

SCE Chair's Report to SOM

The SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) met in Qingdao, China on 11 May 2014. Key outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

1. SCE continued its review of the ECOTECH Medium-term Priorities and was on track to finalise the revised priorities by SCE3 and encouraged economies to participate in the survey before SCE3.
2. SCE discussed and noted progress on the development of APEC capacity building guidelines, which are expected to be finalised at SCE3
3. SCE endorsed the recommendations in the Report on Synergies on Cross Cutting Work in Economic and Technical Cooperation Fora prepared by the APEC Secretariat, and discussed the implementation and monitoring process of those recommendations
4. SCE supported a proposal from Indonesia to establish a Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues (MOI) Initiative Steering Council. The proposal would be further developed by Indonesia with a view to a final decision at SOM3 and having the Council established by CSOM 2014.
5. SCE noted the discussion that had occurred at the Friends of the Chair Meeting on Strategic Planning held on the morning of 11 May 2014 and endorsed the recommendations arising from it.
6. SCE noted progress on the implementation of the 2014 independent assessments

Recommendations

It is recommended that SOM:

1. Note that SCE is considering the establishment of a Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues Initiative Steering Council, with a final proposal expected for consideration at SOM3.

Summary Report - SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH

11 May 2014
Qingdao, China

The second meeting of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) was held in Qingdao, China on 11 May 2014. It was attended by representatives of all 21 APEC economies, including Senior Officials from 12 economies, the APEC Secretariat Executive Director and PECC.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Laura Del Rosario, Senior Official of The Philippines for APEC.

Agenda Items 1 and 2: Welcome by SCE Chair and Adoption of the Agenda

The SCE Chair noted a new item proposed by Indonesia for discussion as agenda item 4.2: SCE to discuss coordination of mainstreaming of ocean related issues. The agenda (2014/SOM2/SCE/001) as amended was adopted.

Agenda Item 3: Economic and Technical Cooperation Planning

3.1 SCE to discuss the review of the ECOTECH Medium Term Priorities, including the results of the survey of developing economy priorities.

The SCE Chair noted the report summarising the survey of developing economies and discussing some ways forward for developing revised ECOTECH medium-term priorities (2014/SOM2/SCE/002). She discussed the development of the current medium-term priorities in 2009-10, including how developing human capital was identified as one of the highest priorities but by 2012 had disappeared from the reporting and representation of the priorities. She noted that the survey of economies in 2014 again highlighted the importance of capacity building, although the response rate had been quite low.

A possible approach for the 2015 ECOTECH priorities was outlined. The Chair informed the Meeting that gender and health did not feature in the possible 2015 priorities and asked for comments on this survey outcome. Indonesia suggested that gender and health should be included. The SCE Chair noted that before finalising a position on the revised priorities at SCE3 it would be desirable to have more economies respond to the survey. She noted that the initial results strongly supported capacity building being the highest priority and that gender and health should be referenced in the final priorities.

3.2 SCE to consider draft capacity building guidelines, prepared in accordance with point 8 of the SCE Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC agreed at SOM3 2013.

The SCE Chair noted the draft APEC Capacity Building Guidelines prepared by the APEC Secretariat (2014/SOM2/SCE/003). Economies were asked to provide any written comments by 16 June with a view to revised guidelines being available for consideration at SCE3.

Economies provided a number of suggestions at the meeting that the Secretariat would take into account when preparing the revised guidelines. The importance of ensuring that SCE efforts on capacity building were aligned with BMC activities was highlighted.

Agenda Item 4: Cross-cutting Issues

4.1 SCE to consider the assessment of synergies and gaps within the ECOTECH agenda prepared by the Secretariat, in accordance with point 7 of the SCE Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC agreed at SOM3 2013

The SCE Chair introduced a paper (2014/SOM2/SCE/004) providing an assessment of synergies and gaps in cross-cutting activities by SCE fora based upon their annual workplans and suggesting recommendations that SCE could provide to fora.

Economies supported the recommendations and discussed how they would be disseminated to fora. It was agreed that a letter would be prepared for each fora forwarding the recommendation and explaining the thinking behind it. Program Directors would be asked to do a follow up action by contacting chairs and lead shepherds to discuss the recommendations. Progress on each individual working group's implementation of the recommendations would be monitored through assessing evidence of improved cooperation in existing reporting mechanisms such as the Fora Report and future annual workplans. Implementation of previous recommendations would be considered as part of each year's report from the Secretariat.

The SCE Chair noted that future versions of the report should seek to include food security and the PPFs.

China updated SCE on the High Level Roundtable on Green Development held on 8 May 2014 in Tianjin, China.

4.2 SCE to discuss coordination of mainstreaming ocean-related issues

Indonesia proposed the establishment of a Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues (MOI) Initiative Steering Council (2014/SOM2/SCE/006). Economies discussed the proposal and expressed broad support for it. Indonesia would further develop the proposal ahead of SCE3 with a view to it being endorsed at SOM3; the Coordinator being nominated and endorsed ahead of CSOM; allowing for a report by Coordinator to CSOM on progress of the MOI Initiative and the establishment of a Steering Council. Economies were encouraged to provide written comments or feedback to Indonesia as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 5: SCE Fora

5.1 SCE to consider progress on the development of strategic plans by fora, following the Friends of the Chair meeting on strategic plans held on the morning of 11 May

SCE endorsed the points arising from the Friends of the Chair Meeting on Strategic Planning held on the morning of 11 May (2014/SOM2/SCE/007).

5.2 SCE to note progress on the implementation of independent assessment activity in 2014

SCE noted the update on the implementation of independent assessments in 2014 (2014/SOM2/SCE/005).

Agenda Item 6: Other Business

6.1 Document access - Members will be invited to decide on the classification of all documents relating to this meeting.

SCE accepted the document classification list (2014/SOM2/SCE/000) as amended.