28th Chemical Dialogue (“CD28”)

Action Items

February 18, 2022
Virtual
Microsoft Teams

The Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the APEC Chemical Dialogue (“CD” or “Dialogue” (“CD28”) was convened virtually and was attended by 19 APEC economies; including Australia (Government & Industry); Canada (Government); Chile (Government & Industry); China (Government); Chinese Taipei (Government & Industry); Indonesia (Government & Industry); Japan (Government & Industry); The Republic of Korea (Government & Industry); Malaysia (Government & Industry); Mexico (Industry); New Zealand (Government); Peru (Government); The Philippines (Government & Industry); Russia (Industry and Government); Singapore (Industry); Thailand (Government & Industry), the United States (Government & Industry), and Viet Nam (Government & Industry). The CD28 Plenary meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Kent Shigetomi as the Government Co-Chair and Mr. Sergio Barrientos as Industry Co-Chair.

CHEMICAL DIALOGUE DAY 1

| 18:00 – 18:10 | AGENDA ITEM 1 | WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS |

1.1. **Welcome from Government Co-Chair**

The Government Co-Chair opened the 28th APEC Chemical Dialogue. He welcomed all the delegates to the Chemical Dialogue and provided a brief overview of the meeting’s objectives. Due to the limited time frame, the Government Co-Chair advised each delegate to introduce themselves via the chat function of the web platform to confirm their presence. The Government Co-Chair emphasized that the meeting will be recorded to capture all the information needed for a meeting summary. No objections were made to record the meeting.

1.2. **Welcome from Industry Co-Chair**

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Chemical Industry Coalition (“APCIC”), the Industry Co-Chair welcomed all delegates. He provided a brief background on his role in ASIQUIM and his experience in the chemicals sector. He thanked the APEC Secretariat and the APEC host, Thailand, for their support for the APEC Chemical Dialogue. He encouraged CD members to continue to promote the role of industry in the circular economy – including through chemical recycling; regulatory cooperation and risk assessment; and GHS implementation.

1.3. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

The Government Co-Chair requested any objections or modifications to the agenda be raised in the chat function, or to be expressed vocally. No objections were raised and the agenda was endorsed.

The CD:
- Adopted the agenda with no objections
A family photo was taken of all Chemical Dialogue participants.

2.1 Welcome and Update from the Host Economy  
Thailand SOM

Meeting Documents
- 2022/SOM1/CD/002- Thailand’s Policy Priorities and Hosting Arrangements for APEC 2022

Thailand’s SOM representative, Mr. Pruthipong Poontrigobol, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He presented Thailand’s theme for APEC 2022 as “Open. Connect. Balance.” Under the pillar of “Open”, Thailand is promoting “Open trade and investment to all opportunities”. This includes a refreshed conversation on FTAAP focused on post-COVID-19; including discussions related to digital economy, sustainability, climate change, travel/mobility, digital currency, and health. He noted Thailand also plans to organize an Informal Private-Public Dialogue during the Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) Meeting in May 2022.

Under the pillar of “Connect”, Thailand is promoting “Restoring connectivity in all dimensions”, which focuses on facilitating cross border travel and aims to establish an “APEC Travel Protocol” by the end of 2022. Thailand is promoting safe and seamless cross-border travel, and is planning an APEC Information Portal for Safe Passage Across the region. Thailand also has aims to broaden the scope of APEC Business Travel Card.

Under the pillar “Balance”, Thailand is pursuing “Promoting balance, sustainability, and inclusivity in all aspects.” Thailand highlighted there will be a stand-alone leaders’ document aimed at transitioning economies towards more sustainable and inclusive growth, and formally introduced Thailand’s concept of a “Bio-Circular-Green (BCG)” economy. The first element of BCG is the application of science, technology and innovation to address challenges to sustainability. The second element is engaging the whole of society, including government, industry colleagues, youth, and academia to find solutions. Thailand also aims to align these priorities with the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the Aotearoa Plan of Action.

