Summary Conclusions of the APEC Budget and Management Committee Meeting APEC Secretariat, Singapore 24-25 March 2004

Introduction

- 1. The APEC Budget and Management Committee (BMC) held its first 2004 meeting at the APEC Secretariat, Singapore, on 24-25 March.
- 2. The meeting was attended by representatives from Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Peru; Philippines; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; Viet Nam and the APEC Secretariat. The list of participants is at <u>Annex 1</u>. Apologies were received from Papua New Guinea.
- 3. The meeting was chaired by Mr Chutintorn Sam Gongsakdi, Director, International Economic Policy Division, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand.

Agenda item 1: Adoption of Agenda

4. The meeting adopted the Agenda as at <u>Annex 2</u>, except that item 13(a) was advanced to after item 9 to accommodate the schedule of the visiting presenters.

Agenda item 2: Business Arrangements and Program

5. The business program was agreed.

Agenda item 3: Overview from the Secretariat by the Executive Director

- 6. The Executive Director reported on recent developments as set out in 2004/BMC I/ 003.
 - (a) He congratulated the new Chair and Vice-Chair on their assumption of posts and thanked the outgoing Chair and Interim Chair for their work. He reported on staffing changes at the Secretariat:
 - (b) He noted that to date nine economies had paid their annual contribution ahead of the due date of 31 March 2004. Efforts were being made to chase up the one economy which had not yet paid its 2003 contribution;
 - (c) The Secretariat had been able to report savings of US\$288,320.30 from the Administrative Account. As the budget was prepared and projects approved using more realistic figures, the scope for large returns was diminishing. He said that with continuing efforts to control costs, at the existing level of service and at the existing contribution levels the forecast was that APEC can continue to 2006 to set aside US\$2,000,000 for Operational Account projects. The need for increased contributions would then need to be assessed;
 - (d) He reminded delegates of the importance which SOM attached to projects being aligned with SOM priorities. He noted the difficult work ahead of the BMC to try to reduce the discordance between the APEC project cycle and the APEC cycle. He commended for discussion on APEC reform the letter from the BMC Chair, dated 11 March 2004 (2004/BMC I/021); and
 - (e) He informed members of continuing discussions to expand and strengthen APEC's business outreach program.
- 7. The meeting welcomed the report of the Executive Director.

Agenda item 4: Financial report for 2003

- A. Review of Administrative Account
- B. Review of Operational Account
- C. Review of TILF Special Account
- 8. The meeting noted the audited report and the detailed outturn of the Administrative Account, the Operational Account, and the TILF Special Account for 2003 in 2004/BMC I/004. The audited accounts would be signed and submitted to Senior Officials for information.

Agenda item 5: Appointment of Auditors

 The meeting considered <u>2004/BMC I/005</u> and agreed to recommend to SOM II, the reappointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as the auditor for the 2004 accounts of the APEC Central Fund.

Agenda item 6: ISO Issues and Report on Complaints received by the Secretariat

- 10. The meeting reviewed the progress of the Secretariat in reaching the standards aimed for under the ISO 9001:2000 standard on Quality Management Systems. The information was presented in 2004/BMC I/006. The meeting noted the change in the target for the submission of meeting papers. Members expressed some concern at the lower than target rate for the submission of project claims, noting that much of this was attributable to late submission of details from the Project Overseer/traveller concerned and some attributable to differing perceptions of what constituted complete documentation for payment. The Secretariat said that there were continuing complaints about the complexities of APEC's reimbursement system for travel and some of these concerns had again surfaced at the ESC Working Groups Coordination Meeting, held ahead of SOM I this year. The Secretariat was meeting with PwC, its auditors, on 31 March 2004 to make a further review of its travel procedures. The Secretariat advised that a survey of Project Overseers was about to get underway which would also provide further views on APEC's procedures. Members also noted the contribution made by the travel procedures to controlling APEC's costs. In respect of contracts, the meeting noted that there was a growing tendency for contractors to put forward their own variants of contracts, which prolonged contract negotiation.
- 11. The meeting noted that under the 2004 Work Plan the Secretariat would review whether there was scope to expand the areas of work for which APEC would seek ISO 9001:2000 certification.

