

**1999**  
**ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS**

**COMMITTEE**  
**ON**  
**TRADE AND INVESTMENT**



**Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation**

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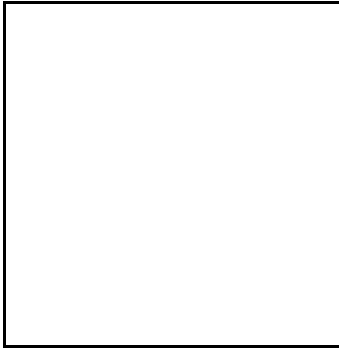
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## **Message from the Chair**

I am pleased to submit to the APEC Ministers the 1999 Annual Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI).

During the year, CTI consolidated reports for SOM on the 14 sectors for Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization with recommendations on how the process can be carried forward. CTI also spent a great deal of time on the implementation and enhancement of the Collective Action Plans side-by-side with the mandated reviews on the policy and management aspects of its work towards achieving steady progress in the realization of the Osaka Action Agenda objectives and Bogor goal. It is hoped that these innovations would assist both the Committee and individual economies respond to the challenges posed by the changing economic environment.

The Committee has developed programs for more effective communication of the impact of APEC liberalization initiatives as well as its achievements in the specific area of trade facilitation. Through this approach, CTI hopes to promote greater understanding of its work and encourage a more revitalized and meaningful partnership with the business sector.

Ambassador Edsel T. Custodio  
Chair  
APEC Committee on Trade and Investment

## **I. Introduction**

The year 1999 saw the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) actively pursuing its assigned task of implementing, expanding and advancing work on the Collective Action Plans (CAPs). The CAPs are the main vehicle in progressing APEC's agenda on trade and investment facilitation. CTI also maintained its lead role in coordinating trade and investment liberalization and facilitation (TILF)-related activities in other APEC fora.

The Committee's specific priorities on trade and investment facilitation in 1999 were laid down by the 10th APEC Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in November 1998 as follows:

- ◆ further development of CAPs and their implementation;
- ◆ intensified work on trade facilitation which encourages the use of technologies and techniques that will help members to build up expertise, reduce costs and lead to better movement of goods and services;
- ◆ examine how competition and regulatory reforms can contribute towards facilitating trade and investment;
- ◆ completion of TRIPs implementation by APEC World Trade Organization (WTO) member economies in 2000; and
- ◆ implementation of the multi-year training and technical cooperation programs, including on standards and conformance, customs procedures, intellectual property, competition policy and business mobility as a means of enhancing members' capacity in the TILF area and in implementing CAPs.

While focusing on the above Ministerial directives, CTI also continued to play a coordinating role in carrying forward work on early voluntary sectoral liberalization (EVSL), a task that was delegated to it by the Senior Officials in 1998. It managed the implementation of the project on "Communicating the Impact of Liberalization" and embarked on a program to more effectively promote its achievements on trade facilitation. As an added responsibility, CTI undertook a review of its structure and the implementation of CAPs since 1996. It also provided the technical inputs for the conduct of the self-review on the Individual Action Plans undertaken by member economies.

The 1999 CTI Annual Report to Ministers outlines the Committee's accomplishments for the year with regard to the above mandates and attempts to put forth recommendations for priority areas for the year 2000.

## **II. CTI Activities in 1999: An Overview**

CTI met three times in New Zealand in 1999: in Wellington, 5-6 February; in Christchurch, 3-4 May; and in Rotorua, 9-10 August. Ambassador Edsel T. Custodio of the Philippines chaired the meetings.

Meetings of CTI sub-fora and related events held during the year include:

- ◆ Market Access Group (MAG) – Wellington, 3 February; and Rotorua, 7 August
- ◆ Group on Services (GOS) – Wellington, 4 February; Christchurch, 2 May; and Rotorua, 7-8 August
- ◆ Investment Experts' Group (IEG) – Wellington, 3-4 February; Christchurch, 1-2 May; and Rotorua, 6-7 August
- ◆ Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) – Wellington, 3-4 February; Christchurch, 1-2 May; and Rotorua, 7-8 August
- ◆ Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) – Wellington, 2-4 February; and Rotorua, 5-7 August
- ◆ Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG) – Kitakyushu, Japan, 25-26 February; and Guadalajara, Mexico, 15-17 July
- ◆ Competition Policy/Deregulation (CPD) Workshop – Christchurch, 30 April-1 May
- ◆ Government Procurement Experts' Group (GPEG) – Wellington, 4 February; and Rotorua, 8 August
- ◆ Dispute Mediation Experts' Group (DMEG) – Singapore, 22-23 April
- ◆ Informal Experts' Group on the Mobility of Business People (IEGBM) - Wellington, 3 February; Christchurch, 30 April; and Rotorua, 6 August
- ◆ Informal Meeting on Uruguay Round Implementation/Rules of Origin (URI/ROO) - Wellington, 4 February

CTI continued to utilize the informal exchange of views in the Trade Policy Dialogue (TPD) as a useful means of broadening perspectives and sharing approaches on issues. It held three TPD sessions during the year on the following topics: (i) competition policy and deregulation; (ii) APEC's contribution to the Third WTO Ministerial Conference; and (iii) trade facilitation and revitalizing the APEC regional economies through strengthening the functioning of markets.

With the expiry of the term of Ambassador Custodio in 1999, Mr Joseph Damond of the United States was elected the new chair of CTI for 2000-2001. Ms Jan Adams of Australia and Ms Cherry Ling of Hong Kong, China were elected Vice Chairs for the same term.

## **A. Collective Action Plans (CAPs)**

### **1. Implementation and Enhancement of CAPS in 1999**

Despite the compressed timetable in the lead up to the Ministerial Meeting, CTI achieved signal progress in advancing work towards the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA) objectives

and Bogor goals. A compilation of Convenors' Summary Reports and revised CAPs for 1999 is provided in *Appendix I*.

In line with the Ministers' directives, all CTI sub-fora continued to implement and enhance work on the CAPs. Some of the enhancements made address the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) recommendations, support work in the WTO and further the cause of trade facilitation by reducing the costs of business transactions. A good number of the enhancements and measures implemented also respond directly to the priorities set in 1998 by Ministers on: trade facilitation through the use of technologies and techniques to build expertise, reduce costs and lead to better movement of goods and people; competition and regulatory reform; TRIPS implementation; and multi-year training and technical cooperation programs. One example is the training in travel document fraud techniques being pursued by IEGBM which, aside from building capacity among members, would pave the way for the introduction of technologies and risk management techniques to improve provision of border management services to business travelers. Other examples are the technical cooperation symposium to assist TRIPS implementation; and the multi-year technical assistance programs being implemented by SCCP to achieve its CAP objectives. Highlights of TILF Outcomes are shown in *Box 1* (see pg.6).

Some of the more outstanding outcomes produced by CTI sub-fora during the year include: the development of a broader policy framework for work in services; the development of principles, which will be non-binding, on competition policy and regulatory reform; the completion of the non-binding principles on government procurement; and further measures on standards and conformance and technical cooperation programs in the area of customs.

GOS has commenced the development of a policy framework for work in services which aims to tie in and drive services-related work in all APEC fora. Given the vast potential of the services sector for APEC member economies, a broader and more coherent approach for the services agenda should serve the interests of the APEC region well.

To support the strengthening of markets, CTI endorsed a set of principles to enhance competition and regulatory reform. The principles, which would be non-binding and implemented voluntarily by member economies, were drawn from the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)'s competition principles and relevant inputs from various APEC fora.

GPEG has identified the elements pertaining to the principles of accountability, due process and non-discrimination and illustrative practices on how these elements could be implemented. This completes the full suite of non-binding principles on government procurement. It should be noted that GPEG had earlier identified the elements and illustrative practices pertaining to transparency, value for money, open and effective competition and fair dealing. Members could adopt the principles on a voluntary basis.



SCSC and SCCP further intensified their work in providing greater transparency, reducing transaction costs and forging closer relations and interaction with the private sector. SCSC has developed two important arrangements, the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Electrical and Electronic Equipment and the Food Recall Arrangement. The former is expected to lead to enhanced trade in electrical and electronic equipment and lower costs while ensuring consumer safety. The latter will provide easy access to information on Food Recalls and Food Recall Guidelines. SCCP is scheduled to complete in 1999 the multi-year technical assistance programs for the adoption of UN/EDIFACT standards in computerizing customs and to implement the WTO Valuation Agreement.

CTI also further strengthened its role in coordinating TILF-related activities in other APEC fora. Like CTI sub-fora, these APEC fora also produced an impressive range of TILF outcomes. These include, *inter-alia*: the completion by the Telecommunications Working Group (TELWG) of the APEC Framework and Principles for Interconnection for use by businesses and policymakers; the development by the Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) of a harmonized vehicle regulatory system for APEC which should reduce development, certification and approval costs for the industry; and the Fisheries Working Group's (FWG) publication of a manual explaining different market and trading requirements for airshipping live and fresh seafood to selected APEC economies. A full report on TILF Activities in other APEC Fora is attached as *Appendix II* and the highlights noted in *Box 2* (see pg. 8).

*Appendix III* provides a comprehensive matrix of TILF outcomes in 1999 across APEC fora. The TILF outcomes include policy initiatives, public information products, dialogues, training and technical cooperation programs, and information collection and surveys. They are a result of continuing efforts to improve the facilitation process, including through capacity-building. They illustrate the scope and sophistication of work in which APEC is engaged. They include measures which will increase the transparency of trade and investment in specific ways, lower transactions costs of cross-border trade, and result in greater certainty and predictability for the business community. They also stand to benefit a wide spectrum of APEC's constituencies, including business/private sector and SMEs.

It is worth noting that an even greater degree of policy orientation and more substantive outcomes could be discerned from the deliverables this year. This perhaps reflects APEC's growing experience, both in breadth and in depth, in the process. Greater business/private sector involvement has also been achieved.

## **2. Response to ABAC Recommendations**

CTI closely examined ABAC's 1998 recommendations relating to non-tariff measures, services, investment, standards and conformance, intellectual property rights, competition policy and deregulation and mobility of business people. Some of the recommendations are already being addressed by relevant CTI sub-fora; others, however, will require more

time and closer dialogue between ABAC and the relevant fora. CTI therefore continues to encourage wider working level dialogues with business and professional groups to promote better understanding of the issues involved and to devise specific ways of addressing them. The challenge remains in identifying and implementing policy which meets the legitimate needs of business, within a timeframe that is realistic from both a business/private sector perspective and that of APEC's official process (see Box 3, pg.10).

### **3. Support for Work in the WTO**

CTI has maintained its proactive stance in respect of the work being done by the WTO. In April of this year, it submitted to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement (WGTGP) for reference, the elements of and illustrative practices on the non-binding principles of accountability and due process it had developed. It also held a policy dialogue with a representative from the WTO on competition policy and its interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment. Noting that 1999 marks the end of the transition period for a number of WTO agreements, it gave emphasis to training and technical assistance programs to assist the implementation of WTO agreements, including the TRIPS Agreement and the WTO Valuation Agreement. Finally, as part of its own contribution to the process of evolving an APEC contribution to the Third WTO Ministerial Conference which will be held in Seattle, USA in December 1999, it held a Trade Policy Dialogue on the subject, with useful results. *Box 4* presents some of the highlights of CTI's work in support of the WTO.

#### **B. Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL)**

With the decision to transfer the tariff element of EVSL to the WTO, work focused on non-tariff measures, facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation components of the sectoral initiatives. A process of notification and cross-notification to identify non-tariff measures affecting the product sectors was begun, although progress has been slow. Facilitation and economic and technical cooperation measures continued to be developed. A total of seven EVSL projects were endorsed by APEC's Budget and Management Committee (BMC) to Senior Officials for implementation in 1999. A further set of eight such projects has been approved by BMC and Senior Officials' as part of the overall Year 2000 Budget for Ministers' consideration in September. *Box 5* (see pg. 14-15) lists the EVSL projects approved by BMC.

Other EVSL initiatives include an "APEC Jewelry Conference", a project self-financed by Australia, to be held in Melbourne in August 2000, in conjunction with an international jewelry trade fair and jewelry design awards presentation. Another initiative involves the holding of an Automotive Dialogue which will serve as a forum for government and industry representatives to work together to map out strategies for increasing integration and development of the automotive sector within the region. The

First Automotive Dialogue met for the first time in Bali, Indonesia on 26-27 July 1999 to exchange views on the state of the industry, traffic congestion and the environment, effective automotive policies, and the impact of liberalized trade on economies and adjustment techniques to address any such impact.

### **C. IAP Self-review**

At the request of Senior Officials, CTI developed a format for use in the conduct of self-reviews of the Individual Action Plans (IAPs) by individual economies. The review format, on general and issue-specific levels, requires economies to assess how far they have advanced towards the OAA objectives and Bogor goals. It also requires them to assess the extent to which IAPs conform to the format guidelines endorsed by SOM in August 1997, including in respect of comparability, transparency, specificity and value-added.

### **D. Review of CAP Implementarion**

As a parallel exercise to the IAP self-review being undertaken by individual economies and one that is also relevant to the management reform process, CTI and its sub- fora undertook a review of CAP implementation since 1996. In particular, CTI examined whether the current framework for the 15 TILF issue areas under Part I, Section C of OAA is still appropriate and sufficient to achieve the Bogor goal and to meet the demands of business sectors in the APEC region, including the possible phase out of areas in which activities have been completed and the establishment of new areas. CTI further considered the issue of whether there is a need to overhaul the relevant section of OAA not only to reflect what had been added in the CAPs but also to establish new elements, taking into account the changing environment.

The review showed that, in general, notable progress have been made in implementing the collective actions under the OAA. Progress, however, remained uneven across issue areas. The review concluded that the current framework for the 15 TILF issue areas was still appropriate and sufficient to achieve the Bogor goals and to meet the demands of business sectors in the APEC region. As the annual revision of CAPs already reflected the improvements and additions to the CAPs, there was no need to overhaul the OAA. The Committee's report on this subject is attached as *Appendix IV*.

### **E. Management Reform**

CTI and all its sub- fora undertook a review of their mandates using the common review guidelines endorsed by Ministers in November 1998. The review resulted in the adoption of a number of recommendations intended to streamline work processes within the Committee and achieve the cost-effective use of resources while ensuring that assigned tasks and objectives are completed in a timely fashion. Some of the more important recommendations include: the realignment of work in the areas of Uruguay Round Implementation, Rules of Origin and Dispute Mediation; the development of a broader policy framework for work in services; the use, where possible, of electronic exchanges

and correspondence to reduce the need for physical meetings; and the strengthening of communications efforts to highlight APEC's achievements in the area of trade and investment facilitation to various stakeholders. A full report on the Committee's recommendations on the management reform process appears in *Appendix V*.

## **F. Impact of Liberalization: Communicating with APEC Communities**

CTI moved into the second phase of implementation of this project which involved the development of effective communications strategies to build community understanding and support for liberalization. Specifically, it involved professional qualitative focus group research on attitudes to trade and investment liberalization in China, New Zealand and Thailand; the development of draft communications strategies for these three economies based on the key messages identified in the focus group research; and the implementation of pilot activities in the selected economies. These included a social studies resource kit distributed to primary and secondary schools in New Zealand and a conference targeted at the media in Thailand involving speakers from the academic, political and business worlds.

A highly successful seminar on "Bridging the Gap: Explaining Trade and Investment Liberalization" was held in Auckland, New Zealand on 28 June 1999. The seminar, which brought together political leaders, media figures, academics, business people and other community leaders, discussed ways to improve community understanding of APEC's liberalization agenda.

A full report on the project, including recommendations on developing effective strategies to build community understanding and support for liberalization, is being prepared for submission to Ministers in September.

## **G. Promoting APEC's Achievements on Trade Facilitation**

In line with its recommendation to strengthen communication efforts by publicly highlighting its achievements on trade facilitation, CTI embarked on a program aimed at developing relevant and timely information on facilitation achievements and better promoting these to APEC stakeholders. CTI undertook a survey of APEC's facilitation achievements to date and produced a package of highlights to be presented to Leaders. CTI has further enhanced its facilitation work and called for greater attention to be given by economies to the full implementation of existing facilitation arrangements and agreements.

## **H. Cooperation with Observers**

### **1. Pacific Economic Cooperation Council**

CTI continues to maintain a close working relationship with the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, in particular PECC's Trade Policy Forum. The latter has played a facilitating role in channelling business as well as academic sector inputs into the work of

CTI and its working groups, especially the Market Access Group, the Group on Services, and the Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop.

PECC's substantive contributions to the Committee in 1999 include: developing a set of Competition Principles for the APEC region; completing an Information Resource Study on Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization; and putting forth proposals for follow-up work on a PECC study on the Comparison of Trade in Services Arrangements within APEC.

Other PECC activities of relevance to CTI are: the independent assessment of the progress in APEC's Individual Action Plans; and an independent survey of impediments to trade and investment in the APEC region.

## **2. ASEAN Secretariat**

The presence of the ASEAN Secretariat serves the dual function of keeping APEC informed of ASEAN activities and keeping ASEAN informed of APEC activities, especially the non-APEC members of ASEAN. This promotes closer coordination in their activities.

In 1999, the ASEAN Secretariat attended all CTI meetings and kept CTI abreast of the latest developments in all areas of ASEAN cooperation. The ASEAN Secretariat also attended some of the meetings of the technical working groups.

## **3. South Pacific Forum**

The South Pacific Forum's observer status has enabled its 13 non-APEC member countries to keep abreast of developments in APEC. These countries, through the Forum's Economic Action Plan, are committed to economic reforms, which facilitates their integration into the global economy. In particular, the Forum's Action Plan on achieving free and open trade and investment and on multilateral trade issues are compatible with those of APEC. Through participation in the CTI and IEG meetings, the South Pacific Forum has been able to keep the Forum Island Countries briefed on TILF activities in APEC.

## **III. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Ministers:

- ◆ *endorse* CTI's 1999 Annual Report and the revised and enhanced CAPs it contains;
- ◆ *welcome* the commendable achievements in 1999 which appear in Appendix III (Matrix of 1999 TILF Outcomes);
- ◆ *note*:
  - the completion of the study on Communicating the Impact of Liberalization,
  - a review undertaken on the implementation of CAPs since 1996, and

- the efforts to strengthen communication of APEC's achievements on trade facilitation;
- ◆ *endorse* CTI's recommendations on the management reform process;
- ◆ *agree* that continuation of work on the basis of the revised/enhanced CAPs, and in the progressive manner envisaged by the Osaka Action Agenda, provides a sound basis for CTI's work in 2000; and
- ◆ *direct* CTI, in executing its 2000 work program, to give priority to:
  - the broadening and deepening of its existing CAPs,
  - the completion of the policy framework for work in services,
  - the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures using the Kyoto Convention,
  - the conduct of reviews of progress on alignment with international standards and implementation of the mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Program, and
  - overhaul of the CAP on IPRs; and
- ◆ instruct CTI to discuss possible new areas for inclusion in the CAPs, notably along the lines of UR implementation, capacity-building, support for the WTO negotiations and other trade-related global developments.

## **Box 1. Highlights of TILF Outcomes for 1999 by CTI Sub-Forum**

<b>CTI Sub-Forum</b>	<b>Highlights of TILF Outcomes</b>
<i>Market Access Group (MAG)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a web page in the APEC Secretariat Homepage that hyper links to member economies' NTM websites.</li> </ul>
<i>Group on Services (GOS)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Development of an APEC Directory on Professional Services (Accountancy, Engineering and Architectural Services).</li> <li>•Compilation and comparison of all existing trade in services arrangements within APEC.</li> <li>•Development of a broader policy framework and formulation of alternative approaches for the Group's work program.</li> </ul>
<i>Investment Experts' Group(IEG)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compendium of the Initiatives, Development, Efforts, Aspirations and Strategies (IDEAS) for the four stakeholders (foreign direct investor, home economy, host economy, and domestic investor) involved in the international flow of foreign direct investment (FDI).</li> <li>•APEC Investment Mart, 2-5 June 1999, Seoul.</li> <li>•APEC Seminar on FDI Policy and Administration Adjustment, 10-11 June 1999, Bangkok Thailand and on Start-up Companies and Venture Capital, 28-30 July 1999, Chinese Taipei.</li> <li>•Completion of training program on Strategies to Identify and Facilitate Investment in Specific Areas.</li> <li>•Implementation of the Menu of Options on Investment Liberalization and Business Facilitation through voluntary inclusion in the 1999 IAPs of individual economies and through a workshop on the menu.</li> </ul>
<i>Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Development of a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Electrical and Electronic Equipment.</li> <li>•Development of an Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls and Recall Guidelines.</li> <li>•Compilation of "Information on Food Labeling Laws, Regulations and Standards in the APEC Region".</li> </ul>
<i>Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of multi-year technical assistance project for the adoption of UN/EDIFACT standards.</li> <li>• Completion of the technical assistance program to implement the WTO Valuation Agreement.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Activities to assist implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, including through a technical cooperation symposium and completion of the first survey on the current status of implementation of the Agreement by APEC members.</li> <li>•Adoption of guidelines for the simplification and standardization of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) administrative systems.</li> <li>•Publication of the consolidated survey on the IPR enforcement system through the Internet.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation (CPD)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Development of principles, which will be non-binding, for competition policy and regulatory reform in APEC.</li> <li>•Publication of the APEC Study on Competition Law for Developing Economies.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Government Procurement</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Completion of a set of non-binding principles on government procurement.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Experts' Group (GPEG)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contribution to the WTO's work on transparency in government procurement.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Informal Experts' Group on the Mobility of Business People (IEGBM)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Completion of Phase Two of APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) trial.</li> <li>•Training in document fraud techniques, according to needs identified by economies.</li> </ul>

## **Box 2. Highlights of TILF Outcomes in Other APEC Fora**

<b>APEC Working Group</b>	<b>Highlights of TILF Outcomes</b>
<b><i>Energy Working Group (EWG)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on Assessing the Impact on the Energy Sector of Liberalizing Trade and Investment in APEC Member Economies.</li> <li>• Completion of review of energy efficiency test standards and regulations in APEC member economies.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Fisheries Working Group (FWG)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study on the economic analysis of tariffs on the fisheries sector in the Asia-Pacific region with the view to assessing the qualitative and quantitative economic impact of tariff removal.</li> <li>• Publication of a manual explaining different market and trading requirements for airshipping live and fresh seafood to selected APEC economies.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Telecommunications Working</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive harmonization of administrative</li> </ul>



<b>Group(TELWG)</b>	<p>procedures governing certification of consumer telecommunications equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of APEC Framework and Principles for Telecommunications Interconnection.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Working Group (TWG)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Compilation of and comparative study on examples of best practice environmental initiatives within the APEC region.</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation Working Group(TPTWG)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Final phase (Phase V) of Road Transport Harmonization Project intended to develop, over a five-year period, a harmonized vehicle regulation system for APEC.</li> <li>•Development of an inventory of member economies' international shipping policies and activities.</li> <li>• Phase I of the electronic commerce project – Program to assist the implementation of electronic commerce for commercial messages.</li> </ul>

### **Box 3. CTI Response to ABAC Recommendations**

<b><i>ABAC Recommendation</i></b>	<b><i>CTI Response</i></b>
<p><i>NTM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Publish an APEC NTM inventory, including investment and services.</li> </ul>	<p>? A web page is being developed that hyper links member economies' NTM websites.</p>
<p><i>Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· APEC should formulate collective action plans addressing major issues concerning trade in services that apply across all service industries.</li> </ul>	<p>? GOS has commenced work on the development of a broader policy framework to strengthen work in services.</p>
<p><i>Investment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>Implement the 1994 Non-Binding Investment Principles</i></li> </ul>	<p>? Based on the non-exhaustive “master menu” of investment-liberalizing and business-facilitating measures, members have voluntarily selected a number of options to make progress toward creating a free and open investment regime. (The menu of options is available on the APEC website.)</p>
<p><i>Standards and Conformance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>APEC economies should align their domestic standards with international standards in the priority sectors identified by APEC.</i></li> <li>· <i>APEC economies should adopt mutual recognition agreements (MRA) in the priority areas identified by APEC within the regulated sectors by 1998.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Alignment is to be achieved in the priority areas by 2000/2005, though economies have committed to try to accelerate this timetable.</li> <li>? SCSC has agreed on the MRA for Electrical and Electronic Equipment in 1999.</li> </ul>

<p><i>Intellectual Property Rights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>APEC economies should implement TRIPS, or equivalent obligations in the case of non-WTO signatories, in the shortest possible time before 2000, with enforcement principles based on world best practice.</i></li> </ul>	<p>? All APEC WTO members are expected to implement TRIPS by 2000. Members are making the utmost effort towards this end, including by utilizing programs for technical cooperation. Members have also adopted guidelines for the simplification and standardization of IPR administrative systems by way of improving members' systems after full TRIPS implementation.</p>
<p><i>Competition and Deregulation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>APEC should consider the views of business in its approach to competition policy and deregulation.</i></li> </ul>	<p>? Priority work for 1999 includes: development of principles, which will be non-binding, for competition and regulatory reform, in association with PECC; strategies for capacity building and institutional development; and completion of a study on the advantages and disadvantages of competition law for developing economies.</p>
<p><i>Mobility of Business People</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>APEC should expand its cooperation in visa processing and border entry management systems and technology beyond information-sharing exercises, and include identification of world best practice systems and technologies, and should give priority to training and technical infrastructure development.</i></li> <li>· <i>The APEC Business Travel Handbook should be regularly updated and widely publicized in member economies.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>·Members have established a “mentoring” system to provide training and technical infrastructure development.</li> <li>·Members have published on the Internet information on existing regulations and procedures for obtaining short-term business visas and business residency permits.</li> </ul>

## **Box 4. CTI Work in Support of the WTO**

<p><b>CTI Sub-forum</b> Market Access Group</p>	<p><b>Work in Support of WTO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APEC economies continued to provide tariff and trade data to the WTO Integrated Database in accordance with WTO obligations.</li> </ul>
<p>Group on Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is underway on the development of an APEC Directory on Professional Services (Accountancy, Engineering and Architectural Services).</li> </ul>

<i>Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delivery of three training modules on the implementation of the WTO Valuation Agreement is scheduled for completion by end 1999.</li> <li>• Several assistance missions are being dispatched during the course of 1999 to help economies implement the border enforcement aspects of the WTO TRIPS Agreement.</li> </ul>
<i>Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPEG conducted a survey on the status of implementation of the TRIPS Agreement to identify remaining tasks for member economies and areas where technical cooperation may be needed.</li> <li>• A symposium to support TRIPS implementation was held in Korea in June 1999.</li> </ul>
<i>Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A policy dialogue was held with a representative from the WTO on competition policy and its interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment.</li> </ul>
<i>Government Procurement Experts' Group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The elements of and illustrative practices on the non-binding principles of accountability and due process were submitted to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement (WGTGP) for reference in April 1999.</li> </ul>
<i>Dispute Mediation Experts' Group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMEG held a successful Advanced Seminar on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding in Singapore in April 1999.</li> </ul>
<i>Informal Meeting on Rules of Origin and Uruguay Round (UR) Implementation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An APEC UR Implementation Seminar on WTO New Agreements (Information Technology, Basic Telecommunications and Financial Services) was held in China in May 1999.</li> </ul>

## **Box 5. EVSL Projects for Implementation in 1999 and 2000**

<i>Sector/Project Title</i>	<i>Description</i>
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<p><b><i>Fisheries &amp; fish products</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Study into the Nature and Extent of Subsidies in the Fisheries Sectors of APEC member economies</li> <li>· Study to reduce impediments to early voluntary liberalization in the fisheries sector</li> </ul>	<p>An inventory of generic types of subsidization used globally in the fisheries sector, highlighting those used in the APEC region and clarifying how the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures applies to them.</p> <p>Assesses the impact of EVSL on the fisheries sector and develops a policy model which may be applicable to the EVSL-participating economies wishing to reduce impediments to liberalization and facilitation in the fisheries sector in order to achieve the long-run goal of free trade.</p>
<p><b><i>Forestry</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Study of Non-Tariff Measures in the Forest Products Sector</li> <li>· Research on the Method of Assessment of Forest Resource by Remote Sensing</li> <li>· Study on Methods to Detect and Control forest damage caused by insects and diseases with Remote Sensing, General Information System (GIS) and Global Position System (GPS).</li> <li>· Internet-oriented multimedia database of assessment and utilization of and trade in, the wood of main tree species in APEC member economies</li> </ul>	<p>A comprehensive inventory of non-tariff measures and other policies impeding or distorting trade in forest products. An enumeration of the most frequently used measures/policies; and a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the impact of these measures/policies on trade, including a broader analysis of the policy goals underlying these measures/policies and the economic and environmental costs and benefits stemming from their application.</p> <p>Research on a new method of monitoring and assessing forest resources in the Asia-Pacific region. Aims to study and find effective methods of monitoring damage forest areas and to recommend the replacement of traditional modes of forest protection with advanced techniques.</p> <p>An internet-oriented multimedia database of assessment and utilization of and trade in the wood of main tree species in APEC member economies will be established using Microsoft Windows NT<sup>®</sup> SQL Server software. The database will enhance the flow of information so as to promote better use of forest resources.</p>
<p><b><i>Toys</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· APEC Implementation of ISO Toy Safety Standards</li> <li>· Program for Training and Development of Designers and Sample Makers in the Toy and Novelties Industry</li> </ul>	<p>A three-day intensive seminar to assist APEC member economies in implementing the ISO Standard #8124 on toy safety.</p> <p>A training program to enhance the counter sample making ability of SME toy manufacturers and exporters and develop a core of professional designers for the local industry. It also seeks to minimize raw material wastage and increase productivity in the toy industries in the developing economies.</p>
<p><b><i>Environment</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Survey of Environmental Markets in APEC</li> <li>· Study on Impacts of Financial Crisis in</li> </ul>	<p>A survey to assess the current market profiles and future prospects for environmental goods and services in APEC member economies.</p> <p>A study on the impact of the financial crisis on trade</p>

<p>Southeast Asia on Trade Liberalization in Environmental Goods and Services within APEC member economies</p> <p><b>Food</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Seminar on Reduction of Antibiotic Residues in the Domestic Animal Products</li> </ul> <p><b>Medical Equipment &amp; Instruments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Seminar for Government Regulators/Harmonization of Medical Equipment Regulation</li> <li>· Establishment of Best Practices in Evaluation of Product Certification Applications and Monitoring System for Medical Equipment and Devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Gems &amp; Jewelry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Development/Implementation of Training Programs for Jewelry Testing, Assaying and Hallmarking for APEC Members Economies</li> <li>· APEC Gems and Jewelry Trade and Technology Seminar</li> </ul>	<p>in environmental goods and services within APEC economies. It aims to put forth (a) relevant countermeasures to develop trade in environmental goods and services for APEC economies and (b) suggestions for regional cooperation.</p> <p>A seminar aimed at increasing the safety of food and enhancing environmental protection. It aims to improve the knowledge and skills of relevant enterprises and the public on food management while updating them on current researches on animal feed management. The seminar will also discuss how to develop sustainable husbandry practices.</p> <p>A seminar to increase regulatory officials' awareness of the benefits of harmonization of regulations of medical equipment and devices. It also seeks to promote transparency in standards and conformity assessment within the medical devices and equipment sector.</p> <p>The project promotes good manufacturing practices in production facilities, public health and safety, eliminates counterfeiting of medical devices and equipment, improves transparency in import requirements, and increases trade flows.</p> <p>The project promotes joint research and conducts training programs among APEC member economies in jewelry testing, assaying and hallmarking with the aim of developing a core of professional jewelry assayers. It will also explore the feasibility of establishing a standardized system of jewelry testing, assaying and hallmarking for adoption by all APEC member economies.</p> <p>The seminar aims to provide the APEC Gems and Jewelry trade and technical organizations and enterprises with an opportunity to establish contacts, build up partnerships, and thus promote the APEC gems and jewelry market development and trade expansion. It will also include a tour of jewel shops and freshwater pearl culture sites and plant visits to manufacturers.</p>
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# **CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON TARIFFS AND NON-TARIFF MEASURES**

## **1. Introduction**

The Market Access Group (MAG) was established by the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) at its meeting in St. John's in August 1997 to coordinate and undertake necessary work relating to the Tariff/Non-tariff Measures (NTM) Collective Action Plan (CAP) and voluntary sectoral liberalization.

MAG convened its first meeting in February 1998 in Penang to discuss its work plan and deliverables. The Penang meeting also saw members' adoption of the Group's Terms of Reference as approved by CTI. A progress report on the Group's CAP was first circulated at the second meeting in June 1998 in Kuching, Malaysia for members' endorsement, and was subsequently finalized incorporating comments from member economies. The third MAG meeting in Wellington in February 1999 identified the proposed work plans and the expected outcomes/deliverables for 1999. MAG also undertook a review of its mandate and its CAP implementation since 1996.

## **2. Collective Actions Achieved**

- Reviewed suggested enhancements by users of the APEC Tariff Database (TDB) in consultation with SCCP, and submitted contact details/website addresses to the APEC Secretariat for forwarding to the Tariff Database Manager.
- Requested members to provide regular updates of tariff information as changes occur, and provide annual updates of trade and other agreed data to APEC TDB.
- Requested members to provide the WTO Secretariat with tariff and trade data annually in accordance with WTO obligations.
- Continued the process for economies to verify information on NTMs collated from the Individual Action Plans (IAPs), WTO Trade Policy Reviews of APEC members which are WTO members, and from WTO notifications under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.
- Continued the process of submission of NTMs information by members in accordance with the Chair's suggested formats for developing a framework for reporting progress on NTMs.
- Assisted PECC in its study by verifying and updating information used in the APEC Impediments Measurement System (AIMs).

## **3. New Collective Actions Agreed**

- Follow the progress of the approved work programs on NTMs in EVSL and consolidate the overall results of this work.
- Consider the possibility of adopting a work program to progress the OAA objective of progressively reducing non-tariff measures.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The exchange of information on NTMs would lead to greater transparency of NTMs that may impact on trade flows, thereby benefiting the export community.

#### **5. 1999 Highlights**

- Update and incorporate enhancements provided by users of the APEC Tariff Database.
- Continued compilation of information on NTMs and the list of products affected by these NTMs.
- Uploaded information on hyper links to member economies' NTM websites at the APEC Secretariat's homepage.

