

APEC
Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)
2nd Meeting
Cusco, Peru
12-13 August 2008

Draft Annotated Agenda

The second SCSC meeting for 2008 was held on 12 and 13 August 2008 at the City Hall Convention Center in Cusco, Peru. The meeting was attended by representatives from: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong China; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines, Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam. The APEC Secretariat, representatives of the Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF), Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP) and the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) were also in attendance.

1. Opening

Mr Augusto Mello, Technical Secretary of the Technical and Commercial Regulations Commission of the Peruvian National Institute for the Defense of Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property, and SCSC Chairperson for 2008, opened and chaired the meeting.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chairs, Mr. John Henry from Australia and Mr. Teo Nam Kuan from Singapore, as well as Mr. Sun Tao from APEC Secretariat for their support. He introduced Ms. Odette Herbozo, who would assist him in preparing this meeting's summary report.

Before proceeding with the meeting, *the Chair* asked for a minute of silence in memory of Mr. Ronald Paita, from Papua New Guinea.

The Chair mentioned some of the activities carried out by the SCSC during 2008, in accordance to SCSC Work Program, thanking SCSC members for their support and active participation in working on SCSC activities.

The Chair also pointed out that SCSC is behind in complying with two requests made by the CTI, referred to reporting on SCSC progress on KPIs and on the Collective Action Plan, indicating he would have to report on these issues in CTI 3.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The SCSC adopted the agenda after the following amendments were made to the draft circulated ahead of the meeting:

- The United States proposed a new issue be added under Item 7, *Updates to project proposals*, and requested that agenda item 4 (1) be discussed under agenda item 4 (3).
- Item 4(6) on Food safety issues was discussed after the morning break, as proposed by Australia.
- Item 4(7) was discussed on the first day of the meeting, as proposed by Singapore.

3. Business Arrangements

Peru provided information regarding the administrative arrangements for the meeting.

Mr. Sun Tao, SCSC Program Director from APEC Secretariat, addressed SCSC to inform on overall APEC developments.

4. SCSC Work Program for 2008 and related issues

(1) Trade Facilitation

The United States noted that the next TFTF meeting will be held on the margins of SCSC1 in 2009 and welcomed intersessional views on participation in that event.

Vietnam reported on the SCSC's CAP in Trade Facilitation, indicating that only two lead economies had submitted the requested information, which allowed Vietnam to partially update the template. Vietnam requested information be submitted by member economies by 30 September 2008, so that the report may be prepared by 31 October 2008.

APEC Secretariat suggested to move the deadline to 15 September 2008 for member economies to submit information, so the report may be presented to CTI intersessionally, before the Leaders meeting in November.

The SCSC Chair encouraged member economies to submit the requested information by 15 September.

The Chair made a presentation of the process followed to approve, intersessionally, SCSC Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which were presented to CTI during SOM II. The Chair outlined Hong Kong China's proposal for the reporting methodology, which was approved by SCSC Members. The Chair then proposed reporting responsibilities and the establishment of coordinators to prepare SCSC KPIs' report.

APEC Secretariat sought clarification on the meaning of "standards and conformance related matters" of KPI IV(i). SCSC members clarified that this relates to contact point and regulatory information that has been provided in the past and posted on the website.

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, and New Zealand expressed their interest to maintain the KPI, mentioning visibility and transparency reasons. SCSC members agreed to maintain this KPI.

New Zealand noted that the information currently provided on the SCSC page of the APEC website deals with standards and regulations only. It does not provide information on accreditation or conformity assessment. New Zealand suggested that a new section be added that lists the contact points of National Accreditation Bodies and National Metrology Institutes, as well as links to the SRBs. This will complete the information posted enabling the SCSC to fully meet this KPI.

SCSC Members agreed with the suggestion and asked the APEC Secretariat to update the information.

The ABAC representative commended the SCSC on its efforts in complying with CTI requirements regarding KPIs.

SCSC members approved the Chair's proposal for reporting responsibilities for SCSC KPIs. They also agreed that the KPIs update should be done annually to report results to CTI in SOM III every year.

SCSC members agreed that coordinators should report on KPIs by 15 October 2008, so the results may be taken to CTI intersessionally, before the Leaders meeting in November.

Japan provided a report on the developments of the WTO TBT Committee activities since the last SCSC meeting.