Agenda item 7: Evaluation of Committee/Working Group Projects (including Self-Financed projects)

A. Evaluation Reports and Outcomes of BMC Small Groups

12. The Chair reminded Members of the importance the BMC had attached to the evaluation process and the part that Members played in it through their agreed assignment to the various BMC Small Groups. Members noted the measures and efforts which the Secretariat had been taking for the smoother implementation of the existing evaluation process. The meeting noted the contents of 2004/BMC I/007.

B. Comments in Evaluation Reports that may be of General Applicability

13. The meeting noted the contents of 2004/BMC l/008 and was pleased that the Secretariat would continue to upload the lessons learned document on to the APEC website and circulate them also to Project Overseers for reference. Members suggested there could be a compilation of the lessons learned documents and put in a user-friendly, accessible form PSMs were encouraged to assist in making the contents of the lessons learned documents better known to fora and project proponents.

Agenda item 8: Forecast of the Operational Account

- 14. The meeting noted the forecast in <u>2004/BMC I/009</u> and agreed that the US\$2 million cap on the Operational Account should remain, and that the 4-year forecast should continue to be updated and presented at future BMC meetings so that the BMC might closely monitor the financial outlook. As the savings were reducing because of more realistic budgeting the Secretariat would adjust the savings bands for future updates.
- 15. Some member economies indicated, without commitment, their willingness to increase their contribution levels if increasing demands and costs made this necessary. Members noted that contribution rates had not been adjusted since 1998, at which time some reductions were made in recognition of hardships from the then economic crisis. Economic conditions in many economies had improved, while the contributions had declined in real terms with inflation and currency adjustments. In response to Members' requests, the Secretariat agreed to circulate by end April/early May for discussion, a paper outlining the existing contribution formula and possible scenarios for change.

Agenda item 9: Forecast of the TILF Special Account

- 16. The meeting considered 2004/BMC I/010 and, using the approved formula to ensure the sustainability of funding of projects, noted that this produced a provisionally acceptable amount of expenditure of US\$4,979,087 for TILF Special Account projects in 2005. Taking this into account, currency exchange rate fluctuations, the level of uncommitted reserves and the demand for funding for projects under the TILF Special Account the meeting determined an affordable level of expenditure for projects in 2005 of US\$5,000,000. The meeting also reiterated that requests approved for funding of TILF projects in 2005 should not normally exceed this affordable level but such could be considered, providing that there were uncommitted reserves available.
- 17. Japan advised that its contribution to the TILF Special Account in fiscal year 2004-5 would remain this year at 325 million yen, subject to the approval of the Upper House of the Diet on 26 March 2004. Japan further advised that the amount to be contributed to the TILF fund in future years could not be guaranteed. Japan reiterated its request that other economies contribute to the TILF fund.

Agenda item 10: 2004 Budget

- A. Report on Business Transacted Inter-sessionally
- 18. The meeting noted 2004/BMC I/011.
- B. Operational Account Reprogramming and Requests for Urgent Funding
- 19. The meeting approved the following requests put forward in <u>2004/BMC I/012</u> and 2004/BMC I/012 an

Ex-Gratia Requests:

- AGGI 03/2001 US\$26,773.40
- HRD 02/2002 US\$4,997.20
- HRD 09/2002 US\$10,790.25

Regarding the requests which cited exchange rate fluctuations as the rationale for an increased payment, the Meeting agreed that these would not be approved. To do so could open the door to many more requests, yet with the unlikelihood of the return of money under contract should the exchange rate become favourable. The request for AGGI 03/2001 was capped at the approved project sum and the request for EWG 02/2001 was not approved.

Urgent Funding:

FIN 03/2004: Symposium on Alternative Remittance Systems (US\$56,860). A waiver for government officials was approved. Members requested that the practices to be recommended

in the symposium would be consistent with those advanced by other organisations (for example, the Financial Action Task Force).

