

SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES (SCCP)

CONVENORS REPORT AND INPUTS FOR 2020 CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS

Key Achievements in 2020

This section will be incorporated in the body of the 2020 CTI Annual Report to Ministers. Please provide one paragraph per achievement in dot points. Where possible, please highlight outcomes of these achievements.

- SCCP held a Policy Dialogue on **“The Future of Trade and Implications for the Border”** on 6-7 February 2020 (SCCP 01 2019S - Australia) where participants discussed on regulatory changes and opportunities for digital enable trade through border management as well as the coordination and alignment of border management and what are the opportunities for APEC region. Members also identified challenges in trade and border management reforms and highlighted the relevance of data collection regarding border management experiences and the importance of coordination across governments, private sector and stakeholders in the APEC region. As part of the Project, a digital **“APEC Border Management Dashboard”** will be produced by Australia to showcase member economies approaches to trade modernization and implementation of key building blocks across three dimensions: policy and regulation; technology and ICT; and industry and supply chains. The Dashboard will also include information on what economies are doing to address COVID19 impact and recovery, giving the opportunity to members to identify capacity-building needs.
- During 2020, Chile and Chinese Taipei carried out the second phase of the APEC Funded Project (SCCP 01 2019A) **“Integrating SMEs in AEO Certification: Improving SMEs Participation in APEC Secure Trade”**. A second Workshop on **“Integrating SMEs and E-Commerce in AEO Supply Chains”** was successfully held in a hybrid format on 15 October 2020. 16 APEC member economies and 161 participants attended the Workshop. On the other hand, two self-funded reports have been produced by Chinese Taipei to become APEC Publications by the end of the year: a **“Manual of Best Practices according to the AEO Benefits Survey under Pillar 3 WCO Safe Framework”** and a **“APEC Time Release Comparison Study”**.

Work Undertaken by the Fora in Response to COVID-19 (if applicable)

Please provide no more than one paragraph per work undertaken in dot points.

- Following the suggestion made by the CTI Chair to sub-fora, the SCCP Chair carried out during June -August 2020 a voluntary exercise, a **“Compilation of Initiatives from SCCP members to mitigate the effects of COVID19 pandemic”**, based on information provided by WCO and subsequently updated by 10 member economies, that was submitted to the CTI Chair for information. The main goal of the initiative was to become an information exchange mechanism for member economies on the responses taken by customs agencies

in the APEC Region to face the COVID19 pandemic, in order to complement WCO international efforts in this matter.

- During November – December 2020, seven SCCP members participated in a **“Mutual Enforcement Operation focusing on counterfeit goods related to the detection and treatment of COVID19”** led by the United States. This initiative built upon the previous work done by the SCCP since 2011, which has included several Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) mutual enforcement operations and the “APEC IPR Enforcement Compendium 2019”, which was endorsed by the SCCP last year. This operation had placed emphasis on increasing information sharing with all participating customs authorities and the expertise developed would serve as a resource for future capacity building work for SCCP in this area. The outcomes of this operation will be given at the SCCP1 2021.
- During the second virtual SCCP meeting of 2020, Japan presented the outcomes on a **Questionnaire on Cruise Ship Advance Information**, which was carried out during April-May, to understand further the current situations and the advance information systems regarding Customs control on Cruise Ships operated in the APEC economies. The key results were that although the circumstances were widely different among economies, there were the similarities on members’ concerns and interests regarding customs control on cruise passengers and that this kind of initiative could contribute to reaching the common understanding among the members. To achieve further mutual understanding among the members, as a new action plan, Japan also expressed its intention to study during 2021 on the measures taken by APEC customs authorities during COVID-19 pandemic, especially focusing on the customs' internal management such as work arrangement, performance evaluation and mental care for customs officers.
- As part of Self-Funded Project “The Future of Trade and Implications for the Border Policy Dialogue” (SCCP 01 2019S), Australia has created a live **APEC Border Management Dashboard** showcasing member economy approaches to trade modernisation and implementation of the building blocks. The digital dashboard provides APEC members with a map of regulations, developments and practices across the region, providing data points of where an economy is at or an initiative being undertaken or challenge being faced. The digital dashboard, to be linked on the APEC website, is aimed to become a live tool for the SCCP that will support capacity building, greater collaboration and coordination as well as information sharing regarding COVID19 responses and measures taken by APEC member economies.

Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora

Please provide a high-level summary of issues in dot points

- During the first SCCP plenary meeting, members held discussions on the WTO TFA implementation and shared updates in regards to supply chain connectivity, single window, AEO, information technology and risk management, IPR and cross border e-commerce.

- The second SCCP virtual meeting was mostly focused in the discussions regarding COVID19 and several SCCP member economies and WCO shared the best practices and measures that Customs agencies and WCO have implemented in the context of the COVID19 outbreak.
- During this year, SCCP have been discussing on its internal governance to improve its overall effectiveness and performance, in order to have a better planning and undertake concrete outcomes. At the second SCCP virtual meeting, SCCP members agreed to discuss a Strategic Plan for the SCCP, with an established timeframe (4-5 years) and clear objectives. The details including the relationship between the Collective Action Plan, the Work Program and the strategic plan will be discussed intersessionally. A group of economies assisted by the APEC Secretariat will lead the drafting of the Plan.
- During 2020, SCCP has continued supporting the effective implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) its relevant provisions within APEC Region, having in consideration the relevant and crucial role that customs agencies play in this matter. With this purpose, SCCP members have participated in different capacity building activities to strengthen member's commitments, such as the Capacity building on Article 3 of WTO TFA regarding Advance Rulings which was held during the SOM 1 in Putrajaya, Malaysia, organised by US-SEGA.
- SCCP continued collaborating with CTI to implement the Phase II of the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan SCFAP II and addressing its five chokepoints.
- In order to contribute to the promotion of regional economic integration and enhancement of the supply chain connectivity, SCCP continued discussing on the need to move forward to address the challenges and main gaps that the APEC economies face in the implementation of their Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) Programs and the promotion of Mutual Recognition Agreements between APEC Customs agencies and in the APEC Region.
- SCCP members have highlighted the importance to continue cooperating and coordinating its work with the World Customs Organization.

Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers/Leaders at the end of 2020 (if applicable)

Please advise if your Fora intends to submit any deliverables to Senior Officials or Ministers/Leaders and attach these documents.

- Not applicable