



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation



# **BLUEPRINT**

**APEC SUB-COMMITTEE  
on CUSTOMS PROCEDURES**

**Towards One Community :**  
*Meet the Challenge, Make the Change*

November 2005



## Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	5
Priorities and Pledges	7
FACTS and Transparency Standards	8
<b>Serving Business</b>	10
APEC Customs - Business Dialogue	10
Information Sharing	16
<b>CAP Initiative</b>	18
Stage 1 CAP Items	19
Stage 2 CAP Items	21
Stage 3 CAP Items	25
<b>Meet the Challenge, Make the Change</b>	28
APEC Framework	29
Time-Release Surveys	31
Trade Facilitation	33
<b>Tables</b>	36
SCCP CAP Objectives and Expected Outputs	36
SCCP CAP Implementation Status	37
SCCP Contacts	38
<b>Acronyms</b>	39



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

## APEC MEMBER ECONOMIES

Australia  
Brunei Darussalam  
Canada  
Chile  
People's Republic of China  
Hong Kong, China  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Republic of Korea  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
New Zealand  
Papua New Guinea  
Republic of the Philippines  
Peru  
Russia  
Singapore  
Chinese Taipei  
Thailand  
United States of America  
Viet Nam

## Observers

ASEAN Secretariat  
Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)  
South Pacific Forum (SPF)

This document contains information on progress towards implementing the SCCP Collective Action Plan and work programs. Originally published in October 1997, the SCCP Blueprint is a "living document" updated periodically. This 2005 Blueprint is posted on the SCCP website at <http://www.sccp.org>

The SCCP invites the business community to provide inputs directly at [info@sccp.org](mailto:info@sccp.org) or to any of the SCCP Members listed at the end of this document via fax or e-mail.

# Introduction



The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) was established by APEC in 1994 with the aim to simplify and harmonize regional Customs procedures to ensure that goods and services move efficiently, effectively and safely through the region.

The SCCP has accomplished the commitment to publicize its objectives, action plans and achievements in simplifying and harmonizing Customs procedures by publishing the SCCP Blueprint since 1997. The Committee's intention is to facilitate business planning by providing views on where Customs modernization is headed. Given the varying levels of development and the differing emphases on aspects of Customs' mandates across the region, this Blueprint will enable APEC Customs administrations to modernize themselves at their own pace, while serving as a benchmark for measuring overall progress. The Blueprint, with its annual updates, is a "living document" providing real and lasting benefits to the Asia-Pacific business community.

"Towards One Community: Meet the Challenge, Make the Change" is the central theme for APEC 2005, hosted by the Republic of Korea. In 2005, the SCCP focused its efforts on meeting the new challenges of securing and facilitating global trade. In order to bring about change, it adopted two new Collective Action Plans (CAP), "Time-Release Surveys (TRS)" and "Implementation of APEC Framework based on the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade" as a means of accelerating Customs clearance facilitation and promoting secure trade and public-private partnership.

In addition, the SCCP attended to the implementation of its CAPs, which are supported with technical assistance programs specifically developed for each SCCP CAP and program.

In recognition of the importance of the "Customs Business Partnership," the SCCP organized the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue (ACBD) in September 2005 in Gyeongju, Korea. The event focused on "Reengineering Customs-Business Cooperative Engagement for Facilitation and Seamless Movement of Goods in the Transparent and Secure Transaction Environment" and provided industries with opportunities to become involved in the initiatives of the SCCP.

APEC Member Economies have undertaken the tremendous ongoing effort to modernize Customs administrations by simplifying and harmonizing Customs procedures and taking steps to address systemic problems. Impressive and real changes are taking place. To reap the benefits that APEC promises, Customs administrations will continue to work with business to develop faster, more secure border control mechanisms balancing public protection and trade facilitation.

The SCCP looks forward to expanding the partnership with the business community and invites business for more active participation and cooperation.





## Priorities of 2005 Customs-related Senior Officials' Meeting

- Advancing Free Trade
  - Supporting the WTO DDA
  - Enhancing APEC's Leading Role: Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building
- Fighting Corruption
- Sharing Prosperity of the Knowledge-Based Economy: Protecting Innovation and Expanding Digital Opportunity
- Human Security: Counter-terrorism, Energy Security, Health and Disaster Response and Preparedness

## Priorities of Committee on Trade and Investment in 2005

- Support for the Multilateral Trading System
- Trade Facilitation
- Transparency and Anti-corruption
- Digital Economy and Intellectual Property Rights

## Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures will strive to:

- Facilitate legitimate trade and investment in the APEC region
- Maintain its role in protecting the community
- Simplify and harmonize Customs procedures
- Improve the speed, accuracy and transparency of Customs transactions
- Establish levels of service to provide traders with certainty
- Promote the professionalism and integrity of Customs administrations
- Encourage voluntary compliance in APEC Member Economies
- Consult regularly with the APEC business community to ensure that its activities meet their needs
- Form strategic partnerships with interested APEC business representatives
- Provide Members with the required technical assistance to promote efficiency, effectiveness and equity
- Tailor the pace of progress to the diverse needs and abilities of APEC Member Economies



SCCP Guiding Principles **FACTS** (Fukuoka, Japan, 1995)

- > Facilitation
- > Accountability
- > Consistency
- > Transparency
- > Simplification

