

SCE Chair's Report to SOM

The SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) met in Clark, Philippines on 5 February 2015. Key outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

1. To comply with the decision taken by SCE (2014/AMM/015), endorsed as Annex E of the Joint Ministerial Statement to develop an APEC Capacity Building Policy in 2015, SCE commenced discussion of a capacity building policy that would provide clearer direction and guidance about the conduct of capacity building activities in APEC. SCE will continue work intersessionally and consult with the other committees and sub-fora and consider an initial draft on this topic at its next meeting.
2. SCE agreed its 2015 Workplan.
3. SCE agreed to extend the mandate of the TFI Steering Council until 2017.
4. SCE agreed to form a review group to engage with fora that were reviewing their strategic plans to help ensure that all plans are sufficiently focused on outcomes and include measurable targets.
5. SCE amended the Fora Report template to reflect the revised ECOTECH Medium-term Priorities agreed in 2014.
6. SCE noted progress on the implementation of the 2015 independent assessments.
7. SCE received the APEC Secretariat Executive Director's report on the Alignment of SCE Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives.
8. SCE agreed that the PPWE would hold two meetings in 2015 and that its Terms of Reference be amended accordingly to allow for it to hold up to two meetings per year, if necessary.
9. SCE took note of the planned ministerial meetings for 2015

Based upon submitted workplans and information provided by fora at the SCE-COW, the SCE Chair notes the broad range of work planned for 2015 by SCE Working Groups supporting 2015 priorities, a small sample includes:

Enhancing Regional Economic Integration

CTWG: work with the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment Subcommittee on Customs Procedures (CTI/SCCP), TPTWG and other relevant sub-fora to identify and close

vulnerabilities in the regional supply chains and to enhance supply chain resilience; support the CTI/SCCP in its efforts to strengthen supply chain security;

EWG: Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Labelling Schemes; Harmonized Test Methods for Refrigerators;

SMEWG: Supply Chain Capacity Building for SMEs: focused on Supply Chain Management, Cold Chain Storage and Technical Regulations; Facilitating SME Trade through Better Understanding of Non-Tariff Measures in the Asia Pacific Region;

TELWG: work to promote the Internet Economy by identifying indicators for APEC's information society and improve understanding among economies of policies that promote economic benefits from the information economy by coordinating work with Committee on Trade and Investment/ E-Commerce Steering Group;

TPTWG: support the implementation of the APEC Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan through projects including: Promoting Regional Economic Integration by Deriving Supply Chain Connectivity Benefits over Cross-Cutting Issues In Transport, Energy, Environment and Human Health; Global Supply Chain Resilience (Phase 3); International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code Implementation Assistance Program (ICIAP).

Fostering SMEs Participation in the Regional and Global Economy

ACTWG: Workstreams focused on addressing the hurdles to starting a business, getting credit, dealing with permits, enforcing contracts and trading across borders;

HWG: work with SMEs, LSIF on the issue of development of small and medium enterprises in health industry with a focus on the regulatory convergence on international standards;

SMEWG: will support the Philippines' initiative on the "APEC Action Plan for Cooperation to Foster SMEs' Participation in Regional and Global Markets"; APEC Accelerator Network Forum; APEC SME Business Matching and Internship Consortium for Global Value Chain Integration;

TELWG: will work to promote safe, efficient, low-cost and inclusive internet financial services, to enable SMEs and individuals to share the benefits of economic development in coordination work with the Small and Medium Enterprises Working (SMEWG).

Investing in Human Capital Development

HWG: collaborate with PPWE focus on the health and well-being of women, and migrants in the Asia Pacific region within the context of strengthening health systems and health industry development;

HRDWG: holding the 2nd APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Human Capacity Building with the theme "Investing in Human Capital, Building Inclusive Economies" will highlight the role of human resources in economic and social development; Establishment of the APEC Higher Education Research Center; Implementing the APEC Scholarship Initiative;

PPSTI: will conduct an APEC Cooperation for Earthquake Simulation (ACES) workshop 2015.

