

2010 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation

Summary



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

APEC's 2010 ECOTECH Priorities

- Strengthening ECOTECH activities within APEC
 - Implementation of a framework to guide ECOTECH activities
 - Improving ECOTECH accountability and communications
- Enhancing APEC's collaboration with multilateral organizations
- Enhancing public-private partnership
- Independent assessments of SCE fora

APEC Senior Officials' Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE)

The SCE coordinates and manages APEC's economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) agenda. It prioritizes activities in accordance with Leaders' and Ministers' directives; it oversees the work of SCE fora; and it provides policy guidance on ways to contribute to APEC's ECOTECH goals.

The SCE's fora consist of:

- 12 working groups covering: Agricultural Technical Cooperation (ATCWG), Emergency Preparedness (EPWG), Energy (EWG), Fisheries (FWG), Health (HWG), Human Resource Development (HRDWG), Industrial Science and Technology (ISTWG), Marine Resource Conservation (MRCWG), Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEWG), Telecommunications and Information (TEL), Tourism (TWG) and Transportation (TPTWG).
- Four special task groups: Anti-Corruption and Transparency (ACT), Counter-Terrorism (CTTF), Mining (MTF) and the Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN).

Recommendations to the 22nd APEC Ministerial Meeting

1. Endorse the 2010 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation.
2. Welcome the progress of work on strengthening ECOTECH activities, in particular the completion and implementation of the Framework to Guide ECOTECH Activities and work on enhancing fora accountability and communication.
3. Welcome the achievements of the working groups and Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) task forces and the ongoing improvements that have been achieved through the program of independent assessments of all SCE fora.
4. Welcome 2010 contributions to the APEC Support Fund from Australia, Japan, Russia and Chinese Taipei.

The SCE's Key Achievements for 2010

Strengthening the policy guidance role of the SCE

In 2010, the SCE gave priority to finalizing and then implementing the Framework to Guide ECOTECH Activities. The framework revises the ECOTECH priorities and introduces a uniform set of criteria for all project

funding. It seeks to ensure that APEC funds are used in a way that best meets both members' and APEC's priorities. The framework also proposes a list of recommendations to strengthen the SCE role of policy guidance to Ministers, SOM and all fora.

The SCE also explored ways to improve the accountability of fora and to better communicate the outcomes of their work within APEC and to the broader community.

Enhancing APEC's collaboration with multilateral organizations

As part of SCE collaboration efforts, a policy dialogue on Aid-for-Trade was held in June with other multilateral organizations including the Asian Development Bank, OECD, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. The dialogue discussed suggestions to further the cooperation between APEC and other organizations in advancing the Aid-for-Trade agenda. The WTO, for example, offered to promote APEC's initiatives in this area to a global audience.

APEC fora and their counterparts from other international bodies also jointly organized numerous seminars, workshops and studies in their areas of expertise, including the Energy Working Group and International Energy Agency, which are co-developing programs to improve responses to oil and gas emergencies in the APEC region.

Enhancing public-private partnership

SCE conducted a survey on APEC's engagement with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). As a result, and in order to enhance their responsiveness to the views of the business sector, SCE requested all sub-fora to take into consideration ABAC recommendations put forward to Leaders when they develop their annual work plan as well as identify activities that have private-sector implication.

Many fora have already made great strides in promoting public-private partnership including by inviting private sector representatives to attend meetings and organizing policy dialogues on areas of mutual interest as well as developing working relationships with the business sector.

Independent Assessment of APEC fora

In 2010, SCE completed its review of the independent assessment of five fora: CTTF, HRDWG, HWG, TPTWG and TWG. Another eight fora reported on their implementation of the SCE's decisions following their independent assessments. They are ACT, ATCWG, EWG, ISTWG, GFPN and the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agriculture Biotechnology (HLPDAB), MRCWG and TEL.

Elevation of Taskforce for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) to working group

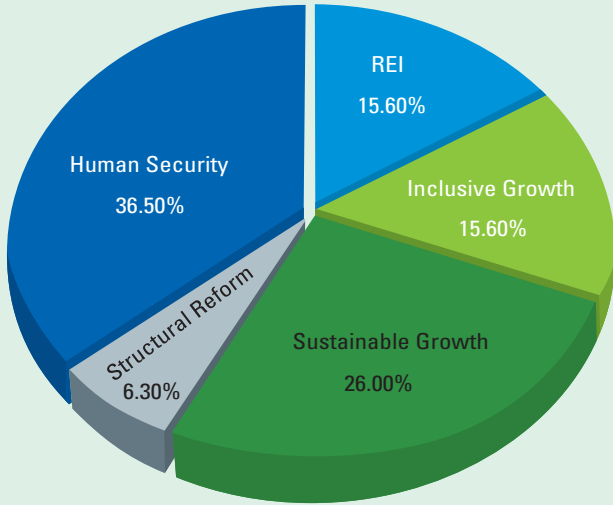
SCE upgraded the TFEP to working group level, recognizing that the frequency and intensity of disasters will continue to increase in the region and the important role that the fora plays in assisting to protect business, trade and economic growth from such disruptions. The mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Task Force was also renewed for another two years until the end of 2012.