# APEC Leaders' Transparency Standards on Customs Procedures

On 27 October 2002, APEC Leaders adopted the principles of implementing APEC Transparency Standards. At that time, the SCCP developed transparency standards on Customs procedures for incorporation into the Leaders' Statement. Those standards include:

- Each Member Economy will promptly publish and make available on the Internet, information on its Customs laws, regulations, procedures and administrative rulings of general application in such a manner as to enable interested persons to become acquainted with them.
- Each Member Economy will, to the extent possible, publish in advance any regulations of general application governing Customs procedures proposed for adoption, and provide a reasonable opportunity for comments from interested persons.
- Taking into account Member Economies' individual circumstances, upon request from an interested person in its territory, each Member Economy, whenever possible, will provide for the issuance of advance rulings based on specific facts and circumstances provided by such requester prior to the importation of a good into its territory, for areas such as:
  - Tariff classification ;
  - The application of the provisions set forth in the WTO Agreement on Customs Valuation;
  - The application of duty drawback;
  - Country of origin marking requirements;
  - The application of rules of origin under free trade agreements and other preferential tariff regimes; and
  - Admissibility requirements.
- Subject to domestic confidentiality requirements, each Member Economy will make such advance rulings publicly available for purposes of ensuring application of the rulings to other goods where the facts and circumstances are the same as those under which the rulings are issued.
- Each Member Economy will maintain procedural transparency and fairness in Customs procedures by:
  - Providing for the prompt review and correction of Customs administrative actions;
  - Ensuring that importers are provided with the right to a level of administrative review independent of the employee or office issuing the determination subject to review;
  - Maintaining the availability of judicial review of Customs administrative determinations.
- Each Member Economy will maintain one or more contact points to which interested parties can address questions concerning Customs matters, and shall make available on the Internet information concerning the procedures for making such inquiries.

# Serving Business

## APEC Customs Business Dialogue

The APEC Customs Business Dialogue (ACBD) 2005 was held on 5 September in Gyeongju, Korea with over 350 participants and 11 notable speakers from the Customs community, business and academia in attendance.

In his keynote speech, Korea Customs Service Commissioner Seong, Yun-kap underscored that close cooperation between the private sector and the Customs services is becoming increasingly important in this rapidly changing international trade environment. ABAC Chair Mr. Hyun, Jae-hyun delivered the welcome address and commended the work of the SCCP, especially its contribution to trade facilitation. Mr. Hyun discussed ABAC's emphasis on technology for security, the APEC Framework for Security and Facilitation of Global Trade and the APEC Customs Handbook.

Under the theme of "Reengineering Customs-Business Cooperative Engagement for Facilitation and Seamless Movement of Goods in the Transparent and Secure Transaction Environment", the Dialogue invited two panels which discussed various sub-themes.

- The first panel considered Trade Facilitation: Liberalizing global trade through effective, efficient and e-friendly Customs procedures and a strengthened Customs-private sector partnership. Participants discussed in detail how to bolster the Customs-business partnership and how Customs can serve the business community better to promote trade.
- The second panel faced the issue of Trade Security: Improving security in the global supply chain and international trade environment. Participants recognized the importance of this issue and presented various opinions on how to achieve the twin goals of trade security and facilitation.

In the Dialogue, participants noted that Trade Facilitation and Security are key factors that support the prosperity and well-being of the Asia-Pacific region. It was further recognized that Customs' role in Trade Facilitation, its partnership with the private sector, and the Dialogue are crucial to bringing about a more liberalized trade environment.

Because it was firmly believed that security is the shared goal and responsibility of both the public sector and the business community, it was agreed that Customs and the private sector should work collaboratively on the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade to ensure continued economic growth in the APEC region in the true spirit of the ACBD.





Meet the Challenge,  
Make the Change



# Meet the Speakers



Seong, Yun-kap  
Commissioner, Korea Customs Service

The relationship between Customs and the business community has evolved over time. The importance of our mutual cooperation has increased more than ever in this rapidly changing trade environment.

The responsibility of trade security and trade facilitation falls on all of us. If the business sector strengthens its security system voluntarily and Customs focuses on high-risk cargo and passengers, I believe we will be able to ensure trade security and bring about facilitation with minimal costs. It is a win-win partnership for business and Customs. The APEC Customs-Business Dialogue (ACBD) is the venue for discussing and strengthening the Customs-business partnership through open dialogue. I am certain that it will further enhance the relationship between Customs and business and lead APEC toward achieving the Bogor Goals.





### Kunio Mikuriya Deputy Secretary General, World Customs Organization

APEC's Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures has been, from my point of view, one of the most dynamic forums within APEC. The SCCP has provided Collective Action Plans and other insights to develop regional best practices based on international standards in the APEC region. APEC has provided leadership in several areas in relation to trade and, especially from my point of view, the Customs-business partnership.

Trade security and trade facilitation are inseparable elements in trade. APEC's Trade Facilitation Action Plan, a valuable tool, continues to streamline Customs and trade procedures, and in a wider sense, provides an opportunity for the business community to contribute to that process. Along with the Trade Facilitation Action Plan, the Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) program sets a very good example for the global community to emulate. The STAR project has progressed considerably to enhance the partnership with business and to get all the stakeholders to move together towards the shared goal of a facilitative and secure trade environment. Taking into account existing initiatives, including STAR Initiative, the World Customs Organization has come up with a new international standard for facilitation and security of trade called the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. I hope that APEC can continue to provide strong leadership in developing best practice in implementing this Framework of Standards.