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

ATCWG: Strengthening Public-Private Partnership to Reduce Food Losses in the Supply Chain; High Level Public-Private Forum on Cold Chain to Strengthen Agriculture & Food's Global Value Chain; Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Training and Symposium;

CTWG: Workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism with New Payment Systems;

EWG: Projects covering: Peer Reviews of Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies (New Zealand and Philippines); Energy Smart Communities; Clean Coal Technologies; Impediments to Financing Renewable Energy; Peer Review on Low Carbon Energy Policies (PRLCE); Solar PV Best Practices; Cybersecurity-Energy Nexus; Energy-Water Nexus; Low Carbon Model Town (LCMT); Peer Review on Energy Efficiency (PREE); Oil and Gas Security Initiative (OGSI);

HWG: Public risk communication and rumors surveillance: Building capacity in health hotline response to public health emergencies and emerging public health issues;

OFWG: Strengthen the role of sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in food security and related trade, including the promotion of inclusive growth strategies, and combating IUU fishing; implement the project - Preparedness, Response and Assessment of Oil Spills in the APEC Region, Phase I;

PPWE: agree on a set of defined indicators as indicated in the Women and the Economy Dashboard aligned to the 5 PPWE Pillars;

SMEWG: APEC Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Promoting SME Business Continuity Plans;

TELWG: will take steps to improve disaster preparedness, response and recovery thorough the development of ICTs and promotion of appropriate systems and technologies in coordination work with EPWG;

TPTWG: work to reduce marine pollution from ships operating in the APEC region by increasing economies' ability to effectively enforce the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships, including projects: Phase 1 of a project focused on the environmental performance and energy efficiency of supply chains.

Recommendations

It is recommended that SOM:

1. Note this report.

Summary Report - SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH

5 February 2014
Clark, Philippines

The First meeting of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) was held in Clark, Philippines 5 February 2014. It was attended by representatives of all 21 APEC economies, including Senior Officials from 14 economies, the APEC Secretariat Executive Director, ABAC, and 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, SOM Chair from the Philippines.

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

The SCE Chair welcomed all members to the first meeting of SCE in 2015. The agenda (2015/SOM1/SCE/001) was adopted.

Agenda Item 2: SCE 2015 Planning

3.1 SCE to consider the 2015 Workplan

The SCE 2015 Workplan (2015/SOM1/SCE/002) was adopted as presented.

The SCE Chair noted the proposed work in the plan to develop a capacity building policy. The Secretariat provided a summary of discussion at the SCE-COW on 4 February.

Economies made a range of initial comments on the need to reinforce the ECOTECH pillar so that APEC delivers effective capacity building with practical outcomes/outputs. Supporting comments cited the timeliness of the decision to develop this policy in consultation with BMC, CTI and EC; and stressed that it should aim at improving the real impact of capacity building on the vision, goals and objectives of APEC.

Discussion included the following points: the continuity of programs; concentrating efforts; making an impact on stakeholders ; giving a premium to train the trainer type of programs when ranking projects for approval; achieving and evaluating measurable results; focus on building job skills; the desirability of developing multiyear or continued training programs and to pursue peer reviews; the importance of prioritisation; the problem of depleting voluntary contributions, the need to provide projects with secure, predictable and sufficient funds; and the importance of the recipients of capacity building passing on their learning to institutions and other stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The SCE Chair noted that written comments were welcome to be sent to the Secretariat until the end of February. A draft document, reflecting the comments received, would be prepared for discussion at SCE2.

Agenda Item 3: Economic and Technical Cooperation Planning

3.1 SCE to discuss any matters arising from the SCE-COW meeting – if necessary

The United States reiterated their comment at the SCE-COW that the Travel Facilitation Initiative (TFI) was mandated until 2017, however the Steering Council mandate, granted by SCE to coordinate the TFI expired at the end of 2015. They requested that the Steering Council mandate be extended until the end of 2017 to align with the TFI. SCE agreed.

