

Summary Report of the 17th ATCWG Annual Meeting

The 17th Annual Meeting of the APEC Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) was held on June 29, 2013 in Medan, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by 54 participants from 17 economies: Australia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet Nam. The Representative from Indonesia, Dr. Handewi Saliem, Mr. Thanawat Sirikul, Program Director, APEC Secretariat, Dr. Young Hwan Kim, Lead Shepherd of Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) also attended the Meeting.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Huajun Tang, the Lead Shepherd (LS) stressed that the leading role of agriculture technique cooperation on food security has been recognized by the leaders and ministerial meeting. ATCWG would continue to follow up the Niigata APEC Action Plan on Food Security, the Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security, the ATCWG medium term work plan as well as the ATCWG strategic plan to strengthen regional food security.

The Lead Shepherd also welcomed delegates and participants and expressed appreciations to the Host, Indonesia, for the hospitality and the excellent logistics provided to the meeting.

Dr. Handewi Saliem, Director of Indonesian Center for Agriculture Socio Economic and Policy Studies, Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, and Mr. Thanawat Sirikul, Program Director, APEC Secretariat, also made opening remarks.

1. ATCWG 2012 Review & 2013 Outlook

The Lead Shepherd Office (LSO) provided the overviews of key ATCWG activities conducted during 2012-2013. The main activities included the 16th annual meeting, formulation of the draft strategic plan, implementation and application of APEC-funded and self-funded projects, efforts made in interaction and collaboration with other foras within APEC and other regional and international organizations.

Ambassador Mr. Wahid Supriyadi, Alternate Senior Official of Indonesia briefed the meeting about the priorities of Indonesia, as the Host of APEC 2013. APEC's theme for 2013—"Resilient Asia-Pacific, Engine of Global Growth"—reflects APEC's determination to strengthen cooperation and enhance regional resiliency. A strong, resilient region with the ability to swiftly recover in the midst of economic crises. A region that continues with its positive economic growth and contributes as the locomotive to global economic growth.

APEC Secretariat reported on the recent developments at the Secretariat in June 2013. The Report highlighted the results of the Second Senior Official Meeting in April 2013 which addressed the following priorities;

- **Attaining the Bogor Goals:** SOM noted Indonesia's intention to develop a credible package for the WTO MC9 in Bali in December 2013, particularly on trade facilitation, extending the protectionism standstill and expansion of the Information Technology Agreement. SOM exchanged views on how CTI should organise its work in the years ahead to best contribute to achieving the Bogor Goals and encouraged CTI to streamline, prioritise and consolidate its agenda.

- **Sustainable growth with equity:** SOM discussed the preparations for the SME Ministerial Meeting, which will focus on enhancing SMEs global competitiveness, and supported plans for a joint SME and women's ministerial meeting. SOM discussed renewable energy and plans for a Conference on Clean, Renewable Energy, and Sustainability in the APEC Region to be held during Leaders' Week in Bali. SOM noted progress on preparing a template of the APEC Ocean-related Activities Work Plan. SOM noted work planned on promoting food security including the development of a "Roadmap for Food Security 2020".
- **Promoting connectivity:** SOM noted progress towards developing a multi-year framework on connectivity that would incorporate physical, institutional and people to people dimensions. The framework will be considered at SOM3. SOM agreed to prepare a multi-year work plan on infrastructure investment and development, which will include workstreams from the Finance Ministers' Process. SOM agreed to the preparation of a work plan on promoting cross border education cooperation and established an ad hoc coordinating committee to progress this work.

2. Independent Assessment of the ATCWG

APEC Secretariat presented the background of the Independent Assessment of ATCWG, which was conducted in 2012. The Report of Independent Assessment provided 10 recommendations to ATCWG and HLPDAB. The Lead Shepherd then presented the LSO's draft report of ATCWG's response to the recommendations. The meeting discussed the draft report and endorsed the report in principle. The LS requested the member economies to provide further the comments, if necessary to the LSO within one week after the meeting, in order to finalize the report and submit it to CSOM 2013 .

3. ATCWG Strategic Direction

The LSO briefed the meeting on the strategic plan, which was drafted by LSO based on the medium-term work plan and with consultation with member economies. The economies appreciated the work LSO has done on the strategic plan and approved the strategic plan in principle with comments and suggestions on the detail context. The LS requested the economy to feedback the comments within a week after the meeting and requested the LSO to finalize it and circulate to member economies for approval. The strategic plan is scheduled to be submitted to SCE by July 14, 2013.

4. ATCWG Projects

1) ATCWG project overseers briefly reported the outcome of 7 implemented projects in 2012-2013 (see attachment 1 for details) and the projects which will be implemented in 2013 (see attachment 2 for details).

The meeting noted and valued the projects which have been successfully implemented in the past year.

It was reiterated that the LSO and all economies should pay greater attention on the criteria of project concept notes and proposals, and better understand the procedures for project application, so as to improve the percentage of successful applications.

ATCWG members were also encouraged to self-fund the projects according to the priorities identified by ATCWG to meet the demands of ensuring food security in the region.

