

**Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SCSC Meeting**  
**Quebec City, Canada**  
**18-19 May 1997**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> SCSC meeting for 1997 was held on 18-19 May 1997 in Quebec City, Canada. The meeting was attended by 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, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and the United States of America. Mr Christopher Butler, Chair of the Committee on Trade and Investment was present. The APEC Secretariat also attended. Mr Masami Tanaka, Chair of the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) Standing Committee and Mr John Birch, Convenor of the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF), also attended as guests.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Richard Lafontaine, Chair, Standards Council of Canada.

The meeting considered the following documents: (97/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/...)

- (/01) Draft Annotated Agenda
- (/02) APEC SCSC Delegate List
- (/03) Report of the SCSC Chair to the CTI
- (/04) SCSC Work Program
- (/05) SCSC Chair's Initial Report on the Status of Implementation of CAP Actions
- (/06) Progress in Alignment with International Standards
- (/07) Guidelines for the Preparation, Adoption and Review of Technical Regulations
- (/08) Communications with the PASC Standing Committee
- (/09) Building and Construction Work Program
- (/010) Hazardous Area Equipment (HAE) Work Program
- (/011) Update on APEC Technical Group on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients
- (/012) Implementation of Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety and APEC Food MRA (Information Paper)
- (/013) APEC Food MRA Supplementary Material
- (/014) Mutual Recognition in the Voluntary Sector
- (/015) Communications with HRD WG
- (/016) Report on the Results of the Transparency Survey
- (/017) Responses to the Transparency Survey by Economy
- (/018) TILF Project Proposal on Compilation of Information on Food Labelling laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Region
- (/019) EC/SCSC Dialogue Topics
- (/020) Closer Cooperation with Specialist Regional Bodies
- (/021) Report to PASC of the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance
- (/022) Report on Other APEC Projects Relating to SCSC Activities
- (/023) 15th meeting of the APEC Telecommunications Working Group

- (/024) Report of the 1st meeting of the APEC Steering Group on Energy Standards
- (/025) Meeting Document, APEC Energy Project, Steering Group on Energy Standards
- (/026) Communications with the APEC Energy Working Group
- (/027) APEC "Model" Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Automotive Product
- (/028) TILF Project proposal for a Workshop on International Environmental Standards and Trade Liberalization and Expansion
- (/029) Renewal of SCSC Mandate and Terms of Reference
- (/030) Discussion Paper: Business Involvement in SCSC Activities
- (/031) Preparation for next BAC
- (/032) Guidebook on APEC Financial Procedures
- (/033) APEC CTI Standards and Conformance Contact List
- (/034) Addendum to MRA Questionnaire Responses: Japan
- (/035) Request for Proposals for SCSC TILF Project (CTI 06/97 T)
- (/036) Report of the APEC Seminar on Environmental Management Standards and their Implications on Global Trade
- (/037) Korea's Proposal on the Establishment of APEC Cooperating Center for Conformity Assessment
- (/038) APEC/Partners for Progress (PFP) Project Training Program in the Field of Standards and Conformity Assessment Schemes
- (/039) Correspondence with APMP
- (/040) Member Economies' Draft Initial Reports on the Status of Implementation of CAP Actions
- (/041) Member Economies' Draft Initial Progress Reports on Voluntary Action Plans for Alignment with International Standards
- (/042) Terms of Reference for an SCSC/EC Dialogue
- (/043) Report on the Outcomes of SOM II and the 2nd CTI
- (/044) 2nd SCSC Agenda
- (/045) Supplement to Report on Progress of Alignment with International Standards
- (/046) Overview of the ISO/TC 207 Kyoto Plenary
- (/047) Pacific Area Standards Congress
- (/048) Resolution of PASC XX
- (/049) Project Evaluation Committee-Report on Evaluation of BIDs under the SCSC 1997 TILF Project (CTI 06/97T)
- (/050) Report on the Ad Hoc Experts: Group Meeting on an MRA on Conformity Assessment on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Safety)
- (/051) SCSC Summary Matrix Report - Osaka Action Agenda (OAA) Collective Actions - Standards and Conformance
- (/052) Draft Report on the 2nd SCSC Meeting

## **1. Opening**

The Chair extended a warm welcome to all delegates to Quebec City.

