**The Twenty-fifth Meeting of the APEC Chemical Dialogue (“CD25”)**

**Final Report**

*4 – 5 November, 2020 (Americas)*

*5 – 6 November, 2020 (Asia)*

*Location: Virtual*

The Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the APEC Chemical Dialogue (“CD” or “Dialogue” (“CD25”) was convened virtually and was attended by 17 APEC economies; including Australia (Government & Industry); Canada (Industry); Chile (Government & Industry); Chinese Taipei (Government & Industry); Indonesia (Government & Industry); Japan (Government & Industry); The Republic of Korea (Government & Industry); Malaysia (Government & Industry); Mexico (Industry); New Zealand (Government); Peru (Government); Philippines (Government & Industry); Russia (Industry); Singapore (Industry); Thailand (Industry); The Philippines (Government); United States (Government & Industry); Viet Nam (Government). CD25 was co-chaired by Ms. Renee Hancher as the acting Government Co-Chair and Mr. Sergio Barrientos as the Industry Co-Chair.

|  |
| --- |
| **5 November 2020 – APEC Chemical Dialogue Meeting (Day 1)** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **09:00 – 09:15** | **OPENING SESSION**  |

**Welcome from Government Co-Chair** **Government Co-Chair**

The acting Government Co-Chair convened the second meeting of the Chemical Dialogue (“Dialogue” or “CD”) in 2020 in a virtual format. The Government Co-Chair highlighted that the meeting will be the first virtual meeting of the APEC Chemical Dialogue and noted that despite the condensed agenda it is the Co-Chairs’ hope that delegates will find the meeting useful, and that they are able to advance the CD’s objectives as they relate to regulatory cooperation, GHS implementation, and sustainability. Due to the limited time frame, the Government Co-Chair advised each delegate to introduce themselves via the chat function of the web platform to confirm their presence.

**Welcome from Industry Co-Chair** **Industry Co-Chair**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/002](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_002.pdf) – Chemical Industry Calls for Greater Regional Economic Integration

Action Item: The CD –

* Noted the intention of industry to submit a letter to APEC Ministers via the CTI report to Ministers

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Chemical Industry Coalition (“APCIC”), the new Industry Co-Chair welcomed all delegates. He provided a brief background on his role in ASIQUIM and his experience in the chemicals sector. He thanked Dr. Shinoi Sakata, Executive Director of the Japan Chemical Industry Association (“JCIA”) for her excellent work as the previous industry co-chair and for JCIA’s longstanding commitment to the APEC Chemical Dialogue. He also thanked the APEC Secretariat and the host economy for their support. The Industry Co-Chair provided a brief update regarding the letter from Chemical Industry Associations in the APEC region to APEC Ministers. The letter called for greater regional economic integration and was tabled at the first meeting of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) in 2020. The Industry Co-Chair noted the letter will be transmitted through the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) to APEC Ministers. He noted there is no further action required from the CD and thanked all of the industry associations that contributed to the development of the letter.

**Welcome and Update From Host** **SOM Chair &** **Malaysia Representative**

The SOM Chair's Office welcomed the Co-Chairs and delegates to the APEC CD and delivered a brief presentation on Malaysia's accomplishments for 2020 – particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted that Malaysia has hosted 65 virtual meetings since July 2020 and that the Ministers Responsible for Trade met virtually for the first time ever and reached agreement on a consensus statement that is driving work and initiatives under most APEC working groups.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **09:15 – 9:35** | **STRATEGY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHEMICAL DIALOGUE** |

**APEC Secretariat Update** **APEC Secretariat**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/003](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_003.pdf) –- APEC Secretariat Management Update

Johnny Lin of the APEC Secretariat shared a presentation on 2020 APEC projects and the project submission process. He noted in Session 1, 97 Concept Notes were submitted and 54 Concept Notes were approved in-principle, making the approval rate 55%. He noted in Session 2, 97 Concept Notes were submitted, and 65 Concept Notes were approved, making the approval rate 65%. The Secretariat also highlighted a CD proposal by the United States that was approved for 2020 - 2021, titled “*Facilitating Trade by Improving Risk Assessment Capacity*.”