## TARIFFS & NON-TARIFF MEASURES 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<p><b><i>Early Voluntary Liberalization</i></b></p> <p>(a) <i>Identify industries in which the progressive reduction of tariffs may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization* .</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Identify industries in which the progressive reduction of non-tariff measures may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization* .</i></p> <p>(*Note: referred to elsewhere as “priority industry sectors”)</p>	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Collective: Consider developing a list of further priority sectors for submission to Ministers as and when directed by CTI.</p> <p>Collective: Develop a framework and database for reporting progress on liberalization in tariffs and NTMs, including product specific information about tariff peaks and tariff quotas.</p> <p>Collective: Follow the progress of the approved work programs on NTMs in EVSL and consolidate the overall results of this work.</p>	<p>1999 onwards</p> <p>1999/2000</p> <p>2000 onwards</p>



OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<p><b>Tariffs</b></p> <p><i>(c) Develop and keep a computerized tariff database (APEC tariff database) and work towards establishing a database network without duplicating but rather supporting the WTO work in this area</i></p>	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Individual: Submit current data, and any other information which is collectively agreed to be required to implement suggested enhancements by users of the APEC Tariff Database (TDB), to the Tariff Database Manager (Federal Express).</p> <p>Collective: Coordinate with SCCP to continuously review existing functions and explore new enhancements with the Tariff Database Manager/other service providers to ensure the continuous development and maintenance of the APEC Tariff Database in ways that meet the needs of users.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p> <p>Individual: provide regular updates of tariff information as changes occur, and provide annual updates of trade and other agreed data to the APEC database. To support WTO, provide tariff and trade data annually in accordance with WTO obligations. Non-WTO members may provide the information required as a voluntary measure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>1999/2000</p> <p>1999 - 2010/2020</p>

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<p><b><i>Non-Tariff Measures</i></b></p> <p><i>(d) Pursue incorporation of information on non-tariff measures into a future version of the APEC tariff database and compile a list of measures recognized as non-tariff impediments and a list of products affected by those impediments.</i></p>	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Individual: Verify and augment information on NTMs collated from the Individual Action Plans, WTO Trade Policy Reviews of APEC-WTO members and notifications to WTO under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing measures.</p> <p>Individual: Exchange through CTI, and where possible make available electronically (e.g. through the APEC Secretariat's homepage), information on non-tariff measures utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference.</p> <p>Collective: Examine how information on non-tariff measures can be made available on electronic or other platforms for sharing and exchange so as to help businesses to better understand member economies' trade regimes/practices.</p> <p>Collective: On the basis of information exchanged, compile a list of measures recognized as non-tariff impediments and a list of products affected by those impediments, and examine the UNCTAD Coding System of Trade Control Measures as a possible reporting system.</p> <p><u>Short-term and Ongoing:</u></p> <p>Collective: Develop and update the contents of the APEC database in association with other international organizations (e.g. WTO and UNCTAD).</p>	<p>1999</p> <p>1999 onwards</p> <p>1999 onwards</p> <p>1999</p> <p>1999 - 2010/2020</p>

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
<i>(e) Progressively reduce non-tariff measures</i>	<p><u>Medium-to Long-term</u></p> <p>Collective: Consider the possibility of adopting a work program to progress this OAA objective.</p>	2000-2010/2020
<i>(f) Progressively reduce export subsidies with a view to abolishing them.</i>	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Individual: Exchange through CTI, and where possible make available electronically (e.g. through the APEC Secretariat's homepage), information on all export subsidies, utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference. As a starting point, individual members could use their respective notifications to WTO under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.</p>	1999 onwards
	<p>Collective: Consider using the information collated from notifications under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures to develop a reporting system on export subsidies so as to enhance transparency and thus facilitate trade.</p>	1999/2000
	<p><u>Medium-term</u></p> <p>Collective: Discuss further measures to enhance transparency of export subsidies, building on the exchange of information among APEC members and consider what further APEC collective actions are appropriate and possible.</p>	2000

OAA Objectives	Action	Time Frame
	<p><u>Medium- to Long-term</u></p> <p>Collective: Develop approaches leading to the progressive reduction of export subsidies by members, with a view to abolishing them in support of WTO agreements.</p>	2000-2010/2020
<p>(g) <i>Abolish unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions and endeavor to refrain from taking any such new measures.</i></p>	<p><u>Short-term</u></p> <p>Individual: Exchange through CTI, and where possible make available electronically (e.g. through APEC Secretariat's Homepage), information on all export prohibitions and restrictions utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference.</p> <p>Collective: Consider using information collated from WTO Trade Policy Reviews of APEC members which are WTO members to develop a reporting system for export prohibitions and restrictions.</p> <p><u>Medium-term</u></p> <p>Collective: Discuss further measures to enhance transparency in unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions, building on the exchange of information among APEC members and consider other APEC collective actions which are appropriate and possible.</p> <p><u>Medium- to Long-term</u></p> <p>Collective: Develop approaches leading to the progressive reduction of unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions by members, with a view to abolishing them.</p>	<p>1999 onwards</p> <p>1999</p> <p>2000</p> <p>2000-2010/2020</p>



# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON SERVICES

## 1. Introduction

The Group on Services (GOS) is an informal subgroup of CTI mandated by the Committee to address the services agenda contained in the OAA based on directions received from Leaders, Ministers, SOM and CTI. GOS has held ten meetings since 1997, the last one of which was held in Rotorua, New Zealand on 7-8 August 1999. The bulk of its meetings have been devoted to information gathering and analysis, experience sharing and transparency. In 1999, it was agreed that CTI/GOS would develop a closer inter-relationship with other related fora, and elaborate a policy framework for work in services by deepening and reviewing the scope of the collective actions. The current Convenor of GOS is Dr Ing-Wen Tsai, Advisor to Council for Economic Planning and Development, Chinese Taipei.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Voluntary presentations on trade in sub-regional services arrangements within APEC were made.
- A compilation and comparison of all existing services trade arrangements within APEC was provided by PECC.
- A Training Seminar on Trade in Services, with private sector representation, was held to promote understanding of the said issue amongst public sector officials.
- A document titled *The IAP Summary on Services*, was produced and will continually be updated for analysis as a basis for discussions.
- Analysis of information in the services section contained in IAPs. The information has already been gathered in the form of *The IAP Summary on Services*. Work is ongoing.
- Identification of measures affecting trade and investment in all services. Work is ongoing.
- Voluntary exchanges of views through presentations on services sectors were initiated commencing with education services.
- A brief compendium was made by the APEC Secretariat on the various existing databases containing statistical information on trade in services.
- Sharing of experiences on the identification of elements of what free and open trade in the services sector means.
- Improvement of understanding on the impact of liberalization of services;
- Agreement to undertake a questionnaire survey on the requirements for the provision of three priority professional services. The questionnaire survey was conducted by Hong Kong, China and Australia. Phase 1 of the project covered accountancy, engineering and architectural services and would be finalized by mid-September 1999.
- PECC undertook follow-up work on the compilation and comparison on all existing services trade arrangements within APEC based on directions from GOS.
- Building upon work in APEC and other international fora, disseminate research and analysis on services trade liberalization.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Developing a broader policy framework for strengthening work in the services area.
- PECC to examine, among others, the timeframe of liberalization provided for in the existing trade in services agreements within APEC and liberalization initiatives implemented subsequent to their formation.
- Voluntary presentation of “Ideal Models of Services Regimes” (best practices) on distribution and environmental services.
- Studying measures affecting trade and investment in educational services.
- Member economies to present their experiences in generating momentum for services liberalization in light of perceived benefits of such process.
- Building up APEC support for genuinely comprehensive services negotiations in the WTO.
- Exploring ways to complement the work of the WTO.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

To facilitate intra-APEC trade in professional services, GOS has conducted a survey which contains information on the requirements for the provision of selected professional services in the APEC region to make such information available to business in an accessible and user friendly format. The study on a comparison of all existing trade in services arrangements within the APEC region will facilitate trade by enhancing transparency, promoting services liberalization and providing easy, up-to-date reference information. With a view to progressively achieving the OAA objective, GOS has developed a policy framework for work in services and a work program to establish closer interrelationship with related APEC fora.

#### **5. 1999 Highlights**

- Development of an APEC Directory on Professional Services (Accountancy, Engineering and Architectural Services)
- Compilation and comparison of all existing trade in services arrangements within APEC
- Development of a broader policy framework and formulation of alternative approaches for the Group’s work program

## SERVICES 1999/2000 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

### Preamble

*OAA Objectives:* APEC economies will achieve free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region by:

- a) progressively reducing restrictions on market access for trade in services, and
- b) progressively providing for, *inter alia*, most-favored-nation (MFN) treatment and national treatment for trade in services.

### OAA Collective Actions

**APEC economies will take the following Collective Actions:**

<b>All Sectors other than Energy, Telecommunications, Tourism, and Transportation.</b>		
<b>Collective Action</b>	<b>Steps to Implement</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
a. Review and exchange information on all trade and investment in services arrangements within APEC and study common elements.	Voluntary presentations on trade in services arrangements to be made with regard to all sub-regional groupings, on an ongoing basis.	Ongoing
	PECC to submit a compilation and comparison of all the existing trade in services arrangements within APEC.	<b>Completed</b>
	Conduct seminars and workshops in services-related issues to enhance understanding and enable exchanges of views with private sector representatives.	<b>Completed</b>
	PECC to undertake follow-up work based on directions of GOS and the compilation completed.	Short-term (1999-2000)
b. Gather and analyze information on the services section contained within the Individual Action Plans.	A document entitled, <i>The IAP Summary on Services</i> , to be continuously updated according to the annual revisions of IAPs, for analysis and use as a reference and a basis for discussions.	Ongoing
c. Identification of measures affecting trade and investment in all service sectors.	Member economies, taking into account the views of the private/business sector and academia, will identify priority sectors to be addressed by GOS on the basis of	Ongoing



<b>All Sectors other than Energy, Telecommunications, Tourism, and Transportation.</b>		
<b>Collective Action</b>	<b>Steps to Implement</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
	<p>information voluntarily supplied by member economies.</p> <p>Compile a list of measures which affect, either positively or negatively, these services, as a basis for collective work towards achieving OAA objectives in services.</p> <p>Economies will volunteer papers and studies that will allow the sharing of experiences in this area and what could be considered “best practices” cases.</p> <p>Voluntary presentation of “Ideal Models of Service Regimes” (best practices) on distribution and environmental services.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Short-term (1999-2000)</p>
d. Compile information on services trade statistics.	<p>A brief compendium to be made by the APEC Secretariat on the various existing databases containing statistical information on trade in services relevant to member economies. Consult work done by the Trade and Investment Data Working Group.</p> <p>Organize workshops and/or seminars with statisticians and experts on services trade, taking into account work of other international fora such as the OECD, UN, IMF, and WTO.</p> <p>Examine methodological problems in the collection and use of statistics as well as the different tools for gathering and analyzing these statistics.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Short-term (1999-2000)</p> <p>Short-medium term (1999-2005)</p>
e. To improve understanding of the impact of liberalization of services.	<p>Economies will undertake an evaluation of the role of services trade liberalization in economic development.</p> <p>Member economies, in consultation with business, e.g., ABAC and other relevant fora such as academia, share</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Short-medium term (1999-2005)</p>

<b>All Sectors other than Energy, Telecommunications, Tourism, and Transportation.</b>		
<b>Collective Action</b>	<b>Steps to Implement</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
	<p>experiences and consult, <i>inter alia</i>, on the identification of elements of what a free and open trade in the services sector means.</p> <p>Building upon work in APEC and other international fora, disseminate research and analysis on services trade liberalization.</p> <p>Studying measures affecting trade and investment in educational services.</p> <p>Member economies to present their experiences in generating momentum for services liberalization in light of perceived benefit of such process.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Short-term (1999-2000)</p> <p>Short-medium term (1999-2005)</p>
f. Study and carry out work concerning the development and adoption of common professional standards, in conjunction with professional accreditation bodies and needed legislative measures.	<p>In response to ABAC recommendations, complement the work underway in HRDWG. Due attention will be paid to the work carried out at the WTO.</p> <p>In consultation with the private sector, identify priority professions for consideration.</p> <p>Conduct a survey of the requirements for provision of priority professional services in member economies and make such information available to business in accessible and user-friendly format.</p>	<p>Short-medium term (1999-2005)</p> <p>Short-medium term (1999-2005)</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
g. Pursuant to SOM instructions, GOS will provide support to the ongoing EVSL initiatives.	As directed by SOM	Short-term (1999-2000)
h. Enhance transparency in service sectors.	<p>Establish focal points where information on laws and/or regulations related to trade in services could be made available. Uploading of relevant information on the World Wide Web will be considered.</p> <p>Selected documents to be published for the benefit and information of the</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<b>All Sectors other than Energy, Telecommunications, Tourism, and Transportation.</b>		
<b>Collective Action</b>	<b>Steps to Implement</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
	private sector.	
i. Continue discussion of issues related to possible APEC principles or guidelines that may be necessary to achieve free and open trade and investment in this area.	Building upon the work conducted within GOS and other relevant fora, including WTO, as well as papers submitted by individual member economies, exchange views on issues related to possible APEC principles or guidelines.	Ongoing
j. Monitor, and where possible and appropriate, contribute to the WTO's work on services.	Engage in analysis and exchange of information to allow members to better understand the issues involved, identify their interests, and contribute positively to the WTO's work.  Building up APEC support for genuinely comprehensive services negotiations in the WTO.  Exploring ways to complement the work of the WTO.	Short-term (1999-2000)  Short-term (1999-2000)  Short-medium term (1999-2005)
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>		
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>		
<b>ENERGY</b>		
<b>TOURISM</b>		

Note: GOS will work with CTI to develop a framework for strengthening work in the service area. To this end, the GOS will develop a closer inter-relationship with other related fora (e.g. investment, competition policy and deregulation, mobility of business people) by deepening and reviewing the scope of the collective action plans in the OAA. The work proposed by the GOS relating to other fora should avoid duplication and be undertaken in consultation with such other fora. The framework will be submitted to CTI for approval by end of 1999.

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON INVESTMENT

## 1. Introduction

In response to the mandate by APEC Leaders to develop a set of non-binding investment principles for APEC, CTI established the Investment Experts Group (IEG) in 1994. The group was reconvened in 1995 to provide advice to CTI on investment issues. The current Chair of IEG is Mr Chua Eng Seng, Deputy Director General I of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA).

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Published a new edition of the investment guidebook.
- Compiled a compendium of Initiatives, Development Efforts, Aspiration and Strategies (IDEAS) of the four major stakeholders in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) themes, i.e., the Foreign Direct Investor, the Home Economy, the Host Economy, and the Domestic Investor.
- Policy discussions were held to review the investment regimes of New Zealand (February 1999), Peru (May 1999) and People's Republic of China (August 1999)
- Held an APEC Investment Mart in Seoul, Korea on 2-5 June 1999.
- Conducted a seminar on FDI Policy and Administration Adjustment in Bangkok, Thailand on 10-11 June 1999.
- Conducted a training program on Strategies to Identify and Facilitate Investment in Specific Areas, e.g. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), development and industrial linkage, high tech industries and R&D Activities at the APEC Secretariat in Singapore on 15-17 June 1999.
- Conducted a Seminar on Start Up Companies and Venture Capital in Chinese Taipei on 28-30 July 1999.
- Conducted the first phase of the awareness program for APEC investment/trade officials to understand and be informed of the various options for investment liberalization and business facilitation.
- Report on the Second Business Survey.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Organize the Fifth APEC Investment Symposium in China in the Year 2000.
- Organize the Second APEC Investment Mart in the Year 2000/2001.
- Develop the Menu of Facilities offered by a One Stop Agency.
- Update the Menu of Options.
- Voluntary inclusion and recording by cross-reference the implementation of Menu of Options in the IAPs of individual member economies.
- Undertake the review of CAPs.
- Hold Phase II and Phase III of the training on awareness program to understand and be informed of the various options for investment liberalization and business facilitation.

#### **4. Benefit and Beneficiary**

The collective actions will enhance transparency of APEC investment regimes, facilitate investment activities and promote investment liberalization. The activities also provide an opportunity for the business/private sector and government officials to exchange views on investment issues, help create better understanding of the aims and aspirations of member economies, identify means to enhance the investment environment, and promote investment flows in the region.

#### **5. 1999 Highlights**

- Conducted two seminars on:
  - (i) FDI Policy and Administration Adjustment in Bangkok, Thailand on 10-11 June 1999.
  - (ii) Start Up Companies and Venture Capital in Chinese Taipei on 28-30 July 1999.
- Conducted two training programs:
  - (i) Strategies to Identify and Facilitate Investment in Specific Areas e.g. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) development and industrial linkages, high tech industries and R&D activities.
  - (ii) 1st Phase - Awareness for APEC investment/trade officials to understand and be informed of the various options for investment liberalization and business facilitation.
- Compiled the compendium of Initiatives, Development Efforts, Aspirations and Strategies (IDEAS) for the four stakeholders (foreign direct investor, home economy, host economy and domestic investor) involved in the international flow of FDI's.
- Organized the APEC Investment Mart in Seoul, Korea on 2-5 June 1999.
- Report on the Second Business Survey.

## INVESTMENT 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p><b>Transparency</b> <i>Short-term</i></p> <p>A. Increase in the short-term the <b>transparency</b> of APEC investment regimes by:</p> <p>(i) updating APEC guidebook on investment regimes</p> <p>(ii) increase understanding among member economies on investment policy-making issues</p>	<p>Publish the 4th edition of the investment guidebook.</p> <p>Identify and develop matrix of Initiatives, Development Efforts, Aspirations and Strategies (IDEAS) of the four stakeholders (foreign direct investor, home economy, host economy and domestic investor) involved in the international flow of FDIs. Compile the compendium of IDEAS.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>Completed</b></p>
<p><b>Policy Dialogue</b> <i>Short-term</i></p> <p>B. Promote, in the short-term, <b>dialogue with the APEC business community</b> on ways to improve the APEC investment environment.</p>	<p>Update, in conjunction with the business sector, a menu of options for investment liberalization and business facilitation to strengthen the APEC economies for voluntary inclusion in IAPs.</p> <p>Update, in conjunction with ABAC, arrangements for enhanced investment protection.</p> <p>Organize the 5th Investment Symposium.</p> <p>Identify mechanisms for periodic discussions with business representatives in individual member economies.</p> <p>Consult ABAC, PECC and other relevant regional business organizations.</p> <p>Policy discussion forum on Investment Regimes of member economies</p> <p>Request comments from these bodies on major APEC investment initiatives through inclusion of representatives of such organizations in APEC Investment Symposia.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2000</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
C. Establish, in the short-term, a <b>dialogue process with the OECD and other international fora</b> involved in global and regional investment issues.	Establish policy dialogue process with other fora, where appropriate.  Consider possible contributions by APEC to the WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment.	Ongoing  Ongoing
D. Undertake an <b>evaluation of the role of investment liberalization</b> in economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.	Continue the dialogue on facilitation, cooperation and liberalization, with a view to improving understanding of the implications of the non-binding investment principles.  Review the Economic Committee's work (and other relevant work) on the impact of investment liberalization on growth in the region with a view to identifying possible regional policy implications.	Ongoing  <b>Completed</b>
E. Study possible <b>common elements between existing subregional arrangements relevant</b> to investment.	Review the investment provisions of current subregional arrangements.  Consider further study of possible relationships between these provisions in the future.	Ongoing  1999 onwards
<i>Medium-term</i> F. Refine, in the medium-term, <b>APEC's understanding of free and open investment</b> .	Assess evolving elements of global investment disciplines and policy debate with a view to reaching agreement on the final point objective for APEC investment liberalization.	Medium-term
Long-term G. Assess, in the long-term, <b>the merits of developing an APEC-wide discipline on investment</b> in the light of APEC's own progress through the medium-term as well as developments in other international fora.	To be determined in the light of progress with policy dialogue in the medium-term.	Long-term

Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p><b>Facilitation</b> <i>Short-term and continuing</i></p> <p>H. Undertake practical facilitation initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressively work towards reducing impediments to investment.</li> </ul> <p>To initiate investment promotion and facilitation activities to enhance investment flow within APEC economies.</p>	<p>Drawing on business and other advice, identify possible areas for improved practices.</p> <p>Organize 1st APEC Investment Mart</p> <p>Organize 2nd APEC Investment Mart</p> <p>Undertake to develop the Menu of Facilities offered by a One Stop Agency</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>2000/2001</p> <p>2000</p>
<p><b>Economic and Technical Cooperation</b> <i>Short-term</i></p> <p>I. Identify, in the short-term, ongoing <b>technical cooperation</b> needs in the Asia-Pacific region and organize training programs which will assist APEC economies in fulfilling APEC investment objectives.</p>	<p>Identify target areas for technical cooperation including 'best practice' policy/administrative frameworks.</p> <p>Conduct training programs for officials concerned with investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a training program on strategies to identify and facilitate investment in specific areas, e.g., Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) development and industrial linkages, high-tech industries, and R&amp;D activities;</li> <li>• a seminar on foreign direct investment policy and administration adjustment;</li> <li>• coordinate efforts with other relevant bodies involved in technical cooperation;</li> <li>• an annual exchange of experience program for APEC investment officials and private sector; and</li> <li>• an awareness program for APEC investment/trade officials to understand and be informed of the various options for investment liberalization and business facilitation.</li> <li>• a seminar on the Start Up Companies and Venture Capitals</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>1999 onwards</p> <p>1999 and 2000</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p>



Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p><b>Capacity Building Initiatives</b></p> <p>J. Undertake new activities that contribute to capacity building</p>	<p>Identify the elements of capacity building to strengthen the economies of APEC member economies and undertake the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for trade and investment liberalization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A study/studies on the impact of EVSL on investment;</li> <li>– Based on the findings of the study/studies, identify the challenges and the opportunities EVSL presents to local and foreign investors; and</li> <li>– Identify and implement assistance/strategic measures so that member economies can build confidence and the capacity to sustain their development agenda for mutual benefit.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>1999 onwards</p>

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE

## 1. Introduction

Recognizing that standards and conformance was a priority area for the realization of APEC's goals, APEC Ministers established the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) in November 1994. SCSC's major objectives are to: (a) encourage alignment of members' standards with international standards; (b) achieve mutual recognition among APEC economies of conformity assessment in regulated and voluntary sectors; (c) promote cooperation for technical infrastructure development; and (d) ensure the transparency of the standards and conformity assessment of APEC economies. The 1999 SCSC Chair is Mr Graham Boxall, Senior Advisor, Business Policy Division, Ministry of Commerce, New Zealand.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Undertook a joint project with HRD Working Group on the International Quality Assurance Systems training course
- Implemented TILF projects on Partners in Food Safety –Towards an integrated Regional Approach to Enhanced Food Control Systems
- Held a seminar for exploring the issues relating to good regulatory practices and their implementation
- Participated in a training program on Standards and Conformity Assessment Schemes [APEC/Partners for Progress (PFP) project]
- Updated an Internet publication, *APEC Contact Points for Standards and Conformance Information*.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Conduct comprehensive reviews of progress on alignment with international standards in 2000.
- Improve the effectiveness of the Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety.
- Undertake technical infrastructure projects.
- Conduct reviews of the mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Program's implementation.
- Develop and participate in two workshops in food/drug interface and training programs on food risk analysis.
- Develop a database on conformity assessment operators and their activities/services offered and establish as APEC Cooperation Centre for Conformity Assessment.
- Develop a work program on trade facilitation in information technology products in response to a proposal from the Information Technology Industry Council.
- Hold a forum in conjunction with the International Electrotechnical Commission.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

Alignment with international standards as well as networks of mutual recognition arrangements contribute to expanding regional trade and investment flows by reducing unnecessary costs and time-consuming delays associated with differences in standards and conformance in the APEC region.

#### **5. Highlights of TILF Outcomes in 1999**

- Agreed on the Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Electrical and Electronic Equipment (APEC Electrical MRA) and the Joint Advisory Committee Terms and Reference.
- Agreed on the Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls and Food Recall Guidelines.
- Conducted a TILF project on Compilation of Information on Food Labeling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC region.
- Internet dissemination of the *Voluntary Action Plan Report*

## STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
<b>1. Alignment</b>		
APEC economies will align their mandatory and voluntary standards with international standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to develop an <i>APEC Guide on Alignment on Member Economies' Standards with International Standards</i>.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b> 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to align their standards with international standards in the following priority areas: electrical and electronic appliances (air conditioners, televisions, refrigerators, radios and their parts and video apparatus); food labeling; rubber gloves and condoms; and machinery.</li> </ul>	1996 to 2000/2005
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to align their standards with international standards in the additional priority area of electrical and electronic equipment to include all electrical safety (IEC 60335) and relevant EMC (CISPR) standards.</li> </ul>	1998 to 2004/2008
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to continue identifying additional priority areas for alignment with international standards.</li> </ul>	From 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to actively participate in the standardization activities of international standardization bodies (ISO &amp; IEC) in the following priority sectors: building and construction and hazardous area equipment.</li> </ul>	From 1996
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to establish <i>ad-hoc</i> technical groups, which would work with PASC in developing coordinated regional input into the development of international standards in selected areas.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b> 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to participate in <i>ad-hoc</i> technical groups, which work with PASC in developing coordinated regional input into the development of international standards in selected areas.</li> </ul>	From 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to participate in APEC seminars on WTO-TBT/SPS Agreements, Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), Bulk Pharmaceuticals, and Environmental Management Standards.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies to develop <i>APEC Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption, and Review of Technical Regulations</i> and to promote their use by regulatory agencies.</li> </ul>	<b>Guidelines Completed</b> <b>1997</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member economies will continue to develop a Guide to Good Regulatory Practice.</li> </ul>	From 1998

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to convene an Ad Hoc Working Group meeting on the Guide to Good Regulatory Practice</li> </ul>	February 2000
APEC economies will conduct a comprehensive review of progress on alignment with international standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to conduct comprehensive reviews of their alignment work.</li> <li>Member economies to develop a common format for reporting on progress of alignment with international standards in accordance with the revised ISO/IEC Guide 21</li> <li>Member economies to publish the results of the first review of the alignment work.</li> <li>Member economies to update these results on their respective alignment plans. These will be placed on the APEC Secretariat's homepage.</li> <li>Member economies to continue to report on the progress in aligning their standards with international standards</li> <li>Member economies to agree to the program of comprehensive review to be undertaken in 2000.</li> </ul>	2000 and 2005  <b>Completed</b> 1999  <b>Completed</b> 1998 From 1998  From 1998  <b>Completed</b> 1999
<b>2. Recognition of Conformity Assessment</b>		
Achieve mutual recognition among APEC economies of conformity assessment in regulated and voluntary sectors.	<b>Regulated sector</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to develop bilateral, multi-sectoral, and plurilateral mutual recognition arrangements.</li> <li>Member economies to develop and endorse an <i>Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety</i>.</li> <li>Member economies to consider participation in the <i>Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety</i>.</li> <li>Member economies to improve the effectiveness of the <i>Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety</i></li> <li>Member economies to develop and endorse an <i>Umbrella Arrangement for Mutual Recognition on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products</i> (APEC Food MRA).</li> <li>Member economies to consider participation in the <i>APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products</i>.</li> <li>Member economies to develop an APEC mutual recognition arrangement on conformity assessment of electrical and electronic equipment.</li> <li>Member economies to consider participation in the <i>APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Electrical and Electronic Equipment</i>.</li> </ul>	From 1997  <b>Completed</b> <b>1996</b>  From 1996 (15 economies)  From 1999  <b>Completed</b> <b>1996</b>  From 1997 (6 economies)  <b>Completed</b> <b>1999</b>  From 1999

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to develop Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recall and Food Recall Guidelines.</li> </ul>	<b>Completed 1999</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to consider participation in the <i>APEC Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls</i>.</li> <li>Member economies agreed to review the implementation and use of the mutual recognition arrangements.</li> <li>Member economies to continue to further consider additional priority areas for MRA in the regulated sector.</li> <li>Member economies to consider alternative mechanisms to facilitate the recognition of conformity assessment results</li> </ul> <p><b>Voluntary sector:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to enter into mutual recognition agreements (bilateral and multilateral) in cooperation with Specialist Regional Bodies, where applicable.</li> <li>Member economies to encourage participation in APLAC-MRA and PAC MRA.</li> </ul>	<p>From 1999 (1 economy)</p> <p>From 1998</p> <p>From 1997</p> <p>From 1999</p> <p>1996 to 2000/2005</p> <p>From 1998</p>
<b>3. Technical Infrastructure Development</b>		
<p>Promote cooperation for technical infrastructure development to facilitate broad participation in mutual recognition arrangements in both regulated and voluntary sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to identify specific requirements, assistance and/or activities for technical infrastructure development.</li> <li>Member economies to consider the provision of assistance for the improvement of other economies' technical infrastructure.</li> <li>Member economies to develop and adopt a Mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Program.</li> <li>Member economies to undertake a Survey on Technical Infrastructure Development for Measurement Standards, Laboratory Management and Accreditation.</li> <li>Member economies to undertake specific follow-on activities from among those recommended in the report of the survey.</li> <li>Member economies to undertake the following technical infrastructure projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training Seminar on ISO/IEC Guides 65 &amp; 62;</li> <li>- Mutual Recognition Arrangement(MRA) Readiness Project;</li> <li>- Joint HRD WG/SCSC IQAS II project;</li> <li>- Quality Systems for Calibration Services at National Measurement Institutes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>From 1996</p> <p>From 1996</p> <p><b>Completed 1996</b></p> <p><b>Completed 1998</b></p> <p>From 1998</p> <p>From 1999</p>

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to conduct reviews of the mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Program implementation.</li> <li>Member economies to strengthen participation in Specialist Regional Bodies activities.</li> </ul>	<p>Medium- to long-term</p> <p>From 1996</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to support and actively participate in APEC Conferences on Standards and Conformance.</li> <li>Member economies to support and actively participate in Roundtable Meetings with the Specialist Regional Bodies.</li> <li>Member economies to participate in Partners for Progress (PFP) projects on standards and conformity assessment schemes.</li> <li>Member economies to cooperate with the HRDWG in designing and providing a training program for HRD in International Quality Assurance Systems.</li> <li>Member economies to send a representative to the NCSL Conference</li> <li>Member economies to develop and participate in two workshops in food/drug interface and training programs on food risk analysis under the technical infrastructure program on Integrated Approach to Enhanced Food Control Systems.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1st and 2nd Conference completed 1998</b></p> <p>3rd Conference scheduled for September 2000</p> <p><b>1st Roundtable completed in 1997</b></p> <p>1997-2001</p> <p><b>IQAS I project completed 1997</b></p> <p><b>Completed 1999</b></p> <p><b>1st Workshop Completed August 1999</b></p>
<b>4. Transparency</b>		
<p>Ensure the transparency of the standards and conformity assessment of APEC economies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to designate central contact points to respond to inquiries on standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures.</li> <li>Member economies to respond to the transparency survey. After an evaluation, recommendations will be prepared to ensure transparency of standards and conformance.</li> <li>Member economies to update <i>the APEC Contact Points for Standards and Conformance Information</i>, including member economies' participants in the Specialist Regional Bodies and member economies SCSC Contact Points. Member economies agreed that this information should be maintained on the APEC Secretariat's homepage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed 1995</b></p> <p><b>Completed 1997</b></p> <p>From 1997</p>

OAA Objectives	Actions	Time frame
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to endeavor to establish Internet websites to disseminate standards and conformance information.</li> </ul>	From 1997
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to help carry out a TILF project to compile and publish information on food labeling laws, regulations and standards in the APEC region.</li> <li>Member Economies to develop a database on conformity assessment operators and their activities/services offered and establish an APEC Cooperation Centre for Conformity Assessment.</li> </ul>	From 1998 <b>The initial project completed in 1999.</b> <b>The follow-up project scheduled for 2000</b> From 1999
<b>Cross-Cutting Activities</b>		
<b>5. Closer Links with the Business Sector</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to develop a work program on trade facilitation in information technology products in response to a proposal from the Information Technology Industry Council.</li> </ul>	From 1999
<b>6. Cooperation with Specialist Regional Bodies</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to develop, with the Specialist Regional Bodies, a Statement of Commitment to Mutually Agreed Objectives between the SCSC and the Specialist Regional Bodies.</li> </ul>	2000
<b>7. Cooperation with International Bodies</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member economies to hold a forum in conjunction with IEC.</li> </ul>	February 2000



# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

## 1. Introduction

The CTI Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) was established in 1994 in response to the priority which APEC Ministers accorded to harmonizing and simplifying customs procedures in order to facilitate trade between APEC economies. The SCCP's Terms of Reference, including a new mandate, was endorsed by APEC Ministers in November 1997. The Chair of SCCP for 1999 is Mr Mike Spong, Manager, Goods Policy, New Zealand Customs Service.

During 1999, the SCCP has continued to implement its multi-year technical assistance programs to ensure that all its members will be equipped to put in place various modern customs procedures/systems to meet its CAP target dates. Provision has been made to accommodate the new members in this program. In 1998, two new technical assistance programs, Risk Management and Express Consignment Clearance, were approved. SCCP agreed at its Rotorua meeting in August 1999 to elevate Customs Integrity to CAP Status.

To continue the engagement of the private sector in SCCP activities, the Sub-Committee took part in the Business Outreach event that took place at the time of Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) I in Wellington. "The Pre-Millennium" edition of the Blueprint for APEC Customs Modernization has been published to highlight SCCP's key achievements up to and including 1999. Copies will be available at SOM III. SCCP has also taken steps to develop a compendium of customs initiatives on electronic commerce and develop better tools to enhance its engagement with the private sector.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- The CAP item on Public Availability of Information has been completed by all members. All member economies will have public information on customs laws and regulations and administrative guidelines available to the public. This information ensures that pertinent details are provided accurately, consistently and in a user-friendly manner.
- The third stage of the various multi-year technical assistance activities was carried out to ensure that all SCCP members could implement the CAP by the agreed target dates.
- The APEC Tariff Database and SCCP websites were updated. FedEx announced that it will sponsor the Tariff Data Base for another two years.

## 3. SCCP's Work Programs for 1999/2000

- To finalize the development of a Code of Conduct along the lines of the Arusha and Columbus Declarations to resolve further the issue of integrity within customs administrations. "Integrity" was added as a new SCCP CAP item at the Rotorua meeting.
- To continue the process of improving direct involvement of the business sector in SCCP activities. This process involves interested business sector groups in partnerships to

progress SCCP CAP work programs.

- Extend the activities of the Virtual Customs Group (established in 1998 to share experiences, explore and develop common approaches with the objective of developing a compendium of APEC customs initiatives on Electronic Commerce) to join with other APEC groups to work on paperless trading matters.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The business/private sector and customs administrations in the region benefit by working together to facilitate border traffic. The SCCP's comprehensive collective action plan program to simplify and harmonize customs procedures is designed to result in a speedier and more certain clearance of goods through customs. This leads to lower costs to businesses and customs administrations. Simple, modern and computerized customs processes increase the coordination and efficiency of customs administrations. There are time and cost savings as well as increased efficiency of the border responsibilities of customs administrations. The harmonization of customs documentation and the provision of access to current and consistent information on customs-related matters provides transparency, certainty and fairness for traders in the region.

