

Summary Report of the The 18th ATCWG Annual Meeting

The 18th Annual Meeting of the APEC Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) held on September 16, 2014, Beijing, China was attended by 81 participants from 15 economies: Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States of America, and Viet Nam; and chaired by Dr. Huajun Tang, the 7th Lead Shepherd of ATCWG. Mr. Thanawat Sirikul, Program Director from the APEC Secretariat attended the Meeting.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Huajun Tang, the Lead Shepherd of ATCWG welcomed everyone and reiterated the importance of the role of ATCWG in ensuring food security in the APEC region. Faced with unprecedented challenges and development opportunities, as well as reoccurring and emerging themes for the scientific community, APEC member economies must act together to seek new levels of innovation, cooperation and trust to create better and more sustainable solutions.

Although there has been great progress in strengthening food security through science and technology innovation and dissemination, we need to build a stronger partnership in dealing with the new challenges.

Mr. Thanawat Sirikul, Program Director of APEC Secretariat congratulates on the successful convening of the annual meeting and appreciated the achievement accomplished by member economies for the past year. He calls for more coordinated effort among the APEC working groups to better serve the goals of ATCWG.

1. TOR

The Lead Shepherd Office (LSO) briefed the meeting on the ATCWG Terms of Reference, which includes objectives, principles of cooperation, scope of activity and structure of the Working Group. The TOR is supported by all the member economies presented at the meeting.

2. ATCWG 2013 Review & 2014 Outlook

LSO provided an overview of the ATCWG activities in 2013-2014, which include: the 17th annual meeting, revision of the strategic plan, implementation and application of APEC-funded and self-funded projects, co-organizing with Chinese Taipei the APEC Seminar on Strengthening Public-Private Partnership to Reduce Food Losses in the Supply Chain of Fruits and Vegetables, co-organizing with Australia the Meeting on Food Security Goals with Good Policy, and efforts made in interaction and collaboration with other fora within APEC and other regional and international organizations, such as the joint session with HLPDAB in Medan 2013.

LSO briefed the meeting about the priorities of China, as the Host of APEC 2014.

3. Funding Criteria for All APEC-Funded Projects in 2014

LSO shared the 2014 funding criteria with the member economies, also mentioned the cross-cutting issues and prioritization within a rank. APEC secretariat further elaborated the selection and funding process for APEC projects. Chinese Taipei shared her experience on

successful project application and suggested more attention to the priority rankings when preparing the concept note. Philippines called for an upward ranking of “Implement the APEC Food Security Road Map Towards 2020”.

4. ATCWG 2014 Work Plan and the ATCWG Strategic Plan

LSO briefed the meeting on these two documents which are crucial for the development of the working group. The meeting endorses the 2014 annual work plan. The Strategic Plan was revised by LSO based on the instructions from the Project Director 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. The LS requested all the economies to feedback the comments of the current version before October 15, 2014 and requested the LSO to finalize it and circulate to member economies, then submit to SCE before November 15, 2014.

5. Beijing Declaration of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Food Security

In the Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security that will be released after the 3rd Ministerial Meeting, ATCWG is mandated a leading role as a coordinating group of technical cooperation and further strengthen cooperation, press ahead with the research, development and application of new technologies to increase agricultural productivity.

Economies discussed about the implementation of this leading role, how to make ATCWG's work more efficient and influential and the possibility of co-funding with other APEC fora.

6. ATCWG Projects

1) ATCWG project overseers briefly reported the outcome of 6 implemented projects in 2013-2014 (see Annex for details).

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

2) Australia, China and Japan briefed the meeting on their respective project concept notes which are planned to be submitted in 2014 and 2015, including “Developing Smallholder Inclusive Food Value Chain Models for Local and Global Markets” (Australia), “Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Training and Symposium” (China), and “High Level Public-Private Forum on Cold Chain to Strengthen Agriculture & Food's Global Value Chain” (Japan).

7. Invited Presentation: How to Apply for APEC Funds

In 2014, ATCWG submitted 7 projects in the first session of APEC fund, none of them was approved. Mr. Thanawat Sirikul, Program Director, APEC Secretariat, was invited to make a presentation of how to apply for APEC Funds and how to develop concept notes and project proposals.

It was reiterated that the LSO and all economies should pay greater attention on the funding criteria in writing 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.

During the discussion, the Lead Shepherd reminds economies that application should be based on the benefit to APEC as a whole. US suggested leaving more time for project evaluators when seeking co-sponsorship from other economies.

8. Election of 8th Lead Shepherd

To ensure the ATCWG work continuity and operating effectiveness, P.R. China was elected as the 8th Lead Shepherd of ATCWG. Dr. Lubiao Zhang, on behalf of China, extended his appreciation to all the economies for the great honor and responsibility of electing China as the 8th Lead Shepherd. The Philippines, as the next APEC host, was elected as the Deputy Lead Shepherd of ATCWG.

9. Date and Venue for the 19th ATCWG Annual Meeting

The meeting discussed the date and venue for the next annual meeting. It was agreed that the 19th annual meeting will be held in the Philippines, the host economy of APEC 2015. The date and venue will be determined and informed in due course.

Annex

Projects which were implemented before the 18th ATCWG Annual Meeting

1. Enhanced Capacity Building for Food Safety Risk Assessment in Asia Pacific (China)
2. Conference on Enhancing Global Value Chains in Agriculture and Food Sector in Asia-Pacific (Japan)
3. Assessments of Climate Change Impacts and Mapping of Vulnerability to Food Insecurity under Climate Change to Strengthen Household Food Security with Livelihoods' Adaptation Approaches (Japan)
4. Workshop on Adaptation with Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (The Philippines)
5. Strengthening Public-Private Partnership to Reduce Food Losses in the Supply Chain (Chinese Taipei)
6. Scientific Workshop on Measurement and Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases in Livestock Systems for Green Production and Environment of APEC Members (Thailand)