Thailand noted the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting will be held in Bangkok, the 3rd Senior Officials Meeting will be held in Chiang Mai and the APEC Economic Leaders Week will be from 14-19 November in Bangkok. The Government Co-Chair urged CD participants to think about ways to integrate BCG into project proposals.

2.2 Sharing by the CTI Chair on CTI’s Priorities for 2022  
CTI Representative

The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) Chair, Blake Van Velden, presented CTI’s priorities for 2022, as well as CTI’s collaboration with the Chemical Dialogue. He highlighted six main CTI priorities, including: 1. Supporting Thailand’s priorities – BCG and the development of refresh of FTAPP; 2. The Multilateral Trading System – supporting ongoing negotiations; 3. Economic Integration in the Region – a connected and seamless region; 4. Digitalization and Innovation; 5. Sustainability and Inclusion; and 6. Implementation of the Aotearoa Plan of Action (ATA).
The CD:

➢ Encouraged delegates to think of ideas for projects and how to tie to Thailand’s host priorities

2.3 **APEC Secretariat Update**

**Meeting Documents**
- 2022/SOM1/CD/003– Management Update

The APEC Secretariat provided an update on APEC project proposals and overall objectives for such projects. For APEC 2021 Project Session 2, 62 of the 74 project proposals (84%) were selected by the APEC Secretariat. Many events switched to hybrid/virtual, ultimately resulting in lower costs and higher approval rates. She highlighted the current CD project “Facilitating Trade by Improving Risk Assessment Capacity (CD 01 2020T)”, which hopes to hold an in-person event in August 2022. For Project Session 1, 2022, the submission deadline was February 25, 2022, and the final submission deadline is March 31. APEC projects will be selected on May 9, 2022.

The Secretariat noted longer-term evaluations of APEC Projects include prioritizing effective targeting of the right participants, greater application of learning at “home”, and increased participation rates. The Government Co-Chair noted that the chance of approval is significantly higher now than in the past, re-emphasizing that the approval rate is over 80%, while the historical average is closer to 50%. He also noted that if there are concerns about capacity to stage a project, to reach out to additional economies to potentially co-sponsor.

2.4 **Discussion on the Chemical Dialogue’s Contributions to APEC Priorities**

**Government Co-Chair**

The Government Co-Chair moderated a discussion among CD delegates on how the CD can best contribute to the 2022 APEC priorities. Australia intervened to note innovation in the chemical sector is happening rapidly. The United States intervened to share that one interesting theme is how economies have adapted during the pandemic. For example, the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) noted that they moved their PFAS process online and eased approval for disinfectants. The Government Co-Chair noted that the pandemic may have pushed economies to adopt processes faster than otherwise. The Government Co-Chair noted that the CD can also support Thailand’s BCG economy concept.

| 19:00-19:10 | BREAK |
| 19:10-20:50 | AGENDA ITEM 3 | MARINE DEBRIS AND SUSTAINABILITY |

3.1. **Proposed U.S. Environmental Projects**

Mr. Scott Pietan, a representative from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), provided an update on the CTI 04 2020S “Recyclable Materials Policy Program” project and shared an update on additional proposed environmental projects related to e-waste and compostable bioplastics. He noted that APEC has made environment and sustainability a top priority. He reminded the CD that the Recyclable Materials Policy Program aims to build capacity around managing waste and recycling, and highlighted the webinar in 2021 on preliminary findings of their latest study. The United States also shared two concept notes it plans to move forward with. The first concept note focuses on circular economy and e-waste recovery, including responsible, transparent, and efficient movement of e-materials across APEC.
economies. The second concept note focuses on compostable bioplastics – seeking more clarity on compostable bioplastics standards.

The Philippines intervened and noted that they have a project on sound disposal of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) contaminated plastics from waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and converting their waste management system from informal to more formalized.

