

Chair's Report to APEC CTI on the
Intellectual Property Rights Get-Together

Singapore, April 17, 1996

Introduction

1. Convened by Japan in accordance with the decision of the CTI meeting held in Manila, 10-11 February, the first session of the Intellectual Property Rights Get-Together was held in Singapore on April 17, 1996.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and the United States of America. Representative of the APEC Secretariat is also attended. The list of participants appears as Annex 1.
3. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shigeo Takakura, Director for International Cooperation, Japanese Patent Office, Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan.

Agenda Item 1: Chair's Welcome

4. The chair extended a warm welcome to all delegates and thanked them for the confidence expressed in the designation of Japan as convener at the last CTI meeting in Manila.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

5. The meeting adopted the agenda which is contained in the Annex 2.

Agenda Item 3: Collective Action Plan

6. The chair outlined his Initial Thoughts on the Collective Actions and draft Matrix Report format. In particular the Chair invited economies to submit ideas on simplification of procedures under item (e) of the Collective Actions.
7. Members agreed that the Initial Thoughts, as revised by the meeting, should be attached to the Matrix and submitted to the CTI, while recognizing that the Initial Thoughts, subject to further confirmation, should be regarded as an explanatory note to the Matrix. The Initial Thoughts tentatively revised by the Chair is attached in the Annex 3.

8. The agreed format of the Matrix Report on Collective Action Plan appears as Annex 4.

Agenda Item 4: Contact Point List

a. Contact Point List for Government, Professional and Academic Contacts

9. The delegation of Australia proposed the draft Contact Point List for Government, Professional and Academic Contacts. The participants paid tribute to the work done by Australia. The delegation also reported that about half of the economies had already submitted the completed list of contact points. Members also agreed that the List should be available to the public on the APEC Internet Homepage.
10. The proposed format of the List is attached in the Annex 5(1).
11. Members agreed that Australia would act as a collator and complete the final version of the entire List and submit it to the next Get-Together in May in order to enable the completed Contact Point List to be submitted to the CTI in May for approval.
12. It was agreed that the completed lists would be maintained and updated by each central contact point in cooperation with the APEC secretariat which would consolidate the members' lists.
13. It was agreed that the listing of contacts other than Government contacts is not to be taken as an endorsement by economy, of those listed or of their expertise. A disclaimer to that effect could be included on member economies lists or the Home Page if members so wished.

b. Contact Point List for Law Enforcement Officers

14. The delegation of Australia proposed the format of the Contact Point List for Law Enforcement Officers.
15. Members agreed that the content of the List for Law Enforcement Officers should be produced in the same manner as the list for Government, Professional and Academic Contacts, although the list for Law Enforcement Officers should be confidential and not be open to the public.
16. It was noted that the contact points of WTO TRIPs and the activity of APEC Subcommittee on Customs Procedures should be taken into account when drawing up the Contact Point List.
17. The proposed format of the List is attached in the Annex 5(2).
18. It was agreed that each member should submit comment on the format by the end of April to Australia in order to enable Australia to distribute a revised

format by the first week in May. Members agreed to complete their respective details and forward them to Australia before the next Get-Together.

19. To the extent that members wished that law enforcement contacts be made public, it was noted that those could be included in the contact list referred to as paragraph 13 above.

Agenda Item 5: APEC Survey on IPR Protection

20. The delegation of Australia proposed the format and items of the Survey on IPR Protection consisting of Part I and Part II. Part I was a list of current relevant legislation and regulations as well as agencies responsible for developing and administering the laws and regulations. Part II was a list of Specific provisions of the TRIPs Agreement and their relationship to domestic legislation and identified changes required to implement TRIPs. It also provided a tool for the identification of possible technical assistance needed to do this. The members expressed their appreciation of the work done by Australia. The proposed format and items of the survey appears as Annex 6.
21. Members agreed to complete Part I of the Survey within 8 weeks. It was also agreed that Part II could serve as a useful tool by those economies that have not yet implemented TRIPs as a checklist to identify where technical assistance could be needed. Circulation of Part II to other members would be on a voluntary basis by each economy, if it so desired, even in relation to technical assistance.
22. It was agreed that Australia would be a collator of the Survey. Members agreed to submit a completed Survey of Part I to Australia by June 13, 1996. Australia would then circulate the completed lists.

Agenda Item 6: Other Issues

a. Individual Action Plan Format

23. The Chair drew members' attention to the prototypes proposed by Singapore and Hong Kong at the last CTI in Manila in February, which can be the good basis for making the Individual Action Plan for each economy.

b. Partners for Progress (PFP) Project <Management of Industrial Property Rights: Computerization of Application processing in Industrial Property Rights>

24. The delegation of Japan explained its proposal on Partners for Progress Project regarding industrial property rights and its intention to seek approval in CTI.
25. It was noted that some members expressed the need to further elaborate on the proposal.

Agenda Item 7: 1996 Work Plan

26. The chair proposed that Get-Together be held back-to-back with each CTI session throughout this year. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Get-Together.
27. It was agreed that the next Get-Together be held in conjunction with the CTI meeting in May in Cebu, the Philippines. The Chair will soon inform the members of the exact date and venue of the next Get-Together after the consultation with the Government of the Philippines.

(Annexes follow)

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