The United States also sought the nomination of new working group representatives to join the TFI from 2016, and requested that economies consider taking on the Coordinator role from 2016. Economies were encouraged to contact the US to discuss.

3.2 SCE to consider the Report of the APEC Secretariat Executive Director on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives and to discuss changing the timing of fora workplan submission

The Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat noted that, since 2010, the Secretariat had been asked to prepare a report for SCE1 on the alignment and quality of fora workplans. The report (2015/SOM1/SCE/003) noted that the quality of workplans had steadily improved compared to five years ago. He noted that fora were asked to specifically identify their capacity building activities and almost all fora had done so, however some references were very general and there needed to be greater focus on specific reporting in that area in future.

The Executive Director also noted that the agenda item mentioned discussing changing the timing of submission of fora workplans. This was due to concerns raised informally by some fora about the difficulty faced in preparing workplans in time for SCE-COW. He noted that there were limitations on what alternative timings could be used as workplans couldn't be commenced until after the leaders' meeting and should also take account of host priorities which are finalised at ISOM. On the morning of 4 February a meeting of fora chairs and lead shepherds discussed the timing of workplans. Fora representatives agreed that on balance the timing should remain unchanged but that SCE, through the Secretariat, should begin the process of requesting workplans earlier.

The Philippines expressed support for continuing efforts to encourage fora to align their workplans with host priorities. Australia noted that fora preparing quality workplans was more important than submitting them to SCE on time.

3.3 The meeting to note next steps on developing fora strategic plans

The SCE Chair noted that SCE was aiming to work with fora when they are reviewing or renewing their strategic plans to develop plans that are acceptable, especially with regard to identifying outcomes that are aligned with APEC goals supported by measurable outputs or KPIs. He introduced the paper "Next Steps in Developing Fora strategic Plans" (2015/SOM1/SCE/004). The paper noted that the fora strategic plans expire at different times over the next three years or so. The paper proposed the establishment of a review group to help manage engagement with fora. The group would comprise contact points in any economy that wished to join and would be expected to work intersessionally rather than in physical meetings and be coordinated by the Secretariat. As required a strategic planning expert would be sought to assist with the development of fora plans.

Periodically the Secretariat would update SCE on the activities of the review group and on the status and progress of developing revised strategic plans. Revised plans would continue to be submitted to the full SCE for consideration. SCE endorsed the paper.

3.4 SCE to consider amending the Fora Report template to reflect the ECOTECH Medium-term Priorities.

The SCE Chair noted that the Fora Report template had been amended (2015/SOM1/SCE/005) had been amended to take account of the revised ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities. SCE adopted the amended template.

Agenda Item 4: Independent Assessment of SCE Fora

4.1 SCE to note the progress report of the ongoing independent assessments of SMEWG; PPSTI; EPWG and OFWG

SCE noted the progress report (2015/SOM1/SCE/006).

Agenda Item 5: Fora Administration

The SCE Chair noted the request made by the PPWE at SCE-COW (2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/018) to hold two meetings each year, rather than the single meeting their Terms of Reference currently provided for. He noted that China had expressed some reservations about future hosts being committed to holding additional meetings. The United States suggested that holding two meetings each year would assist the PPWE to work more effectively.

The SCE Chair proposed that SCE agree that the PPWE would hold two meetings in 2015 and that they be allowed to amend their Terms of Reference to hold two meetings per year, if necessary. SCE agreed to the proposal.

Agenda Item 6: Other Business

6.1 2015 Sectoral Ministerial meetings – Philippines to brief the meeting on Sectoral Ministerial Meetings to be held in 2015.

The Philippines provided an update on the sectoral ministerial meetings planned for 2015:

- Ministerial meetings:
 - September: Structural Reform; Small and Medium Enterprises
 - October: Transport; Energy
- High Level Dialogues
 - May: Human Capacity Building
 - July: Science; Education
 - October: Food Security
- The Women and the Economy Summit would be held in September

- A high level meeting on health would be held in August
- The senior Disaster Management Officials Meeting would be held in September.

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

SCE accepted the document classification list (2015/SOM1/SCE/000).