SME 06/2004: BRI International Visitor Program Training (US\$30,000) (*The project was previously known as SME 04/2004T, but was not recommended for TILF funding*) Waivers for participants to receive funding, government officials and for advance payment were approved. Indonesia maintained that there was a link for this project on the investment side of APEC's agenda. Members commended the project for the assistance it would provide microentrepreneurs, a majority of whom were women.

20. The two projects, as they are above US\$20,000, will be submitted to Senior Officials for approval. Subject to this approval, the amount remaining in the Operational Account for 2004 projects is US\$38,970.

C. TILF Special Account – Reprogramming and Requests for Urgent Funding

- 21. Members recalled that the TILF contribution from Japan for 2004 will continue at the reduced rate of 325 million yen. The Chair noted that the total sum requested for all 2003 projects exceeded the affordable level of US\$4,800,000 agreed in 2003 for 2004 projects. There was US\$564,073 uncommitted from the affordable level agreed in 2003 for 2004 projects; in addition, there was US\$150,527 uncommitted from the affordable level of US\$5,500,000 agreed in 2002 for 2003 projects. Members agreed that both uncommitted amounts could be made available for urgent 2004 projects. The Chair also reminded members of the decision that while funding should not normally exceed this affordable level such could be considered, providing that there are uncommitted reserves available. At present the uncommitted TILF Special Account reserves stood at US\$2,636,320. With this in mind members agreed that funding of projects up to US\$860,000 would be acceptable.
- 22. The meeting approved the following requests put forward in <u>2004/BMC I/013</u> and 2004/BMC I/013 and

Extension of Project Disbursement Deadline:

EWG 03/2002T: to 31 December 2004

CTI 07/2002T: to 30 June 2004

Additional Funding:

- TEL 02/2003T: the request was withdrawn as alternative funding from the United States had been offered and accepted.
- TPT 01/2003T: the request was not approved as the rationale for the request was exchange rate fluctuations.

Request for Waiver:

CTI 19/2004T: the request for a waiver to fund officials from WTO and WIPO was approved.
 Members noted that no additional funding would be required.

Urgent Funding:

The BMC's decisions on the urgent 2004 TILF Special Account funding requests in 2004/BMC I/013 are set out at Annex 3. Projects above US\$20,000 will be submitted to Senior Officials for approval. The approval of project CTI 27/2004T was on the basis that the travel was for persons from organisations related to ABAC. The funding was not for members of ABAC.

Preparations for the Mid-Term Stock-taking of the Progress Towards the Bogor Goals:

The meeting agreed to the SOM Chair's request that provision be set aside from the TILF Special Account for a possible stock-taking project in 2004. The meeting agreed to consider the proposal either intersessionally or at BMC II, applying the normal project rules. The expectation was that the value of the project would not exceed US\$70,000.

Agenda item 11: Publications Report

23. BMC noted the contents of 2004/BMC I/014. The Secretariat noted the encouraging trend that more for were requesting advance assistance on publications. More timely requests would also allow the Secretariat to advise on an appropriate publicity plan. The Chair reminded economies which had not responded to the Secretariat's questionnaire, distributed at SOM I, on the utility of the ESC Annual Report to do so as soon as possible.

Agenda item 12: Guidelines for Hosting APEC Meetings

- 24. The Chair outlined the rationale for the changes proposed in paper 2004/BMC I/015, which were to ensure that the Executive Director (ED) of the APEC Secretariat (and/or the Deputy Executive Director (DED), as appropriate) had an opportunity to speak at APEC Ministerial Meetings and were treated appropriately. The concern was for the organisation rather than the person. Members discussed the issue and agreed to provide written comments on the Guidelines by 23 April 2004. Regarding the treatment of the ED or, in his absence, the DED, Members suggested that an equivalency with Ministers might need to be established, but noted that this was the situation for the ASEAN Secretariat where the Secretary General was treated as the equivalent of a Minister.
- 25. On hosting guidelines in general, members suggested that money could be saved by not providing delegates with souvenir bags at every meeting. They also suggested that delegate badges could differentiate (by colour) between government and non-government members of an economy's delegation.

