

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIFTH MEETING
OF THE APEC WORKING GROUP ON ASIA PACIFIC MULTILATERAL
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
BANGKOK, JANUARY 9 - 10, 1992

1. ATTENDANCE

The Fifth meeting of the APEC Working Group on Asia Pacific Multilateral Human Resources Development Initiative took place in Bangkok on January 9 and 10, 1992. Delegates from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and the United States of America participated. Representatives of the PECC Secretariat were also in attendance as observers. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting adopted the agenda as appears in Annex 2.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Thamarak Kampisit, Assistant Secretary-General, the National Economic and Social Development Board of Thailand was elected Chair of the meeting. Dr. Gary Anderson of Canada and Mr. Witit Rachatanun of Thailand were elected as rapporteurs.

The Chair welcomed two new APEC participants to the HRD Working Group: the People's Republic of China, and Chinese Taipei.

4. REPORT OF THE FOURTH WORKING GROUP MEETING IN BANDUNG, JULY 11-12, 1991 AND THE THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SEOUL, NOVEMBER 12-14, 1991

Indonesia presented the proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group and referred participants to the Summary Conclusions previously distributed as appear in Annex 3.

The Republic of Korea reported on the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held in Seoul, November, 12-14, 1991, and referred to the Joint Statement as appears in Annex 4.

PROGRESS REPORT OF APEC-HRD ACTIVITIES

a) Economic Development Management Network (NEDM)

The Republic of Korea referred to the Workplan approved in Bandung, and presented A Proposal for General Operating Principles and Action Plan for 1992 for APEC-HRD-NEDM as shown in Annex 5.

Korea raised two specific issues in the action program for 1992: exchange of information, and education and training.

In exchange of information, the network has developed and distributed a data collection format for NEDM related institutions and their programs. The Coordinator of the network requested member countries, which have not done so, to submit the data at their early convenience for distribution to facilitate NEDM's activities in the region.

With respect to education and training, the meeting noted proposals presented by Japan, Korea, and Thailand to be circulated for comment through NEDM. Those proposals are as follows: Japan announced a proposal for a seminar on Economic Development Management and Human Resource Development in Asia-Pacific Region to be conducted in Autumn 1992. Korea also made a proposal for a seminar on the Development of Information Technology and Economic Growth of Developing Countries to be organized for the summer of 1992. Thailand filed information through NEDM concerning specific training opportunities in Thailand in NEDM-related subjects. Other members were encouraged to submit similar proposals.

Korea, as the coordinator of NEDM, noted the necessity of three networks working together on certain projects related to economic development management.

b) Business Management Network (BMN)

Japan presented an interim report on activities since the BMN First Annual Meeting held in Bandung. Since then:

- Principles for decision-making regarding APEC-HRD-BMN activities have been agreed which indicate consensus when no member objects within a reasonable period of time;
- Two general information items announcing events of potential interest to network participants were circulated through the network;

- An Information Exchange Directory is being compiled;
- A Needs Assessment Workshop: In Search of the Asian Manager for the Year 2020, is to be held by the Asian Institute of Management in the Philippines, February 12-13, 1992;
- Several Business Management Initiatives are being planned by Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand;
- A joint research project for business management case studies, sponsored by Indonesia, Japan, and the Philippines has also been endorsed;
- New Zealand is preparing a proposal related to policy advice on the supply and demand of business management professors and trainers.

c) Industrial Technology Network (HURDIT)

Australia reviewed the summary of the HURDIT Formulation Seminar held in Wollongong, August 9, 1991 as found in Annex 6.

