

SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH - Committee of the Whole Meeting

4 February 2015
Clark, Philippines

A meeting of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH – Committee of the Whole (SCE-COW) was held in Clark, Philippines on 4 February 2015. It was attended by representatives of all 21 APEC economies, Lead Shepherds, Chairs or representatives of the Agricultural Technology Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG), Anti-Corruption and transparency experts Working Group (ACTWG), Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG), Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT), Energy Working group (EWG), Health Working Group (HWG), Human resource Development Working group (HRDWG), Ocean and Fisheries Working group (OFWG), Policy Partnership on Science, technology and Innovation (PPSTI), Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE), Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG), Telecommunication and Information Working Group (TELWG), Transportation Working Group (TPTWG), the APEC Secretariat Executive Director, ABAC and the PECC.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Raúl Salazar, Senior Official of Peru for APEC. The Vice Chair of the meeting was Ms Laura Del Rosario Senior Official of the Philippines for APEC.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome by the SCE Chair and Adoption of the Agenda

The SCE Chair welcomed all delegates to the meeting. The agenda (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/001) was adopted without amendment.

Agenda Item 2: SOM Chair to Address APEC 2015 Priorities

The SOM Chair outlined the Philippines theme and priorities for 2015.

Agenda Item 3: SCE Chair to Brief on the 2015 SCE Work Plan

The SCE Chair noted the 2015 SCE Workplan (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/002) was tabled in SCE-COW for information and would be considered and endorsed at the SCE the following day. He noted that the development of a capacity building policy was the major piece of work planned for the year.

Agenda Item 4: Strengthening ECOTECH

4.1a Strengthening human capital through capacity building – focusing on the development of an APEC capacity building policy

The SCE Chair noted that SCE had been discussing for many years how to improve capacity building, which led to the development of a set of Capacity building guidelines in 2014 to provide some concrete assistance to the development and implementation of capacity building activities. SCE had recognised the need to pay some further attention to improving the planning, coordination and evaluation of capacity building and decided to develop a broader capacity building policy in 2015. To assist the development of that policy a discussion paper (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/003) was circulated and comments were welcome.

SCE-COW received two presentations addressing aspects of capacity building.

Professor Frederico Macaranas representing the PECC from the Asian Institute of Management and 1996 APEC SOM Chair gave a presentation (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/020) provided a broader perspective on the development of ECOTECH and ideas about how work could be structured and thus capacity building. He suggested that what cannot be measured cannot be managed and emphasised the importance of

being able to explain or communicate the value of our work to the public. He emphasised the importance of starting with tangible outcomes and outputs. These should be approached through systems thinking that helps identify the linkages necessary to reach the outcomes. In turn we will be able to identify the areas where capacity building are needed to support our broad and ambitious outcomes.

Torie Waite from US-ATAARI provided comments (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/021) more focused on capacity building activities. She also emphasised the importance of linking capacity building to overall or high level objectives. Capacity building should flow from planning processes that give some order and predictability to the flow of work. She noted the importance of broad support for the goals of capacity building programs to ensure they can achieve success.

Economies and fora were encouraged to provide any comments or suggestions concerning the development of the capacity building policy, ahead of a paper being available at SCE2 to facilitate further consideration.

4.1b The Travel Facilitation Initiative (TFI);

The TFI Coordinator (United States) made a presentation (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/004) on activity over the past year. They noted that the TFI was due for a mid-term assessment by SCE in 2015 and would be seeking a two year extension of the steering council mandate to match the TFI itself, until end 2017.

Economies expressed support for the work of the TFI, especially the extension of the APEC Business Travel Card from three to five years and advanced passenger information.

4.1c The Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues (MOI) Steering Initiative;

The MOI Coordinator (Indonesia) made a presentation (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/023) on the progress of establishing the MOI Steering Initiative. The Initiative members intend to meet each year on the day before SCE-COW and would report to SCE 1 and 3 on progress. Economies expressed support and noted that there may be scope for expanding the work of the MOI Steering Initiative in future. The HRDWG Lead Shepherd suggested that it may be useful for the HRDWG to also join. Chinese Taipei suggested that the EPWG should also be involved. The OFWG welcomed the establishment of the steering initiative and expressed willingness to work with it.

4.1d Integrating greater focus on women and economy into fora work

The United States made a presentation (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/024) concerning the establishment of the Women and the Economy Dashboard. They emphasised the role SCE had to provide oversight and direction on gender issues. The Chair of the PPWE noted the cross-cutting nature of gender work and raised a proposal that the PPWE meet twice during 2015 (this request was dealt with at SCE the following day).

Agenda Item 5: Working Groups/Task Forces 2015 Work Plans

SCE-COW to consider work plans for 2015, in accordance with leaders and ministers statements and agreed priorities. Fora representatives will each be asked to make a very brief intervention (2 minutes) aimed at capturing the essence of their planned work and how they can improve capacity building in their work.

The Chairs, Lead Shepherds and representatives of the fora present made brief presentations outlining their major priorities for 2015. SCE-COW noted and approved the workplans that had been submitted.

Agenda Item 6: Other Business

Item 6.1: Update on APEC Project Management Activities

The APEC Secretariat provided an update on the number and value of projects approved in 2014, the funding available in 2015 and foreshadowed the pilot of a new approach for the committee ranking and prioritisation process.

6.2 Document access – Members will be invited to decide on the classification of all documents relating to this meeting

The Document Classification List (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/000) was approved.