

SUMMARY CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND WORKING
GROUP MEETING ON ASIA-PACIFIC MULTILATERAL HUMAN RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE, SINGAPORE, 18-19 OCTOBER 1990

1. Adoption of Agenda/Nomination of Proceedings Chairman

The participants nominated Singapore to chair the sessions for the two-day meeting.

The programme and list of participants are attached as Annex I and Annex II respectively.

The South Pacific Forum was invited to the meeting as an observer but it was unable to attend.

2. Report on the First Working Group Meeting in Tokyo, 2-3 July 1990.

Japan introduced the report previously distributed to participants as part of the meeting papers and elaborated on the objectives, principles and projects identified at the first meeting in Tokyo.

3. The Human Resources Development Questionnaire

Japan presented a summary review (attached as Annex III) and a compilation of the questionnaires returned and explained the different responses from the participating APEC members. The meeting noted that the questionnaire had identified the diversity in the levels of HRD activity in the APEC countries, and that this compilation would provide a valuable basis for further HRD work in the region.

Thailand circulated a table summarising the progress of the proposed HRD projects and requested all participants to update the table as appropriate.

4. Work Programme of APEC HRD work projects

4(1) Economic Development

The meeting agreed that a priority for this area was the nomination of an institution or institutions in each of the APEC member countries, to form a network to promote exchanges of information and experiences.

Member countries were requested to submit the names of these institutions as well as ideas and suggestions for the implementation of the objectives under this aspect of the work programme, as soon as possible.

The Republic of Korea was nominated to collate and compile these responses and distribute them to all member countries, and to prepare a draft implementation programme. The Republic of Korea would like to conduct a pilot workshop in the first part of 1991 on economic development management.

4(2) Business Management

The meeting agreed that a priority for this area was the establishment of a network of institutions to promote further the exchange of information concerning teaching methods and curricula as well as exchange of business administrators, instructors and others. Member countries were invited to nominate an institution or institutions and make suggestions on how best to proceed as well as proposals on other aspects of the work programme. Japan was nominated to collate and compile these responses and distribute them to all member countries and to prepare a draft implementation programme.

Japan informed the meeting that there would be a business seminar, to be held in Osaka in January 1991 on business management. On the establishment of an "International Business School" in Japan, the meeting noted that this was a longer-term project.

4(3) Industrial Technology

The meeting agreed that a priority for this area was the establishment of a network among industrial training institutions to promote the further exchange of information and experiences. Member countries were invited to nominate training institutions and gave suggestions and ideas on other aspects of the work programme. Australia was nominated to collate and compile these responses and distribute them to all member countries and to prepare a draft implementation programme.

The Philippines was requested to present to the Third Working Group Meeting a paper on proposals and ideas on the role of the agricultural sector in HRD, to be drawn from interested parties.

4(4) HRD Outlook 1991-1992

The meeting received a paper from the PECC HRD Study Group setting out proposals for a HRD task force and the programme for a workshop on HRD to be held under PECC auspices in Singapore on 1-2 November 1990.

The meeting noted that the objectives and work programme of the proposed PECC task force were closely aligned with those of the APEC Multilateral HRD Initiative, and encouraged and supported collaboration between APEC and PECC. The meeting expressed its appreciation for the work already undertaken by the PECC HRD Study Group and formally requested it to prepare the HRD Outlook 1991-1992 for presentation to the APEC HRD Working Group. APEC would make available to PECC relevant information already collated for the purpose of preparing this HRD Outlook 1991-1992.

4(5) The APEC Partnerships in Education and Training

The US participants elaborated on the proposal introduced by Secretary of State James Baker III at the APEC Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore in July 1990. The meeting noted that Professor Leonard Zion, from Northeastern University, Boston, will be conducting interviews in the region and will be attending the PECC HRD workshop on 1-2 November 1990. He will be seeking wider views on this proposal and preparing an initial implementation programme for presentation to the next working group meeting. The meeting noted the interest of other countries to initiate similar proposals.

4(6) The Philippines' Proposal

The meeting noted that this proposal would need to be looked into in greater detail on how it could be coordinated with the three areas of the work programme outlined at the first working group meeting.

5. Venue for the next working group meeting

The meeting accepted Canada's offer to host the Third Working Group Meeting in Singapore in February/March 1991. The meeting welcomed Indonesia's offer to host the Fourth Working Group Meeting.

It was agreed that the ASEAN Secretariat, PECC and the South Pacific Forum would be invited to attend the Working Group Meetings as observers.