## **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting adopted the agenda with amendments. Agenda item 11 was brought forward to agenda item 8 and subsequent agenda items were renumbered accordingly.

### **3. Business Arrangements**

Members were advised that the Victoria Delegates List was included in the meeting papers.

### **4. Report on the Outcomes of SOM II and 2<sup>nd</sup> CTI**

The Chair presented a report on the outcomes of SOM II and the 2<sup>nd</sup> CTI, which was included in the meeting documents.

The CTI Chair was in attendance and was invited to provide supplementary comments. He noted that the reporting requirement for this year included enhancement as well as implementation of collective actions. He indicated that "deliverables" were activities that provide specific benefits for specific beneficiaries within APEC; e.g. a symposium or a seminar was not in that sense a "deliverable". He further indicated that standards work was critical to trade facilitation and much was expected of the SCSC. A redraft of format guidelines on IAPs would be recirculated and he would appreciate SCSC views in order to polish the guidelines still further. Finally, the CTI Chair indicated that one of the issues to be addressed by the SCSC was how to get business input, and how to explain what it must do to be immediately relevant to business.

### **5. Implementation and Evolution of CAPs**

The SCSC Chair presented a report on the Status of Implementation of member economies' CAP Actions, noting that fourteen economies had submitted initial draft CAP Reports, as well as initial Reports on Progress of Alignment with International Standards.

The Chair identified several questions or areas for further improvement of the final CAP Reports, and for providing guidance to the SCSC Chair in his report on CAP implementation to the CTI.

Member economies agreed:

- that the summary report to the CTI Chair would not cover "special actions";
- that member economies may continue to report on "special actions" in their reports to SCSC;
- to distinguish in future CAP reports between voluntary and regulated sectors;
- that actions initiated by SCSC decisions in 1997 will generally be reported as "enhancements";
- that three member economies will prepare a checklist to guide member economies in drawing up future CAP Reports;
- member economies will transmit to the SCSC Chair revised draft CAPs in time for the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCSC in St. John's.

## **6. Alignment with International Standards**

### **(a) Progress in Alignment with International Standards**

Japan reported on progress in alignment with international standards which was based on the reports of member economies' Voluntary Action Plans (VAPs). SCSC endorsed all six recommendations incorporated in the report.

Japan will develop an indicative list of standards based on the reports of member economies. This list would be circulated to member economies for comments in mid-June after all initial reports have been received. A revised list would then be distributed and used by member economies in preparing their final VAP reports .

Those member economies who have not yet submitted their initial VAPs should do so as soon as possible.

In respect of international standards needing to be revised, member economies were asked to identify, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCSC, issues which the SCSC Chair might ask PASC to deal with in its activities, through the Chair of the Standing Committee of PASC.

### **(b) Guidelines for Technical Regulations**

The meeting was informed of the importance of this issue as a deliverable to Leaders and Ministers by November 1997.

Members welcomed the systematic and comprehensive nature of the report under consideration.

Members agreed to provide New Zealand with any additional comments by **9 June 1997** to enable a final draft to be circulated well in advance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCSC meeting in St. John's in August.

### **(c) Seminar on Environmental Management Standards**

Singapore reported that the APEC Environmental Management Standards Seminar was attended by some 180 participants from 13 member economies. Some of the main points raised during the presentation and question-and-answer sessions were highlighted. These included the need for international standardization to take account of WTO trade principles, benefits of and difficulties encountered by industry in implementing ISO 14001 and efforts being made by ISO to assist SMEs in using the standards.

### **(d) International Standards in the area of Building and Construction**

The meeting received and considered the response of the Pacific Area Standards Congress Standing Committee (PASC SC) to the SCSC's earlier request to assist in this work item through coordinating regional input into the development of international building and construction standards.

