

**MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE
APEC EXPERT GROUP ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION
March 24-25, 1999
Mexico City, Mexico**

The 14th meeting of the APEC Expert Group on Energy Efficiency & Conservation (EE&C) was held in Mexico City, Mexico on March 24-25, 1999. Representatives from Australia; Canada; Japan; Korea; Mexico; New Zealand; Chinese Taipei; Singapore; and the United States attended. An observer from the Asia-Pacific Energy Research Center (APEREC) also attended. The list of participants is attached.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Frank Pool, Chairman of the Expert Group, welcomed all participants and thanked the Mexican representatives for hosting the meeting. Mr. Pool then introduced Mr Odón de Buen, Technical Secretary of the National Commission for Energy Conservation of Mexico.

Mr Odón de Buen welcomed all participants to the meeting. He mentioned the importance that energy efficiency issues have for Mexico, and expressed Mexico's willingness to play a more active role in EE&C Expert Group's activities.

The Chairman then informed the meeting regarding the process established by the EWG Secretariat regarding project proposals to be considered for APEC funding in the year 2000. He noted the importance to have an explicit APEC added value for the projects, in establishing elements that will help EWG to achieve Energy Ministers' overall goals in terms of energy efficiency issues.

The Chairman also emphasised the value of open forum discussions, and encouraged all representatives to take an active role in discussions, given that this is a decisive element in reaching consensus.

REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman gave a brief introduction to the meeting's agenda, and highlighted issues regarding the importance of discussion on tabling, review and initial prioritisation of proposals for future APEC funded projects and on the APEC Expert Group on EE&C's Future Directions and Priorities.

OVERVIEW OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the main outcomes of the 13th EE&C Expert Group meeting held in the United States of America, particularly discussion held around the open forum on energy services companies.

REPORT OF EXPERT SUB-GROUP ACTIVITIES (BY EXPERT SUB-GROUP CHAIR)

On behalf of the Sub-Groups, a representative of the United States presented progress reports and made additional comments and recommendations. Following the presentations, the meeting discussed the Sub-Groups' past, and proposed future, activities, as follows:-

Expert Sub-Group on Energy for Sustainable Communities

The Chair of this Expert Sub-Group gave a presentation on its current status and activities. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Comments were made by economies regarding the future work programme of the Sub-Group, the importance it has for the Expert Group on EE&C, and the proposed future focus and activities presented by the Expert Sub-Group Chair.

Delegates noted the importance of the Sub-Group's activities, with specific attention to the future direction and work programme that could come out of the Sub-Group, for consideration by the Expert Group on EE&C. It was also noted that the Sub-Group proposes to work on issues regarding urban planning and urban policies related to energy efficiency in its future activities.

Particular importance was given by the Expert Sub-Group to energy indicators and benchmarks in their proposed future work programme, as well as on having an approach which considers exchange of information and data collection on best practices, using Internet capabilities and links.

The Expert Group on EE&C agreed to support the proposed work programme of this Sub-Group. On behalf of the participants, the Chairman congratulated the Sub-Group for the work achieved to date and the scope and relevance of their proposed work programme.

Expert Sub-Group on Inter-Utility DSM

The presentation made by the representative from the United States of America, on behalf of the Sub-Group, discussed the history of the Sub-Group, their work to date and the proposed future activities developed in the Sub-Group's last meeting. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

It was reported that, as a consequence of energy market reforms in some economies, various different approaches are now required to achieve energy savings. The work of this sub-group will therefore need to encompass more than traditional utility-run DSM activities in future.

Therefore, the meeting stressed the need for the Sub-Group to review its objectives and strongly suggested that the Expert Sub-Group reconsider its name. However, several delegates noted that utility run DSM activities are still particularly relevant to a number of economies, such as China, Korea, Mexico, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and the United States of America.

The Expert Group on EE&C agreed to continue further discussion of this issue at their next meeting. The group recommends keeping DSM related activities under its umbrella. This will also help define a clearer role for this Sub-Group's activities, in light of the ongoing electric-market restructuring that is going on in most APEC member economies.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS APEC FUNDED PROJECTS

Workshop on Emerging Energy-Efficient Industrial Technologies

The representative from the United States of America presented the results of this project. The workshop came out with five recommendations (as attached).

It was agreed that, in future, evaluations should ensure that there is adequate project manager consultation before they are finalised.

It was also noted that agreement by the Expert Group to endorse project proposals also implies that member economies will then subsequently support the project with data and other inputs.

Energy Benchmark System Development and Implementation

The representative from the United States reported on the results of the above mentioned project. The presentation highlighted the data collection phase of the project, and stressed the difficulties of gathering extensive benchmarking information from member economies. Nevertheless, the project resulted in specific recommendations regarding the institutionalising of the benchmarking system at a future permanent site.

OPEN FORUM ON REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WORKSHOP AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS EE&C POLICIES

A report was presented by the representative from the United States of America on the results and recommendations of the Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Commercial Buildings, held just prior to this meeting.

Also, representatives from Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and the United States of America gave reports on the development and current status of commercial buildings EE&C policies and programs in their respective economies.

Summaries of these presentations, as well as the recommendations proposed in the Workshop are attached to these minutes.

PLEDGE AND REVIEW PROGRAMME

In response to the request from Japan that consideration be given to the Energy Ministers' declaration on a voluntary pledge and review programme, EE&C agreed the following:

- that EE&C Expert Group will assist in implementing the pledge and review process in its area of expertise, and
- that its contribution to the pledge and review process will be facilitated by the extent to which pledge and review tasks are focussed and clearly defined.

APERC ENERGY EFFICIENCY INDICATORS (APERC)

The representative from the Asia-Pacific Energy Research Center (APERC) gave a presentation on the status and progress of data collection among member economies to develop a database for energy efficiency indicators. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The Expert Group on EE&C agreed to confirm to EWG that the work by APERC is of interest and benefit to EE&C. Furthermore, EE&C submits to EWG that it would be appropriate for EWG to confirm to member economies the importance of providing APERC with regular and good quality data through the appropriate APEC contact.

APEC ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

The representative from the United States of America informed the Expert Group that this project is currently not being developed, due to the economic situation facing some APEC member economies.

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE APEC FUNDED PROJECTS

The Expert Group agreed to submit three project proposals for submission to EWG to request approval for APEC funding. They are as follows (in order of priority):

1. Workshop on Green Buildings (*Australia/Mexico*)
2. Financing energy efficiency programs (*United States of America*)
3. Industrial voluntary commitment programs (*New Zealand*)

APEC EE&C EXPERT GROUP FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

The Chairman made a presentation (as attached) regarding the future of the Expert Group on Energy Efficiency and Conservation.

The United States of America then followed up with a proposal that the Expert Group initially focus its work program on three specific co-operative program areas:

- (1) An Internet based information sharing program;
- (2) Energy efficiency infrastructure development; and
- (3) Projects that support the development of (1) & (2)

The Expert Group agreed to further explore these ideas. It also asked the United States of America to demonstrate how such an Internet based program could operate and also to develop an implementation plan for such a program.

NEXT MEETING

The Expert Group representatives agreed to have further consultations in their own economies regarding the venue and date for the next meeting. Due notice will then be given by the Expert Group's Chairman.

SUMMARY AND MEETING CONCLUSIONS

The Chairman acknowledged the considerable achievements accomplished at this 14th meeting.

The Chairman, on behalf of the member economies who attended the meeting, thanked the host economy, Mexico, especially to the Co-Chairman Mr. Odón de Buen and his staff, for organising the meeting and the arrangements and hospitalities provided.

The minutes of the meeting were reviewed and agreed to.