

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
5th MEETING OF THE OCEAN AND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (OFWG)
Crown Regency Resort and Convention Centre, Station 2, Boracay, Philippines
10-12 May 2015

Sixteen APEC Economies attended: Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States; and Viet Nam. Observers included representatives from Australia's Policy Partnership for Science Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) delegation and the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). One guest, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), was present. The meeting was chaired by the OFWG Lead Shepherd (LS) Undersecretary Asis Perez of the Philippines. An Executive Summary of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A**.

Day 1: 10 May 2015

Session I - Opening Session

A. Welcoming Remarks by OFWG Lead Shepherd

The OFWG Lead Shepherd, Undersecretary Asis Perez, welcomed the participating the economies to the Philippines and highlighted the tasks ahead of the group, continuing on the good work done during SOM1 in Clark, Philippines in January.

B. Introduction of Delegation Leads (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The head delegates introduced themselves to the group. A list of participants will be annexed when available.

C. Appointment of Rapporteur (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The United States volunteered as rapporteur and the working group approved.

D. Formation of Committee to assist with drafting of Summary Report

A committee was formed to assist the rapporteur in the drafting of the meeting report: The United States, People's Republic of China, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Viet Nam. Other economies were invited to join at any time during the meeting.

E. Introduction of the Mr. Graeme Drake, Independent Assessor to undertake the 2015 Independent Assessment of the OFWG (OFWG Lead Shepherd and Secretariat)

The Lead Shepherd introduced the independent assessor. Mr. Drake noted that he planned to not only watch the meeting for the next two or three days, but also meet with delegations in order to assess the progress of the OFWG in terms of delivering on various commitments and statements made by Ministers and Leaders since 2010. He highlighted that frank discussions were welcome and helpful and that any input given during discussion or through written correspondence would not be associated with any individuals or individual economies.

F. Adoption of the Agenda (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The agenda was adopted by consensus with no additions from the floor.

The final agenda can be found in document 2015/SOM2/OFWG/001

Session II – Developments in APEC since the 4th OFWG Meeting in May 2015

A. *Overview of intersessionally endorsed actions and documents since OFWG 4 (OFWG Lead Shepherd)*

The Lead Shepherd, with assistance from the Secretariat, gave a brief overview of the intersessionally endorsed actions. These actions included endorsement of the Terms of Reference of the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris, progress to implement the endorsed climate change workshop and coastal ecosystem services valuation study, continued support on updating the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report, OFWG representation on the Mainstreaming Ocean Issues Initiative Steering Committee, and distribution of documents for the groups review related to the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy (HLPD-FSBE) and the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris 2015 Work Plan. Each of these items were also discussed in more detail during their appropriate agenda item.

B. *Update on work of the Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues (MOI) Steering Council (Lead Shepherd)*

The Lead Shepherd noted that he attended the Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues Steering Council in January during SOM1 and the Secretariat provided the OFWG 2015 Work Plan to the Steering Council for their reference. He then directed the group to Document 2015/SOM2/OFWG/024 for more details. One economy asked a question regarding the Terms of Reference for that group, which were mentioned in the document in question. The Secretariat confirmed that they had not logged a development on the Terms of reference and that any additional documents would be given to the OFWG when received—likely to be received after the Steering Council coordinator gave an update to the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH on May 19th.

C. *APEC Secretariat Report on Relevant Developments in APEC (Secretariat)*

Secretariat highlighted recent developments in APEC, including the endorsement by the SCE of the OFWG 2015 Work Plan, the upcoming ECOTECH discussion on the APEC draft Capacity Building Policy, the upcoming Collective Strategic Study on the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific, the APEC SME Action Agenda, and the Post-2015 APEC Growth Strategy discussions. One question was asked regarding the process and venue for the discussion on the Collective Strategic Study on Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific, which the Secretariat clarified would take place under the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) primarily via a Task Force with members from all economies, headed by the United States and China, and a Friends of the Chair group, also with members from all economies. ABAC made a point to highlight the discussions on services, noting that many in the OFWG may think services are not applicable to their work, but that actually it is pivotal to determining if activity is competitive or not.

D. *Progress of APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (China)*

China reviewed the work of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre (AMSDC) since January including the 2015 Annual Working Meeting, the development of a Strategic Action Plan, attendance at various regional and international meetings, and the compiling of the 3rd APEC Blue Economy Forum proceedings. They also noted the planning for an anticipated APEC Marine Spatial Planning training workshop and the Blue Economy Forum workshop, to be held later this year. One economy applauded the Center's presentation at the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea meeting. Another economy inquired about the blue economy workshop, to which China responded that they would share broadly the report of the past workshop and any plans for the next workshop intersessionally.

