

**APEC Sub Committee on
Standards and Conformance:
*A brief overview of its role and
work program***

4 February 2010

Wellington, New Zealand



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

Overview



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

- Background to the SCSC
 - Key objectives
 - Key activities
 - Key achievements

- The Conference on Implementation of Energy Management Standardisation Project
 - Background
 - Objectives

Background to the SCSC



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

- The Sub Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC):
 - established in 1994 pursuant to the “Declaration on a Standards and Conformance Framework”
 - reports to the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)
 - open to all APEC member economies
 - representatives drawn from agencies responsible for standards and conformance issues as well as trade policy matters
 - meets twice a year

Key objectives of the SCSC



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

- Reduce negative effect on trade due to different standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures
- Promote open regionalism and market driven economic interdependence
- Promote greater alignment of national standards with international standards and consistency of approaches to conformity assessment
- Progress mutual recognition of conformity assessment
- Promote good regulatory practices and transparency of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures
- Encourage cooperation on the development of technical infrastructure
- Promote greater regulatory dialogue
- Encourage business involvement in standards and conformance activities

Scope of Activity



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

- The initial focus of the SCSC was on:
 - Alignment with international standards
 - Technical infrastructure development
 - Recognition of conformity assessment
 - Transparency

- The agenda has evolved to include:
 - Good Regulatory Practice
 - Cooperation with regional and international bodies
 - Business involvement

Alignment with international standards



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Key activities:

- Voluntary Action Plan: Alignment of domestic standards with international standards in agreed priority areas
- Ongoing discussion of current technical regulations and policy issues relating to trade with a view to facilitating trade and regulatory effectiveness
- **8th Conference on Standards and Conformance to be held in September 2010**, Japan focusing on Green Harmonisation
- Support and encourage the active participation in standards activities of international standardisation bodies e.g. ISO/IEC

Key achievements:

- VAP alignment achieved in many past and current priority areas
- Establishment of the **Trade Facilitation Task Force** to facilitate exchange of information and discussion on technical and trade issues arising from product related environmental standards and related matters
- Regular conferences to increase awareness of regional and international trends and issues

Technical Infrastructure Development



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Key activities:

- Establishment of a relationship between the SCSC and the five SRBs
- A range of projects aimed to build technical capacity in the region
 - e.g. **Conference on Implementation of Energy Management Standardisation Project**

Key achievements:

- SRB Strategic Plan to help identify key elements of national technical infrastructures the development of which need to be prioritised to assist regional trade
- Early awareness of SCSC needs that could be supported through the work of the SRBs
- Ongoing activities and completion of projects in response to the Bogor Goals and the Osaka Action Agenda

APEC Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs)



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

■ The five SRBs are:

- Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)
- Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)
- Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP)
- Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)
- Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC)

■ They were established to:

- provide specialized advice to and support the SCSC work program and the APEC trade facilitation objectives
- provide a coordinated approach to standards and conformance infrastructure development in the region
- promote regional cooperation
- effectively represent the interests of APEC economies in peak international standards and conformance organisations

Recognition of Conformity Assessment



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Key activities:

- Development of broader networks of recognition arrangements through the region to assist the SCSC work program
- Increased regulator engagement and dialogue on conformity assessment policy issues to develop better understanding of the regional trade impact
- Recognition the MRAs in voluntary sector are a vital foundation for APEC MRAs

Key achievements:

- The development of several APEC MRAs including in the food area and in relation to electrical and electronic equipment (APEC EE MRA)
- Implementation of the APEC EE MRA with increased participation in all 3 Parts of the MRA
- Seminars and workshops on conformity assessment related issues

Good Regulatory Practice (GRP)



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Key activities:

- Regular conferences aimed at strengthening understanding and implementation of GRP among member economies
- 6th Conference on GRP to be held in 2011

Key achievements:

- Development and promotion of three key documents:
 - *APEC SCSC Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Review of Technical Regulations*
 - *APEC SCSC Information Notes of Good Practice for Technical Regulations*
 - *APEC SCSC Principles and Features of Good Practice for Technical Regulation*
- Increased regulator engagement and dialogue in a number of areas e.g. electrical safety, food safety and toy safety

Cooperation with regional and international bodies



Key activities:

- Fostering an effective interface between regional and international for a e.g. with ISO/IEC, WTO TBT and SPS Committees and OECD
- Close collaboration with the SRBs and through them with the relevant international peak standardisation and accreditation bodies
- Seeking to establish strong links with other APEC fora e.g. Chemical Dialogue, EGEEC, HRD WG

Key achievements:

- Dialogues with the European Commission, IEC and OECD
- Regular reports on the work of the WTO TBT and SPS Committees
- Improved links with other APEC fora through presentations and information exchanges on respective work programs

Transparency and Business Involvement



Key activities:

- Ongoing improvements to transparency and SME's access to standards and conformance information
- Seeking on-going engagement and feedback from the business community

Key achievements:

- Establishment of hypertext links to national standardization bodies and regulatory bodies are provided below
- Development of APEC Contact Points for Standards and Conformance Information (available on-line)
- ABAC - SCSC Policy Dialogues on sector specific issues as well as on reducing compliance costs for SMEs
- Conference on Business Engagement in Standards and Conformance

Conference on Implementation of Energy Management Standardisation Project: Background



- ISO 50001 - the Global Energy Management System Standard
- There is a worldwide need for organizations and facilities to establish a management process to proactively assess, manage, and measure energy usage to continuously improve their energy efficiency
- ISO 50001 is being created to meet this need and will serve as an international framework for industrial plants or entire companies (commercial and industrial) to manage energy, including all aspects of procurement and use
- ISO Project Committee 242 is developing the Standard - 40 participating member countries (12 APEC economies participating)

Conference on Implementation of Energy Management Standardisation Project



- Companies implementing an energy management plan or system will:
 - develop a baseline of energy use,
 - actively manage energy use and costs,
 - reduce emissions without negative effect on operations,
 - continue to improve energy use/output over time and document energy savings for internal and external use (i.e. carbon credits)

- It is estimated that as much as 60% of the world's energy demand could potentially be impacted by the implementation of the ISO 50001 energy management standard.

- See also information on ISO website at: http://www.iso.org/iso/energy_management_system_standard

Conference on Implementation of Energy Management Standardisation Project



- The conference aims to educate businesses and consumers in the APEC region to prepare them for consistent and effective implementation of the ISO standard for energy management (Draft ISO 50001)

- The main objectives are:
 - Highlight the value of energy management standards to all stakeholders
 - Explain the role of these standards in assisting business development
 - Increase awareness of the impact of the proposed specifications
 - Identify and analyse business community needs
 - Respond to key APEC objectives

Conference on Implementation of Energy Management Standardisation Project



- The conference will be held in 2011 on the margins of SOM III in United States
- If you are interested in more information please contact:

Project Overseers

Jennifer Stradtman, International Trade Specialist
U.S. Department of Commerce, Jennifer.Stradtman@trade.gov

Karen Batt, Manager, International Development
Standards Australia, Karen.Batt@standards.org.au

Other Key Contacts

Gary Kushnier, Vice President, International Policy,
American National Standards Institute, gkushnie@ansi.org