



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

# BLUEPRINT

## APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures

October 2003



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

A World of Differences : Partnership for the Future



## **ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

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# The 2003 Blueprint of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures

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# Introduction

## WELCOME TO THE 2003 BLUEPRINT OF THE APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES.

The APEC SCCP Blueprint is an important “living” document, providing a concise overview of key activities undertaken by the SCCP over the year and important outcomes of relevance to the business community in all APEC Member Economies. Through this publication and other activities we aim to develop and solidify strategic partnerships with business to ensure that our work in the area of Customs simplification, harmonization and enforcement provides real and lasting benefits to the Asia-Pacific business community.

*“A World of Differences: Partnership for the Future”* is the theme of APEC Thailand 2003. Through partnership and effective collective action, the SCCP has advanced APEC’s trade and investment liberalization and facilitation goals through a number of initiatives and projects this year. Significant progress has been made in areas such as the Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative, Trade Facilitation Action Plan, Menu of Actions and Measures, and Counter-Terrorism. The SCCP Collective Action Plan (CAP) work program to remove costly impediments to trade continued to be implemented in 2003. The initiatives under this plan make it cheaper and more efficient to do business in the region and contribute to the improvement of overall trade liberalization and economic growth for all APEC Member Economies.

The SCCP is also looking to technology, in particular the use of the Internet and World Wide Web to further improve Customs procedures. The SCCP understands that modern Customs administrations must keep up with advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) and make use of these technologies to facilitate the harmonization and simplification of Customs procedures.

Apart from the CAP work programs and ICTs, an important new issue for the group this year was the Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) Initiative. APEC Economic Leaders made a firm commitment to ensure that key Pacific Rim infrastructure in the areas of trade, finance, and information systems are protected by enhancing trade security in APEC. The STAR initiative aims to protect cargo, ships on international voyages, international aviation, and people in transit. Several issues in the STAR Initiative are Customs-related and the SCCP has formulated strategies to enable APEC Member Economies to implement STAR requirements effectively.

A final key focus this year, as in previous years, has been providing industry with the opportunity to become involved in the initiatives of the SCCP. In August 2003 in Bangkok, the SCCP organized and participated in the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue (ACBD). The event brought together business people and officials to discuss key Asia-Pacific trade issues. This event, and earlier Customs – Industry dialogues held in Mexico, the Philippines, Canada and Malaysia, have ensured that the SCCP’s work programs continue to reflect the changing needs of business.

# Bringing Benefits to Business



The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) aims to simply and harmonize regional Customs procedures to ensure that goods and services move efficiently, effectively and safely through the region. The work of the SCCP has an immediate and tangible effect on the costs of cross-border transactions, making it cheaper to conduct international trade in the Asia-Pacific region and ultimately improving the profit-margin of traders.

The comprehensive work programs of the SCCP to simplify and harmonize Customs procedures also provide greater transparency, predictability and fairness for traders in the region. Business confidence and certainty increases as a result of these activities.

SCCP work programs increase the efficiency, coordination and integrity of the Customs administrations in the region, which leads to valuable time and cost savings for importers and exporters. In addition, greater coordination and harmonization of Customs procedures results in safer trade in the region and protection of the rights of traders, particularly traders' intellectual property rights.

Over the past few years the SCCP has undertaken outreach activities to inform the business community about the benefits of improved Customs procedures and the activities and achievements of the group. The SCCP's support to business has been carried out through several channels, including Collective Action Plan work programs, Customs-Business Dialogues, the SCCP Web site and seminars. These activities help reduce the information gap, promote better understanding and foster a more productive relationship among the various players in the sector of Customs, particularly the interaction between Asia-Pacific governments and the business community. At the same time these activities increase business participation in the Customs process and promote the objectives of APEC.

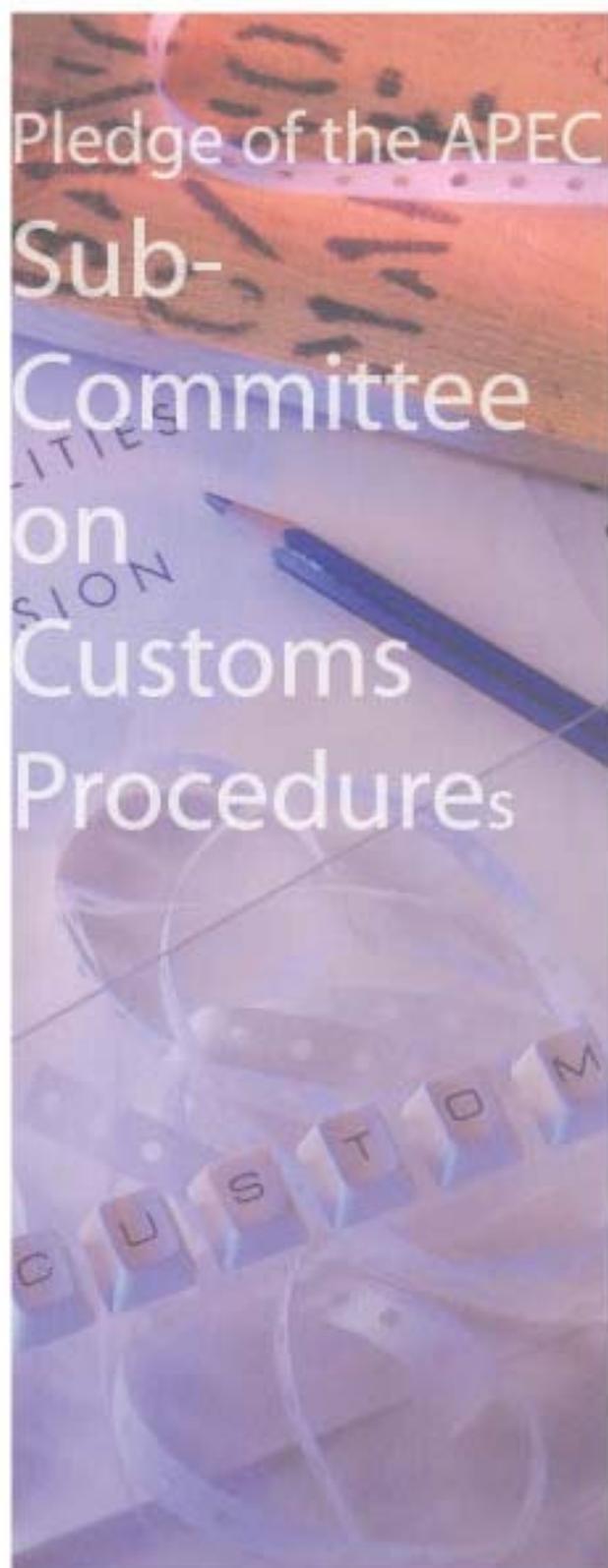
One excellent example of increased business participation with the APEC process is Federal Express's continued sponsorship of the APEC Tariff Database, making it easier to provide tariff information to traders in the region.