The CD:
➢ Encouraged any comments/interest on the project proposals to be shared with APEC delegate’s CTI representatives

3.2. **Commission for Environmental Cooperation Supply Chain Project**

**United States, Mexico, Canada**

**Meeting Documents**

- 2022/SOM1/CD/004 – Advancing Supply Chain Transparency for Chemicals in Products

The United States, Mexico, and Canada provided a presentation on “Advancing Supply Chain Transparency for Chemicals in Products” through the Commission for Environmental Cooperation Supply Chain Project. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is responsible for the implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (1994). The project is still under development, and the goal is to improve supply chain transparency for chemicals in products, a priority for all three economies that participate. The speakers highlighted three steps in this process: 1. Review and assess current information available; 2. Create a case study on best practices; and 3. Disseminate project results. The United States and Canada both provided examples of their work domestically.

There were several interventions. Chinese Taipei asked how the project is addressing confidential business information (CBI). Canada noted that it protects CBI, and that the goal of project is collaboration, so industry will be part of the consultation process. Mexico clarified that the Mexican agency that leads this work is the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. Russia asked what the scope or criteria for chemicals of concern are. The speakers noted that the scope will be determined – and will depend on what is of concern to all three economies. Hong Kong, China asked what happens when there is a complication in the supply chain. The speakers noted that complications are a real challenge. Canada noted it is doing a lot of work internally on this specific topic.

The CD:
➢ Encouraged delegates to contact with Commission leads for additional questions
  CEC: Orlando Cabrera-Rivera, ocabrera@cec.org
  Canada: Tonya Bender, tonya.bender@canada.ca
  Mexico: Arturo Gavilán, arturo.gavilan@inecc.gob.mx
  United States: Zoe Edmur, Edmur.Zoe@epa.gov
➢ Invited the Commission to future CD meetings to provide updates as project moves forward
3.3. **UN Environment Assembly Marine Plastic Draft Resolutions** \(\text{Japan, Peru}\)

Meeting Documents
- 2022/SOM1/CD/005 - *Draft Resolution Text on an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution*
- 2022/SOM1/CD/006 – *Japan’s Efforts Towards UNEA 5.2*

In advance of the Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) meeting, economy representatives from Peru and Japan shared their marine plastic draft resolutions submitted through the UNEA process. Peru provided their presentation first. Peru submitted the proposal, in collaboration with Rwanda, in October 2021 for consideration, titled “Draft Resolution Text on an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution.” At the time of the CD, there were 56 cosponsors for the draft resolution, including three APEC economies (Chile; the Philippines; and Republic of Korea). The main objective of the proposal is to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC). The draft resolution includes several suggested elements, including a reference for a circular economy and tackling the full life cycle of plastics. The draft also proposes the INC consider provisions to achieve sustainability, to include a financial mechanism, and to provide a scientific and socio-economic advice and guidance mechanism.

Japan also provided a presentation on its UNEA plastic pollution resolution. Japan provided an overview of its efforts on marine plastic litter, including promoting the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision and the G20 Implementation Framework. Domestically, Japan has proposed a plan to implement the Act on Promotion of Resource Circulation for Plastics (passed in June 2021). Japan’s UNEA draft resolution includes support for establishing an INC and providing a general structure without prejudging the outcome. Japan noted that Peru’s/Rwanda’s proposal prejudges the outcome. Japan’s proposal includes a reference to the importance of plastics, calls on member states to plan and implement the most effective measures according to their own national circumstances, and to continue to further strengthen existing activities on marine plastic pollution.

3.4. **Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris** \(\text{Coordinator for VWG on Marine Debris}\)

Meeting Documents
- 2022/SOM1/CD/007 - VWG on Marine Debris Update

Ms. Olivia Hernandez, a representative for the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris, presented on the work the Virtual Working Group (VWG) has undertaken since CD27, as well as related work taking place in the CTI, Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG), Energy Working Group (EWG), and other fora. The presentation provided an overview of key accomplishments, including the endorsement of the “Policy and Practice Recommendations: Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems and Reducing Marine Litter” in 2016 and the “Roadmap on Marine Debris” in 2019. The representative also highlighted the APEC Marine Debris Sub-Fund, and encouraged CD participants to utilize the Sub-Fund to fund CD proposals, noting that it ties well with Thailand’s BCG priority.

