



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

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## **Proposal for the Establishment of a Working Group on Transportation**

Submitted by: United States

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ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORTATION

I. Introduction

Growth in the volume of trade has been the foundation of the successful development of the economies of the APEC countries. Improved transport capabilities - for both goods and people and by all modes - will be a key element to continuing strong economic performance.

There are a number of ways in which commercial transportation services could be improved or expanded. Regional cooperation could speed the achievement of a more efficient, more effective transportation network -- benefitting both individual countries and the region as a whole.

II. Terms of Reference

APEC should establish a working group on transportation to facilitate the expansion of all modes of transportation within the region. At an initial meeting, the working group could identify:

- 1. Ways to improve data exchange so as to provide adequate data to identify future problems and provide support for policy decisions;
- 2. Methods and technologies to promote the efficient movement of passengers and goods through international gateway airports and ports (facilitation);
- 3. Key infrastructure needs in the region to support the growth of trade; and
- 4. Means to enhance security and safety.

The working group could also consider appropriate programs for technology transfer and human resource development in these areas.

III. Participation

The working group should take into account the work of existing organizations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and existing mechanisms, such as bilateral aviation agreements, seeking to complement that work and avoid duplication. As appropriate existing organizations should be utilized to advance the work of APEC. APEC should also involve appropriate private sector organizations in its work, including PECC.

## ATTACHMENT: Transportation: Topics for Consideration

### Data Exchange

As a first order of business, the expert group might look into means to improve the exchange of data on cargo and passenger flows, especially within the region. Adequate data are essential to identify future problems and to provide support for policy decisions. The group could examine existing data to identify gaps and recommend programs to fill these gaps.

### Facilitation

The efficient movement of passengers and goods through international gateway airports and ports is of vital significance to carriers, exporters and importers alike, regardless of nationality. The gains of improved infrastructure, equipment and operating techniques will be lost if cargo remains idle in airports or ports because of government red tape or excessive documentation and clearance requirements. Provision of adequate and trained government inspection staff, coordination (and perhaps eventual elimination) of government clearance within the region, standardization of documents used in international trade, and substitution of cost-saving, efficient computer-to-computer transmissions (known as electronic data interchange or EDI) are all areas worthy of exploration. The working group could consider means to promote the dissemination of advance technology and to promote human resource development.

### Infrastructure Development

Both the aviation and maritime infrastructure (airports, air traffic control systems, navigational aids, flight operation and maintenance facilities, ports and warehouses) will need to be expanded and improved in order to keep pace with projected trade growth. Development of highways and railways as the primary links to ports and airports is also an area for possible improvement. Improved national and regional planning is needed, and increased funding for transportation projects should be considered. The work of existing multilateral mechanisms -- for example, ICAO and ESCAP -- should be used to develop concepts, focus discussions and secure improvements.

### Security and Safety

Security and safety is of extreme importance for all transportation, and especially for the aviation sector. All countries must develop and coordinate their safety regulatory systems. APEC should endorse the importance of exchanging quickly information on threats to civil aviation and maritime transport and of fully implementing the security standards called for by ICAO and IMO. The working group could consider projects to promote standardization and for human resource development.