#### **5. 1999 Highlights**

- Business Outreach event with customs participation held in February 1999 in Wellington, New Zealand.
- The reformatted and updated Pre-Millennium edition of the *Blueprint for APEC Customs Modernization 1999* was published in time for SOM III.
- Continued implementation of SCCP's multi-year technical assistance programs for its CAPs, including:
  - A seminar on Advance Classification Rulings held in Chinese Taipei in June 1999.
  - TRIPS assistance missions were held in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia in 1999.
  - A Harmonized System advisory mission was held in Papua New Guinea in June 1999.
  - A two-part regional mission to Chinese Taipei and China for the Temporary Importation CAP took place in March 1999.
  - The plan to schedule Express Consignment assessment missions to Indonesia, Peru, Russia and Vietnam in 1999/2000.
  - The establishment of a mentor arrangement to assess the CAP assistance needs of the three new members.
  - An Integrity Workshop held in Australia as a preparation for the proposal to elevate *integrity* to an SCCP CAP item in 1999/2000.

## (A) SCCP COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES<sup>1</sup>

### **1. Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention**

To ensure consistency of application, certainty and a level playing field for business through the HS Convention, the standard international harmonized system for the classification of goods.

### **2. Public Availability of Information**

To ensure traders have all the pertinent information for business decisions through the provision of accurate, consistent and user-friendly information.

### **3. Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Kyoto Convention**

To improve efficiency in customs clearance and the delivery of goods in order to benefit importers, exporters and manufacturers through simplified customs procedures and best practice.

### **4. Adoption and Support for the UN/EDIFACT**

To use the standard UN electronic messaging format for automated systems, the United Nations/Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, to promote an electronic highway for business.

### **5. Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement**

To facilitate administration of the World Trade Organization's Valuation Agreement on standard procedures for valuing goods.

### **6. Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement**

To implement border enforcement procedures for protecting intellectual property rights.

### **7. Introduction of Clear Appeals Provision**

To provide business with an opportunity to challenge potentially erroneous or inequitable Customs decisions through mechanisms for transparent, independent and timely appeals.

### **8. Introduction of an Advance Classification Ruling System**

To establish simplified procedures for providing classification information prior to importation, thus bringing certainty and predictability to international trading and helping traders to make sound business decisions based on legally binding advice.

### **9. Provisions for Temporary Importation, e.g. acceding to the A.T.A. Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention**

To help business move goods such as commercial samples, professional equipment, tools of trade and exhibition material across borders with a high degree of certainty in how these goods will be treated by Customs by having standard procedures for admitting goods on a temporary basis.

### **10. Harmonized APEC Data Elements**

To develop a comprehensive directory supported in UN/EDIFACT which includes a simplified "core set" of data elements, largely derived from commercially available data, that would satisfy the standard data requirements of the majority of APEC trade transactions and so facilitate the exchange of information and provide a foundation for common forms and electronic commerce.

### **11. Risk Management Techniques**

To focus Customs enforcement efforts on high-risk goods and travellers and facilitate the movement of low risk shipments, through a flexible approach tailored to each APEC economy.

### **12. Guidelines on Express Consignments Clearance**

To implement principles contained in *the WCO Guidelines on Express Consignment Clearance*, the international standard procedures for clearance of express goods, working in partnership with express industry associations.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Associations and business groups are invited to participate in work related to the above. For more information, please consult the SCCP Homepage (<http://www.sccp.org>), the guidelines presented in the Appendix, or contact the SCCP Chair or a local SCCP member.

## SCCP COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE<sup>2</sup>

	HS Convention	Public Availability of Information ?	Kyoto Convention	UN/EDIFACT	WTO Valuation Agreement	TRIPS	Clear Appeal Provisions	Advance Classification Ruling System	Temporary Importations	Common Data Elements	Risk Management	Express Consignments Clearance
<b>Plan Coordinators</b>	Japan	HK, China Singapore	New Zealand Japan	Australia Philippines	Canada USA	USA	Canada Philippines	New Zealand Korea	USA Chinese Taipei	Canada Australia	Australia USA	USA China
<b>Target Dates</b>	1996	1998	1998*	1999	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	1999	2002	2000
<b>Australia</b>	?	?	?	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	?	?
<b>Brunei</b>	?	?	*	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	1999	2002	2002
<b>Canada</b>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	1999	?	?
<b>Chile</b>	?	?	*	?	2000	2000	?	?	2000	1999	?	?
<b>China</b>	?	?	?	1999	+	?	?	1999	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>HK, China</b>	?	?	*	?	N/A	?	?	N/A	?	1999	?	?
<b>Indonesia</b>	?	?	*	?	2000	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	?
<b>Japan</b>	?	?	?	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	?	?
<b>Korea</b>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Malaysia</b>	?	?	*	?	2000	2000	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Mexico</b>	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	1999	1999	2002	2000
<b>New Zealand</b>	?	?	?	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>PNG</b>	?	?	*	?	?	2000	2000	2000	2000	1999	2002	2000
<b>Philippines</b>	?	?	*	1999	?	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Peru</b>	?	?	?	1999	2000	2000	?	?	2000	1999	2002	2000
<b>Singapore</b>	?	?	*	?	?	?	?	?	?	1999	?	?
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>	?	?	*	?	?	?	?	2000	2000	1999	2002	2000
<b>Thailand</b>	?	?	*	?	2000	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>United States</b>	?	?	?	1998	?	?	?	?	?	1999	2002	2000
<b>Legend</b>												
?	Implemented											
?	Improving public availability of information is an on-going process											
+	Actual implementation date subject to China's accession to WTO											
*	Actual implementation date subject to progress in the WCO											
N/A	Not applicable											

<sup>2</sup> Russia and Viet Nam are to be included in the CAP implementation schedule. For each CAP item, the level of implementation will vary among Customs Administrations. For the most recent additions to the CAP (common data elements, risk management and express consignments clearance), although the implementation date is shown as the target date, some economies have already implemented the item in full or in part. All member economies will have implemented the CAP item to varying degrees by the target date

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

## 1. Introduction

The Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG), a CTI sub-forum, is mandated to address work required on IPRs under the Osaka Action Agenda. IPEG was established with explicit Terms of Reference in August 1997, reconstituting the IPR Get-Together that was established in early 1996. The current Chair is Mr Yoshifumi Saeki, Director of International Cooperation Office, the Japanese Patent Office, Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan.

In 1999, IPEG focused its efforts towards the full implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- **APEC IPR International Symposium.** The APEC IPR International Symposium was held on 14-18 June 1999 in Taejon, Korea to facilitate further revision of legislation in each economy towards TRIPS implementation.
- **Survey on the current status of implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.** The first survey was almost completed.
- **Guidelines for simplification and standardization of administrative procedures.** IPEG adopted the guidelines and agreed to put these on the APEC Secretariat's website.
- **Survey on enforcement systems.** The survey was nearly completed. The results of the survey will be published on the Internet.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- **Implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.** Survey on the current status will be continued to ensure all members' full implementation so that an announcement in this regard can be made by Trade Ministers at their meeting in June 2000.
- **Overhaul of CAPs.** Discussion on new CAPs has started.

## 4. Benefits and Beneficiary

IPEG's activities in this area contribute to the OAA objective of ensuring adequate and effective protection of IPRs. The APEC IPR International Symposium would assist member economies in enacting/revising legislation to comply with the TRIPS Agreement. The survey on the current status of implementation of the TRIPS Agreement would identify remaining tasks for member economies and areas of technical cooperation needed. The establishment of general guidelines for trademarks, patents and copyrights contributes to the standardization and simplification of IPR administrative systems. The survey on enforcement systems would provide useful information to resolve disputes regarding IPR infringement in member economies.

## **5. 1999 Highlights**

- Activities to support the full implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, such as the APEC IPR International Symposium and the completion of the first survey on the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement for announcement by Trade Ministers.
- Adoption of the guidelines for the simplification and standardization of administrative procedures.
- Publication of the results of the survey on enforcement systems.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><b>a. Deepen the dialogue on intellectual property policy among APEC economies</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Hold/participate in seminars and symposia on intellectual property rights.</p> <p><i>Second step:</i> Deepen the dialogue on mutual interest in particular the implementation of the Collective Actions, through working-level meetings as well as seminars and symposiums held on a regular basis.</p> <p><i>Third step:</i> Hold/participate in working-level/ministerial meetings on intellectual property rights policies.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 10px;">Lead Economy: Convenor</div> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Member economies have held/participated in various APEC related seminars and symposia.</li> <li>- The calendar of IPR-related meetings and events has been put on the Japanese Patent Office website since April 1997 and linked with the APEC Secretariat homepage since June 1997. Updating is done as necessary.</li> <li>- Member economies have had policy dialogues on issues of mutual interest, including biotechnology, electronic commerce and geographical indication.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plans in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The calendar is to be updated whenever necessary.</li> <li>- Member economies will continue discussion on issues of mutual interests.</li> </ul>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions	
<p><b>b. Survey the current status of intellectual property rights protection in each APEC economy including the related statutes and corresponding jurisprudence, administrative guidelines and activities of related organizations</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Specify what should be surveyed in regard to laws and regulations and submit this information to the collator economy by the deadline.</p> <p><i>Second step:</i> Distribute the collated information to member economies. Extend the coverage of the survey to corresponding jurisprudence, administrative guidelines, activities of related organizations, and others.</p> <p><i>Third step:</i> Update the information on a regular basis and consider providing it to the business/private sector.</p>	<p>Lead Economy: Australia</p> <p>&lt;Survey of related statutes&gt;</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Member economies specified what should be surveyed in regard to laws and regulations.</li> <li>- The consolidated information is put on the website of the Japanese Patent Office and linked with the APEC Secretariat's homepage.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plans in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updating of the information is to be processed whenever necessary.</li> </ul>	<p>&lt;Survey of jurisprudence, administrative guidelines and activities of related organizations&gt;</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The survey of jurisprudence and administrative guidelines, making use of the TILF Special Account funding, will be finalized and published through the Internet by the end of 1999.</li> </ul>



Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><b>c. Develop a contact point list of public and business/private sector experts on intellectual property rights and a list of law enforcement officers, the latter list for the purpose of establishing a network to prevent cross-border flow of counterfeits</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Complete each member economies' respective lists by the deadline and publish these, maintaining appropriate confidentiality in the case of the law enforcement officers' list.</p> <p><i>Second step:</i> Update the lists on a regular basis.</p> <p><i>Third step:</i> Enlarge the coverage of the lists, where appropriate.</p>	<div data-bbox="663 304 969 344" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Lead Economy: Australia</div> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Member economies completed their lists.</li> <li>- The contact point lists for the government, business/private sector and academic contacts were published in August 1996 and were made accessible via the APEC Secretariat's website since January 1997.</li> <li>- The lists have been updated on a regular basis.</li> <li>- Pamphlets, which introduce the contact point lists, were distributed in member economies.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plans in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lists are to be updated whenever needed.</li> <li>- Member economies will enlarge the coverage of the lists, if necessary.</li> </ul>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><b>d. Exchange information on well-known trademarks as a first step in examining the possibility of establishing an APEC-wide trademark system</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Exchange information on current practices concerning protection of well-known marks, including ongoing developments in other international fora, to understand better how well-known marks are protected in the region.</p> <p><i>Second step:</i> Conduct comparative studies, and explore ways in which the protection of well-known marks can be further enhanced through the region.</p> <p><i>Third step:</i> Explore the possibility of an APEC-wide well-known mark directory, consistent with member economies' legal systems, and an APEC-wide trademark system.</p>	<div data-bbox="663 304 965 344" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Lead Economy: Thailand</div> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surveys on practices concerning the protection of well-known marks have been conducted.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plans in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thailand will compile the replies to develop a directory of member economies' practices concerning the criteria for well-known trademarks.</li> <li>- Compiled information will be published.</li> <li>- Updating of the information is to be processed whenever necessary.</li> </ul>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
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e. Exchange information on current	Lead Economy: the United States of America
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Item	Summary of member economies' actions			
<p><b>intellectual property rights administrative systems with a view to simplifying and standardizing administrative systems throughout the region</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Identify issues of concern, submit suggestions as to possible ways in which administrative systems can be simplified and standardized and provide information on member economies' experiences in managing their intellectual property rights administrative systems.</p> <p><i>Second step:</i> Develop the discussions.</p> <p><i>Third step:</i> Explore the possibility of simplification and standardization of their administrative systems with a view to reducing unnecessary burdens on members' respective systems and right owners</p>	<p>&lt;Electronic Filing&gt; led by the U.S.</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information exchanges on application system related issues such as electronic filing system have been done.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plan in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information exchange on electronic filing system will be continued.</li> <li>- Internet usage policy will be discussed.</li> </ul>	<p>&lt;Information Exchange&gt; proposed by Mexico</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information exchange on current administrative system was conducted.</li> <li>- Guidelines for the simplification and standardization of administrative procedures were adopted and are to published on the Internet.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plan in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updating of the information is to be processed whenever necessary.</li> </ul>	<p>&lt;IP Information Mall &gt; proposed by Japan</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quick-Link Matrix, the first product of IP Information is accessible on the website of Japanese Patent Office.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plan in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Issues concerning the responsibility for updating of the each information on IP Information Mall will be discussed.</li> </ul>	<p>&lt;Standardization of Trademark Application Form&gt;</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efforts to establish a Common Trademark Application Form has been made.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plan in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Common Trademark Application Form will be adopted</li> </ul>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><b>f. Study measures, including development of principles, for the effective enforcement of intellectual property rights</b></p> <p><i>First step:</i> Exchange views on the current status, including statistics if available and appropriate, on activities of member economies and on future plans concerning enforcement.</p> <p><i>Second step:</i> Conduct studies, including case studies.</p> <p><i>Third step:</i> Develop guiding principles on enforcement.</p>	<p>Lead Economy: Mexico</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surveys on the IPR enforcement system was completed. Compiled information will be published on the Internet.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plans in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The next steps, including the establishment of the guiding principles, will be discussed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>g. Implement fully the TRIPS Agreement no later than 1 January 2000 and examine ways to facilitate technical cooperation to this end</b></p> <p><i>First-to-Second step:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Present the way in which member economies have already achieved implementation of the standards established in the TRIPS Agreement in their national laws and regulations or present plans for modifying their national laws and regulations to implement these standards. Non-WTO member economies may also present their plans on how they will implement TRIPS levels of protection.</li> <li>- Present offers and requests of cooperation in the various fields and develop bilateral/multilateral technical cooperation projects.</li> <li>- Coordinate activities with other international fora, and link requests and offers accordingly.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead Economy: Korea</p> <p><i>Implemented actions in 1996 – 1999:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Table of Technical Cooperation/ Assistance Requested and Offered was drawn up to facilitate technical cooperation.</li> <li>- APEC IPR International Symposium was held on 14-18 June 1999 to assist the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.</li> <li>- Surveys on current status toward the TRIPS implementation are being conducted.</li> </ul> <p><i>Future plans in and after 2000:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IPEG will make efforts in order to implement the TRIPS Agreement so that announcement in this regard can be made at the Meeting of Ministers responsible for Trade in June 2000.</li> </ul>

Item	Summary of member economies' actions
<p><i>Third step:</i> Review information exchanges in order to review progress towards full TRIPS implementation and examine the possibility to improve further the intellectual property systems after implementing the TRIPS Agreement activities of member economies and on future plans concerning enforcement.</p>	
<p><i>Others</i></p> <p><b>Public education</b> (proposed by Australia)</p>	<p><i>Implemented actions in 1996-1999:</i> IPEG collected existing materials for public education.</p> <p><i>Future plans in and after 2000:</i> Educational materials will be developed referring to the collated materials.</p>
<p><b>Business involvement</b></p>	<p><i>Implemented actions in 1996-1999:</i> IPEG invited representatives of ABAC to the IPEG meetings and held the APEC/ABAC Joint Symposium in 1999 to seek its views in the area of IPR.</p> <p><i>Further plans in and after 2000:</i> IPEG will continue to respond to ABAC recommendations. Joint symposia and seminars with the private sectors will be held.</p>
<p><b>Partner for Progress</b></p>	<p><i>Implemented actions in 1996-1999:</i> APEC/PFP course was held four times.</p> <p><i>Further plans in and after 2000:</i> APEC/PFP course will be held annually up to 2000.</p>

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON COMPETITION POLICY AND DEREGULATION

## 1. Introduction

The work areas on competition policy and deregulation have been combined since early 1996 because of the linkages between the deregulation and competition policy agendas. New Zealand is the convenor economy for both of these work areas.

At the international level, Competition Policy is a relatively new and challenging work area and APEC members' views on achieving the objectives of the OAA on Competition Policy are still developing.

The main focus of the short-term and ongoing objectives of the Competition Policy CAP, is to promote information sharing, dialogue and study on competition policy/laws and their enforcement, and their inter-relationship with other policies related to trade and investment, and to increase the transparency of existing competition policies. It was recognized that these actions are important first steps in building a common understanding of competition policy within APEC.

In the short-term, the main focus of the Deregulation CAP is to promote information sharing and dialogue, and increase the transparency of existing regulatory regimes and regulatory reform processes. Transparency in regulatory regimes and the elimination of trade impeding or unnecessarily restrictive regulations are the key objectives of APEC work in the deregulation area.

Nearly all actions defined in the matrix are collective, in the sense that the objectives can only be achieved collectively, or are dependent on information sharing processes. Where longer-term objectives have been defined, steps to implement these will be considered as the policy dialogue develops.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Continued dialogue, information exchange and study of competition policy, competition laws, their enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment. This was advanced in a number of ways:
  - the CTI Trade Policy Dialogue during SOM I in Wellington;
  - the annual Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation during SOM II in Christchurch;
  - a joint session with the Group on Services, and a briefing to the Investment Experts' Group;
  - continued development of the competition policy and law Internet database; and
  - the completion of a study on competition laws for developing economies which is to be published subject to the endorsement by CTI.
- Continuation of training activities, for example through:
  - an APEC Partners for Progress seminar on competition policy was held in Chiang Mai on 1-2 March 1999; and

- Korea's training program on competition policy held in Seoul, for member economies.
- Maintenance of dialogue with other international organizations considering trade and competition policy and law issues. For example, the WTO briefed the Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop on the progress of the WTO's work on competition policy issues.
- Continued dialogue on deregulation issues through the annual Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop.

### **3. New Collective Actions Agreed**

A major focus of the CAP will continue to be information sharing, dialogue and study on competition policy/laws. It is anticipated that further collective actions will be defined as policy dialogue develops. This year, the workshop agreed to:

- Submit the PriceWaterhouseCoopers' study on APEC Competition Law and Developing Economies for CTI's endorsement and subsequent publication. This study will be a significant resource for APEC member economies studying and developing competition policy; and
- Develop a set of high level APEC competition and regulatory principles, which would be non-binding and draw on the PECC principles, for endorsement by Leaders in September 1999.

There has been strong support within APEC for the draft "APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform", with a Ministerial directive that this work to be completed by September 1999. Member economies have:

- Agreed that the best means of meeting all concerns would be to carry out both short term and medium term work;
- Developed a set of core principles, accompanied by a list of action orientated undertakings as a short term measure; and
- Participated in inter-sessional discussions on the form of the proposed principles.

In the next one or two years, we envisage that work will focus on projects arising from the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform and issues arising from the APEC Competition Law and Developing Economies Study conducted by PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

In view of this, it is proposed that in 2000, a Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation will be held to consider the future work program for the group.

### **4. Benefits and Beneficiaries**

The information exchanged and policy dialogue in this area facilitates transparency in regional competition laws and policies. The competition policy and law Internet database will provide free information to the business community, officials and academics.

The publication of the APEC Competition Law and Developing Economies Study will:

- Promote dialogue and common understanding on competition policies, laws, and enforcement practices;



- Provide a useful independent resource to evaluate member economies progress in developing policies and law, and observations that will further progress the implementation of competition policies/laws;
- Outline the advantages and disadvantages of competition laws by drawing on the experiences of member economies; and
- Outline the merits and limits of competition policies and laws for developing economies.

Endorsement of the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform by CTI will provide a template for future work by APEC in developing competition policies and applying competition principles and frameworks across all sectors of APEC member economies.

## **5. 1999 Highlights**

- Information exchange and deepened policy dialogue on the region's competition laws and policies.
- The 1999 CTI Trade Policy Dialogue on Competition Policy and Deregulation was held in Wellington on 5 February 1999.
- The 1999 APEC Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation was held in Christchurch on 30 April - 1 May 1999.
- Joint Session with Group on Services on 2 May 1999.
- Presentation to Investment Experts Group on 2 May 1999.
- An APEC Partners for Progress seminar on Competition Policy was held in Chiang Mai on 1-2 March 1999.
- Publication of the APEC Study on Competition Law for Developing Economies.
- APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform.
- Further development of the APEC Competition Law and Policy Internet Database.

## COMPETITION POLICY 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p>a) Gather information and promote dialogue on and study, starting from 1996:</p> <p>i) The objectives, necessity, role and operation of each APEC economy's competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures, thereby establishing a database on competition policy;</p> <p>ii) Competition policy issues that impact on trade and investment flows in the Asia-Pacific region;</p> <p>iii) Areas for technical assistance and the modalities thereof, including exchange and training programs for officials in charge of competition policy, taking into account the availability of resources; and</p> <p>iv) The interrelationship between competition policy and/or laws and other policies related to trade and investment;</p>	<p>A. Collective action: Continue policy dialogue and information exchange and study on competition policy, competition laws and their enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment, including through further workshops if members so decide.</p> <p>B. Individual economies: To provide further information on their competition policies, competition laws and their enforcement, thereby enhancing transparency and contributing to the development and enhancement of the APEC database on competition law and policy.</p> <p>C. Individual economies to seek technical assistance and/or consider providing training programs with a view to sharing their experience in operating competition policies and laws with others.</p> <p>D. Complete the study on the advantages and disadvantages of competition law for developing economies.</p>	<p>Started 1996</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Started 1998; due to be completed in 1999</p>

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
b) Deepen competition policy dialogue between APEC economies and relevant international organizations;	<p>A. Collective action: maintain dialogue with other international organizations considering competition policy and law issues.</p> <p>B. Collective action: continue to respond positively to interest by the WTO Working Group on the Interaction Between Trade and Competition Policy in sharing information on APEC's competition policy/deregulation work, in accordance with the mandate given by APEC Trade Ministers.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
c) Continue to develop understanding in the APEC business community of competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures;	Collective action: Individual economies to further develop dialogue with the business community on competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures.	Short-term
d) Encourage cooperation among the competition authorities of APEC economies with regard to information exchange, notification and consultation;	<p>A. Collective action: consider further actions for promoting cooperation among competition authorities.</p> <p>B. Individual economies to list and update contact points of competition authorities no later than 1 January 2000 with a view to information exchange, consultation and communication where deemed necessary.</p>	Short-term
e) Contribute to the use of trade and competition laws, policies and measures that promote free and open trade, investment and competition; and	Collective action to be considered as policy dialogue develops.	Long-term

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
f) Consider developing non-binding principles on competition policy and/or laws in APEC.	<p>A. Collective action is to establish a set of non-binding APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform and a set of action orientated undertakings on competition policy and deregulation.</p> <p>B. Collective action to be considered as policy dialogue develops.</p>	Short-term

## DEREGULATION 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
(a) Publish annual reports detailing actions taken by APEC economies to deregulate their domestic regulatory regimes.	Individual economies agreed that this would occur within their IAP to report on reforms to their domestic regulatory regimes and to update such reports annually.	Starting 1996
<p>(b) Develop further actions taking into account the above reports, including:</p> <p>i) Policy dialogue on APEC economies' experiences in regard to best practices in deregulation, including the use of individual case studies to assist in the design and implementation of deregulatory measures, and consideration of further options for a work program which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identification of common priority areas and sectors for deregulation;</li> <li>- provision of technical assistance in designing and implementing deregulation measures; and</li> <li>- examination of the possibility of establishing APEC guidelines on domestic regulation.</li> </ul>	<p>A. Collective action: take stock of information already gathered in APEC on regulatory regimes and regulatory reform with a view to identifying common experiences, and technical assistance needs and availability.</p> <p>B. Collective action: promote dialogue and understanding within APEC, through focused discussion, on the experiences of APEC economies and on the principles applied to and best practices in, regulatory reform (drawing on the short-term information gathering exercise).</p> <p>C. Collective action: following the Christchurch workshop on competition policy and deregulation, develop a common understanding of the interrelationships between competition policy, deregulation and trade liberalization.</p> <p>D. Collective action: establish a set of non-binding APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform, and a set of action orientated undertakings on competition policy and deregulation.</p>	<p>Short-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Short-term</p>

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

## 1. Introduction

The Government Procurement Experts Group (GPEG) was established in 1995 to consider ways to increase the transparency of, and liberalize, GP markets in accordance with the goals of the Bogor Declaration. The current Chair is Miss Adeline Wong, Assistant Director-General, Trade Department; Hong Kong, China.

In 1999, the GPEG's work focused on educational events, enhancing the transparency of member economies' GP regimes, and the development of non-binding principles on GP.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Conducted an annual update of members' returns to the surveys on their GP systems and publication arrangements for GP information.
- Updated the APEC GP homepage to provide latest information in relation to GPEG's work and members' GP regimes.
- Developed the elements pertaining to the principles of accountability and due process as well as non-discrimination, together with practices illustrating how these elements could be implemented, thus completing the development of a set of non-binding principles on GP.
- Conducted a seminar on Domestic Policy Context for Unilateral Liberalization of Government Procurement in Wellington, New Zealand on 3 February 1999 and a Workshop on Government Procurement Practices in Kunming, China on 14-18 July 1999.
- Forwarded the elements of and illustrative practices on the non-binding principle of accountability and due process to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement (WGTGP) for reference.
- Developed a process for Members to report to the GPEG their voluntary review of the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Develop a format for inclusion in Members' IAPs of specific plans and timetables as the reference for voluntarily bringing their GP systems into conformity with the non-binding principles in the case of inconsistencies.
- Discuss and study alternative approaches to encouraging domestic suppliers to participate in competing to supply GP needs without restricting competitive opportunity for foreign suppliers.
- Forward the whole set of APEC non-binding principles on GP to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in GP.
- Hold policy dialogue on options to enhance transparency of Members' GP systems.

#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The updated APEC GP homepage will enhance transparency of members' GP regimes and provide suppliers all over the world with ready, efficient and low cost access to GP policies, procedures and procurement opportunities. The seminar in February 1999 enhanced Members' understanding of GP policies and demonstrated the use of information technology in GP. The workshop in July 1999 improved members' understanding of how to put GP policies and principles into practice. The set of non-binding principles on GP developed by GPEG will help guide Members in establishing fairer, more open, and more transparent GP systems, contributing to the long term goal of liberalisation of the GP markets in the APEC region.

#### **5. 1999 Highlights**

- Updated the APEC GP homepage, making comprehensive GP information in the APEC region readily accessible to suppliers all over the world.
- Completed the development of a set of non-binding principles on GP.
- Developed a process for Members to report to the GPEG their voluntary review of the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles.

**GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT  
1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status/Target Date</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>		
1.1	To improving understanding of members' government procurement (GP) systems and regional/plurilateral/ multilateral agreements on GP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Maintain contact points to facilitate ongoing exchange of information.</li> <li>(b) Workshops, seminars, training courses on GP procedures, laws, regulations, regional/plurilateral/multilateral agreements:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Seminar on "The Domestic Policy Context for Unilateral Liberalization of Government Procurement".</li> <li>(ii) Workshop on GP Practices.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(c) Discussion and study of alternative approaches to encouraging domestic suppliers to participate in competing to supply GP needs without restricting competitive opportunity for foreign suppliers.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ongoing</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Completed</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Completed</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 2000</p>
1.2	To increase transparency in GP through the dissemination of publicly available information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Update annually members' returns to the surveys on their GP systems and publication arrangements for GP information and publish this information on the APEC homepage.</li> <li>(b) Encourage members to develop databases or expand their existing databases on GP to include information such as legal framework, requirements for participation in tendering procedures, procurement opportunities, outcomes of tenders, bid-challenge procedures and contact points, consistent with the elements of transparency in GP identified by GPEG; and to, on a voluntary basis, link their databases on GP up with the APEC GP Homepage.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">June each year from 1998</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ongoing</p>



	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status/Target Date</b>
1.3	To contribute to the WTO's work on Transparency in GP.	<p>(a) Forward the elements of and illustrative practices on the non-binding principle of accountability and due process to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in GP for reference.</p> <p>(b) Forward the whole set of APEC non-binding principles on GP to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in GP for reference.</p> <p>(c) Continue to monitor progress of the WTO Working Group on Transparency in GP and consider further contributions, if appropriate.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>End 1999</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Short-term</b>		
2.1	To develop a set of non-binding principles on GP for adoption by members on a voluntary basis.	Identify the elements of and illustrative practices on each of the principles in the set of APEC non-binding principles on GP (which includes the following principles: transparency, value for money, open and effective competition, fair dealing, accountability and due process, and non-discrimination).	<b>Completed</b>
2.2	To review consistency of GP systems with the non-binding principles	<p>(a) Encourage members to include in their IAPs plans to review the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles and, if there are inconsistencies, voluntarily bring their systems into conformity with the non-binding principles, with progress and results reported to GPEG.</p> <p>(b) Develop a process for Members to report to the GPEG their voluntary review of the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles.</p> <p>(c) Develop a format for inclusion in Members' IAPs of specific plans and timetables as the reference for voluntarily bringing their GP systems into conformity with the non-binding principles in the case of inconsistencies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>February 2000</p>
2.3	To enhance transparency of members' GP systems	Hold policy dialogue on options to enhance transparency of members' GP systems.	February 2000

	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status/Target Date</b>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Long-term</b></p> <p>To achieve liberalization of GP markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region in accordance with the principles and objective of the Bogor Declaration.</p>	<p>Liberalize GP markets in the APEC region, contributing in the process to the evolution of work on GP in other multilateral fora.</p>	<p>2010/2020</p>



# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON DISPUTE MEDIATION

## 1. Introduction

CTI established the Dispute Mediation Experts' Group (DMEG) in 1995 to explore the possibility of developing an APEC dispute mediation service and the options for an effective method to assist in resolving trade-related disputes among members in a constructive and amicable manner without duplicating or detracting from the GATT-WTO Dispute Settlement Process.

In line with the management reform process, the 2nd CTI Meeting held in Christchurch on 3-4 May 1999 agreed to realign work in the area of Dispute Mediation so that the existence of the DMEG may no longer be necessary, and the substantive work can be carried out under the direct responsibility of the CTI Chair, with the assistance of a Focal Point.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Development and implementation of a symposium on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding
- Publication of a revised/updated guidebook on arbitration, mediation and conciliation services in each member economy
- Launching of the DMEG web site

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

- Organize information seminars and further discussions on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding
- Organize information seminars on alternative dispute resolution for the private sector

## 4. Benefits and Beneficiary

DMEG's work has benefited representatives of APEC member economies who work in the trade field by way of equipping them with a better understanding of the WTO Dispute Settlement mechanism, and training them on the policy and legal aspects of managing and pursuing a dispute in the WTO.

The work of DMEG that relates to disputes between APEC governments and private entities and disputes between private entities, is also directly relevant to the private/business sector. Voluntary and non-confrontational approaches to dispute resolution, such as those explored in the work of DMEG, are often more cost-effective than formal dispute resolution mechanisms. These approaches may allow government and private entities to a dispute to find solutions that are in their mutual economic interests.

## 5. 1999 Highlights

- Advanced Seminar on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, held at the APEC Secretariat on 19-21 April 1999.
- Publication of the 1999 *Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies*.
- Uploading an electronic version of the *Guide* on the APEC Secretariat's website.