Session III - Information Sharing

A. *Information Sharing by APEC Economies*

Delegates from eleven economies provided brief reports on key ocean and fisheries issues relevant to their economies, and on recent progress made on issues relevant to the OFWG since the January OFWG4 meeting. Members reported on progress made in areas of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine conservation, marine disaster risk reduction, food security and safety, marine science technology, domestic legislation, blue economy efforts, and international cooperation. Some economies also provided written Economy Reports to the Secretariat (Documents 2015/SOM2/OFWG/ 003, 004, 013, 016, 022, 031, 033, 034, 036, and 038) and others were encouraged to submit written reports to the Secretariat.

Session IV – OFWG Operations

A. Work Plan

a. Discussion of progress on implementing the OFWG 2015 Annual Work Plan (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The Lead Shepherd went over the progress implementing the OFWG 2015 Annual Work Plan, noting that outside of the climate change workshop held the day prior and the engagement of ABAC at the meeting, implementation had been limited. He reminded the group that OFWG's actions should be guided by the endorsed work plan as we move forward through the year.

B. Strategic Plan

a. Discussion and endorsement of a forward process for drafting and endorsing the next OFWG Strategic Plan (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The Lead Shepherd reminded the group of the decision made in January OFWG 4 to wait for the result of the independent assessor report before moving forward on the development of the Strategic Plan. In response to a question, the independent assessor noted that his report would be primarily retrospective and that a report should be available to the group by the end of June. The Lead Shepherd sought feedback from the group regarding the process that should be followed to complete the work intersessionally, to which the group affirmed the approach of using a Friends of the Chair Group. The People's Republic of China, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, the United States, and Viet Nam all expressed their intention to join the group.

C. Projects

a. Report on outcomes from projects implemented

a. Chinese Taipei (OFWG 03 2013S)

Chinese Taipei presented on the outcomes of their project, the 15th APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment. The most recent round of this meeting, attended by nine APEC economies in October of 2014, focused on the topics of wetland conservation and eel resource conservation and management. The next meeting is scheduled for 28-30 October, 2015 with the following endorsed topics: Climate change and marine resources and marine clean energy. Chinese Taipei also proposed for the group's consideration another workshop in 2016 with the following two potential themes: food security and blue economy. They noted it would be self-funded if the budget was available and welcomed feedback from the OFWG.

b. Republic of Korea (OFWG 01 2014A)

The Republic of Korea presented the outcomes of their project: Preparedness, Response, and Assessment of Oil Spill (PRAOS) Phase 1. The project was a training program on raising awareness and attention of the APEC economies on responding to marine oil spills, as well as an opportunity for information sharing. It was attended by members of the OFWG and EPWG, as well as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the resulting manual is available electronically if desired. Potential further phases were also outlined in the presentation: a training program on environmental impact assessment (Phase 2), technical assistance to develop an operational manual for economies (Phase 3), and development of an APEC regional collaborative measure on marine oil spills (Phase 4).

b. Update on current projects

a. Japan (OFWG 02 2014)

Japan briefly outlined the Workshop on the Climate Change Impact on Oceans and Fisheries Resources, which was successfully held the day prior to the OFWG5 meeting with about 100 participants from 15 economies as well as 12 prominent lecturers (Document OFWG/SOM2/009).

Japan thanked the participants, Secretariat, and the host economy for contributing to a successful event. Further details on the meeting discussions was given during a separate agenda item.

b. United States (OFWG 03 2014)

The United States gave an update on their project, "Assessing the Economic Value of Green Infrastructure in Coastal Ecosystems to Disaster Risk Reduction, Response and Coastal Resilience in the APEC Region". They noted some delays securing the contractor but assured participants that the survey part of the project would not be rushed. One economy asked for confirmation on the format of the outcome of the report. The United States clarified that the outcome would be a report on the regional values—not economy by economy values.

c. Progress of projects submitted by the OFWG at Session 1 2015, and of any other projects under other APEC fora that may be relevant to the OFWG (Secretariat)

The Secretariat gave an update on the three endorsed concept notes that went forward for funding consideration in Session 1. He reported that although one concept note was close, none got funding. 112 concept notes were put forward and although 42 got funded, only 17 were funded from general funds. The Secretariat then outlined the procedure for self-funding the previously endorsed projects and the need to re-endorse the projects if the group would like to put them forward again in Session 2, which should have approximately \$7 million USD available for funding, although only around \$1.6 million of that is in the general funds.