Looking ahead, the Secretariat outlined expected priorities for APEC Projects in 2021, including: a post-2020 vision; the free flow of essential medical goods; and any other COVID-19 related topics. He noted any amendments to project proposals must be provided with 4 months’ notice. Finally, the Secretariat provided a list of resources for APEC CD delegates if they are interested in submitting a project proposal for next year and noted the new project sub-fund on marine debris management and innovation which will be overseen by the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group is now accepting proposals.

**Review of Strategic Framework** **Government Co-Chair**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/021](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_021_r.pdf) - APEC Chemical Dialogue: Strategic Framework for Chemicals in the Asia-Pacific Region 2020-2023

Action Items: The CD-

* Welcomed the development of the 2020 – 2023 Strategic Framework and set a date of November 11 for additional comments.

 The acting Government Co-Chair noted the revised Strategic Framework for 2020-2023 was circulated to the CD on October 15 with a deadline of October 29 for comments. Based on the comments received a revised document was circulated on November 4. She briefly outlined the shared goals and noted that the updated framework is more streamlined than the previous document, with more focus on the shared goals and COVID-19 response.

Chile noted the strategic document should be aligned with the post-2020 vision document. Because the strategic framework was shared with CD participants in November 2020, the Government Co-Chair noted additional time is needed for review of the framework and the CD plans to have the document endorsed intersessionally after the CD meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **9:35-9:50** | **GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM FOR THE LABELLING AND CLASSIFICATION OF CHEMICALS (GHS)** |

 **Virtual Working Group on GHS Industry Co-Chair**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/019](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_019.pdf) - Report to Ministers on Implementation Convergence of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in APEC Economies - Executive Summary

Action Items: The CD -

* Welcomed the Industry Co-Chair of the VWG on GHS;
* Called for nominations for a Government Co-Chair of the VWG on GHS; and
* Welcomed the GHS report and its transmission through CTI to APEC Ministers.

Cissie Yeung, Singapore Chemical Industry Council (“SCIC”), introduced the new industry co-chair for the VWG on GHS and thanked the previous co-chair for his contribution. She reminded CD delegates that the VWG on GHS needs a Government Co-Chair and requested if any delegates are interested, to reach out to the virtual working group.

The new VWG on GHS Industry Co-Chair, Mr. Fabien Henry of the Singapore office of the Nickel Institute, thanked the CD for the opportunity for his new role, and noted he that looked forward to contributing to the great work that has already been done. He expressed how 2020 has been a challenging year, so work progress has been delayed. However, he noted the VWG will meet virtually after the CD to build on the existing work plan. The Industry Co-Chair then welcomed three new members from industry, including SCIC, Responsible Care Indonesia (“RCI”), and SPIK Philippines. Finally, he expressed a special thank you to Australia, which provided leadership putting the GHS implementation convergence report together for many years and to Chinese Taipei, for volunteering to take over the responsibilities for developing the annual GHS report from Australia.

After the Industry Co-Chair, Doris Tsai from the Safety and Health Technology Center (“SAHTECH”) in Chinese Taipei provided an updated on the GHS implementation convergence questionnaire. She noted the 2020 GHS questionnaire has been endorsed. She also highlighted that responses from APEC economies have been analyzed across the region, and more collaboration and alignment is required. Finally, she welcomed the new Industry Co-Chair of the Working Group.

The United States expressed appreciation to the VWG on GHS for its work.

**Extensions and Status of the G.R.E.A.T. Project  Chinese Taipei**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/004](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_004.pdf) - Update on the G.R.E.A.T. project

Ellen Lin, SAHTECH, Chinese Taipei delivered an update on the GHS Reference Exchange and Tool (“G.R.E.A.T.”) project. She noted the initiative was established to facilitate GHS implementation and international trade in the APEC region. With support from APEC economies, Chinese Taipei developed the GHS Clearinghouse Website to provide GHS labeling elements and relevant information from member and non‐member economies around the world. She highlighted that in 2020, it launched a new feature in accordance with the consensus at the 24th CD meeting for a visual tool depicting GHS implementation status across the APEC member economies. Chinese Taipei noted the new feature can clearly present the results of the survey and reinforce the importance of the GHS convergence progress in the APEC region.