Agenda item 13: Project Management and Evaluation Matters

A. Report on the Small Group on Evaluation meeting of the ESC

- 26. Members noted the information contained in paper 2004/BMC I/016. The Chair of the Small Group on Evaluation of the ESC said that the proposal followed an instruction from Ministers to use existing mechanisms such as the ESC and the BMC to significantly strengthen the coordination of APEC activities, in particular APEC projects, so as to avoid duplication and maximise APEC value, goodwill and benefit to stakeholders. Ministers had welcomed the development of a project evaluation framework for ECOTECH. The consultant, Mr Lincoln Young, described the proposed generic quality assessment framework for project applications and outcomes. In his view there would be significant improvements and increased efficiency in using the new framework. He also described the proposed framework for mid-term review and impact analysis to be used where appropriate.
- 27. After some discussion, members agreed to trial the framework for Operational Account projects to be put forward at BMC II in late August 2004. Members agreed that the Chair would send a joint letter with the Chair of the ESC to all APEC Working Groups to require them to choose two projects to trial. To reduce the burden the projects should not both come from the same economy. These projects would be prepared by the project proponents using the existing project format (Annex A of the *Guidebook on APEC Projects*) and also in the format proposed by the consultant. Projects in the latter format would be assessed using the Framework for Project Proposals by a Project Steering Committee of the Working Group, meeting at the WG or virtually. The WG should offer its comments on the efficacy of the new format and the framework for project proposals. On a voluntary basis WGs would also be encouraged to trial the mid-term review framework and the outcome framework for Operational Account projects ahead of BMC II. The trial would not apply to TILF projects, nor to projects proposed by Committees or ad hoc groups.

B. Amendment to the Guidebook on APEC Projects

28. Members noted that the Guidebook would require amendment if the evaluation frameworks were to be adopted. Changes would also be required if the later proposals under this agenda item were to be approved and made permanent.

C. Improvement to Projects

- 29. Members discussed this item by reference to presentations made by the Secretariat on paper 2004/BMC I/018, by Japan on paper 2004/BMC I/022 and by the US on 2004/BMC I/019. Members also made reference to the letter from the BMC Chair, dated 11 March 2004 and reproduced as paper 2004/BMC I/021.
- 30. After a wide-ranging discussion the following were agreed:
 - (a) Projects put forward and approved at BMC II and later should follow APEC-wide priorities. For projects approved at BMC II in 2004 the priorities would be the 2004 priorities agreed at ISOM and confirmed at SOM I in 2004. For TILF Special Account projects Japan proposed that these would be supplemented by the TILF priorities (incorporating the CTI priorities agreed at CTI I/2004) set out in paper 2004/BMCI/022 (modified to remove the numbering and to indicate that there was flexibility to approve other projects). For Operational Account projects the general priorities would be supplemented by the APEC-wide ECOTECH priorities endorsed by Ministers in 2003.
 - (b) A Friends of the Chair Group (Chile, Korea, USA, Viet Nam and the APEC Secretariat) would develop proposals on reducing the discordance between the APEC project cycle and the APEC cycle, including how to provide a transition from the existing situation. The starting point would be based on the US proposal in 2004/BMCI/019. The aim was to prepare a paper ahead of SOM II.
 - (c) There was consensus on increasing the proportion of funding to be allocated to projects following the Annual Ministerial Meeting. For 2005 projects this was provisionally agreed for January/ March 2005 as:
 - Operational Account 25% (US\$500,000)
 - TILF Special Account15%(US\$750,000)

Members noted that these figures might be revised following the outcome of discussions at the Friends of the Chair Group and decisions made at BMC II.

- (d) Members agreed to retain for Operational Account projects, the current limit of 15% of the total Operational Account (i.e. US\$300,000) as the maximum any one WG, Committee or Task Force may put forward at BMC II. Members reiterated that this was not an entitlement to fund to that amount.
- (e) Members agreed on Japan's proposal that, in the absence of additional contributions from other economies to the TILF Special Account, there should be a substantial element of self-funding for TILF-funded projects; for projects from developed member economies this should be of the order of 50%; for ones put forward by developing member economies this should be of the order of 20%. Project proponents of Operational Account projects would also be encouraged to provide some self-funding it was noted that self-funding for hosting and participation was the norm already for these projects. Self-control should be exercised on what was counted as self-funding.
- (f) All projects put forward should have the active involvement of at least three economies as proposing / co-sponsoring economy.
- (g) Honoraria should be reduced; normally no more than US\$300- US\$1,000 should be offered. The maximum would remain at US\$1,500. Government and international organisation officials would not be eligible.
- (h) Consultant and consultant secretary costs should be more closely tailored to that of the local economies with the normal hourly maxima of US\$80 and US\$20 retained. Points of contacts in economies should encourage consultants/organisations in their respective economies to bid for APEC contracts. The Secretariat would be working to improve the visibility of contract details on its website.