The United States gave updates on two projects relevant to the OFWG, and encouraged OFWG participation in both:

- (APEC funded) SCSC Project on Preparing Trainers to Deliver Sustainable Education to Prevent Emerging Animal Diseases and Food Safety Concerns Threatening Aquaculture Development; and
- (Self-funded) Workshop on Wildlife Trafficking and IUU fishing under the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG) Pathfinder Program on Strengthening the Fight Against Corruption and Bribery.

d. Discussion of any proposed new APEC-funded projects for Session 2 2015

Four economies presented on potential projects for the next funding cycle:

- Malaysia: "Capacity Building for the Establishment of Marine Biotxin Reference Laboratory" (2015/SOM2/OFWG/010)
- Papua New Guinea: "Food Security and Climate Resilience Programme" (2015/OFWG/SOM2/011)
- Peru: "Designing a System for Trading Online Fishery Products". (2015/SOM2/OFWG/037)
- Indonesia: "Promoting Small-Scale Fishers and Fisheries Industries To the Global Value Chain" (2015/SOM2/OFWG/023)

Economies expressed their appreciation for the presentations and all economies were encouraged to follow up with any questions.

- e. *Discussion of any proposed new self-funded projects (All Members invited to outline new project proposals)*

The People's Republic of China outlined their proposed Marine Spatial Planning Training, which they first raised with the group in 2014. They noted this would build on previous trainings.

Session V – Free and Open Trade and Investment

Although no presentations were planned under this item, during the general discussion the United States gave updates on some relevant activities in other fora, including the current status of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, work under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and noted that the update of the 2000 Price Waterhouse Cooper's fisheries transparency work done through the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment was still outstanding. The United States highlighted the fact that trade-related work underway in these organizations and free trade negotiations may provide guidance for future work of the OFWG. Two economies emphasized the importance of improving transparency and its hope that all APEC economies would make continuous efforts towards information sharing.

Session VI – Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment

- A. *Update from Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris*

The Secretariat reviewed the intersessional actions of the OFWG in regards to the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris, including the endorsement of the Terms of Reference and the distribution of the 2015 Work Plan for review. Representatives from the Virtual Working Group then reviewed some edits recently made to the 2015 Work Plan, outlined the process for endorsing the Work Plan, and encouraged all OFWG members to join the group if interested. After a question was received, the Secretariat confirmed the membership was open to all OFWG members and the only requirement to join was a written expression of interest. Russia and the People's Republic of China asked questions on language related to non-governmental participation and potential edits to the Work Plan were discussed on the side. After discussion, the OFWG endorsed the 2015 Work Plan with minor edits.

- B. *An overview of PEMSEA's work and the application of integrated coastal management (ICM) to oceans and fisheries (PEMSEA)*

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), gave an overview of their history, priorities, and function. They highlighted their work on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), including work incorporating Marine Protected Areas, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction. They also noted the upcoming East Asia Seas Congress 2015. The PEMSEA representative outlined several potential areas of collaboration with APEC in terms of information sharing, preparation and dissemination of knowledge products, and establishment of blue economy learning sites. The People's

Republic of China noted the engagement from PEMSEA in China and with APEC at AOMM4. ABAC asked a question regarding PEMSEA's engagement with the World Ocean Council, which PEMSEA responded that they are looking to engage more with them. Chinese Taipei asked if PEMSEA had a blue economy definition; PEMSEA noted they are still trying to determine what the term means to them and their partners.

Day 2: 11 May 2015

Session VII – Food Security

A. Discussion and endorsement of OFWG Food Security Action Plan (United States)

The Chair of the OFWG Food Security Action Plan Drafting Group gave an overview of the changes to the draft document discussed by the drafting team. Some additional edits, one of them being improving livelihoods of coastal communities as suggested by Viet Nam, were requested on the floor and finalized later in the meeting. Discussion then turned to the importance of coordinating discussion on food security issues with the Policy Partnership for Food Security (PPFS). It was noted that the OFWG already had a liaison to the PPFS, Allison Reed (United States), but several economies noted the need for an additional mechanism to increase collaboration, especially in preparation for the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy. Several options were discussed, including overlapping meeting sessions, an official sub-fora, or cooperation amongst Friends of the Chair groups.

The OFWG endorsed the OFWG Food Security Action Plan, incorporating edits previously discussed (Document 2015/OFWG/SOM2/035rev1).