## DISPUTE MEDIATION 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

ACTION	STEPS TO IMPLEMENT	TIME FRAME
<p><b>(a) Regarding disputes between APEC economies:</b>            (i) promote dialogue and increased understanding, including exchange of views on any matter that may lead to a dispute, and cooperatively examine on a voluntary basis disputes that arise, utilizing policy dialogue such as the “Trade Policy Dialogue” of CTI.</p>	<p>At their 1999 meeting, Experts again noted that the trade policy dialogue (TPD) was available to member economies that wished to take advantage of its informal, off-the-record, non-adversarial procedures to exchange views on particular disputes or issues that may lead to disputes, where they considered it appropriate to do so. However, no specific proposals for such discussion had been received.</p> <p>Experts had noted that the TPD planned to discuss dispute mediation in mid-to-late 1999 and had requested the Chair to determine, in view of the special mandate of DMEG as the sub-forum of CTI responsible for dispute mediation, how DMEG could contribute to that discussion. The Chair reported that her discussions with the CTI revealed that dispute mediation had been added to the TPD agenda in mid-1997 in anticipation of the WTO DSU review. However, CTI is now conducting a re-priorization of TPD topics and it was unknown how this would affect the plans to consider dispute mediation during 1999.</p>	<p>Experts observed that the DSU review is well underway in Geneva and noted that any attempt by DMEG to insert itself into this process at this late stage would not be desirable or constructive. Instead, Experts preferred to await the outcome of the DSU and have a WTO expert attend a future DMEG meeting to explain the results of the DSU review.</p>
<p>(ii) give further consideration as to how the above Trade Policy Dialogue or similar functions of other fora may be used by APEC economies for the exchange of information, enhanced dialogue and mediation</p>	<p>Experts acknowledged the important contribution already being made to dispute avoidance by the TPD through transparency and exchange of information. Experts agreed that the TPD could provide an appropriate forum to promote liberalization and commonality in regulation among APEC economies by review of Individual Action Plans.</p> <p>Experts considered that including hyperlinks to web sites of related fora in the electronic version of the <i>Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies</i> could enhance exchange of information and promote dialogue.</p>	<p>Review of Individual Action Plans is ongoing.</p> <p>Experts decided to seek funding at the next meeting of the BMC to make adjustments (including the addition of appropriate hot links) to the electronic version of the <u>Guide</u> on the web site. If funding is received, enhancements to the web site, including the creation of hot links, will commence in the summer or fall of 1999.</p>

ACTION	STEPS TO IMPLEMENT	TIME FRAME
<p>(iii) examine the possible future evolution of procedures for the resolution of disputes as the APEC liberalization and facilitation process develops</p>	<p>Experts will continue consideration at future meetings of government-to-government dispute mediation in keeping with the evolution of APEC's work on trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>(iv) organize information seminars on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding</p>	<p>Experts noted that as with any dispute settlement mechanism, WTO dispute settlement presented a number of challenges: in the management of disputes, in the management of financial and human resources, and in the implementation of recommendations adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO. Experts recognized the need of member economies, and in particular developing member economies, to acquire additional expertise in the law and practice of the WTO and reaffirmed the role that the DMEG could play in providing an opportunity to exchange experiences and to foster the development of such expertise.</p> <p>Following the success of the 1999 Advanced Seminar on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding organized by Canada and Mexico, Experts determined that future seminars on WTO law and practice would be highly valuable for DMEG member economies in advancing the objectives of the DMEG, including addressing the special needs of developing member economies.</p>	<p>Experts agreed that the two seminars organized so far by the DMEG on the WTO have been highly informative. Experts considered that additional training on WTO law and practice would be highly beneficial, in particular to developing member economies. The Chair requested Experts to submit proposals for seminars as soon as possible so that project proposals could be approved and then submitted to BMC for funding.</p> <p>No proposals have been submitted by Experts thus far.</p>
<p><b>(b) Regarding disputes between private parties, and between private parties and APEC economies:</b>  (i) provide CTI with a listing of arbitration, mediation, and conciliation services available to private entities or other APEC economies, including a description of any such service which might provide a useful model for private-to-government dispute resolution in the Asia-Pacific region, and make such information widely available</p>	<p>Experts noted the successful publication of the <i>Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies</i> in November 1997. The guide contains information from member economies on laws, regulations, administrative practices and policies on dispute resolution. Experts determined that it would be useful to prepare a revised guide containing updated information on laws and regulations from all member economies including the three new ones.</p> <p>Experts expect that the revised guide will be as popular as the first edition in 1997, of which some 850 copies were distributed to public and private interests.</p> <p>Recognizing that it would be important to maintain an up-to-date compilation of the material contained in the guide and bearing in mind that member economies</p>	<p>Following receipt of funding from the BAC in July 1998, a consultant gathered data submitted by member economies and compiled the revised guide. The revised guide was launched at the in April 1999 meeting of DMEG. It contains a contribution from every member economy including the three new ones.</p> <p>The electronic version of the revised guide was uploaded on the APEC web site in</p>

ACTION	STEPS TO IMPLEMENT	TIME FRAME
to the business/private sector in the Asia-Pacific region	will change their laws and regulations from time to time, Experts had decided to develop an electronic version of the guide to be uploaded on the APEC web site. This medium would also ensure broad access to the information.	April 1999. Enhancements, including establishment of hot links to relevant sites in member economies, will be effected later this year if funding is made available.
(ii) accede, where appropriate, by 1997 to international agreements for the settlement of disputes between governments and private entities such as the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States and to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention)	Experts conducted a review of Individual Action Plans in respect of accession of member economies to ICSID and the New York Convention, where appropriate. Experts expressed satisfaction with the fact that most member economies are parties to ICSID, and almost all, including all three new member economies, have already implemented the New York Convention.	Ongoing
(iii) organize information seminars on private dispute mediation and settlement	<p>In 1998 Thailand organized the highly successful Symposium on Alternative Mechanisms for the Settlement of Transnational Commercial Disputes, held in Bangkok on April 27-28 under the auspices of the DMEG. Experts agreed that the substance of the program was particularly well-suited to the objectives of DMEG and fully advanced those objectives.</p> <p>The proceedings of the Symposium were published in August 1998 and subsequently distributed to DMEG Experts with an encouragement that DMEG ensured a wide dissemination of the proceedings, both in the public and business/private sectors.</p> <p>Experts reaffirmed their view that broader awareness of procedures for settlement of private-to-private disputes, through education and technical assistance as well as dissemination of information, was of essential value to member economies.</p>	Experts agreed on the need for further seminars on private dispute resolution. The Chair invited submission of proposals to be considered by the Group. None have been received to date.
<p><b>(c) Transparency on an APEC-wide basis:</b></p> <p>(i) prompt, transparent and readily accessible laws and regulations</p>	Experts reaffirmed the importance of greater transparency of all laws and regulations. In particular, Experts noted the new media, such as the internet, for achieving the transparency and confidence-building objectives of the DMEG and encouraged member economies to make use of such	At the 1999 DMEG meeting, a number of economies provided Experts with URLs or other appropriate electronic addresses for easy and direct access to laws, regulations and other



ACTION	STEPS TO IMPLEMENT	TIME FRAME
	new media.	information on the internet on an on-going basis. These URLs will be listed on the APEC web site in the very near future.
(ii) designating a central contact point	At their 1997 Singapore meeting, Member economies had been invited to submit further ideas on contact points and other information with a view to providing a basis for further discussion of transparency and dispute avoidance at the next meeting of the DMEG. No such ideas were submitted to the Chair prior to the 1998 meeting.	On going
<b>(d) Further discussions on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding</b>	Experts from economies that have had experience with the WTO dispute settlement process exchanged their experiences with other Experts at the 1999 DMEG meeting. Experts observed that APEC member economies have been very active in their use of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism and that the WTO dispute settlement mechanism is operating effectively. Experts viewed that such exchanges were very valuable, especially for DMEG Experts who have no WTO experience.	On going
<b>(e) Progress report, with recommendations</b>	The Fifth Report of the APEC Experts' Group on Dispute Mediation, which includes recommendations for the CTI, was adopted by the DMEG on 23 April 1999.	The Chair of the Experts' Group is preparing a letter to the Chairman of CTI, summarizing the recommendations of the Experts' Group.

# CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON MOBILITY OF BUSINESS PEOPLE

## 1. Introduction

Consolidation of the work under CTI on the mobility of business people continued during 1999. Three informal meetings of border management experts were convened under the chairmanship of Australia to further explore the scope for expanding regional cooperation in facilitating the movement of business people throughout the region.

Following a phased trial period and a positive evaluation the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme commenced operating on a permanent basis from 1 March 1999. The evaluation found that the APEC business community is very supportive of the scheme and considers it to be a good initiative. Two further economies have agreed to participate in the Scheme bringing to seven (out of 21) APEC economies now participating.

During 1999, the focus of activity shifted towards streamlining and arrangements for temporary residency of business people from APEC economies seeking to engage in trade and investment throughout the region. In-principle agreement between all economies was reached to pursue streamlined application arrangements for the intra-company transfer of executives and senior managers as the first step towards streamlined arrangements across a broader range of categories of business temporary residents.

The work of the Technical Cooperation Groups, which have been established to improve the flow of information between border management agencies and to encourage further technical training and assistance between economies, continued during 1999.

## 2. Collective Actions Achieved

- Collective commitment to expand the availability of Multiple Entry Visas to APEC business travellers.
- Successful evaluation of the trial period of the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme and the establishment of the Scheme on a permanent basis from 1 March 1999.
- The addition of two further economies to the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme bringing to seven the total number of economies now participating.
- On-going policy dialogue by Group members to streamline arrangements for temporary residency of business people seeking to engage in trade and investment, highlighted by the in-principle agreement between economies on streamlined visa processing arrangements for intra-company transfers of executives and senior managers.
- Publication and updating on the APEC Internet Homepage of a guide to business temporary residency entry requirements for each economy.
- Further development of mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of immigration data between economies.
- Provision of formal technical assistance and training programs in visa and border management systems.

### 3. New Collective Actions Achieved

- Establishment of a Working Group to facilitate dialogue with business on the current and future agenda of the Experts' Group on Business Mobility.
- APEC economies agreeing in-principle to pursue arrangements for the intra-company transfers of executives and senior managers, and working towards agreed benchmarks and service standards

### 4. Benefits and Beneficiary

1999 Deliverable Outcome	Expected Benefit and Beneficiary
<p><i>Temporary Residency</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Member economies to agree and progressively implement (on a best endeavours basis) streamlined procedures and improved service standards for the intra-company transfer of executives and senior managers</li> <li>- Member economies to agree on a framework for evaluating streamlined temporary residency arrangements</li> </ul>	<p>Promote international competitiveness and facilitate business and investment growth through the ready availability of key personnel.</p>
<p><i>Immigration data sharing</i> – referred to the Pacific Rim Intelligence Group (PACRIM) in 1998.</p> <p>Liaise with PACRIM in the development of appropriate mechanisms for the exchange of immigration data on document fraud, lost and stolen travel documents and immigration malpractice between economies.</p>	<p>Heightened attention to and capacity for prevention of illegal movements is a prerequisite to the streamlining of visa arrangements for genuine travellers.</p>
<p><i>APEC Business Travel Handbook</i> – Short-term business and temporary residency visa requirements in APEC economies to be updated on the Internet.</p>	<p>Convenient reference guide for business people intending to work in other APEC economies.</p>
<p>Continued implementation of Technical Assistance and Training Program via Technical Cooperation Groups formed in late 1998.</p> <p>Technical Cooperation Groups to deliver training in travel document fraud techniques.</p> <p>Subsequent training of border management officials in home economies.</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate the success of the Technical Assistance and Training Program and</p>	<p>Introduction of new technologies and risk management techniques to improve provision of border management services to business travellers.</p>

<b>1999 Deliverable Outcome</b>	<b>Expected Benefit and Beneficiary</b>
identify any need for further technical assistance.	
Continued expansion of APEC Business Travel Card Scheme (operating on a permanent basis from March 1999 following CTI endorsement).  Further promote the benefits of the Scheme to other interested economies.	More flexible and streamlined movement arrangements supporting business visitors.
Expansion of the Business Mobility homepage on the Internet	Provide business community with access to information on the progress made in the implementation of the Business Mobility agenda

## 5. 1999 Highlights

- Successful evaluation of the trial period of the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme and the establishment of the Scheme on a permanent basis from 1 March 1999.
- The addition of two further economies to the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme bringing the total number of economies participating to seven.
- On-going policy dialogue by group members to streamline visa arrangements for temporary residency for business people to engage in trade and investment including agreement to streamline arrangements for the intra-company transfer of executives and senior managers.
- Technical Cooperation Groups conducted workshops to provide economies with improved fraud detection skills.
- A self-review of the Informal Experts' Group on Business Mobility found that the Group is making good progress in meeting its objectives and its mandate remains relevant to business.

## MOBILITY OF BUSINESS PEOPLE 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

OAA Objectives <sup>3</sup>	Steps to Implement	Timeframe
<p><i>1. Exchange information on regulatory regimes relating to the mobility of business people in the region</i></p>	(i) Survey members' regulations and requirements relating to short-term entry for business people.	Survey completed
	(ii) Survey members' regulations and requirements relating to temporary residency of business people.	1998-99
	(iii) Regularly update Internet version of the <i>APEC Business Travel Handbook</i> informing the business community of members' short-term business travel requirements. Add to it information on members' requirements relating to temporary residency as the survey is completed.	1999-ongoing
	(iv) Facilitate policy dialogue between border management and other relevant officials on regulatory regimes relating to short-term travel and business residency.	1999-ongoing
<p><i>2. Examine the possibility of setting the scope for cooperation at a regional level aimed at streamlining and accelerating (i) processing of visas for short-term travel</i></p>	<p>(i) Identify possible areas for regional cooperation including, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- multiple entry visas</li> <li>- visa waiver arrangements</li> <li>- development of and participation in special travel pass schemes, including APEC Business Travel Card</li> <li>- application of new technologies</li> <li>- application of risk management techniques</li> <li>- information sharing between border management agencies</li> <li>- technical assistance and training in visa and border management systems</li> </ul>	<p><b>Completed in 1997</b></p>
	<p>(ii) Develop mechanisms for cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trade Ministers issued a collective commitment to issue multiple-entry visas to business travelers from other APEC economies unless there are sound reasons in individual cases not to do so.</li> <li>- APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) trial completed and card operating on permanent basis</li> <li>- Seven economies participating in ABTC</li> <li>- Existing mechanisms for information sharing reviewed.</li> <li>- Survey identifying technical assistance needs completed and mentoring system developed.</li> <li>- Technical assistance being provided on travel document fraud.</li> </ul>	<p>1998-ongoing</p> <p>June 1998</p> <p>1999-ongoing</p> <p>September 1998</p> <p>1998</p> <p>1999-2000</p>

<sup>3</sup> Objectives reflect *verbatim* the OAA Collective Actions on Mobility of Business People

<b>OAA Objectives</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Steps to Implement</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<p>3. <i>Examine the possibility of setting the scope for cooperation at a regional level aimed at streamlining and accelerating (ii) arrangements for temporary residency for business people to engage in trade and investment</i></p>	<p>(i) Identify possible areas for cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreement in principle reached to raise service standards for issuance and extension of business residency permits for executives, managers and specialists transferred within companies.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) Develop mechanisms for cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of plan to raise service standards to commence pending final agreement.</li> </ul>	<p>1998</p> <p>September 1998</p> <p>1999-2000</p> <p>1999-2000</p>
<p>4. <i>Establish and maintain a dialogue on mobility issues with the business community</i></p>	<p>(i) Engage in dialogue with business representatives in member economies, and with ABAC, on impediments to mobility of business people.</p> <p>(ii) Examine the feasibility of implementing ABAC recommendations relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- short-term travel</li> <li>- business residency</li> </ul> <p>(iii) Encourage feedback from business representatives on utility of <i>APEC Business Travel Handbook</i>.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Done 1997</p> <p>Done 1997-98</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



# CONVENOR'S REPORT ON URUGUAY ROUND IMPLEMENTATION AND RULES OF ORIGIN

## 1. Introduction

Collective action on Uruguay Round (UR) implementation is focused on seven areas. These include participation in UR implementation seminars; implementation of follow-on work from these seminars; the technical assistance based on discussions at UR seminars; participation in cooperative training projects targeted at prevalent implementation problems; the planning and participation in periodic seminars for business on steps planned to liberalize trade as part of UR implementation; the annual review and report on progress made in APEC members' UR implementation to Ministers and the business/private sector; and the identification of provisions in UR agreement that, when implemented, would have the most positive impact on furthering common APEC goals.

In 1999, members gave priority to the implementation of the multi-year training and technical cooperation programs relating to the WTO TRIPS and Valuation Agreements. In addition, a seminar on the WTO New Agreements was held in China in May. The seminar covered the Agreements on Basic Telecommunications, Financial Services and Information Technology. Contributions to the WTO also continued to be made, including through policy dialogues.

Activity on Rules of Origin (ROO) is focused on the assessment of compliance with procedural obligations in the WTO Agreement on ROO, including notification responsibilities, and those disciplines applicable to non-preferential rules of origin. In addition to focusing on the transparency aspects of APEC member practices on ROO, members continued to work on harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin by actively participating in meetings and negotiations in the WTO and World Customs Organization (WCO). Members are awaiting the results of the harmonization program. Following this, consideration would be given to the holding of a seminar on the resulting agreement. Members continued to use the more detailed format guidelines for ROO approved in 1997 to report on implementation of the procedural obligations of the WTO agreement on ROO in a manner aimed at establishing a more transparent and predictable ROO regime.

At its meeting in Christchurch in May 1999, CTI decided to realign work in the areas of URI/ROO so that the existence of the informal group on URI/ROO may no longer be necessary, and the substantive work will be carried out under the direct responsibility of the CTI Chair. Focal points, however, would be nominated to assist the CTI Chair and CTI plenary in overseeing work in this issue area.

## 2. Collective Action Achieved

A seminar on the WTO New Agreements was held in Tianjin, China from 24-26 May 1999.

## 3. New Collective Actions Agreed

None



#### **4. Benefits and Beneficiary**

The Seminar on WTO New Agreements provided an opportunity to promote better understanding within APEC economies on the implications and impact of the three new WTO agreements. Participants from government agencies, academics as well as from the private sector benefited from the event.

#### **5. 1999 Highlights**

The APEC UR Implementation Seminar on WTO New Agreements was held in China.

## URUGUAY ROUND IMPLEMENTATION 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p>a) Utilize and encourage participation in UR implementation seminars. Consider holding periodic seminars for the private sector on steps planned to liberalize trade as part of UR implementation</p>	<p>In 1999, various CTI sub-groups organized seminars or workshops, including an advanced seminar on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, which was held in Singapore in April, and an implementation seminar on WTO New Agreements, which was held in China in May. Three training modules on the implementation of the WTO Valuation Agreement shall have been delivered by end 1999. Several assistance missions are being dispatched during the year to help economies implement the border enforcement aspects of the WTO TRIPS Agreement.</p> <p>Members will be surveyed in 2000 to determine their needs for additional seminars. In addition, plans are under way for cooperation with WTO on technical assistance in UR implementation in the region. Members are also conducting seminars or engaging in technical assistance programs on UR implementation on a bilateral and plurilateral basis.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b>, and short-term</p> <p>Short-term, and ongoing</p>
<p>b) Consider implementation of follow-on work from these seminars. Decide whether to hold a follow-on series of UR seminars to enhance participation in the UR built-in agenda and maintain the momentum for liberalization in APEC and WTO.</p>	<p>A compilation of follow-on work from seminars on Uruguay Round Implementation was compiled by the APEC Secretariat and distributed to Members in 1998.</p> <p>Members will collectively continue to consider what follow-on work is appropriate based on the compilation of follow-on work which was completed in 1998, and the survey of their needs and will collectively determine what additional technical assistance is necessary.</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>Short- to medium-term</p>
<p>c) Undertake technical assistance based on discussions at UR seminars, including cooperative training projects targeted at prevalent implementation problems.</p>	<p>Members will participate and are participating in projects, which involve WTO and regional private and public institutions, and which are aimed at providing technical assistance to APEC members and to non-APEC WTO members on the implementation of the UR agreements.</p> <p>APEC members also participate in technical assistance projects developed in CTI sub-groups and targeted toward implementation of UR agreements.</p>	<p>Short-term and ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
d) Annually, review and provide for reporting to Ministers and business on progress made in APEC members' UR implementation.	Members contribute annually in their IAPs information on implementation, and changes to implementation, of UR commitments. Members also provide annually updated tariffs, customs and other information to the APEC tariff databases.	Ongoing
e) Identify provisions in UR agreements that, when implemented, would have the most positive impact on furthering common APEC goals.	Members participate in the identification of provisions of UR agreements which will particularly advance common APEC goals, as well as in identifying members' technical assistance needs on implementing such provisions. For instance, IPEG has established a framework for technical cooperation under which bilateral/multilateral cooperation projects will be undertaken with the view to supporting the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. It has also conducted a survey on the current status of implementation of the TRIPS Agreement to identify remaining tasks for member economies and areas for technical cooperation needed. A symposium to support TRIPS implementation was held in Korea in June.	Short- to medium-term
f) Encourage the CTI sub-fora to contribute to the WTO in ways that are appropriate and relevant to implementation of the Uruguay Round, in their areas of expertise.	Sub-fora contributed to WTO through CTI, on issues of relevance to the WTO. Specifically, GPEG submitted to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement for reference the elements of and illustrative practices on the non-binding principles of accountability and due process. CPD held a policy dialogue with the WTO on competition policy/laws/enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment.	Ongoing
g) Other areas of concentration	Further suggestions for CAP activities or revisions of the CAP included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revision of CAP to better reflect coordination with WTO on technical assistance; and</li> <li>• revision of CAP to refocus activities on other areas of APEC interaction with WTO, e.g., policy dialogue, new issues, and implementation of new agreements.</li> </ul>	Short-term

## RULES OF ORIGIN 1999 COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p>a) Undertake an assessment of compliance with procedural obligations in the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin, including notification responsibilities, and those disciplines applicable to preferential and non-preferential rules of origin.</p>	<p>Members have conducted assessments of their compliance with the procedural obligations in the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin, including notification requirements, and are participating in negotiations in the WTO and WCO concerning non-preferential rules of origin. Members will consider holding a seminar or workshop on the results of these negotiations at the time of their completion, with the aim of: (a) generating a project proposal for the training of relevant personnel to ensure that each member can implement the eventual harmonization agreement and the procedural obligations of the UR agreement; and (b) drawing up a checklist of other steps required to implement both agreements, and creating an “APEC template”.</p>	<p>Short-term</p>
<p>b) Develop a compendium of members’ Rules of Origin for the use of the business/private sector. Ensure a more transparent, predictable, and consistent application of rules of origin.</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) has completed and published the <i>Compendium on Rules of Origin</i> called for in the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA).</p> <p>The CTI has now adopted more detailed format guidelines for ROO, in particular focusing on the procedural obligations of the WTO agreement on ROO, ensuring that members will now report thoroughly on ROO implementation on an ongoing basis through their IAPs.</p> <p>On the basis of past IAPs and the current, improved versions, it is suggested that the APEC Secretariat conduct an analysis of member economy steps in implementing the WTO ROO agreement.</p>	<p>Short-term</p>

Collective Action	Steps to Implement	Time Frame
<p>c) Facilitate, complement, and accelerate, in the short-term WTO/WCO work on harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin.</p>	<p>Members will continue active participation in meetings of WTO and WCO, discussing WTO/WCO harmonization work in APEC, submitting contribution papers to WCO, and organizing consultations with domestic industries. The harmonization program has yet to be completed and it is hoped that it would produce an outcome that reflects and supports APEC's overall objective of expanding trade.</p> <p>Members may also indicate in their IAPs their level of participation in WTO/WCO harmonization, and/or any technical or other impediments to participation.</p>	<p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p>
<p>d) Study in due course the implication of rules of origin on the free flow of trade and investment, with a view to identifying, in the longer term, both positive and negative aspects and effects of rules of origin related practices.</p>	<p>There have already been studies of the effect of ROO on trade and investment by PECC and Korea completed in 1997, and a thorough trade policy dialogue at CTI I in January 1997.</p> <p>Members are prepared to continue participation in joint work to explore the trade and investment implications of rules of origin, taking into account views of business. The suggestion was made that the terms of reference and guidelines for conducting a study should be established.</p>	<p>Longer-term</p>

## REPORT ON TILF ACTIVITIES IN OTHER APEC FORA

### Energy Working Group

In 1999, the Energy Working Group (EWG) focused its efforts on the promotion of trade and investment in energy infrastructure. Recognizing that the promotion of private sector investment in the power sector and the facilitation of trade in natural gas could provide an economic stimulus to the region, EWG held a business/government investment workshop in April 1999 to develop recommendations for early action. The workshop proposed a series of recommendations relating to electricity reform and natural gas. To implement these recommendations, EWG agreed to establish two voluntary Implementation Committees, consisting of government and business sector representatives. The first committee will oversee the early implementation of the 10 priority policy principles on best practices for Independent Power Producers (IPP). The second would look at the promotion of private sector investment in the natural gas chain. A base-line study to identify the current status of the IPP priority principles will be undertaken over the next twelve months.

A report on *Assessing the Impact on the Energy Sector of Liberalizing Trade and Investment in APEC Member Economies* will be presented to the next meeting of EWG in November 1999. The report is aimed at promoting a more informed policy debate on the impact of liberalization in the energy sector. Following consideration by EWG, a final report will be prepared and a seminar will be held early next year to discuss its findings.

A draft *Review of Energy Efficiency Test Standards and Regulations in APEC Member Economies* was completed in June and scheduled for publication in October 1999. The study identifies product areas for examination; determines the nature of technical and testing requirements; identifies the nature of existing or proposed cooperative arrangements between APEC economies; reviews test procedures to identify differences; reviews the adequacy of international test standards; and identifies the feasibility of overcoming trade barriers.

A workshop on *Setting-up and Running an Energy Performance Testing Laboratory* was held in Manila in July 1999. The workshop was aimed at providing participants with an understanding of the practical issues and problems relating to the setting up and running of an energy performance testing laboratory, defining and addressing technical issues relating to harmonization, including complying with requirements for mutual recognition. The workshop also included a background to regional and international trends in trade liberalization and increased energy efficiency. The proceedings of the workshop will be published in October 1999 as a useful reference.

### Fisheries Working Group

In 1996, the Fisheries Working Group (FWG) agreed to undertake a multi-year, self-funded project on Trade and Investment Liberalization in Fisheries. Part I of the project, a study on tariffs, was completed in 1997. Work is continuing on Part II relating to non-tariff measures.

In 1999, FWG assumed responsibility for two projects arising from the Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) initiative in the fisheries sector. The *Study into the Nature and Extent of Subsidies in the Fisheries Sector in APEC Member Economies* will identify

subsidies used globally in the fisheries sector, highlight those subsidies used within the APEC region and clarify how the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures applied to those subsidies. The project on *A Study to Reduce Impediments to Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization in the Fisheries Sector* is being amended to increase the relevance of the project to reflect recent APEC developments.

FWG is undertaking a two-year TILF-related project starting in mid-1999. The APEC Seafood Information System will test the feasibility of improving and expanding the market and industry information service provided by GLOBEFISH and the FAO Regional Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products.

In early 1999, FWG produced a publication on *Air Shipment of Live and Fresh Fish and Seafood Guidelines: A Manual on Preparing, Packaging and Packing Live and Fresh Fish & Seafood Air Shipments* along with the *Customs and Inspection Guidelines for Six APEC Member Economies*. The manual aims to inform APEC fish and seafood traders on technical requirements and public health regulations associated with trade in air shipped live and fresh fish and shellfish. The manual is available from the APEC Secretariat. An electronic version is on the APEC Secretariat's website.

### **Human Resources Development Working Group**

The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) contributed to the TILF agenda through the development of human capital. The Working Group has been active in completing its research on the impact of trade liberalization on labor markets in the Asia-Pacific region, with the view to laying the ground work for effective policy responses to labor market adjustments caused by trade liberalization in the Asia-Pacific economies.

The HRDWG is continuing with Phase II of the Trade and Investment Insurance Training Program, in collaboration with the Trade Promotion Working Group, with the view to training those who are working with institutions that provide trade and investment insurance in APEC economies and contributing to the TILF agenda. The HRDWG is also collaborating with SCSC to study HRD requirements in promoting quality assurance systems and in increasing opportunities for training in standards and conformance.

The HRDWG is also continuing with a multi-stage project titled *Towards Mutual Recognition of Qualifications*. The HRDWG identified, as Stage III, a comprehensive framework of best practices in accreditation, recognition and development of professional engineering qualifications. The group will establish the APEC Engineer Register as a way to advance the best practices framework.

### **Industrial Science and Technology Working Group**

The Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG) has been pursuing a number of activities directly relevant to the TILF agenda, such as the 3rd APEC Technomart and the multi-year study on the role of science and technology industrial parks (STIPs).

The 3rd APEC Technomart will be held in Australia in November 1999. The Technomart is the first APEC initiated, managed and organized; and primarily funded by the

business/private sector. It will facilitate trade and investment via a comprehensive program of seminars, workshops, business-matching programs, site visits and new technology demonstrations. The event will exhibit technologies that are past the research stage and entering development, as well as those that are market ready. A wide range of technological fields will be featured: computer and communication technology; earth sciences and engineering; medical and health technology; applied science; agricultural and food processing technology; biotechnology; environmental and marine technology; and aerospace, aviation and defense technology.

ISTWG continued a multi-year study on the role of STIPs that was launched in 1998. STIP is aimed at improved flows of technological information and technology in different APEC economies, focusing on issues relating to trade emanating from STIPs. As of the end of May, an initial database was established which included 400 science and technology industrial parks in Canada, Mexico, the USA and 52 in China.

### **Telecommunications Working Group**

The Telecommunications Working Group (TELWG) continued to produce a number of commendable TILF deliverables and undertook work relating to Electronic Commerce.

In March 1999, TELWG finalized the Interconnection Framework for Telecommunications Networks. This Interconnection Framework is a resource for use by businesses supplying telecommunications services and policy makers and will provide member economies with a basis for discussing the development of interconnection regimes that promote competition in the telecommunications market. Without prescribing how economies should proceed, the framework seeks to highlight the importance of interconnection issues and their relevance to developing a robust, reliable and ubiquitous communications network. It aims to support a secure and competitive supply to users in an environment of certainty which gives investors confidence in the ongoing development of existing networks as well as the development of new networks.

TELWG has been moving forward the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Telecommunications Equipment, following its endorsement at 3rd APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry in June 1998. The TEL MRA Task Force has met twice to discuss the designation procedures to be used by economies in the implementation of the MRA. As of 1 July 1999, eight economies (Australia; Canada; Hong Kong, China; Japan, Korea; Singapore; Chinese Taipei and the United States) will be participating in Phase I of the MRA.

In addition, TELWG is currently undertaking the APEC MRA Implementation Support Project. This project aims to assist APEC economies implement the MRA by identifying, for each of the members, the administrative, legal, industrial and commercial barriers to the efficient implementation of the MRA and recommending ways to overcome those barriers. To follow up on that project, TELWG plans to undertake a MRA-HRD project to assist member economies to acquire the skill sets necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of the MRA.

TELWG continues to pursue a number of activities in the area of electronic commerce. Currently, TELWG is carrying out a qualitative survey to assess the adoption, uptake and use of e-commerce by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across all 21 APEC member



economies. The study will investigate the opportunities, benefits and the real and perceived barriers to the adoption and use of e-commerce among SMEs in the region. At the same time, TELWG is conducting an ongoing series of Electronic Commerce Seminars to raise awareness of the benefits and requirements for electronic commerce. These seminars are designed to help SMEs understand the benefits of doing business electronically.

Other e-commerce related work include Electronic Authentication and Cybernet/INGECEP (Integrated Next Generation Electronic Commerce Environment Project) which aims to help the extension of the global market through the development of new multimedia application and security systems for e-commerce.

TELWG launched a self-funded *Study of Compatible and Sustainable International Charging Arrangements for Internet Services (ICAIS)*. The overall purpose of this study is to facilitate the sustainable development of the Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII). It will raise awareness of the issues at hand and create a body of information, available in the public domain and frequently updated, that will aid both governments and industry in understanding the market dynamics driving development of the Internet and in formulating the appropriate market-driven regulatory and commercial response to foster the vibrant growth of competitive information industries. Module 1 of the study has been completed while work on Module 2 is underway. A report will be submitted to the 4th APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry in 2000.

TELWG is also undertaking a project on the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications. The project is designed to help APEC WTO members with the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications and to help APEC non-WTO members to develop the necessary steps to meet the agreement. It is expected that all APEC economies will benefit from detailed information specific to their own economy's needs for full and effective participation in the WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications.

### **Tourism Working Group**

In May 1999, the Tourism Working Group (TWG) agreed to draft the APEC Tourism Charter which will set a work program for the removal of impediments to the growth of tourism in the APEC region to the year 2010. TWG considered that the removal of impediments to growth is the very core of APEC's purpose and that through the APEC Tourism Charter, the Group will be focused on issues that APEC is intended to address. The Charter will be officially noted by leading private sector tourism companies at the APEC Tourism Forum and ratified at the first APEC Tourism Ministers' Meeting in 2000.

TWG also commissioned a study on occupational skill standards which suggests a framework for mutual recognition to increase labor mobility and encourage development. It received three surveys, carried out on a self-funding basis by Singapore, on the effects of the Asian economic crisis on APEC economies. These will provide input to the upcoming APEC Private Sector Forum and APEC Tourism Ministers' Meeting. It also continued the development of a statistical sub-sector for the APEC region in the World Tourism Organization's database.

## **Trade Promotion Working Group**

In 1999, the Trade Promotion Working Group (WGTP) continued to undertake work on trade promotion, trade skills and training, trade information and networking, and cooperation between the business/private sector and public agencies. Activities pursued during the year include: the Trade and Investment Insurance Training Program; APECNet; the APEC Information Center for Trade Promotion; and the Core Characteristics Survey of APEC Trade Promotion Organizations.

The Trade and Investment Insurance Training Program is a joint project with HRDWG. It aims to promote human resource development in the area of trade and investment insurance.

APECNet is a project funded by Singapore. In the process of migrating onto the Internet platform, the current APECNet was designed such that a bulletin system allowing business communities of member economies to post or identify business opportunities via this website was incorporated. The system provides convenient and cost-effective platform to facilitate business exchange. For the period July 1998 to January 1999, the site averaged a monthly hit rate of 45,000 with 8,000 monthly requests for information about member economies and to post, or search for opportunities for buyers, sellers and joint-venture partners.

In July 1998, Japan launched a homepage on the Internet, *APEC Information Center for Trade Promotion* at <http://www.city.kitakyushu.jp/~k1208020/apec/>, annexed to the homepage of Kitakyushu. The city of Kitakyushu maintains a website where hyperlinks to other websites are posted. Examples of these hyperlinks are the APEC Secretariat, APECNet, MITI of Japan, and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). The purpose of the homepage is to promote information sharing among APEC member economies. The website currently lists 50 trade-promotion measures from eight APEC economies.

The *Core Characteristics Survey of APEC Trade Promotion Organizations* aims to promote clearer understanding of the roles, functions and activities of trade agencies in APEC. Two editions of the survey were completed in 1998; the third edition will be completed in 1999.

## **Transportation Working Group**

The Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) pursued a number of important TILF-related activities in 1999. TPTWG is working on the development of an inventory of member economies' international shipping policies and activities with the end in view of creating an efficient, safe and competitive operating environment for maritime transport in the region. Economies are also voluntarily implementing the recommendations of the Air Services Group on options for developing more competitive air services with fair and equitable opportunity.

The pilot EDIFACT commercial messages project identified processes and preparation required to enable businesses to use harmonized EDIFACT messages in international trade. Building on this, the Electronic Commerce Project, beginning in June 1999, will provide participants with a basis of knowledge and skills for employing electronic commerce in business through a program of education and training. The project is scheduled for completion in December 1999.

A day-seminar on “producing better business outcomes with electronic commerce for transport and trade in the new millenium” was held on 20 April 1999, in conjunction with the 15th TPTWG meeting. The seminar addressed APEC’s ongoing action plan for electronic commerce, the successful applications of electronic commerce in transport and trade, paperless trading, business-friendly policy settings for electronic commerce, and new technology.

A program of training for seafarer training instructors was implemented in the Philippines. The program was intended to result in greater employment prospects for seafarers. The project will promote the provision of high quality instruction for seafarers consistent with the requirements of the revised provisions of the International Maritime Organization Convention on the Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping.

TPTWG is now implementing Phase V of the Road Transport Harmonization Project (RTHP), a multi-phased effort to reduce barriers to trade in the automotive sector by promoting standards harmonization. Phase V is planned as a three-stage process to develop a harmonized regulatory system for road vehicles safety and environmental protection. A Pilot Study examining the regulatory arrangements in Australia and Thailand for providing guidelines to achieve effective certification systems and internationally harmonized regulations for the automotive sector, Stage 1 of Phase V, commenced in 1999. Stage 2 will focus on the harmonization of safety and emissions requirements for vehicles among APEC member economies.

### **Economic Committee**

The principal TILF-related activities for the Economic Committee (EC) in 1999 are the two research projects: *APEC Economies beyond the Asian Crisis* (“Crisis” project) and *Assessing APEC Trade Liberalization and Facilitation: 1999 Update*.

The “Crisis” project is led by Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Chinese Taipei. This project examines vital issues arising from the crisis from longer-term perspectives. It also highlights the factors shaping the future of APEC member economies and outline likely scenarios for growth, and suggests broad directions of policies to achieve sustainable growth and equitable development.

The *project, Assessing APEC Trade Liberalization and Facilitation: 1999 Update*, is jointly led by Japan and Singapore. It updates the 1997 study to quantitatively assess where the APEC stands now, by (i) incorporating the most recent trade measures (IAPs and CAPs) including the new APEC members, (ii) using the general equilibrium model, and (iii) substantially updating the data base.

In addition, the *1999 Economic Outlook* examines the magnitude of the impacts of the crisis on the APEC economies including some trade-related indicators and their recovery from the bottom. It also reviews the export performance of the APEC member economies against the two world largest markets, that is, Japan and the United States.