- (i) The number of APEC-sponsored speakers should be reduced to normally no more than 6 (six) a day. The number of APEC- sponsored participants should be kept down as far as possible and not exceed the numbers permitted in the *Guidebook on APEC Projects*.
- (j) The hosting costs (where eligible) should be restricted to no more than US\$5,000 for a two day conference. There should be a competitive bidding process for the venue. This will have the added advantage of helping to keep hotel costs down.
- (k) Members decided against placing a maximum value on APEC projects.
- (I) Members agreed to recommend to SOM an increase in the value of projects which could be approved by BMC. This was suggested to be raised from US\$20,000 to US\$100,000.
- 31. Members agreed that the Chair would write to all Committee Chairs, Working Group Lead Shepherds and ad hoc group chairs regarding these changes.

Agenda item 14: BMC and APEC Reform Process

32. Members agreed that the letter referred to in paragraph 31 above would be copied to the SOM Chair as input to the APEC Reform process. To meet the reform process deadline the Chair would send the letter on or before 15 April 2004.

Agenda item 15: Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Agenda item 16: Classification of Documents

34. The agreed document classification list of this meeting is at Annex 4.

Agenda item 17: Date of Next Meeting

- 35. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24 Thursday, 26 August 2004, in Singapore.
- 36. The meeting agreed the following deadlines for the next meeting:

30 July 2004 : Receipt of finalised ranked project proposals from fora

13 August 2004 : Deadline for Secretariat to upload projects and papers for BMC II

Agenda item 18: Approval of Summary Conclusions of the Meeting

37. The meeting approved inter-sessionally these summary conclusions for submission to Senior Officials.

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Agenda APEC Budget and Management Committee 24-25 March 2004 Singapore

1.	Adoption of Agenda
	(2004/BMC I/001)

- 2. Business Arrangements and Program (2004/BMC I/002)
- Overview from the Secretariat by the Executive Director (2004/BMC I/003) including a report on the outcomes of ISOM and SOM I relevant to BMC

Message from the BMC Chair (2004/BMC I/021)

4. Financial Report for 2003 (2004/BMC I/004)

To receive the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

- a) Review of Administrative Account
- b) Review of Operational Account
- c) Review of TILF Special Account
- 5. Appointment of Auditors (2004/BMC I/005)
- 6. ISO Issues and Report on Complaints Received by the Secretariat (2004/BMC I/006)
- 7. Evaluation of Committee/Working Group Projects (including self-financed projects)
 - a) Evaluation Reports and Outcomes of BMC Small Groups (2004/BMC I/007)
 - b) Comments in Evaluation Reports that may be of General Applicability (2004/BMC I/008)
- 8. Forecast of the Operational Account (2004/BMC I/009)
- 9. Forecast of the TILF Special Account (2004/BMC I/010)
- 10. 2004 Budget
 - a) Report on Business Transacted Inter-sessionally (2004/BMC I/011)
 - b) Operational Account Reprogramming and Requests for Urgent Funding (2004/BMC I/012)
 - TILF Special Account Reprogramming and Requests for Urgent Funding (2004/BMC I/013)
- 11. APEC Publication Policy and Statistics on APEC Publications

(2004/BMC I/014)

- 12. Guidelines for Hosting APEC Meetings (2004/BMC I/015)
- 13. Project Management and Evaluation Matters
 - a) Report on the Small Group on Evaluation Meeting of the ESC, held in Santiago on 27 February 2004 (2004/BMC I/016)
 - b) Amendments to the *Guidebook on APEC Projects* (2004/BMC I/017)
 - c) Establishment of Criteria for the Approval of Projects at BMC II (2004/BMC I/018)