Several APEC member economies and the Government Co-Chair thanked Chinese Taipei for the update and the substantial work on the G.R.E.A.T. project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **9:50-10:00** | **DATA EXCHANGE** |

**Virtual Working Group on Data Exchange Singapore & Russian Federation**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/005](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_005.pdf) - Self-Funded Project - Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Seminars for Regulators and Industry
* [2020/CD2/006](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_006_r.pdf) - Interactive Guide on Chemical Regulations

Ms. Cissie Yeung of SCIC, on behalf of the CIS Center of the Russian Federation, provided an update regarding implementation of the VWG on Data Exchange work plan, including plans to develop a series of informational webinars. The webinars will focus on GHS implementation and aim to: encourage experience exchange; promote the consideration of best practices; and foster discussion of difficulties and challenges.

The Russian Federation’s CIS Center provided a brief overview of Russia’s Interactive Guide on Chemical Regulations, which includes information on databases, chemical inventories, how confidential business information is handled, GHS implementation, status of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and regulations regarding the transportation of chemicals as well as additional information.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **10:00-10:25** | **MARINE DEBRIS AND SUSTAINABILITY** |

**Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris** **Representative of the Marine Debris VWG**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/018](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_018.pdf) – Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris Update

Dr. Ryan MacFarlane, coordinator for the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris (“MDVWG”), provided background on the MDVWG, and shared previous accomplishments, including the creation of the Policy and Practice Recommendations and the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris. He noted the availability of the APEC Marine Debris Sub-Fund as an opportunity to fund marine-debris related projects, and provided an overview of the 2020 webinar series developed in collaboration with the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group, which focused on innovative funding models and innovative technologies for land-based waste management in the APEC region. He also referenced the MDVWG’s website as a good resource to find all marine debris related activity in APEC.

**Marine Debris and Sustainability Japan Industry**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/007](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_007.pdf) - Introduction of Training Seminar on Plastic Waste Management by Japan Initiative for Marine Environment

Mr. Toshihiko Higuchi, of JCIA, provided a brief presentation regarding a training seminar on plastic waste management under the **Ja**pan **I**nitiative for **M**arine **E**nvironment (“JaIME”). The training took place in February 2020. JCIA noted that participants of the week-long training seminar included policy makers, national and local governments, plastic manufactures, retailers, and waste treatment companies – with 29 individuals in total participating. The overall goal of the training seminar was to understand the concept of material flow analysis. The representative noted common challenges were raised among participants, including: effective methods of operating laws and regulations; how to raise operating funds for waste management; how to communicate with the general public; how to collect the data for creating a Material Flow Chart; and how to develop effective waste separation and collection systems.

**Strategies of Sustainable Chemistry Chinese Taipei**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/008](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_008.pdf) - The Strategy of Sustainable Chemistry in Chinese Taipei

Mr. Chung-Shen Wu from Chinese Taipei’s Environmental Protection Administration shared Chinese Taipei’s experience regarding strategy and implementation of sustainable and green chemistry. She highlighted five key strategies for the Chemical Substances Management Policy Guidelines, including: good governance; risk reduction; capacity building; knowledge and information of chemicals management; and cooperation to eliminate illegal international traffic. She also provided several examples of companies’ best practices, including establishing 10 quantitative management indicators to evaluate a supply chain’s performance in terms of green manufacturing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **10:25-10:30** | **DAY 1 CLOSING** |

 **Day 1 Closing Government Co-Chair**

After a brief logistical update from the APEC Secretariat, the Government Co-Chair thanked everyone for their participation and noted that she looked forward to the second day of discussions.

|  |
| --- |
| **6 November 2020 – APEC Chemical Dialogue Meeting (Day 2)** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **9:00-9:05** | **INTRODUCTION FROM GOVERNMENT CO-CHAIR** |

 **Welcome from Government Co-Chair** **Government Co-Chair**

The acting Government Co-Chair opened the second day of the Chemical Dialogue. She noted that the day’s session will focus on regulatory cooperation issues and reminded delegates about the participation rules from Day 1. She encouraged any delegates who may not have joined on Day 1 to please introduce themselves in the chat function of the web platform (economy, government/industry, name).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **9:05-9:35** | **CHEMICAL DIALOGUE REGULATOR’S FORUM**  |

**Mercury Use Trends in the United States United States**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/009](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_009.pdf) - Inventory of Mercury Supply, Use, and Trade​ in the United States​

Action Item: The CD:

* Welcomed the presentation on the Inventory of Mercury Supply, Use, and Trade in the United States

Mr. Thomas Groeneveld of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) presented on mercury use trends in the United States, the Mercury Inventory Reporting Rule, information that must be reported, who must report the information, as well as an overview of the 2020 inventory report.