In this sense, I really appreciate the APEC contribution, not only for APEC itself, but for the global community to set a model role in this region.



### Yang, Jun-sok Professor, Division of Law and Economics, The Catholic University of Korea

APEC's diverse membership, in terms of income, is unique. In effect, it's the world in miniature, but each of APEC's Members also have some interesting common regional issues. The membership is small enough so that APEC can actually have a productive dialogue, which is not always possible in larger international organizations.

APEC has a definition of trade facilitation, which is larger than some of the other organizations. It encompasses the movement of business people, which also includes services. As APEC brings attention to problems in those areas, I think it is doing a lot to spur trade facilitation talks globally. APEC should take a lot of credit for helping to start the trade facilitation negotiations in the DDA. Trade facilitation should not just be limited to just those issues talked about at the WTO. Already, APEC is engaged in the discussion and building the foundations for further work to address medium and long-term concerns.



### James Goh Regional Vice President, Global Facilitation/Customs Operations-Asia Pacific, UPS

One of the good things about the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures is that, truly, the way they operate, they are engaging the Member Economy, by engaging the private sector through Collective Action Plans (CAPs) and all the projects that involve the private sector. I think the good thing about the SCCP is they believe that to achieve anything, especially in the area of facilitation, the business sector must be involved.

Working closely with the SCCP, the integrated transport courier industry organizes missions to APEC's Customs administrations within the Asia-Pacific region to assess and provide assistance with procedures and benchmarking best practices.

APEC should look more towards benchmarking and integrating global standards because, at the end of the day, APEC cannot stand alone at establishing certain standards. Engaging international organizations like the WCO and WTO is a positive step towards achieving those goals.





### Andrew Hudson

Partner, Hunt & Hunt LAWYERS

Standardizing data and information, which Customs authorities need, results in sharing better information and moving cargo more quickly. While this communication is facilitated through bilateral and regional trade agreements, APEC can accelerate its work by sharing best practices with each of the Member Economies in order to develop better cooperation.

I would like to see APEC take even more of a role than it does now. APEC should offer more capacity building by convincing organizations to coordinate their work. Equally important is supporting trade facilitation measures engaging APEC Member Economies and providing them with standards for their free trade agreements, documentation and transaction requirements. APEC has to work with its constituent elements, which are the Customs services in the various Member Economies, but also with foreign affairs and trade officials who more often conduct the negotiations.



### Michael Mullen

Director of Trade Relations, US Customs and Border Protection

The SCCP plays a really vital role focusing on one of the most practical aspects of APEC's work, and a very important trade facilitation measure, which is Customs modernization and harmonization. By developing common standards and common best practices for Customs agencies in the region, the SCCP work contributes directly to a much more rapid flow of goods through the area and a much more efficient use of Customs' resources.

APEC's vital role in this area is further illustrated by the work done this year on the APEC Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. This is a very interesting and, some say, 'historic' agreement that provides specific steps Customs agencies can take to improve the security of their operations, more closely cooperate with other regional Customs agencies, and create trusted partnership with the trade community based on the common goals shared by both business and government to move goods across the borders more safely and more efficiently. By moving 21 Members up to this higher standard of security operations and building a stronger partnership with the business community, APEC demonstrates to the rest of the world how this type of an agreement can work and provide substantial benefits for all concerned.



### John Leahy

Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

I think what is interesting is the new APEC framework for trade facilitation and security arrangements in the Customs' field. From a developing economy's perspective we are willing and enthusiastic to embrace these changes to bring Papua New Guinea's processes into seamless interaction with the rest of the world. In fact we have a very broad view that these reforms should not just be in the Customs area but also extended to other agencies that need to be engaged with the business community.

It must also be remembered that developing economies often need technical assistance and resources to achieve the benchmarks that are expected. Telecommunications is a particular impediment at present. It is heartening to know that there are resources available for areas such as institutional capacity building and we will work with APEC and regional partners to build this capacity.



### Andrew Jackson

Government Relations Executive, IBM Australia

APEC has definitely played a role in harmonization. Currently, APEC's Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures is working to adopt the APEC Framework to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade based on the WCO Framework. In terms of implementation, APEC is drawing on its role as a regional trade forum to say to their Member Economies, "This is the way to move forward because this issue is very important." IBM is very supportive of this process.

Operating in 160 different countries, one of the most important issues facing IBM, currently, is not just a supply chain issue, but generally as a business, the security aspect of the goods we move around the world. Through APEC's Customs-Business Dialogue, IBM would like to see coordinated efforts to harmonize actions around the world, in terms of supply chain security, capacity building and program implementation.



**Lee Ju Song**  
 Director, International Chamber of Commerce Asia

We believe that regional forums such as APEC are valuable for Customs and the private sector to exchange views on issues of common interest. APEC's Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures has done an excellent job in reconciling border control and trade facilitation.

ICC closely cooperates with our Customs colleagues in APEC to meet our common objectives of helping businesses develop export markets; expediting regional integration and speeding up the removal of non-tariff barriers.

By successfully administering the ATA Carnet System and expanding the system to more APEC Member Economies, ICC is well placed to complement the efforts made by APEC's Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures to facilitate trade throughout the region.



