



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

---

**2014/SOM3/CTI/047**  
Agenda Item: 10

## **Chemical Dialogue Convenor's Summary Report to CTI**

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: CD Chair



**Third Committee on Trade and Investment  
Meeting  
Beijing, China  
16-17 August 2014**

## OAA ISSUE AREA:

### CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Chemical Dialogue ("CD") serves as a forum for regulatory officials and industry representatives to discuss and identify solutions to challenges facing the industry and downstream users throughout the Asia-Pacific region. APEC economies account for approximately 60 percent of global chemical trade, providing the CD with an important precedential role worldwide. The CD's primary goals are articulated in its Strategic Framework, first drafted and approved by Ministers in 2011, and now revised for the period from 2014-2016.

The three Shared Goals around which the Framework, and thus the CD's work, is organized are:

- (1) Expand and support cooperation and mutual recognition among chemical regulators in the region to facilitate trade;
- (2) enhance understanding of the chemical industry's role as an innovative solutions industry; and
- (3) encourage chemical product stewardship, safe use and sustainability.

The CD met for four days of related meetings during SOM3 from August 9-12, 2014 in Beijing, China. The CD's Regulator's Forum, bringing together chemical regulators from around the region, held a joint meeting with the OECD Clearinghouse on New Chemicals on August 9-10. The CD then hosted a workshop on Advancing Regulatory Cooperation in Chemicals on August 11 attended by almost 90 attendees from 16 economies. Finally, the CD met for its plenary session on August 12 with government and industry representatives from 15 economies.

#### 2. IMPLEMENTATION (including key developments since last meeting) OF 2014 WORK PLANS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO APEC LEADERS/ MINISTERS/SOM DECISIONS<sup>1</sup> OF 2013:

##### A) SUPPORT THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

##### B) ADVANCING REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

- Achieving the Bogor Goals
- Exploring an FTAAP
- Global Value Chain Cooperation
- Next Generation Trade and Investment Issues
- Services
- Investment
- Environmental Goods and Services (EGS)

The CD

- Received a report from the Chair of the Committee on Trade and Investment, including with respect to the CTI's ongoing work to support the multilateral trading system and potential ways in which the CD could support that work.
- Agreed that Australian industry should conduct a scoping exercise to examine the impact of the region's free trade agreements ("FTAs") and regional trade agreements ("RTAs") on trade and investment in chemicals for report out to CD meeting at SOM1, 2015.
- The CD agreed to consider potential input to the CTI's ongoing work on the Global Value Chains, particularly with respect to potential impediments for chemicals trade

##### C) STRENGTHING COMPREHENSIVE CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Implementation of the Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework and Action Plan

---

<sup>1</sup> APEC 2013 Tasking Statement (for 2014) (see Document No. 2014/SOM1/CTI/Ref1 tabled at CTI1)

- Contributions to the implementation of the APEC Framework on Connectivity; APEC Multi-year Plan on Infrastructure Development and Investment; and APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative
- The CD agreed to consider potential input to the CTI's ongoing work on the Supply Chain Connectivity, particularly with respect to potential impediments for chemicals trade.
- The CD's Regulator's Forum contributes to the institutional connectivity component of the APEC Framework on Connectivity.

#### **D) EXPANDING REGULATORY COOPERATION AND ADVANCING REGULATORY CONVERGENCE**

The CD:

- Hosted a successful workshop on Advancing Regulatory Cooperation in Chemicals designed to help further implement the CD's 2008 Best Practice Principles for Chemical's Regulation. The workshop identified a number of areas for potential further work and agreed to circulate an outcome document for review and comment intersessionally before the concluding senior officials meeting in 2014 ("CSOM").
- Agreed that its Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Convergence and Cooperation would carry forward the outcomes agreed to from the Regulatory Cooperation Workshop and to further and to develop its work plan on the basis of those recommendations for consideration at the CD meeting at SOM1, 2015.
- Convened a meeting of the Regulator's Forum on August 9-10, held jointly with the OECD Clearinghouse on New Chemicals.
- Approved the Regulator's Forum's Action Plan (2014/SOM3/CTI/048) for 2014-2015.
- Continued to strongly support the project proposal for potential APEC funding related to promoting regulatory cooperation and best practices in the risk assessment of metals and agreed to develop an operational plan for a workshop to be hosted in the Philippines if APEC funding is approved.
- Endorsed a glossary of terms (2014/SOM3/CD/010) as a reference tool developed by the VWG on Regulatory Cooperation in Chemicals as a living document and requested that the Secretariat upload the document to the CD website so that it is co-located as an Appendix to the 2008 Best Practice Principles document. The VWG Secretariat will manage updates to the glossary.
- Agreed to continue to expand and support the G.R.E.A.T. website maintained by Chinese Taipei to provide information regarding the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System ("GHS") from around APEC economies and agreed that economies are to provide updates and GHS labeling elements in different languages as well as to provide updates regarding the implementation status, time lines of their economy-specific GHS implementation.
- Agreed in principle to the reconstitution of its Virtual Working Group on GHS implementation to help implement the conclusions identified during a survey of economy priorities for GHS implementation and capacity building (2014/SOM3/CD/004), to prioritize further GHS related work, and to refine the CD's reporting template on CD implementation for ministers and will review terms of reference for the proposed VWG at SOM1, 2015.
- Requested that Malaysia circulate details of, and resources used for, the August 5-6, 2013 workshop that it hosted which examined the development of industry-driven local guidelines on the classification of petroleum substances that could be incorporated into local industry codes.