The SCCP will continue to expand its good practice of engaging in dialogue with the business and private sectors, and also establish links with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

## Key Business Benefits at a Glance

SCCP's Work Programs	Key Beneficiaries in Trade Supply Chain	Benefits to Business
Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the Harmonized System Convention	Importers/exporters	Accurate and uniform application of goods classification
Public Availability of Information	Importers/exporters/investors/manufacturers/brokers	More alternatives to access Customs-related information for business decisions
Kyoto Convention	Importers/exporters/investors/manufacturers / brokers	Reduction in business cost as a result of simplified and modernized Customs process
Paperless Trading	Importers/exporters/manufacturers /brokers/carriers	Speedier and more certain clearance of goods and lower costs of doing business
WTO Valuation Agreement	Importers/exporters/manufacturers	Transparent and consistent determination of the value of imports
WTO Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement	Manufacturers	Transparent and clear procedures for right owners to lodge applications for suspension of release of counterfeit goods
Clear Appeals Provision	Importers	Opportunity to challenge unfair/erroneous Customs' decision
Advanced Classification Ruling System (ACRS)	Importers	Ability to accurately calculate duties payable prior to importation
Provisions for Temporary Importation	Business community involved in temporary importation of goods across borders e.g commercial samples, professional equipment	Common import/export documents for temporary importation of goods; and reduction of costs through the use of internationally accepted security for temporary imported goods
Harmonized APEC Data Elements	Traders	Reduced costs through the use of international data sets, codes, and definitions
Risk Management Techniques	Importers/exporters/travelers	Speedier clearance process for both goods and passengers through better targeting of high-risk cargo/passengers, thereby eliminating unnecessary costs
Express Consignments Clearance	Express industry	Rapid and reliable delivery services
Integrity	Importers/exporters/travelers	Reduction in unnecessary barriers to cross-border trade and lower level of Customs intervention
Customs-Business Partnership	Business community in general	Enhanced understanding and communication with Customs
Counter Terrorism	Importers/exporters/travelers/carriers	More secure trading, voyage and investment environment, thus reducing risk premium and increasing cross border trade

# Pledge of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures



THE SCCP will strive to:

- Facilitate legitimate trade and investment in the APEC region
- Maintain our role in protecting the community
- Simplify and harmonize Customs procedures
- Improve the speed, accuracy and transparency of Customs transactions
- Establish levels of service to provide traders with certainty
- Promote the professionalism and integrity of Customs Administrations
- Encourage voluntary compliance in APEC member economies
- Consult regularly with the APEC business community to ensure our activities meet their needs
- Form strategic partnerships with interested APEC business representatives
- Provide members with the required technical assistance to promote efficiency, effectiveness and equity
- Tailor the pace of progress to the diverse needs and abilities of APEC member economies



## Focus of 2003 SCCP

APEC Economic Leaders in Los Cabos, Mexico, in October 2002 laid the foundation for the work of Thailand as this year's APEC SCCP host.

APEC Ministers and Leaders directed the SCCP to focus their attention on the following issues in 2003 :

- **Strengthening the Multilateral Trade System:** to pursue substantive negotiations in all areas of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda (DDA) by the agreed timelines to ensure that the deadline of 1 January 2005 is met.
- **Collective Action Plans (CAPs):** to produce tangible deliverables in CAPs that are directly relevant to business and that can provide credible trade outcomes in the region; and to review progress in implementing the CAPs and assess their effectiveness towards meeting the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific Region by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies.
- **Trade Facilitation:** to identify concrete actions and measures to implement the APEC Trade Facilitation Principles in close partnership with the private sector with the objective of a significant reduction in transaction costs to business of 5% by 2006; and to develop assistance programs to help build the capacity of developing economies in trade facilitation.
- **Pathfinder Initiatives:** to continue to identify possible pathfinder initiatives that will help to move APEC's progress towards the Bogor Goals; and to review progress in the pathfinder initiatives to encourage broader participation by members, and provision of capacity building.
- **APEC Transparency Standards:** to implement APEC Transparency Standards as soon as possible, and in no case later than January 2005; and for those economies that implement these standards earlier, to provide benefits immediately to all APEC Member Economies.
- **E-APEC and the New Economy:** to submit annual tariff and trade data to the APEC Tariff Database and the WTO Integrated Database; and to participate in the delivery of paperless trading.
- **Counter-Terrorism:** to lead the charge in ending the threat of people smuggling, money laundering, illegal trafficking of drugs and arms which contribute to terrorism in order to ensure stability, security, economic growth; and to enhance the STAR initiative by implementing a container security regime, implementing where possible the World Customs Organization Customs Data Model by 2005, and promoting private sector adoption of high standards of supply chain security.



These directives reflect that the CAPs, which detail the collective actions of all APEC Member Economies in the area of Customs procedures, continue to be the SCCP's main vehicle for advancing APEC's agenda on trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. CAPs also continue to promote progress across economies towards achieving the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Region by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies. As a response to the Leaders' and Ministers' calls, the APEC SCCP has focused its Agenda of the 2003 APEC SCCP Meeting on the CAPs and other key priority areas mandated by Leaders and Ministers.