**Datu Mohamed Khalid bin Yusuf**  
 Director of Customs, State of Selangor, Malaysia

APEC has been working very positively and in the right direction. For a growing economy like Malaysia, we are committed to working together with APEC's Member Economies, particularly in the area of trade facilitation because we benefit from it. Royal Customs Malaysia subscribes to the idea that trade facilitation is beneficial for business.

As the proverbial golden goose, we should protect business as it provides an incredible tax base for the public sector. We have to support the business community, and similarly, the business community should support Customs by practicing legitimate trade, which benefits all parties.

While it is important for APEC to bring us together to join in the dialogue and share our views and experience, it's up to individual Customs administrations to learn best practices and implement those recommendations.



**Murray Edwards**  
 Counsellor Customs, Australian Customs Service

In the future, the APEC role will evolve. It's one that needs to move quickly to make sure that it continues to reflect the priorities of leaders, ministers, and business. The world environment continues to change and APEC also needs to change. I think we in APEC, and those in sub-fora as part of APEC, need to be aware of these expectations and work to ensure that we are responsive to them.

The SCCP has cooperated to assist APEC's Member Economies in a number of ways. The APEC Customs-Business Dialogue ensures that we receive the views and opinions of business. A very important part of the work of Customs is to involve businesses at a national level, and it's important that we do that at an international level as well.

Through the SCCP's Collective Action Plan items, such as the risk management and integrity programs, we develop capacity-building and other types of assistance. We usually deliver these in conjunction with other Member Economies and report back to the SCCP on what's been done.

Much of the SCCP program focuses squarely on issues of Customs improvement and Customs modernization. Therefore our program is about improving the efficiency of Customs organizations as well as quite a number of trade facilitative mechanisms. We are focusing on implementation of agreements that are being forged elsewhere such as in the World Customs Organization and the World Trade Organization. So really, it is about regional delivery of a number of trade facilitation mechanisms.



# Information Sharing



## Customs and Trade Facilitation Handbook

Trade facilitation means the smooth flow of products across national borders. In view of the significant economic impact of global trade, APEC Member Economies stand to gain the most if they can achieve efficient and effective border operations. By the same token, the business community also has a great deal to gain from more efficient and harmonized Customs procedures.

The APEC Customs and Trade Facilitation Handbook takes a tangible step toward trade facilitation by providing the trade community with laws, regulations and procedures of the advance Customs rulings of various APEC Member Economies' Customs.

The APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures and the APEC Business Advisory Council cooperated in publishing this handbook. It is but one example of the achievements that can be made through a successful public-private partnership and is expected to set a precedent for other international organizations.

## "Best Practices" Handbook 2005

Public availability of information on the Customs laws, regulations, administrative guidelines and rulings is important in improving Customs transparency. It ensures that traders have all the pertinent information for business decisions through Customs' provision of accurate, consistent and user-friendly information.

Based on the information provided by APEC Member Economies, the "Best Practices" Handbook has been updated by Hong Kong Customs. It contains all the contact information and cooperative engagements each APEC Customs administration has with respective business sectors and includes telephone, fax numbers, Internet website addresses, counter service information and mass media publications. This information can be found on the SCCP website at <http://www.sccp.org>.

# APEC Tariff Database

The availability of information on Customs matters is one of the key elements of trade facilitation. The trade community often needs specific information, especially about tariffs in foreign markets, when making important business decisions.

In order to provide more accessible trade information, APEC operates the Tariff Database website based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) which is the international language of trade. It provides users with easy access to APEC Member Economies' tariff information, tariff schedules, concessions, prohibitions, etc. (<http://www.apectariff.org>)

Tariff data in this database is reproduced with the permission of the WCO and APEC Member Economies and with support from of the APEC Secretariat and Federal Express.

The following table reports on the number of visits to the APEC Tariff Database between July 2004 and June 2005.

Registrations	20,178	Logins	86,337
Emails	292	Member Economy Views	244,617
Chapter Lookups	109,947	Tariff Number Lookups	45,291
Description Lookups	109,721	Alphabetic Lookups	78,859
Tariff Heading Lookups	289,206		

## SCCP Website

Customs administrations of APEC, the most dynamic economic region in the world, are searching for faster, less costly and better ways to facilitate trade and protect borders. The SCCP website is one of the best ways to provide information about Customs in the Asia-Pacific region and the SCCP which is accurate and up-to-date.

Thanks to the continuous efforts by the Canada Border Services Agency, the SCCP maintains a website with up-to-date information (<http://www.sccp.org>), focusing on cooperation in Customs-related matters and measures to harmonize Customs procedures to facilitate trade among APEC Member Economies.

## APEC Common Data Elements Workshop

Designed to progress the objectives of the Harmonized Data Elements Collective Action Plan, principally by assisting APEC Member Economies in their efforts to implement harmonized and simplified data sets in accordance with international standards, the APEC Workshop on the Implementation of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Data Model was held at the APEC Secretariat in Singapore from March 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Co-sponsored by Canada, Australia and Japan, the highly successful workshop brought together a group of 31 Customs import/export policy and systems experts representing 16 APEC Member Economies for presentations and practical examples of the activities required to implement the WCO Data Model in their respective administrations.