The United States noted the success of the WTO GRP conference and encouraged members to look at the US proposal for a WTO Workshop entitled The Role of International Standards in Economic Development (JOB(08)/15).

China provided a report on the developments of the WTO SPS Committee activities since the last SCSC meeting.

(2) Alignment with International Standards and Active Participation in International Standardization

Japan reported on the VAP results, asking member economies who had not submitted their information, to do so by 30 September 2008. Japan offered to provide VAP report results prior to SCSC 1 in 2009.

Indonesia requested clarification on the proposed plans for future work to expand the VAP from 2010 onwards.

Japan agreed to consider member economies' views as the VAP Program develops.

The United States noted that the current template was challenging to fill out and suggested that Japan could work with PASC to make some improvements. Japan agreed that cooperation from PASC would assist with this task and welcomed comments from member economies on how to improve the template.

Japan presented the survey on new priority areas for SCSC, identifying: Environmental Technology, Product safety, Electrical Equipment, and Assistive products. Japan proposed that member economies select target standards by 30 September 2008.

The United States thanked Japan for their work and expressed their concern that member economies might not be able to implement a survey including such a large selection of standards.

Australia agreed with the United States and suggested member economies rank their priorities.

Japan agreed that the new VAP priority areas could be narrowed based on preferences of member economies and welcomed input.

(3) Standards and Conformance

Peru reported on the VII Conference on Standards and Conformance held in Cusco, Peru, on 10 - 11 August 2008, and asked moderators for each session to provide comments on their session.

PASC provided a report on Session 1: Standards and Conformity Assessment – Specialist Regional Bodies and International Organizations.

Singapore provided a report on Session 2: Standards and Conformance Education – Challenges for contents in textbook development and network cooperation in the APEC region.

The United States provided a report on Session 3: Trade Facilitation

Peru provided a report on Session 4: Dialogue between SCSC, ABAC and Business.

The ABAC representative asked SCSC members whether it is now timely to consider including work on conformity assessment issues, noting that substantial work has been done on standards related issues.

The SCSC endorsed the recommendations set out in SCSC document 2008/SOM III/SCSC/040.

(4) Good Regulatory Practice

Peru reported on the V Good Regulatory Practice Conference held in Cusco, Peru, on 09 August 2008.

Chile and the United States congratulated Peru for the organization of both conferences.

The SCSC endorsed the recommendations set out in SCSC document 2008/SOM III/SCSC/035.

(5) Cooperation on Technical Infrastructure Development

Peru reported on the Workshop on Chemical Metrology held in Cusco, Peru, on 6 - 7 August 2008.

APMP noted the relative infancy of the chemical metrology area and the benefits of establishing an information sharing mechanism to allow Metrology Institutes to keep up to date to developments in this area.

APEC Secretariat agreed to upload the relevant information to the SCSC web page and also requested the format from APMP. APMP agreed to provide it in due course.

Canada suggested APEC should coordinate with SIM on projects related to chemical metrology in the future.

The SCSC endorsed the recommendations set out in SCSC document 2008/SOM III/SCSC/033.

(6) Food safety issues

Australia on behalf of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum Co-Chairs (Australia and China) provided a detailed progress report to SCSC on its work to date. Since April 2007, over 300 people from 16 APEC Economies have participated in 17 different capacity building activities held in five cities across the region. This is the first time that APEC Economies are coordinating their food safety capacity building activities in this way and are working together to target priority areas in need.

The SCSC noted the recommendations that the Forum's objectives continue to be harmonisation of food safety standards with international standards to improve public health and facilitate trade.

The SCSC noted that the Forum will continue to use the Implementation Plan 2008-2011 as a coordinating and reporting tool, will report on further progress to the SCSC in 2009, and encouraged member economies to support activities identified in the Plan.

China provided a report on the APEC FSCF 2008 Seminar entitled *Food Safety Control System and Risk Analysis*, organized by China on 6 - 8 August 2008, in Cusco, Peru.

China expressed their appreciation to Australia, the United States and Peru, for their contribution as co sponsors.

The United States and Australia thanked China for the organization of the Seminar.

The SCSC endorsed the recommendations to report the outcomes of the Seminar as an important activity under APEC FSCF to the CTI meeting in August (SCSC document 2008/SOM III/SCSC/027).

