



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2015/SOM1/ACT/004rev1**

Agenda Item: 4

## **ACT Proposed Work Plan for 2015**

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: ACT Chair



**20<sup>th</sup> Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts'  
Working Group Meeting  
Clark, Philippines  
26-28 January 2015**

## PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR 2015

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: ACT Chair

### 1. Proposed Work Plan for 2015

Following previous priorities and commitments, the Anti-Corruption and Transparency (ACT) Working Group will continue to promote and strengthen the implementation of existing APEC and UNCAC commitments. ACT will be guided by our commitments in the Vladivostok Declaration in Fighting Corruption and the recently adopted Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption.

This year, we are guided by the theme “Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World.” The priorities to be advanced by APEC during the Philippines’ year as Chair in 2015 will center on:

- Enhancing Regional Economic Integration
- Fostering SMEs Participation in the Regional and Global Economy
- Investing in Human Capital Development
- Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

ACT, as the lead in anti-corruption initiatives within the APEC framework, will collaborate with all APEC sub-fora in initiatives to enhance regional integration, particularly by reducing bottlenecks at borders to support the realization of a free-trade area of the Asia Pacific.

One priority that the ACT can center its work plan on is the fostering of SME participation in the regional and global economy. Realizing the critical role of SMEs in building inclusive economies, ACT shall focus its commitments in addressing the hurdles to starting a business, getting credit, dealing with permits, enforcing contracts and trading across borders in line with APEC’s goal to make it 25 % percent easier to do business in the region by end of 2015,<sup>1</sup> and facilitated by deeper cooperation in areas like structural reform and fighting corruption.

In a view to implement the recent commitments made by the APEC Economic Leaders in Beijing, 2014 with regard to denying safe haven for those engaged in corruption and their illicitly-acquired assets, we will strengthen cooperation and coordination in repatriation or extradition, as appropriate, of such individuals, as well as confiscation and recovery of corruption proceeds, and in particular through the use of ACT-NET for information sharing and law enforcement cooperation subject to domestic laws and policies.

Proceeding from its first official meeting in Beijing, the ACT-NET will meet during the margins of the SOM 3 this year. ACT-NET seeks to develop an inter-economy network of anti-corruption and law enforcement officers to enhance informal cross-border cooperation between agencies responsible for investigations prosecutions of corruption, bribery, money laundering, and illicit trade, and the identification and return of the proceeds of those crimes. The ACT-NET, after the initial meeting of focal persons and endorsement of its Terms of Reference, will discuss and finalize procedural and administrative concerns for the approval of all the members.

### 2. Anticipated Activities and/or Proposed Workplan with outside organizations

- To host a Workshop on “Investment Protection Against Corruption” (SOM1)
- To host APEC ACT Pathfinder II, Cebu City, Philippines (consistent with ACT Multi-year Strategic Planning) to promote and foster collective efforts in the fight against corruption with other international organizations including the World Bank, United Nations Development Program, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, American Bar Association, Transparency International, and the International Anti-Corruption Academy.
- To host the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACT NET Meeting in Cebu City, Philippines

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<sup>1</sup> Discussion Paper on Ease of Doing Business (Concluding SOM-Plenary Session, November 9, 2009, Singapore).

- To host the 3rd Workshop of the Multi Year Project for the APEC Handbook on Best Practices to Investigate and Prosecute Corruption and Money Laundering (SOM III)
- To host APEC ACT Pathfinder II, Cebu City, Philippines (See Above)

### 3. Deliverables

The expected outcomes/deliverables for 2015 are:

- Workshop on “Investment Protection against Corruption”
- Workshop on “Developing Model Framework and Best Practices for Combating Corruption in the Environment and Use of Natural Resources in the APEC Region” Pathfinder II on Combating Corruption and Illicit Trade.
- To host the 3rd Workshop of the Multi Year Project for the APEC Handbook on Best Practices to Investigate and Prosecute Corruption and Money Laundering (SOM III)
- To continue to cooperate and work with international organizations such as OECD, UNODC, World Bank, TI and American Bar Association
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ACT NET Meeting in Cebu City Philippines