SCCP:  
Implementing the

Tasking Statements

- (1) Collective Action Plans (CAPs)
- (2) Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative
- (3) Counter-Terrorism and Promoting Growth
- (4) WTO-Related Capacity Building
- (5) Trade Facilitation
- (6) Adoption of Transparency Standards

# SCCP: Implementing the Tasking Statements

## (1) Collective Action Plans (CAPs)

The implementation of fourteen CAP items was and continues to be the prime focus of the SCCP's activities in 2003 and beyond. APEC Member Economies, with the full support of their respective governments, have developed multi-year technical assistance frameworks for each initiative. The objectives and expected outputs of each initiative are summarized in Table 1, which can be found on page 28 and 29 of this publication. Table 2 indicates the year by which individual SCCP members have committed to full or partial implementation of each initiative.

The entire SCCP CAPs have been funded by Japan through the Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation (TILF) Special Account.

In 2001, the SCCP developed a methodology to evaluate its CAPs and a comprehensive technical assistance program. This evaluation methodology enables the SCCP to assess progress in implementing the CAPs and the effectiveness of the technical assistance program. The Evaluation Working Group developed an Assessment/Evaluation Matrix, and the information was compiled into the CAP Assessment/Evaluation Matrix-Summary by APEC Member Economies. The results of the evaluation provided the SCCP with an overview of the CAP initiatives and allowed the SCCP to group the CAP items under two categories: those CAP items where technical assistance is still in progress (CAP Stage 1); and those where the technical assistance program is completed (CAP Stage 2).

The SCCP currently has 7 CAP items under Stage 1, and 7 CAP items under Stage 2. Highlights and achievements for each action plan item during 2003 are provided in the following sections of this publication. Detailed status reports can be viewed on the SCCP Web site at [www.sccp.org.sg](http://www.sccp.org.sg).

## CAP Stage 1

### Harmonization of Tariff Structure with Harmonization System Convention

The Harmonization System (HS) multi-year project is designed to facilitate the accurate, consistent and uniform application of the HS Convention by all APEC Member Economies. This project is being delivered through a phased approach and covers a wide range of issues and activities including workshops, advisory missions/dispatch of experts and technical advice to Customs central laboratories. The objective of this CAP item was modified to the implementation of the 2002 Version of the HS by the year 2002.

To date the 2002 Version of the HS Convention was being adopted in 19 APEC Member Economies and is in the process of being implemented in two others. To provide necessary technical assistance for building the capacity of Customs laboratories, technical assistance to Customs laboratories has been provided to the People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei and Peru in 2002. In addition, three Customs Laboratory Missions are expected to undertake at the end of 2003 in Indonesia, Russia and Thailand.

*Japan is the coordinator of this CAP item and, in collaboration with other interested donor economies, is providing technical assistance to APEC Member Economies requesting it.*



## Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Kyoto Convention

This CAP item aims to reduce business costs and provide efficiency improvements and modernization of Customs clearance and procedures through the adoption of the Revised Kyoto Convention.



The February 2003 CAP Assessment/Evaluation Matrix-Summary indicated that six APEC Member Economies have acceded to the body and general annexes of the revised convention and a further seven are preparing to sign. To date seventeen Member Economies have adopted the principles of the revised convention and Malaysia is in the process of doing so. Any further technical assistance that may be identified will, in the main, be covered by the Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative mentioned later in this booklet.

*New Zealand and Japan are coordinators of this CAP item.*

## Adoption of UN/EDIFACT-Paperless Trading

The aim of this CAP Item is to encourage the adoption of appropriate electronic technologies and procedures in order to reduce the requirement for paper documentation in Customs Administrations.



Assistance for this project commenced in 2000 and is being delivered through a phased approach including in-country advisory missions.

Two Mission Visits have been conducted in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Thailand and Vietnam to gather information and to assist in the development of Paperless Trading Implementation/ Action Plans. The next step is for economies to identify a specific Paperless Trading objective they wish to achieve.

This CAP item directly supports the APEC Ministers' Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce.

*Australia coordinates this CAP item.*

### APEC Minister's Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce :

*"Taking into account the diverse legal and regulatory framework in the region, APEC Ministers agreed that member economies should endeavor to reduce or eliminate the requirement for paper documents needed for customs and other cross-border trade administrations and other documents and messages relevant to international sea, air and land transport i.e. 'Paperless Trading' (for trade in good), where possible, by 2005 for developed and 2010 for developing economies, or as soon as possible thereafter. To this end, relevant APEC sub-fora should examine specific initiatives."*

## Common Data Elements

The objective of this CAP item is to simplify and harmonize the data required in Customs procedures, and to provide direction and a framework that will allow each APEC Member Economy to make its own decision about the degree to which it is already harmonized and highlight where differences exist. This trade facilitation project is also developed to position economies to make informed decisions about international harmonization.

In this context, formal links have been established with the G7 Technical Working Group on Data Element Standardization and Harmonization, responsible for harmonizing the G7 data model. In January 2002, the World Customs Organization (WCO) took over the maintenance and management of the G7 Data Model Initiative in order to advance the work into a global Customs standard. G7 countries agreed to implement standardized electronic formats by 2005, if possible. In the meantime, interested SCCP members were invited to review, study and assess the impacts and benefits of the WCO Data Model.



All 21 APEC Member Economies have expressed interest in this CAP item to a greater or lesser degree. While a significant amount of work has been conducted by economies in assessing their needs and gaps against the WCO version 1.0 data set, there have been no inputs/updates since the August 2002 Mexico Meeting. APEC Member Economies also commented on the need to focus on general enforcement issues as well as the requirements driven by the Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative. Concerns were also tabled on the significance of interpretation of the data set and the potential need for assistance. A pilot prototype for this CAP to test implementation of the data model was initiated in April 2003. Results of the prototype will be also shared with the WCO.

*Canada is a lead shepherd of this CAP.*

## Express Consignment Clearance



The goal of this CAP is to implement the principles of WCO Guidelines on Express Consignment and international standards for Customs clearance of express goods. This CAP item actively facilitates time-sensitive importation and the use of Customs procedures designed to permit rapid and reliable delivery services.

Technical assistance is on-going. Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Viet Nam have requested technical assistance to refine their express consignments Customs procedures.

Since the beginning of the Project in 1997, assessment missions were completed for seven requesting economies. In addition, customized advisory missions to Chinese Taipei, Malaysia and Vietnam were conducted in the 2nd half of 2002 to provide additional assistance and to identify areas where further improvements to Customs procedures can be made. Further missions were organized for the Philippines, Peru, Vietnam and Indonesia in 2003.

