

**The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the
APEC Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group
Beijing, People's Republic of China
May 15-17, 2001
SUMMARY REPORT**

Introduction

1. The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the APEC Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) was hosted by People's Republic of China on May 15-17, 2001 in Beijing. Delegations from Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong China; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam participated in the meeting. The APEC Secretariat was also present. The list of delegates appears in Annex I.
2. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Keiji Kainuma, Lead Shepherd for the ATCWG, Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Vice President, Bio-oriented Technology Research Advancement Institution, Japan; and Dr. Han Gaoju, Director, Senior Animal Scientist, China-EU Center for Agricultural Technology, People's Republic of China.

Agenda Item I: Co-Chairs' Opening Remarks

3. Dr. Kainuma commenced the fifth ATCWG plenary meeting by welcoming the delegations to Beijing, People's Republic of China, and expressing thanks on behalf of the members to the People's Republic of China for hosting the meeting. Dr. Kainuma gave briefing on two recent developments in APEC. First, Dr. Kainuma reiterated that the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Experts Group was renamed the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group as one of the results of the management review in APEC. Second, Dr. Kainuma noted that the People's Republic of China is contributing to APEC this year as the host economy of the Ministerial Meeting and Economic Leaders Meeting. Dr. Kainuma expressed his appreciation to People's Republic of China (P. R. China) in this regard.
4. Dr. Han also welcomed the delegations from member economies who could attend. He noted that P. R. China is a big agricultural economy and was paying great attention to this Meeting. Dr. Han expressed his sincere hope to do his best to develop good relations and make the meeting a success.
5. Mr. Sun Kiu Kim of the APEC Secretariat expressed his willingness to contribute to this Meeting.

Agenda Item II: Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda which appears in Annex_.

Agenda Item III: Business Arrangements

7. The Co-Chairs explained the business arrangements for the meeting.

Agenda Item IV: APEC Secretariat's Report

8. Mr. Kim of the APEC Secretariat briefed the meeting on the recent development of APEC, including the outcome of the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting and Ministers Meeting in 2000, the Senior Officials Meeting I in 2001, and the Sectoral Ministerial Meeting as well as budgetary issues.
9. In his brief, Mr. Kim mentioned the leaders belief that APEC's economic and technical cooperation programs could be strengthened, although they were already making a positive contribution to this process. The leaders recalled that the APEC Food system could make an important contribution to meeting the objectives of APEC. He also noted the Ministers' instruction that the ATCWG should implement further technical cooperation programs in biotechnology, including capacity building and exchange of information and report on progress at the MRT Meeting in 2001.
10. Mr. Kim reminded the meeting that any single APEC forum should not submit projects totaling more than 15% of APEC's Operational Account budget, that the deadline for submission of 2002 project proposals is June 18, 2001, and that the project proposals should comply with the "Guidebook on APEC Projects (August 2000)".

Agenda Item V: ATC-Related Issues in APEC

A. Further Development of the OAA Part II

11. The Co-Chairs presented the first draft of the updated ATC-related portion of the OAA part II as well as the draft timeframe for development of the updated OAA Part II. The meeting agreed to submit the revised first draft with an explanatory letter to the coordinator for the ECOTECH Sub-Committee as the preliminary report. The meeting endorsed the timeframe. The first draft and the agreed timeframe appear as Annex _ and _ respectively.

B. Review of the Terms of Reference of ATCWG

12. Although the meeting recognized that the ATC-related OAA part II is closely related to the Terms of Reference of the ATC, the meeting agreed that the Terms of Reference (TOR) would not be reviewed at this meeting. The meeting agreed that the TOR will be reviewed at the next ATC plenary meeting in 2002, in accordance with the agreed three year cycle.

