

**Report of the Second Meeting of the
APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam 28 and 29 May 2000**

The 2nd SCSC meeting for 2000 was held on 28 and 29 May 2000 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The meeting was attended by representatives from: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; The People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; The Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam. The APEC Secretariat, the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), and the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) were also in attendance.

Mr Pg Hj Matusin MATASAN, Ministry of Development, Brunei Darussalam, chaired the meeting.

Mr LI Shaoqing (People's Republic of China) and Mr Rory McLeod (New Zealand) (who has replaced Mr Graham Boxall), were the Vice Chairs.

The meeting considered the following documents:

- Chair's Opening Remarks
- Agenda
- Annotated Agenda
- Report on the First Meeting of the APEC SCSC on 18-19 February 2000
- SCSC Chairs summary Report to the 2nd CTI Meeting (Provisional)
- Forecast of 2000 TILF Outcomes in the Area of Standards and Conformance
- Developments since the 1st SCSC in 2000 (SCSC Chair)
- Work program for 2000: Trade Facilitation in Information Technology
- Chairman's Report on the Trade Facilitation in Information Technology Workshop held on 28th May 2000
- Report on the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Good Regulatory Practice (Australia)
- Progress Report on the new Electronic IAP format (Australia)
- Report on the Progress in the Review of Alignment Work
- Outcomes of the Survey of Additional Priority Areas for Alignment
- Technical Group 1 – Structural Designs and Loadings (Australia)
- Technical Group 2 – Performance-based Criteria for Housing (Japan)
- Technical Group 3 – Timber Standards Report (New Zealand)
- Technical Group 4 – Hazardous Area Equipment (Australia)
- Report on the Implementation of APEC Electrical MRA (New Zealand)
- Implementation of the APEC MRA on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products; the APEC Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety; and the APEC Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls (APEC Secretariat)
- Second Revised Statement of Commitment (Malaysia)
- Reports of Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) (Malaysia)
- Review of the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Program (Australia and Brunei Darussalam)
- Report of the Third Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (Brunei Darussalam)
- Report on Partners for Progress project (Philippines)
- Report on Joint SCSC HRDWG Project: IQAS II Project (Philippines)
- Integrated Regional Approach to Enhanced Food Control Systems
- Training/Seminar on ISO/IEC Guides 62 and 65 (Australia)
- Mutual Recognition Arrangement Readiness Project
- Project on Quality Systems for Calibration Services as National Metrology Institutes
- SCSC Contact Points
- Report on the Preparations for "Sustainable Development Project of Research on Food Labeling, Regulations and Standards in APEC Member Economies" (People's Republic of China)
- 2000 TILF project on the APEC Center for Conformity Assessment

BMC Proposal - APEC Speakers' Bureau on the Standards Based Management Systems (Philippines)
BMC Proposal - APMP Experts' Training for APEC member (Philippines)
BMC Proposal - APLMF Training Project on Rice Moisture Measurement (Australia)
BMC Proposal - APEC member economy attendance at ILAC 2000 (New Zealand)
BMC Proposal - TIC-CAR Project through APEC Center for Conformity Assessment (Korea)
BMC Proposal - Promoting Participation in APEC MRAs (Vietnam)
Report of TBT Agreement (Japan)
SCSC/EC Dialogue (Brunei Darussalam)
Meeting of the Competition Policy and Deregulation Group (CPD)
Activities relating to SCSC Work Programs in Other APEC For a
Proposed Revision to SCSC CAP
Progress in the Review and Strengthening processes for CAP
Draft IAP Template for Standards and Conformance
Proposed Revision to the OAA and OAA Guidelines
SCSC Terms of Reference
Collated Comments by Member Economies on the SCSC Terms of Reference
Correspondence from AGGI Chair

1. Opening

The Chair welcomed all the member economies to the 2nd meeting of the SCSC for 2000.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The SCSC Chair proposed that item 6 (c) be moved to 6 (a) and other items in 6 be renumbered accordingly. The SCSC Chair also proposed that items 19 and 20 be reversed.

The title of agenda item 6 (a) was renamed "Good Regulatory Practice".