The representative also emphasized that CD participants should utilize the Marine Debris Website to learn more about marine debris activities in APEC.
3.5. **Rebound Recycled Plastic Exchange**

**Meeting Documents**


Mr. Doug Woodring provided a presentation on the Rebound Plastic Exchange, a global quality-assured platform for the trade of plastic feedstock for recycling, based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Mr. Woodring shared how Rebound Plastic Exchange has the goal of supporting the circular economy by investing in plastic feedstock. He noted the amount of actually recycled plastic is only roughly 15%. While brands are committing to produce 20-30% of their content from recycled material, they are struggling to find feedstock. The Rebound Plastic Exchange provides the supply of recycled plastic feedstock that can be used to create content. The process includes: collecting plastics, putting it into bales, transforming it into flakes, and finally, transforming it into pellets.

Rebound Exchange also created the Rebound Passport System. It is a standardized facility inspection protocol, which uses existing tests that are already in the market. It is currently hosted in Abu Dhabi and is supported by IHC (the largest listed company in Abu Dhabi). Mr. Woodring noted Rebound Exchange would like to have APEC workshops to take a dive deeper on ways to collaborate with APEC economies on this process.

There was an intervention by the United States wondering if Rebound Exchange is focused on any particular type of plastic. Mr. Woodring noted that it was initially focused on plastics one and two, but plans to go grow into other plastics as investment grows.

3.6. **APEC Chemical Recycling Project Proposal**

Mr. Stewart Harris, a representative from the American Chemistry Council, introduced an APEC proposal related to chemical recycling. He noted that during the CD27 there was an informal presentation on advanced recycling. Because of the strong response and participation from the APEC CD, U.S. industry decided to introduce a self-funded APEC project proposal to explore advanced recycling—“Leveraging chemical recycling in a circular economy.” The proposal aligns to CTI and Thailand priorities with an objective to promote awareness and build capacity around advanced recycling. The project proposes three webinars and a potential best practices document, which will be shared at SOM3 in August. Mr. Harris noted the proposal will be circulated after the CD, and welcomes co-sponsors.

After the presentation, the Industry Co-Chair asked if there will be an in-person session at SOM3 if APEC meetings are in-person. Mr. Harris noted that yes, U.S. Industry would welcome an in-person session. The United States intervened and noted it looked forward to participating in the webinar series. The United States also noted it strongly supports the dissemination of information about all technologies and looks to industry to help fill-in gaps of information.

The CD:

- Welcomed the project proposal from the United States and noted the call for cosponsoring economies
20:50-21:00 | CLOSING DAY 1

The Government Co-Chair ended Day 1 of the Chemical Dialogue and provided a brief outline of the objectives for Day 2. He thanked everyone for a productive first day of the Chemical Dialogue.

CHEMICAL DIALOGUE DAY 2

18:00-18:05 | AGENDA ITEM 4 | WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

4.1. Introduction from Government Co-Chair

The Government Co-Chair convened Day 2 of the Chemical Dialogue (“Dialogue” or “CD”) and provided a brief overview of the objectives for the day, which included focusing on regulatory cooperation.

18:05-19:15 | AGENDA ITEM 5 | REGULATORY COOPERATION AND CONVERGENCE

5.1. Regulatory Updates

Meeting Documents

- 2022/SOM1/CD/009 – Updates on Chemicals Environmental Management Policies in China
- 2022/SOM1/CD/010 - Regulatory Updates - New Zealand
- 2022/SOM1/CD/011 - Current Status on Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the Labelling and Classification of Chemicals in Thailand

This session allowed economies to briefly share any regulatory updates. 11 economies provided regulatory updates, including Australia, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Mexico, New Zealand, The Philippines, Russia, Thailand, United States, and Viet Nam.