*The PRC and the USA are coordinators for this CAP, which involves an active partnership with the International Express Carriers Conference (IECC), the Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC), and the Conference of Latin American Express Carriers (CLADEC).*

## Customs Integrity

This work program aims to raise levels of integrity among APEC Customs Administrations, which is fundamental to good governance and provides a sound platform for Customs reform and modernization.

The Integrity technical assistance program is being delivered through a phased approach, covering a range of issues and activities including: key concepts of integrity; developments of integrity strategies and code of conducts; and establishment of an integrity implementation/action plan. It is based on the World Customs Organization (WCO) Integrity Self-Assessment Guide.

The Integrity assistance program commenced in 2000 with economies participating in a survey to identify SCCP members' needs. Three Integrity Implementation and Facilitation Workshops have been held to train facilitators to conduct integrity self-assessments. Economies are in the process of developing codes of conduct, undertaking self-assessment and developing integrity action/implementation plan.

Two in-country assistance missions have been conducted to economies requesting assistance. Mexico received assistance to develop an integrity action/implementation plan in July 2002 and Papua New Guinea received assistance in May 2003.

APEC Member Economies were also encouraged to attend the 3rd Global Forum against Corruption held in Seoul in 2003.

*Australia and Hong Kong, China are lead shepherds of this CAP with assistance from a working group consisting of China, Japan, Peru, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei.*

### Mr. Chavalit SETHAMETEEKUL, Director General, Thai Customs Department



APEC is an important forum allowing Customs and business to exchange ideas of common interest. The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures has done excellent jobs to reconcile two diverse issues: border control and trade facilitation.

The SCCP's work programs also allow Customs to modernize, standardize and streamline its work processes and lead to the reduction of business transaction cost. I sincerely hope that APEC and the SCCP will substantially contribute to the prosperity and development of the Asia-Pacific region.

## CAP Stage 2

### Public Availability of Information on Customs Laws, Regulations, Administrative Guidelines and Rulings



The objective of the program is to improve Customs transparency and to ensure that traders have all the pertinent information for business decisions through provision of accurate, consistent and user-friendly Customs information.

Singapore has compiled a handbook using input provided by SCCP members on their "best practices" in disseminating Customs information to the public. This publication is available to the public on the SCCP Web site. Hong Kong, China has produced a video introducing the current dissemination methods of the Hong Kong Customs.

As public availability of information is an on-going process, APEC Member Economies will continue to develop and implement their own action plans/programs to improve dissemination of information. Economies are encouraged to conduct surveys on their respective business constituents to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of the existing information dissemination channels and to identify areas for improvement. In addition, economies also continue to review and provide updates to the SCCP's "Best Practices Handbook" on information dissemination.

In this connection, Chinese Taipei has created an Internet-based mechanism called "Cargo Clearance Transparency" giving importers and exporters a clear picture of declaration processing. The Customs Web site also provides answers to enquiries regarding Customs clearance, Customs tariff and duty rates, advanced tariff rulings, trade statistics, Customs-related information, and single window service for clearance problems.

*Singapore and Hong Kong, China are the coordinators for this work program.*

**Mr. Kawin ASAWACHATROJ**, Managing Director, Cargo & Mail Commercial Department, Thai Airways International, Public Co., Ltd.



From the perspective of the private sector, which naturally includes airlines, the APEC forum offers a very good opportunity for stakeholders, the private sector and authorities to sit down and share their opinions on common concerns relating to trade facilitation.

I think when it comes to sending goods across borders one concern of the private sector is the Customs requirements or security requirements of different economies.

To have commonality in terms of Customs facilitation would definitely help a more efficient flow of trade across borders.

## Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement

Recipient economies include Brunei, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Peru, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Viet Nam. Although the planned technical assistance requirements in support of this CAP item had largely been completed, a number of economies were still making efforts to develop the system and are in the process of implementing various sub-components. Currently, 17 economies have already adopted procedures to ensure consistent application of the WTO Valuation Agreement.

*Canada and the United States are the coordinators for this work area and, together with Australia and New Zealand, are providing technical assistance to SCCP members requesting it.*

## Adoption of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement

Through a coordinated effort involving Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Japan, technical assistance has been provided to economies requesting it to implement the border enforcement aspects of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement. The technical assistance missions discussed Customs legal authority, administrative framework and operational procedures in the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

After the completion of the technical assistance missions, participating economies have or are in the process of implementing various sub-components. Eighteen economies have adopted the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

*The United States is the coordinator for this CAP initiative.*

### Mr. Douglas BROWNING, Deputy Commissioner, US Bureau of Customs and Border Protection



There is no question that APEC has a role to play in the development and refinement of Customs procedures.

We have had a good long working relationship in the APEC forum through the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures, it has done an absolutely wonderful job in developing a collective action plan that has addressed the question of Customs procedures.

The beauty of forums such the APEC Business and Customs Dialogue is that it gives a chance for both sides to hear the respective views of various parties with respect to issues that are affecting both the Customs and trade community.

## Implementation of Clear Appeals Provision

This key objective of this work area is to enhance transparency and effectiveness of appeal processes, including a client service initiative. Technical assistance in areas such legislative framework, organizational structure, client service delivery, risk management and the decision-making process has been delivered to requesting economies, which include the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Currently, technical assistance under this CAP work program has been completed and 18 economies have already adopted an appeal system.

*Canada and the Philippines are the coordinators for this work area.*

## Provision of Facilities for Temporary Importation

This initiative was designed to assist APEC Member Economies in the implementation of the A.T.A. and Istanbul Conventions. Temporary importation helps business move goods such as commercial samples, professional equipment, tools of trade and exhibition material across borders with a high degree of certainty about how these goods will be treated by Customs by having standard procedures for admitting goods on a temporary basis.

The International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce (IBCC) worked with the co-shepherds in the planning stages and the delivery of technical assistance. The IBCC issues and manages carnets and works closely with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to promote the carnet system on the international level.

Technical assistance was delivered in three regional workshops in Chinese Taipei, the People's Republic of China and Chile. Technical assistance for this initiative is now completed. To date 18 economies have adopted the A.T.A. Convention.

