

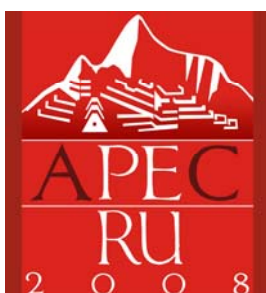


**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2008/SMEWG26/057
Agenda Item: 20.2

APEC SME 2009: Chairing of the SMEWG and SME Ministerial Meetings

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Singapore



**26th Small and Medium Enterprises Working
Group Meeting
Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei
2– 4 April 2008**



APEC SME 2009

CHAIRING OF THE SME WG & SME MINISTERIAL MEETINGS BY SINGAPORE

28TH SMEWG Meeting

Tentative date : 25-27 March 09
(host to be decided by end May 08)

29TH SMEWG and 16TH SME Ministerial Meeting

(WG Meeting back-to-back with Ministerial Meeting)
Tentative date : 6-10 Oct 09
Hosted by Singapore

Theme :

- Helping SMEs Access Global Markets & Overcoming Trade Barriers (in support of the Bogor Goal of Regional Economic Integration for a Regional Economic Community)

Sub-themes :

- Market liberalization through (a) creating awareness and (b) reducing barriers to trade/investment & (c) enhancing market access amongst SMEs in member economies
- Facilitating Business Collaboration by encouraging cross-border networks/platforms to facilitate SME/business collaborations
- Support for SME Internationalization



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Deliverables :

- Creating awareness amongst SMEs in member economies of technical barriers to trade in goods & services and taking concrete steps to reduce these barriers
 - Launch an APEC-wide Export Technical Assistance Centre for SMEs
- Opening further opportunities for cross border networking to enhance market access for SMEs
 - Organise series of business matching / collaboration events amongst member economies 2009/2010
- Enhanced SME access to credit regionally
 - Establish an APEC SME Regional Credit Info Bureau & Rating Scheme



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Features of 2009 meetings :

1. Enhancing Private Sector involvement – Singapore ABAC will work with the respective ABACs of member economies
2. Linking with other APEC sectoral/WGs such as
 - a. **APEC Finance**
 - i. issues relating to SME/Start-Ups Financing
 - b. **CTI - Committee on Trade & Investment (e.g., Sub-Committee on Standards & Conformance)**
 - i. issues relating to Standards & Conformance (reducing technical barriers to trade)
 - ii. issues relating to Market Access & Trade Liberalization & enterprise internationalisation/globalisation

Features of 2009 meetings :

3. Continue with APEC Workplan on Private Sector Development 2007 – 2010 – organise the Capacity Building Seminar on Ease of Doing Business :
Access to Credit - with New Zealand, Canada & Australia

Thank You

