



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

1997/SOM1/017

APEC Sectoral Ministerial Meetings 1997

Submitted by: Canada

**First Senior Officials' Meeting
Victoria, Canada
27-28 January 1997**

APEC SECTORAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN 1997

FINANCE - 5-6 APRIL, PHILIPPINES

Key Agenda Points	Business Element	Relevant ABAC Recommendations
Status: draft agenda will be discussed at the February Meeting of Finance Officials - current macro-economic issues - facilitating private sector participation in infrastructure development - promoting financial and capital market development - supporting freer flow of capital	- to be determined	- APEC Voluntary Investment Projects (AVIPs): investment protection regime for individual projects - develop set of principles on elimination of double taxation and other tax barriers to cross-border trade and investment: multilateral understanding on taxation or commit to work to expand bilateral efforts - investment priority issues: endorsement of broad program aimed at reducing volatility and raising predictability of capital flows by developing free capital markets, publishing credible financial/economic statistics at regular intervals, maintaining transparency of taxation of cross-border business - access to capital for SMEs - development of guidelines for private involvement in infrastructure

APEC SECTORAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN 1997

TRADE - 9-10 MAY, MONTREAL

Key Agenda Points	Business Element	Relevant ABAC Recommendations
<p>Status: draft agenda to be discussed at SOM 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC support for WTO work program - overview & implementation of APEC IAPs and CAPs - trade facilitation issues - trade liberalization issues - ABAC recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Symposium on Customs Procedures (8-9 May) will address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the nine-point program of the Sub-Committee on Customs and Procedures on harmonization and simplification of customs procedures - current customs-related barriers to trade, best practices and possible solutions - ways of further improving cross border flow of goods and travellers (will include discussion on risk management, electronic commerce, tailored processes for different client groups) - Report to Trade Ministers on priorities, recommendations for action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC business visa - APEC central registry for trademarks and patents - program of cooperation on IPR - common professional standards in business services sector - reaffirmation of Bogor liberalization goals with pledges to voluntarily undertake unilateral measures to accelerate process - customs harmonization; endorsement of continued simplification of customs procedures - improvement of investment rules: agree to timetable for revision of non-binding principles - access to markets: endorsement of efforts to analyze SME market access issues and make recommendations on UR-plus actions - alignment of product standards

APEC SECTORAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN 1997
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - 9-11 JUNE, TORONTO

Key Agenda Points	Business Element	Relevant ABAC Recommendations
<p>Status: draft agenda to be discussed at February Meeting of Senior Environment/Economic Officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - advance Initiative on the Sustainability of the Marine Environment (MRC WG) - advance Cleaner Production / Clean Technology Initiative (IST WG) - endorse Initiative on Sustainable Cities - contribution to Leader's initiative on FEEEP (environment component) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forum of business and municipal leaders to focus on sustainable urbanization; dialogue with Ministers on priorities - Air & Waste Management Association's (AWMA - 16,000 members in 65 countries) 90th Annual Meeting & Exhibition (8-13 June), with 6,000 participants and 700 exhibitors. Meeting will include events such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a seminar and pavilion on innovative environmental technology - a public outreach forum on smog - a youth panel on mapping a professional future in the environment field - urban environmental management discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC can help develop a sense of community in the region by: (1) broadening business participation (to include a broader cross-section of the community), (2) increasing awareness of the cultural and social diversity (which are linked with economic issues), and (3) promoting greater understanding of APEC

APEC SECTORAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN 1997

TRANSPORTATION - 22-24 JUNE, VICTORIA

Key Agenda Points	Business Element	Relevant ABAC Recommendations
<p>Status: draft agenda has been revised to take into account comments from member economies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theme: "Future Directions and Priorities for the Transportation Working Group" - examine actions required to improve the capacity and efficiency of the system, as well as the respective roles of government and industry in ensuring that transportation needs are met - update on ongoing initiatives and new directions for WG plan - discuss results of minister-industry symposium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation Industry Forum (24 June) on "Transportation Infrastructure Development in Asia Pacific: Overcoming Barriers to Growth": Part I on innovative approaches to financing infrastructure development (sourcing financing, regional supply and demand of capital, negotiating project financing); Part II on privatization/corporatization of infrastructure projects (legal, institutional, financial & operational aspects of privatized infrastructure projects, adapting to differing legal regimes), Part III on the Environmental Challenge (noise pollution, urban encroachment, compliance with environmental regulations) - Transportation Minister-Industry Symposium on "Transportation: Supporting Trade Growth in the Asia Pacific" (23 June), including discussion on urban congestion/sustainable urbanization, highway and railway infrastructure and services, integrated transportation planning (passenger and tourism facilities and linkages), air transportation market outlook and terminal and airside capacity, international shipping (trends in international shipping, role of regional feeder services, regulatory environment), port management and terminal capacity (port and terminal development, land use issues and sustainable transportation), marine safety and environmental protection (safety regulations, enforcement, port state control) - Greater Vancouver Gateway Council and Transport Canada will sponsor a Gateway Conference focusing on the Vancouver Gateway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Voluntary Investment Projects (AVIPs): investment protection regime to be applied to individual projects - infrastructure: could accept transportation as one of the "areas for private investment" and agree on guidelines for encouraging private involvement: risk reduction, sustainability, liberalized markets for energy, avoidance of subsidization, etc. - focus on development cooperation in area of infrastructure

