

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
First Senior Officials Meeting
Jakarta, Indonesia
6-7 February 2013

Summary Notes

Overview

The first formal Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Meeting for 2013 was convened in Jakarta, on 6-7 February 2013. Senior Officials from Australia; Brunei Darussalam, Canada; Chile; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea, Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; the Republic of the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States and Viet Nam participated in the meeting. The Chairs of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), Economic Committee (EC), SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE), and APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and the Vice-Chair of the Budget and Management Committee (BMC) were present, as well as representatives from the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), and the Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat

I. Opening Session

The SOM Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates to Jakarta. The SOM Chair thanked everyone for the insightful discussions and inputs at the Friends of the Chair (FotC) meeting on "Promoting Connectivity" held the day before on 5 February 2013.

SOM Chair emphasized the goals for APEC in 2013 as "Attaining the Bogor Goals", "Achieving Sustainable Growth with Equity" and "Promoting Connectivity". In his opening remarks the SOM Chair emphasized, first the need to focus and maintain existing commitments. Second, the need for APEC to advance a growth strategy that is responsive to shocks: an agenda that ensures that APEC path of sustainable growth takes into account equity for the people. Third, the need for APEC to find and launch fresh initiatives and gather collective political commitment to unleash new economic developments in the region, including the idea of connecting the Asia-Pacific region, whether through physical, institutional or people to people connectivity.

The SOM Chair informed the meeting of his recent appointment as APEC SOM Chair for 2013 and Mr Iman Pambago assuming the Senior Official role for Indonesia.

Update by ABAC

The Chair of ABAC for 2013 briefed the meeting on ABAC's theme of 2013 "Partnership, Resilience and Bridges to Growth" with the sub-theme of: Strengthening regional resilience and integration with new areas of growth and Strengthening economic foundations and financial structures for balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth. ABAC also briefed the meeting on the work program of ABAC for 2013, including several priority areas such as Deepening regional economic integration; Promoting infrastructure and sustainable development; Fostering SMME development & entrepreneurship; and Fostering the development and integration of financial markets.

ABAC Chair briefed on ABAC's work plans for the year and updated on the progress of ABAC's work on services, investment and infrastructure in driving trade, integration and connectivity. On the issue of Promoting Connectivity, ABAC expressed support for the SOM Chair's proposal to develop an APEC Connectivity Framework to bring coherence to ongoing work on connectivity as well as the proposal to develop a coordinated approach to promoting infrastructure development and investment. He also drew attention to the Asia-Pacific Financial Forum (APFF), a platform for enhanced public-private collaboration in developing the region's financial markets. The APFF will be held in Sydney on 10-11 April 2013.

II. Adoption of the Agenda and Business Arrangements

The agenda was adopted with no objection or comments.

III. Priority Areas for 2013: Attaining the Bogor Goals

Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) Report

The CTI Chair reported on the results of the CTI1 and its related meetings that were held prior to the SOM1 (see Document No. 2013/SOM1/019). He reported that the CTI's agenda/work program for 2013 was aligned closely to the APEC 2013 priorities and highlighted the progress and developments in the following key areas, amongst others:

- On Support for the Multilateral Trading System, there was broad support to the idea of working together to develop appropriate APEC statements for the MRT and AELM week ahead of the WTO 9th Ministerial Conference (MC9) in December, in close collaboration with the APEC Geneva Caucus. Trade facilitation and the expansion of the product coverage of the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) were two key areas to be covered.
- CTI discussed a proposal (Document No. 2013/SOM1/CTI/019rev1) by Australia on Addressing Harmful Fisheries Subsidies, and enhancing transparency of fisheries assistance programs;
- As part of the "attaining the Bogor Goals", CTI agreed on a proposal to take forward the mandate from Ministers to study the impact of local content requirements on REI and economic growth. A trade policy dialogue on this topic is being planned for CTI2;
- Progress in implementation of the Regional Economic Integration (REI) capacity building needs initiative with further workshops on scheduling of Services and Investment Commitments in FTAs; labour and e-commerce being planned for 2013;
- CTI emphasized the importance of economies planning to implement the commitments in the Environmental Goods (EG) list adopted in 2012 and agreed that economies should come forward with capacity building needs and economies would assist in that area;
- CTI discussed a proposal (Document No. 2013/SOM1/CTI/027) from Indonesia on Promoting Green Growth and Practical Road to Inclusive Growth: Promoting Agriculture-Based Goods and agreed that written comments be provided to Indonesia by 28 February;
- Progress in implementing the SCFAP which identifies 8 chokepoints and a series of capacity building initiatives, noting that 75% of the projects are completed under the action plans; and
- As follow-up to instructions from ISOM last December, CTI discussed the proposal by ABAC for establishing an implementation task force on global data standards under the SCFAP. While CTI agreed that economies should look for opportunities for greater collaboration with ABAC and GS1 in the supply chain work, there was no consensus on establishing an implementation Joint Task Force on Global Data Standards at this time.