After the presentation, U.S. Industry thanked U.S. EPA for the presentation and for attending the CD25. New Zealand thanked the Co-Chairs and host Malaysia for CD25 and noted that New Zealand has completed 3 inventories of mercury and goods containing mercury, and is a signatory to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

**Regulatory Updates United States**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/010](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_010.pdf) - Update on Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme
* [2020/CD2/011](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_011.pdf) - Regulatory Developments in the Philippines

Action Items: The CD:

* Welcomed regulatory updates from Australia, The Philippines, Viet Nam, Chile, New Zealand, and Indonesia;
* Called for nominations for the Chair of the Regulators’ Forum;
* Requested that all economies interested in participating in the work of the Regulators’ Forum provide contact information for their regulators to the Secretariat to enable a refresh of the Forum’s distribution list; and
* Directed the Regulators Forum to develop an Action Plan for 2021-22 once a Chair is endorsed by the CD.

Australia provided an update on its Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme and its revised website. The Philippines presented on its regulatory developments in chemicals, including the implementation of a risk assessment workshop and the ongoing implementation of GHS, among other updates. The Government Co-Chair then opened the floor to CD delegates to provide regulatory updates that had not yet been tabled.

Viet Nam noted it is developing a plan to enhance its chemical management system in the long-term. Chile provided an update on its progress to improve the control of imported products with added mercury. Chile’s custom service and Environmental Ministry will expand the tariff codes to control and monitor these types of products in greater detail. Chile is also engaging with civil society to promote products without added mercury. New Zealand shared that it is planning to implement GHS 7 in April 2021 and is creating proposals to improve processes for assessing and reassessing hazardous substances. Indonesia highlighted it is preparing national standards for GHS 7 and provided an update regarding efforts to address marine debris.

The Government Co-Chair thanked all CD delegates for their updates. She reminded participants that a series of questions to help guide member economy regulatory submissions were provided and took a moment to see if there was any feedback from delegates on the guiding questions. Australia noted that it found the guiding questions useful.

Finally, the Government Co-Chair noted there is no Regulators Forum Chair and encouraged economies to consider nominating a Chair to push work forward, including developing an action plan and building up participation in the Forum.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **9:35-10:25** | **REGULATORY COOPERATION AND CONVERGENCE**  |

**Good Regulatory Practices United States**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/012](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_012.pdf) - Good Regulatory Practices ​and Regulatory Cooperation in APEC and the Chemical Dialogue

Ms. Renee Hancher, representing the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, presented on good regulatory practices (GRPs) and regulatory cooperation. She noted that when applied uniformly and consistently, GRPs produce more effective and efficient regulatory outcomes. She highlighted a number of ways GRPs support trade, including helping eliminate burdensome, duplicative and divergent regulatory requirements; and emphasized APEC’s role promoting GRPs through the 2002 Transparency Standards, and the 2005 APEC-OECD Checklist on Regulatory Reform, along with numerous GRP Conferences.

After the presentation, the Philippines highlighted their best practices in chemical regulations workshop which was implemented during Viet Nam’s host year was a very good collaboration with the United States and the outcome of the workshop gave good results. The Philippines suggested the CD should consider having this type of workshop again. Indonesia asked if there was any opportunity to participate in that type of workshop in the near future. U.S. Industry thanked the United States for the presentation – noted it would be useful for the CD to re-invigorate GRPs not only in the chemicals sector but across all sectors and asked New Zealand if GRPs will be a priority for their host year.

**Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence U.S. Industry**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/013](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_013.pdf) - Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence - Report to the APEC Chemical Dialogue [2020/CD2/020](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_020_r.pdf) – APEC Chemical Dialogue: Regulatory Cooperation Report

Action Items: The CD:

* Encouraged economies to contribute to the Regulatory Cooperation Report by November 19th
* Called for nominations for government Co-Chair of the VWG on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence

Mr. Ed Brzytwa of the American Chemistry Council and industry co-chair of the Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence (VWGRCC) provided a summary of the latest VWGRCC meeting and its focus on two initiatives, including the APEC CD Report on Regulatory Cooperation and the Risk Assessment Workshop. He noted the draft Regulatory Cooperation Report was distributed to CD participants on November 4th and reminded participants they have until November 19th to provide edits to the document. He highlighted the best practices within the report and noted these best practices will become the foundation for a toolkit that will be developed in 2021.