Advancing Free Trade for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

ECOTECH Projects

As of September 2010, the SCE and its sub-fora initiated 98 new ECOTECH-related projects. This includes 70 APEC-funded projects and 28 self-funded projects initiated by individual member economies and/or groups of economies.

ECOTECH Projects by Priorities (period 10/2009 - 10/2010)



Priority 1: Regional Economic Integration

Increasing regional economic integration has always been one of APEC's primary objectives. Nine fora reported activities supporting this objective in a number of areas. Key initiatives include collaborating with other APEC fora to improve connectivity in the region, particularly in transportation and logistics and by addressing eight chokepoints in the supply chain. Projects are also underway focusing on reducing trade barriers in the area of environmental goods and services including harmonizing standards and testing procedures in the region.

Priority 2: Addressing the social dimensions of globalisation (inclusive growth)

Fifteen projects were underway in 2010 targeting inclusive growth, which are aimed at ensuring all citizens have the opportunity to benefit from the global market economy. Workshops were held on enhancing the participation of women and the rural poor in economic development through small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including increasing their access to micro-financing. TEL also completed a series of recommendations on policies and strategies to achieve the APEC goal of universal access to broadband in the region by 2015. SMEWG held a number of workshops focused on helping SMEs gain access to the global market, as well as preparation for future international financial crises.

Priority 3: Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth

The 25 projects undertaken in 2010 in this area addressed a broad range of issues on better protecting the environment for future generations. Work has focused on sustainable management of industries ranging from agricultural production through to fisheries and the mining sector. ATCWG undertook work in the areas of rural development and sharing knowledge between member economies on biofuels.

EWG has been implementing a series of projects on energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas trade, cleaner production of coal-fired power and carbon capture and storage. ISTWG has been active in addressing the issues of climate change, energy security and sustainable development from the perspective of science and innovation.

Priority 4: Structural reform

Most of APEC's reforms on reducing "behind the border" barriers to trade are undertaken by APEC's Economic Committee and the Finance Ministers' Process. However, four SCE fora have conducted projects that contribute to this priority. For example, to help increase good governance and cooperation between economies to tackle corruption, ACT organized a workshop on training techniques for ethics of public officials and a joint round table with ABAC on clean markets. Activities also focused on encouraging competition and regulatory reform of telecommunications in the region. A capacity building seminar on access to credit for SMEs was held, with a focus on reducing the costs of getting credit and stimulating markets to supply capital for SMEs.

Priority 5: Human security

Thirty five projects covering a wide range of areas, such as food security, counter-terrorism, emergency preparedness, economic infrastructure and energy security as well as cyber security, were implemented by working groups and taskforces. The production of an action plan on food security was a focus for several groups. The plan was prepared for government ministers who met for the first time on food security in October 2010.

Capacity building projects were conducted by CTTF on cargo security, maritime trade security and land transport security, counter-terrorism financing and money laundering. For example, a seminar was held in Cairns, Australia in September to enhance the capacity of economies in the region to identify and assess vulnerabilities from current and emerging money laundering and terrorism financing methods, trends and techniques.

EPWG focused on building the capacity of economies to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and natural disasters in order to protect business, trade and economic growth and communities from disruption. Activities included a seminar in Chengdu, China in September on incorporating disaster risk reduction measures into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes. The seminar was part of an initiative to be run over several years to address recovery and development after large-scale disasters.

Several projects were held to combat infectious diseases in the Asia-Pacific region, including a capacity building workshop on vaccination against avian influenza in February and a "train the trainer" workshop in June in Hong Kong to help SMEs better prepare for an influenza pandemic.

To help member economies build a safe and trusted ICT (information and communications technology) environment, especially for minors and other vulnerable groups, TEL has undertaken a number of activities, including a joint workshop with the OECD called Promoting a Safer Internet Environment for Children to identify and analyse common policy in this area. TEL is also focusing on the area of cyber security and cyber crime, and activities included a workshop to hear experiences and share best practice on securing public networks from malicious code and attack.

Projects covering secure transportation of people and goods were also undertaken, including an air cargo security workshop in Singapore with industry and government representatives. Other activities include an assistance program for member economies to help them develop the capacity to implement an international code on minimum security arrangements for ships, ports and government agencies.



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