



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

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A Framework for ICT-Enabled Growth: ICC Status Report

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: ICC



**Electronic Commerce Steering Group Meeting
Da Nang, Viet Nam
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At the February 2006 E-Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) Meeting in Ha Noi, Vietnam, the ECSG agreed to explore work with the private sector to develop an approach to facilitate the application of the concept of ICT-enabled growth in APEC economies – a concept in which ICT is used as a facilitator of growth and productivity in key sectors, and not as an end in and of itself.

The SOM Chair's report of SOM I observed that: "the US noted the new private sector-led initiative to develop work on ICT – enabled growth – a cross-sectoral initiative that seeks to improve the regulatory, policy and legal environment and processes to enable utilization of ICT to maximize economic opportunities and growth and enhance participation, including for SMEs..."

Since SOM I, representatives of the private sector have been consulting with regional and sub-regional business groups, including the APEC Business Advisory Council's Technical Working Group (TWG) on ways to develop this initiative to stimulate growth and productivity in APEC economies. Initial concepts were discussed with ABAC and subsequently presented by the private sector to the May 31-June 1 MRT Business Symposium.

At the May 2006 ABAC meeting, the ABAC endorsed an ICT-enabled growth agenda and agreed to work with APEC on developing a regulatory "tool-kit" that would enable economies to capture the benefits of ICT-enabled growth as embodied in the five "I's" Innovation, Infrastructure, Investment, Intellectual Capital and Information Flows. APEC Trade Ministers, in their statement in June 2006 in Ho Chi Minh City also recognized the importance of innovation and technology in driving growth in a range of sectors.

The key APEC deliverables from a private sector perspective would be the development across participating APEC fora of a framework for ICT-enabled growth, which would include tools to guide regulatory and policy architects on best practices that would facilitate ICT-enabled growth in key sectors as they develop new or revised regulations and/or policy measures in these sectors. Key sectors could include health, finance, infrastructure and commerce.

The private sector proposes that the APEC work with private sector experts and relevant APEC groups to first develop a set of guiding principles for capturing the 5 "I's", followed by a set of process templates and sectoral checklists with cross references to APEC Guidance documents, case studies and other appropriate, established best practices.

Proposal

ECSG to request SOM to take note of the importance of ICT enabled growth in APEC and direct relevant APEC groups to consult on this proposal.

The other relevant APEC groups may include: the Health Task Force, the Telecommunications Working Group, the Transportation Working Group, the SCSC, SCCP, the SME Working Group, the Life Sciences Innovation Forum, the Investment Experts Group, and, the Economic Committee. APEC should also recognize the continued importance of consultations with the private sector (via ABAC/ and ICC) on the development of this work.