### **Ad-Hoc Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises**

The *Ad-Hoc* Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises (PLGSME) contributed to the TILF agenda through its various projects. The project on training and certification of small business counselors addressed the TILF priorities on capacity building, in particular the need to increase the supply and enhance the skills of SME trainers/counselors to enable them to contribute to the economic growth and competitiveness of SMEs in the regional market. PLGSME also undertook a study on the impact of electronic commerce on SMEs to assist them in coping with the rapid development of, and enable them to benefit from, this medium. PLGSME held a business-matching and advisory program to help tie-up SME businesses in the region. An APEC Entrepreneurship Virtual Center was established in Indonesia.

## 1. Tariff/Non-Tariff Measures

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Time Frame	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. MAG	<p>Tariff Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updating and incorporation of enhancements provided by users of APEC Tariff Database.</li> </ul>	By 1999	Availability of updated tariff information to traders and trade policy analysts.
2. MAG	<p>Non-Tariff Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater transparency on NTMs and the affected products through the establishment of an APEC NTMs database.</li> </ul>	By 1999	Greater transparency to facilitate trade.
3. MAG	<p>Evaluation of PECC's Information Resource Study on Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of industries in which the progressive reduction of tariffs and non-tariff measures may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization.</li> </ul>	By 1999	<p>Statistical evidence on the linkage between tariff changes and intra-APEC trade flows over a specific time period.</p> <p>Transparency of tariffs and non-tariff measures.</p>
4. FWG	<p>Study on the economic analysis of tariffs in the fisheries sector in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of assessing the qualitative and quantitative economic impacts of tariff removal.</p>	<p>The study was published in August 1999. An electronic version will be made available on the Internet.</p>	<p>Inform APEC members of the net economic impact associated with trade liberalization in the fish sector.</p>
5. FWG	<p>Continuation of a multi-year project (1996-2001) covering tariffs, non-tariff measures, investment measures and subsidies in the fisheries sector – <u>1999 focus will be on completion of the non-tariff measures element.</u></p> <p><i>Cross reference to Investment</i></p>	<p>Phase II on non-tariff measures will be completed in 1999.</p> <p>Investment measures and subsidies will be covered in subsequent years. In the final year, FWG will synthesize the four sectoral studies.</p>	<p>Provide useful information and assist APEC fora and member economies in implementing trade and investment liberalization.</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Time Frame	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
6. FWG	Commence an EVSL-initiated study into the nature and extent of subsidies in the fisheries sector, with the view to clarifying how the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures applies to these subsidies.	<p>The objective is to encourage APEC member economies to make best efforts to progressively remove all prohibited subsidies in advance of time limits applicable to each individual APEC WTO members' obligations.</p> <p>For non-WTO APEC members, they will only commit themselves to the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures upon their accession to the WTO; or, as an alternative, they can do that by 31 December 2003 at the latest.</p>	<p>To ensure that non-actionable subsidies, as defined by the WTO Agreement, are applied in full conformance with the disciplines set out in the Agreement and in such a way as will enhance the competitive environment and the sustainability of marine resources.</p> <p>Benefits all APEC members by ensuring that trade-distorting subsidies are removed.</p>

## 2. Services

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. GOS	Development of an APEC Directory on Professional Services (Accountancy, Engineering and Architectural Services).	The Directory will be completed by September 1999.	The Directory will contain information on the requirements for the provision of selected professional services in the APEC region. The information will be accessible to business in a user-friendly format.
2. GOS	Compilation and comparison of all existing trade in services arrangements within APEC.	The Study undertaken by PECC has been completed in July 1999.	The PECC Study will enhance transparency in APEC services regimes, promote services liberalization and provide easy, up-to-date reference information on existing trade in services arrangements within the APEC region to serve as the basis for further work in GOS.
3. GOS	Development of a broader policy framework and formulation of alternative approaches for the Group's work program.	The framework will be developed by GOS and submitted to CTI for approval in 1999.	The framework and work program would encourage a closer interrelationship between GOS and other related fora. GOS would remain the focal point for developing understanding and technical expertise in the services area.
4. FWG	Commencement of a pilot project "APEC Seafood Information Systems" (SIS) to test the feasibility of improving and expanding the market and industry information service provided by GLOBEFISH and the FAO Regional Marketing and Information Advisory Services for Fishery Products.	The project started in mid-1999. The objective of SIS is to build on existing databases and information services in FAO to develop a fully interactive internet-based system operated and financed by private industry.	This project will lead to a cooperative computerized database and information tracking package covering the fisheries sector and will contribute to the efficient dissemination of information on changes in tariff and non-tariff measures to industry stakeholders.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
			SIS will directly benefit fisheries trade associations, non-governmental organizations and institutions, and government agencies in member economies by providing them with one-stop, comprehensive and current information on all aspects of the fisheries industry and seafood markets that affect trade, investment and business growth.
5. TELWG	Indicators to measure the benefits of liberalization in the telecommunications sector.	Report had been completed in October 1997.  The task group continues to develop indicators, including the survey with some revisions.	A standardized set of appropriate indicators that can be used in measuring the liberalization experience of individual economies.
6. TELWG	Conformance, where appropriate, with APEC Guidelines for Harmonizing Procedures for Telecommunications Equipment Certification.  Progressive harmonization of administrative procedures governing certification of consumer telecommunications equipment.  <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i>	Current procedures for equipment certification in each APEC economy are being aligned with the guidelines.  Subject to individual action by member economies.	Enhanced trade in telecommunications terminal equipment, lower costs and assured quality for users.
7. TELWG	Development and implementation, on an elective basis, of Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for conformity assessment of telecommunications equipment.  <i>Cross reference to Standards and Conformance</i>	Framework was agreed in September 1997.  MRA was completed in June 1998 at TELMIN3 for implementation by	Enhanced trade in telecommunications terminal equipment, lower costs and assured quality for users.



Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		<p>member economies.</p> <p>MRA Implementation Support Project produced partial survey results in March 1999. Preliminary assessment showed that no major obstacles exist to implementation. Survey is ongoing.</p>	
8. TELWG	Completion of APEC Framework and Principles for Telecommunications Interconnection	<p>APEC Framework for Interconnection was finalized in April 1999 and would be presented to the APEC Leaders Meeting in September.</p> <p>APEC Principles for Interconnection were finalized in April 1999. Economies will be asked to voluntarily indicate when and how each of these principles will be implemented in their own markets.</p> <p>Funding to be sought for Interconnection Resources Project, to collect and simplify information about interconnection, and develop tools and best practices.</p>	<p>The framework is a resource for use by businesses and policy makers.</p> <p>Aims to support secure and competitive supply of services to users in an environment of certainty which gives investors confidence in the ongoing development of existing networks as well as the development of new networks.</p> <p>Also to provide member economies a basis for discussing the development of interconnection regimes that promote competition in the telecommunications market.</p>
9. TELWG	Implementation of WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications	<p>Mini-workshop planned for September 1999.</p> <p>Final report to be completed by November 1999.</p>	Project to aid APEC WTO members conform to WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications, and also to aid APEC non-WTO members develop the necessary steps to meet such an agreement.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
10. TELWG	Survey on policy approaches towards convergence of telecommunications, broadcasting and computing networks and technologies.	Preliminary questionnaire has been distributed to Task Group members for comment.  Questionnaire to be completed by September 1999, as basis for further follow-up action.	Would yield important information for economies' policy makers to aid them in their response to this issue.
11. TELWG	Support ITU process to facilitate the implementation of GMPCS.  <i>Cross reference to Services</i>	A short survey to promote information sharing was launched in March 1998.  Final report will be completed by September 1999.	Will serve as reference for regulators and industry on the current status of legal and regulatory environment for implementation of GMPCS.
12. TELWG	Licensing of <u>Terrestrial</u> Commercial Wireless Systems	To compare current licensing policies among APEC members and the possible development of market-oriented principles to guide the successful deployment of wireless technology.  Short questionnaire to be developed and completed by September 1999 as the first step in the project.	To increase the understanding of the current regulatory frameworks used by APEC economies and to serve as a reference for industry.
13. TELWG	Overview of Electronic Commerce Law	Report completed in 1998 and published at the TELWG Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII) website in Korea and at Baker Mackenzie web site. Authors of report to update it periodically.	Provides a comprehensive overview of the legal environment for electronic commerce in the region. Useful for both business and governments.
14. TELWG	SME Electronic Commerce Survey	To examine uptake and use of E-Commerce by SMEs.	Study results will aid TELWG and other APEC Groups to develop future work

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		<p>The survey is underway and a final report is expected to be completed by September 1999.</p>	<p>plans and help their policy and analysis functions and technology pilot project selections.</p> <p>Study results will also aid SMEs and their larger business partners fulfill the leading role, which APEC expects them to play in E-commerce development.</p>
15. TELWG	Study on International Charging Arrangements for Internet Services	<p>Study the pricing of intra-APEC leased lines and the historical, technological and commercial factors that affect it now and will affect it in the future.</p> <p>Study will also examine if pricing arrangements are affecting the development of the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure.</p> <p>Consultant had prepared an issues paper presenting overview of issues and suggesting way forward in March 1999.</p> <p>Consultants will prepare a preliminary report for late 1999. The final report to be presented to Ministers in 2nd quarter of 2000.</p>	<p>Study will result in greater understanding of the growth and development of the Internet in the APEC region and the factors involved.</p> <p>Will, if Study results show that it is necessary, propose guidelines for more equitable pricing arrangements for internet services.</p>
16. TELWG	Spectrum Policy and Management Database	Provides a central source to locate economies' information resources concerning policies and management of the radio frequency spectrum. Officially launched in 1998 at the TELWG Asia -	Serves as a convenient reference source for industry and regulators and contributes to trade and investment facilitation in the field of wireless communications.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		Pacific Information Infrastructure Web site in Korea. Ongoing.	
17. TELWG	Development and Financial Resource Catalogue	Provides a central source to locate information resources from APEC economies and other organizations, which serve as pointers to resources available to assist in the development of telecommunications and information infrastructure. Launched in 1998. Ongoing.	Serves as a convenient reference source for industry and regulators and contributes to trade and investment facilitation in the field of telecommunications and information industries.
18. TWG	Development of a compilation and comparison study on examples of best practice environmental initiatives within the APEC region.	A published report will be delivered by September 1999.	The data contained in the report will facilitate the adoption of sustainable tourism principles amongst APEC member economies.
19. TWG	Development of a Study on the Implications of Cultural Festivals in the establishment of tourism development plans and policies in the APEC region.	A published report will be delivered by September 1999.	The data contained in the Study will allow APEC member economies to explore practical cultural festival planning, management and promotional methods which have already been adopted, as well as provide new methods to increase tourist flow through the implementation of cultural festivals in the APEC region.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
20.TPTWG	<p>Road Transport Harmonization Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final phase (Phase V) is intended to develop a harmonized vehicle regulatory system for APEC over a five-year period.</li> </ul>	<p>In 1999, a Pilot Study will be undertaken in Australia and Thailand to examine the impediments to achieving the Bogor Declaration objectives.</p> <p>The project commenced in 1994. In the intervening period, the scale of the problem had been identified, and analysis of the technical regulations, certification and approval systems applied in APEC economies have been completed. Phase V is planned as a three-stage process seeking to develop a harmonized regulatory system for road vehicles for safety and environmental protection. Consultants have been selected for the Pilot Study to examine the regulatory arrangements in Australia and Thailand to provide guidelines to achieve effective certification systems and internationally harmonized regulations for the automotive sector. The final report is scheduled for the end of 1999. Preparations have also commenced to develop a new project proposal in 2000, to extend the Pilot Study to all APEC economies (Stage 2).</p>	<p>A harmonized regulatory system for road vehicles will benefit all parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry will be in a position to produce vehicles to meet a single set of regulations, thus reducing development, certification and approval costs.</li> <li>Through consistent certification and approval systems, APEC vehicle regulators will be able to mutually recognize approvals issued in other APEC economies.</li> <li>Harmonized regulatory systems will provide the APEC community with safe and environmentally friendly vehicles at reduced costs.</li> </ul>
21. TPTWG	<p>Development of an inventory of member economies' international shipping policies and activities.</p>	<p>The results of a questionnaire on member economies' maritime transport policies which were clarified at TPTWG 15, will be analyzed voluntarily by member economies in</p>	<p>This project aims to further develop a safe, efficient and competitive operating environment in the region, which will benefit shipping firms and the companies whose goods are</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		future TPTWG meetings.	shipped.
22. TPTWG	Voluntary reports describing how economies are implementing the recommendations of the Air Services Group.	Voluntary reports were submitted by various interested economies at TPTWG 15 (April). Further such reports will be submitted at TPTWG 16 (November).	The implementation of the recommendations of the Air Services Group should reduce business compliance costs; increase the opportunity for airlines and consumers; and facilitate increased linkages and trading opportunities in the region.
23. TPTWG	Workshops on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Seafarer Training (Australia).	<p>A program of training for seafarer training instructors was implemented in the Philippines, where a large proportion of the world's seafarers originate. The program was intended to result in greater employment prospects for seafarers.</p> <p>This project will promote the provision of high quality instruction for seafarers consistent with the requirements of the revised provisions of the International Maritime Organization Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping.</p> <p>The project was expected to be completed in 1997 but was delayed and will be completed in 1999.</p>	<p>Maritime trainers and trainee seafarers are the immediate beneficiaries of this project, as the training structure and curricula will be made responsive to the revised Convention. Enhancing qualifications improves seafarers' international employment prospects.</p> <p>Ship owners, ship operators, port operators and related organizations will also ultimately benefit from highly skilled seafarers.</p>
24. TPTWG	Phase 1 of the electronic commerce project – Program to assist the implementation of electronic commerce for commercial messages.	This is a program of education and training (a five-day course in up to eight economies) designed to assist	This project will result in greater knowledge and understanding of the various electronic commerce systems

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		businesses, including government-owned, involved with international transport and related trading activities to implement electronic commerce systems. The project commenced in June and is scheduled to end in December 1999.	for business in the transport and related trading sectors. Business participants are expected to proceed to the next stage of trialing and implementing the systems of their choice (Phases 2 and 3 of the projects).
25. TPTWG	Electronic commerce seminar "Producing better business outcomes with electronic commerce for transport and trade in the new millennium".	<p>A one-day seminar was held on 20 April 1999, in conjunction with the 15th TPTWG meeting.</p> <p>The seminar addressed the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APEC's ongoing action plan for electronic commerce;</li> <li>• successful applications of electronic commerce in transport and trade;</li> <li>• paperless trading - making it happen;</li> <li>• business-friendly policy settings for electronic commerce; and</li> <li>• new technology.</li> </ul>	The seminar will help progress the TPTWG electronic commerce work program, including the implementation of the paperless trading initiative contained in the APEC Electronic Commerce Blueprint for Action endorsed by Leaders in November 1998. Expected beneficiaries are businesses, government agencies, users and suppliers of electronic commerce (both hardware and software).
26. EWG	Comprehensive Linked Database on Mining and Energy Related Opportunities and Regional Legal Framework within APEC Member Economies	The database provides ongoing access to a databank of information on the mining and energy sectors of participating member economies to facilitate strategic planning, definition of new trends, and investment in resource development and infrastructure.	The database benefits governments and institutions dealing with domestic mineral and energy resource management and private and public sector companies in member economies. The project facilitates investment and free trade in the mining and energy sectors.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		<p>In 1999, the project coordinator will seek to capture additional data, progressively refine the database and promote it world-wide. The project is expected to be completed by end 2000.</p>	
27. EWG	Symposium on Domestic Refrigeration Appliances	<p>The objectives are to identify existing differences in requirements for measuring the energy performance of domestic refrigeration appliances, to examine the reasons for those differences and propose ways of overcoming them.</p> <p>The symposium is scheduled to be held in September 1999 with a report issued by mid-November 1999.</p> <p>The symposium will consist of three sessions over three days, with the final session likely to recommend further research plus representation to international standards fora.</p>	<p>The main deliverable will be a report on the practical technical issues related to energy efficiency standards for domestic refrigeration appliances and recommendations on how these should be addressed.</p>
28. EWG	Assessing the Impact on the Energy Sector of Liberalizing Trade and Investment in APEC Member Economies	<p>The project coordinator will present a report to EWG 18 for consideration of members. A final report will then be prepared and a seminar held in November 1999 to discuss the findings.</p> <p>The report is aimed at promoting a more informed policy debate on the</p>	<p>Member economies, energy departments, planning and regulatory organizations, utilities and business sector organizations will be able to draw upon improved information and will benefit from any energy market liberalization that might ensue.</p>



Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		<p>impact of liberalization in the energy sector.</p>	<p>Collaborating energy research institutions will be able to develop their understanding of policy scenario modeling.</p>
29. EWG	<p>Review of Energy Efficiency Test Standards and Regulations in APEC Member Economies</p>	<p>A report in the form of a reference document will be published which will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify product areas for examination</li> <li>• determine nature of technical and testing requirements</li> <li>• identify nature of existing, or proposed, cooperative arrangements between APEC economies</li> <li>• include technical review of test procedures to identify differences</li> <li>• review adequacy of international test standards</li> <li>• identify feasibility of overcoming trade barriers.</li> </ul> <p>Final report of the project will be available in October 1999.</p>	<p>Beneficiaries will be manufacturers of energy appliances and equipment. Reduction of testing requirements will reduce costs of trade and lower prices.</p> <p>It will also provide the basis for a system that allows for equivalence of energy standards and regulations.</p>

### 3. Investment

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. IEG	An Update of the Menu of Options	Seek views from ABAC as well as business sectors on their assessment of the Menu of Options.	Promote consultation with private sector in order to enhance the environment for investment.
2. IEG	Voluntary inclusion of Menu of Options in the IAPs of individual economies.	<p>Report on the progress of implementation of the Menu of Options.</p> <p>Individual economies may choose to indicate the status of implementation of the Menu of Options in their respective economies.</p>	Enhance the environment for investment in APEC member economies.
3. IEG	Updating of the APEC Guidebook on Investment Regimes in hardcopy and on the internet.	Ongoing process to facilitate the dissemination of the latest information on the foreign investment regimes of member economies. The 4th Investment Guidebook was published in August 1999.	Enhance transparency and easy access by the business sector to authoritative investment related information.
4. IEG	Compilation and dissemination of the Report on the Proceedings of the 4th APEC Investment Symposium held in Malaysia on 29-30 September 1998 in hardcopy and through the Internet.	Compilation and dissemination of the Report on the proceedings of the Symposium.	Information exchange between business and government on investment issues to enhance the investment environment and promote investment flows in the region.
5. IEG	Report on the Second Business Survey	The Survey was conducted by Japan and the report was presented at the Wellington IEG Meeting in February 1999. The results will be translated	More liberal investment environment to facilitate investment.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		into action programs by individual economies.	
6. IEG	A Summary of Initiatives, Development Efforts, Aspirations and Strategies (IDEAS) for the four stakeholders (foreign direct investor, home economy, host economy and domestic investor) involved in the international flow of FDIs	A summary and compendium of IDEAS has been submitted to CTI for consideration.	Create greater awareness amongst government officials involved in multilateral negotiations on the interests and concerns of the four stakeholders.
7. IEG	Seminar on FDI Policy and Administration Adjustment	The seminar was held in Bangkok on 10-11 June 1999. It enabled government officials to understand the impact of trade liberalization on investment and the development of host economies and to identify policy administration options to achieve development goals and enhance greater investment flows.	Improve knowledge of APEC officials in enhancing the investment environment.
8. IEG	Training Program on Strategies to Identify and Facilitate Investment in Specific Areas, e.g. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Development and Industrial Linkages, High-Tech Industries and R&D Activities	This training program, which was held at the APEC Secretariat in Singapore on 15-17 June 1999, is aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing training for officials on the promotion of investment;</li> <li>• familiarizing and enhancing the level of knowledge of officials directly involved with the promotion and development of SMEs, especially in industrial linkages, high-tech industries and R&amp;D activities; and</li> <li>• familiarizing officials with</li> </ul>	Improve knowledge and skills of investment officials on the latest investment promotion tools and specific measures undertaken to promote SME, hi-tech industries and R&D.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		intellectual property rights in relation to high-tech industries and R&D activities.	
9. IEG	APEC Investment Mart	Held in Seoul, Korea on 2-5 June 1999.	Inform potential investors of member economies on the investment opportunities available within APEC.
10. IEG	Workshop on the Menu of Options	The workshop was aimed at understanding the implications and impact of implementing the investment liberalization and business facilitation measures put forward in the Options paper and a policy dialogue on the role of business facilitation. This workshop and dialogue was held back to back with the 3rd IEG Meeting in Rotorua, New Zealand.	Promote understanding among member economies on the implications and impact of investment liberalization and business facilitation.
11. IEG	Seminar on Start-up Companies and Venture Capital	The seminar was held in Taipei on 28-30 July 1999. It enabled APEC officials to understand the importance of start-up companies and venture capital in the promotion of investment flows, particularly in the development of SMEs.	Improve knowledge of APEC officials on start-up companies and venture capital as a means to promote investment flows and development of SMEs.

#### 4. Standards & Conformance

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. SCSC	Internet dissemination of Voluntary Action Plan Report	<p>Information on the progress of implementation on alignment with international standards.</p> <p>To be uploaded in the APEC homepage by October 1999.</p>	<p>Benefits to producers and consumers from the work on alignment will lead to reduced technical barriers to trade, lower transactions costs, and better quality products at competitive cost.</p> <p>Benefit producers and consumers through greater transparency in the progress being made towards alignment of member economies standards with international standards.</p>
2. SCSC	Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Electrical and Electronic Equipment.	Completed in August 1999.	Enhanced trade in electrical and electronic equipment, lower costs while ensuring consumer safety.
3. SCSC	Arrangement for the exchange of information on <i>Food Recalls and Food Recall Guidelines</i> .	Completed in May 1999.	Easy access to information on <i>Food Recalls and Food Recall Guidelines</i> .
4. SCSC	Training Program on Standards and Conformity Assessment Schemes (APEC/Partners for Progress [PFP] project)	<p>Ongoing (1996-2000).</p> <p>To be held in Malaysia.</p>	Develop human resources by providing knowledge needed to establish and rationalize standards and conformity assessment schemes.
5. SCSC	Internet publication of updated "APEC Contact Points for Standards and Conformance Information".	Ongoing.	Easy access to authoritative standards and conformance information at minimum cost.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
6. SCSC	TILF Project on Compilation of Information on Food Labeling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Region.	Completed in February 1999.	Easy access to information on Food Labeling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Region at minimum cost. Will benefit food trade between APEC members.
7. SCSC	Workshop/seminar for exploring the issues relating to good regulatory practices and their implementation.	Held in Rotorua, New Zealand in conjunction with the 3rd SCSC meeting in early August 1999.	Enhance understanding of regulatory regimes amongst the regulatory bodies and industry members of APEC economies.
8. SCSC	TILF projects on Partners in Food Safety –Towards an Integrated Regional Approach to Enhanced Food Control Systems.	Two workshops for food/drug interface have been planned – in Canberra (August 1999) and in Bangkok (November 1999).	Enhance the exchange of information amongst the regulatory bodies of APEC economies on the regulations of functional foods, health claims and the food/drug interface.
9. SCSC	Joint project with HRD Working Group for the International Quality Assurance Systems training course	On-going (1999-2000)  Replication of training in ten individual APEC economies.	Build up the human resources of APEC economies involved in quality assurance systems by applying quality management system standards.
10. FWG	Publication of a manual explaining different market and trading requirements for airshipping live and fresh seafood to selected APEC economies.	The manual had been published and is available from the APEC Secretariat.  An electronic version is available on the APEC homepage.	This project will directly benefit small to medium enterprises operating in the APEC fish sector, as well as assist government agencies, through the provision of highly relevant information relating to trade in live and fresh seafood.

## 5. Customs Procedures

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. SCCP	Compendium of harmonized import data sets and feasibility report on process harmonization and data element comparison charts	<p>To note the similarities and differences between G7 data elements and APEC harmonization efforts.</p> <p>Summary of research and consensus achieved by December 1999.</p>	<p>All economies wishing to participate.</p> <p>Determination of the degree of harmonization achieved between all major trading partners in APEC and G7 participating economies.</p> <p>Harmonization will be well advanced when the data sets are turned over to the WCO for global implementation.</p>
2. SCCP	Technical assistance program on the Kyoto Convention.	<p>From September 1999, expert assistance will be offered to those APEC economies that requested assistance.</p> <p>This sequence of assistance is expected to last until 2002.</p> <p>This may take the form of expert visits to economies as well as the conduct of a Kyoto Convention Seminar for policy officers engaged in implementation.</p>	<p>The APEC business community will benefit from predictable customs procedures in place throughout the region.</p> <p>The APEC economies which will receive technical assistance include: Vietnam; Brunei; Indonesia; Hong Kong, China; China; Chinese Taipei; and Malaysia.</p>
3. SCCP	Technical Assistance for Advance Tariff Rulings	<p>Expert assistance is being given to:</p> <p>May – Chinese Taipei</p> <p>November – PNG</p> <p>This CAP is expected to be completed in 2000.</p>	<p>APEC business will benefit by allowing importers to obtain certainty over duty rates and other border requirements before goods are imported.</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
4. SCCP	Program to Implement the WTO Valuation Agreement	<p>“Complexities of the Agreement” was delivered in February 1999.</p> <p>Module 1 was delivered in May/June 1999.</p> <p>Module 2 on “Organizing the Infrastructure of the Valuation Program” will be completed by the fall of 1999 (Canada).</p> <p>Module 3 on “Post-Importation Verification” will be completed by the end of 1999 (Canada).</p> <p>At the completion of the delivery of all three modules (last quarter of 1999), Canada, US, Australia and New Zealand will meet to discuss the results of the APEC project and to organize the report writing phase.</p>	<p>Brunei, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.</p> <p>Three new economies: Peru, Russia and Vietnam</p> <p>12 economies</p> <p>12 economies</p>
5. SCCP	Technical Assistance for Tariff Nomenclature Harmonization	Economy-wide expert missions will be conducted in 1999 (Phase III of the multi-year project).	<p>All economies requesting technical assistance will benefit by enhancing their capability in the accurate, consistent and uniform application of the HS Convention.</p> <p>Transparent and consistent determination of commodity classification or nomenclature, which directly links to tariffs, will</p>



Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
			<p>provide greater predictability for traders.</p> <p>Expected to lead to the avoidance of unnecessary costs associated with having to reclassify goods at each stage of the international transaction.</p>
6. SCCP	Workshop on Risk Management	<p>Initial workshop on risk management to provide members with the fundamentals to allow the design and implementation of risk management programs.</p> <p>China and the Philippines have already participated in technical assistance missions. In 1999/2000, all other economies will receive experts to conduct technical assessments.</p> <p>(NOTE: Dates to be finalized in consultation with receiving economies.)</p>	<p>Implementation of a systematic risk management approach will allow APEC Customs administrations to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while maintaining appropriate control.</p> <p>Beneficiaries: All businesses involved in inter-APEC trade and travelers within the region and consequently the communities protected by the various APEC customs administrations.</p>
7. SCCP	Technical Assistance for UN/EDIFACT	<p>Economy-wide expert missions will be completed in 1999 (Phases II &amp; III of the multi-year project).</p> <p>CAP objectives will be met when the project concludes in 1999.</p> <p>It is expected that all economies</p>	<p>Provision of support and technical assistance will enable APEC customs administrations to choose to adopt UN/EDIFACT compliant systems.</p> <p>Expansion of EDI systems for customs applications is one of the</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		<p>requesting technical assistance will have the capability to continue to develop and implement UN/EDIFACT compatible I.T. systems.</p> <p>(NOTE: Schedule of ongoing expert missions to be finalized in consultation with receiving economies.)</p>	<p>primary mechanisms necessary to advance the cause of trade facilitation within APEC and pursue its 'paperless trading' objectives.</p>
8. SCCP	<p>Technical assistance to implement the border enforcement aspects of the WTO TRIPS Agreement</p>	<p>To implement border enforcement aspects of WTO TRIPS Agreement by 1999 (Target year).</p>	<p>Enables economies to establish an adequate and effective IPR border enforcement regime.</p> <p>Assistance Missions: Philippines (completed January 1999); Thailand (completed January 1999); Papua New Guinea (scheduled June 1999); Indonesia (scheduled 2nd quarter 1999); China (September 1999); Russia (September 1999); Vietnam (3rd quarter 1999); and Peru (3rd quarter 1999).</p>
9. SCCP	<p>Technical assistance in implementing the World Customs Organization's Guidelines for Express Consignments Clearance</p>	<p>To implement WCO Guidelines on Express Consignment Clearance by 2001 (Target year).</p>	<p>Provide overview of the WCO Guidelines and focus on automation and risk management.</p> <p>Express Consignment Overview Seminar – July 1999.</p> <p>Expert Missions: three economies to</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
			<p>be determined at a later date.</p> <p>“Best Practices Handbook”</p>
10. SCCP	<p>Technical and human resource development assistance to implement facilities for temporary importation in line with the ATA and the Istanbul Conventions.</p>	<p>This project will ensure that customs procedures and documentation for temporary importations are harmonized and simplified throughout the APEC region by the year 2000.</p>	<p>Commitment through three Regional Advisory Missions in: Chinese Taipei, PRC, and Mexico.</p> <p>Both customs and business will benefit from working together to expedite the cross border flow of low risk shipments and travelers, while controlling high-risk movements.</p> <p>Balancing goals of enforcement and public protection with goals of facilitation and competitiveness.</p>

## 6. Intellectual Property Rights

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. IPEG	Completion of the first survey on the current status of implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.	The survey on the current status of implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, which was started in March 1999, will continue to be updated until the year 2000, when full implementation should be achieved.	Identification of remaining tasks for each member economy and areas of technical cooperation needed.
2. IPEG	IPEG Technical Cooperation Symposium to Assist WTO/TRIPS Implementation	APEC IPR International Symposium was successfully held in Taejon, Korea on 14-18 July 1999.	Support member economies in the legislation process to comply with the TRIPS Agreement.
3. IPEG	Adoption of guidelines for the simplification and standardization of administrative procedures.	General guidelines for administrative systems of trademarks, patents and copyrights were adopted and agreed to be published through the Internet at IPEG IX (July 1999).	Establishment of general guidelines contributes to the standardization and simplification of IPR administrative systems.
4. IPEG	Enforcement	Survey on IPR enforcement system is completed. The consolidated information will be published through the Internet.	The information compiled will be made available to users and will contribute to the effective enforcement of IPR.

## 7. Competition Policy and Deregulation

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. CPD	Publication of the <i>APEC Study on Competition Law for Developing Economies</i>	<p>Draft version of study undertaken by PriceWaterhouseCoopers was considered at the Competition and Deregulation Workshop on 30 April-1 May 1999.</p> <p>The report will be published on the APEC Website and APEC Competition Law and Policy Database's website by 30 September 1999.</p>	<p>Promotes dialogue and common understanding on competition policies/laws and enforcement practices.</p> <p>Provides a useful independent resource to evaluate member economies' progress in developing policies and/or laws, and observations which will further progress the implementation of competition policies/laws.</p> <p>Outlines the advantages and disadvantages of competition laws drawing on the experiences of member economies.</p> <p>Outlines the merits and limits of competition policies and laws for developing economies.</p>
2.CPD/GOS	Joint session between the Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop and GOS	<p>Advance dialogue between sub-fora on competition policy/laws/enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment.</p> <p>Held on 2 May 1999.</p>	<p>Promote dialogue on the interrelationship with "trade in services" policies to enhance common understanding.</p> <p>Services trade is a rapidly expanding sector of APEC member economies.</p> <p>The promotion of more open and transparent markets and rules for services will benefit the services business sector across APEC.</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
3. CPD/IEG	Presentation to Investment Experts on the future work directions of the Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop.	<p>Advance dialogue between sub-fora on competition policy/laws/enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment.</p> <p>Held on 2 May 1999.</p>	<p>Promote dialogue on the interrelationship with “investment” policies to enhance common understanding.</p> <p>Investments Experts Group is considering future workflows and regulatory reform issues.</p> <p>Improvements based on competition principles and framework will benefit the investment sector across APEC.</p>
4. CPD	Presentation by WTO to Competition Policy and Deregulation Group on the Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy	<p>Continue policy dialogue between APEC economies and WTO on competition policy/laws/enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment.</p> <p>Held on 1 May 1999.</p>	<p>Continued sharing of information on APEC’s competition policy/deregulation work, with WTO.</p> <p>Better understanding of emerging directions in the WTO work on competition policy</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
5. CPD	Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop	<p>Promote dialogue and study on competition policy/laws, their enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment, and to increase the transparency of existing competition policies.</p> <p>Held in Christchurch on 30 April – 1 May 1999.</p>	Continued information exchange and deepened dialogue on the region's competition laws and policies.
6. CPD	Further consideration of PECC competition principles project and adoption of APEC competition principles	Promote dialogue and study on competition policy/laws, their enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment, and to increase the transparency of existing competition policies	<p>Better understanding of, and deeper dialogue on the region's competition laws policies and regulatory reform</p> <p>Provide a template for future work by APEC in developing competition policies and applying competition principles and frameworks across all sectors of APEC member economies.</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
7. CPD	Review of the APEC Competition Policy and Law Internet database	Promote dialogue and study on competition policy/laws, their enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment, and to increase the transparency of existing competition policies.	Enhanced tool for dissemination of information on competition policy and laws.  Better access to information on the region's competition laws and policies.
8. CPD	APEC Partners for Progress (PFP) Seminar on Competition Policy and Korea's Training Program on Competition Policy	Promote dialogue and study on competition policy/laws, their enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment, and to increase the transparency of existing competition policies.  The PFP course on competition policy was held in Chiang Mai on 1-4 March 1999.	Tools for dissemination of information on competition policy and laws.  Greater capacity in member economies' agencies to effectively apply competition laws and/or policies.  Greater understanding of different models for competition law and policies in APEC.



## 8. Government Procurement

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. GPEG	Seminar and workshop on government procurement policy and practices.	<p>Seminar on “The Domestic Policy Context for Unilateral Liberalization of Government Procurement” on 3 February 1999 in Wellington, New Zealand.</p> <p>Workshop on government procurement (GP) practices on 14-18 July 1999 in Kunming, China.</p>	<p>Improve Members’ understanding of approaches to accountability and non-discrimination in GP and better prepare Members for the development of these two principles on GP.</p> <p>Improve Members’ understanding of and facilitate Members' sharing of experience on GP practices.</p>
2. GPEG	An updated APEC Government Procurement Homepage.	Update of information on APEC government procurement homepage in June 1999.	Increased transparency and easy access by business to government procurement policies, procedures and tendering opportunities.
3. GPEG	Completion of a set of non-binding principles on government procurement.	Agreement on the elements of and illustrative practices on the remaining principles of accountability and due process, and non-discrimination, thus completing the whole set of non-binding principles on government procurement.	Support for APEC Members’ efforts to establish more open GP systems.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
4. GPEG	Contribution to the WTO's work on transparency in GP.	Submission of the elements of and illustrative practices on the non-binding principle of accountability and due process to the WTO Working Group on Transparency in Government Procurement (WGTGP) for reference in April 1999.	Contribute to the discussion in the WTO WGTGP on the development of an agreement on transparency in GP.
5. GPEG	A process for voluntary review of members' GP systems.	Development of a process in 1999 for Members to report to GPEG their voluntary review of the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles.	Contribute to the liberalization of members' GP markets in the long term, thus providing more and better business opportunities for suppliers to GP markets.

