

**2015 Fora Report to SCE: Summary of the Recommendations from Fora**

- It is recommended that SCE note progress in the implementation of working groups/task forces' 2015 work plans and outcomes of meetings since the last report.
- It is also recommended that SCE allow the fora to update their fora reports even after the SCE3 but no later than two months in advance of the CSOM.
- Specific recommendations from working groups/task forces, other than as above, are summarized as follows:

**ATCWG** recommends SCE:

- To take note of the ATCWG Strategic Plan and implementation of the 2014 Work Plan.

**EGILAT** recommends SCE to note :

- Despite making every effort on its part, EGILAT has not received any APEC project funding since its establishment. This is of concern to members, particularly given the intention expressed by APEC ministers in 2011 that EGILAT “build capacity” among APEC members.

**EPWG** recommends SCE to take note of the following recommendations of the independent assessor :

- To update the *Strategic Planning – Process Guide for Working Groups* which was presented at SCE-COW in February 2012, for endorsement and issuance in early 2016;
- To align its annual work planning and reporting cycles by either moving both to a financial year basis; or retaining a calendar year basis but with deliverables and outcomes identified in two distinct 6-month blocks and work plans submitted for information only;
- To actively encourage the institutionalization of a more rigorous approach to evaluating APEC-funded projects, in line with the recommendations in the *Long-Term Evaluation of APEC Projects Final Report*; and,
- To request the APEC Secretariat to develop guidelines on ‘managing forum operations’ which would complement existing guidance on project management, publications and websites.

**EWG** recommends SCE:

- To note EWG progress since last report; and,
- To note that EWG seeks to be closely consulted on Urbanization FoTC matters related to energy.

**HWG** recommends SCE:

- To note that more guidance on the HWG priorities to allocate responsibility for specific health topics is necessary ; and,
- To note that 2015 High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy was proposed to be held on August 30 in Cebu.

**OFWG** recommends SCE:

- To note that the OFWG is concerned that despite Rank 1 project status it did not get a single project funded at Session 1 2015;
- To note that the OFWG has recently commenced drafting of its next Strategic Plan with a view to endorsement this year. The recommendations of the completed 2015 SCE-mandated Independent Assessment will be considered in this process; and,
- To note that OFWG endorsed the OFWG Food Security Action Plan as an input to the overall PPFS-led process on food security.

**PPSTI** recommends SCE:

- To note that the PPSTI endorsed its next 10-year Strategic Plan (2016-2025) and a PPSTI Policy Statement, The latter is intended be presented to AMM later in 2015;
- To note that PPSTI is actively seeking to re-engage with ABAC, including through the ABAC-led APEC Innovation Agenda;
- To note that PPSTI will give full consideration to the recently undertaken SCE-mandated Independent Assessment once the recommendations are known; and,
- To note that the PPSTI considers there is a need to undertake structural reforms in managing and funding APEC projects, based on its experience at Session 1 2015 where 16 PPSTI projects were submitted with only 1 funded, and that was funded from the ASF Science and Technology Sub-Fund which is now closed.

**SMEWG** recommends SCE:

- To recognise the effort and achievements of the SMEWG in promoting SMEs development of and in building capacities for member economies in this regards, and, in particular, to commend on tangible contributions and outcomes in improving SMEs' internationalisation and resilience, start-up acceleration, business ethics and financing SMEs;
- To note the finding of the Independent Assessment and the necessity to extend the SMEWG's mandate;
- To support the closer cooperation between the SMEWG and other APEC fora, in particular the FMP in the area of financing;
- To encourage the involvement of the private sector as the major direct beneficiaries in SMEWG's activities; and,
- To recommend the SOM to endorse the "Digital Economy Action Plan for MSMEs" (Annex1 of SMEWG's report).

**TELWG** recommends SCE to note that:

- TEL's past and current activities, in particular, TEL's Work Plan 2015 and the TEL Strategic Action Plan 2016-2020. The Strategic Action Plan is accompanied by an annex outlining specific actions and possible initiatives that the TEL WG will undertake to fulfil on the TEL Strategic Action Plan 2016-2020; and,
- The activities of TEL are consistent and aligned with APEC priorities. First, the creation of an environment that drives innovation and growth through exchanges of policy and regulation, promoting ICT connectivity, and ensuring a secure and trusted ICT environment with the increasing interoperability and trans-border cooperation. Second, lowering

barriers to economic participation by promoting deployment and access to networks, and leveraging on ICT to build better and safer communities. Third, ICT to help mitigate non-technical shocks, such as natural disasters. Fourth, the use of ICT, to promote the resilient growth of inclusive socially responsible economy.

**TWG** recommends SCE:

- To note that the report from the Project “An Assessment of the Role of Taxation in Promoting Travel and Tourism Growth in the APEC Region” could be communicated to the Finance Ministers’ Process and relevant APEC bodies;
- To note the progress of the project to help improve air connectivity in the region as a cross-cutting work which will have relevance to other APEC groups, such as the TPTWG; and,
- To note the initiative on an annual APEC tourism report, which TWG seeks to be brought to the Ministers’/Leaders’ attention.

**TPTWG** recommends SCE:

- To take note of the TPTWG Strategic Plan and the long-term TPTWG Strategic Plan 2013-2016 development;
  - To note the work of the Task Force on Women in Transportation; and,
  - To note the participation of TPTWG in the development of the APEC Framework on Connectivity, Travel Facilitation Initiative, Connectivity Blueprint and Quality Transport Vision.
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