The major points of that response indicated that PASC SC:

- welcomed the request to support the activity of SCSC;

- saw its role as promoting Participating (P) membership in relevant ISO Technical Committees and was still considering a strategy for coordinating regional input into the development of international standards in the way proposed by SCSC;
- was willing to facilitate the coordination of regional input among PASC members in the areas of:
  1. General Structural design standards ..... ISO TC 98
  2. Material specific design standards..... ISO TC 71, (165), 167 & 179
  3. Timber products..... ISO TC 165, 55 and 89
- did not see it necessary to coordinate input on Performance Based Housing Standards (SCSC's proposed TG2) as there was already sufficient participation by PASC members in the relevant ISO Technical Committee.

The meeting agreed that the SCSC Chair should write to the PASC SC Chair to further clarify the SCSC proposal and seek an expansion of, and clarification of, PASC SC's earlier response.

**(e) 1997 Work Program for Hazardous Area Equipment (HAE)**

The meeting considered the proposed work program, developed by Australia, to implement the SCSC's decision of October 1996 in relation to a two part process involving: the coordination of regional input into the development of international standards for hazardous area equipment; and member economies subsequent alignment to standards so developed.

The meeting agreed that the letter from the SCSC Chair to the PASC SC Chair (as outlined above) should highlight the SCSC's interest in developing a mechanism, similar to that for building and construction standards, for the coordination of regional input into the development of international standards pertaining to hazardous area equipment. This interest should be expressed in a manner that invites PASC SC members to give their views on whether it is appropriate or possible for PASC SC to undertake the proposed coordination role.

**(f) Technical Group on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients**

Canada reported on the progress of the ad hoc Technical Group on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), noting that this was an informal group of APEC member economies that meets on the margins of international pharmaceutical conferences to coordinate input into draft Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for APIs.

**7. Mutual Recognition of Conformity Assessment**

**(a) Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Safety)**

Malaysia reported that the Experts' Group chaired by the SCSC Vice-Chair (incoming) agreed on the scope covering only household appliances and motorized equipment for domestic use including products for which standards are aligned, or intended to be

aligned, with relevant international standards including agreed priority areas. Critical items of information on the regulatory systems of member economies were identified and would be gathered and considered by the August Experts' meeting.

**(b) Implementation of the APEC Food MRA and Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety**

The APEC Secretariat reported that, to date, 11 member economies have notified their participation in the APEC Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety. As yet, no economies have notified the APEC Secretariat of their participation in the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Food and Food Products.

**(c) APEC Food MRA Supplementary Material**

Subject to confirmation of some member economies with respect to the new wording of paragraph 2 and the current wording of paragraph 6.4.2 of section 1, it was agreed that the Supplementary Material would be forwarded to the APEC Secretariat to be made available to member economies considering or developing sectoral arrangements under the APEC Food MRA.

**(d) Mutual Recognition in the Voluntary Sector**

New Zealand reported on progress being achieved by the five Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) on mutual recognition in the voluntary sector. The Sub-Committee noted progress.

It was further noted that all five SRBs had been invited to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCSC meeting for 1997 in St. John's, Newfoundland. This meeting would provide an opportunity for detailed discussion.

SCSC also considered a letter from the regional coordinator of APMP to the New Zealand delegate with liaison responsibility between SCSC and the SRBs. In this letter three problems were identified in respect of customs activity in the transportation of measurement artefacts around the region for intercomparison purposes:

- Time delays
- Damage to the artefacts
- Unnecessary tax and duties

It was agreed that the SCSC Chair would write to the Chair of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) seeking advice from SCCP on how those problems should be addressed and resolved.

**8. Closer Cooperation with Specialist Regional Bodies**

**(a) PASC Standing Committee**

Mr. Tanaka, the Chair of the PASC SC, reported on PASC activities. He indicated that in some cases international standards were not appropriate to APEC economies' markets,

and that work on alignment with international standards is very difficult. He pointed out that closer contact between APEC SCSC delegates and their standards-writing organizations is important, and that APEC member economies should assist staff of the standards-writing organizations in participating in the ISO/IEC TC and SC activities as P members.

