



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

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## **Modalities for an Annual Discussion and Review of Sustainable Development Work in APEC**

Submitted by: Philippines

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**MODALITIES FOR AN ANNUAL DISCUSSION  
AND REVIEW OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORK IN APEC**

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**Background**

Ministers, during the Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development held on 11-12 July 1996 in Manila "recommended that APEC Senior Officials annually review sustainable development work in APEC for the purpose of coordinating and reviewing activities, providing guidance to APEC fora and measuring the success of their efforts."

The Third Senior Officials Meeting agreed to undertake further discussions on this matter in SOM IV.

It is in this regard that this discussion paper is presented for discussion by SOM, for their recommendation to the Ministers and Leaders.

**Proposal for Annual Review of  
Sustainable Development Related Activities in APEC**

Initiatives/Recommendations to Oversee Integration of Environmental Issues in APEC

The APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Environment held on 24- 25 March 1994 in Vancouver, Canada developed the APEC Environmental Vision Statement which, among others, urged APEC SOM to develop ideas for multi-sectoral exchanges at the regional level. The Ministers likewise called upon APEC SOM to build on the environment work already underway in APEC Working Groups and to develop a strategic approach, based on sustainable development principles.

As a follow-up to the APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Environment, an APEC Environment Experts Meeting on Environment-Economy Integration was held in Hualien, Chinese Taipei on 25-27 August 1994. The meeting made the following recommendations to SOM towards the integration of environmental issues in APEC action programs:

- a) SOM should oversee such cross-cutting issues in APEC and that it should be responsible, with input from environment experts, for implementation of the integrated approach to environment and economy in APEC.
- b) SOM rely on five principles to achieve this goal of integrating environmental issues into the APEC work program:
  - no new institutions;
  - effective integration of environmental issues into APEC activities and projects;
  - the responsibility of the SOM for integration of environment issues;
  - the need for Working Groups and Policy Committees to have clear responsibilities and program proposals that integrate economy and environment;
  - the importance of an effective and transparent process for monitoring.

c) SOM may wish to consider further the following in integrating environment issues in APEC programs and policy discussions:

- SOM to provide directions to Working Groups and its Committees, with these bodies reporting on progress on environmental integration as part of their regular reports to SOM.
- SOM will consider such reports in the standard APEC review procedure.
- SOM would rely upon the expertise of SOM delegations from member economies.
- SOM could call ad hoc meetings of APEC Environment Experts to provide their assessment of Working Groups' and Committees' progress in integrating sustainable development activities in APEC work programs.

d) Environmental experts could, in addition, engage in direct consultations with the Lead Shepherds (or Working Group Coordinators) to promote the acceptance of integrated initiatives.

#### Options for the Annual Review Process

In recognition of the recommendations of environment experts, and the existing processes in APEC, it is recommended that the SOM consider the following in determining approaches and arrangements for the annual review of sustainable work in APEC:

- The SOM may task the Economic Committee (EC) to conduct an annual review and assessment of sustainable development work in APEC. As such, the EC shall coordinate closely with the Working groups and APEC Fora to acquire information which is essential to its review and assessment exercise.
- The SOM may instruct the Working Groups and APEC Fora to clearly indicate in its regular reports to SOM, specific joint activities or work they are undertaking.
- Experts' Meetings may be convened by SOM, whenever necessary, to address sustainable development concerns in APEC.