

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF APEC THIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING ON
ASIA PACIFIC MULTILATERAL HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
FEBRUARY 18 - 19, 1991
SINGAPORE

1. Adoption of Agenda/Nomination of Proceedings Chairman

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

The program and list of participants are attached as Annex 1 and 2 respectively.

The chairman welcomed the South Pacific Forum attending as an observer for the first time. The PECC and ASEAN Secretariats were also in attendance as observers.

2. Report on the Second Working Group Meeting in Singapore, October 18 - 19, 1990

Singapore reported on the proceedings of the second meeting of the Working Group and referred participants to the summary conclusions previously distributed.

3. Update on HRD Questionnaires

Japan provided an update on the submissions in response to the questionnaire. An additional submission from Canada was distributed during the meeting. Japan noted that questionnaire responses had already been shared with PECC.

Canada provided a summary of its detailed questionnaire response. The document provides an overview of Canadian institutions and capacities for education, training and research, together with a description of its development assistance program related to HRD in Asia Pacific. Canada invited delegates to share this document with other Ministries which will have an interest in its content.

4. Report on Networks in Economic Development, Business Management and Industrial Technology

A. Activities since the last meeting

Since the last meeting of the Working Group, the three coordinators have collected information on lead institutions and views on the nature of the three Networks

(A summary of nominated lead institutions is attached as Annex 3). Each of the coordinating countries tabled a paper on the results to date and several other delegations tabled papers reflecting their views. These papers reflected many common themes regarding the role of the coordinators and the desired structure of the Networks.

B. Agreed Principles regarding Networks

Agreement was reached on the following principles:

- a. Each Network will have a coordinating institution responsible for initiating Network activities.
- b. Participation in Network activities should be at the expense of participating APEC countries. Host governments of the coordinating institutions will accept responsibility for costs associated with establishing and day-to-day management of the Network.
- c. The three previously designated coordinators (Korea for Economic Development, Japan for Business Management and Australia for Industrial Technology) were confirmed for continuation in this role for a period of two to three years.

C. Action Plan for Development of Networks

Participants agreed on the urgency of developing the Networks and having tangible results to report to the Ministerial meeting in October. These results would include specification of the nature of Networks, their mandate, methods of organization and preliminary identification of HRD issues in the three identified sectors.

Participants also agreed that a work program outlining proposed activities including such areas as information and faculty exchange, joint research and development of relevant education and training programs be developed.

Formulation Seminars are to be held by the coordinators and the dates for these are to be specified within three weeks. Specific plans for network organization, management and work programs would be developed by mid-June.

Participants which have not nominated institutions are urged to do so by March 15. Coordinators will then circulate a list of all participating lead institutions to members of the Working Group.

The participants accepted the offer by Canada to fund a consultancy which would:

- a. Prepare an overview paper based on the tabled papers and questionnaire responses which will explore the goal of the Networks, their structure, the role of coordinating institutions, national lead institutions and principles regarding finance.
- b. Provide this overview paper and, where requested, the involvement of the consultants as input to Formulation Seminars which will be held before the next Working Group Meeting.
- c. Support, if requested, the coordinators in their development of the work plans.

5. HRD Outlook Study and Formation of HRD Task Force

PECC provided background information and an update on progress on the Asia Pacific HRD Outlook Study. This Study will be undertaken by the newly formed PECC HRD Task Force. It was agreed that the study will be of great interest to the Working Group which will maintain close contact with PECC. Singapore agreed to provide liaison between APEC and PECC on this matter. Canada and Australia confirmed their willingness to assist this initiative through appropriate funding channels.

6. Partnerships for Education and Training

The United States tabled a paper with an update on this proposal. Implementation is imminent once arrangements with U.S. institutions are completed. The Working Group endorsed the involvement of the private sector in the partnership proposal. In welcoming the U.S. proposal, Japan indicated it is giving consideration to a similar initiative and is planning to hold a symposium for inviting suggestions. The partnership's efforts were accepted as supportive of and complementary to Network activities.

7. Business Management Initiative

In response to the invitation to make suggestions on how best to proceed, several proposals in conjunction with the Business Management Initiative (previously entitled the International Business School) were tabled. The Working Group had considerable discussion on the role of the Networks in the consideration of such proposals. Given their similar direction and consistency with the aims of the APEC Working Group on HRD, these proposals were welcomed by the Working Group and will be considered in conjunction with the development of the Business Management Network.

8. Other Matters for Discussion

Japan circulated a report on the Top Management Seminar which it hosted in January 1991. The meeting welcomed the report with interest.

The meeting acknowledged the importance of keeping in touch with other HRD activities in other APEC working groups, and in encouraging the formulation of new initiatives.

8. Next Meeting

The working group reconfirmed that Indonesia would host the next meeting tentatively scheduled for July 1991.

February 1991
Singapore