## 9. Dispute Mediation

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. DMEG	<p>Publication of a revised Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies, a compilation of laws, regulations, administrative practices and policies in APEC economies on trade and investment</p> <p>Uploading electronic version of Guide on APEC web site.</p> <p><i>Cross-reference to Information Gathering and Analysis.</i></p>	<p>Published April 1999.</p> <p>Uploaded April 1999.</p>	<p>Low-cost access for officials and businesspersons to information on laws, regulations and mechanisms related to arbitration, mediation and conciliation of private-to-government and private-to-private disputes; and</p> <p>Increase in transparency of laws and regulations relating to various dispute settlement mechanisms in member economies, thereby contributing to the avoidance of disputes.</p>
2. DMEG	<p>Seminar on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) for member economies of APEC</p> <p><i>Cross-reference to Uruguay Round Implementation.</i></p>	<p>Held in April 1999 in Singapore.</p>	<p>Increase confidence in the WTO by APEC developing member economies and better equip officials to protect the interests of their businesspersons through WTO DSU.</p>

## 12. Mobility of Business People

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. IEGBM	<p>Temporary Residency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In principle agreement on key definitions and priority categories for improvement of temporary residency service standards</li> <li>- Initial trial to target executives and senior managers as intra-company transferees</li> <li>- Progress towards the introduction of streamlined processing arrangements and service standards for target group, on a best endeavors basis</li> <li>- Agreement on evaluation criteria and identification of performance indicators to measure service standards and processing reforms</li> </ul>	<p>April 1999</p> <p>August 1999</p> <p>August 1999</p> <p>End 1999</p>	<p>Promote international competitiveness and facilitate business and investment growth through the ready availability of key personnel.</p>
2. IEGBM	<p>Temporary Business Residency Handbook – a guide to applying for temporary business residency in each APEC economy</p>	<p>Regularly updated on the Internet.</p>	<p>Convenient reference guide for business people intending to work in other APEC economies.</p>
3. IEGBM	<p>Continued implementation of Technical Assistance and Training Program commenced in late 1998 with the formation of a mentoring system of Technical Cooperation Groups. Technical Cooperation Groups to deliver training in travel document fraud techniques, according to needs identified by economies.</p>	<p>Progressively through 1999</p>	<p>Introduction of new technologies and risk management techniques to improve provision of border management services to business travelers.</p>

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
	<p>APEC Business Travel Card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete Phase Two of APEC Business Travel Card trial. Five participating economies: Australia; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Korea; and the Philippines.</li> <li>- Launch of full ABTC scheme.</li> <li>- New Zealand to join scheme.</li> <li>- It is anticipated a number of other economies will also join in 1999.</li> </ul>	<p>February 1999</p> <p>March 1999</p> <p>April 1999</p> <p>End 1999</p>	<p>An increased number of cards available to business people and a greater number of participating economies.</p>
4. IEGBM	Expansion of Business Mobility homepage on the Internet.	Ongoing updates.	Provide business community with access to information on the progress made in the implementation of the business mobility agenda.

### 13. TILF General

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
1. EC	A progress report summarizing the major findings of <i>APEC Economies Beyond the Asian Crisis</i> (Chapter 2) <Impact on Trade and Investment and their future developments>	For submission to Ministers/Leaders in Auckland September 1999	Business, policy makers and general public (via APEC Home Page).
2. EC	Impact of Trade Liberalization – quantitative analysis		
3. EC	<i>1999 Economic Outlook</i> (Chapter 2) <Report about the impact of the financial crisis on trade and investment flows in the APEC Region>	For submission to Ministers/Leaders in Auckland September 1999	
4. WGTP	APEC Information Center for Trade Promotion	This project was established with the launching of the web site in July 1998. (URL: <a href="http://www.city.kitakyushu.jp/~k1208020/apec/right.htm">http://www.city.kitakyushu.jp/~k1208020/apec/right.htm</a> )  WGTP will ask members to set up or update their homepages in 1999.	The purpose of this web site is to promote information sharing among APEC member economies on their trade promotion measures. WGTP members will be able to improve their trade promotion measures based on the information gained through this project. Exporters and importers in APEC member economies will be the direct beneficiaries.
5. WGTP	Trade and Investment Insurance Training Program (WGTP/HRDWG Joint Project).	Training programs including one kick-off meeting, four seminars and one wrap-up meeting to be held in 1999.	Promote human resource development in the area of trade and investment insurance.
6. WGTP	APEC Net	Prototype web site was set up in June 1998.	Easy access to trade promotion and related information, activities and opportunities.

Sub-forum	Expected TILF Outcomes for 1999	Description/Timeframe	Expected Benefits and Beneficiaries
		WGTP has suggested further strengthening of linkage between APECNet, member economies' Trade Promotion Organization Homepages and other relevant websites, including the UNCTAD GTPNet. Member economies suggested that arrangements for linking APECNet and the Global Tradepoint Network be referred to SOM Chair for further action.	Since the launch of the APECNet in June 1998, it has attracted about 2,700 users/visitors monthly.
7. WGTP	Core Characteristics Survey of APEC Trade Promotion Organizations	Two editions were completed in 1998, and the 3rd edition will be completed in 1999.	Clearer understanding of the roles, functions and activities of other trade agencies in APEC.
8. HRD	Trade and Investment Insurance Training Program (Phase II)	Three training programs take place in the Philippines, Thailand and China in 1999.	Help developing economies develop human resources for trade and investment insurance.

## Review of CAP Implementation since 1996

### A. Background

1. At the 2nd CTI meeting held in Christchurch on 3-4 May 1999, the Chair tabled a discussion paper on the review of the collective action plans (CAP) implementation since 1996. The paper basically summarized the results of the review undertaken using the approach and format agreed at the 1st CTI meeting and put forward the following issues for discussion:
  - (a) *Whether the current framework for the 15 TILF issue areas under section C, part I of the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA) is still appropriate and sufficient to achieve the Bogor goal and to meet the demands of the business sectors in the APEC region.*
    - (i) *Whether there is a need to phase out areas which have been completed.*
    - (ii) *Whether there is a need to establish new areas, taking into account the changing environment. If yes, what new areas should be added and when should such decisions be made.*
  - (b) *Whether there is a need to ask relevant CTI Convenors to overhaul the relevant sections of OAA not only to reflect what had been added in their CAPs but also to establish new elements, taking into account the changing environment.*
2. CTI agreed to request CTI Convenors to respond to the points raised in (a) and (b) above by the end of June 1999. CTI further agreed to reach conclusion, including agreement on possible headings of new areas, by September 1999, and obtain agreement on the details of the new areas by November 2000.
3. A preliminary report on the review of CAP implementation since 1996 was forwarded to the meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade held in Auckland on 29-30 June 1999. Ministers instructed officials to report this issue at their meeting in September.
4. This paper updates the reports earlier submitted on the subject and puts forward recommendations for consideration by Ministers through the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM).

### B. Collective Action Plans: A Review

5. Under the agreed approach and format, CTI Convenors for all TILF issue areas, including the four services-related working groups (Energy, Transportation, Telecommunications and Tourism), were requested to conduct a review of the implementation of CAPs in their respective areas by assessing:
  - How far the sub-forum/member economies have gone in achieving the collective actions stated in the OAA as well as in the current CAP;
  - How far the current CAP has advanced towards the OAA; and
  - How the sub-forum intends to expand and improve on the guidelines and collective actions stated in the OAA.



6. In general, notable progress has been made in implementing the collective actions under the OAA. Progress, however, remains uneven across issue areas with some sub-fora still focused on transparency and information collection/sharing while others have gone into policy development/dialogues and technical cooperation and capacity-building. Progress has been especially noticeable in the areas of customs simplification and harmonization, standards and conformance, investment, intellectual property rights, competition policy and deregulation, government procurement and the mobility of business people.
7. A number of tasks included in the collective actions in OAA have been completed, are being updated and/or reviewed. CTI annually reports on these as “deliverables” to the Ministers. An almost equivalent number of tasks have been added after 1996. The tasks added to the CAPs may be considered as “expansions and improvement of OAA collective actions” and are deemed incremental and substantial.
8. The attached table provides a brief summary of the reviews undertaken on the CAPs by CTI sub-fora and services-related working groups. The annex compiles all submissions provided by these APEC fora on the same issue.
9. On the points raised in 1(a) and 1(b) above, it was generally felt that the existing framework for the 15 TILF issue areas is still appropriate and sufficient to achieve the *Bogor* goal and to meet the demands of the business/private sector in the APEC region. Moreover, none of the CAPs for the 15 TILF issue areas has been fully completed and no new area is envisaged for inclusion at this point. It was held that the annual revision of CAPs is a better way to reflect the improvements and additions to the collective actions and that the OAA should be left as it is—a historical document reflecting APEC’s “starting point”. There are, nonetheless, proposals for the improvement/expansion of existing areas and/or collective actions, *inter-alia*:
  - Development of a broader policy framework for work in services, taking into account the interrelationship of services with related fora such as on investment, competition policy and deregulation, and the mobility of business people;
  - Development of sectoral arrangements under the APEC Food Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and participation in the Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls;
  - Expansion of CAPs under customs procedures to include customs integrity, and possibly e-commerce at a later stage;
  - Consideration of a further step on the border enforcement of intellectual property rights;
  - Overhaul CAPs on IPRs after 2000 to achieve a more effective administration of the IP system, taking into account that the TRIPS Agreement shall have been implemented;
  - Deepening the discussion on competition policy and deregulation;
  - Training and education on state-to-state dispute resolution through seminars and preparation of publications; and
  - Scope for ongoing expansion of use of multiple-entry visas and visa-free arrangements, participation in APEC Business Travel Card Scheme, and extension of arrangements to streamline temporary residency arrangements to other categories of business people.

## **C. Recommendations**

10. It is recommended that APEC Ministers:

- Note the report on the review of CAP implementation since 1996;
- Instruct CTI to address the proposed enhancements to the collective actions in the context of the annual improvement of CAPs; and
- Direct CTI to further discuss possible new areas of work for inclusion in the CAPs, and the scope for deepening work in existing areas, taking into account the way in which the economic and trade policy environment is changing, and with regard for feedback received from the business/private sector on its priorities.

## CAP Review Summary by OAA Issue Area

OAA Issue Area	Summary of CAP Review
<i>Tariffs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress made on EVSL.</li> <li>• Tariff database launched. Currently working towards establishing a database network.</li> </ul>
<i>Non-Tariff Measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still in the process of collecting relevant information relating to the establishment of a NTMs database.</li> </ul>
<i>Services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main focus has been on transparency and information exchange/collection. <i>GOS</i> will develop a broader policy framework for work in services by deepening and reviewing the scope of the collective actions.</li> <li>• <i>TELWG</i> has almost completed implementation of the collective actions in OAA while work is underway on five new collective actions added after 1996. Notable achievements include the Telecommunications Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and a framework and principles for interconnection.</li> <li>• <i>TPTWG</i> has added a number of actions after 1996; it has completed most of the collective actions in OAA. Achievements include: a model Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Automotive Products; four phases of the Road Transport Harmonization Project; increased coordination between APEC economies and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in road vehicle standards harmonization; the development of an options paper on air services liberalization; projects in the areas of aviation and maritime safety; and the completion of an Electronic Data Interchange commercial messages trial project.</li> <li>• <i>TWG</i> has completed a study on impediments to tourism growth in the APEC region. Undertaking a series of projects, including those aimed at assisting industry and governments develop more effective marketing and planning regimes.</li> <li>• <i>EWG</i> has begun the implementation of the collective actions relating to the facilitation of investment in the energy sector at a considerable speed, exceeding the timetable set out in the CAP.</li> </ul>
<i>Investment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work has proceeded in line with the collective actions in the OAA relating to transparency, policy dialogue and economic and technical cooperation. New collective actions in the areas of facilitation and capacity-building were added after 1996. The menu of options for investment liberalization is one of <i>IEG</i>'s more notable contributions.</li> </ul>

OAA Issue Area	Summary of CAP Review
<i>Standards and Conformance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant progress has been achieved. Major accomplishments include an <i>APEC Guide on Alignment of Member Economies' Standards with International Standards</i>; APEC Food MRA; Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety and on Food Recall and Food Recall Guidelines. SCSC will conduct a comprehensive review in 2000 on two of the four SCSC sub-areas, that is, 'alignment with international standards' and 'cooperation on technical infrastructure.'</li> </ul>
<i>Customs Procedures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of the 12 collective actions agreed upon by SCCP have been or would be completely implemented by end-1999 (e.g., tariff nomenclature harmonization and computerization through UN/EDIFACT). All other actions' implementation is scheduled for completion by 2002, except for the three new APEC members. SCCP has elevated 'customs integrity' as a new CAP item.</li> </ul>
<i>Intellectual Property Rights</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPEG has concentrated on activities relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement as well as on information exchange and dialogues geared towards the harmonization of IP systems and establishment of effective enforcement systems. It has decided to overhaul the current CAP after 2000, taking into account that the TRIPS Agreement shall have been implemented.</li> </ul>
<i>Competition Policy and Deregulation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work has focused on information sharing and dialogue exercises. Developed a set of high level APEC competition and regulatory principles which would be non-binding and drawn on the PECC principles.</li> </ul>
<i>Government Procurement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the collective actions in OAA have been completed. The CAP has been expanded and improved so as to enhance transparency of members' GP systems and opportunities. GPEG has completed the full suite of non-binding principles on government procurement.</li> </ul>
<i>Dispute Mediation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work centered on transparency, dialogue and enhancing member economies' understanding on dispute resolution, including the WTO dispute settlement understanding.</li> </ul>
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**Annex**

**REVIEW OF CAP IMPLEMENTATION SINCE 1996**



## 1. Tariff and Non-Tariff Measures

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p><b><i>Early Voluntary Liberalization</i></b></p> <p>a) Identify industries in which the progressive reduction of tariffs may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization*.</p> <p>b) Identify industries in which the progressive reduction of non-tariff measures may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization*.</p> <p>(*Note: referred to elsewhere as “priority industry sectors”.)</p>	<p>Submit proposals for sectors to be considered for early voluntary liberalization in consultation with domestic and regional business and with other APEC member economies.</p> <p>Develop and implement detailed modalities for liberalization of agreed list of priority sectors endorsed by Ministers and Leaders in November 1997.</p> <p>Where necessary, refine the coverage in terms of specific products and/or non-tariff measures and HS tariff lines in the agreed list of priority sectors endorsed by Ministers and Leaders.</p> <p>Consider those associated facilitation and economic and technical cooperation activities which are relevant and agreed for incorporation into sectoral liberalization initiatives.</p> <p>Consider developing a list of further priority sectors for submission to Ministers as and when directed by the CTI.</p>	<p>Members had forwarded their respective nominations for priority sectors for early liberalization by 15 July 1997.</p> <p>The Kuching Trade Ministers’ Meeting in June 1998 endorsed a framework encompassing priority sectors’ target end rates/dates, product coverage and guidelines on flexibility.</p> <p>Ministers agreed in November 1998 to broaden participation in the tariff element of priority sectors beyond APEC to the WTO. New Zealand has initiated this process.</p> <p>Members are in the process of identifying facilitation and economic and technical cooperation activities under the priority sectors.</p> <p>PECC has completed the Information Resource Study on Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization.</p>	<p>15 priority sectors were endorsed by Ministers and Leaders in November 1997. These sectors account for nearly US\$1 trillion worth of intra-APEC imports (1995 data).</p> <p>PECC will be presenting its final results of the Information Resource Study on Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization in 1999.</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	<p>Develop a framework and database for reporting progress on liberalization in tariffs and NTMs including product specific information about tariff peaks and about any tariff quotas.</p> <p>Verify and update data used in the APEC Impediments Measurement System (AIMs) developed by PECC to assist in its assessment of the effects of alternative liberalization scenarios and the selection of sectors for liberalization.</p> <p>Invite private sector inputs/ responses from regional business representatives through ABAC and other appropriate regional fora such as PECC and PBEC on APEC's voluntary sectoral liberalization initiatives.</p>	<p>Members commenced verification and updating of information used in AIMs developed by PECC to assist its assessment of the selection of sectors for liberalization and their economic impact on APEC. This is to ensure the reliability of data inputs used by the PECC for its Information Resource Study on Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization.</p>	<p>MAG will evaluate the PECC study on approaches for selecting sectors for liberalization and make appropriate recommendations in response to CTT's request.</p>	
<p><i>Tariffs</i></p> <p>c) Develop and maintain a computerized tariff database (APEC tariff database) and work towards establishing a database network without duplicating but supporting the WTO work in this area.</p>	<p>Explore possibility of integrating information from the Integrated Database of the WTO Secretariat system into the APEC Tariff Database for purpose of matching the tariff information with the associated trade statistics.</p> <p>Explore with WTO Secretariat, the possibility of constructing an Internet mirror site of the WTO Integrated Database (IDB) relating to APEC</p>	<p>Collaborated with the WTO Secretariat to conduct a Seminar on the WTO Integrated Database on 14 June 1998 in Kuching, Malaysia.</p> <p>Corresponded with the WTO Secretariat on the possibility of having an Internet mirror site of the WTO IDB in the APEC Secretariat</p>	<p>The development of the APEC Tariff Database on Internet by FedEx had been completed and was launched on 17 May 1997.</p> <p>Nearly 211,000 users utilized the APEC Tariff Database in 1998. The 1998 tariff schedule is available for most economies</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	<p>economies on the APEC Secretariat homepage.</p> <p>Submit current data, and any other information which is collectively agreed to be required to implement suggested enhancements by users of the APEC Tariff Database (TDB), to the Tariff Database Manager (Federal Express).</p> <p>Review existing and explore new partnerships with the Tariff Database Manager/other service providers to ensure the continuous development and maintenance of the APEC Tariff Database in ways that meet the needs of users.</p> <p>Provide regular updates of tariff information as changes occur, and provide annual updates of trade and other agreed data to the APEC database. To support WTO, provide tariff and trade data annually in accordance with WTO obligations. Non-WTO members may provide the information required as a voluntary measure.</p>	<p>Homepage.</p> <p>Economies have submitted contact details/web-site addresses to the APEC Secretariat.</p> <p>APEC economies which have yet to provide data to the WTO IDB have been requested to do so as soon as possible.</p>	<p>MAG is evaluating users' suggestions pertaining to the enhancement of the APEC Tariff Database.</p> <p>16 economies have already provided updated data to the WTO IDB.</p>	<p>In August and October 1997, CTI agreed that the maintenance of and liaison with FedEx regarding the existing APEC TDB will become a standing item on the SCCP agenda, whilst MAG's role is to look into the evaluation of suggestions for enhancements of the database.</p> <p>As sourcing of a new database manager is essentially a maintenance issue that is best handled by SCCP, MAG has amended the CAP as:</p> <p><i><del>“review existing and explore new partnerships co-ordinate with SCCP to continuously review existing functions and explore new enhancements with the Tariff Database Manager/other</del></i></p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
				<i>service providers to ensure the continuous development and maintenance of the APEC Tariff Database in ways that meet the needs of users”.</i>
<p><i>Non-Tariff Measures</i></p> <p>d) Pursue incorporation of information on non-tariff measures into a future version of the APEC tariff database and compile a list of measures recognized as non-tariff impediments and a list of products affected by these impediments.</p>	<p>Verify and augment information on NTMs collated from the Individual Action Plans, Trade Policy Reviews of APEC-WTO members and notifications to WTO under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing measures.</p> <p>Exchange through CTI and, where possible, make available electronically (e.g. through the APEC Secretariat’s Homepage), information on non-tariff measures utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference.</p> <p>Examine how information on non-tariff measures can be made available on electronic or other platforms for sharing and exchange so as to help businesses to better understand member economies’ trade regimes/practices</p> <p>On the basis of information exchanged, compile a list of measures recognized as non-tariff impediments and a list of products affected by those impediments, and examine the UNCTAD Coding</p>	<p>Third-party information on NTMs was collated and circulated to member economies.</p> <p>Commenced process for economies to verify third-party sourced information on NTMs.</p> <p>Commenced process of submission of information on NTMs by members in accordance with the Chair’s suggested formats for developing a framework for reporting progress on NTMs.</p>	<p>MAG aimed to complete verification and updating of collated third-party sourced information on NTMs by 30 April 1999.</p> <p>Seven economies have provided NTMs information.</p> <p>Upon receiving the NTMs information from member economies, MAG will examine if NTMs information can be made available on electronic platforms.</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	<p>System of Trade Control Measures as a possible reporting system.</p> <p>Develop and update the contents of the APEC database in association with other international organizations (e.g. WTO and UNCTAD).</p>			
<p>e) Progressively reduce export subsidies with a view to abolishing them.</p>	<p>Exchange through CTI, and where possible make available electronically (e.g. through the APEC Secretariat homepage), information on all export subsidies, utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference. As a starting point, individual members could use their respective notifications to WTO under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.</p> <p>Consider using the information collated from notifications under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures to develop a reporting system on export subsidies so as to enhance transparency and thus facilitate trade.</p> <p>Discuss measures to further enhance transparency of export subsidies, building on the exchange of information among APEC members and consider appropriate and possible APEC collective actions.</p> <p>Develop approaches leading to the progressive reduction of export</p>	<p>Third-party information on export subsidies was collated from notifications under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and circulated to member economies for verification.</p> <p>Commenced process of submission of information on export subsidies by members in accordance with the Chair's suggested format for developing a framework for reporting progress on subsidies.</p>	<p>Seven economies have provided information on export subsidies.</p>	



Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	subsidies by members, with a view to abolishing them in support of WTO agreements.			
f) Abolish unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions and endeavor to refrain from taking any such new measures.	<p>Exchange through CTI, and where possible make available electronically (e.g. through APEC Secretariat's homepage), information on all export prohibitions and restrictions utilizing existing WTO formats as a reference.</p> <p>Consider using information collated from WTO Trade Policy Reviews of APEC members who are WTO members to develop a reporting system for export prohibitions and restrictions.</p> <p>Discuss further measures to enhance transparency in unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions, building on the exchange of information among APEC members and consider what further APEC collective actions are appropriate and possible.</p> <p>Develop approaches leading to the progressive reduction of unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions by members, with a view to abolishing them.</p>	<p>Third-party information was collated from WTO Trade Policy Reviews, and circulated to member economies for verification</p> <p>Commencement of the submission process on information about export prohibitions and restrictions by members in accordance with the Chair's suggested formats for developing a framework for reporting progress.</p>	<p>Seven economies have provided information on export prohibitions and restrictions.</p>	

**2. Services**  
**2-a. Group on Services**

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>a. Review and exchange information on all trade and investment in services arrangements within APEC and study common elements.</p> <p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> Voluntary presentation on trade in services arrangements to be made with regard to all sub-regional groupings,</p>	<p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> PECC to undertake follow-up work based on directions of GOS and the compilation completed.</p>	<p>Voluntary presentations on trade in sub-regional services arrangements within APEC have been made.</p>	<p>With the PECC study and exchanges and discussions in GOS, the Group is now equipped with the basic information it requires for furthering its work in this area. The collective</p>	<p>GOS will work with CTI to develop a framework for strengthening work in the services area. To this end, GOS will develop a closer inter-relationship with other related fora by deepening and reviewing the scope of the collective action plans in OAA. The work proposed by GOS relating to other fora should avoid duplication and should be undertaken in consultation with such fora. The framework will be submitted to CTI for approval by end of 1999.</p> <p>PECC to examine, among others, the timeframe of liberalization provided for in the existing trade in services agreements</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>PECC to submit a compilation and comparison of all the existing trade in services arrangements within APEC.</p> <p>Conduct seminars and workshops in services-related issues, to enhance understanding and enable exchanges of views with private sector representatives.</p> <p>b. Gather and analyze information on the Services section contained within Individual Action Plans.</p> <p><b>Steps to implement</b> A document titled “The IAP Summary on Services” to be continually updated according to the annual revisions of IAPs, for analysis and use as a reference and basis for discussions.</p>		<p>PECC provided a compilation and comparison of all existing trade in services arrangements within APEC and regional agreements on services within APEC and disciplines of the multilateral trading system.</p> <p>Analyze information on the services section contained within the IAPs (The information has already been gathered in the form of “The IAP Summary on Services”. Work is ongoing).</p> <p>A document titled “The IAP Summary on Services” was produced and will be continually updated for analysis and used as a</p>	<p>action as stated in OAA has basically been implemented. However, in terms of advancing the TILF Agenda towards the OAA objectives, GOS may need to deepen its work by establishing the relevance of the existing arrangements to trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in APEC.</p> <p>With the annual updating of “The IAP Summary on Services”, the information-gathering part of the collective action has been implemented. GOS, however, has to work further to establish a framework, in light of the TILF Agenda, for analyzing the services section of the IAPs submitted by member economies.</p>	<p>within APEC and the liberalization initiatives implemented subsequent to their formation.</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>c. Identification of measures affecting trade and investment in all Service sectors.</p> <p><b>Steps to implement</b> Member economies, taking into account the views of the private/business sector and academia, will identify priority sectors to be addressed by GOS on the basis of information voluntarily supplied by member economies.</p> <p>Compile a list of measures which affect, either positively or negatively, trade in services, as a basis for collective work towards achieving OAA objectives in services.</p> <p>Economies will volunteer papers and studies that will allow the sharing of experiences in this aspect and what could be considered to be “best practices” cases.</p>		<p>basis for discussion.</p> <p>Identify measures affecting trade and investment in all services areas. Work is ongoing.</p> <p>A voluntary exchange of views through presentations on services sectors was initiated commencing with Education Services.</p> <p>Hong Kong, China circulated and presented a document on Education Services at the 7th GOS meeting.</p> <p>U.S. circulated a document on Distribution Services at the 6th GOS meeting.</p>	<p>GOS has focused on the identification of measures affecting trade and investment. To achieve this collective action, GOS has been exchanging views on individual sectors, including education and distribution services, through voluntary presentation by members. The objective of the presentations is to identify measures that affect trade in these two sectors. GOS may also need to consider identification and compilation of measures that cut across sectors or “horizontal measures”.</p>	<p>As an improvement to collective actions, members will voluntarily present “Ideal Models of Services Regimes” (best practices) on distribution and environmental services.</p> <p>Studying measures affecting trade and investment in educational services.</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>d. Compile information on Services Trade Statistics.</p> <p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> A brief compendium to be made by the APEC Secretariat on the various existing databases containing statistical information on trade in services relevant to member economies. Consult the work done by the Trade and Investment Data Working Group.</p> <p>Organize workshops and/or seminars with statisticians and experts on services trade, taking into account work of other international fora such as OECD, UN, IMF, and WTO.</p> <p>Examine methodological problems in the collection and use of statistics as well as the different tools for gathering and analyzing these statistics.</p>		<p>A brief compendium was made by the APEC Secretariat on the various existing databases containing statistical information on trade in services.</p>	<p>The initial work has been completed. However, GOS will have to continually review the need for further work in this area as the Group's work further expands.</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>e. To improve the understanding of the impact of liberalization of Services.</p> <p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> Economies will undertake an evaluation of the role of services trade liberalization in economic development.</p> <p>Member economies, in consultation with business e.g. ABAC and other relevant fora such as academia, share experiences and consult, <i>inter alia</i>, on the identification of elements of what a free and open trade in services sector means.</p> <p>Building upon work in APEC and other international fora, disseminate research and analysis on services trade liberalization.</p> <p>f. Study and carry out work concerning the development and adoption of common</p>	<p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> Building upon work in APEC and other international fora, disseminate research and analysis on services trade liberalization.</p>	<p>Member economies have shared experiences on the identification of what a free and open trade in services sector means.</p> <p>GOS agreed to take into consideration the work underway in the Steering Committee on the Impact of Trade Liberalization as well as pertinent work developed in other fora and academic institutions.</p> <p>New Zealand circulated and presented a document on its experience in telecommunications, transport and financial services liberalization at the 6th GOS meeting.</p>	<p>Through the sharing of experiences among the member economies, especially consideration of “best practice” cases, understanding of the impact of liberalization of services must have improved to a certain extent. However, work in this area need to be further strengthened by collecting and consolidating existing pertinent work developed in other fora and academic institutions. GOS may need to consider starting two-way communication with the business community to enhance understanding both by the business community and by governments.</p>	<p>Member economies to present their experiences in generating momentum for services liberalization in light of perceived benefit of such process.</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>professional standards, in conjunction with professional accreditation bodies and legislative measures needed.</p> <p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> In response to ABAC recommendations, complement the work underway in the HRDWG. Due attention will be paid to the work carried out at the WTO.</p> <p>In consultation with the private sector, identify priority professions for consideration.</p>	<p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> Conduct a survey of the requirements for provision of priority professional services in member economies and make such information available to business in an accessible and user-friendly format.</p> <p>g. Pursuant to SOM instructions, GOS will provide support to the ongoing EVSL initiatives.</p> <p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> As directed by SOM.</p>	<p>A presentation on the outcomes of the HRDWG Project on Best Practices in engineering accreditation, recognition, and professional development was made by the Chair of the Steering Group of the HRDWG, Ms. Jennifer Ledger at the 5<sup>th</sup> GOS meeting.</p> <p>GOS agreed to undertake a questionnaire on the requirements for the provision of three (3) priority professional services.</p> <p>A questionnaire survey is now being conducted by Hong Kong, China and Australia on the requirements for the provision of professional services. Phase I of the project covers accountancy, engineering and architectural services.</p>	<p>With the questionnaire survey on the requirements for provision of three selected professional services and the eventual publication of the Directory on Professional Services, GOS is building the foundation for further work on the adoption of common professional standards, which will encourage development of mutual recognition and promote trade liberalization in professional services. The result of the survey will be made available to the business community; this will in turn facilitate trade in the APEC region.</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>h. Enhance transparency in Service sectors</p> <p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> Establish focal points where information on laws and/or regulations related to trade in services could be made available. Up-loading of relevant information on the World Wide Web will be considered.</p> <p>Selected documents to be published for the benefit and information of the private sector.</p> <p>i. Continue discussion of issues related to possible APEC principles or guidelines that may be necessary to achieve free and open trade and investment in this area.</p> <p><b><u>Steps to implement</u></b> Building upon the work conducted by GOS and other relevant fora including WTO, as well as papers submitted by individual member</p>		<p>Member economies had been tasked to identify relevant focal points.</p> <p>GOS' discussions under other items of the collective actions all contribute to the assessment of the possibility of developing the APEC principles or guidelines.</p>	<p>The work in this area will enhance transparency of the services trade regimes and therefore facilitate trade.</p> <p>The work in this area will help development of common understanding of trade in the services area, and identify possible APEC principles or guidelines.</p>	



Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>economies, exchange views on issues related to possible APEC principles or guidelines.</p> <p>j. Monitor, and where possible and appropriate, contribute to the WTO's work on Services</p> <p><b>Steps to implement</b> Engage in analysis and exchange of information to allow members to better understand the issues involved, identify their interests, and contribute positively to the WTO's work.</p>		<p>GOS agreed to work on capacity building measures for future multilateral services trade negotiations.</p> <p>PRC held the APEC Training Program on Services in Qingdao on 4-8 May 1998.</p>	<p>The development of common understanding and emergence of consensus as a result of the work in this area will be useful for building APEC support for further trade liberalization work in the WTO.</p>	<p>Building APEC support for genuinely comprehensive services negotiations in the WTO.</p> <p>Exploring ways to complement the work of the WTO.</p>

## 2-b. Telecommunications Working Group

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
Conform, where appropriate, to the Guidelines for Trade in International Value-Added Network Services (IVANS) by 1998.		Economies have conformed generally to the Guidelines and are reporting progress at TELWG meetings.	This initiative was an early contribution to APEC TILF objectives. Recent rapid developments in the telecommunications field have greatly reduced the importance of IVANS.	
Generally conform, where appropriate, to the Guidelines for Harmonization of Equipment Certification in the immediate term.		Current procedures for equipment certification in each APEC economy are being complied with.  Subject to individual action by member economies.		
Continue to work jointly to harmonize administration procedures governing certification of customer telecommunications equipment.		MRA has been developed and adopted by most member economies.	MRA implementation will result in some harmonized administrative procedures.	
Develop and begin to implement on an elective basis a model Mutual Recognition Arrangement on conformity assessment by the end of 1997.		MRA has been developed and adopted by most member economies. Endorsed by the 3rd APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry.	Moving onwards to implementation phase.  Estimate that this agreement will bring savings of an estimated 5% reduction in the cost of developing new products and cutting 6 months off time to market, while reducing marketing costs for new products by up to 30%, likely resulting in savings well over \$100 million per year.	

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	Develop a standardized set of appropriate indicators measuring the benefits of liberalization to users.	Study is underway.		
	Develop guidelines on interconnection policy and APEC interconnection principles to promote competition in telecommunications markets.	Framework for Interconnection and the Principles for Interconnection have been finalized.  Interconnection Resources Project proposed to seek APEC Central funding.		
	Support the full implementation of the WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications by APEC-WTO members, and help APEC non-WTO members with comparable liberalization steps.	Survey planned to examine the WTO Reference Paper. Questionnaire will be developed and workshop planned for September 1999.		
	Conduct a survey on how should regulatory and policy approaches evolve to accommodate convergence and how the multimedia market in APEC is evolving.	Drafting Group formed. A survey is to be conducted with the results presented in September 1999.		
	On commercial wireless terrestrial services, develop a database of current licensing policies in APEC and, depending on analysis of this data, develop principles to provide for market-based development of commercial wireless networks.	Plan to develop a database on current policies and principles for developing procedures in this area.		