The key outcomes of the workshop included ensuring that APEC Member Economies are involved in the development of the third version of the WCO Data Model by having them map their Customs data requirements against the WCO Data Model, collaborating with other government agencies to develop 'single windows', and working to enable APEC Member Economies to prepare and lodge WCO Data Maintenance Requests.

# Collective Action Plans Initiative



## Stage 1 CAP Items:

CAP items that need further technical assistance for proper implementation

### *Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Revised Kyoto Convention*

The International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention: RKC) provides a foundation for modern and efficient Customs procedures. Its adoption and implementation would deliver tangible benefits to the region by increasing transparency and efficiency in Customs administration while contributing to reduced transaction costs and enhanced trade security.

The Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative, a two-stage project, was developed as a tool to aid the accession process of APEC Member Economies. Stage 1 (CTI 30 / 2003T) resulted in the creation of a guidebook called "The Revised Kyoto Convention: A Pathway to Accession". Stage 2 (CTI 01 / 2004T) was the delivery of technical assistance.

With these two projects complete, the SCCP agreed during the September 2005 Meeting in Gyeongju, Korea, to incorporate the Pathfinder into the Kyoto CAP, and deliver any future technical assistance under the CAP.

New Zealand and Japan are the coordinators of this CAP. As of September 2005, six APEC Member Economies have acceded to the body and general annexes of the RKC (Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand).

### *Harmonized APEC Data Elements*

The SCCP embraced this CAP item in order to simplify and harmonize data in Customs procedures, providing a guideline and a framework to each Member Economy in making informed decisions about international harmonization. This Data Model was first agreed on by the G7 countries. The WCO took over the maintenance and management of the Data Model Initiative in order to advance the work into a global Customs Standard. To date, 18 Member Economies have introduced the computerized Customs clearance system and sixteen Economies adopted common data elements for Customs clearance of goods. Fifteen Economies have completed the study on the G7 EDI standard.

This CAP is coordinated by Canada. Australia and Canada have provided technical assistance to seven Member Economies and six Economies have expressed a need for technical assistance.





## Stage 2 CAP Items:

Technical assistance has been completed as planned and the majority of Member Economies have indicated completion of most CAP's objectives.

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

This CAP item is designed to facilitate the accurate, consistent and uniform application of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) by all APEC Member Economies. All 21 APEC Economies have adopted the HS Convention at the six-digit level as a basis for the collection of Customs duties and international trade statistics. Twenty Economies have adopted procedures and an organizational framework to ensure the consistent and uniform application of the HS Convention. Fifteen Economies introduced the laws and regulations to provide binding tariff classification to importers. Eleven Economies are providing WCO HS explanatory notes in local languages to relevant parties including frontline officers.

Japan is the coordinator of this CAP item and is providing technical assistance in collaboration with other Member Economies. Five Economies have provided technical assistance and nine Economies have received it while two Economies have requested it.

### *Public Availability of Information on Customs Laws, Regulations, Administrative Guidelines and Rulings*

This program is to improve Customs transparency and ensure that traders have all the pertinent information for business decisions through the provision of accurate, consistent and user-friendly Customs information. Twenty Member Economies have completed this task, and constructed and maintained their Customs websites. Nineteen Economies maintain contact points for clients to make inquiries about Customs procedures and 15 Economies have introduced the process to obtain public comments on changes to Customs laws and regulations. Eighteen Economies have published leaflets and materials to provide general and specific information.

Hong Kong, China and Singapore are the coordinators of this CAP item and will continue to update the 'Best Practices' Handbook on public availability of information of the Economies on an ongoing basis.



### *Adoption and Support for the UN/EDIFACT/Paperless Trading*

The objective of this program is to encourage the adoption of appropriate electronic technologies and procedures in order to reduce the requirement for paper documentation in Customs administration. Nineteen Member Economies have completed self-examination to identify opportunities for increased automation and are in the process of adopting computerized Customs clearance systems. Seventeen Economies have introduced laws and regulations to enable electronic submission and acceptance of Customs documents. Seventeen Economies have maximized the use of UN/EDIFACT or other standard Customs electronic formats.

Australia, the coordinator of this CAP, has provided technical assistance with two other Economies to seven Economies, and seven Economies have made requests for assistance.

### *Risk Management Techniques*

This CAP item intends to support the implementation of sound risk management practices in order to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while maintaining effective Customs control. Nineteen Member Economies have adopted a risk management methodology to identify high-risk shipments and facilitate the movement of low-risk shipments by applying this methodology to cargo examinations and document reviews. Eighteen Economies have built infrastructure to manage risk and 17 Economies have introduced a system to analyze risk. Fifteen Economies have set up a risk management training system.

Australia and the USA, the coordinators of the CAP item, have provided technical assistance to 14 Member Economies in cooperation with two other Economies.





### *Customs Integrity*

This CAP item aims to raise levels of integrity among APEC Customs administrations. As the basis for good governance, this item provides a sound platform for Customs reform and modernization. This integrity program is a four-phase project based on the World Customs Organization (WCO)'s Self-Assessment Guide.

Phase 1: Development of code of conduct has been completed by 18 Economies.

Phase 2: Integrity self-assessment process has been completed by 15 Economies.

Phase 3: Integrity action plans have been developed by 14 Economies.

Phase 4: Implementation and monitoring of action plans has been conducted by 13 Economies so far.

