biotechnology in APEC Economies” – Enhanced information exchange related to molecular biology and strengthened competency of scientists. Network meeting in June 1998 – IST.
- “APEC Telecommunications Network for emerging infections”- Provides internet-based information from US National Library of Medicine and other key sites. Operation in 1998 – IST.
- “Ocean Research Network for the Pacific (CORNEP)” – A network of centres of excellence in ocean and coastal research. Implemented in 1998 – MRC.
- “Ocean Models and Information System for the APEC Region” – established information exchange systems among economies and collected ocean models for marine resources conservation and sustainable development – MRC.
- “Sustainable Agriculture” – Identification of suitable mechanisms for information exchange. Workshop held in October 1998 – ATC.

(4) Policy Reform/Standards Harmonization

- “Energy Efficiency Improvement Initiative” – Establish the basis for information exchange of energy efficiency in both and technology area. Report prepared for Ministers in October 1998 – EWG.
- “APEC Cleaner Production Strategy” – Provide sector-based and cross-cutting information sharing and training for cleaner production technology. Implementation in 1998 – IST.
- “Cleaner Production Initiative in the Electronics and Computer Services” – pursue a dialogue between industry and government officials to explore cleaner production in the electronic and computer sector. The conference held in 1998 – IST.

- “Adoption and development of a multilingual environmental thesaurus system” – Development of a standardized reference language for environmental terminology. Project in 1998 – IST.

(5) Training / Technology Exchange

“Training Course on Cleaner Production for Textile Dyeing and Finishing Industry in APEC member economies” – Training of the APEC textile dyeing and finishing industry on various cleaner production technologies. Training spring 1998 – IST.

“APEC Virtual Center for Environmental Technology Exchange” – Establishing the APEC virtual center for environmental technology. Operation in 1998 – IST.

**MATRIX OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES
RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)**