SOM acknowledged that the year 2013 with Indonesia as host for both the AELM and WTO Ministerial Conference, presented a unique opportunity for APEC to make a significant contribution to the WTO process. There was broad support to start work early and capitalize on the upcoming MRT to support the Geneva process to ensure good outcomes at the end of the year, particularly in terms of building on the ongoing work in the areas of trade facilitation and the expansion of the ITA Agreement.

SOM generally agreed that APEC's work on environmental goods list should be focused on the implementation of the commitments from AMM/AELM in the list by the end of 2015. On Indonesia's proposal for Promoting Green Growth and Practical Road to Inclusive Growth: Promoting Agriculture-Based Goods (Document No. 2013/SOM1/CTI/027), while there was some support to work towards the reduction of tariffs on agriculture products; there were also others who expressed the sensitivities on the sector. SOM noted that CTI members will be providing written comments on the proposal to Indonesia by 28 February.

SOM discussed the issues of fisheries subsidies. Some members supported a proposal on focusing on transparency in relation to fisheries subsidies, noting it was an important contribution to APEC work on mainstreaming ocean related issues. There was no consensus particularly on whether APEC was an appropriate forum to address this topic.

ABAC briefed the SOMs on its proposal to hold a Public-Private Sector Dialogue on Services in the margins of SOM2. Representatives from international organizations like UNCTAD, OECD, World Bank, PECC and World Economic Forum, who are at the cutting edge on these issues, will be invited as speakers for the workshop. The dialogue is expected to cover the 4 main topics:

- Current liberalization moves inside Services Plurilateral Negotiations, TPP, ASEAN-related, etc;
- Services as the lubricant of the global supply chain;

- Critical importance of foreign investment liberalization as facilitator of services; and
- Implications of services liberalization/benefits for APEC economies.

SOM welcomed and widely supported ABAC proposal for a Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Services, recognizing the critical role of services in the global economy. Some economies noted the dialogue should also hear from SMEs and businesses which tend to be more cautious about liberalization.

SOM thanked the CTI Chair for his comprehensive report and endorsed the CTI Chair's Report and the recommendations contained therein.

Most Recent Developments in FTAs/RTAs in the Region

SOM took note of the following updates since September 2012 on the developments in FTAs/RTAs in the region:

- Singapore's update on the substantive conclusion of the EU-Singapore FTA on 16 December 2012;
- New Zealand's update on the outcomes of the 15th Round of negotiations in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Auckland from 3-12 December 2012; developments of RCEP towards final preparatory talks at senior officials level end-February; developments of talks with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan; 8th round of negotiations with India; developments of talks with the Gulf Cooperation Council; talks between the trade offices of New Zealand and Chinese Taipei as well as resumption of negotiations with Korea;
- Chile's update on the developments of the negotiations of Pacific Alliance and the conclusion of negotiations with Thailand;
- Russia's update on the developments within the Customs Union and the negotiations on the Common Economic Space;
- Indonesia's update on its review process of the with EFTA with Japan; negotiations with Australia, China, India, South Korea, Japan and New Zealand on Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP); and
- Japan's update on the launch of negotiations of the Japan-Korea-China trilateral agreement and developments in the bilateral agreements with Australia, Canada, Colombia, Mongolia and Europe.