The United States present a concept paper on the APEC SCSC FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN), established under the FSCF, which aims at increasing participation of the private sector and academia in the training aspects of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum.

China asked whether the name could be shortened to the APEC FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN), and Australia supported the suggestion. SCSC members agreed on the revised title.

China noted the concept paper was circulated for comments to the Food Safety Cooperation Forum and received comments from Australia, China, Canada, New Zealand, Philippines and Vietnam.

China noted that terms of reference (TOR) are necessary for the PTIN's operating principles in the short, medium and long term and indicated that they would join in the drafting of the TOR. Australia and Peru noted their interest in participating in the drafting of the TOR.

Australia supported the concept of the PTIN and looks forward to a TOR that satisfies all parties and has consensus of all member economies.

The SRB Lead Shepherd suggested that SRBs should also be considered as one of the implementation partners, given they can add value to the work.

New Zealand noted their interest in this proposal and the possibility to offer expertise in pasteurization and cheese making.

SCSC members noted the concept to establish the APEC FSCF PTIN under the existing FSCF and endorsed it as an initiative upon its finalization of TOR approved by the FSCF and SCSC intersessionally. SCSC will seek CTI's approval for inclusion in its

2008 deliverables list to SOM and seek Ministers' identification of APEC FSCF PTIN as a major food safety deliverable for Leaders' attention.

The Philippines reported on the organization of the Workshop 'Capacity Building Training on Food Safety Risk Communication for APEC Developing Member Economies' held in Manila, Philippines, on 23 to 27 June 2008.

The United States reported that participants from the US found the Workshop informative and valuable.

The SCSC endorsed the recommendations set out in SCSC document 2008/SOM III/SCSC/012.

(7) Pathfinder initiatives

EEMRA Pathfinder Initiative

The JAC Chair, reported on the progress of the APEC EEMRA work plan. He also reported on the Seminar on Understanding and Implementing APEC EEMRA and the 12th JAC meeting, held in Brunei Darussalam from 12 to 14 May 2008. The JAC Chair informed that the next JAC meeting will be held back to back with the ASEAN JSC EEE, on 6 to 7 November 2008 in Bali, Indonesia, and that a joint APEC-ASEAN seminar will be held on 5 November.

Singapore and Indonesia invited member economies to attend the meeting, stressing the need for regulators' participation.

Chile, New Zealand, Peru and APEC Secretariat commented positively on the outcomes of the Seminar and thanked Singapore and Brunei Darussalem for the organization.

Chile noted that they are currently working towards gaining membership to the IEC, and that this will facilitate their participation in the APEC EEMRA in the future. Chile also noted that the Chilean regulator is interested in continued engagement in this work.

Peru noted that they are preparing information in order to participate in Part I of the APEC EEMRA.

Thailand reported on progress of the Food MRA Pathfinder Initiative and asked for SCSC endorsement for the implementation of their self funded project on

(8) Standards and Conformance Education

Korea updated progress of work on standards education project.

New Zealand noted that the on line library and the network aspects of the project would be useful to a range of stakeholders, not only to academia, and sought clarification whether the “*Asia-Pacific Network for Standardization*” will also extend to conformity assessment.

Korea proposed that the SCSC have representation in ICES meetings.

Australia and the United States raised concerns about formalizing the relationship between APEC SCSC and ICES.

APEC Secretariat clarified the rules on the procedures for formal appointment as liaison to an international organization.

China expressed their agreement to formally appoint an SCSC representative before ICES, and was supported by Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.

The SCSC agreed for Mr. Donggeun Choi to attend ICES (International Cooperation for Education about Standardization) meetings as an SCSC representative. The proposal be taken to CTI and then to SOM for approval.

The SCSC noted the plan for the development of textbook for phase II and encouraged members to provide relevant research resources, including case studies.

The SCSC endorsed the organization of an 'Asia-Pacific Network for Standardization' as a part of APEC SCSC Education Initiative to provide a venue for networking among researchers, professionals, and educators.

The SCSC noted that Korea will prepare a website to facilitate education activities and networking in the APEC region.

(9) Interaction with Business

Japan presented the survey questionnaire developed to obtain information regarding the participation of business in International Technical Committees and Sub Committees.