B. Practice on Coastal Eco-Aquaculture – Development of Circulating Aquaculture Model (China)

The People's Republic of China presented on the technology and practice being used to promote ecological circulating coastal aquaculture that may contribute to the food security and blue economy. They invited any economies with question to contact the point of contact in document 2015/SOM2/OFWG/012.

C. Update on PPFS work (Lead Shepherd)

The Lead Shepherd, who is also the Chair of PPFS this year, noted that PPFS would meet for the first time this year after the OFWG meeting. He outlined their leadership rotation process and his desire to increase collaboration and discussion amongst the groups, especially overlapping group collaboration. Although discussed in the context of the discussion on the OFWG Food Security Action Plan, there was further discussion about how to integrate the food security discussions of the OFWG and the ocean and fisheries relevant discussions in PPFS. Questions focused on how to reconcile the OFWG Food Security Action Plan, PPFS road Map, and the HLPD proposed action plans. The Secretariat provided an example of cross-fora collaboration in preparation for another high level dialogue to be held this year on Science and Technology in Higher Education. No resolution was reached, but desire for further consultation among fora was supported by the working group.

Session VIII – Climate Change

During this session, Japan presented the outcome of the Workshop on the Climate Change Impacts on Oceans and Fisheries Resources highlighting the key message of the integration between science and policymaking, which may strengthen the policy coherence in the approach on the social and economic adaptation to the impact of climate change (Document SOM2/OFWG/027). Many economies applauded workshop discussions and outcomes and expressed a desire to see presentations and outcome documents shared broadly, following appropriate APEC publication guidelines and endorsement processes. One economy raised for the group that of relevance to the discussion, the current United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) does

not mention oceans at all and encouraged all economies to engage. Chinese Taipei noted that their upcoming Roundtable would focus on climate change, as a way to continue discussion on the topic.

Session IX– Blue Economy

A. Presentation on Blue Economy (China)

China gave a presentation on recent regional and international meetings on blue economy for information sharing. They also highlighted upcoming meetings in Portugal, Durban, and their anticipated 4th APEC Blue Economy Forum. In response to a question, China noted they would provide information to the OFWG as in past practice. A question was raised as to whether or not the relevant participants were representing the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center or as individual experts. The Secretariat outlined the applicability of APEC's Guidelines on Cooperation with Non-Members and Publication and Logo Guidelines.

B. PEMSEA's efforts to promote blue economy through the East Asian Seas Sustainable Business Network and facilitate investment in ICM through a regional knowledge management platform being developed with World Bank (PEMSEA)

PEMSEA provided information on their relevant blue economy related activities, including their research report on blue economy for business for the Seas of East Asia, the East Asian Seas Sustainable Business Network, and the World Bank Regional Knowledge Management Project. Russia noted that they supported the idea of extended collaboration with any participants in the frame of APEC, in accordance with APEC Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members, but also Russia expressed its concern regarding the lack of information about these non-member participants, such as non-governmental organizations, presented in APEC meetings as an observer or guest. Russia noted it would be useful if detailed information was shared (such as main purposes, funding sources and etc.) about potential non-governmental observers and guests before APEC meetings.

Session X– High Level Policy Dialogue on Blue Economy and Food Security (HLPD-FSBE)

A. Update on preparations for the HLPD-FSBE in Iloilo City from 4-6 October 2015 (Philippines)

The Philippines gave brief logistical updates, noting that the HLPD-FSBE will take place 4-6 October, 2015 in Iloilo City, Philippines with approximately 200 participants. Invited participants will be APEC Senior Officials, ABAC, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, and the Association of South East Asian Nations Secretariat. These participants should expect invitations at the end of May with confirmation of attendance due in September. Economies suggested that other organizations, specifically FAO, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) be invited to the HLPD.

B. Substantive Discussion of draft Document for HLPD-FSBE

To begin discussion, the Philippines gave an overview of their intention for the HLPD-FSBE and why they chose the priorities in their draft action plans (Combat IUU fishing, Stop the Decline of Biodiversity, and Advance the Common View of Blue Economy).

Several questions were asked regarding the process and status of the Concept Note on the Draft Action Plan. It was clarified that as a host economy initiative, the document being reviewed by the OFWG did not need endorsement by the OFWG. Comments on the draft action plan (Document 2015/OFWG/SOM2/017rev1) will continue to be received by the Philippines from the OFWG through to August 15, 2015. It would be up to the host economy to hear suggestions and make changes before engaging in some discussion process amongst appropriately designated representatives as to reach a consensus document at the HLPD. Several processes for further review of the action plan(s) were discussed, including review over email, virtual or in person workshops amongst relevant working group representatives, and a preparatory meeting two days prior to the HLPD.

