

The APEC Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues (MOI) Coordination Initiative Proposal

I. Background

1. The Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues (MOI) initiative is a cross cutting and multi-year initiative that was endorsed at the 2013 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. This initiative forms an implementation of commitments made by Economies at the APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meetings (AOMM) and the Food Security Ministerial Meeting (FSMM) in Kazan in 2012. The initiative will be pursued along three broad focus namely in 1) strengthening food security and food safety, 2) maintaining healthy ocean and protecting the marine environment, and 3) connecting APEC Economies through ocean.
2. Seven APEC foras are identified, but not limited to, in this initiative: the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG), the Transportation Working Group (TPTWG), the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS), the Energy Working Group (EWG), the Tourism Working Group (TWG), Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), and the Sub-Committee on Standard Conformance (SCSC).
3. Senior Officials, via the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE), would oversee the implementation of the initiative. A progress report on an APEC-wide mainstreaming ocean related issues effort is also proposed to be presented annually at the Concluding Senior Officials Meetings (CSOM). The report may contain the progress of short and long-term goals of ocean related issues in APEC, to note key challenges, and to identify stakeholders and track projects.

II. Coordination of the Initiative

4. The MOI Steering Council

- a. The purpose of the coordination is to advise Senior Officials through SCE and SOM on the overall progress of APEC work on developing the MOI initiative and its work plan. Therefore, we propose that the SCE create a MOI Steering Council to coordinate the initiative and make recommendation to the SCE and SOM on ways to strengthen coordination on ocean related issues.
- b. The Steering Council would be led by a coordinator and would consist of Lead Shepherd or Chair from each fora identified in the initiative (with a view of not limiting other sub-fora future participation). The Steering Council may hold regular meetings (intersessionally or on the margins of other meetings) to coordinate, discuss progress, and explore synergies and complementarities of the initiative. The Steering Council would be responsible to take account of the development of the MOI work plan template, which was also endorsed in 2013.
- c. The Steering Council would allow a mechanism of coordination and reporting under the SCE and coordination with other committees such as the EC and the CTI as well as the BMC and APEC Secretariat. The timeframe of the Steering Council would be for two years (to be concluded at the end of 2016), unless renewed.

5. The role of the MOI Coordinator

- a. The SCE would designate one member economy to hold the coordinator position, with the selection of the individual representative being left to that economy's SCE delegate's discretion.
- b. The coordinator would be responsible for holding regular meetings (virtually or on the margins of other meetings) with the Steering Council to ensure coordination is taking place across fora. The coordinator would be responsible to propose time and mode of meeting that will take place, propose the agenda of the meeting, report to the SCE and SOM and liaise with the Executive Director. The coordinator would be responsible to report and provide recommendations to Senior Officials at CSOM annually. The coordinator would also provide updates to the SCE and other committees, as requested by each committee chair.
- c. We propose that the appointment and tenure of the Coordinator will follow accordingly with the timeframe of the Steering Council. The nomination of MOI Coordinator is on a voluntary basis and the appointment shall be endorsed by SCE members.

6. The role of the MOI Steering Council Representatives

- a. Each fora identified in the MOI would be represented by its Lead Shepherd or Chair to participate in the MOI Steering Council.
- b. Lead Shepherd or Chair would be the bridge between his/her respective fora and the Steering Council. He/she would be responsible for attending Steering Council meetings (virtually, or in person on the margins of other meetings), reporting progress and then reporting back to his/her fora. Lead Shepherd or Chair of each fora would also act as the project proponent within his/her fora, advocating for the MOI initiative progress and regularly discussing efforts (e.g. ensuring the MOI is on the agenda at meetings, ensuring fora put the MOI initiative into the yearly and long-term work plans, ensuring working groups are proposing projects to advance the MOI initiative). Lead Shepherd or Chair of each fora would also coordinate his/her fora's portion of the progress report to submit to the MOI coordinator.

7. Scope of Cooperation

In assessing the development and progress of the work plan, Senior Officials will be guided by the AMM 2013 Joint Statement as well as CSOM's agreement in 2013 on the work plan and its three categories of issues:

a. Strengthening Food Security and food safety

The challenges to strengthening food security and food safety are abundant. Therefore, the cooperation on this area will cover to enhance and strengthen partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and multilateral organizations, and promote cross-fora cooperation focusing on, not limited to, i) combating IUU fishing and associated trade, ii) sustainable trade in fisheries, iii) empowering fishers in the fisheries sector, iv) promoting effective, science-based management of marine ecosystems, fisheries, and aquaculture, v) promoting investment in sustainable fisheries and agriculture practices, and

vi) supporting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through capacity building of small and medium enterprises in fisheries-related sectors.

b. Maintaining healthy ocean and protecting the marine environment

Reducing the impacts of climate change through mitigation and adaptations activities, and preventing its significant adverse impacts, are fundamentally important for marine ecosystem conservation and its sustainability. Therefore, APEC can increase cooperation and partnership with other relevant international organizations and promote cross fora activities with focus on several areas of cooperation, such as: i) promoting implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approaches, ii) cooperation to enhance connectivity of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) iii) developing joint programs for conservation of marine biodiversity, iv) combating marine pollution, v) raising awareness of relevant stakeholders on the impacts of climate change to ocean resources, and vi) marine data collection to increase understanding of marine environments and support informed decision making.

c. Connecting APEC Economies through the Ocean

To further connect the region, there are several areas of cooperation that could be enhanced, through: i) promoting sustainable transportation, ii) establishing port partnership and services, iii) promoting port infrastructure investment, iv) developing submarine cable cooperation to increase communication linkages through high-speed and cost effective broadband connectivity, v) developing marine-based energy, and vi) enhancing marine and coastal tourism cooperation, and expanding network that involve all relevant stakeholders to empower local communities.

8. Proposed timeline

	Proposal to be discussed at the SCE and agreed to be submitted to
SCE2 2014	: SOM
SOM2 2014	: Report from SCE on the proposal
Intersessional	: Inputs and suggestions to the proposal
SCE3 2014	: Proposal to be considered by SCE
SOM3 2014	: Proposal to be endorsed by Senior Officials
Intersessional	: Nomination of Coordinator
CSOM 2014	: Endorsement of Coordinator
SCE-COW 2015	: Report by the Coordinator on the progress of MOI initiative.