APEC SECTORAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN 1997

ENERGY - 26-27 AUGUST, EDMONTON

Key Agenda Points	Business Element	Relevant ABAC Recommendations
<p>Status: draft agenda is being developed</p> <p>Items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mobilizing capital for power infrastructure: adopt non-binding guidelines for the implementation of independent power producer (IPP) tender, evaluation and approval processes - energy standards: approve framework aimed at enhancing mutual recognition of testing facilities across the region - barriers to environmentally sound infrastructure: consider factors that hamper development of environmentally sound power infrastructure in region and provide guidance on priority issues to be addressed - contribution to Leaders' Initiative on FEEEP: discuss/endorse energy element 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A business symposium involving APEC member economies to discuss energy-related issues and report to Energy Ministers is planned - Other possible business-specific activities are also in the planning stage, including a potential technology showcase and visits to major energy sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Voluntary Investment Projects (AVIPs): investment protection regime to be applied to individual projects: develop guidelines for tendering, evaluation and approval of power projects could be basis for AVIPs - infrastructure: could accept energy as one of the "areas for private investment" and agree on guidelines for encouraging private involvement: risk reduction, sustainability, liberalized markets for energy, avoidance of subsidization, etc. - focus on development cooperation in area of infrastructure

APEC SECTORAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN 1997
SMEs - 18-19 SEPTEMBER, OTTAWA

Key Agenda Points	Business Element	Relevant ABAC Recommendations
<p>Status: agenda is being developed; will be discussed at April Meeting of Policy-Level Group on SMEs</p> <p>- Developing an integrated policy framework to address cross-cutting issues impacting on SMEs as engine of growth in the region</p>	<p>- meeting between SME Ministers and private sector representatives</p> <p>- APEC SME Business Forum and Exposition on "Where SMEs go to Access APEC Markets" (17-18 September) will have four main components to maximize business interactions</p> <p>1 - Exposition: the exposition will showcase the most innovative and competitive companies from all APEC economies, in nine targeted sectors.</p> <p>2 - Networking and Business Matching: business matching programs will connect export-ready SMEs with potential buyers and partners from the Asia Pacific before and during the event.</p> <p>3 - Business Forum: More than 30 sessions and workshops will focus on issues that are important to export-ready SMEs: market access strategies, financing options, business skills development, policy and regulations, and technology development and commercialization.</p> <p>4 - Site Visit Program: APEC delegations will visit select facilities across Canada to view leading Canadian technologies in action.</p> <p>The sectors of focus are: agri-food products and technology, automotive parts, building products, consulting engineers, education and training, energy technology, environmental monitoring and geomatics, forest equipment and technology, information technology and telecommunications</p> <p>- The Women Senior Leaders' Network Conference (13-15 September in Ottawa) will focus on women entrepreneurs in the region</p>	<p>- ministers to consider integrated approach for SME development that will address some of the ABAC recommendations:</p> <p>- collection of SME statistical data and establishment of SME indicators</p> <p>- improving access to SME financing</p> <p>- establishment of an APEC Network for Ecotech to serve as a framework for public/private sector cooperation on a regional basis</p>

APEC SECTORAL MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN 1997

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT - 25-26 SEPTEMBER, KOREA

Key Agenda Points	Business Element	Relevant ABAC Recommendations
<p>Status: agenda will be discussed at HRD WG meeting on 20-23 January; as of 15 January:</p> <p>- Main theme: "Strategy for Building a Capable Workforce under a New Environment and Challenges"</p> <p>- Sub-theme 1: "Improving Vocational Ability through Cooperation and Participation"</p> <p>- Sub-theme 2: "Fostering the Linkage between Work and Learning in a Dynamic Economy"</p>	<p>- to be determined</p>	<p>- common professional standards in business services sector</p> <p>- establish an APEC computer network for SMEs to facilitate region-wide programs: (1) virtual SME university; HRD ministerial priority is strengthening of SMEs and support of ACTETSME as a resource for training, information exchange, and technology transfer; (2) access to technology and information: endorsement of SME's International Technology Conference (MITEC '97)</p> <p>- focus on development cooperation in area of human resources development</p>