2013/SOM3/030

SCE REPORT ON IMPROVING ECOTECH IN APEC

During 2013 SCE conducted a survey of fora and economies to assess the effectiveness of SCE's work, capacity building and communication. A report on the survey was considered at SCE3 in Medan on 3 July 2013. The recommendations contained in that report were endorsed and are set out below. In addition to these recommendations the survey report contains further ideas and suggestions that should be considered by SCE in 2014.

SCE has noted the work undertaken by the Budget and Management Committee to develop an evaluation framework and methodology that can be systematically applied to future APEC projects. SCE supported this work and endorsed further recommendations to support its application.

SCE resolved to:

- 1. Continue requiring fora to submit annual work plans before the SCE-COW meeting and reporting on implementation of the work plan later in the year through the Fora Report at SCE3.
- 2. Reduce the administrative burden placed on fora by not requiring an update on the implementation of fora work plans at SCE2.
- 3. Not require formal presentations on fora work plans at the SCE-COW meeting but allow an opportunity for SCE members to make comments, seek clarification from the Chairs/Lead Shepherds.
- 4. Reorganise the SCE-COW meeting to involve a Chairs/Lead Shepherds meeting in the morning, an informal lunch with Senior Officials and Chairs/Lead Shepherds and the SCE-COW meeting in the afternoon, having the meeting moderated around thematic discussions aimed at identifying directions, synergies and defining responsibilities.
- 5. Further tighten up the scheduling of SCE meetings by, when necessary, leaving the work such as adoption of work plans and independent assessments to be done intersessionally.
- 6. Give more priority to cross-cutting multi-year-work which aligns with APEC leaders' and Ministers' instructions. Convene more policy dialogues under SCE framework to discuss critical and cross-cutting issues.
- 7. Task the Secretariat to undertake a strategic assessment of synergies within the ECOTECH agenda after SOM1 and provide recommendations to SCE2 about gaps that may require SCE attention or direction.
- 8. Develop a brief set of APEC capacity building guidelines.
- 9. Task the Secretariat to identify a number of high quality or successful capacity building projects each year for communication with the APEC community.

- 10. Encourage fora to discuss with the APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) opportunities where its policy research and analysis could strengthen their contributions to deepen regional economic integration (REI) and to achieve APEC Bogor Goals.
- 11. Supports BMC efforts to institutionalize an evaluation framework for APEC capacity building projects, especially in respect of participant selection and stronger evaluation.
- 12. Support BMC's efforts to institutionalize evaluation of capacity building by encouraging fora to identify capacity building needs as part of their strategic planning and annual workplan development processes.

The importance of SCE having enough resources to take an active role in supporting work on ECOTECH is an area that all economies should consider. Likewise the availability of sufficient funding to support ECOTECH projects will be essential to building technical experience and cooperation among all economies to support growth.