APEC’s EoDB Action Plan - Work Programme for Starting a Business

Submitted by: United States
APEC Workshop: First Steps of Successful Reform in Doing Business – Starting a Business

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APEC’s EoDB Action Plan - Work Programme for Starting a Business

• Adopted in 2009 Annual Ministerial Meeting in Singapore
  – Improve business environment in Asia Pacific region in 5 priority areas, including starting a business
  – Promote reform to make it cheaper, faster and easier to do business in APEC region

• United States and New Zealand are co-leads for “Starting a Business” work programme
APEC Seminar on the First Steps of Successful Reform in Doing Business

Starting a business - Approach

- Setting context (Phase 1)
  - Why is business start-up important
  - What does it involve
  - How can we learn from each other

- One size does not fit all (Phase 2)
  - Identifying benefits and challenges
  - Selecting appropriate diagnostic team

- What comes after Phase 1 and 2?

Phase 1 - APEC Workshop: Reducing Start-up and Establishment Time of Businesses

- Held March 1-2, 2010 in Hiroshima, Japan in margins of APEC SOM and covered:
  - Impact of regulatory environment on ability to start a business
  - Economic benefits to facilitate business start-up
  - Discussion on types of action to streamline processes and improve performance
  - Case studies: Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand and the United States
  - Breakout discussion groups
  - Examples of capacity building and technical assistance to assist reform efforts
Phase 2 – Economy level diagnostics

- Tailored and designed to fit each volunteer economy needs
  - Initial meeting with volunteer economies
  - Draft terms of reference
  - Identify experts
  - Stakeholder meetings
  - Draft report with recommendations

- Volunteers: Indonesia (launched July 2010) and Peru (beginning stage)

Next steps

- Depend on needs of economies
- Work with donor community
- Workshop (late 2011)?
- Another phase (?) – discreet follow up assistance related to diagnostic if appropriate
Types of technical assistance and capacity building

- Think outside ‘workshop’ box
  - Public outreach campaigns
  - Design roadmaps to reform
  - Study tours/expert exchanges
  - Legal and/or technical assistance
  - Others?