Economic Committee (EC) Report

The EC Chair reported on the outcomes of the EC1 meeting held in Jakarta on 1-2 February, highlighting the following:

- Briefing by the PSU and PECC on the state of the regional economy which would help inform the EC work in 2013;
- Progress in implementing the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform (ANSSR), including the ANSSR mid-term progress report to be submitted by individual economies and a series of capacity building workshops held in 2012-2013. After compilation of economies' ANSSR mid-term report, the EC will present a summary for the SOM of key findings of the mid-term progress assessment;
- Analysis by the PSU on APEC's mid-term progress on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), as well as the reports of Korea and Singapore on the outcomes of their capacity building programs on Enforcing Contracts and Trading across Borders;
- Discussion on good regulatory practices (GRP), including the update by Australia on the training on Regulatory Impact Assessment held in 10 economies in 2012 as well as Russia's project on APEC-OECD web portal for GRP. The EC agreed that the 2014 APEC Economic Policy Report (AEPR) will focus on GRP;
- Progress in the 2013 APEC Economic Policy Report (AEPR) on Fiscal Transparency and Public Accountability. The EC agreed to present a printed Executive Summary at the AELM with the complete report to be published online; and
- Two policy dialogues held at EC1 on (1) Competitive Neutrality and (2) Best Practices for ICT Strategy and Public Sector Governance.

SOM thanked the EC Chair for the very hard work and endorsed the summary report as presented in Document No. 2013/SOM1/016. Among various work reported by the EC Chair, SOM took note of the

progress in GRP, including the selection of GRP as a topic for the 2014 AEPR and continued capacity building activities. SOM also noted that the discussion on the state of the regional economy was very useful and needed to be continued at EC.

Good Regulatory Practices

The United States proposed advancing the work on strengthening the implementation of good regulatory practices (GRPs) that was begun in 2011. The work in 2013 should continue to focus on promoting the three areas decided by Leaders and Ministers in 2011, namely: public consultations; assessing the impact of regulations; and internal coordination of rule-making.

To meet the 2011 instructions, the United States suggested the following activities to be undertaken at SOM this year: 1) reporting on the progress made by economies since 2011 at both SOM2 and SOM3; 2) updating the 2011 baseline study on GRPs in APEC economies by CTI3; 3) discussing where to take work on GRP implementation beyond 2013 and sharing ideas on possible new GRPs at both SOM2 and SOM3; 4) reporting on APEC success in implementing the three GRP areas from 2011 to Ministers and Leaders for their endorsement at the AMM and AELM; and 5) continuing to build capacity on the three existing GRP areas.

SOM took note of the 2013 GRP work plan put forward by the United States.

IV. Priority Areas for 2013: Promoting Connectivity

Connectivity in the Asia-Pacific Region

The SOM Chair summarized the outcomes of the FotC meeting on Promoting Connectivity held on 5 February, noting the following key points:

- There was general agreement to create the APEC framework on connectivity, which will include physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity;
- Some economies suggested that the APEC framework on connectivity be developed as a long-term multi-year plan;
- The framework should not duplicate current APEC initiatives but, instead, build on them while including all APEC fora together and filling in cooperation gaps;
- Ongoing initiatives identified in this area include the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework, trade facilitation, structural reform and good regulatory practices, the higher education initiative, science and technology, tourism, movement of business people and professionals, women and youth; and
- Some economies felt that this is an ambitious task to complete within the year, but many expressed support for the creation of the framework.

SOM agreed on the work plan and timeline to build the multi-year Framework on Connectivity and requested Indonesia to present a further paper for discussion inter-sessionally.

Infrastructure Development and Investment

The Chair of Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting was invited to brief the SOM on the joint endeavour on infrastructure connectivity. In order to support the achievement of 2013 priorities, the Finance Ministers' Process (FMP) work would focus on the following four agendas this year: 1) trade finance; 2) treasury and budget reform; 3) financial inclusion; and 4) infrastructure financing. In particular, the FMP has set infrastructure as one of the FMP priority agendas this year and proposed discussing concrete measures to accelerate infrastructure development in the region by creating a proper environment that will enable increased investment, particularly from private sector. Two critical elements of this proposal would be: a regional framework to promote public private partnership in infrastructure projects; and a regional financing initiative on infrastructure which would include discussions on how to mobilize the savings accumulated by institutional investors and sovereign wealth funds towards long-term investments in infrastructure.

