

## **SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE ASIA•PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION WORKING GROUP ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS MEETING, SINGAPORE. 5•6 JULY 1990**

The first Asia•Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Working Group on Telecommunications Meeting was convened in Singapore on 5•6 July 1990. Delegations from Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the United States participated in the meeting. Representatives from the Philippines and PECC participated as observers. A total of 33 individuals participated in the meeting. (See Annex 1).

### **Organisation of Business**

2 The Meeting was chaired by Mr Richard C Beaird. Deputy US Coordinator of the Bureau of International Communications and Information Policy, United States Department of State.

### **Agenda**

3 The draft provisional agenda was adopted and appears in Annex 2.

### **Outcome of the Singapore APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)**

4 APEC•SOMs were held in Singapore in March and May 1990. The first SOM agreed to launch six priority work projects. "Shepherd" countries were chosen for each project. The second SOM agreed to add "Telecommunications" as the seventh project and the United States accepted to serve as one of the "shepherds".

The May meeting noted that a working group would be formed to study a specific prototype project taking into consideration the following areas to be prioritized:

- a Human Resource Development
- b Technology Transfer and Regional Cooperation
- c Opportunities for On•Site Visits/Observerships/Fellowships
- d Telecommunications Standardization (involving the compatibility of equipment).

### **Review of Existing Cooperation Programs in Telecommunications in the Asia•Pacific Region**

5 Existing regional organizations with an interest in telecommunications matters such as PECC, APT, ESCAP, etc. have unique goals and activities. Membership differs in each. Regional cooperation in telecommunications within the framework of the APEC activities can be carried forward without duplicating the activities of existing organizations and in a manner which complements their efforts.

## **Presentations and Discussions by Delegates**

6 Presentations by individual country delegations on the telecommunications environments in their countries as well as ideas for possible cooperative efforts by the working group are included in Annex 3. Information on the activities of PECC and the APT related to telecommunications is included in Annex 4. The group visited the Information and Communication Institute of Singapore (ICIS), a telecommunications software development training program jointly sponsored by the Singapore National Computer Board and AT&T, and also heard presentations on the role of the private sector in telecommunications development.

## **Consideration of Cooperative Programs by the Working Group**

7 The working group considered a wide range of proposals for cooperative programs taking into consideration the four areas referred to in the group's terms of reference. In doing so, the working group agreed that, in the short term, it should focus on the broader issues relating to the telecommunications environment, and should provide a forum for a general exchange on telecommunications issues including HRD.

8 The working group decided that its efforts should be divided into both short-term and long-term projects. The rapporteurs for each project will assemble materials, prepare a report on their assigned projects, and present that report at the following working group meetings. In addition, the task of the rapporteurs will be to assess the feasibility of their assigned projects.

### **Short-term Project**

9 The working group agreed to undertake a compilation of telecommunications development activities underway in APEC countries, as well as a description of each member country's telecommunications environment. A draft compilation will be completed within six months and will be updated on an annual basis. Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and the United States have agreed to serve as rapporteurs for this effort.

### **Long-term Projects**

10 Human Resource Development (HRD):

#### Immediate (6-12 months)

The development of a manual/guideline on "How to Approach Training within a Telecommunications Organization".

The manual/guideline will provide a step•by•step approach to addressing training needs.

The concept of seminars/workshops will be examined as forums to introduce the use and value of such instruments to telecommunications organizations.

### Middle•Term

Development of a pilot project in a specific telecommunications organization that would review total training needs and identify the most appropriate approach to satisfy them. Consideration would be given to a steering committee made up of regional private and public sector persons to monitor and oversee the successful completion of the project. The project would be designed in such a manner that it could be duplicated, in its approach, by other telecommunications organizations in the region.

Thailand and, tentatively, Canada will be rapporteurs on this project and report to the next working group meeting.

### **Regional Networks and Cooperation**

11 The working group will explore ways to establish and develop networks and cooperation among the APEC countries to facilitate the flow of data between member countries. Two initial examples of study areas have been identified:

EDI: enables business data to be transferred from one computer application to another. The project would consider both technical and non•technical business issues and would develop recommendations which may be passed to other APEC working groups (eg. Trade Promotion) in the future.

Teleports: an access facility involving satellites or other telecommunications media serving a regional community.

12 Japan and New Zealand will be rapporteurs on this project and report to the next working group meeting.

### **Other Matters**

13 The second working group meeting will be held in approximately four to six months from the present meeting. The United States, as a shepherd, will clarify the timing and location of the next meeting.

14 Delegates agreed that involvement of the private sector is vital for the successful implementation of working group programs. They encouraged member countries to include private sector representatives on future delegations as appropriate to their national situations.

15 It was the sense of the meeting, that for the purposes of the working group, telecommunications could be broadly interpreted to include related data and information processing activities.