China congratulated Japan on the collection of the information, and suggested the survey be completed every two years in conjunction with the SC Conference.

The Chair clarified that the survey constitutes an input for the KPIs and therefore needs to be completed every year.

Australia presented reports on wine related issues, including an update on activities of the World Wine Trade Group, and the formation of the SCSC Wine Regulatory Forum.

Australia noted that since SCSC 1, 8 APEC Economies had provided details of their relevant regulators, and encouraged those economies that had not already provided these details, and had an interest in the Wine Regulatory Forum, should contact Australia.

SCSC members discussed the results of the SCSC – ABAC and Business Dialogue that was held during the VII SC Conference under agenda item 4(3) above.

The United States noted it will invite the ABAC to participate in the Interaction with Business Seminar, to be held on the margins of SCSC 2 in 2009.

5. Review of APEC Food System

APEC Secretariat presented a compendium of SCSC activities and projects relating to the APEC Food System.

The SCSC reviewed the document and agreed to report it to CTI during SOM III.

6. SRBs to brief progress report

The *SRBs Lead Shepherd* noted that the SRBs have submitted their reports for SCSC members' information and would be happy to clarify any comments or questions from member economies.

7. SCSC Projects

The APEC Secretariat informed the results of the intersessional approval and ranking of SCSC Project Proposals for 2009.

Peru and Singapore updated co-sponsors of their ranked project proposals.

Korea proposed that QAF scores be taken as the SCSC ranking, pointing out that BMC considers the SCSC QAF scores, and not the SCSC ranking.

Member Economies and APEC Secretariat exchanged views on this matter and *APEC Secretariat* informed that the next BMC meeting will be held in Singapore in late October, and that there will be a specific discussion on streamlining the process. Results will be communicated to all sub fora.

The Philippines presented, for information, their project proposal 'Seminar-Workshop on the Development and Strengthening of Food Recall System for APEC Economies', pointing out they will be requesting urgent funding for 2009.

The United States presented an update on their Toy Safety project proposal, highlighting that there will now be two workshops held. The first will be a regulator dialogue on toy safety to be held on the margins of the SCSC2 in 2009. The second workshop will be an open dialogue on toy safety for all stakeholders, to be held on the margins of the Hong Kong Toy Fair, in January 2010.

Australia provided details of a self funded project entitled "Ensuring Product Safety for Consumers – APEC Capacity-Building Workshop" that is currently scheduled for 9-11 November 2008 (tbc) Kuala Lumpur. The SCSC noted the project and Australia undertook to keep the SCSC updated on the development of the project.

SCSC members discussed final adjustments to the SCSC QAF procedure related to the scoring procedure and the process for re-scoring project proposals, after receiving comments from the QAF expert panel.

The SCSC Chair with the support of Singapore will follow up on this and present the revised QAF procedure to be applied to future SCSC project proposals.

8. Supporting SMEs

Singapore presented a preliminary proposal to develop best practices for agencies/organizations that assist companies, particularly SMEs, with overcoming TBTs.

The United States congratulated Singapore for their proposal and offered their assistance.

Singapore indicated that this proposal would be presented as an urgent project for 2009.

9. Adoption of the SCSC II Summary Conclusion

The SCSC considered and adopted the Summary Conclusions of the 1st SCSC Meeting in 2008.

10. Adoption of the SCSC Chair's report to the CTI meeting

Based on the outcomes of the discussion and on the decisions at the meeting, the SCSC Chair proposed to draw up the report to the CTI. APEC Secretariat will submit the said report to member economies for their reference.

11. Preparations for 2009

SCSC members confirmed Singapore as the 2009 Chair, and Japan and Peru as the Vice Chairs.

Singapore informed the meeting of the arrangements for the SCSC 1 and related meetings during SOMI in 2009.

12. Other business

The SCSC discussed the invitation for participation in the ISO CASCO STAR Group meeting. Those economies that participate in the STAR Group agreed to discuss with their STAR Group representatives the possibility of receiving reports and updates on the work of this group, which can then be shared with the SCSC.

13.Meeting Documents

The *SCSC* considered the public release of documents as per the attachment.

14. Adjournment

The *SCSC Chair* then adjourned the meeting.

Please note that “only information/report” items shall not be included in the agenda; however, the documents submitted are to be recorded officially.