Australia and Hong Kong, China, the coordinators of the CAP item, have provided technical assistance to eight Member Economies, while four Economies requested it.

### *Customs-Business Partnership*

This CAP item aims to enhance cooperation and communication between Customs and the business sector. Sixteen Member Economies entered into cooperative relations with business partners by signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other forms of cooperative instruments. Seventeen Economies established official consultation or liaison channels with the trade for better understanding and cooperation. Sixteen Economies developed, improved, and widened the scope of partnership program initiatives and 17 Economies monitored satisfaction of the business community.

The CAP item is coordinated by Hong Kong, China, Mexico and Chinese Taipei, which provided technical assistance in the form of information exchange via a voluntary "Mentor System." A compendium of "Customs-Business Partnership Programmes", which lists all types of cooperative engagements each APEC Customs administration has established with respective business sectors, has been published.





## Stage 3 CAP Items:

Completed CAP items

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

The objective of this CAP is to establish simplified procedures for the classification of goods prior to importation, enhancing certainty and predictability to make sound business decisions based on legally-binding advice. Thirteen Member Economies enacted laws and regulations to introduce the Advanced Classification Ruling System and 17 Economies adopted procedures and an organizational framework to accept and provide advance classification rulings.

New Zealand and Korea are the coordinators of this CAP. Should any further requirement for assistance be identified, this can be undertaken through the CAP related to the Revised Kyoto Convention.

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

This CAP item is intended to provide a single system that is fair, uniform and neutral for the valuation of imported goods for Customs purposes, conforming to commercial realities and outlawing the use of arbitrary and fictitious Customs values. The Agreement, by its positive concept of value, recognizes that Customs valuation should, as far as possible, be based on the actual price of the goods to be valued. Nineteen Member Economies adopted procedures and an organizational framework to secure consistent and uniform application of the WTO Valuation Agreement. Eighteen Economies have adopted laws and regulations to provide binding valuation decisions to importers. Nineteen Economies adopted post clearance audit schemes and 17 Economies adopted appeals provisions.

Canada and the USA are the coordinators of this CAP item and have provided technical assistance. Six Member Economies provided technical assistance to 13 Economies and three Economies requested it.



### *Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Intellectual Property Rights Agreement*

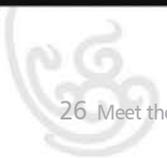
This CAP item is to help Member Economies in the implementation of the WTO Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and to tackle infringements on IPR. Sixteen Member Economies have acceded to the TRIPS Agreement. Nineteen Economies have implemented the procedures and an organizational framework to secure border enforcement to protect intellectual property rights. Eighteen Economies have introduced procedures dealing with applications for the suspension of release of the counterfeit goods and 14 Economies have adopted the system to notify importers and right holders on suspended goods.

The USA is the coordinator of this CAP item. Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the USA provided technical assistance to 10 Member Economies and five additional Economies have made requests for it.

### *Introduction of Clear Appeals Provision*

The key objective of this CAP is to provide Customs administrations with open and transparent decision-making processes in the implementation of clear appeal provisions. Nineteen Member Economies have introduced laws and regulations to establish an appeals system. Twenty Economies have established a transparent review process to appeal Customs decisions and actions. Seventeen Economies have set up a transparent judicial process to appeal Customs decisions which could be adverse to business operations.

Canada and the Philippines are the coordinators of the CAP item and Canada provided technical assistance to six Member Economies that have already benefited and two Economies have requested it.





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

This initiative was designed to assist Member Economies in the implementation of the A.T.A Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention. Temporary importation helps businesses move goods such as commercial samples, professional equipment, tools of trade and exhibition materials across borders with a high degree of certainty about how these goods will be treated by Customs. Fourteen Economies have acceded to the A.T.A. Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention and 18 Economies have adopted the standard document and procedures for handling goods under temporary importation. Thirteen Economies have windows that exclusively deal with the clearance of temporary importation goods and 16 Economies introduced control procedures and an organizational framework on imported goods subject to temporary importation procedures.

The USA and Chinese Taipei are the coordinators of this CAP item and have provided technical assistance. Three Member Economies provided technical assistance to six Economies and four Economies have requested it.

### *Express Consignment Clearance*

The goal of this CAP is to implement the principles of WCO Guidelines on Express Consignment and international standards for Customs clearance of express goods. It actively facilitates time-sensitive importation and the use of Customs procedures designed to permit rapid and reliable delivery service. Seventeen Member Economies enacted laws and regulations for express consignment based on WCO guidelines on Express Consignments and 15 Economies have established dedicated clearance windows to process express consignments. Seventeen Economies have adopted the system to provide 24-hour Customs clearance along with simplified clearance procedures for express consignments.

The USA and the People's Republic of China are the coordinators of this CAP item and have provided technical assistance along with five other Member Economies to five Economies and one Economy has made a request for it.

# Meet the Challenge, Make the Ch



## New CAP in 2005

# APEC Framework based on the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade

With APEC's expanded mandate to "create an environment for the secure and efficient movement of goods, services and people across borders in the region through policy alignment and economic and technical cooperation," the SCCP adopted this new CAP proposal.

To support the new CAP and to expand Members' knowledge of the APEC Framework, the United States arranged a workshop during the second SCCP meeting in 2005. The monitoring of the current level of implementation contained within the APEC framework is undertaken by each Member Economy.