*Chinese Taipei and the United States are the co-shepherds for this CAP initiative.*

## Implementation of an Advanced Classification Ruling System

The key objective of this CAP item is to establish simplified procedures for classification of information prior to importation, thus bringing certainty and predictability to international trading and helping traders to make sound business decisions based on legally binding advice.

All APEC economies have opportunity for technical assistance on this CAP. Should any further requirement for assistance be identified, this can be carried out under the Kyoto Pathfinder. This CAP is now be considered for inclusion as stage 2 CAP.

*New Zealand and the Republic of Korea are the co-shepherds of this CAP.*

**Mr. Kunio MIKURIYA ,**  
Deputy Secretary General, WCO.



At the World Customs Organization we believe that regional forums such as APEC are the most suitable for dialogue with the trade community and then for more action to be agreed.

We place much value on these regional forums such as APEC as we recognize they are increasingly valuable for exchanging experience and for finding common solutions.

We believe that regional forums such as APEC are very important. Customs reform is a great contributor to trade facilitation.

## Risk Management Techniques

The objective of this CAP item is to support the implementation of sound risk management practices in order to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while maintaining effective Customs control. A six-phase assistance program, which commenced in 1997 was developed to support this CAP item.

In November 2002 an Operational Risk Management Workshop, co-hosted by the Thai Customs Department, took place in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aimed to provide requesting economies with sufficient expertise and materials to deliver risk management training in their own economy, covering topics such as train-the-trainer theory and risk management-related issues such as basic operational intelligence, targeting and profiling.

An evaluation of the Risk Management Technical Assistance program has also been completed and will be considered in determining the future direction of Risk Management in the SCCP. All economies indicated a positive outcome from participating in the Risk Management assistance program and have implemented and utilized risk management to varying degrees. The evaluation represents the sixth and final phase of the current risk management assistance program.

*Australia and the United States are the coordinators of this CAP.*

**Mr. John DRURY ,**  
Deputy CEO, Australian Customs Service



APEC is important for Customs and the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures is an important element there, it is the opportunity to debate and discuss.

This is the dialogue with business and the value is that we meet our critics and we meet our customers.

Better Customs, faster Customs, a more attentive Customs means that business people do not have to worry about why it is that their goods are being held up. They understand and

they can address them, they can remit the problem, they can deal with the issues because they are in knowledge about why the system works the way it does and that is why we are here to explain that type of mechanism. The benefits to business of this type of reform is that it gives business knowledge of what is going on. It instills confidence amongst business people that they know that if they have a track record of good compliance and have reformed their systems then their goods are going to go straight through to the customer without hindrance and that saves costs.

## (2) Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative

"Pathfinder" refers to a group of members piloting the implementation of cooperative initiatives ahead of other member economies that may not be ready to participate in the initiative. The "Pathfinder Approach" was a 2001 APEC Economic Leaders' Initiative to provide a means of advancing progress towards the Bogor Goals.

The SCCP identified the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) as an area in which the Pathfinder approach might be usefully adopted. The project aims to assist in the process of bringing the RKC into force, to provide necessary technical assistance and to build the capacity of APEC Member Economies to adopt and implement the RKC. It also seeks to increase transparency and efficiency in Customs administrations and to contribute to reducing transaction costs in trade. The business/private sector will be provided with substantial tangible benefits through the reduction of cross-border transaction time and costs. The Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative was endorsed at the 2002 APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in Los Cabos, Mexico.

The Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative is a multi-year project. The project entered its first phase of work in 2003. This phase is based on identifying a pathway to Kyoto accession and implementation.

## (3) Counter-Terrorism and Promoting Growth

Terrorism is a direct challenge to APEC's goals of free, open and prosperous economies. The fight against terrorism requires a range of diplomatic, military, financial, judicial, policing and Customs provisions. All mechanisms to increase security controls start at the border, traditionally the place at which Customs services operate.

In response to the 2001 APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration on Counter-Terrorism and the 2002 APEC Economic Leaders' Statement on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth, programs and strategies to implement actions and measures have been developed. The SCCP has made a substantial contribution to the fight against international terrorism by focusing on strengthening border controls, airports, ports, roads, railways and means of transport of goods, including express and postal items.



**Mr. Mana LUGTONG, Director,**  
Laem Chabang Port Customs Bureau, Thai Customs Department



APEC encourages Customs to utilize new technologies to expedite and simplify Customs Procedures.

Improved Customs procedures help to reduce costs and expenses to importers and exporters in doing business.

To better facilitate international trade business will receive more transparent Customs services and so business will gain a competitive advantage from improved Customs procedures.

## Leader's Statement on Counter-Terrorism Shanghai, the PRC, October 2001

"...enhancement of Customs communication networks and expeditious development of a global intergrated electronic Customs Network, which would allow Customs authorities to better enforce laws while minimizing the impact of the flow of trade."

To enhance Customs communication networks and expeditious development of a global integrated electronic Customs Network, the SCCP has developed strategies in line with the specific circumstances of respective economies as follows :

- Promoting the adoption and application of Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements.
- Implementing appropriate CAP items to increase the capability of Customs administrations to effectively administer Customs law.
- Enhancing the use of existing Customs communication networks, including those of international organizations such as the WCO, for the better enforcement of laws relating to counter terrorism while minimizing the impact on the flow of trade.

In addition, the SCCP also formulated strategies to implement the STAR Initiative, focusing on the protection of cargo, ships on international voyages, international aviation and people in transit through the container security regime and common data elements. In this regard, a multi-phase technical assistance program tailored to build capacity and identify training needs of each economy was developed to ensure that the STAR Initiative would be implemented in a more efficient manner. In 2003, the program has entered into the first-two phases of work, focusing on the assessment of current status and requirements of the implementation of secure trade of each individual economy. Additionally, a Working Group comprising of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States has been established to oversee the program. It is essential to determine the future course of such assistance and methods in order to ensure the progress in the strategies on counter-terrorism.

## (4) WTO-Related Capacity Building

### APEC and the WTO - Sharing a Common Purpose

APEC and the WTO both seek to maximize gains by liberalizing and facilitating international trade. With the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) in 2001 and the next round of WTO negotiations to be concluded by 1 January 2005, there are many opportunities for further trade growth. By taking advantage of these opportunities, APEC and the WTO together can spread the benefits across the board.

