

Report of  
The APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)  
Fukuoka, 9 February 1995

1. The SCSC met on 9 February 1995 prior to the meeting of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) in Fukuoka, Japan. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States of America and the APEC Secretariat. Representatives of Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (APLAC), Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF), Asia Pacific Metrology Program (APMP), Pacific Accreditation Co-operation (PAC), and the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) attended the meeting as guests.
2. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Eiji Sakuta, Deputy Director General, International Trade Administration Bureau, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Japan. Mr. Herudi Kartowisastro, Indonesia, and Ms. Margaret Fanning, Australia, were appointed as Vice-Chairs. Mr. John Hulbert, as the proxy for Ms. Fanning, attended the meeting.
3. The proposed agenda was adopted without amendment (Document II-1).
4. The meeting considered the following papers:
  - Report of the APEC Ad Hoc Task Force on Technical Infrastructure Development (Australia)
  - Report to the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance on the Joint Meeting with Specialist Regional Bodies
  - Case Studies on Priority Areas for Alignment with International Standards (Japan)
    - Questionnaire on Electric and Electronic Apparatus (Japan)
    - Questionnaire on Food Labelling (Australia)
    - Questionnaire on Rubber Products (Malaysia)
    - Questionnaire on Plastic Products (the Republic of Korea)
  - Mutual Recognition in the Voluntary Sector (New Zealand)

- Report of the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance Experts meeting on the regulated sector in MRAs (Food Products)
- Report of the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance Experts meeting on the regulated sector in MRAs (Toys)

#### APEC Ad Hoc Task Force on Technical Infrastructure Development

5. The meeting endorsed the recommendations of the Report of the APEC Ad Hoc Task Force on Technical Infrastructure Development (Document III-1) and paid particular attention to the ways in which they might be implemented. While supportive of the broad thrust of the report, Mexico indicated it would like more time to consider the proposals contained in the report.
6. It was noted that the specialist regional bodies were well placed to recommend initiatives to develop the region's technical infrastructure. It was agreed that New Zealand would seek input from specialist regional bodies on proposals for practical initiatives consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force report and bring those proposals forward for consideration by the July meeting.
7. The importance of implementing the task force recommendations was also noted, with member economies drawing attention to the importance of developing effective cooperation programs in the field of technical infrastructure.
8. It was confirmed that Australia would prepare a report for consideration at the November 1995 meeting on progress made in implementing the Task Force's recommendations. The report will be based on responses to a questionnaire to be circulated by Australia to member economies and specialist regional bodies at the end of August 1995.

#### Closer Cooperation with Specialist Regional Bodies

9. The meeting considered the Report on the SCSC Joint Meeting with Specialist Regional Bodies held on 8 February 1995 (Document III-2) and agreed that:
  - New Zealand convene a group consisting of the five Specialist Regional Bodies and New Zealand to identify areas of potential cooperation and

coordination between these bodies and APEC, and to develop appropriate work programs which are time bound and performance based.

- the Specialist Regional Bodies be invited, as appropriate, to attend future meetings of the SCSC.

10. It was noted that New Zealand will report on progress in the work of the group at the July meeting.

#### Closer Alignment with International Standards

11. The meeting considered the paper on Case Studies on Priority Areas for Alignment with International Standards (Document III-3). The case studies for alignment with international standards in individual priority areas will be conducted under the lead responsibilities of Japan (Electric and Electronic Apparatus), Australia (Food Labelling), Malaysia (Rubber Products) and Korea (Plastic Products) in consultation with PASC. The following specific products were identified for the case studies:

- Electric and Electronic Apparatus : Air Conditioners, TV Sets and Refrigerators
- Food : Food Labelling
- Rubber Products : Rubber Gloves and Rubber Condoms
- Plastic Products : Unplasticized Plastic Pipes and Fittings

12. The meeting considered the questionnaires on Electric and Electronic Apparatus (Japan) (Document III-3-a), Food Labelling (Australia) (Document III-3-b), Rubber Products (Malaysia) (Document III-3-c) and Plastic Products (Korea) (Document III-3-d). It was agreed that the questionnaires would be reconsidered in the light of possible comments from PASC, after which member economies would complete the questionnaires and return them to the lead members by the end of May 1995.
13. Japan will prepare a comprehensive report based on the case studies, including recommendations to promote alignment with international standards, for consideration at the APEC Ministerial Meeting in November 1995.

## Mutual Recognition Arrangements in the Voluntary Sector

14. The meeting considered the paper on Mutual Recognition in the Voluntary Sector (Document III-4) and noted that:

- the Specialist Regional Bodies are addressing Mutual Recognition in the Voluntary Sector through specific work programmes.
- the Specialist Regional Bodies are seeking ways in which they can advance these specific programmes in a coordinated way.
- the group to be convened by New Zealand consisting of the five Specialist Regional Bodies and New Zealand will identify areas of potential cooperation and coordination between these bodies and APEC and report its findings to the next meeting of the SCSC.
- New Zealand will continue to monitor progress in this area and report its findings to the next SCSC meeting.

## Mutual Recognition Arrangements in the Regulatory Sector

15. The meeting considered the Report of the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance Experts Meetings on the regulated sector in MRAs for Food Products (Document III-5) and Toys (Document III-5-a), and noted the progress made at the Experts Meetings. It was agreed to support the direction and future work programmes that had been endorsed at the Experts Meetings.
16. The meeting expressed its support for the principles underlying the development of MRAs set out in the paper "Multi-lateral Mutual Recognition Agreement on Conformity Assessment," and that experts developing MRAs in food products and toys be advised to base their work on approaches outlined in the paper.

## Other Business

17. The meeting agreed to recommend to the CTI the establishment of a Task Force with the objective of providing the SCSC with a draft report on the mid/long-term action programs in the area of standards and conformance as a response to the Bogor Declaration. The proposal for the establishment of the Task Force was made by Japan, who would act as convenor. Australia, Canada, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea,

Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and the United States of America expressed immediate interest to participate in the Task Force. Other members were urged to express their interest at an early date. The draft Task Force report will be completed in June 1995.

18. The SCSC reiterated its intention that it would endeavour to coordinate its activities with other APEC working groups and sub-committees.