It should be noted that the June 2005 Statement from the APEC Ministers Related to Trade (MRT) welcomed the work the SCCP had undertaken with regard to this CAP proposal. Also, the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) has endorsed the APEC Framework and will include a statement supporting APEC's implementation of the Framework in its report APEC Leaders' Meeting this November.

## Four Core Elements

- The Framework harmonizes the advance electronic cargo information requirements on inbound, outbound and transit shipments.
- Each Member Economy that joins the Framework commits to employing a consistent risk management approach to address security threats.
- The Framework requires that, at the reasonable request of the receiving Member Economy, based upon a comparable risk targeting methodology, the sending Member Economy's Customs administration will perform an outbound inspection of high-risk containers and cargo, preferably using non-intrusive detection equipment such as large-scale X-ray machines and radiation detectors.
- The Framework defines benefits that Customs will provide to business that meets minimal supply chain security standards and best practices.

## The Customs-to-Customs Pillar

- Integrated Supply Chain Management
- Cargo Inspection Authority
- Modern Technology in Inspection Equipment
- Risk-Management System
- High-risk Cargo or Container
- Advance Electronic Information
- Targeting and Communication
- Performance Measures
- Security Assessments
- Employee Integrity
- Outbound Security Inspections

## The Customs-to-Business Pillar

- Partnership
- Security
- Authorization
- Technology
- Communication
- Facilitation



Meet the Challenge, Make the



# e Change

New CAP in 2005

## Time-Release Surveys

Just-in-time delivery of goods is important for business and Time Release Surveys (TRS) has been a useful tool for identifying bottlenecks in Customs-related procedures and for improving efficiency and effectiveness.

TRS was adopted as a CAP item of the SCCP in February 2005, as a meaningful tool for self-assessment and further trade facilitation. Three workshops were held between the end of April and the beginning of May 2005 in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

Japan, Indonesia and Korea are the coordinators of the CAP and four national workshops are scheduled to be held in China, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Peru in 2006 -2007.

## Committee on Customs Procedures



# Meet the Challenge, Make the



# Trade Facilitation

In 2001, APEC Leaders committed themselves to implementing the APEC Trade Facilitation Principles with the goal of reducing trade transaction costs by five percent by 2006. In response, the SCCP participates in the 'movement of goods' component and fully supported the efficient, safe and effective transfer of goods and services. When reviewing mid-term reports, it was agreed that the SCCP would concentrate efforts on providing a qualitative report. Furthermore, it was agreed that the qualitative report would be a compilation of initiatives implemented since 2001.

Customs administrations from the APEC region have achieved significant progress in streamlining, upgrading and harmonizing their activities. The case studies that follow demonstrate SCCP Members' commitment to improved trade facilitation arrangements in an environment of increased security.

## *Australia*

- Cargo Management Re-engineering

## *Canada*

- G7 Initiatives

## *Chile*

- The Chilean Process of Exiting Goods

## *People's Republic of China*

- China Customs' Efforts and Measures on Trade Facilitation

## *Hong Kong, China*

- Enhanced Facilities and Streamlined Clearance Procedures for Land Boundary Vehicular Crossings
- Implementation of Inter-modal Transshipment Services
- Implementation of Open Bond System
- Implementation of Electronic Manifest Submission

## *Indonesia*

- Implementation of Priority Channel

## *Japan*

- Computerisation (Implementation of 'Single Window' and "CuPES")
- Large-scale X-ray Inspection Equipment
- Time Release Surveys
- Trade Facilitation and Effective Customs Enforcement

## *Republic of Korea*

- Less Number of Items Subject to Trade Control Requirements
- Paperless (P/L) and Web-based Customs Clearance System
- Reduction in Time Required for Cargo-Handling and Clearance

## *Malaysia*

- Implementation of the e-Logistics Project in Penang

## *Mexico*

- Expres: Certified Enterprises - FAST: Free and Secure Trade
- Gamma Ray System

## *New Zealand*

- Automation
- Papua New Guinea
- Upgrade of Customs Automated System

## *Peru*

- Enhancement of Importation Simplified Clearance Service Effectiveness in the Main Warehouses
- System of Customs Price
- Interconnection with SENASA

## *Philippines*

- Simplify Procedures and Reduce the Requirements for Paper Documentation in Customs Clearance

## *Singapore*

- Simplified Bank Guarantee System
- Simplification of Basis of Duty Payment for Intoxicating Liquors
- Revision of Licensed Warehouse Fees

## *Chinese Taipei*

- Implementation of Web-based Customs Declaration System

## *Thailand*

- E- Customs
- The Gold Card Privileges and Customs Partnership Activities
- Inspection Rate Reduction
- Container X-ray Technology Implementation
- One Day Clearance
- One Stop Service Center