#### **(b) Round Table on Standards and Conformance**

New Zealand introduced a proposal by the Specialist Regional Bodies for a one-day round table on standards and conformance issues. The Convenor of APLMF outlined a proposal on behalf of the Specialist Regional Bodies, and agreed to elaborate further on issues that could be covered in the Round Table. Member economies agreed:

- to hold a one-day Round Table either immediately before or after the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCSC meeting at St. John's;
- that the Round Table cover the following two topics:
  - ⇒ confidence building for mutual recognition arrangements; and
  - ⇒ relationship of standards and technical regulations and their effect on trade;
    - [issues of traceability and training will be addressed as appropriate within these two topics]
- the Round Table would not provide policy prescriptions for the SCSC but a report on outcomes would be produced in the normal manner;
- to provide feed-back on the focus of each topic, desired outcomes, and other comments to the SCSC Chair and New Zealand by **30 June 1997**;
- that each member economy may invite a single business representative to the Round Table;
- the SCSC Chair and New Zealand will finalise the logistics of the Round Table in consultation with the Specialist Regional Bodies, taking into account comments of member economies; and
- New Zealand would circulate the final program to member economies by **31 July 1997**.

#### **(c) Second APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance**

Members discussed the possibility of holding a second conference on Standards and Conformance.

SCSC noted that the needs and objectives of a Conference would need to be clearly assessed as a first principle and the most appropriate format (Conference, Round Table, etc.) to progress SCSC priorities.

Malaysia indicated its preparedness to host a Conference in 1998.

It was agreed that a decision on whether to hold a second conference would be addressed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of 1997 in St. John's.

It was agreed that SCSC should not constrain itself by scheduling the meetings on a fixed-time basis.

## **9. Cooperation on Technical Infrastructure Development**

### **(a) SCSC 1997 TILF Project**

The meeting considered the report by the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) on the evaluation of bids for the SCSC TILF Project (CTI 06/97T). The PEC outlined the criteria and process used to evaluate the bids. After some discussion the meeting endorsed the PEC recommendation that advice on the successful bidder and the two runners-up be forwarded to the APEC Secretariat for appropriate action.

### **(b) PFP Project**

Japan reported on the first training program in the field of standards and conformity assessment schemes, which was initiated jointly by the government of Japan and the government of Malaysia. Japan noted that the program was successfully held from 19 to 28 March 1997 in Malaysia, and referred to the survey of the participants in the training program.

Japan explained that in preparing for the next program in their fiscal year 1997, comments from participants, comments from Malaysia, the hosting economy, and current SCSC activities will be considered carefully. It noted that the curriculum of the next program would be developed in close consultation with Malaysia and reported to the 3rd SCSC.

Malaysia reported that it would like to include more information on international and regional bodies related to standards and conformity assessment in the next program. It suggested a date of 12 to 21 November 1997 for the next program.

Member economies are requested to submit any comments on the content of the program to Japan by **9 June 1997**.

### **(c) Joint HRD WG/SCSC Activity Project**

The meeting considered the proposal by the HRD Working Group for the project "Enhancing International Quality Assurance Systems (IQAS)" to be undertaken on a joint basis by the HRD WG and SCSC. While a number of economies expressed support for the proposal it was noted that SCSC participation in the project carried with it certain unspecified financial commitments. It was agreed that Japan would act as the SCSC contact point and would approach the HRD WG to obtain further information on the financial aspects of joint conduct of this project.



## 10. Transparency

### (a) Revised Transparency Survey Recommendations

The United States reported on updates to the recommendations to the Transparency Survey which had been discussed at the previous SCSC meeting in Victoria. The SCSC made additional changes to the recommendations including renaming the "APEC Standards and Conformance Guide" as the "APEC Contact Points for Standards and Conformance Information". The United States agreed to make this information available in electronic format for inclusion on the APEC Secretariat website. The United States also announced that it would mail a recent NIST report on National Measurement Standards, Testing and Quality Systems (NMSTQ) to all SCSC members.

