Lessons Learned from the APEC Private Sector Development (PSD) initiative

Submitted by: New Zealand
Lessons learned from the APEC Private Sector Development (PSD) initiative

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Private Sector Development Initiative

• Endorsed by APEC Leaders in 2006
• Aimed to reduce regulatory burden for business
• Multi-year series of workshops on Ease of Doing Business indicators
• Economies shared experiences, issues and best practices
### PSD workshops held

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<td>Starting a business</td>
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<td>Obtaining Licenses</td>
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<td>Trading Across Borders</td>
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<td>Employing Workers</td>
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### Feb 2009 Trading Across Borders workshop

- Co-sponsored by Canada, Australia, Singapore, the United States, Hong Kong, China, Japan and Peru
- Co-hosted by APEC Business Advisory Council
- Supported by SME Working Group and Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
Feb 2009 Trading Across Borders workshop (2)

- Half-day seminar held jointly with ABAC
- Exchange of practical experiences of reforms to facilitate trade
- Aimed to identify best practices
- 100 participants from senior business leaders, regulatory officials and international organisations

Presenters

Mix of leading and reforming economies:
- Hong Kong, China
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Chile
- and the World Bank
Key Findings

- APEC economies do well compared to rest of world, but variation within APEC

- World Bank's observations:
  - More paperwork means longer trading time
  - Agencies other than Customs account for half of trading delays
  - Inland transportation costs are significant

Challenges

- Coping with high traffic volume
- Balancing speed with security
- Liaising with other public and private agencies
- Technology is no magic wand
- Benefits of any new systems must be clear and immediate
High ranking APEC economies had:

- Electronic based systems
- ‘Single windows’, or were developing them
- Risk management systems
- Post clearance audits
- Effective customs appeals mechanisms
- Electronic cargo tracking systems
- A competitive trucking industry

Outcomes from PSD workshops

- Shared knowledge across participating APEC economies
- Best Practice Guide, to be based on all workshops 2007-11
- ‘Trading Across Borders’ chapter will include best practices identified from today’s workshop