The SCSC was informed that a short presentation would take place on the new Electronic IAP being developed by CTI.

Two further matters were recorded for consideration under Agenda item 20. These included: correspondence from Ad Hoc Group on Gender Integration; and a report on IEC cooperation with SCSC (Philippines)

3. Business Arrangements

The Chair gave a brief description of the secretariat assistance available to all delegates. Mr Graeme Drake from New Zealand was elected to undertake a coordinating role in the drafting of the report of the meeting.

Issues surrounding the distribution of papers and the annotations in the Schedule of Papers were explained.

Report on developments since the 1st SCSC

The Chair reported on developments since the 1st SCSC meeting in Brunei Darussalam. The report of the Chair was accepted by the meeting.

5. Business Involvement

The Chair SCSC Workshop on "Trade Facilitation in Information Technology" Mr John Godfrey (ITIC), provided a detailed report on the information presented at the May 26th workshop (see SCSC/010). ITIC urged economies that have not yet submitted their responses to the surveys of current regulations and on a potential SDoC database to reply by **30 June 2000** to John Godfrey, Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC), via email: jgodfrey@itic.org, or fax: +1 202 638 4922.

Singapore, on behalf of the lead economies (also including Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States) invited topics for discussion and other inputs from economies for the next workshop (to be held as part of SOM III) and to submit those to the Secretariat by **30 June 2000**. (The Secretariat will forward these comments to the lead economies to assist in the development of the workshop).

Singapore also noted that this ITI Workshop could be coordinated with the seminar series being developed by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Good Regulatory Practice. The lead economies will coordinate with the Ad Hoc Working Group on Good Regulatory Practice on this issue. Singapore stressed that regulators should be strongly encouraged to attend the ITI Workshop.

Mexico recommended that, at the next ITI workshop, the APEC Telecommunications, and Electrical and Electronic Equipment MRAs, and the APLAC MRA should be considered as additional tools to facilitate trade in these products.

Alignment with International Standards

Good Regulatory Practice

The Chair invited Mr Allan Asher, Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Good Regulatory Practice, to report on the deliberations of the meeting held on the 27th May 2000.

Following the Chairman's report, the SCSC:

Endorsed the development of case studies by the Ad Hoc Working Group on subjects including the following:

costs and benefits of pre market versus post market surveillance;
performance based regulation;
changing regulatory needs over the life cycle of a product; and
regulatory safety nets.

The case studies should be practical, follow a format that:

identifies regulatory issues;
identifies options to deal with the issues;
identifies of different risk levels;
evaluates options;
incorporates implementation processes (including difficulties encountered)
meets the needs of various regulatory environments; and
provides an overall assessment.

Case studies should include a range of products and different risk levels.

Endorsed the development by the Ad Hoc Working Group of a series of standards and conformance seminars on subjects including some or all of the following:

risk assessment;
performance based regulation;
post market surveillance;
alignment of standards and conformance methodologies;
relation of technical regulations to voluntary standards;
alternatives to technical regulation; and
regulatory safety nets.

The Seminar series should:

correspond with scheduled meetings of SCSC;
involve participation by representatives from industry, regulators, consumer interests and relevant government agencies; and
focus on practical issues.

Coordination:

Brunei Darussalam will host and coordinate the first seminar on the topic: "Post Market Surveillance" in September 2000 in conjunction with SOM III;

Malaysia and New Zealand have indicated an interest in coordinating seminars scheduled for 2001. The People's Republic of China will facilitate the seminars held during 2001.

Agreed that Singapore prepare and distribute, prior to the next meeting, a background paper setting out issues and a possible solution on the development of a Data Base of Accident Investigation Experts.

Agreed that the Committee Chair will investigate the various communication systems for products that have safety concerns, and that the Committee Chair will contact the OECD to determine whether the OECD Prodsafe system can be opened to APEC member economies.

Agreed in principle to the Principles and Features of Good Regulatory Practice for Technical Regulation, to be used on a voluntary basis, and be presented to the CTI with a view to endorsement at SOM III.