### (b) TILF Project Proposal on Compilation of Information on Food Labelling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Region

The meeting endorsed the TILF Project Proposal on Compilation of Information on Food Labelling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Region proposed by the People's Republic of China which will be forwarded to CTI Chair for endorsement and BAC for consideration. The meeting also noted one member economy's request that the People's Republic of China consider the possibility of contributing more funding towards the project.

## 11. EC/SCSC Dialogue

The meeting considered the SCSC Chair's letter of 4 April 1997 in relation to an EC/SCSC dialogue and agreed that the SCSC chair is to prepare a letter<sup>\*</sup> of introduction to the European Commission's contact point outlining the SCSC's interest in entering into ad hoc discussions in accordance with the Terms of Reference approved at Victoria.

In that respect a number of economies mentioned the following sectors for initial talks:

- conformity assessment and accreditation systems;
- mutual recognition arrangements;
- technical infrastructure assistance;
- interaction between regional and international standards - particularly CEN/ISO and CENELEC/IEC interaction;
- impact of regulatory structures;
- approving, promulgating and implementing technical regulations; and
- measurement and traceability.

Member economies recommended that the dialogue be focussed and that it correspond to the Osaka Action Agenda. The manner in which Specialist Regional Bodies might participate remains to be determined. It was agreed that the SCSC Chair's letter to the European

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<sup>\*</sup> A draft of this letter will be distributed to member economies for comment prior to dispatch.

Commission should seek participation of representatives from European Union Member States and also invite any suggestions the Commission might have for additional topics for dialogue.

In addition, the SCSC Chair would write to the Chair of ACCSQ seeking advice based on their experience in their separate dialogue with the European Commission.

## **12. Coordination with other APEC Fora**

The APEC Secretariat provided an updated list of projects on SCSC-related activities in other APEC fora. The meeting agreed that the APEC Secretariat would seek further information on activities in the Fisheries Working Group. The meeting also agreed that there is value in corresponding with other Working Groups on the activities of the SCSC and to seek similar information from them on an on-going basis.

## **13. Renewal of SCSC Mandate**

The meeting discussed the renewal of the SCSC mandate and agreed that the mandate should be renewed. The meeting noted that, with some minor modifications, the current "Declaration of an APEC Standards and Conformance Framework" is a robust document that should cover the SCSC work program into the future. The meeting also discussed whether the SCSC mandate should be renewed for a fixed period or whether its mandate should be extended indefinitely subject to regular review by the CTI.

The meeting agreed that member economies would provide written comments to the SCSC Chair on the renewal of the SCSC mandate and any proposed amendments to the Framework by 16 June.

## **14. Business Involvement in SCSC Activities**

The SCSC stressed the importance of promoting the relevance of the SCSC to the business community and to increase their input into SCSC work. The meeting agreed that member economies should contact their economy's ABAC representative associated with cross border flows and/or other business representatives where appropriate to solicit ideas on approaches to engage business in the work of the SCSC. It was also agreed that the SCSC Chair would communicate with ABAC following advice from the APEC Secretariat. Member economies will report back to the SCSC Chair who will compile a report on the ideas submitted. This report will form the basis of a further discussion of this item at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the SCSC in St. John's with the view to developing concrete recommendations for business involvement in SCSC activities.

## 15. Other Matters

The APEC Secretariat briefed SCSC on preparations for the Budget Administrative Committee (BAC) meeting to be held in Singapore on 29-31 July 1997. The APEC Secretariat also drew SCSC's attention to the Guidebook on APEC Financial Procedures endorsed by BAC in April 1997. SCSC noted that new formats for budget applications and evaluation/progress reports were included in the Guidebook.

Korea's proposal on the establishment of APEC Cooperating Center for Conformity Assessment was tabled for information and comment by end of June 1997. Korea indicated that the document would be revised taking into account members' comments and submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> SCSC.

The Chair, on behalf of all members, thanked Mr. Jun Yamazaki for his contributions to SCSC and wished him well in his new responsibilities.



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