

SUMMARY CONCLUSION OF THE  
ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
WORKING GROUP ON TRADE PROMOTION MEETING (APEC-WGTP)  
SEOUL, 28-29 JUNE 1990

1. The first Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Working Group on Trade Promotion (WGTP) was convened in Seoul on 28-29 June 1990. Delegations from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the United States participated in the Meeting.

Business Arrangements

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Kook-Hwan Shin, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Korea and Mr. Ngian Yet Chong, Deputy Director for International Trade, Ministry of Trade and Industry of Malaysia.

Adoption of Agenda

3. The draft provisional agenda was adopted and appears as Annex 1.

Outcome of the Singapore APEC-SOM

4. The first APEC-SOM held in March 1990 adopted trade promotion as a priority work project and designated the

APEC SECRETARIAT  
**LIBRARY COPY**  
PLEASE RETURN AFTER READING

Republic of Korea and Malaysia as co-sheperds of the project. The second APEC-SOM held in Singapore in May 1990 approved the joint proposal presented by the Sheperds, which included holding the first Working Group meeting on Trade Promotion on June 28-29, 1990 in Seoul as well as the provisional agenda of the Meeting.

Review of Existing Cooperation Programmes in Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region

5. The Meeting observed that each of the existing regional trade-related organizations, such as PECC, PBEC, ESCAP, ATF etc. has its own goals and activities, and membership is somewhat different in each. In this sense, regional cooperation for trade promotion within the framework of the APEC activities should be carried out without duplicating the activities of the existing trade-related organizations.

6. The participants shared the view that the successful completion of the Uruguay Round was essential for facilitating regional trade promotion.

Consideration of Implementation of the Cooperation Programmes

Programme 1 Exchange of Trade and Industrial Information (as Annex II, including submissions from Australia and Singapore shown as Annex IIa, IIb).

7. The goal of this programme is to provide information to enhance trade and to facilitate market access, e.g. participant countries' liberalization measures, incentives for investment, etc. The Working Group will also use the information exchanged as a basis for further discussion and follow-up.

8. It was agreed to submit by 13 July a list of elements desirable for exchange to Singapore, the coordinating country. The coordinator will assemble a consolidated list to be distributed in advance of the 2nd APEC Ministerial Meeting in Singapore, 30-31 July 1990.

Programme 2 Asia-Pacific Trade Promotion Seminar

(as Annex III)

9. Australia will be the coordinating country and participating countries agreed to submit views and comments on the program to Australia by 13 July 1990.

Programme 3 Exchange of Trade and Economic Missions

(as Annex IV)

10. The Meeting agreed in principle on the exchange of trade and economic missions to promote mutual economic benefits and to explore ways to rectify trade imbalances between countries. The participating countries also agreed to decide on the type of mission desired and to submit their views and comments to the USA, the coordinating country, by 13 July 1990.

Programme 4 Asia-Pacific Trade Fair

(as Annex V)

11. The Meeting agreed to hold an Asia-Pacific Trade Fair in the future. It was recognized that this would be a long term project given the complexities associated with fair organization and the time-consuming nature of such events.

12. Japan, as coordinating country, agreed to further examine this project and to report thereon at the next WGTP meeting to be held in Malaysia.

Programme 5 Asia-Pacific Trade Promotion Training Course

(as Annex VI)

13. The Meeting agreed on the merits of this program to familiarize regional members with one another's trade policies and to expand the number of regional trade experts.

14. Korea agreed to arrange the first training program and requested each participating country to inform Korea of its requirements with regard to training curriculum, number of trainees, and so forth.

Programme 6 Mechanisms

(as Annex VII, including submission from Thailand as Annex VIIa)

15. The Meeting agreed that, at present, the level of regional activities do not as yet warrant establishment of an Asia

Pacific Trade Promotion Association (APTPA). The Working Group will serve as the cooperation mechanism for trade promotion until members identify a need for a permanent regional Association, when the cooperation programmes for trade promotion are fully under way.

#### Preparation for the Singapore APEC Ministerial Meeting

16. The Republic of Korea will report the outcome of the first WGTP meeting to the 2nd Ministerial Meeting in Singapore. Each coordinating country will submit a progress report on its respective program to the co-shepherd countries, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, no later than 20 July 1990.

#### Other Matters

17. The second WGTP will be held in Malaysia, some time between the APEC SOM in October 1990 and the third Ministerial Meeting in October 1991, preferably during the first half of 1991.

18. The Meeting took note of Thailand's interest in becoming a shepherd country for this project as well as Thailand's offer to host the third WGTP Meeting.

19. The Meeting agreed that involvement of the private sector in the WGTP Meeting is vital for successful implementation of the project.