**2-c. Transportation Working Group**

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>Promote the implementation of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards, regulations and safety measures.</p>		<p>The Experts Group on Maritime Safety (EGM S) was established in 1997 to identify maritime safety issues and problems in the region and propose recommendations for improvement. (Please see # 9, below.)</p> <p>Under the auspices of EGMS, a Safer Shipping project, to be implemented in 1999, will identify measures to promote safe shipping practices.</p> <p>TPT-WG also implemented a project to deliver training to seafarer instructors in the Philippines, in line with amendments to the revised IMO seafarer convention.</p> <p>With respect to ICAO, a Group of Experts on Aviation Safety and Assistance (GEASA) has been created, and projects carried out (Please see #s 7 and 8, below).</p>	<p>Under EGMS and GEASA, TPT-WG continues to make progress against these OAA objectives.</p>	<p>No expansion is proposed. This objective is no longer listed on the TPT-WG Action Program.</p>
<p>Complete the Road Transportation Harmonization Project (RTHP) and encourage the development of mutual recognition</p>	<p>Collective actions have been progressively amended since Osaka to take account of developments, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the Road Transport Harmonization Project (RTHP),</li> </ul>	<p>Phase III of RTHP, aimed at analyzing road vehicle technical feature regulations essential for APEC trade, was completed in 1997.</p>	<p>Work is well advanced to meet OAA commitments. The final phase, RTHP Phase V, commenced in 1999 and is planned for completion over the next 5 years. A harmonized APEC regulatory system for road vehicles</p>	<p>No expansion is proposed.</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>arrangements for road vehicles. (Lead economy: Australia)</p>	<p>encourage the use of the ‘model’ Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Automotive Product developed by TPT-WG;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase dialogue with UN/ECE and take steps to participate at the earliest date possible in global agreement on road vehicle regulations; and</li> <li>• Provide expertise to the Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization proposals for the Automotive Sector on automotive standards/technical regulations.</li> </ul>	<p>Phase IV, analyzing the automotive conformity assessment and vehicle recall systems of APEC economies, was completed in 1998.</p> <p>Phase V, is planned as a three-stage process seeking to develop a harmonized regulatory system for road vehicles for safety and environmental protection. Stage 1 of Phase V – a Pilot Study examining the regulatory arrangements in Australia and Thailand for providing guidelines to achieve effective certification systems and internationally harmonized regulations for the automotive sector – commenced in 1999.</p> <p>The model Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Automotive Product was developed in 1997 and signed by APEC Transport Ministers.</p>	<p>will remove NTMs, allowing for free and open trade.</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>Encourage involvement in dialogue with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and strive to move towards the harmonization of road vehicle regulations within an appropriate international forum. (Lead economy: Australia)</p>	<p>This action area has been combined with the above in recent action programs.</p>	<p>An APEC International Road Vehicle Standards Harmonization Seminar was held in Mexico City in April 1998. UN/ECE experts were amongst the keynote speakers. Participants at the Seminar included vehicle regulators and industry representatives.</p> <p>TPT-WG has acknowledged the UN/ECE Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles as the forum for the development of international technical regulations for road vehicles. Eight APEC economies regularly or occasionally attend meetings of the UN/ECE Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles.</p> <p>A UN/ECE Agreement to establish global technical regulations for road vehicles was completed in June 1998 and has been signed by the United States of America. Other APEC economies have indicated that they are considering signing the Agreement.</p> <p>Japan acceded to the UN/ECE '1958 Agreement' in November 1998. Under this Agreement technical regulations for road vehicles were developed, and product approved under these regulations are mutually recognized by the contracting</p>	<p>TPT-WG has achieved OAA objectives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement by TPT-WG that the UN/ECE Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles provides the forum for the development of internationally harmonized vehicle regulations.</li> <li>• An increasing number of APEC economies are participating in the activities of the UN/ECE Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles.</li> </ul>	<p>No expansion is planned.</p> <p>The Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) initiative for the Automotive Sector has identified harmonization of road vehicle technical regulations as a major issue for resolution to achieve Bogor Declaration objectives. It has been agreed that this activity will remain with the TPT-WG RTHP. It is expected that the EVSL initiative will strengthen the work of RTHP.</p>

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		parties. Australia and Korea have advised their intention to sign this agreement.		
Examine the possibility of taking appropriate steps to facilitate privatization or corporatization of transportation infrastructure. (Lead economy: Indonesia)		A group of 21 experts on this subject from 13 economies was formed.  A workshop aimed at developing a best practices manual was held in August 1997.	This action area was discontinued when, through initial activities, numerous other sources were identified for obtaining information on the subject.	There are no plans for extension.
After completing Phase II of the Transportation Electronic Data Interchange Study, initiate a pilot Electronic Data Interchange trial program, and determine future direction in the adoption of EDI as widely as possible throughout the transport sector in the region. (Lead economy: Australia)	Re: Phase 1 of the electronic commerce project (Program to assist the implementation of electronic commerce for commercial messages): The electronic commerce collective action plan identifies six action priorities (EDI message standards, ports manifests, bureau services, single window to government, removal of requirements for paper documents and financial transaction) for providing further impetus to electronic commerce work in the TPT-WG as well as meeting the specific needs of economies. The collective action plan approach used by the Sub-Committee for Customs Procedures was used as the model to develop these action priorities.	The Electronic Data Interchange commercial messages trial project was completed in October 1998 and the lessons learnt will be applied to Phase 1 of the electronic commerce project.  The TPT-WG web site was established in September 1998 as an electronic commerce initiative to encourage the use of the Internet to disseminate information within the Working Group and promote on-line discussion using list servers.  A seminar on electronic commerce was held at TPT-WG 15 in April 1999, and attracted up to 200 participants from the public and private sectors.	Initial OAA goals have been achieved.  The electronic commerce collective action plan is an attempt for economies to work collectively to achieve identified common electronic commerce priorities. It is a long-term plan which will require close collaboration amongst APEC economies.	The TPT-WG electronic commerce work program has progressed beyond the promotion of the use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to other and cheaper forms of electronic commerce systems, including the use of the Internet as a medium.  The paperless trading initiative is an extension of work on the removal of paper documents and is now an APEC-wide goal. It will be progressed in close cooperation with other APEC fora and through TPT-WG

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	<p>Re.: The paperless trading initiative as contained in the APEC electronic commerce Blueprint for action.</p> <p>Taking into account the diverse legal and regulatory frameworks in the region, APEC Ministers agreed that member economies should endeavor to reduce or eliminate the requirement for paper documents needed for customs and other cross-border trade administration and other documents and messages relevant to international sea, air and land transport (i.e. paperless trading for trade in goods), where possible, by 2005 for developed and 2010 for developing economies, or as soon as possible thereafter.</p>			<p>participation in the APEC electronic commerce Steering Group, which is responsible for progressing work under the Blueprint for Action.</p> <p>No further expansion is proposed as existing Collective Action is adequate.</p>
<p>Seek to eliminate the requirement for paper documents (both regulatory and institutional) for the key messages relevant to international transport and trade as soon as practicable within the next 10 years. (Lead economy: Australia)</p>	<p>This project was combined with the above as of TPT-WG 12, in September/October 1997. Therefore, please see above comments.</p>	<p>TPT-WG submitted an issues paper on paperless trading, focusing on the requirement for regulatory and institutional paper documents for the key messages relevant to international trade to the former APEC Electronic Commerce Task Force work program.</p>		
	<p>Establish a Group of Experts to study aviation safety in the Region.</p>	<p>The Group of Experts on Aviation Safety and Assistance (GEASA) was established.</p>	<p>The OAA objectives have been met.</p>	



Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	<p>Complete, by 1997, a survey/analysis of aviation safety and security problems, and develop a plan of action based on experience with a pilot project on satellite navigation and communication systems.</p>	<p>The Group of Experts on Aviation Safety and Assistance prepared a report on safety recommendations for the region and on means for the implementation of these recommendations.</p> <p>A Satellite Navigation and Communications advisory committee was established. The Committee has developed a ministerial statement on the protection of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) spectrum. Along with the Intermodalism Task Force, the Committee co-hosted a symposium on intermodalism and satellite based transportation technologies in Singapore in May 1999.</p> <p>A survey of Air Traffic Control Licensing Requirements was carried out in 1995, after which a contact list of licensing authorities was established.</p>	<p>The OAA objectives have been achieved.</p>	<p>The survey of Air Traffic Control Licensing expanded the OAA objectives.</p>
	<p>Consider, by 1997, establishing a group of marine safety experts, and a security experts group, based on experience with the aviation safety experts group. (Lead economy: Canada)</p>	<p>The marine safety group was established.</p>	<p>The OAA objectives have been met.</p>	<p>The Maritime Safety Group has developed a questionnaire identifying safety issues and problems in the region.</p> <p>A high priority safety list, based on the above, was presented to TPT-WG 15</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
				in April 1999.
	Although not incorporated in the OAA at the time, in 1995, Transportation Ministers directed the formation of a small group to jointly prepare an options paper for consideration by all APEC members, on a consensus basis, for more competitive air services with fair and equitable opportunity for all members. (Lead economy: Singapore)	The Air Services Group (ASG) met in Singapore in October 1995, and developed an Options Paper for more competitive air services with fair and equitable opportunity. This paper was later endorsed by Transport Ministers in June 1997. At the Ministers' request, the options were prioritized and a final report was submitted by the Air Services Group in 1998.	The OAA objectives have been achieved: The group was established and the report prepared.	Implementation of the ASG's recommendations is a matter for each economy. However, within the TPT-WG economies agreed to submit, on a voluntary basis, regular reports on their efforts to comply with the Group's recommendations. This practice commenced at TPT-WG 14 in October 1998. Seven economies tabled such reports at TPT-WG 15 in April 1999.
	Based on a decision taken by Ministers at their 1997 meeting, the TPT-WG created the Maritime Initiative, with the following goal: "To develop an efficient, safe and competitive operating environment for maritime transport in the region."	The Maritime Initiative Group has been created under the TPT-WG.  A questionnaire, aimed at developing an inventory of maritime transportation policies and practices, was completed and presented at TPT-WG 14 in October 1998. Economies' responses to this questionnaire were clarified at TPT-WG 15 in April 1999. Further analysis and comparison of responses will be carried out by individual economies on a voluntary basis.	Projects have been commenced under this initiative.	

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	<p>The Ports Experts Group was created at the Transport Ministerial Meeting in June 1997 with the following goal: The improvement in port efficiency through exchange of information and expertise among port experts and programs to improve port capacities in the APEC region. Also the identification of common issues and formulation of action plans.</p>	<p>Chile has developed a port information database, which has been placed on the Internet. Funding has been tentatively approved by BMC for the further development and maintenance of this web site by Japan.</p>	<p>Projects have commenced under this experts group.</p>	

**2-d. Tourism Working Group**

<b>Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)</b>	<b>Collective Actions Added since 1996</b>	<b>Collective Actions Achieved/Completed</b>	<b>Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA</b>	<b>Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions</b>
APEC economies will identify impediments to tourism growth and formulate strategies that will improve tourism movements and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.		A seminar on the Impediments to Tourism Growth to the APEC Region and Strategies to Overcome them was held in Santiago, Chile on 24-26 September 1996.	Publication released in 1996. Identified key impediments to tourism growth.	Selected impediments addressed as separate projects (TOSS, information exchange, Signage)
		The Massey University, New Zealand, undertook the development of a methodological approach and criteria to develop core occupational skill and competency standards for the tourism industry in the APEC region, in order to develop a competency based accreditation system for the tourism education & training institutions within APEC as well as criteria for the development of a certification system.	Report submitted December 1998 setting out framework for TOSS (Tourism Occupational Skill Standards).	Possible pilot study for TOSS in selected economies to be discussed May 1999.
		Travel & Tourism data and estimates for the APEC region provided and economic perspective for 1997-2007.	A completed report was submitted to SOM and the Trade Ministers Meeting in June 1998. Also tabled at the APEC Ministerial meeting in November.	
			Discussions held with World Tourism Organization on the development of a statistical sub-series for the APEC region. Agreed structure and content.	Implementation detail to be agreed with the World Tourism Organization.

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
		Development of common criteria for the standardization of symbols for visitor signage in the APEC region.	Report submitted (January 1999) detailing a standardized signage strategy and implementation plan.	TWG to agree on implementation plan at May meeting.
	Assessment of access and constraints on the ability of individuals to travel abroad within the APEC Region.	Project yet to be advanced.		
	Assessment of main constraints (in the context of regulations and controls), affecting the development of tourism within APEC member economies.	Project yet to be advanced.		
	Development of environmentally and socially sustainable tourism initiatives.	Exemplary models on Socially Responsible Tourism Development in APEC Member Economies.	Selected case studies being developed. Web site developed for TWG ( <a href="http://www.apec-tourism.org">http://www.apec-tourism.org</a> ).	Follow-up seminars to discuss models. Publish as hard-copy and on web site.
	Cleaner production related initiatives by the tourism industry.	Environmentally Sustainable Accommodation for Tourism Seminar in Cairns, Australia, April 1999.	Seminar outcomes yet to emerge.	
	Propose guidelines for the promotion of internships of tourism officials/ managers/ policy makers amongst APEC member economies.	Invitation to member economies to cooperate outside TWG on this matter.	No further TWG action necessary.	
	Explore tourism investment opportunities for the business/private sector within the APEC region.	A joint APEC TWG/PECC Tourism IAG project established to consider impediments to private sector investment in tourism related infrastructure.		

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	Pursue the adoption of initiatives which aim to identify and/or develop joint marketing activities in the tourism sector within the APEC region.	Seminar on the Promotion of Culture and History in the APEC Region held in Manila, Philippines in 1998.	A project proposal to be considered by TWG arising from the seminar.	
		Best Cases on Tourism and Cultural Festivals in the APEC Economies, Seoul, Republic of Korea, August 1999.	Selected best cases being developed.	Publication to follow, hard copy and on web. Symposium planned.
	Implement best business practices in tourism promotion for shoulder and low seasons.	Project yet to be advanced.		

**2-e Energy Working Group**

<b>Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)</b>	<b>Collective Actions Added since 1996</b>	<b>Collective Actions Achieved/Completed</b>	<b>Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA</b>	<b>Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions</b>
<p>Part 1: Trade &amp; Investment Liberalization and Facilitation Facilitate Investment in the Energy Sector by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Identifying by end 1996 institutional, regulatory and procedural impediments affecting investment in electricity infrastructure</li> <li>(b) Developing by end 1999 a guidance framework to facilitate investment</li> <li>(c) Developing by end 1999 coordinated solutions to more complex issues based on the outcomes of the above activities to other aspects of the energy supply chain</li> <li>(d) Considering in the long-term issues associated with facilitating trans-border infrastructure and the financing thereof.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Institutional, regulatory and procedural impediments were identified in 1996. At their meeting in Sydney in August 1996 Energy Ministers endorsed a work program designed to improve project approval and regulatory arrangements.</li> <li>(b) Energy Ministers endorsed the guidance framework at their meeting August 1997.</li> <li>(c) Ministers endorsed the Natural Gas Initiative at their meetings in 1997 and 1998. The EWG Business Forum has made a number of recommendations to advance the initiative. A long term Action Strategy is currently being developed.</li> <li>(d) The Australia Pacific Energy Research Center is currently undertaking a project into the "Feasibility of Regional Interconnected Electrical Power Systems".</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitation of Investment in the Energy Sector has progressed at considerable speed and has exceeded the timetable set out in the EWG's Collective Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Collective Action Plan has expanded to include natural gas as implied in (c). Many aspects of the Plan are generic and can be interpreted to incorporate new energy related initiatives as they arise.</p>
<p>Accept Equivalence in Accreditation and Increase Harmonization of Energy Standards This in being implemented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Establishing by end 1996 the basis for mutual recognition of testing protocols and the accreditation of laboratories and the acceptance of the test results arising from them</li> <li>(b) Reaching by end 1999 the basis for mutual recognition of testing protocols and the acceptance of the test results arising from them</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) At their meeting in 1996, Energy Ministers instructed officials to undertake a work program to achieve the benefits of increased cooperation on energy standards.</li> <li>(b) At their meeting in 1997, Energy Ministers agreed to employ test standards already in use when new programs requiring energy efficiency test procedures are introduced, and if adopting a new standard to notify other economies of that standard. At their meeting in 1998, Ministers endorsed a standard notification procedure under which the EWG's web-site will be linked to the energy efficiency</li> </ul>	<p>Work on Harmonization of Energy Standards ran into a number of teething problems. In the light of that experience, EWG is now seeking to provide the basis for a system that allows for equivalence of energy standards and regulations. A work program and a number of projects designed to promote equivalence of energy standards is now in place. However, reaching a basis for equivalence of testing protocols</p>	<p>There are no plans to improve the Collective Action Plan. Achieving harmonization of energy standards is a major undertaking with the potential for many new initiatives as current tasks are completed. As noted above the</p>

<b>Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)</b>	<b>Collective Actions Added since 1996</b>	<b>Collective Actions Achieved/Completed</b>	<b>Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA</b>	<b>Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions</b>
(c) Extending in the long-term work on energy standards to specific products starting from domestic appliances and going on to selected items of industrial and commercial equipment.		web-site of members. Two projects are currently being undertaken – An Overview of Trade Flows of Energy Using Products between APEC Member Economies and A Review of Energy Test Standards and Regulations in APEC Member Economies. The latter project in particular is designed to provide the basis for a system that allows for equivalence of energy standards and regulations.	by end 1999 will not be achieved, and is unlikely to be achieved before end 2001.	current Plan is generic and has the capacity of incorporating such new initiatives.



### 3. Investment

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p><b>Transparency</b> <i>Short-term</i></p> <p>A. Increase in the short-term the transparency of APEC investment regimes by:</p> <p>(i) Updating APEC guidebook on investment regimes;</p> <p>(ii) Establishing software networks on investment regulations and investment opportunities.</p> <p>(iii) Improving the state of statistical reporting and data collection.</p>		<p>(i) Published the 3rd and 4th edition of the APEC Investment Guidebook</p> <p>(ii) Updated the electronic version of the APEC Investment Guidebook on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>(iii) Organized a training program on statistical reporting and data collection.</p>	<p>) ) ) Current work on ) transparency has ) progressed in line ) with OAA. ) )</p> <p>Provided a better understanding of methods on international data collection and sharing of individual economies' experiences in data collection.</p> <p>The training program has provided some yardstick in efforts to improve the state of statistical reporting and data collection in APEC economies.</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p><b>Policy Dialogue</b> <i>Short-term</i></p> <p>B. Promote, in the short-term, dialogue with the APEC business community on ways to improve the APEC investment environment.</p>	<p>(iv) Increasing understanding among member economies on investment policy-making issues.</p>	<p>(iv) Compiled and summarized the Matrix of Initiatives, Development Efforts, Aspirations and Strategies (IDEAS) for the four stakeholders (foreign direct investor, home economy, host economy and domestic investor involved in international flow of FDIs.</p> <p>Developed in conjunction with the business sector, a menu of options to enhance the environment for investment which members could voluntarily choose to include in their IAPS.</p> <p>Organized three Investment symposia from 1996 to 1998.</p> <p>Identified mechanisms for periodic discussions with business representatives in individual member economies.</p> <p>Consulted ABAC, PECC and other relevant regional business organizations.</p> <p>Requested comments from these bodies on major APEC investment initiatives through inclusion of representatives of such organization in APEC Investment Symposia.</p>	<p>Policy dialogue has advanced towards OAA with actions such as Menu of Options, symposia and business surveys.</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
		Conducted a business survey.		
<p>Economic and Technical Cooperation <i>Short-term</i> C. Identify, in the short-term, ongoing technical cooperation needs in the Asia-Pacific region and organize training programs which will assist APEC economies in fulfilling APEC investment objectives.</p>	<p>Introduced in 1994, policy discussions on the investment regimes of member economies.</p> <p>Policy dialogues with other APEC fora to provide an understanding of their work programs and to avoid duplication of work.</p>	<p>Discussed investment regimes of Singapore, Chile, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Australia, the Philippines, Mexico, New Zealand and Peru.</p> <p>Briefing on the presentation of impact of investment liberalization in APEC by the Economic Committee;</p> <p>Briefing by Competition Policy and Deregulation Workshop on their work plans.</p> <p>Conducted training programs for officials concerned with investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completed training on statistical reporting and data collection;</li> <li>- Seminar on foreign direct investment policy and administration adjustment;</li> <li>- Training program on strategies to identify and facilitate investment in specific areas; and</li> <li>- Seminar on start-up companies and venture capital.</li> </ul>	<p>Improved understanding through sharing of experiences within APEC member economies.</p> <p>Provided an understanding of the work programs of other APEC fora to avoid duplication of work.</p> <p>The current work of collective actions in economic and technical cooperation has advanced towards OAA with actions such as training programs and seminars.</p>	<p>Continue policy discussion on the investment regimes of the other member economies.</p> <p>Conduct more policy dialogues with other APEC fora.</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>D. Establish, in the short-term, a dialogue process with the OECD and other international fora involved in global and regional investment issues.</p> <p>E. Define and implement, in the short term, follow on training to the Uruguay Round implementation seminars</p> <p>F. Undertake an evaluation of the role of investment liberalization in economic development in the Asia-Pacific region</p>	<p>Undertake a study on the Impact of Trade Liberalization on Investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Established policy dialogue process with other international fora, where appropriate.</li> <li>- Considered possible contributions to WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment.</li> </ul> <p>Seminar on the implementation of Uruguay Round Trade-related Investment Measures (TRIMs) Agreement held in Hong Kong, China (1997)</p> <p>Continued the dialogue on facilitation, cooperation and liberalization, with a view to improving understanding of the implications of the non-binding investment principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Briefing by Economic Committee on the impact of investment liberalization on selected APEC economies.</li> <li>- A topic on the impact of trade liberalization on Investment has been included in FDI Policy Seminar in Bangkok.</li> </ul>	<p>Provided a better understanding of the OECD-Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI); Canada – Chile Free Trade Agreement and Mexico – Chile Free Trade Agreement. However, more dialogues are required with other fora.</p> <p>Enhanced the understanding of TRIMs and assisted IEG work on investment liberalization.</p> <p>Preliminary work on the evaluation of the role of investment liberalization has been undertaken.</p>	<p>To facilitate a dialogue process with OECD, European Union (EU), Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), Free Trade Area of the Americas and other international fora involved in global and regional investment issues.</p> <p>Recommend to the Economic Committee to undertake a more objective evaluation of the role and impact of liberalization.</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>G. Study in the medium-term, possible common elements between existing subregional arrangements relevant to investment.</p> <p><i>Medium-term</i></p> <p>I. Refine, in the medium-term, APEC's understanding of free and open investment.</p>	<p><b>H. Facilitation</b> <i>Short-term and continuing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressively work towards reducing impediments to investment</li> <li>• Undertake Business Facilitation Measures to Strengthen APEC Economies.</li> <li>• To initiate investment promotion activities to promote intra-APEC investment.</li> </ul>	<p>Discussed the draft Framework Agreement on the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA).</p>	<p>Provided a preliminary understanding of similar efforts in ASEAN in relation to facilitation and liberalization of investment.</p>	<p>Discussion on the final Framework Agreement on the AIA.</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p><i>Long-term</i></p> <p>J. Assess, in the long-term, the merits of developing an APEC-wide discipline on investment in the light of APEC's own progress through the medium-term as well as developments in other international fora.</p>	<p><b>K. Capacity Building Initiatives</b></p> <p>Undertake new activities that contribute to capacity building.</p>	<p>Initiated the menu of facilities offered by a One Stop Agency.</p>	<p>Enhancing business facilitation measures in line with OAA.</p>	

#### 4. Standards & Conformance

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<b>I. Alignment with International Standards</b>				
a) Consider, in 1996, further priority areas for alignment with international standards		Completed (1996)	Significant progress has been made in that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• priority areas were selected with target years;</li> <li>• guidelines were developed; and</li> <li>• SCSC has begun to develop coordinated regional input into the development of international standards.</li> </ul>	
	Member economies to develop an <i>APEC Guide on Alignment on Member Economies' Standards with International Standards.</i>	Completed (1997)		
	Member economies to align their standards with international standards in the following priority areas: electrical and electronic appliances (air conditioners, televisions, refrigerators, radios and their parts, and video apparatus); food labeling; rubber gloves and condoms; and machinery.	Targeted by 2000/2005	Significant progress has already been made, as demonstrated in the first review of member economies' progress in alignment. (see I (b) below)	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	Member economies to align their standards with international standards in the additional priority area of electrical and electronic equipment, including all electrical safety (IEC 60335) and relevant EMC (CISPR) standards	Targeted by 2004/2008	Assessment not conducted as this CAP was only added in September 1998.	
	Member economies to actively participate in the standardization activities of international standardization bodies (ISO & IEC) in the following priority sectors: building and construction and hazardous area equipment.	On-going (from 1996)	The level of participation by member economies in the activities of international standardization bodies in the areas of building and Construction, and hazardous areas equipment has increased.	
	Member economies to establish <i>ad hoc</i> technical groups, which would work with PASC in developing coordinated regional input into the development of international standards in selected areas.	Completed (1997)		
	Member economies to participate in <i>ad hoc</i> technical groups, which work with PASC in developing coordinated regional input into the development of international standards in selected areas.	On-going (from 1997)	Significant progress has been made by a number of <i>ad hoc</i> technical groups with the work of at least one approaching completion at the end of 1999.	
	Member economies to participate in APEC seminars on WTO-TBT/SPS Agreements, Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), Bulk Pharmaceuticals, and Environmental Management Standards.	Completed (1996-97)		



Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	Member economies to develop <i>APEC Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption, and Review of Technical Regulations</i> and to promote their use by regulatory agencies.	Guidelines completed (1997)		
	Member economies will continue to develop a Guide to Good Regulatory Practice.	On-going (from 1998)	This project is in its initial stage. However, a substantial draft is expected by the end of 1999 following a workshop in August 1999.	
b) Conduct a comprehensive review of progress on alignment with international standards in 2000 and in 2005.		To be done in 2000 and 2005	Before the comprehensive review to be conducted in 2000, SCSC has established a monitoring system on the progress on alignment with international standards.	
	Member economies to develop a common format for reporting on progress of alignment with international standards.	Completed (1997)		
	Member economies to publish the results of the first review of the alignment work.	Completed (1998)		
	Member economies to update these results on their respective home pages.	On-going (from 1998)	Continuing activity	
	Member economies to continue to report on the progress in aligning their standards with international standards.	On-going (from 1998)	Annual reporting process	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<b>II Mutual Recognition of Conformity Assessment</b>				
a) Identify, in 1996, additional priority areas for the development of mutual recognition arrangements in regulated sectors	Member economies to continue to further consider additional priority areas for MRA in the regulated sector.	Identification in 1996 of the additional priority areas completed. Further consideration is ongoing.	This is a continuous process. As priority areas are identified, and MRAs negotiated, new additional priority areas will be identified.	
b) Encourage establishment of and participation in, by 2000 in the case of industrialized economies and 2005 in the case of developing economies, a network of mutual recognition arrangements in voluntary sectors.	Member economies to enter into mutual recognition agreements (bilateral and multilateral) in cooperation with Specialist Regional Bodies, where applicable.  Member economies to encourage participation in APLAC-MRA and PAC MRA.	Targeted by 2000/2010  On-going (from 1998)	Progress has been made. As at 1 August 1999, several member economies were participating in the APLAC MRA and/or the PAC MRA on Quality Certificates.	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
c) Strive to establish a network of mutual recognition arrangements on a sector by sector basis in most regulated sectors, starting with mutual acceptance of test results and going on to establish mutual recognition of other possible forms of conformity assessment	<p>Member economies to develop bilateral, multi-sectoral, and plurilateral mutual recognition arrangements.</p> <p>Member economies agreed to review the implementation and use of the mutual recognition arrangements.</p>	<p>Ongoing (from 1997)</p> <p>Ongoing (from 1998)</p>	<p>As below, member economies have developed, or are developing, arrangements in respect of toys, food and electrical and electronic equipment.</p> <p>As additional priority areas are identified (above), member economies will develop applicable arrangements.</p>	
	<p>Member economies to develop and endorse an <i>Umbrella Arrangement for Mutual Recognition on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products</i> (APEC Food MRA).</p> <p>Member economies to consider participation in the <i>APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products</i>.</p>	<p>Completed (1996)</p> <p>Ongoing (from 1997)</p>	<p>As at 1 August, six member economies were participating in the MRA.</p>	<p>Member economies to consider the development of Sectoral Arrangements under the Umbrella Arrangement.</p>
	<p>Member economies to develop an APEC mutual recognition arrangement on conformity assessment of electrical and electronic equipment.</p>	<p>Targeted by 1999</p>	<p>This work is all but complete.</p> <p>Member economies have developed an Implementation Guide.</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	<p>Member economies to develop and endorse an <i>Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety</i>.</p> <p>Member economies to consider participation in the <i>Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety</i>.</p>	<p>Completed (1996)</p> <p>On-going (1996)</p>	<p>As at 1 August, thirteen member economies were participating in this Arrangement</p>	
	<p>Member economies to develop Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recall and Food Recall Guidelines.</p>	<p>Completed 1999</p>	<p>As at 1 August, one member economy announced its intention to participate in this Arrangement.</p>	<p>Member economies to consider participation in the <i>Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls</i>.</p>
<p>d) Study the adequacy of monitoring and review mechanisms for maintaining confidence in mutual recognition arrangements.</p>				

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<b>III Cooperation on Technical Infrastructure Development</b>				
a) Develop in 1996 a mid-term program to improve technical infrastructure by 2000, and undertake regular reviews and follow-ups for technical upgrading		Completed (1996)	The mid-term program developed in 1996 has been a basis on which each developing economy formulates its measures to improve infrastructure.	
	Member economies to identify specific requirements, assistance and/or activities for technical infrastructure development.	On-going (from 1996)	See below	
	Member economies to consider the provision of assistance for the improvement of other economies' technical infrastructure.	On-going (from 1996)	See below	
	Member economies to develop and adopt a Mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Program.	Completed (1996)		
	Member economies to undertake a Survey on Technical Infrastructure Development for Measurement Standards, Laboratory Management and Accreditation.	Completed (1998)		

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	Member economies to undertake specific follow-on activities from among those recommended in the Report of the Survey.	On-going (1998)	Two proposals will be considered in May 1999 for TILF funded projects in 2000.	
	Member economies to conduct reviews of the mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Program implementation.	Medium- to long term		
	Member economies to strengthen participation in Specialist Regional Bodies activities.	On-going (from 1996)	As at 1 April 1999, participation by member economies in the five Specialist Regional Bodies was as follows: APLAC-8 member economies APLMF-20 member economies APMP –14 member economies PAC - 13 member economies PASC - 18 member economies	
	Member economies to support and actively participate in APEC Conferences on Standards and Conformance.	Implemented in 1996 and 98	The level of participation by member economies was: 15 member economies in 1996 16 member economies in 1998	
	Member economies to support and actively participate in Round Table Meetings with the Specialist Regional Bodies.	Implemented in 1997	Representatives from <> member economies participated in the 1997 Round Table Meeting with the Specialist Regional Bodies	
	Member economies to participate in Partners for Progress (PFP) projects on standards and conformity assessment schemes.	Multi-year program (1997-2001)	Member economy participation in the PFP to date has been: 1997: 32 representatives 1998: 28 representatives	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	Member economies to cooperate with the HRDWG in designing and providing a training program for HRD in quality management and environmental management systems.	Multi-year program(1997-99)	Phase I of the project completed in 1997. Phase II of the project is all but complete	
	Member economies to actively participate in the TILF projects on Partners in Food Safety.	On-going(1999)	The workshops to be held in August and November 1999.	
b) Conduct a comprehensive review on implementation of the above program after 2000.		To be done after 2000		
<b>IV Transparency</b>				
a) Conduct a survey in 1996 to assess the availability of and access to standards and conformance information in each APEC economy and also systems for the exchange of such information		Completed (1997)	Following the completion of this survey, the APEC Contacts Points for Standards and Conformance Information has been made public through the internet. This has contributed to increasing transparency.	
	Member economies to designate central contact points to respond to inquiries on standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures.	Completed (1997)		

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	Member economies to respond to the transparency survey. After an evaluation, recommendations will be prepared to ensure transparency of standards and conformance.	Completed (1997)		
	Member economies to update <i>the APEC Contacts Points for Standards and Conformance Information</i> , and agreed that this information should be maintained on the APEC homepage.	Ongoing (1997)	The information helps people make fast access to appropriate authorities.	
	Member economies to endeavor to establish websites to disseminate standards and conformance information.	Ongoing(1997)		
	Member economies to help carry out a TILF project to compile and publish information on food labeling laws, regulations and standards in the APEC region.	Completed (1999)	This information is the only source to which people can make access in the area of food labeling in the APEC region.	Member economies to help carry out a TILF project to maintain and update. A compilation of food labelling laws, regulation and standards.



Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>b) Develop, by 2005 for industrialized economies and by 2010 for developing economies, a database and network system to carry information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the standards and conformance systems of APEC economies;</li> <li>ii) accredited testing/calibration laboratories, quality systems certification/ registration bodies and accreditation bodies;</li> <li>iii) the status of mutual recognition arrangements; and</li> <li>iv) the status of alignment of APEC economies' standards with international standards.</li> </ul>			<p>In light of development in technologies, this Collective Action will be delivered through the internet (see separate Collective Actions (above))</p>	

## 5. Customs Procedures

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
Trade facilitation through harmonization of international import data sets and procedures.	Added to CAP as #10 in 1997	1998 - preliminary research completed 1999 linkages to G7 work established 1999 initial comparison charts developed	Moving economies towards global harmonization of data sets and import procedures.	
Tariff Nomenclature Harmonization. APEC economies will harmonize tariff nomenclature by adopting or abiding by the principles of the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS Convention) by 1996.	APEC economies will smoothly implement the 1996 version of HS and prepare for adoption or abiding by the principles of the next version of Harmonized System to be put into force in 2002.	All APEC economies have adopted or abide by the 1996 version of Harmonized System of Classification  (except for new member economies)	Collective Action Plan on HS, as stated in OAA, has been achieved.  Furthering OAA on HS by enhancing the capability in determining correct positions of HS through technical assistance (e.g. workshop, advisory missions).	Multi-year technical assistance project covers, inter alia, :  - Advisory missions  - Workshop on the next version of HS  - Provision of technical advice to Customs central laboratories
Advance Ruling Systems. To introduce an Advance Tariff Classification Ruling system		1997 - Expert technical guidance given to Philippine Customs Service	The 1998 assistance to Chinese Taipei was delayed until 1999 at the request of the economy. Assistance will also be given to PNG in 1999.  This will then leave Brunei requiring assistance. The CAP will then have been achieved.	None. Assessment has shown that most economies now have a Rulings system that is compatible with the World Customs Organization's model.