The CD:

➢ Encouraged delegates to either submit a written submission for inclusion in meeting documents, or a short paragraph summary for inclusion in the meeting report

➢ Noted that for economies that provided GHS related updates, to please provide those directly to Chinese Taipei for inclusion on the G.R.E.A.T website

5.2. Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence

Meeting Documents


Ms. Raleigh Davis, the Industry Co-Chair from the Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence (VWGRCC), provided an update regarding a review of the Virtual Working Group’s (VWG) 2021 activities, and the implementation of the VWG work plan for 2022, including introducing the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) System project proposal. For APEC 2022, the
VWGRCC is focused on the development of a risk assessment compendium, and implementing an OECD MAD webinar, with the goal to encourage economies to participate in the OECD MAD system. After the presentation, the United States encouraged economies’ participation in the MAD system and welcome the proposal.

The CD:
- Welcomed the VWG’s intention to develop a project proposal related to information sharing and capacity building towards participation in the OECD’s Mutual Acceptance of Data (“MAD”) project
- Called for nominations for a government Co-Chair of the VWG on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence

5.3. **Risk Assessment Project**

Meeting Documents
- 2022/SOM1/CD/012 – Project Update - Facilitating Trade by Improving Risk Assessment Capacity

Mr. Andrew Liu, representing U.S. Industry, presented on the Chemical Dialogue’s APEC Risk Assessment project proposal. The project goal is to provide the opportunity to practice risk assessment in a tabletop exercise, rather than completing a live one that can take years. Based on virtual workshops completed in 2021, the objective for 2022 is to conduct an in-person workshop, and to include an environmental toxicity risk assessment and regulatory cooperation elements.

The Industry Co-Chair encouraged participation in the workshop. He noted that when he participated in the 2019 in-person workshop, he found it highly valuable.

5.4. **Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) Work in APEC**

Meeting Documents
- 2022/SOM1/CD/5.4 – Building APEC Economies’ Capacity in Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) to Reduce Barriers to Trade (SCSC 06 2019S); Case Studies: APEC Regulatory Cooperation Successes (SCSC 07 2021S)

Ms. Renee Hancher, a representative from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), provided an update on the SCSC 06 2019S, “Building APEC Economies’ Capacity in GRPs to Reduce Barriers to Trade” project, as well as the recently completed project on “APEC Regulatory Cooperation Successes” (SCSC07 2021S). “Building APEC Economies Capacity in GRPs to Reduce Barriers to Trade” is a self-funded initiative to support economy-level GRP capacity building — including a focus on public consultation, internal coordination, regulatory review, and performance measurement and monitoring. Peru was a pilot for the project, focused on public consultation, and the United States is beginning to work with a second developing economy for 2022.

Ms. Hancher also highlighted APEC regulatory cooperation successes, including work in four APEC groups, including the CD, Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), Automotive Dialogue (AD), and Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF). She also noted the United States is finalizing the [SCSC 07 2021S CD Case Study FINAL_r_clean.docx](live.com), which will be part of a regulatory cooperation toolkit.
6.1. **Virtual Working Group on GHS**

*Industry Co-Chair of VWG on GHS, Thailand, Chinese Taipei*

**Meeting Documents**
- 2022/SOM1/CD/016 – [CD GHS Convergence Proposal](#)
- 2022/SOM1/CD/017 – [APEC CD VWG on GHS – 2022 Work Plan](#)

Mr. Fabien Henry, the Industry Co-Chair of the Virtual Working Group on GHS, as well as a colleague from Chinese Taipei, provided an update regarding the implementation of the VWG on GHS 2022 work plan, the 2022 survey report, and the GHS convergence proposal. Chinese Taipei provided a short update on the Annual Survey on GHS. The Survey included 16 member economies. Chinese Taipei noted that economies that participated in the survey have implemented five different versions of GHS, and identified several possibilities for future work (e.g., accepting of different versions of labels). Chinese Taipei noted that the CD can be a proper platform to deliver capacity building and raise awareness. Chinese Taipei also encouraged economies to continue to participate in the annual survey and to support and agree to the four recommendations in the 2021 summary report.