5. Brainstorming on other issues

As the Host Economy of APEC in 2014, ATCWG China informed the meeting of the activities to be arranged, in line with APEC priorities during 2014. In addition, China conducted a survey to collect suggestions from the participants about activities on 2014, and would welcome any suggestions and recommendations from ATCWG members.

To highlight the importance of the works of ATCWG, the LSO proposed to compile and publish a Compendium of ATCWG projects (2009-2013). The meeting endorsed the proposal and expressed support to the initiative and have committed to making contribution to the project.

Dr. Young Hwan Kim, LS of HRDWG briefed the meeting about the priorities identified and work carried out by HRDWG. He reported that HRDWG is keen to cooperate with ATCWG on the education and training in the agriculture sector. He invited the ATCWG to co-sponsor a project entitled “*Vitalizing economy and trade investment through education and public private partnerships (PPP) in HRDWG, EC and CTI*”. The meeting took note of the importance of cooperation with HRDW and agreed to work together to identify concrete actions in due time.

6. Date and Venue for the 18th ATCWG Annual Meeting

It was agreed that the 18th annual meeting will be held in China, the host economy of APEC 2014. The date and venue will be determined and informed in due course.

7. Joint Session between ATCWG and HLPDAB

To synergize the work of ATCWG and HLPDAB, two foras under the framework of APEC with the same mandate in achieving food security in the region, jointly held a joint session on June 28 aimed at working together to identify cross cutting areas on agricultural biotechnology. Consensus on a joint Communique about the joint session was reached (see Attachment 3 for details).

The result of this joint session will be reported to the third Senior Official Meeting of APEC 2013 by the Chair of HLPDAB and the Lead Shepherd of ATCWG.

8. Field Trip

Participants attended a Field Trip to “food reserved garden” and Palm Oil Research Institute on 28 June, 2014.

Annex 1:

Projects which were implemented before the 17th ATCWG Annual meeting

1. Meeting Food Security Goals with Good Policy (Australia)
2. Assessments of Climate Change Impacts and Mapping of Vulnerability to Food Insecurity under Climate Change to Strengthen Household Food Security with Livelihoods' Adaptation Approaches (AMICAF) (Philippines, FAO and Japan)
3. Workshop on the application of remote sensing and GIS technology on crops productivity among APEC economies (China)
4. Scientific Workshop on “Sustainable Land Management to Enhance Food Production of APEC members” (Thailand)
5. APEC International Conference on Natural Resources and Infrastructure Management for Agriculture
6. Development of a Platform for Information Sharing on Food Security in APEC Region (Japan)
7. Baseline Study: APEC Agricultural Data Collection Study (US)
8. The Potency Local Source and Establish Network among Research Center on Food Diversifications (Indonesia)

Annex 2:

Projects which were planned to be implemented in 2013

1. Strengthening Public-Private Partnership to Reduce Food Losses in the Supply Chain (Chinese Taipei)
2. Workshop on APEC Adaptation with Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (Philippines)
3. The Seminar for sharing and discussing the interim outcome of the PRAI (Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment) pilot projects (Japan)
4. Workshop on Food Security (Japan)
5. Training Course on the Application of Remote Sensing and GIS Technologies in Crop Production (China).
6. Workshops on Accounting and Youth Development Program

**JOINT SESSION OF the HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON AGRICULTURAL
BIOTECHNOLOGY (HLPDAB) AND THE AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY
COOPERATION WORKING GROUP (ATCWG) OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC
COOPERATION (APEC)**

COMMUNIQUE

1. We, member economies of APEC, met on the 28th of June 2013, in the first joint session of the HLPDAB and the ATCWG fora, at the occasion of the Food Security Week of the third Senior Official Meeting APEC 2013, held in Medan, Indonesia.
2. We recognized the importance agricultural biotechnology in addressing food security in the APEC region and the potential for farmers to benefit from adoption of agricultural biotechnology.
3. The joint session reflected that ATCWG and HLPDAB have taken up the recommendations from the SCE and also the IAP to work together to identify cross cutting areas that will benefit APEC.
4. The joint session presented a way for the HLPDAB and the ATCWG to work together to meet a shared goal. HLPDAB, a policy forum, could benefit from input from technical expertise and ATCWG, a technical cooperation forum, may include agricultural biotechnology in its activities.
5. Recognizing the distinct role and mandate of the ATCWG and the HLPDAB, we, therefore, agreed to strengthen the link between HLPDAB and ATCWG, in order to synchronize the policy and practices on biotechnology to the mutual benefit of both forums and stakeholders.
6. We agreed to jointly initiative projects on biotechnology based on the cognizant of what two for a are doing that embodies the core competences of the two foras, including capacity building and identification of the potential challenges and benefits of agricultural biotechnology to all farmers, including small-scale farmers.
7. We will share knowledge and expertise regarding regulations and policy for innovative technologies and practices to support sustainable agriculture growth in APEC member

economies and encourage the sharing of information and knowledge among member economies.

8. The result of this joint session will be reported to the third Senior Official Meeting of APEC 2013 by the Chair of HLPDAB and the Lead Shepherd of ATCWG.