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Kyoto Convention. To adopt (or abide) by the principles of the Kyoto Convention		1998 - An Overview Seminar was held in Suzhou, China.  All APEC economies have been surveyed in order to assess the technical assistance required to complete this CAP.	This CAP has been delayed by the ongoing revision of the Kyoto Convention by the World Customs Organization (WCO). This process is scheduled to complete by mid-1999. After this, the CAP implementation program will commence.	The revised Kyoto Convention will, in itself, offer greater compliance of procedural standards in customs administration.
Alignment with WTO Agreements: WTO Customs Valuation Agreement		1996 - Preliminary Research 1997 - Development and Distribution of Focus Papers 1997 - Needs Identification Workshops 1998 - Basic Valuation Training (WCO course) 1998 - Design and Development of three Advanced Training Modules 1999 - Delivery of Training (Module 1- delivery completed) (Module 2 & 3 to be delivered in 1999)	For this CAP item, the implementation of the Agreement will be completed by the year 2000 which is in line with the original target date. Some economies have already implemented the item in full or in part.	
Risk Management Approach and Electronic Commerce Systems	To focus Customs enforcement efforts on high-risk goods and travellers and facilitate the movement of low-risk shipments, through a flexible approach tailored to each APEC economy.	Six economies (Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Singapore and the US) have already fully implemented the CAP objectives.	As this was a more recent addition to the CAP, a good deal of work remains to fully implement CAP (currently at stage III of VI).  By mid-1999 all economies will have had an opportunity to attend an initial workshop that provides them with the fundamental to allow the design and implementation of a risk management program.	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>Computerization through UN/EDIFACT. Adoption of and support for the UN electronic messaging standard for automated systems (UN/EDIFACT), to promote an electronic highway for business</p>		<p>All APEC economies are now adopting EDI systems for some customs applications. *However not all have adopted UN/EDIFACT as their IT messaging standard.</p>	<p>Collective Action Plan on UN/EDIFACT, as stated in OAA, will be achieved by the target date of December 1999.</p> <p>(except for new member economies)</p>	<p>Commenced 'pilot projects' with economies to establish UN/EDIFACT compliant IT systems. (*NOTE: International developments have moved on since this Customs Action Plan item was introduced in 1996. The UN process which sets the EDIFACT standard is itself looking at new technology and other ways of achieving trade facilitation, especially though the World Wide Web and Internet electronic languages not only through UN/EDIFACT.</p>
<p>Alignment with WTO Agreements: WTO TRIPS Agreement</p>		<p>APEC IPR Symposium – 1997</p> <p>Assistance Missions – Chile - 1998</p> <p>Assistance Missions - Philippines; Thailand – 1999</p> <p>Assessment Missions: Russia; Peru; Vietnam – 1998</p>	<p>Face to face meetings conducted with economies requesting training – 1997</p> <p>Develop implementation plan based on meetings – 1997</p> <p>Assistance Missions and Assessment Missions are conducted in multi-national training teams – 1998</p> <p>Business/private sector partnership with training teams – 1998</p>	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
Temporary Importation	To improve the provisions for temporary importation by assisting and enabling APEC Member economies to accede to the ATA Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention.	<p>Regional Advisory Mission – Chinese Taipei – March, 1999</p> <p>Regional Advisory Mission – Beijing, China – March, 1999</p> <p>Regional Advisory Mission – Tentatively planned for Mexico City, Mexico – late 1999</p>	<p>First two Regional Advisory Missions completed. Training delivered to representatives from APEC economies of Australia; China, Hong Kong, China; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; and Vietnam.</p> <p>Third Regional Advisory Mission tentatively planned for Mexico, Peru, and Chile in late 1999.</p>	
Guidelines on Express Consignments	Added as CAP in 1997	<p>Assessment Missions – Chinese Taipei – 1997</p> <p>Assessment Missions – Philippines; Malaysia; Thailand – 1998</p>	<p>Specific principles which to focus efforts agreed upon – 1997</p> <p>Develop implementation plan – 1997</p> <p>Assessment missions are conducted in multi-national training teams – 1997 &amp; 1998</p> <p>Express industry active partner in project – 1997 &amp; 1998</p>	

## 6. Intellectual Property Rights

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
(a) Deepen the dialogue on IPR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Symposium</li> <li>- IPR Event Calendar</li> <li>- Discussion on biotechnology, electronic commerce, geographical indication, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dialogue has been deepened through IPEG meetings and symposia.</li> <li>- New subjects such as electronic commerce have been discussed on demand.</li> </ul>	<p>IPEG started to discuss the overhaul of CAPs for the post TRIPS era to achieve more effective administration of the IP systems, taking account of the fact that the TRIPS Agreement will be fully implemented by the Year 2000.</p>
(b) Survey the current status of IPR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Survey on laws, regulations, jurisprudence and administrative guidelines is nearly completed. The information compiled is published through the Internet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The original plan is nearly completed. Updating of the information on a regular basis will be the main task henceforth.</li> </ul>	
(c) Develop a contact point list		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The contact point list, which is nearly completed, is now published on the Internet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The original plan is nearly completed. Updating of the list on a regular basis will be the main task henceforth.</li> </ul>	
(d) Exchange information on well- known trademark system		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Survey on practices concerning the protection of well-known marks is nearly completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In order that the protection of well-known marks can be further enhanced in the region               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Conduct comparative studies; and</li> <li>(2) Exchange a well-known trademarks list.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
(e) Exchange information on current IPR administrative system	(i) Mailbox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mailbox approach was replaced by discussion on a trademark electronic application system.</li> </ul>		

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	(ii) Guideline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The survey on IPR administration is nearly completed. The information compiled is published on the Internet.</li> <li>- General guidelines for administrative systems of trademarks, patents and copyrights were adopted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The adopted guidelines will be published through the Internet.</li> </ul>	
	(iii) IP Information mall	Link to related websites on the Internet was established in order to publish IP information widely.		
(f) Study measures for the effective enforcement of IPR		The survey on IPR enforcement system is nearly completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The consolidated survey will be published through the Internet with disclaimer.</li> </ul>	
(g) Implement fully the TRIPS Agreement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- APEC IPR International Symposium was successfully held in Korea on July 1999 as a multilateral technical cooperation project.</li> <li>- The first survey on the current status toward the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement is completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each member economy continues to make utmost effort to fully implement the TRIPS Agreement so that an announcement in this regard can be made at the Trade Ministers meeting on 21-23 June 2000.</li> </ul>	

## 7. Competition Policy

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>(a) Gather information and promote dialogue on and study, starting from 1996:</p> <p>(i) The objectives, necessity, role and operation of each APEC economy's competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures, thereby establishing a database on competition policy;</p> <p>(ii) Competition policy issues that impact on trade and investment flows in the Asia-Pacific region;</p> <p>(iii) Areas for technical assistance and the modalities thereof, including exchange and training programs for officials in charge of competition policy, taking into account the availability of resources; and</p> <p>(iv) The inter- relationship between competition policy and/or laws and other policies related to trade and investment.</p>		<p>Involved in on-going policy dialogue and information exchange and study on competition policy, competition laws and their enforcement and their interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment</p> <p>Continued to provide further information on their competition policies, competition laws and their enforcement, thereby enhancing transparency contributed, and enhanced the APEC database competition policy.</p> <p>Continued to provide technical assistance and/or consider providing training programs with a view to sharing their experience in operating competition policies and laws with others.</p> <p>Undertaken a study by PriceWaterhouseCoopers on the advantages and disadvantages of competition law for developing economies.</p>	<p>Work in the area is progressing. Mutual understanding of the varying approaches to competition policy and/or laws in APEC economies has improved.</p> <p>Member economies have developed a set of high level APEC competition and regulatory principles which would be non-binding and drawn on the PECC principles.</p>	<p>Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.</p>



Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
(b) Deepen competition policy dialogue between APEC economies and relevant international organizations		<p>Maintained dialogue with other international organizations considering competition policy and law issues.</p> <p>Developed dialogue with the WTO Working Group on the Interaction Between Trade and Competition Policy on APEC's competition policy/deregulation work, in accordance with the mandate given by APEC Trade Ministers.</p>	Work in the area is progressing, and member economies have been involved in constructive information sharing exercises.	Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.
(c) Continue to develop understanding in the APEC business community of competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures		Dialogue developed with the business community on competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures, principally the development with PECC.	Competition law and policy database provides a useful information resource for the APEC business community.	Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.
d) Encourage cooperation among the competition authorities of APEC economies with regard to information exchange, notification and consultation		<p>Considered further actions for promoting cooperation among competition authorities.</p> <p>Listed and updated contact points of competition authorities on 1 January 1998.</p>	Work in the area is progressing with individual member economies' competition authorities entering into bilateral agreements, for example, Australia and Chinese Taipei have entered into a cooperation and coordination arrangement.	Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.
e) Contribute to the use of trade and competition laws, policies and measures that promote free and open trade, investment and competition		Collective action to be considered as policy dialogue develops.	Work in the area progresses with continued dialogue between Competition Policy and Deregulation and the Group on Services, and other sub-fora.	Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.

<b>Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)</b>	<b>Collective Actions Added since 1996</b>	<b>Collective Actions Achieved/Completed</b>	<b>Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA</b>	<b>Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions</b>
f) Consider developing non-binding principles on competition policy and/or laws in APEC.		Collective action to be considered as policy dialogue develops.	Member economies have developed a set of high level APEC competition and regulatory principles which would be non-binding and drawn on the P.E.C.C. principles.	Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.

## 8. Deregulation

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
(a) Publish annual reports detailing actions taken by APEC economies to deregulate their domestic regulatory regimes.		Individual economies reported on reforms to their domestic regulatory regimes on an annual basis.	This work is undertaken as part of the individual member economies IAP.	Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.
<p>(b) Develop further actions taking into account the above reports, including:</p> <p>(i) policy dialogue on APEC economies' experiences in regard to best practices in deregulation, including the use of individual case studies to assist in the design and implementation of deregulatory measures, and;</p> <p>(ii) consideration of further options for a work program which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identification of common priority areas and sectors for deregulation;</li> <li>- provision of technical assistance in designing and implementing deregulation measures; and</li> <li>- examination of the possibility of establishing APEC guidelines on domestic regulation.</li> </ul>		<p>Member economies had taken stock of information already gathered in APEC on regulatory regimes and regulatory reform with a view to identifying common experiences, and technical assistance needs and availability.</p> <p>Promoted dialogue and understanding within APEC, through focused discussion, on the experiences of APEC economies and on the principles applied to and best practices in, regulatory reform</p> <p>Member economies are developing a common understanding of the interrelationships between competition policy, deregulation and trade liberalization.</p> <p>Member economies are exploring the possibility of establishing non-binding APEC guidelines on domestic deregulation.</p>	Work in the area is progressing.	Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
(c) Regular dialogue with the business community, including a possible symposium.		Dialogue has begun with domestic business interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the views of the business sector on regulatory reform through business organizations, including ABAC and P.E.C.C.</li> <li>- a symposium was held on regulatory reform on 5-6 September 1998.</li> </ul>	Work in the area is progressing.	Work in information sharing and dialogue will continue.

## 9. Government Procurement

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
1. Conduct questionnaire surveys in 1996 to exchange information on existing government procurement regimes and on publication of government information in APEC economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Update annually members' returns to the surveys on their GP systems and publication arrangements for GP information.</li> <li>(b) Publish this information on APEC Secretariat's homepage.</li> <li>(c) Continue to exchange information on GP in the APEC region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Questionnaire surveys on members' GP systems and publication of GP information were conducted in 1996 and published on the APEC Secretariat homepage.</li> <li>(b) Members' returns to the surveys will be updated in June each year from 1998.</li> </ul>	The updated returns to the surveys help to enhance the transparency of members' GP regimes and to develop a common understanding on GP policies and systems, as well as on each APEC member economy's GP practices.	
2. Establish contact points in 1996 to facilitate on-going exchange of the above information		A list of contact points has been compiled and circulated to all Members. The list will be updated as and when necessary.	The establishment of contact points facilitates communication and information exchange between APEC members.	
3. Hold workshops, seminars and training courses, starting from 1996 on government procurement procedures, laws, regulations and regional and plurilateral agreements, including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Review the educational events conducted in 1996-1997.</li> <li>(b) Identify topics for further educational events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) GPEG has conducted the following educational events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Seminar on Existing Government Procurement Agreements (15 October 1996, Manila, the Philippines)</li> <li>(ii) Seminar on Remedy System and Bid Challenge Procedures (31 March to 1 April 1997, Chinese Taipei)</li> <li>(iii) APEC Training Program on GP (15-18 July 1997, Yantai, China)</li> <li>(iv) Seminar on Non-Binding Principles on GP (6-7</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The workshops, seminars and training courses help to develop a common understanding on GP policies and systems.	

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
Agreement (ANZCERTA) and the Agreement on Government Procurement of Annex IV of the WTO Agreement		<p>September 1998, Kuantan, Malaysia)</p> <p>(v) Seminar on “Domestic Policy Context for Unilateral Liberalization of Government Procurement” (3 February 1999, Wellington, New Zealand)</p> <p>(b) GPEG held a workshop on GP practices in China in July 1999.</p> <p>(c) GPEG has reviewed the educational events conducted in 1996-1997 and identified topics for further educational events.</p>		
4. Encourage establishment of an APEC government procurement information database in 1996, including information on procurement opportunities and the provision of a common entry point (such as a website) for participation by members on a voluntary basis	Encourage members to develop databases or expand their existing databases on GP to include information such as legal framework, requirements for participation in tendering procedures, procurement opportunities, outcomes of tenders, bid challenge procedures and contact points, consistent with the elements of transparency in GP identified by GPEG; and to, on a voluntary basis, link their databases on GP up with the APEC GP homepage.	An APEC government procurement information database including information on procurement opportunities and comprehensive GP information in the APEC region was established in 1996. The database is available through the Internet. Information on the Homepage is updated as and when changes occur.	The APEC GP homepage, which provides information on members’ GP systems and links to members’ individual GP databases where available, helps to enhance transparency of members’ GP systems and access to their procurement markets.	
5. Develop by 2000, a set of non-binding principles on government procurement	(a) GPEG has agreed to aim to complete the development of the non-binding GP principles by the end of 1999, i.e. advancing the target completion year from 2000	(a) Elements of and illustrative practices on the principles of transparency, value for money, open and effective competition, fair dealing, and accountability		

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	<p>to 1999.</p> <p>(b) Encourage members to include in their IAPs plans to review the consistency of their GP systems with the non-binding principles and, if there are inconsistencies, voluntarily bring their systems into conformity with the non-binding principles, with progress and results reported to the GPEG.</p>	<p>and due process have been identified.</p> <p>(b) GPEG identified the elements of and illustrative practices on the non-binding principle of non-discrimination at its meeting in August 1999.</p>		
	<p>Continue to monitor progress of the WTO Working Group on Transparency in GP (WGTGP) and consider further contributions, if appropriate.</p>	<p>(a) GPEG has forwarded members' returns to the surveys on their GP systems and publication arrangements for GP information, together with the Chair's summary observations on the returns and members' Individual Action Plans on GP to the WTO WGTGP in 1997.</p> <p>(b) GPEG has forwarded the elements of transparency in GP and illustrative practices agreed by GPEG to the WTO WGTGP.</p> <p>(c) GPEG has also forwarded to the WTO WGTGP the elements of and illustrative practices on the non-binding principles of accountability and due process for reference.</p>		

### 10. Dispute Mediation

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>a. Dispute resolution between APEC economies:</p> <p>(i) Promote dialogue and increased understanding, including exchange of views on any matter that may lead to a dispute, and cooperatively examine on a voluntary basis disputes that arise, utilizing policy dialogue such as the TPD</p> <p>(ii) Give further consideration as to how the TPD or similar functions of other fora may be used by APEC economies for the exchange of information, enhanced dialogue and mediation</p>	<p>Organize seminars on WTO dispute settlement procedures to promote understanding among economies of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.</p> <p>Encourage dialogue for purpose of sharing experiences in dispute settlement, in particular, WTO dispute settlement.</p>	<p>No specific dispute has been identified that was ripe for discussion at TPD. Consideration was given to using the TPD for a discussion of the WTO Dispute Settlement Review</p> <p>Two highly successful seminars on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding have been organized under DMEG auspices, one in 1997 and one in 1999.</p> <p>Established a regular feature at DMEG meetings of a round table discussion where economies that have had direct experience in WTO dispute settlement share their experiences.</p> <p>Adoption of principles to guide DMEG work as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APEC dispute mediation should be without prejudice to rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement and other international agreements and should not duplicate or detract from WTO institutions and procedures.</li> <li>• Work in APEC dispute</li> </ul>	<p>DMEG has been highly successful in promoting dialogue and in enhancing understanding about dispute resolution between economies, particularly through the organization of two highly successful seminars on the WTO dispute settlement process.</p> <p>DMEG has been highly successful in encouraging exchange of information and in promoting dialogue on economies' WTO disputes.</p> <p>DMEG experts keep a watching brief on the WTO Review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding.</p>	<p>More training and education is desired by member economies in State-to-State dispute resolution through seminars, preparation of publications and at DMEG meetings.</p> <p>DMEG decided to invite an expert guest to its next meeting to provide a briefing on the WTO Review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding.</p>



Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>(iii) Examine the possible future evolution of procedures for the resolution of disputes as the APEC liberalization and facilitation process develops</p> <p>b. Dispute resolution between private parties and between private parties and APEC economies:</p> <p>(i) Provide CTI with listing of arbitration, mediation, and conciliation services available to private entities of other APEC economies, and make such information widely available to the business/private sector</p>	<p>Prepare updated listing of arbitration, mediation, and conciliation services taking into account amendments to laws/ regulations, etc. of member economies and including information from new economies (Peru, Russia , Vietnam).</p> <p>Prepare electronic version of compilation for uploading on APEC website to ensure broad access and continued updating of information.</p>	<p>mediation should be in keeping with the evolution of APEC's work on trade and investment liberalization and facilitation goals.</p> <p>Published two guide books (one in 1997 and one in 1999) on arbitration and dispute resolution in member economies containing economies' laws, regulations, etc. regarding trade dispute resolution and other information of interest to investors/business persons.</p> <p>Prepared electronic version of 1999 guidebook and uploaded it on APEC Secretariat's website.</p>	<p>DMEG has been highly successful in this area, successfully publishing two guide books on economies dispute resolution legal and regulatory regimes, and in establishing a web site and uploading its latest guidebook on the site to ensure broad access and regular upkeep of information. The success of the guidebook is evident in that about 850 of the 1000 copies of the Guide were distributed to interested parties, including to persons beyond the APEC region.</p>	<p>Maintain utility of guide by ensuring it is kept up to date to include latest laws, regulations, etc. of member economies; add additional information to guide such as references to recent judgments, sources of information, upcoming conferences, publications, etc.</p> <p>Maintain site with up-to-date information, add hot links to related sites in member economies, to other organizations' sites</p>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>(ii) provide CTI with comments regarding experiences with above services</p> <p>(iii) accede where appropriate to international agreements for the</p>	<p>Organize seminars/symposia on arbitration, conciliation, mediation.</p> <p>Consider working with the IPBA on developing rules regarding cyber-arbitration as a cost-effective method of resolving disputes.</p> <p>Consider future collaboration with HRDWG for training business persons in alternative dispute resolution.</p>	<p>Organized highly successful symposium in 1998 on alternative mechanisms for the settlement of transnational commercial disputes, which was widely attended by economies' representatives and by private business persons</p> <p>Collaboration with IPBA was begun at the most recent meeting of the DMEG (April 1999) and further communication is expected.</p> <p>A member of the HRDWG made a presentation in this regard at DMEG's last meeting (April 1999).</p> <p>DMEG regularly reports to CTI on its activities, including reporting the results of its highly successful seminars/symposia and on its meetings where various aspects of dispute resolution are discussed by economies, sometimes with invited guest experts in the field.</p> <p>Most member economies have acceded to ICSID, including new member economies, and those who have not are working vigorously</p>	<p>Some 150 persons attended the symposium, including many private sector interests, attesting to its considerable success in making this information widely available to the business/private sector.</p> <p>Much has been achieved but the record of accession, where appropriate, has yet to reach 100 %.</p>	<p>working in dispute resolution such as the IBA, IPBA, NAFTA 2022 Committee, FTAA NGDS, the WTO and ICJ.</p> <p>Organize more seminars/symposia on arbitration, mediation, conciliation and disseminate information through publications.</p> <p>Follow cyber-arbitration developments and give consideration to how the DMEG could contribute to the development of rules and practices in this emerging area.</p> <p>Enhance relationship with other organizations such as the IBA and the IPBA to coordinate work and activities in dispute resolution.</p>

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<p>settlement of disputes between governments and private entities such as ICSID</p> <p>(iv) accede where appropriate to the Convention on the Recognition of Foreign Arbitral Awards</p> <p>c. promote transparency on an APEC-wide basis through, for example, publication of a guidebook on arbitration, mediation, and conciliation services available in each APEC economy</p>	<p>Prepare an electronic version of the guide book, updated to take into account amendments to members' legislation/regulations and information from new economies, and upload guide book on APEC web site.</p> <p>Encourage dialogue/participation of business/private sector in DMEG activities (meetings and seminars).</p> <p>Establish a set of principles to guide the work of the DMEG bearing in mind the OAA, the Bogor Declaration, and Ministers' declarations.</p>	<p>towards this goal and have achieved results through bilateral agreements.</p> <p>Most member economies, including new members, have acceded and those that have not expect to do so soon; in addition, bilateral solutions have been found among certain economies.</p> <p>Electronic version was completed and uploaded on the APEC Secretariat's website in April 1999.</p> <p>DMEG has regularly invited expert guests to address DMEG meetings, seminars and symposia, and adopted at its 1999 meeting "Guidelines for Participation of Guests in DMEG Meetings"; in addition, a private sector expert has been engaged by DMEG to prepare its publications and web site.</p> <p>At its 1996 meeting DMEG adopted six principles to guide its work; the principles were approved by the CTI and endorsed by APEC Ministers.</p>	<p>Much has been achieved but the record of accession, where appropriate, has yet to reach 100%.</p> <p>The electronic version of the Guide was successfully uploaded onto the APEC Secretariat's website in April 1999.</p> <p>DMEG has had considerable success in promoting transparency both through its publications and web site, through its practice of inviting guest experts to address DMEG meetings on particular topics, and through collaboration with private sector experts in the preparation of its guide books and web site, and through having private business persons participate in symposia/seminars as speakers and as members of the audience.</p>	<p>Review principles at upcoming DMEG meeting to ensure they still serve as useful guide and determine if adjustments are necessary.</p>

## 11. Mobility of Business People

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<p>APEC economies will:</p> <p>(i) Exchange information on regulatory regimes in regard to the mobility of business people in the region;</p> <p>(ii) Examine the possibility of setting the scope for cooperation at a regional level aimed at streamlining and accelerating:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey members' regulations and requirements relating to short-term entry for business people.</li> <li>• Survey members' regulations and requirements relating to temporary residency of business people.</li> <li>• Regularly update Internet version of the <i>APEC Business Travel Handbook</i> informing the business community of members' short-term business travel requirements. Add members' requirements relating to temporary residency as the survey is completed.</li> <li>• Facilitate policy dialogue between border management and other relevant officials on regulatory regimes relating to short-term travel and business residency.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify possible areas for regional cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• Complete</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of Informal Experts' Group on Business Mobility as a forum for dialogue between representatives of APEC immigration agencies</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple entry visas</li> <li>• Visa waiver arrangements</li> <li>• Development of and participation in special travel pass schemes, including APEC Business Travel Card</li> <li>• Application of new technologies</li> <li>• Application of risk management techniques</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good progress to date in improving mobility of business people</li> <li>• Group has met on 7 occasions since May 1997</li> <li>• 19 economies attended latest meeting in Wellington, New Zealand in February 1999</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet site to be regularly updated</li> <li>• Group has ongoing commitment to continue to meet on a regular basis as part of the APEC SOM forum.</li> <li>• Current agenda will carry Group through to end 2000.</li> <li>• Possible extension of Group's mandate beyond 2000 if need identified by business community</li> </ul>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>processing of visas for short term business travel; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop mechanisms for cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information sharing between border management agencies</li> <li>Technical assistance and training in visa and border management systems</li> </ul> <p><u>Multiple Entry Visas (MEV)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trade Ministers issue collective commitment to issue MEVs to business travellers from other APEC economies</li> <li>Statement to expand the availability of MEVs included in Trade Minister's statement</li> </ul> <p><u>Visa-free</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>expansion of visa-free arrangements between member economies</i></li> </ul> <p><u>APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) scheme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of ABTC trial to five economies (June 1998).</li> <li>Commencement of mature phase on 1 March 1999.</li> <li>New Zealand joins scheme in April 1999.</li> </ul> <p><u>Information sharing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of existing mechanism for information sharing</li> <li>PACRIM identified as most suitable forum to conduct exchange of data relating to travel document fraud, lost travel documents and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good progress to date</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good progress to date</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good progress to date</li> <li>Feasibility of ABTC scheme established in its trial phase</li> <li>Positive evaluation of scheme's trial recommending its continuation on a permanent basis</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrangements being put in place to assist the exchange of immigration information and data between border management agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope for ongoing expansion of use of MEVs</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope for ongoing expansion of visa-free arrangements</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope for further expansion of scheme to include participation of new economies</li> </ul>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrangements for temporary residency for business people to engage in trade and investment; and</li> </ul> <p>(iii) Establish and maintain a dialogue on mobility issues with the business community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify possible areas for cooperation</li> <li>• Develop mechanisms for cooperation</li> <li>• Engage in dialogue with business representatives in member economies, and with ABAC, on impediments to mobility of business people.</li> <li>• Examine the feasibility of Implementing ABAC recommendations</li> </ul>	<p>immigration malpractice</p> <p><u>Technical Assistance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey identifying technical assistance needs completed and mentoring system of assistance provision developed.</li> <li>• Technical assistance and training on travel document fraud commenced late 1998.</li> <li>• Agreement in principle reached to raise service standards for issuance and extension of business residency permits for executives, managers and specialists transferred within companies.</li> <li>• Implementation of plan to raise service standards for executives, managers and specialists to commence pending final agreement.</li> <li>• Dialogue with ABAC ongoing</li> <li>• Christchurch SOM II 1999 - Agenda item to include development of strategy to further engage ABAC and the APEC business community in activities of the Informal Experts Group on Business Mobility.</li> <li>• Discussion of ABAC business residency service standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Cooperation Group planning is well underway</li> <li>• Activities to commence when TILF funds become available in May 1999</li> <li>• Main focus of Experts' Group activities in 1999</li> <li>• Progress by end 1999</li> <li>• Group's activities to date developed in response to ABAC's recommendations in 1996 to make progress towards business travel facilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on evaluation of initial project to streamline temporary residency arrangements for managers, executives and specialists, there is scope to extend these arrangements to other categories of business people</li> <li>• Need identified to further consult with ABAC and the broader APEC business community to receive feedback on the Group's activities and to seek further direction to shape its future agenda</li> <li>• further explore scope for representatives from the Experts' Group to attend</li> </ul>

Collective Actions (as stated in OAA)	Collective Actions Added since 1996	Collective Actions Achieved/Completed	Assessment of how far current CAP has advanced towards OAA	Proposed Expansion Improvement of OAA Guidelines and Collective Actions
	relating to: - short-term travel - business residency  • Encourage feedback from business representatives on utility of <i>APEC Business Travel Handbook</i>	underway  • Feedback from the business community is taken into consideration in updates of <i>Handbook</i> .		other APEC business functions

# **RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MANAGEMENT REFORM PROCESS APEC COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

## **Background**

The APEC Leaders, at their meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 1998, instructed Ministers to complete the review of the APEC process by 1999 for implementation of measures in year 2000. Accordingly, all APEC fora (including CTI sub-fora) were required to carry out self-reviews of their mandates at their first meeting in 1999, but no later than end May.

Following the above instructions, CTI and CTI sub-fora undertook a review of their mandates. A CTI "Friends of the Chair (FOC)" meeting was convened on 6 February 1999 to exchange views on possible considerations in the CTI review process. Meanwhile, the next steps on the management reform process endorsed at SOM I in Wellington, New Zealand require CTI to provide the SOM Chair by 16 July 1999 with comments on the policy aspects of the self-reviews.

This paper sets out the Committee's recommendations on the reform process as endorsed at the CTI Meeting of 3-4 May 1999.

## **Self-Reviews by CTI and CTI Sub-fora**

The common review procedures/criteria endorsed by Ministers require APEC fora to review their mandates, approved objectives/tasks, accomplishments and contributions to Ministerial/Leaders' declarations. They are to examine whether the means of achieving these objectives/tasks are the most cost effective; whether there is any possible duplication with other APEC fora or non-APEC fora; and whether the sub-fora have any business/society linkages. Sub-fora are also to examine their relations with their sub-groups, if any, and whether the sub-fora/sub-groups have a sunset clause.

### *(a) Mandates, Accomplishments and Sub-fora Contributions to Ministerial/Leaders' Declarations*

CTI has 11 sub-fora which assume carriage of its work on trade and investment liberalization and facilitation (TILF), particularly the collective actions contained in the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA). Of these, six are formal sub-groups with endorsed terms of reference (TOR). They are the Market Access Group (MAG), the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC), the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP), the Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG), the Government Procurement Experts' Group (GPEG) and the Dispute Mediation Experts' Group (DMEG). The remaining sub-fora are mainly *ad hoc* and/or informal in nature. They are: the Group on Services (GOS); the Investment Experts' Group (IEG); the Workshop on Competition Policy and Deregulation (CPD); the Informal Group on Uruguay Round Implementation/Rules of Origin (URI/ROO); and the Informal Experts' Group on the Mobility of Business People (IEGBM).



CTI sub-fora have made significant progress in advancing the TILF agenda, although APEC objectives in all TILF areas under the OAA have yet to be fully achieved. CTI's achievements have been especially noticeable, and highlighted in the Ministerial/Leaders' Declarations, in the areas of customs simplification and harmonization, standards and conformance, investment, intellectual property rights, government procurement, and the mobility of business people.

Progress, however, has been more modest or is becoming more difficult to advance in other areas as a result of developments in the environment. In the case of URI, APEC has already undertaken a significant number of seminars and it is not clear at this point what further work would be required. On ROO, discussions in the WTO/WCO remain technical in nature and further work would need to await the results of the negotiations.

The DMEG's work had focused on transparency via a guidebook on dispute resolution and arbitration in member economies and towards enhancing members' understanding of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding. APEC could consider placing work in these areas under the direct responsibility of the CTI Chair and the CTI plenary so that the existence of *ad hoc* bodies may no longer be necessary.

The services area needs an overarching policy framework which should tie in, and drive, services-related work in all APEC fora. Thus, the CTI meeting of 5-6 February 1999 agreed on the need to develop such a framework, taking into account the cross-cutting nature of this TILF issue area. In this respect, CTI, in consultation with GOS, should develop a framework for strengthening work in services by deepening and reviewing the scope of the collective action plans, taking into account the interrelationship of services with investment, competition policy and deregulation, and the mobility of business people.

*(b) Cost Effective Delivery of Work*

CTI and its sub-fora continue to find the necessity of holding physical meetings, particularly in undertaking policy-related tasks e.g., trade policy dialogues, discussions on the menu of options for investment liberalization and non-binding principles on government procurement, competition policy and deregulation. IEGBM, in particular, holds that face-to-face meetings are useful in establishing understanding and trust needed to effectively advance the agenda. Electronic exchanges, teleconferences and correspondences are also increasingly being utilized for activities such as inter-sessional consideration of issues, updating of guidebooks/contributions to databases and conduct of seminars. Early comments on and revision of papers in advance of meetings would increase the efficiency of meetings.

The proliferation of meetings is increasingly taxing economies' resources. One CTI sub-forum (SCCP) has, in particular, agreed to hold only two meetings this year and to carry forward their work inter-sessionally via electronic exchanges and faxes. In the future, CTI and CTI sub-fora will need to ensure that the conduct of physical meetings is well justified. In this respect, the cooperation of all economies is crucial in ensuring that work does not suffer even where no physical meetings are held.

(c) *Duplication of Work with APEC and Non-APEC Fora*

There is no duplication of work with APEC and non-APEC fora. While some CTI sub-fora undertake certain activities which are also covered by other APEC fora, coordination is maintained in the conduct of these activities, for example, SCCP maintains contact with IPEG on border enforcement of IPRs. The HRD Working Group occasionally covers issues with a broad business mobility component but IEGBM covers business mobility in far greater detail and is able to contribute to the technical expertise of border management experts.

Much of what CTI is doing is in support of work being undertaken in the WTO. Accordingly, CTI and CTI sub-fora take into account developments in the WTO and other international fora in drawing up their respective work programs.

(d) *Relations with Sub-Groups and Sunset Clause*

As noted above, the 11 CTI sub-fora undertake the Committee's work on the collective actions in the 15 TILF issue areas. Of these 11 sub-fora, only one sub-forum (SCSC) maintains sub-groups to assist in the implementation of its work.

The SCSC established two *ad hoc* Experts' Groups in order to develop the text of the arrangements on the APEC Food MRA and the MRA for Electrical and Electronic Equipment. The first was established and disbanded in 1996 while the second was established in 1997 and would be disbanded as soon as it has completed its tasks.

In addition to the above, SCSC also established *ad hoc* technical groups in 1998 which would work with the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) to coordinate regional input into the development of international standards in the four selected areas. The four groups would be disbanded after they have completed their work.

With respect to sunset clause, most CTI sub-fora have no set term. A number of TORs, however, provide for a review of the mandate of the sub-fora every two or three years. CTI sub-fora will need to be disbanded as soon as assigned tasks are completed.

(e) *Business/Society Linkages*

Nearly all CTI sub-fora have had business/private sector participation or involvement in their activities, received input and/or undertook joint collaborative activities with business/private sector, for example, through participation in seminars, workshops, symposia and related events. All sub-fora further plan to make use of the guidance provided by SOM to CTI and its sub-fora allowing them greater flexibility to invite business/private sector people or organizations to attend their meetings and/or dialogues.

The estimated gains from trade facilitation are believed to be at least as important as the gains from liberalization. APEC's work on the CAPs (the focus of CTI sub-fora activity), therefore, has been recognized as being of direct relevance to business. CTI and CTI sub-fora should ensure that this continues to relate to intended beneficiaries. Specifically, CTI sub-fora should link directly with

their relevant constituencies, for example, SCCP with brokers and exporters/ importers; SCSC with industries; and IPEG with inventors.

Business, including SMEs, should benefit from APEC's collective work in this area. CTI should therefore strengthen efforts in communicating its outcomes/deliverables to business, including SMEs.

## **Recommendations**

CTI agreed to adopt the following inputs on the reform process:

- realign work in the areas of URI/ROO and Dispute Mediation so that the existence of the Informal Group on URI/ROO and Dispute Mediation Experts' Group may no longer be necessary, and the substantive work can be carried out under the direct responsibility of the CTI Chair. Focal points, however, would be nominated to assist the CTI Chair and CTI plenary in overseeing work in these issue areas;
- recommend that CTI/GOS develop a broader policy framework for work in services by deepening and reviewing the scope of the collective action plans, taking into account the interrelationship of services with investment, competition policy and deregulation, and the mobility of business people;
- recommend that SOM encourage relevant APEC fora to work closely with CTI/GOS to ensure that the framework is implemented;
- instruct GOS to report to CTI on a regular basis with respect to the development and implementation of the framework;
- encourage CTI sub-fora to explore cost effective means of achieving assigned objectives/tasks, including through electronic exchanges and correspondence, and/or undertake as much work as possible inter-sessionally to improve the efficiency of, and/or reduce the need for, physical meetings;
- encourage CTI sub-fora to hold their meetings, as appropriate, in conjunction with, and at the same location as CTI meetings;
- instruct CTI sub-fora to undertake a review of their mandates once every two years and submit recommendations to CTI;
- instruct CTI sub-fora to ensure the continuing relevance of their work by relating this to their OAA objectives and linking directly with their constituencies; and
- strengthen communications efforts to highlight publicly achievements in the area of trade and investment facilitation.