## *United States of America*

- Automated Commercial Environment (ACE)
- Customs Modernisation





# SCCP COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

## OBJECTIVES

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The accurate, consistent and uniform application of the HS Convention by all APEC Member Economies</li> </ul>
2. Public Availability of Information on Customs Laws, Regulations, Administrative Guidelines and Rulings provided to the business sector on an ongoing basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve transparency of APEC Customs administrations</li> <li>To enhance the APEC Customs administrations' competency in the dissemination of information on Customs laws, regulations, procedures, rulings and guidelines</li> </ul>
3. Simplification and Harmonization on the basis of the Revised Kyoto Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simplified and standardized Customs procedures implemented by all APEC Member Economies</li> </ul>
4. Adoption and Support for the UN/EDIFACT/Paperless Trading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation by Member administrations of UN/EDIFACT international electronic messaging standards as the basis for their computerization programs</li> </ul>
5. Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of the Agreement by Members, in a timely and orderly manner, to meet Members' international obligations under the Agreement</li> </ul>
6. Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Intellectual Property Rights(TRIPS) Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic program designed and developed to implement the Agreement by Members, in a timely and orderly manner and to meet international obligations under the Agreement</li> </ul>
7. Introduction of Clear Appeals Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Customs appeal mechanisms by all Members</li> <li>The enhanced transparency and effectiveness of the appeals process and client service initiatives within APEC Customs administrations</li> </ul>
8. Introduction of an Advance Classification Ruling System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction of simplified procedures for an advance classification ruling system to the Customs procedures of each APEC Member Economy</li> </ul>
9. Provisions for Temporary Importation, e.g., acceding to the A.T.A. Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of the terms of the A.T.A. Carnet and Istanbul Conventions</li> <li>The provision of a common import/export documents for the temporary importation of goods</li> <li>An internationally accepted security for goods entitled to temporary admission without payment of duties and taxes</li> </ul>
10. Harmonized APEC Data Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of a set of trade data elements required for ordinary goods for home consumption</li> <li>The development of a set of best practices guidelines for the processing and clearance associated with the movement of goods until the goods are no longer under any Customs controls</li> </ul>
11. Risk Management Techniques To focus Customs enforcement efforts on high-risk goods and travelers and facilitate the movement of low-risk shipments, through a flexible approach tailored for each APEC Member Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of a systematic risk management approach will allow APEC Customs administrations to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while maintaining control</li> </ul>
12. Guidelines on Express Consignments Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timely implementation of the international standard for Customs clearance of express shipments</li> <li>Trade facilitation while maintaining essential Customs control responsibilities</li> </ul>
13. Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More accountable, consistent, reliable and transparent Customs administrations</li> </ul>
14. Customs-Business Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of Customs-Business Partnership with the relevant players/parties in the business sector through the signing of MOUs or other instruments of cooperative arrangement</li> <li>The establishment of permanent and regular liaison/consultation channels between Customs and the relevant players/parties in the business sector</li> </ul>
15. Time-Release Surveys (TRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to further trade facilitation by reducing costs and time in the transaction of goods</li> </ul>
16. Implementation of APEC Framework based on the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For APEC Member Economies to adopt and implement the provisions contained within the APEC Framework</li> </ul>

# SCCP CAP Implementation Status

	HS Convention	Public Availability of Information	Kyoto Convention	Paperless Trading	WTO Valuation Agreement	TRIPS	Clear Appeal Provisions	Advance Classification Ruling System	Temporary Importations	Common Data Elements	Risk Management	Express Consignments Clearance	Customs Integrity	Customs-Business Partnership
Plan coordinators	Japan	HK, China Singapore	New Zealand Japan	Australia	Canada USA	USA	Canada Philippines	New Zealand Korea	USA Chinese Taipei	Canada	Australia USA	USA P.R. China	Australia HK, China	HK, China Mexico Chinese Taipei
Australia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Brunei	●	●	●		●		●	●		●	●		●	
Canada	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chile	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
China	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hong Kong, China	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Indonesia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Japan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Korea	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Malaysia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mexico	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
New Zealand	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
PNG	●	●	●	●	●		●			●	●	●	●	
Peru	●	●	●	●	●		●				●	●	●	
Philippines	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Russia	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Singapore	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chinese Taipei	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Thailand	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
USA	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Viet Nam	●	●			●									

Two new CAPs adopted in 2005 by the SCCP are as following:

- APEC Framework based on the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade
- Time-Release Surveys

- Implemented
- Actual implementation data subject to China's accession to WTO
- Accession to the Convention subject to internal approval process
- On-going process
- Not applicable
- Partially

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# Acronyms :

APEC	<i>Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation</i>
ABAC	<i>APEC Business Advisory Council</i>
ACBD	<i>APEC Custom-Business Dialogue</i>
ASEAN	<i>Association of South East Asian Nations</i>
A.T.A.	<i>Carnet Admission Temporaire Temporary Admission Carnet Convention</i>
CAP	<i>Collective Action Plan</i>
CTI	<i>Committee on Trade and Investment</i>
EDI	<i>Electronic Data Interchange</i>
FACTS	<i>Facilitation, Accountability, Consistency, Transparency, and Simplification</i>
G7	<i>Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United States</i>
HS	<i>Harmonized System of Tariff Classification</i>
IAP	<i>Individual Action Plan</i>
IATA	<i>International Air Transport Association</i>
IBCC	<i>International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce</i>
MOU	<i>Memorandum of Understanding</i>
OECD	<i>Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development</i>
ROO	<i>Rules of Origin</i>
SCCP	<i>Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures</i>
SOM	<i>Senior Officials or Senior Officials' Meeting</i>
TILF	<i>Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation</i>
TRIPS	<i>Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights</i>
UN	<i>United Nations</i>
UN/EDIFACT	<i>UN Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport</i>
WCO	<i>World Customs Organization</i>
WTO	<i>World Trade Organization</i>





## Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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