The Industry Co-Chair shared a revised GHS convergence proposal, and highlighted the four recommendations on four main themes, including broader acceptance of different versions, self-classification, and facilitate cooperation. The Co-Chair noted that they are seeking endorsement after the CD meeting for the capacity building proposal.

The CD:
- Called for comments on the VWG on GHS’s 2022 Work Plan by COB (Singapore Time) on Friday, March 4, 2022
- Called for comments on the CD Implementation Survey Report
- Noted the intention to circulate a project proposal related to GHS capacity building and requested CD economy comment on that proposal when circulated
- Called for nominations for a government Co-Chair of the VWG on GHS

6.2. **Status of the G.R.E.A.T. Project**

*Chinese Taipei*

**Meeting Documents**

Ms. Ellen Lin from SAHTECH, Chinese Taipei delivered an update on the GHS Reference Exchange and Tool (“G.R.E.A.T.”) project. She noted the initiative was established in 2010 to facilitate GHS implementation and international trade in the APEC region. To date, there have been 360,000 visits to the website, and the GHS labelling elements have been translated into 38 languages (12 from APEC economies; 26 from Europe). She encouraged APEC economies to provide the latest GHS updates/versions, including in different languages. She noted that Chinese Taipei will be working on developing infographics for G.R.E.A.T., and drafting a promotion letter for member focal points to circulate
Several APEC member economies and the Government Co-Chair thanked Chinese Taipei for the update and the substantial work on the G.R.E.A.T. project.

The CD
- Thank Chinese Taipei for maintaining the website (and supporting it financially)
- Noted the intention of Chinese Taipei to circulate a promotion letter to CD economy focal points for their use in promoting the use of the website resource with local stakeholders
- Called on CD members to provide any GHS-related updates to Chinese Taipei

### AGENDA ITEM 7 DATA EXCHANGE

#### 7.1 Virtual Working Group on Data Exchange

**Russian Federation, Singapore**

Meeting Documents
- 2022/SOM1/CD/020 – Interactive Guide on Chemical Regulation: Survey results and next step
- 2022/SOM1/CD/021 – Update on timeframe on self-funded project “Webinars on GHS related issues”
- 2022/SOM1/CD/022 – VWG on DE 2022 workplan

Ms. Natalia Druzhinina, representing the CIS Center from Russia, and Ms. Cissie Yeung, representing SCIC, provided an update regarding implementation of the VWG on Data Exchange work plan, including the implementation of the Interactive Guide and the status of a self-funded project. Most recently, 6 economies have provided feedback on the Interactive Guide, and Ms. Yeung requested additional economies to provide input if possible. She also noted that they conducted a survey for feedback on navigation on the Interactive Guide, for things like putting in a search function, links to actual regulations, and a visualization map. The VWG co-chairs also provided an update on the self-funded project for GHS webinars. There will be three webinars from May – July 2022 with topics that include 1. Issues of GHS maintenance, 2. How to start and promote GHS, and 3. Data issues within the supply chain.

The VWG co-chairs also introduced future work topics, including best practices on data communication. They noted they will agree on workstream and then circulate an update to the VWG on Data Exchange.

The CD:
- Called for economies to provide updated information to VWG on DE
- Noted the intention of the VWG to develop guidance document on how to complete the interactive guide
- Called for economies to participate in the three GHS capacity building webinars to be hosted in May-June 2022 by the VWG on Data Exchange

### AGENDA ITEM 8 MEETING SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS
8.1 Meeting Summary

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

8.2 Document Classification

The APEC Secretariat reviewed the Document Classification List and delegates endorsed the document. After the endorsement, the Government Co-Chair and the Industry Co-Chair thanked the APEC Secretariat and the CD participants for a successful CD28 and closed the meeting.

The CD:
- Approved the Document Classification list

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