C. Implementation of APEC Food System

13. The Co-chairs explained the revised AFS tasking matrix for APEC fora, which was agreed in principle at SOM I 2001. The meeting recognized that ATC does not have any mandate or capability to implement recommendation (iv) of the AFS which relates to investment. The meeting agreed to ask SOM to exempt ATC from responsibility in

implementing this recommendation as the decision point to be guided by the SOM. The decision point is in Annex ____.

14. The meeting also endorsed the draft ATC progress report on implementation of APEC Food System recommendations. The APEC Secretariat reminded the meeting of the reporting timeframe decided in SOM I. The agreed progress report appears as Annex _.

D. Development of the Progress Report on Biotechnology including Implementation Plan, Strategy and Timetable

15. The draft Progress Report on Biotechnology and the draft Implementation Plan of Agricultural Biotechnology Activities: Strategy and Timetable were presented. The meeting endorsed the progress report. One modification of the draft implementation plan was proposed to ensure consistency between two versions of the implementation plan. The meeting endorsed the implementation plan on condition that the consensus on this proposal will be reached through intersessional consultation. The agreed progress report appears as Annex _.

E. ABAC 2000 Recommendations and ATC Actions Responding to these Recommendations

16. The meeting endorsed the revised draft ATCWG input for ABAC 2000 recommendations and APEC actions. The agreed ATCWG input appears as _.

F. Non-Member Participation in ATC activities

17. The Co-Chair presented the draft guideline on non-member participation in ATC activities. The APEC Secretariat briefed the meeting on what was discussed in the Ad Hoc Study Group on Interaction. The APEC Secretariat pointed out that without any specific mandate ATCWG cannot create any new guidelines unless approved by APEC upper bodies. Further discussion on this guideline was suggested. The meeting agreed that consultation of the Lead Shepherd with ATC members as well as the APEC Secretariat will be conducted intersessionally on this guideline.

G. Development of Report of ATCWG to SOM II 2001

18. The meeting endorsed the revised draft progress report of ATCWG to SOM II 2001. The agreed progress report appears as Annex _.

H. Report of other ATC-related fora under APEC

19. The Co-Chair briefed the meeting on two inter-fora meetings held in February 2001 in Beijing, P.R. China, namely, the first meeting of the Human Capacity Building Coordinating Group and the Communications Strategy Session, in which ATC participated.

I. Development of Criteria for Prioritizing APEC-Fund Seeking Projects

20. The meeting accepted the revised draft Criteria for Prioritizing APEC-Fund Seeking Project Proposals Submitted to ATCWG. The agreed Criteria appear as Annex _.

J. Management of Activities such as Workshops and APEC-Funded Projects under ATCWG

21. The Co-Chair presented the draft guideline on the Management of Activities such as Workshops and APEC-Funded Projects under ATCWG. The APEC Secretariat reported that it cannot find any reason for creating the new guideline and that this draft guideline needs further clarification and discussion. The meeting agreed that consultation of the Lead Shepherd with ATC members as well as the APEC Secretariat should take place intersessionally on this guideline.

K. Expansion of ATC Web-site

22. Japan introduced the expanded ATC web-site. A question was raised on the difference between Japan's web-site and the Australian web-site which is already on line. Japan suggested further consultation with Australia on this issue and improved links between the two web-sites. The meeting welcomed the Japanese contribution.

Agenda Item VI: APEC-Fund Seeking Project Proposals

23. The meeting had seven proposals for APEC-fund seeking projects. These project proposals are:
- Workshop on Technical Cooperation and Information Exchange on Safety Assessment in Agricultural Biotechnology (biotechnology), proposed by Chinese Taipei, seeking TILF special fund;
 - Development of a pilot food insecurity information system to achieve APEC food security (food insecurity), proposed by Viet Nam, seeking operational fund;
 - Strengthening the Cooperation in Post-harvest Technology Transfer within the APEC Members-Economies (cooperation on post-harvest), proposed by Viet Nam, seeking operational fund;
 - APEC Regional Study on Gender and Globalisation in Agriculture (gender), proposed by Viet Nam, seeking operational fund;
 - Seminar on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training (technology transfer and training), proposed by Indonesia, Seeking operational fund;
 - Workshop on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Rural Environment (workshop on sustainable agriculture), proposed by P. R. China; seeking operational fund;