**APEC LEADERS' STATEMENT ON FIGHTING TERRORISM AND PROMOTING GROWTH**  
Los Cabos, Mexico, 26 October 2002

\*... We will work together to secure the flow of goods and people through measures to:

- **Protect cargo by**

- Implementing expeditiously a container security regime that would assure in-transit integrity of containers, identify and examine high-risk containers, and working with international organizations to require the provision of advance electronic information on container content to customs port and shipping officials as early as possible in the supply chain, while taking into consideration the facilitation of legitimate trade.
- Implementing by 2005 wherever possible the common standards for electronic customs reporting developed by the World Customs Organization that provide data to target high-risk shipments and facilitate trade.
- Promoting private-sector adoption of high standards of supply chain security, as developed by the private sector and law enforcement officials.

- **Protect ships engaged in international voyages by**

- Promoting ship and port security plans by July 2004 and installation of automatic identification systems on certain ships by December 2004.
- Enhancing cooperation on fighting piracy in the region between APEC fora and organizations such as the International Maritime Bureau Piracy Reporting Center and International Maritime Organization (IMO).

- **Protect international aviation by**

- Implementing highly effective baggage screening procedures and equipment in all APEC international airports as soon as possible, and in any case by 2005; accelerating implementation of standards for reinforced flight deck doors for passenger aircraft by April 2003 wherever possible; and supporting International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) mandatory aviation security audits.
- Enhancing air cargo security by promoting adoption of the guidelines developed by ICAO and the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

- **Protect people in transit by**

- Implementing as expeditiously as possible a common global standard based on UN/EDIFACT for the collection and transmission of advance passenger information.
- Adopting standards for application of biometrics in entry and (where applicable) exit procedures and travel documents such as those being developed by the ICAO and the International Standards Organization.
- Assuring the highest possible integrity of all government officials who are involved in border operations."

## Ministerial Declaration Doha, 9-14 November 2001

The Doha Declaration states that "negotiation on trade facilitation will take place after the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on the basis of a decision to be taken, by explicit consensus, at that Session on modalities of negotiations".

The Declaration also recognizes the case for "further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit, and the need for enhanced technical assistance and capacity building in this area."

## APEC – A New Strategic APEC Plan and Further Directions

In 2000, APEC Economic Leaders and Ministers endorsed a new Strategic APEC Plan, aiming to provide tailor-made packages of technical assistance for developing APEC economies to implement WTO Agreements. The new strategic plan is a basis for concerted action to enhance capacity for full implementation of the WTO Agreements. In 2001 and 2002, APEC Economic Leaders and Ministers also recognized the work in APEC fora to ensure all economies develop the capacity to participate effectively in the DDA negotiations.

## SCCP - Implementation of Customs-Related WTO Agreements

The SCCP is considering how to further implement Customs-Related WTO Agreements: WTO Valuation Agreement, border control clauses in the TRIPS Agreement, and the Rules of Origin Agreement. In the context of the strategic APEC plan for enhancing WTO-related capacity building, the SCCP established a mechanism to improve the implementation of Customs-related WTO Agreements in February 2001. This mechanism aims to build the capacity of Customs Administrations in APEC who face difficulties in implementing Customs-related WTO Agreements. It also assists in the facilitation of the smooth implementation of WTO agreements and to expedite international trade.

A workshop on "Implementation of Customs-Related WTO Agreements" was held in 2001 in Japan to identify difficulties and problems that the participating economies faced in implementing the agreements. In the following year, a workshop on "Implementation of the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement" and a seminar on "WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin" were successfully completed in Bangkok and Jakarta respectively. In 2003, the following three technical assistances were conducted:

- A National Workshop on the Agreement on Rules of Origin in the PRC;
- A National Workshop on the Agreement on Rules of Origin in Thailand;
- A National Workshop on the TRIPs Agreement in PNG;

and another National Workshop on the Agreement on Rules of Origin is scheduled to be conducted in the Philippines by the end of 2003.

*Canada, Japan and the United States are the coordinators for this mechanism.*

## (5) Trade Facilitation

Since 1994 the SCCP has been at the forefront of trade facilitation and working towards achieving the harmonization and simplification of Customs procedures in the Asia-Pacific region. Recognizing this challenging task, the SCCP outlined general approaches and concrete actions and measures to implement the *Trade Facilitation Principles* under the *Framework for APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan* and *Trade Facilitation Menu of Actions and Measures*, which have an objective of a five percent reduction in transactions costs of trade by 2006. In this connection, a correlation matrix, demonstrating that the SCCP have already identified specific actions and measures as part of the CAP, was developed.

### APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration

Los Cabos, Mexico, 27 October 2002

#### "Today, in Los Cabos, we :

Endorsed the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan which will implement our commitment to cut transaction costs by five percent in the APEC region by 2006. We recognized the significant economic and trade benefits which can accrue from trade facilitation and took special note of the Action Plan's call for providing appropriate capacity building assistance to developing economies. We directed our Ministers to continue moving forward with the selection and implementation of trade facilitating actions and measures and to assess the benefits of associated transaction cost reductions." ...

## (6) Adoption of Transparency Standards

As a response to the Leaders' *Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards*, the SCCP undertook the work necessary to implement the APEC Transparency Standards, taking into account the General Principle in the OAA. Although the transparency standards have already been elaborated and reflected in many of the SCCP CAP, and the FACTS Guiding Principles, the SCCP, in the 2003 Phuket SCCP Meeting, proposed *Transparency Standards on Customs Procedures* covering various Customs practices:

- Availability of Customs-related information to public ;
- Publication of any regulations governing Customs procedures in advance;
- Implementation of advance rulings;
- Maintaining procedural transparency and fairness in Customs procedures; and
- Provision of contact points to address questions of interested parties.



2003 APEC SCCP, THAILAND

Wat Prakaew  
Thailand

Measuring Progress  
and  
**p**rogram  
Evaluation

- (1) Evaluation Report
- (2) Evaluation Working Group (EWG)
- (3) Peer-Review

# Measuring Progress and Program Evaluation

The SCCP has adopted several strategies to measure progress and evaluate SCCP programs implemented.