Agreed to the following action in relation to the Guide to Good Regulatory Practice:
the document will be titled as "Information Notes on Good Regulatory Practice";
the document will be updated to incorporate comments from member economies;
information notes will be supplemented in future by case studies and seminar outputs; and
the amended document will be circulated to economies for acceptance as an "information resource".

b) *Review Process for Alignment Work*

Japan reported that the format for the 2000 comprehensive review, in the form of the 2000 VAP format, had been distributed electronically to member economies with a new deadline for completion. Japan further explained how to fill in details in the new format.

Member economies are requested to complete the format as of 1 January 2000, and send it electronically to makino-kyoko@miti.go.jp by **15 July 2000**. After this deadline, the results of this comprehensive review will be compiled and uploaded to the APEC website.

c) *Additional Priority Areas for Alignment*

Malaysia presented the results of the survey based on the submissions of 11 member economies and will circulate a revised report by **30th June 2000**. The revised version will incorporate the results of the survey from member economies which submissions have or will be received.

The results based on the 11 submissions received indicated extensive adoption of the international standards and guides surveyed. Based on the findings, the SCSC agreed to include 16 standards and guides into the alignment program. Member economies are expected to align their national/domestic voluntary standards with these international standards and guides by the target dates of 2002 for developed members, and 2005 for developing members. The international standards and guides accepted into the alignment program are as follows:

ISO 10011-1:1990
ISO 10011-2:1991
ISO 10011-3:1991
ISO 14001:1996
ISO 14010:1996
ISO 14011:1996
ISO 14012:1996
ISO 9001:1994
ISO/IEC 17020:1998
ISO/IEC 17025:1999
ISO/IEC Guide 22:1996

ISO/IEC Guide 58:1993
ISO/IEC Guide 61:1996
ISO/IEC Guide 62:1996
ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996
ISO/IEC Guide 66:1999

It was also agreed to include ISO/IEC Guide 25:1990 for information purposes only, to account for a transition period on the adoption of ISO/IEC Guide 17025:1999.

The SCSC also agreed that direct use of the above international standards and guides could be considered to be sufficient under the terms of the alignment program. This should only be in the case where demand for the standard or guide makes formal adoption unjustified.

International Standards in the areas of Building & Construction and Hazardous Area Equipment

Ad Hoc Technical Group on Loadings and Structural Designs (TG1)

Australia presented a progress report on the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Loadings and Structural Designs (TG1). In particular, Australia noted some recent successes that included:

- the establishment of a new working group, under ISO TC98/SC2, to prepare a new draft of ISO 4345 on Wind Action standards based on the work of TG1;
- the approval of a new work item on general Design standards; and
- a formal appreciation, by ISO TC98, of the work being done by TG1 and its Informal Network.

While the Ad Hoc Technical Group has not met since the last SCSC meeting, the Informal Network which provides the technical basis for the deliberation of TG1 did meet in Melbourne, Australia, on 16-17 March 2000. The conclusion of that meeting is contained in the meeting documents.

Ad Hoc Technical Group on Performance Based Housing Standards (TG2)

Japan presented a progress report on the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Performance Based Housing Standards (TG2) including the creation of a web page that has been operational since April 2000 (www.nrc.ca/irc/apec). The web site provides information on ISO TC 59 SC 15 and provides a Discussion Point for TG2 members.

The Coordinators invited member economies that are interested in regulatory and design matters for housing to join TG2, and participate in the coordination of their positions for presentation at ISO TC 59 SC15 meetings.

Ad Hoc Technical Group on Timber Standards (TG3)

New Zealand reported that the TG3 had met in Singapore in April. The meeting succeeded in coordinating a number of positions amongst member economies for upcoming ISO committee meetings.

TG3 participants also discussed the CTI report on Non-Tariff Measures related to Forest Product Trade and created a number of action points that they wanted the SCSC to consider.

The first action point related to the distribution of the Report in a formal manner by the APEC Secretariat.

The second action point related to the non-tariff measures such as forest management certification schemes. The SCSC noted the difficulties some economies were experiencing in the area but, on advice of the TG3 Secretary, agreed that the issue would be better dealt with through the normal transaction between buyer and seller of timber products.