Some general points raised and suggestions made centered around the need to look more broadly at food security (beyond IUU fishing), some concerns that it wasn't appropriate for APEC to set up new frameworks on these topics, and a need to make sure efforts were not duplicating other work in other fora. Also, some raised a concern that the document in question should not set tasks for economies' obligatory commitment. Several more specific edits/points were raised on the draft text during discussion, the Lead Shepherd encouraged OFWG members to share specific edits and comments with the Philippines. The Philippines seconded this approach, noting they welcomed feedback.

Day 3: 12 May 2015

Special Session: Presentation by Australia Representative to the PPSTI

A. Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation (PPSTI) Self-Funded Project entitled "Building regional ocean and land observation systems to safeguard APEC resources and communities."

A representative from the Australian delegation to the APEC Policy Partnership for Science, Technology, and Innovation (PPSTI) gave a presentation on their national efforts on earth and land observations, as well as outlining their proposal for a Pathfinder project to review existing initiatives and review opportunities for aligning earth and ocean observations in the region. The representative invited all delegates to engage in the Pathfinder, which is going through PPSTI and to attend a workshop to be held in Australia in November of 2015. The Secretariat highlighted Australia's efforts to reach across fora with this initiative. Economies highlighted the potential benefits of the project, but noted the need to collaborate with other outside organizations and national efforts to align activities. One economy asked that given the proposed initiative's relevance to the OFWG, that Australia should consider sending a delegation to future OFWG meetings. There was also discussion on the use of "blue economy" and "green economy".

Session XI – Looking Ahead

A. Summary Report of the 5th OFWG Meeting

The draft summary report was reviewed and after discussion on minor changes, was finalized and endorsed.

B. Date and Venue for the 6th OFWG Meeting (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

Peru noted that it would welcome the OFWG to Peru in 2016 and would provide further information on dates and venues to the group as soon as possible.

Session XII - Closing Session

The meeting was closed by the Lead Shepherd, who congratulated delegates on their efforts to collaborate.

APPENDIX A – OFWG SCE FORA REPORT

Executive Summary

Summary

The 5th APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) met in Boracay, Philippines in May of 2015. Sixteen member economies and two observers (ABAC and Australia's representative to the Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI)) attended. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the independent assessor, Mr. Graeme Drake, were present as guests. Discussions were organized around the five pillars of the OFWG Strategic Plan: Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment, Strengthening Food Security, Promoting Free and Open Trade and Investment, and Enhance Understanding of the Impacts of Climate Change, and OFWG Operations, as well as Blue Economy. These discussions included reports from economies on their economy's ocean and fisheries-relevant activities since OFWG4 in January, updates on past and upcoming OFWG-endorsed projects, presentations on ideas for concept notes in the second project session of 2015, and the draft action plan for the 2015 High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy. Australia's representative to the PPSTI presented on potential cooperation with the OFWG. PEMSEA also gave a presentation on potential future collaboration with the OFWG.

Recommendations

The group encouraged itself to work intersessionally via e-mail, particularly in efforts to better coordinate with the Policy Partnership on Food Security in preparation for the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy.

Endorsed/Agreed During Boracay OFWG Meeting May 10-12, 2015:

1. The OFWG will consider the 2015 independent assessment recommendations and SCE comments in "OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15 – Discussion Points" (2015/OFWG/SOM2/003) when it rewrites the Strategic Plan in 2015.
2. The OFWG endorsed the OFWG Food Security Action Plan as a living document and agreed to share the document with the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) for further collaboration.
3. The OFWG endorsed the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris 2015 Work Plan.

Proposed Intersessional Actions:

1. OFWG member economies will provide input to the coastal ecosystem valuation survey.
2. The Lead Shepherd will provide an update to the OFWG on the status and progress of the Mainstreaming Oceans Initiative, including distribution of additional documents received at the end of SOM2.
3. OFWG member economies will engage in preparations for the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy, including providing comments to the Philippines on the proposed action plans.
4. OFWG members with proposed concept notes, and those who develop concept notes in the meantime, will circulate the concept notes broadly prior to the deadline in order to secure feedback and potential co-sponsors.
5. Japan will circulate the proceedings of the Workshop of Climate Change Impact on Ocean and Fisheries Resources, for disseminating its outcome for the purpose of intersessional endorsement.