Indonesia gave a presentation on the proposal to develop Infrastructure Development and Investment in APEC through a joint dialogue between the Senior Officials Meeting and Officials from the Finance Ministers Process to synergize the two processes. There were two expected outcomes:

- An “Infrastructure Investment Framework for Connectivity” that identifies infrastructure investment impediments and work streams that would need to be undertaken to address these barriers; steps would include identifying the level of connectivity in the region, filling in knowledge gaps, and developing a visionary target and a multi-year plan to realise it and
- A set of “APEC Guidelines on Delivering Bankable Projects” which should cover the key stages of an infrastructure project cycle – from project preparation, funding, negotiation, risk management, public finance impact, and service delivery.

The Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat briefed the SOM on the current and past work undertaken by APEC in the area of “Connectivity in the APEC Region” and “Infrastructure Development and Investment” (Document No. 2013/SOM1/008). 30 projects were identified over the period of 2006-2012 and those projects were undertaken mainly by IEG, TPTWG, BMG, Tourism WG, SCSC, TEL and FMP in the wide range of areas from investment, infrastructure, supply chains, transportation to telecommunication.

The ABAC representative shared three work streams that ABAC is pursuing which are relevant to this subject, i.e., the development of a checklist on infrastructure development which could tie in usefully with Indonesia’s planned Guidelines on Delivering Bankable Projects, the Asia-Pacific Financial Forum and the Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Partnerships, which has already benefited some members through practical bilateral engagement.

SOM discussed the advantages of developing regional capital market to finance infrastructure projects in the region. SOM also took note of the stocktake of current and past APEC projects involving infrastructure as well as work under the FMP on Infrastructure Development and Investment.

SOM agreed to hold a Dialogue on Infrastructure Development and Investment, with the aim of creating a multi-year plan to improve physical connectivity in the Asia-Pacific. SOM agreed that the Chair of the Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting inform the Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting of the outcome of SOM discussions, and that the SOM Chair invite colleagues from the Finance Ministers Process to join-endeavor in promoting infrastructure development and investment in APEC. The date and format of the meeting will be informed inter-sessionally.

Emergency Response Travel Facilitation

SOM received a report on the Policy Dialogue on Emergency Response Travel Facilitation (ERTF) hosted by Indonesia on 1 February to carry forward its initiative to facilitate the mobility of disaster relief personnel among APEC economies in the event of a natural disaster (Document No. 2013/SOM1/015). The Policy Dialogue was aimed at promoting common understanding on the importance of the initiative as well as identifying opportunities and challenges for future work. It recommended that APEC: conduct a stocktake of procedures and policies in delivering and receiving international disaster assistance in APEC economies; build a work plan to ease the mobility of disaster relief personnel in times of disaster; explore possible practical cooperation for developing measures to expedite border formalities for a limited number of emergency responders; and set Emergency Response Travel Facilitation as an continuing agenda in Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG).

SOM took note of the Dialogue on ERTF and tasked the EPWG, the BMG and the SCCP to progress work on Emergency Response Travel Facilitation.

Cross-Border Education Cooperation Initiative

Russia updated the SOM on the Cross-Border Education Cooperation Initiative to establish cross-border cooperation on education services within the APEC region, which was endorsed by APEC Leaders in 2012. Russia proposed holding the 2nd APEC Conference on Cooperation in Higher Education in the APEC region in Vladivostok in June/July 2013, under the theme “Mobility of Higher Education in the APEC Region” (Document No. 2013/SOM1/020).

To carry forward work in this initiative, Indonesia proposed a work plan on Promoting Cross-Border Education Cooperation which calls for actions to be taken by economies to enhance the mobility of students, researchers and education providers as well as enhance the existing network of bilateral agreements (Document No. 2013/SOM1/009).

SOM agreed to the development of the work plan on cross-border education cooperation initiative and tasked CTI, EC and SCE to progress the work.

Transportation Ministerial Meeting

Japan briefed the meeting on its plan to hold the Transportation Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo on 4-6 September 2013, which would significantly contribute to the furtherance of this year's priority of promoting connectivity. Three main themes of this meeting will be strengthening connectivity in the APEC region, enhancing transportation infrastructure, and quality transport that includes sustainability, safety and security of transportation.

The SCE Chair noted that the Deputy Lead Shepherd of the Transportation Working Group was still vacant. Given the importance of the upcoming ministerial meeting, members should consider nominating candidates for this post.