The third action point related to technical regulation in the form of building codes that TG3 indicated it would like to be discussed at SCSC. The TG3 Secretary made the SCSC member economies aware of an ABAC proposal to establish under the CTI a specialist body to consider building code impact on trade in timber products. Given this action has yet to be finalized as a proposal from ABAC, and subsequently fully considered by the CTI, the SCSC decided to take further advice on the matter.

The fourth action point covered concerns expressed by TG3 participants on the ISO Fast Track process. SCSC agreed to refer the matter to PASC for their consideration and action as appropriate.

It was also reported that TG3 has now established an informal communication network amongst all members through an email reflector: apectg3-list@standards.co.nz. Member economies are encouraged to participate by nominating their timber product experts to the network by emailing expert contact details to TG3 Secretary, Graeme Drake at graeme.drake@standards.co.nz.

Ad Hoc Technical Group on Hazardous Area Equipment (TG4)

Australia presented a progress report on the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Hazardous Area Equipment (TG4). Australia noted that the basis for the project is to promote recognition and participation in IEC standardization and certification activities in the area of hazardous environments.

The Report noted that while the new website has attracted a good deal of interest from member economies and the corporate sector, the availability of information on member economies' regulations of hazardous area equipment remains poor.

A request has been made to the SCSC for member economies to provide a summary of requirements and contact information. To date only New Zealand, Singapore and Australia have provided any information for inclusion. Australia also noted that the next working group meeting would be held in September to coincide with a scheduled meeting of IEC TC 31 in the Republic of Korea.

Recognition of Conformity Assessment in the Regulated Sector

a) Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Electrical and Electronic Equipment

New Zealand presented a report stating that the Chair (New Zealand) and Australia had established recommendations on implementation of Part 1 of the MRA. These will be discussed with the Vice Chair of the JAC (China), and then will be circulated prior to the next Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) meeting to be held in conjunction with SOM III in September.

Also to be considered at that meeting will be comments from members on the draft Process for Participation in Parts II and III of the MRA.

Report on Implementation of:

- i) the APEC MRA on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products;*
- ii) the APEC Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety; and*
- iii) the APEC Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls.*

The APEC Secretariat reported no further developments on these arrangements since the last SCSC meeting.

Recognition in the Voluntary Sector

a) Closer Linkages between the Specialist Regional Bodies and the SCSC

Malaysia presented a revised Draft Statement of Commitment between SCSC and SRBs.

After discussion it was agreed that the draft Statement of Commitment should be re-circulated, with comments from SRBs and SCSC members. All comments must be received by Ruzain Idris, Malaysia, ruzain@dsm.gov.my before **30 June 2000**.

Malaysia will then collate the comments and the next draft will be circulated to SCSC members as well as the SRBs by 30th July 2000 for consideration and final endorsement at the 3rd SCSC meeting in September.

Summary of the Reports of the Specialist of the Regional Bodies (SRBs)

The meeting noted the written reports received from the five SRBs, including:

- Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)
- Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)
- Asia Pacific Metrology Program (APMP)
- Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)
- Pacific Areas Standards Congress (PASC)

Representatives from APLAC and PASC highlighted the salient activities in their reports. It was noted the next PASC meeting would take place in Seoul, Korea, on the dates of 23-27th April 2001. Further information can be sought from Mr LEE Eun Ho, Korean Agency for Technology and Standards, email: standard@ats.go.kr.

Cooperation on Technical Infrastructure Development

- a) *Review of the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program*
Australia reported that only 5 economies had returned the completed surveys to date. All economies were asked to respond to the survey by **30 June 2000**. This would allow the circulation of results prior to SOM III in September, with a view to endorsement at that meeting.

- b) *3rd APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance*
Brunei Darussalam reported on the progress of the preparations for the 3rd APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance. Brunei Darussalam has circulated a summary of speakers who have indicated their willingness to speak on relevant topics, which included participants from WTO, ABAC and industry.

All speakers will be contacted directly on the preparations for the conference. In some instances speakers have yet to confirm their availability and Brunei Darussalam urgently seeks such confirmations by **30 June 2000**. Speaking slots for those Speakers not confirmed by this date will be deleted.

Programs for the 3rd APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance were given to members for distribution to interested parties within their economies. Registrations should be forwarded to scsc2000@apcc2000.gov.bn in the format provided on the back of the program. Speakers must also register.

- c) *Partners for Progress (PFP) Training Course*
Japan reported on the PFP held in Shah Alam, Malaysia on 15-20 November 1999 and briefed SCSC on the program of this year's PFP training course tentatively planned to be held on 6-11 November 2000 at the same location. Indonesia and Viet Nam thanked Japan and Malaysia for their sponsorship and efforts for PFP and requested consideration be given to the continuation of this project in view of the fact that this year's PFP would be the 5th and final of the PFP series as originally planned.

- d) *Joint HRD WG/SCSC Activity Project (IQAS Project)*
The Philippines, for and on behalf of Project Co-overseer Japan and the Project Organizer, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) presented the final report on the IQAS II Project.

The meeting was informed that the IQAS II Project was completed in March 2000. Further consideration through the conduct of IQAS Experts' Workshops in March 23, 2000 in Honolulu, USA and May 26, 2000 in Brunei Darussalam considered what future activities could be undertaken.

Over all the IQAS II Project was agreed as being a success. It involved participation by 1,000 experts, trainers, and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) from 500 strategic public and private enterprises, industry associations, academic and training associations, in 20 APEC Member Economies. More specifically, the Project accomplished the following:

A total of 17 SME Executive Courses were conducted in 9 APEC Member Economies. The Courses benefited 743 CEOs, 121 trainers and 96 media practitioners in 20 economies;

A total of 19 IQAS Experts' Sessions were conducted in 15 Member Economies. This resulted in a pool of 36 Standards-Based Management (SBM) experts, more than doubling the number of SBM experts generated in the IQAS I Project;

The Training Course module was completed and translated into 5 APEC languages: English, Mandarin Chinese (with versions for Peoples' Republic of China and for Chinese Taipei), Spanish, Vietnamese and Indonesian; and

A Book Launch of the SBM for Enterprise Competitiveness Handbook for Experts and Trainers was conducted in May 26, 2000 in Brunei Darussalam. The Launch was attended by representatives from the Chairs and members of SCSC and HRD WGs, IQAS Experts, APEC Secretariat and SME CEOs from Brunei Darussalam. Copies of the Handbook were distributed to each APEC Member Economies and will also be available within a month's time at the APEC IQAS web page (www.aim.edu.ph/alliances/apec).

The meeting commended the Project Overseers, the Philippines and Japan, and the Project Organizer, the Asian Institute of Management, for the successful implementation of the IQAS II Project.

The meeting recognized the benefits derived from the IQAS II Project in the development of APEC's human resources and achieving APEC's vision of trade liberalization and facilitation. In this regard, the meeting agreed to endorse the SBM for Enterprise Competitiveness Handbook as a concrete APEC deliverable to CTI and SOM. Further, the meeting agreed to conduct future activities to sustain the benefits of Standards-Based Management in making available practical tools for leaders of APEC enterprises to be globally competitive. The meeting also saw value in the IQAS Project pursuing linkages with other APEC projects such as: the APEC Speakers' Bureau on SBM, which goes beyond addressing issues on industry-specific basis, CTI-APEC Study Center Project on Environmental Markets and the HRD-CBN project on International Venture Corporate Governance.

e) *Integrated Regional Approach to Enhanced Food Control Systems*

Australia, on behalf of the Australia New Zealand Food Authority, presented a report on the workshops on food/drug interface. Singapore reported that it had further comments on the draft template. Following the report and the comments by Singapore the SCSC:

Agreed that the draft template for a regulatory profile on foods, medicines, and related products be recirculated, by electronic means, after consideration by ANZFA with a view to endorsement at the 3rd SCSC in September;

Agreed that member economies prepare their regulatory profiles (based on the template) by **30 October 2000**, and notify the APEC Secretariat of their availability; and

Agreed to review progress at the 1st meeting of SCSC in 2001, including nomination from member economies to lead, or participate in, groups coordinating and implementing sections of the work program.

Australia presented a report on the progress of the project "Training in Application of Risk Analysis in Conformity Assessment of Foods". Australia noted there were two phases to this project:

Phase 1: Training programs on risk analysis which have now been completed; and

Phase 2: Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Training Programs, which will be undertaken in June to September this year.

The outcome and evaluation should be available to member economies prior to the next SCSC meeting in September.

Training/Seminar on ISO/IEC Guides 65 & 62 (CTI 29/99T)

Australia reported that a training course was undertaken on 11-12 April 2000 by JAS-ANZ. The course content addressed ISO/IEC Guide 65, IAF Guidance to the Application of ISO/IEC Guide 65 and referenced documents and pertinent aspects of ISO/IEC Guide 61 and IAF Application.

Eight member economies sent representatives to attend the training/seminar.

The outcome for APEC will be a better informed community on product certification issues that will prove beneficial when PAC and IAF MLAs incorporate product certification.

Progress Report on MRA Readiness Project (CTI 32/99 T)

The Philippines reported on the progress of the implementation of the MRA Readiness Project (CTI 32/99T).

The meeting was informed that the contract between the APEC Secretariat and APLAC, the Project Organizer, was completed, paving the way for the implementation of the project's three component activities.

The meeting was informed that Component 1: Training Course for MRA Evaluators was conducted in April 3 to 7, 2000 in NATA, Australia. 20 participants attended the Course from 16 APEC Member Economies. Further, the meeting was informed that the implementation of components 2 and 3 are ongoing, with Component 3: Attachment Training is more than halfway through completion, being due to finish in mid June.

The meeting recognized the importance of the initial outcomes of the MRA Readiness Project particularly the pool of 20 MRA Evaluators generated through component 1, in supporting the active participation of APEC Member Economies in the APLAC MRA.

Progress Report on Quality Systems for Calibration Services at National Metrology Institutes (CTI 10/2000T)

The Philippines reported on the progress of the project on Quality Systems for Calibration Services at NMIs (CTI 10/2000T).

The meeting was informed that the contract between the APMP, the Project Organizer and the APEC Secretariat is in the process of being finalized, to pave the way for the implementation of the project's activities. Accordingly, preparation for the implementation of the Project is ongoing and appropriate adjustments of the project timetable will be undertaken.

The Philippines informed the meeting that due to the non-signing of the contract between APMP and the APEC Secretariat, the conduct of the 4-day Training Workshop scheduled for August 2000 in Singapore would be delayed. In this regard, Philippines, as Project Overseer, will closely coordinate with the APEC Secretariat and APMP, the Project Organizer, to finalize the schedule and venue of the workshop and inform SCSC Contacts on the final date and venue.

Transparency

a) *Updating Member Economy Contact Points*

The United States noted the annual request for updating the member economies' contact points had been sent out and thanked the following economies for their responses: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Thailand.

Other member economies were encouraged to submit their responses including information on their Specialist Regional Body representatives as soon as possible. This information will be uploaded to the APEC Secretariat homepage before the 3rd SCSC meeting this year.

b) *2000 TILF Sustainable Development Project of Research on Food Labeling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Member Economies*

The People's Republic of China briefed member economies on the progress of the 2000 TILF Sustainable Development Project of Research on Food Labeling Laws, Regulations and Standards. In particular, the People's Republic of China indicated they had distributed the check letter and the questionnaire to member economies via electronic and written means on a number of occasions. The People's Republic of China requests that those members who have yet to respond should do so by **June 20, 2000**.

c) *2000 TILF Project on the APEC Cooperation Center for Conformity Assessment*

A progress report was presented by Korea concerning the activities to date, including work on the submission for the 2001 project proposal. The initial outcomes of the project were detailed including the development of methodology, survey on TICQA database in EU, and draft design of the web-based database. Korea asked for member economies' cooperation for successful implementation of the project, and requested them to submit "Contact Details of the Accreditation Bodies" not later than **30 June 2000** for the initial data collection of the Conformity Assessment Operators (CAOs) in the region.

Preparation for the July BMC

The SCSC considered the following projects for ranking for budget funding:

- APEC Speakers' Bureau on the Standards Based Management Systems (Philippines)
- APMP Experts' Training for APEC member economies to Assist Participation in Global MRA Measurement Standards (Philippines)
- APLMF Training Project on Rice Moisture Measurement (Australia)
- APEC developing member economy attendance at ILAC 2000 (New Zealand)
- Promoting the active participation of the APEC members economies in the APEC MRAs (Vietnam)
- TIC-CAR Project through APEC Cooperation Center for Conformity Assessment (Korea)

The APEC Secretariat explained that once rankings were established these would be forwarded to the CTI for their consideration and decision.

The first SCSC meeting in 2000 endorsed the first 4 projects in the above list in principle. The second SCSC meeting endorsed the last two projects.

The results of the ranking exercise for the 2000 TILF urgent, in order of priority, are as follows:

- APEC developing member economy attendance at ILAC 2000 (New Zealand)
- APEC Speakers' Bureau on the Standards Based Management Systems (Philippines)

The results of the ranking exercise for the 2001 TILF, in order of priority, are as follows:

APMP Experts' Training for APEC member economies to Assist Participation in Global MRA Measurement Standards (Philippines)
APLMF Training Project on Rice Moisture Measurement (Australia)
Promoting the active participation of the APEC members economies in the APEC MRAs (Vietnam)
TIC-CAR Project through APEC Cooperation Center for Conformity Assessment (Korea)

12. Review of TBT Agreement

Japan reported on the TBT meeting held on 17 to 19 May 2000. There were three main points Japan emphasized in this report. The first was the change of the TBT Chair to New Zealand; secondly, a workshop on technical assistance and special and differential treatment (to be held on 19-20 July 2000 in Geneva); and finally, a list of ten points that the TBT Chairman provided as the items to be discussed in the second triennial review.

The United States emphasized the importance of participation in the July 19-20 workshop, especially from developing economies, and urged SCSC members for participation.

13. Report on OECD Special Meeting

The United States summarized discussions at the special meeting on Technical Barriers to Trade sponsored by the OECD Trade Committee on March 16-17 2000 in Paris. The United States noted a number of APEC member economies (Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and United States) were among the 130 participants.

Trade policy officials, regulators, standards bodies, accreditation bodies, business and consumer groups gathered to discuss emerging issues on technical regulation, international standards, and conformity assessment, in the light of analytical studies on international standards, and the costs of compliance with technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The meeting aimed to deepen the understanding of these issues and build bridges at the policy level. A summary report of the OECD meeting analytical studies prepared by the OECD and other papers are available at: www.oecd.org.

EC/SCSC Dialogue

The Chair briefed the meeting on the list of issues of common interest to discuss with the European Community in his correspondence on 19 April 2000 to SCSC contacts, where there was support for the following:

The role/influence of CEN/CENELEC in the international standardization activities by ISO/IEC, including the meaning of the Vienna Agreement and the Dresden Agreement.
The merits and problems arising from the global approach adopted by EC.
The merits and problems arising from the 'Accreditation Preference Principle' that the EC seems to uphold.
The actual application of conformity assessment schemes by the regulatory authorities of EC, EA/MLA, IEC/CB Scheme)
The EC's experience of the EA/MLA scheme, particularly in terms of its economic advantages.

The meeting agreed that Malaysia as the SRB shepherd would contact the SRBs and seek their inputs before these issues are put forward to the EC for possible dialogue.

15. Coordination with Other APEC Fora

Hong Kong China reported that the Ad Hoc Task Force on Trade Facilitation was due to meet for the first time on 29 May 2000 and undertook to keep the SCSC informed of developments.

The APEC Secretariat presented a report outlining the standards and conformance related work being undertaken by other APEC fora.

Report of Collective Action Plan (CAP)

The SCSC discussed the possible amendments to the present CAP, and agreed to a number of possible changes. These will be communicated to the 2nd CTI meeting for their information.