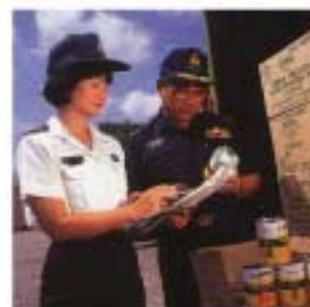
## (1) Evaluation Report

As with other APEC fora, evaluation reports are required to be submitted to the APEC Budget and Management Committee (BMC) upon completion of all technical assistance projects. These assessments assist the BMC in deciding whether or not to approve continued funding for further activities. In 2003, the BMC has approved all four budget proposals for the SCCP's on-going work program. The evaluation reports submitted by the SCCP project coordinators also assist the SCCP in managing the effectiveness of the technical assistance projects and making adjustments in the whole technical assistance program where necessary.



## (2) Evaluation Working Group (EWG)

The SCCP collective work programs and comprehensive technical assistance programs were developed eight years ago. In order to continue the success of the SCCP and to support industry, the SCCP needs to focus more of its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the work program. To facilitate this, the SCCP adopted an assessment approach through the **Evaluation Working Group (EWG)** to assess progress in implementing the SCCP's 14-point CAPs and to evaluate the effectiveness of the technical assistance program.



Through the efforts of the SCCP EWG, an Assessment/Evaluation Matrix was developed and is updated regularly. All APEC Member Economies were provided with a copy of the Matrix and asked to complete it for each of the CAP items. Based on the evaluations, the SCCP was able to group the CAP items under two categories. The first category is for current/ongoing items (Stage 1 CAP), and the second is for items in which technical assistance has largely been completed and the majority of member economies have implemented or are in the process of implementation (Stage 2 CAP). The SCCP EWG is also developing termination criteria for reporting of the SCCP's 14-point CAP.



Evaluation provides a comprehensive overview of where economies are in the implementation of programs and serves as a planning tool which assists with capacity building and further implementation work as well as a mechanism for reporting to the CTI on SCCP activities. This evaluation can also be used as a basis for further assessment of the CAP initiatives using other methodologies such as "Peer Review" and "Time Release Studies".

## (3) Peer-Review

Peer review is a voluntary process that provides an opportunity to all APEC Member Economies to identify "best practices" for the implementation of CAP items. The peer review process requires voluntary participating economies to undertake a process of self-assessment and then participate in a process of peer review.

The concept of introducing the peer review system was well supported by the SCCP. It is designed to help APEC Member Economies assess the depth of implementation of the Stage 2 CAP items. It is necessary for determining the future course of such assistance and methods to guarantee continuity in the progress of CAPs.

The first SCCP Peer Review was conducted in September 2002 in Mexico City to evaluate progress on Stage 2 CAP items. Mexican Customs volunteered to be reviewed while Chinese Taipei and the United States volunteered to be the reviewers. Upon the completion of the peer review process, the evaluation sheets were provided to assist Mexican Customs to identify "best practice" for the implementation of CAPs relevant to their own individual needs and circumstances.



## Conclusion

The SCCP plays an integral role in cross-border commerce within APEC. In the area of trade facilitation the need for co-operation will become more important, as trade facilitation is now firmly within the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda work program. Clearly there is certain scope for reform in the SCCP work programs and a need for further capacity building and technical assistance. Additionally, the SCCP's efforts to engage closely with the business community must continue, to ensure appropriate and effective cooperation so the SCCP's work program reflects the changing needs of the business community. The SCCP will also need to consider how as a region we can contribute more and assist members in realizing the trade facilitation and liberalization goals.



2003 APEC SCCP, THAILAND

- Table 1: SCCP Collective Action Plan Objectives and Expected Outputs
- Table 2: SCCP Collective Action Plan Implementation Schedule
- Fax, Telephone & Email List of "SCCP" Contacts
- List of Acronyms

**Table 1: SCCP Collective Action Plan Objectives and Expected Outputs**

OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
<p><b>1. Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention</b>                      To ensure consistency of application, certainty and a level playing field for business through the HS Convention, the standard international harmonized system for the classification of goods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The accurate, consistent and uniform application of the HS Convention by all APEC member economies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Public Availability of Information on Customs Laws, Regulations, Administrative Guidelines and Rulings provided to the business sector on an ongoing basis</b>                      To ensure traders have access to all the pertinent information for business decisions through the provision of accurate, consistent and user-friendly information to business on an ongoing basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve transparency of APEC Customs Administrations.</li> <li>• To enhance the APEC Customs Administrations' competency in the dissemination of information on customs laws, regulations, procedures, rulings and guidelines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Kyoto Convention</b>                      To improve efficiency in customs clearance and the delivery of goods in order to benefit importers, exporters and manufacturers through simplified customs procedures and best practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplified and standardized customs procedures implemented by all APEC members.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Adoption and Support for the UN/EDIFACT - Paperless Trading</b>                      To use the standard UN electronic messaging format for automated systems, the United Nations/Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, to promote an electronic highway for business.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation by member administrations of UN/EDIFACT international electronic messaging standards as the basis for their computerization programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement</b>                      To facilitate administration of the World Trade Organization's Valuation Agreement on standard procedures for valuing goods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of the Agreement by members, in a timely and orderly manner, to meet members' international obligations under the Agreement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement</b>                      To implement border enforcement procedures for protecting intellectual property rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategic program designed and developed to implement border endorsement of the Agreement by members, in a timely and orderly manner, to meet international obligations under the Agreement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Introduction of Clear Appeals Provision</b>                      To provide business with an opportunity to challenge potentially erroneous or inequitable Customs decisions through mechanisms for transparent, independent and timely appeals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Customs appeal mechanisms by all members.</li> <li>• The enhanced transparency and effectiveness of the appeals process and client service initiatives within APEC customs administrations.</li> </ul>

OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
<p><b>8. Introduction of an Advance Classification Ruling System</b> To establish simplified procedures for providing classification information prior to importation, thus bringing certainty and predictability to international trading and helping traders to make sound business decisions based on legally binding advice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of simplified procedures for an advance classification ruling system to the customs procedures of each APEC economy, by the year 2000.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Provisions for Temporary Importation e.g. acceding to the A.T.A. Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention</b> To help business move goods such as commercial samples, professional equipment, tools of trade and exhibition material across borders with a high degree of certainty as to how these goods will be treated by Customs by having standard procedures for admitting goods on a temporary basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of the terms of the A.T.A. Carnet and Istanbul Conventions.</li> <li>• The provision of a common import/export document for the temporary importation of goods.</li> <li>• An internationally accepted security for goods entitled to temporary admission without payment of duties and taxes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Harmonized APEC Data Elements</b> To develop a comprehensive directory supported in UN/EDIFACT which includes a simplified "core set" of data elements, largely derived from commercially available data, that would satisfy the standard data requirements of the majority of APEC trade transactions and so facilitate the exchange of information and provide a foundation for common forms and electronic commerce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of a set of trade data elements required for ordinary goods for home consumption.</li> <li>• The development of a set of best practices guidelines for the processing and clearance associated with the movement of goods until the goods are no longer under any customs controls.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Risk Management Techniques</b> To focus Customs enforcement efforts on high-risk goods and travelers and facilitate the movement of low-risk shipments, through a flexible approach tailored to each APEC economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of a systematic risk management approach will allow APEC Customs administrations to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while maintaining control.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Guidelines on Express Consignments Clearance</b> To implement principles contained in the WCO Guidelines on Express Consignment Clearance, the international standard procedures for clearance of express goods, working in partnership with express industry associations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timely implementation of the international standard for customs clearance of express shipments.</li> <li>• Trade facilitation while maintaining essential customs control responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. Integrity</b> To raise level of integrity in Customs Administrations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More accountable, consistent, reliable and transparent Customs Administration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>14. Customs-Business Partnership</b> To enhance the cooperation and communication between Customs and the business sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of Customs-Business Partnership with the relevant players / parties in the business sector through the signing of MOUs or other instruments of cooperative arrangement.</li> <li>• The establishment of permanent and regular liaison/consultation channels between Customs and the relevant players / parties in the business sector.</li> </ul>

Table 2: SCCP Collective Action Plan Implementation Schedule

	HS Convention	Public Availability of Information	Kyoto Convention	Paperless Trading	WTO Valuation Agreement	TRIPS	Clear Appeal Provisions	ACRS	Temporary Importation	Common Data Elements	Risk Management	Express Consignment Clearance	Integrity	Customs Business Partnership
Plan Co-ordinators	Japan	HK, China Singapore	NZ Japan	Australia	Canada USA	USA	Canada Philippines	NZ Korea	USA Chinese Taipei	Canada	Australia USA	USA PRC	Australia HK China	HK China Mexico
Target Date	2002	☆	1998	2005/2010	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	☆	2002	2000	☆	☆
Australia	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Brunel	☆		◇		✓	✓	2000	2000	2000		2002	2000		
Canada	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Chile	✓		◇		2000	2000	✓	✓	2000		✓	✓		
PRC	✓		✓	+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2002	✓		
HK,China	✓		◇	☆	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓		✓	✓		
Indonesia	✓		◇		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2002	2000		
Japan	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Korea	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2002	✓		
Malaysia	✓		◇		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2002	✓		
Mexico	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2002	2002		
NZ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☆	✓	✓	✓	✓
PNG	✓		◇		✓	2002	2000	2002	2000		2002	2002		
Peru	✓													
Philippines	✓		☆	☆	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2002	✓		
Russia	✓													
Singapore	✓		◇		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Chinese Taipei	☆		◇	☆	✓	✓	✓	✓	2000		2002	2000		☆
Thailand	✓		◇		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2001	✓		
USA	✓		◇		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Vietnam	✓													

**LEGEND**

- ✓ Implemented
- + Actual implementation date subject to the PRC's accession to the WTO
- ◇ Accession to the Convention subject to internal approval process
- ☆ On-going process
- N/A Not applicable

## Fax, Telephone & Email List of "SCCP" Contacts

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Brunei Darussalam	Hajah Zaikiah Haji Noorkhan Hj Amran Hj Ibrahim	(673 2) 382 666 (673 2) 382 666	(673 2) 382 333 (673 2) 382 333	info@customs.gov.bn info@customs.gov.bn
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Mexico	Mr Mauricio Mireles Mr Alejandro Gutierrez Ms Maria Luisa Jimenez Ms Claudia Campos Mr Jose Guadalupe Saenz Solis Mr Jorge Eduardo Lopez Valdez	(52 55) 5228 3355 (52 55) 5228 3359 (52 55) 5228 3355 (52 55) 5729 9313 (52 55) 5729 9100 ext 6632 (52 55) 5729-9100 ext 6632	(52 55) 5228 3421 (52 55) 5228 3358 (52 55) 5228 3833 (52 55) 5729 9158/59 (52 55) 5729 9919 (52 55) 5729 9120 (52 55) 5729 9100 ext 6760	sccp2002@sat.gob.mx hector.gutierrez@sat.gob.mx luisa.jimenez@sat.gob.mx claucci@economia.gob.mx jsaenz@economia.gob.mx jelopez@economia.gob.mx
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## List of Acronyms

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation
ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council
ACRS	Advanced Classification Ruling System
ACBD	APEC Customs Business Dialogue
AGGI	Advisory Group on Gender Integration
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
A.T.A. Carnet	Admission Temporaire – Temporary Admission Carnet Convention
BMC	Budget and Management Committee
CAP	Collective Action Plan
CAPEC	Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carriers
CLADEC	Conference of Latin American Express Carriers
CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
DDA	Doha Development Agenda
FACTS	Facilitation, Accountability, Consistency, Transparency, and Simplification
G7	Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United States
HS	Harmonized System of Tariff Classification
IAP	Individual Action Plan
IATA	International Air Transport Association
IBCC <sup>1</sup>	International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce
IECC	International Express Carriers Conference
IFCBA	International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
ROO	Rules of Origin
SCCP	Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
SOM	Senior Officials or Senior Officials' Meeting
SPF	South Pacific Forum
STAR	Security Trade in the APEC Region
TILF	Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UN	United Nations
UN/EDIFACT	UN Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
WCO	World Customs Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization