



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2016/SOM1/GOS/003

Agenda Item: 5B-i

APEC Environmental Services Action Plan

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Japan



**57th Group on Services Meeting
Lima, Peru
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APEC Environmental Services Action Plan

1. Background

- Trade liberalization and facilitation as well as cooperation in environmental goods and services have been a matter of high-level attention in APEC. For example, Leaders in 2009 declared “A key thrust in APEC’s sustainable growth agenda is the APEC Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) Work Programme, under which we will develop and implement a set of concrete actions to support sustainable growth in the region, advance work to increase utilisation and dissemination of EGS, reduce existing barriers and refrain from introducing new barriers to trade and investment in EGS, and enhance capabilities of economies to develop their EGS sectors.”
- Leaders in 2010 declared “[w]e will increase the dissemination and utilization of environmental goods and services, reduce existing barriers and refrain from introducing new barriers to trade and investment in such goods and services, and enhance our capabilities to develop this sector, by prioritizing work related to addressing non-tariff measures on environmental goods, technology and services.” (The Yokohama Vision – Bogor and Beyond) Leaders further agreed to undertake actions to promote trade and investment in environmental goods and services as set out in Annex C of the Honolulu Declaration.
- In the Joint Statement of APEC Ministers in November 2014, the Ministers stated that they “welcome the endorsement of the initiative on liberalization, facilitation and cooperation of environmental services, and instruct officials to develop a plan of action by the next AMM in 2015.” (para. 27)
- Against such background, APEC economies agree to the Environmental Services Action Plan (ESAP)¹.

2. General Approach

- The ESAP takes the following two-track approach. First, a survey will be undertaken focusing on the services in CPC94. This survey is expected to provide APEC economies with necessary information to gain greater insights about efficient regulatory and trade promotion policies in environmental services.
- Second, APEC economies will continue to consider and study broader environmental industries/businesses with a view to building and enhancing a common understanding of the roles of services in these industries/businesses. This study is expected to contribute towards both the discussions on the scope of environmental services and identifying challenges relating to environmental businesses.

¹ It will be without prejudice to APEC economies' positions in the WTO negotiations.

3. Key Actions in 2016-2020

(Phase 1: 2016)

- Conduct a survey of regulatory and/or policy measures on services under CPC94² in APEC economies, possibly tasked to PSU, that could include elements such as measures affecting cross-border supply, measures governing commercial presence/ownership, measures relating to licensing, measures governing the movement of natural persons, preferential liberalization measures, and regulatory processes and implementations. Where possible, the results from the survey could feed into the STAR Database.
- Conduct a study or studies, which could also be tasked to PSU, to build and enhance a common understanding of the roles of a wider range of services in environmental industries/businesses (i.e. what types of services exist, how the services function and contribute to sustainable development and green growth, and what challenges are latent in environmental industries/businesses market, such as water business, recycling business, energy efficiency and renewable energy business).

(Phase 2: 2017)

- Review the progress of Phase 1, identify key challenges, and compile a set of recommended action agendas to address key challenges to contribute towards promoting trade liberalization and facilitation as well as cooperation in environmental services. The scope of the environmental services in Phase 2 will be discussed based on the review of the progress of Phase 1 as a reference.

(Phase 3: 2018 - 2020)

- Collect and share good practices from actual cases which relates to the recommended actions as a means to promote liberalization and facilitations as well as cooperation in this area. It could be pursued in collaboration with PPDs under APEC Services Cooperation Framework and the PPEGS.
- Final review of the implementation of the action plan; review the progress in Phase 1 and 2, summarize the whole initiatives, and consider the way forward as necessary by the end of 2020.

4. Living Document

- Considering the results of the Survey and Study by PSU, the ESAP could be updated as necessary. CTI supported by GOS will review the progress of this implementation.

² Items classified under CPC94 are explained in PROVISIONAL CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (STATISTICAL PAPERS), Series M, No, 77, Part Three EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE SERVICES LISTED IN CPC.