A Progress Report was tabled. In presenting this report emphasis was placed on the importance of developing appropriate consultation processes and utilizing PECC and other relevant resources. The progress report includes seven proposals for specific activities:

1. HRD for Industrial Technology in Small Business and Informal Sector (Indonesia)
2. Quality Workforce Through On-The-Job Training (Singapore)
3. Industrial Technologies and Human Resources Strategies in the APEC Region (New Zealand)
4. Assessing Skills Shortages in APEC Countries (Australia)
5. Lifelong Skill Development (Australia)
6. Development of an Inventory of Working Models for Skills Training and Upgrading in Industrial Technology (Canada)
7. Tertiary Education Systems (Indonesia and Australia)

Prioritization and response to these proposals is being invited through the network before January 31st. Following circulation of a resulting overall work schedule and agreement through the network, implementation will follow shortly thereafter. A Training Project for

the APEC HURDIT Work Program was introduced by Japan to be circulated for comment through the HURDIT Network.

d) US-APEC Partnership for Education and Training

The United States presented a report on the progress of the 13 Partnerships already established and outreach activities.

The United States informed the meeting of the U.S. President's proposal to host a meeting of APEC Education Ministers in mid-1992. It will be a forum to discuss high-priority education policy issues among APEC countries. The Philippines suggested that education for sustainable growth and development of human resources should be a priority topic for the meeting. On a suggestion from Australia, participants were requested to consult with their national delegations and to notify Australia, the host of the next Working Group meeting, of other suggested topics by May 1, 1992. Australia volunteered to collate the suggestions for consideration by the Working Group and conveyance to the host.

e) Tokyo Symposium on Japan-APEC Partnership for Education and Training

Japan reported on the symposium held in Tokyo and described the modalities intended to further on-the-job training through post graduate employment of suitably qualified APEC students.

APEC HRD ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Canada commended the network Coordinators for their efforts and introduced the heads of its three National Lead Institutions who, as part of the Canadian Delegation, attended the Working Group for the first time.

Canada noted the difficulty in discussing documents which had not been previously circulated, and requested such advance circulation in future meetings.

The network Coordinators and other participants emphasized the importance of national sub-networks led by National Lead Institutions as a means to activate networks further. Participants were encouraged to create sub-networks, and Japan encouraged the involvement of sub-network institutions in network activities.

The United States raised the issue of funding and expressed the need to move the issue forward. The meeting reiterated the principles concerning funding which have guided previous practice in connection with routine expenses; these are:

1. APEC-HRD activities should be financed by participating members;
2. Activities of Coordinating institutions for the three approved networks will be financed by their national governments;
3. National Lead Institutions should be financed by their national governments;
4. APEC-HRD Working Group Meetings will be supported by the host country for the meeting.

The meeting also recognised the importance of the Working Group developing and recommending on funding options to be considered by Senior Officials. The Working Group welcomed Australia's offer to prepare an options paper on funding for consideration by the next Working Group meeting.

Report of PECC-HRD Outlook Study

The PECC Secretariat reviewed the HRD Outlook, 1991-92. The meeting welcomed the contributions of PECC and congratulated Dr. Linda Low and PECC for preparing the outlook and sharing it with the Working Group. In the spirit of collaboration with APEC, PECC informed the Working Group that it would welcome their comments on the Draft. The Working Group asked that future PECC HRD Outlook documents be made available to the Working Group, and agreed to undertake a full discussion of the policy recommendations at the next meeting.

Australia announced a workshop on Labour Market Projection Methodologies and Labour Market Data Issues to be held in cooperation with AUSPECC and SINCPECC. The workshop responds to recommendation #2 in the PECC HRD Outlook and attempts to improve the quality of future labour market data and projections. Japan also announced a symposium on an Integrated Approach to Human Resource Development Planning, March 16-19, 1992.

Inter-University Educational Mobility

Australia informed the meeting of an initiative to increase the mobility of higher education students and staff among universities of the Asia-Pacific region and asked the delegates to bring the

initiative to the attention of the relevant universities and ministries.

Other Matters

The Working Group welcomed Australia's offer to host the Sixth APEC-HRD-Working Group Meeting in Australia prior to the Senior Officials Meeting. Furthermore, it was suggested that the Networks meet immediately prior to the Working Group meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 26-29 in Sydney.

The meeting expressed its sincere appreciation to the host country for its organization of the meeting and the warm hospitality demonstrated.