V. Priority Areas for 2013: Achieving Sustainable Growth with Equity

Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) Report

The SCE Chair briefed the meeting on key points of the 2013 SCE workplan: response to Leaders'/Ministers'/SOM Decisions and SCE Priorities, improving APEC's ECOTECH work, strengthening coordination among and across Fora, strengthening and focusing capacity building activities in APEC fora. The main topics discussed included SCE agreeing to undertake a survey of economies and fora to assess the effectiveness of SCE's work, discussing how to strengthen ECOTECH work, noting the importance of synergy and coordination on cross-cutting issues, the progress of fora preparation of strategic plans. The SCE received an update on the existing cross-cutting work underway, including the Travel Facilitation Initiative (TFI) and on Mainstreaming Ocean-related Issues.

Several economies expressed support to discuss SME and urbanization as cross-cutting issue. Economies underlined the need to enhance the effectiveness of ECOTECH capacity building initiatives through better project preparation and evaluation.

SOM endorsed the SCE Chair's reports on the SCE and SCE-COW meetings (documents 2013/SOM1/022 and 2013/SOM1/023) including noting SCE's approval of 14 fora annual workplans.

Mainstreaming of Ocean-related Issues

Indonesia updated Senior Officials on their plans for developing a program of work around the theme of mainstreaming ocean-related issues, including an update on the results of the SCE Dialogue on Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues held on the 4 February 2013. APEC had focused on this issue since 2002 including through the formation of the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG). The proposed deliverables were:

- Guiding principles for monitoring and evaluation of the Bali Plan of Action and Paracas Declaration leading to the proposed publication of a State of APEC Ocean and Fisheries Outlook; and
- An APEC Leaders' Statement on mainstream ocean-related issues.

SOM welcomed Indonesia's proposal and agreed to the proposed plan to promote the mainstreaming of ocean-related issues. Several economies supported the initiative in balancing economic development and environmental protection in the attainment of inclusive growth. Several economies recognized the subject as a cross-cutting issue and suggested to create a Steering Council similar to the Travel Facilitation Initiative (TFI).

Food Security

The Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) Chair provided an update on the plans of the PPFS for 2013 (Document No. 2013/SOM1/012), including its aim to develop a Leaders' Statement on that topic of "Aligning Farmers into Achievement of Global Food Security". PPFS1 has agreed on the establishment of 4 sub-working groups: Stocktake and Roadmap towards 2020, Sustainable Development of Fisheries Sectors, Facilitation on Investment and Infrastructure, and Enhancing Trade and Markets; and it will create a stock take and roadmap towards 2020.

SOM welcomed the proposed work. Several economies encouraged greater engagement with the private Sector.

Indonesia presented its plan for 2013 in the area of SMEs, Health and Women

Work on SMEs will be under the theme of Enhancing SME's Global Competitiveness (see Document No. 2013/SOM1/011). Three work streams of Work Entrepreneurship development for SMEs, Increasing Access to Finance for SMEs, Empowering SMEs to Expand to International Market, will be discussed during the SME Ministerial Meeting to be held in Bali on 7 September 2013. Plans are in place to hold a joint meeting of SME Ministers and Ministers on Women.

Work under the Health Working Group will focus on the topics of Zero HIV/AIDS and Universal Health Coverage, while the Life Science Innovation Forum will discuss several topics including Regulatory Cooperation, Non-Communicable Diseases, Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs), and Complementary Healthcare System that includes traditional medicine (see Document No. 2013/SOM1/010). Indonesia proposed a joint HWG-LSIF 3rd APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLM) – the goal is to develop a model of Sustainable Healthcare System. The HWG and LSIF are expected to work together to develop the agenda for the HLM.

The Chair of the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE), presented planned work in 2013 under the theme of "Women as Economic Drivers" with three sub-themes, Structural Reform that promotes Women's role in economy, Women and ICT, and Infrastructure and Human Capital (see Document No. 2013/SOM1/013). The expected outcomes would be enhancing private sector participation facilitate women's access to finance, education, training, employment and ICT as well as to promote women's participation in APEC.

SOM agreed to task Policy Partnership on Food Security, Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group, Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy, and Health Working Group and the Life Sciences Innovation Forum to progress the relevant work areas.

Disaster Management

Senior Officials received a briefing from Russia on the Sixth Disaster Management Officials' Meeting held on 9-10 October 2012 in Vladivostok, Russia. Senior Officials endorsed the outcomes of the meeting.