After the presentation, the Government Co-Chair noted the VWGRCC is missing a Government Co-Chair position and welcomed APEC economies to nominate individuals for the position.

**Regulatory Cooperation in ASEAN Singapore Industry**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/015](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_015.pdf) - ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Project (ARCP)

Action Item: The CD:

* Welcomed the report on the ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Project

Cissie Yeung from the Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SCIC) provided an update on the ASEAN Regulatory Cooperation Project (ARCP). SCIC noted the ARCP is an initiative of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)’s Global Regulatory Cooperation Task Force (GRC TF) which aims to address non-tariff barriers by encouraging regulatory cooperation and convergence. She highlighted three key areas of focus for the project, including GHS, chemical inventory, and risk assessment. She also emphasized key accomplishments, including the development of the ASEAN Guidance Document for ASEAN Member States and the establishment of an effective ASEAN Member State Network on regular exchanges of updates on chemical regulatory management.

U.S. Industry thanked SCIC for their great work on the ARCP and noted it looked forward to in-person APEC meetings on the topic in 2022. They also made a suggestion to put a “marker down” for regulatory cooperation in ASEAN during the APEC Thailand 2022 host year to discuss the issue further. Australia asked how confidential business information (CBI) is protected. SCIC noted it included CBI protection in their ASEAN Guidance Document.

**Risk Assessments Project U.S. Industry**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/014](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_014.pdf) - APEC Chemical Dialogue Risk Challenge Virtual Workshop Project: CD 01 2020T

Action Item: The CD:

* Encouraged all delegates interested in participating in the virtual risk assessment project to register that interest with the project overseers.

Several representatives from the VWGRCC provided a brief overview of the APEC CD Risk Challenge Virtual Workshop, “Facilitating Trade by Improving Risk Assessment Capacity”, which will take place in February 2021. The workshop aims to promote understanding of assessing risk in resource limited settings using actual examples.

The representative noted an informational e-mail will be sent to APEC CD members in November 2020 and will contain a request for nominations from economies to attend the workshop as well as information on how to register.

Chilean industry expressed its appreciation for the APEC CD Risk Assessment Workshop which was held in Puerto Varas, Chile in 2019 and noted its success with participation from governments and the private sector. The United States noted it is pleased the workshop will be going forward in a virtual format. The United States also shared a number of current risk evaluations that the U.S. EPA is reviewing in the chat function of the web platform.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **10:25-10:40** | **MEETING SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS** |

 **Update from 2021 Host New Zealand New Zealand**

Rio Yoon from New Zealand’s Ministry for the Environment provided a brief update regarding preparations for New Zealand’s 2021 APEC host year. New Zealand noted it decided to host all APEC 2021 meetings on a virtual basis. The objectives of its host year is to lead a collaborative, regional response to COVID-19, reaffirm the relevance of APEC, particularly in times of crisis, and take full advantage of digital diplomacy. New Zealand highlighted that it aims to design a calendar of meetings and events that look like a normal APEC year, but will aim for shorter meetings that are spread across a larger number of days to accommodate multiple time zones.

New Zealand emphasized it will be encouraging capacity building workshops like any other year and expects to provide meeting platforms for meetings and workshops. New Zealand plans to replicate the Senior Official Meeting clusters and overall meeting order as much as possible. They noted their regret that they will not be able to host APEC meetings in-person, but expressed hope that the virtual format will give certainty to economies for next year. New Zealand noted it is currently in the process of recalibrating host priorities and looks forward to working with the CD and its participants to ensure 2021 is a success.

**Meeting Summary APCIC**

Mr. Dj Wolff, representing the APCIC, summarized the CD discussions and read the list of agreed upon action items for revision and endorsement by delegates.

**Document Classification APEC Secretariat**

Meeting Documents

* [2020/CD2/00](http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2020/CD/CD2/20_cd2_000_r.pdf) - Document Classification List

The APEC Secretariat reviewed the Document Classification List and delegates endorsed the document. After the endorsement, the Government Co-Chair and the Industry Co-Chair thanked the APEC Secretariat and the CD participants for a successful CD25 and closed the meeting.