**E) CONTRIBUTIONS TO INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC REFORM AND GROWTH, IN PARTICULAR, APEC'S LEADERS' GROWTH STRATEGY GROWTH**

- Digital Economy
- IPR

The CD agreed to:

- Continue work begun intersessionally by a VWG on land-based waste management and innovative solutions to the problem of marine debris in collaboration with the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) including through the regional implementation of innovative new technologies related to waste-to-worth initiatives and energy recovery, support recognition of this activity at the August 27-28, 2014 Oceans Ministerial in Xiamen, and to develop a terms of reference for review during the CD meeting at SOM1.
- The vital importance of equivalent protections for Confidential Business Information (CBI) in the chemicals trade and agreed to task its VWG on regulatory convergence and cooperation to maintain a focus on this item in its future work.
- Explore potential collaboration with the Intellectual Property Experts Group (IPEG) regarding its ongoing work on trade secrets, a vital area for chemical companies.

**F) OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING APEC-WIDE INITIATIVES ON HUMAN SECURITY, FOOD SECURITY, APEC REFORM, GENDER AND STREAMLINING**

The CD:

- Agreed in principle to revise its Terms of Reference, initially by September 15 for comment by October 15 and potential transmission to the CTI and CSOM for approval in November 2014 to reflect the (1) periodic review of the terms of reference for the CD and its sub-fora; (2) the establishment of the Regulator's Forum as a sub-forum of the CD composed of economy regulators and interest industry participants; and (3) the conclusion of the Chemical Dialogue Steering Group and agreement to hold two meetings of the full Chemical Dialogue yearly.
- Agreed to reduce its standing agenda items and increase its focus on project-oriented work.
- Agreed that it would undertake work on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals ("EDCs") and the Regulators Forum would undertake work on Perfluorinated Carbons ("PFCs") and Brominated Flame Retardants ("BFRs"). Proposals for work in these areas will be prepared for discussion at SOM1, 2015.

**3. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITH ABAC AND/OR OTHER EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS**

The CD agreed to:

- Continue and expand its collaborations with other APEC fora including the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (marine debris), Intellectual Property Experts Group (trade secrets), the Economic Committee (GRP), and the Mining Task Force (metals risk assessment).
- Provide additional comments to Russia by August 25 and potential nomination of candidate chemicals by September 15 regarding a proposal by Russia for the CD to provide input to a pilot project regarding the GHS classification of identified chemicals recently begun by the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the GHS Economies to provide comments on the process laid out by Russia for the identification of chemicals for the proposed pilot project by August 25, 2014.
- Develop an initial CD "regional" contribution by SOM1, 2015 to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management's ("SAICM") fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management ("ICCM4") to be held from September 28-October 2, 2015

- Consider sharing economy's experiences with implementation of international conventions such as the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- Invite economies to expand their participation in the OECD Clearinghouse for New Chemicals parallel process for notification of new chemicals.

#### **4. NEW COLLECTIVE ACTIONS AGREED/PLANNED**

#### **5. FORECAST OF TILF OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES FOR 2014**

<Please update, where appropriate, items reported earlier and also provide a short description to highlight benefits and beneficiaries. See the "List of Expected TILF Deliverables for 2014" that was annexed to CTI Chair Report to SOM 2 (i.e. Document No. 2014/SOM2/049 anx1)>

The CD has completed each of the expected TILF deliverables outlined in 2014/SOM2/049 anx 1 as follows:

- COMPLETE - Finalize a revised Strategic Framework and Action Plan for 2014 to 2016 intersessionally in advance of SOM3;
- COMPLETE - High Level Workshop on Regulatory Cooperation at SOM3 to discuss further implementation of the CD's Best Practice Principles of Chemical Regulation;
- COMPLETE - Continued implementation of the Regulator's Forum Action Plan endorsed by the CTI in 2013;
- COMPLETE - Joint meeting of the Regulator's Forum and the OECD New Chemicals' Clearinghouse at SOM3 in Beijing, China;
- COMPLETE - Approve a Regulator's Forum training session to build capacity on the risk assessment of metals to be held in 2015;
- COMPLETE - Report to Ministers Responsible for Trade on the status of GHS implementation in APEC member economies;
- COMPLETE - Consolidate and coordinate the CD's work related to GHS to ensure it aligns with the CD's revised Strategic Framework and priorities;
- COMPLETE - Develop a revised proposal for a pilot project on GHS classifications for potential input to the UNSCEGHS for consideration by the CD at SOM3;
- COMPLETE - Initiate a workstream on cooperative activity in the Asia-Pacific on marine debris in collaboration with the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group; and
- COMPLETE - Finalize responses to a survey regarding the protection of confidential business information and develop recommendations based on those responses

#### **6. DECISION POINTS NEEDED FROM CTI**

The CD:

- Seeks CTI approval for the revised Chemical Dialogue Strategic Framework 2014-2016 (2014/SOM3/CD/009), noting that its Action Plan will be updated intersessionally to reflect the outcomes of CD13;
- Seeks CTI approval for the revised Regulator's Forum Action Plan 2014-2015 which is an integral element of the Strategic Framework (2014/SOM3/CD/018);

- Requests that CTI endorse moving forward the CD's initiation of a Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Material Management and Innovative Solutions to Marine Debris in collaboration with the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group; and
- Requests that CTI take note of its successful workshop on Advancing Regulatory Cooperation in Chemicals and that proposals for additional capacity building on regulatory cooperation, including Good Regulatory Practices, will be developed intersessionally and submitted for consideration at SOM1, 2015.