Indonesia suggested that the proposal on the establishment of Crisis Management Centers Network (CMC) in APEC region would be best deliberated by the EPWG and decided upon at the EPWG. There remains procedural matters that need to be fulfilled, such as engaging collaboration with UN-OCHA and the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance or AHA Center.

VI. Budget and Other Management Issues

Budget and Management Committee (BMC) Report

The BMC Vice-Chair briefed on the outcomes of the Budget and Management Committee meeting which was held on 2 February 2013. The key highlights contained in the Chair's report (Document No. 2013/SOM1/006) included the 2013 BMC workplan, the need to appoint a new external auditor to audit the Secretariat's accounts starting from financial year 2013, the amalgamation of the existing Small Working Group on Evaluation (SWGE) with the newly proposed working group on Project Ranking and Prioritization, conversion of a temporary staff position into a renewable three-year contract post, the changes to the Guidebook on APEC Projects to reflect the discretionary authority of the APEC Secretariat, and the establishment of a Small Working Group on Financial Realignment.

BMC would be undertaking a study on the Long term Evaluation of APEC projects and had endorsed the draft methodology and scope of the evaluations work presented by the external consultant. The Vice-Chair also drew attention to the trend of decreasing contributions to the Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation (TILF) fund.

The Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat acknowledged the work and added that the Secretariat would do a minor rework of the 2013 budget, prepare the 2014 budget for BMC2 and hoped to provide SOMs a risk analysis of budgetary matters.

Japan expressed its view that while it would remain committed to the contribution to TILF, close monitoring on expenditure is required to spend funds effectively and appropriately.

SOM thanked the BMC for the report and noted the information provided by the Executive Director on the Small Working Group. SOM took note of BMC's 2013 priorities and the Chair's report.

Executive Director Report on APEC Secretariat's Operational Plan for 2013

The Executive Director of APEC Secretariat, briefed on the 2013 Operational Plan (Document No. 2013/SOM1/004) adding that having been in the position a few weeks, the initial focus would be on continuity rather than change. The key aspects would be to continue with capacity building programs for staff, project management reforms that have been agreed by BMC, the issue of addressing multi-year project funding, reviewing the project ranking process, continuing the long-term evaluations' project, continuing with changes to the project guidelines particularly on disbursements and progressing the evaluations process. Other key areas would be budgetary work, continuing the third phase of the Communications Branding Strategy, continuing the Policy Support Unit work program and progressing some upgrading of IT services and implementing cloud computing.

The Executive Director also sought SOM agreement to provide at SOM2, some views and observations that he would have at that stage on issues such as the operations of the Secretariat in relation to governance, funding and skillsets which were quite complex. He also sought the opportunity to report on risk and opportunities and a view on working groups. SOM approved the 2013 Operational Plan and agreed to the Executive Director providing his perspectives at SOM2.

Amendment to APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) Governance Arrangements

The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) Board Chair presented the paper (Document No. 2013/SOM1/007) seeking SOM's approval on the updated PSU Governance Arrangements following Ministers' decision in Vladivostok to extend the mandate of the APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) for an additional seven years from 2014 to 2020 with a mid-term review. With this development, Clause 57 on Review in the PSU Governance Arrangements had been updated and was approved at the PSU Board meeting held on 4 February 2013. SOM approved the amendments to the PSU Governance Arrangements.

VII. Other businesses

Acknowledgement of "For information" issues

Viet Nam sought the opportunity to reiterate its intention to host APEC in 2017 following the official letter on the same that had been circulated to members in 2012. Thailand sought similar endorsement from SOMs on Thailand's intention to host APEC in 2022 to enable it to move ahead with preparations.

SOM welcomed and endorsed the proposals by Viet Nam and Thailand to host APEC in 2017 and 2022 respectively.

Classification of documents

The Document Classification list (Document No. 2013/SOM1/000) was adopted without amendment.

Closing

In his closing remarks, the SOM Chair briefed that during the SOM1 and Related Meetings' period, a total of 28 meetings, 5 workshops and policy dialogues had taken place with participation from over 1,300 delegates in all of the meetings.

The Chair expressed his appreciation for the active participation, constructive contributions and valuable inputs by colleagues and for the level of involvement and commitment of Senior Officials in taking work forward. The Chair further added that work would continue inter-sessionally and looked forward to seeing everyone in Surabaya.