IAP Issues

The SCSC agreed to inform the CTI that revision of the IAP and OAA statements as they relate to SCSC is ongoing. It is expected these matters will be concluded and reported to the 3rd meeting of the CTI in September 2000.

Any further comments on the IAP and OAA statements by member economies must be communicated to the APEC Secretariat by **15 August 2000**. The APEC Secretariat will then collate these comments and an amended text for the IAP and OAA statements will be circulated for agreement prior to the 3rd SCSC meeting in September.

Electronic IAP

The SCSC was updated on progress with the Electronic IAP project. Phase 1, which is a review of IAP format by Australia, is nearing completion with endorsement expected at SOMII. A seminar will be held in July in Singapore on Phase 2 of the project. Training is expected to take place prior to end of the calendar year, with a view of establishing broad use of electronic IAPs by member economies in 2001.

Review of SCSC Mandates

Australia reported on the review of the SCSC Terms of Reference. Australia noted it had received comments from four member economies. These comments have been collated and distributed to all member economies for consideration. Any further comments should be provided to Australia by **30 June 2000**, after which Australia will revise the text for endorsement at the 3rd SCSC meeting in September.

19. Other Matters

SOM Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration (AGGI)

The SCSC agreed to have a presentation at its 3rd meeting in September.

Linkages between SCSC and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

The Philippines, on behalf of the IEC Asia Pacific Steering Group (APSG) Chair, IEC Vice President R. Togeji informed the meeting of the IEC activities in the Asia Pacific region.

The IEC APSG was established by the IEC in 1998 to promote IEC programs and services in the Asia Pacific region. Since then the IEC APSG has met 3 times in Singapore, Okinawa, Japan (right after the IEC General Meeting), and most recently in Manila, Philippines on March 4-5, 2000.

At the IEC APSG meeting in Manila, various issues were discussed including: the creation of a Task Force to promote IEC activities in the Asia Pacific region, with the view of inviting economies such as Viet Nam to become an IEC member; establishment of an IEC Regional Center to serve initially as an IEC Training and Promotion Center; and closer cooperation of IEC, through the APSG and SCSC.

The meeting was informed that the IEC APSG would participate in the Standards and Conformance Conference in September 15-16, 2000 in Brunei Darussalam. The APSG Chair will coordinate with the SCSC Chair on the topics to be discussed during the conference.

The meeting noted the activities undertaken by the IEC APSG particularly in the area of

promoting closer cooperation between SCSC and IEC. In this regard, the meeting agreed to invite the IEC APSG to its future meetings.

20. Meeting Documents

The meeting considered the public release of documents tabled at the meeting. It was agreed that with immediate effect, all documents would be accessible to the public with the exception of the following documents:

- SCSC Chair's Summary Report to the First Meeting of CTI
- Forecast of 2000 TILF Outcomes in the Area of Standards and Conformance
- Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group 3 – Timber Standards
- Second Revised Draft Statement of Commitment
- APEC Speakers' Bureau on SBM Systems
- APMP Expert Training for APEC Member Economies
- APEC Member Attendance of three day Technical Conference (New Zealand)
- TIC-CAR Project through APEC Center for Conformity Assessment (Korea)
- Promoting Participation in APEC MRAs (Vietnam)
- SCSC/EC Dialogue (Brunei Darussalam)
- Meeting of the Competition Policy and Deregulation Group (CPD)
- Proposed Revision to SCSC CAP
- Progress in the Review and Strengthening processes for CAP
- Draft IAP Template for Standards and Conformance
- Proposed Revision to the OAA and OAA Guidelines
- Collated Comments by Member Economies on the SCSC Terms of Reference
- Correspondence from AGGI Chair

21. Adjournment

The Chair requests the cooperation of member economies to note the action points contained within these minutes, and complete their actions by the **dates in bold**.

The Chair expressed his thanks for the support and commitment of member economies including the Secretariat support provided by Australia and New Zealand, and invited member economies to the 3rd SCSC meeting that will be held on 17th and 18th of September 2000 in Bandar Seri Begawan.