

CHEMICAL DIALOGUE (CD)

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.

- The CD endorsed a U.S. self-funded project proposal on regulatory cooperation in Southeast Asia and held a policy dialogue on the margins of SOM1 in February 2020 to identify and share best practices and actionable approaches for APEC chemical regulators seeking to engage in regulatory cooperation with trade partners.
- The CD developed a regulatory cooperation report to capture a range of regulatory cooperation activities underway in the chemical sector across the Asia-Pacific, in other regions, and globally, along with best practices associated with those activities.
- The CD successfully submitted a project proposal for APEC funding to build capacity of member economy chemical regulators by increasing awareness of objective, scientifically sound, risk assessment principles, and facilitating their use in decision-making across the public and private sectors.
- The CD developed a new strategic framework for 2020 – 2023 for endorsement by CTI intersessionally prior to the end of 2020.
- The CD conducted a survey of APEC economies regarding their implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (“GHS”), which was used to produce a report and recommendations to promote consistency of GHS implementation.
- The CD collaborated with the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group to organize a series of webinars on promoting investment and innovation to combat marine litter and build a more circular economy in APEC.
- Industry representatives within the CD developed a statement on the economic importance of the chemical sector and the need for greater regional economic integration.

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.

From personal protective equipment to hand sanitizer, the chemical industry plays an essential role in producing important supplies in the fight against COVID-19. Chemistry represents 75 percent of the value of cleaning and disinfectant products; 27 percent of the value of medical equipment, including face masks, diagnostic equipment, disposable gowns, shoe booties and hoods; and 25 percent of the value of material inputs used to make medical supplies such as test tubes, housings for test kits, goggles, surgical gloves, and surgical instruments. The CD has several ongoing and new initiatives to help facilitate the flow of critical inputs for these essential goods including:

- Ongoing initiatives on regulatory cooperation in the chemical sector and sharing of information on customs practices for chemicals and new regulatory developments.
- Ongoing work through the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris to help build more circular economies in APEC which can help to reduce shortages of key supplies by keeping materials in use.
- A new APEC funded project on risk assessment in the chemical sector which will enable economies to better assess the risks of innovative new products or substances that could help combat the pandemic.
- Revising the CD's strategic framework to incorporate a forward looking strategic focus on emphasizing efforts that will facilitate and enhance regional COVID-19 response.

Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora

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

The CD is continuing its work to:

- Prevent barriers to trade in chemicals through regulatory cooperation;
- Facilitate the flow of critical inputs for essential goods to combat COVID-19 such as personal protective equipment, medical equipment, cleaning, and disinfecting supplies;
- Align implementation of the UN Globally Harmonized System of Chemical Classification and Labels (GHS);
- Address emerging issues such as marine debris and waste management of plastic;
- Build capacity on risk assessment for chemical substances.

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.

The CD requests that the following documents be submitted with the CTI report to Ministers:

- Report to Ministers on Implementation Convergence of the GHS in APEC Economies
- Letter to APEC Ministers: The Chemical Industry Calls for Greater Regional Economic Integration