Japan's Proposal to Set a Priority List for Projects Seeking Funding from the TILF Special Account (2004/BMC I/022)

- d) Streamlining APEC Approval of Project Proposals (2004/BMC I/019)
- 14. BMC and APEC Reform Process (2004/BMC I/020)
- 15. Any Other Business
- 16. Classification of Documents
- 17. Date of Next Meeting
- 18. Approval of the Summary Report of the Meeting

2004 TILF Special Accounts Requests for Urgent Funding

	USD	USD	
Approved under Operational Account as SME	30,000	0	
	05 602	05 602	1
A	95,692	95,692	. I
Α	25,320	25,320	2
A	46,660	46,660	3
Α	60,664	59,384	4
Α	16,550	16,550	·
Α	75,740	66,690	5
Α	25,000	32,000	6
1	•		
A	50,648	43,840	7
	-		
Α	40,000	40,000	8
A	97,700	60,200	9
!			
	404.040		1.0
A	134,012	91,202	10
A	231,150	169,480	11
	929,136	747,018	
	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	A 95,692 A 25,320 A 46,660 A 60,664 A 16,550 A 75,740 A 25,000 A 97,700 A 97,700 A 231,150 A 231,1	Operational Account as SME 06/2004 95,692 95,692 A 25,320 25,320 A 46,660 46,660 A 60,664 59,384 A 16,550 16,550 A 75,740 66,690 A 25,000 32,000 A 40,000 40,000 A 97,700 60,200 A 134,012 91,202

Legend

- A. Approved
- Tentatively approved Rejected
- C.

Notes

	Project No.	Remarks/ Waviers	Additions/(Ded
1	CTI 23/2004T	Approved. Waivers for airfare and per diem for government officials from developing economies, advance payment for these government officials and funding of experts from relevant international organizations are approved.	
	CTI 24/2004T	Approved. Waivers for funding of government officials and advance travelling expenses of these officials and experts are approved.	
	CTI 25/2004T	Approved. Waivers for advance payment of travel expenses and funding of government officials are approved.	
	CTI 26/2004T	Approved after deducting amount stated. Waiver for per diem for delegates from developing economies is approved.	Delegates
5	CTI 28/2004T	travelling expenses for government officials and accommodation for 20 participants of the 10 eligible economies are approved.	Speaker's Honorarium Project Consultant and Consultant's Secretary Cost Per Diem- Speakers
6	CTI 29/2004T	Approved after deducting/adding amount stated.	Per Diem - Experts Airfare - Experts Photocopying Communication

Notes

	Project No.	Remarks/ Waviers	Additions/(Ded
7	EC 01/2004T	Approved after deducting amount stated. Waiver to fund experts from	Speaker's
		non-APEC members is approved.	Honorarium
			Per Diem -
			Speakers
8	CTTF 01/2004T	Approved. Waivers for funding of government officials, per diem for	
	0111 01/20041	active participants and advance travel expenses for these participants	
		from developing economies are approved.	
	CTTF 02/2004T	Approved after deducting amount stated. Waivers for per diem of active	Airforo Aotivo
9	CTTF 02/20041	participants, advance travel expenses for these participants and funding	
		of government officials are approved.	articipants
		or government emotate are approved.	
10	ESCG 01/2004T	Approved after deducting amount stated. Waivers for travel costs of	Speaker's
		government officials, per diem of active participants and advance	Honorarium
		payment are approved.	
			Per Diem -
			Speakers
			Sp 333
			Airfare-Speakers
			-
			Airfare - Active
			Participants
<u> </u>	001101/00017		0 11
11	SOM 04/2004T	11	Consultants
		per diem for government officials, English-Japanese translators (simultaneous interpretation) and per diem for active participants are	Fees
		approved.	
		аррготой.	
			Consultant's
			Secretary Cost
			Per Diem -
			Speakers and
			Active
			Participants
			A lafa aa
			Airfare - Speakers and
			Active
			Participants
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	-1,350
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