- Training Course on Sustainable Agriculture Technologies and Applications (training on sustainable agriculture), proposed by P. R. China; seeking operational fund;
24. Thailand expressed its willingness to submit a proposal for the third year project on APEC Institutional Linkage for Human Resources Development in Postharvest Technology (HRD in postharvest), seeking operational fund.
 25. The need for further development of the Viet Nam project proposal on food insecurity, including consultation with international organizations involved in similar work, was suggested. The need for further development of the project proposal on post-harvest technology, including the demarcation with similar works in APEC was also noted. Responding to these suggestions, Viet Nam withdrew its two project proposals on food insecurity and postharvest technology, and expressed their willingness to submit these proposals to the next ATC Plenary Meeting.
 26. After the possible merging of the project proposals on the workshop on sustainable agriculture and the project proposal on training on sustainable agriculture were suggested, P. R. China pledged to integrate these two project proposals into one.
 27. As the result of the discussion in the meeting, there were five projects generally supported by the meeting, with five of them seeking for APEC central fund.
 28. Ranking of the four project proposals on gender, technology transfer and training, sustainable agriculture and HRD in postharvest took place. The meeting agreed that the project proposal on HRD in postharvest will take first place if it is designed well enough, noting 2002 would be the final year of this three-year project. The meeting agreed that the ranking should be decided by majority vote on the project proposals. Member economies presented voted, taking into consideration the Criteria for Prioritizing APEC-Fund Seeking Projects, Annex __. As a result, the project proposal on sustainable agriculture obtained second place, the project proposal on technology transfer and training gained third place, and the project proposal on gender was fourth. These proposals will be submitted to APEC's Budget and Management Committee (BMC) for funding consideration. The proposal from Chinese Taipei for a workshop on biotechnology will also be submitted to the BMC for possible TILF funding.

Agenda Item VII: Progress and Future Plan of Seven Priority Areas

A. Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources

29. Chinese Taipei presented the Draft Progress Report on Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources, the Draft Action Plan for Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources, the Summary Report of the Third Workshop on Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources, the Questionnaire for the Opinions of Member Economies on The Fourth Workshop on Plant and Animal Genetic Resources and it introduced the plan for the Fourth Workshop. The meeting endorsed the progress report and the action plan and took note of the report

on the third workshop and the plan for the fourth workshop. The agreed progress report and action plan appear as Annex _ and _, respectively.

B. Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology

30. Canada presented the draft Progress Report on Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology, the draft Action Plan for Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology and the Workshop Report of the 4th Workshop on Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology. Thailand presented the plan for the Workshop on Capacity Building, Risk Assessment and Communications in Agricultural Biotechnology. The meeting endorsed the progress report and the action plan and noted the report on the fourth workshop and the plan for the fifth workshop. The agreed progress report and action plan appear as Annex _ and Annex _, respectively.

C. Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Productions

31. Japan presented the initial draft Progress Report on Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products and the initial draft Action Plan for Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products, which had not been finalized among Japan and USA. The Co-Chair requested that Japan and USA finalize the progress report and the action plan quickly so these documents could be approved by ATC. Japan also presented the Summary Report on Workshop on Issues Concerning Both Food Supply and Demand, the Evaluation Report on this workshop, the Information Network System on this priority area. Thailand presented the Progress Report on the Project on APEC Institutional Linkage for Human Resources Development in Postharvest Technology. The meeting endorsed the Progress Report on the workshop and took note of the workshop report, the information network system and the progress report of the project. The agreed evaluation report of the workshop appears as Annex _.

D. Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management

32. USA presented the Draft Progress Report on the Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management and the Draft Action Plan for the Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management. Australia presented the Plan for the Workshop to Contain Transborder Movement of Plant Pests: Diagnostics and introduced its proposal for the APEC-Wide Adoption of the SANCRT Document for the Electronic Transmission of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificates. Chinese Taipei proposed holding an APEC International Symposium on Pest Surveillance Technology and Monitoring System in October 2002. Regarding the Australian proposal on SANCRT, several delegations expressed their concerns that the concept of this proposal was not clear. Responding to this, document

2001/ATC5/076 was provided for clarification. The Co-Chair requested that the sub-group on Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management discuss how progress the proposal and advise the Lead Shepherd. The meeting endorsed the progress report and the action plan and took note of the workshop plan and the proposal made by Chinese Taipei. Indonesia expressed its willingness to host a workshop on BSE/FMD in 2002. The agreed progress report and the action plan appear as Annex _.

E. Cooperative Development of an Agricultural Finance System

33. Japan presented the draft Progress Report on Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System, the draft Action Plan for Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System, the Summary Report on APEC-ATC Agricultural Finance, the Evaluation Report on The First Training Course on Agricultural Finance, and the Plan for the Group Training Course on "APEC-ATC Agricultural Finance." The meeting endorsed the progress report, the action plan and the evaluation report on the first training course and took note of the summary report on the first training course and the plan for the second training course. The agreed progress report, the action plan and the evaluation report on the first training course appear as Annex __, __ and __ respectively.

F. Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training

34. Japan presented the Draft Progress Report on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training, the Draft Action Plan for Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training, the draft Evaluation Report on the Seminar on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training, and the Plan for the Seminar on Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training. The meeting endorsed the progress report, the action plan and the evaluation report on the Seminar. The meeting took note of the plan for the next seminar. The agreed progress report, action plan, and the evaluation report on the seminar appears as Annex __, __ and __, respectively.

G. Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues

35. Japan presented the initial draft Progress Report on Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues and the initial draft Action Plan for Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues, which had not been finalized among the Philippines, Chinese Taipei and Japan. The Co-Chair requested that the Philippines, Chinese Taipei and Japan finalize the progress report and action plan so that these documents could be approved by the ATC. Japan also presented the plan for the second Seminar-Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture and the plan for Establishment of Demonstration Farms on Sustainable Management of Marginal Soils. The meeting took note of these plans.
36. P. R. China expressed its offer to become one of the Co-Shepherds of the priority area on Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues. The meeting welcomed the offer from P. R. China and agreed that P. R. China be a Co-Shepherd.

Agenda Item VIII: ATCWG Annual Operational Plan

37. The meeting endorsed the revised ATCWG Annual Operational Plan for 2001. The agreed plan appears as Annex _.

Agenda Item IX: Management Issues

A. Preparation of Documents

38. The Co-Chair asked member economies to submit documents for the plenary meeting in timely manner.

B. Updating the ATC Contact List and Communication

39. The Co-Chair asked member economies to update their contact list and submit the updated list to APEC Secretariat. The meeting shared the importance of communication via e-mail.

Agenda Item X: Adoption of the Summary Report

40. The meeting adopted the Summary Report.

Agenda Item XI: Other Matters

A. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

41. No economy expressed an offer to host the Sixth ATCWG Plenary Meeting in 2002. The Co-Chair asked member economies to consider the possibility of offering to host. The meeting agreed that the date and place of the next meeting should soon be decided.

B. Classification of Documents

42. The meeting adopted the Classification of Documents.

C. Explanation of the Field Trip from the Host

43. P. R. China provided an explanation of the field trip.

D. Explanation of the Workshops Convened in the Near Future from Conveners

44. Australia, Thailand and Chinese Taipei explained the workshops to be held in the near future.

Agenda Item XII: Closure of the Meeting

45. All delegations expressed their sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the hospitality and efforts put forth by the P. R. China.