



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2016/SOM1/CTI/048**

Agenda Item: 9

## **SCSC Convenor's Summary Report to CTI**

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: SCSC Chair



**First Committee on Trade and Investment Meeting  
Lima, Peru  
28-29 February 2016**

## OAA ISSUE AREA:

### SCSC CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI

The Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance held its first meeting for 2016 at Westin Lima Hotel in Lima, Peru on 21-22 February 2016, following the working group meeting of SCSC -Specialist Regional Bodies(SRBs) meeting on 20 Feb. The SCSC meeting was attended by delegates from 17 Member Economies, 4 SRBs members and one guest (Dr Jun Wei WANG, the project overseer of IOV Project Phase 3).

#### 1. **PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR 2016 IN RESPONSE TO 2016 APEC PRIORITIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO APEC LEADERS/ MINISTERS/SOM DECISIONS OF 2015:**

##### A) **SUPPORT THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM**

- SCSC's Collective Action Plan (CAP) for 2016 in Trade Facilitation was renewed with streamlined and recent activities. The updated reports on implementation of the SCSC CAP 2016 will be submitted to APEC Secretariat for SCSC2/2016 meeting.
- The SCSC work supports the implementation of the WTO Agreements on Trade Facilitation (TFA), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). A number of initiatives are being undertaken and proposed to be pursued in SCSC particularly, in the areas of transparency, alignment of standards and conformity assessment systems, and good regulatory practice through capacity building, cross-fora cooperation, and promotion activities.
- The meeting received some updates on the latest developments under the WTO's TBT and SPS Agreement, such as the Meeting of the WTO SPS Committee which was held on 14-16 October 2015 in Geneva.
- SCSC Terms of Reference (TOR) was finalized and endorsed on intersessional in November 2015, and would be a good guide for the future actions of SCSC.

##### B) **ADVANCING REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

###### MSMEs Internationalization

- SCSC continues promoting the preparation of studies, publications and guides that facilitate the MSME to know and learn the benefits of Standardization, Accreditation and Metrology
- The Philippines proposed for APEC to adopt a reporting mechanism for the implementation of the Boracay Action Agenda which includes a reporting template for committees working group and sub-fora, it also shared the status of data information of the APEC TR and website usage and the SCSC work plan in support of SCSC-SMEWG collaboration.

###### Alignment with International Standards and Active Participation in International Standardization

- SCSC continues promoting the expansion and access to Agreements of mutual, regional and global Recognition of all the APEC economies.
- SCSC continues with the Voluntary Action Plan (VAP) Alignment Work led by Japan.

**C) STRENGTHENING COMPREHENSIVE CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

Technical Infrastructure Development

- SCSC members continue to share information on the progress of their technical infrastructures development.
- SCSC continues developing public and private capacities in matters of technical Infrastructure
- Peru updated on technical Infrastructure Development – Peru’s National Institute of Quality (INACAL) and General Direction of Environmental Health (DIGESA); INACAL explained on its short and medium term actions in alignment with APEC, CTI and SCSC priorities such as creating opportunities for alliances and agreements that promote internationalization of SMEs through the Peruvian Standard - Management System for MSME (pilot program for implementation in 20 enterprises in charge of INACAL), and promoting educational infrastructure aiming to reduce or bridge remaining gaps.

Pathfinder Initiatives

- The Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee (JRAC) Chair for 2016 will be taken by Korea and will consider holding JRAC Seminar in 2016 on the occasion of SCSC2.

**D) EXPANDING REGULATORY COOPERATION AND ADVANCING REGULATORY CONVERGENCE**

Standards and Conformance

SCSC Chair outlined the SCSC priorities for 2016 as follows:

- Develop and promote the Standards and Conformance Infrastructure to support the innovation process that facilitates the transfer of technology and interoperability of products, services and systems.
- Building capacities and competences of “Health Quality Assurance”.
- Encourage and strengthen a quality culture in the APEC region through the Exchange of educational experiences that motivate the themes of quality infrastructure, including learning and material resources of standards and conformance.
- Supporting MSMEs Trade Facilitation through the promotion of the use of Standards, Conformance assessment, accreditation and Metrology that promotes its competitiveness.
- Assure the effective coordination between SCSC and forums related to Food Safety.

Good Regulatory Practice

- SCSC received highlights from The Philippines on the 8th Conference on Good Regulatory Practice (GRP). Highlights included the key issues and recommended actions on: (1) Single online location for regulatory information; (2) Periodic Review and Prospective Regulatory Planning; (3) Capacity Building on GRP; (4) Best Practices; and (5) Challenges faced by MSMEs for Inclusive Growth. The Completion Report will be published in March 2016.
- SCSC received updates from the United States on its self-funded project “Baseline Study of Good Regulatory Practices in APEC Member Economies” (2011). So far, 14 survey submissions have been received and it is expected to receive the remaining surveys in the near term in order to have a full report ready for SOM3, 2016.

#### Food Safety

- SCSC continues working to assure the effective communication among SCSC and the food safety Fora.
- SCSC received reports from Chile, the Philippines, the United States and Viet Nam reported on respective projects on food safety and related regulations. The meeting acknowledged the significance of the issue on SCSC. Next meeting of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) has not been discussed yet.

#### Others

- Potential PPSTI project, Internet of Vehicles — IOV Project Phase 3, was presented.

### **E) PROMOTING INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC REFORM, QUALITY GROWTH; CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES**

#### Human Capital Development

- SCSC reinforces and continues with the exchange of experiences and the systematization of successful cases, in the APEC Region, of themes inclusion of quality infrastructure in education.
- Korea explained the methodology and its experiences related to Standards Olympiad and invited members to attend 11th International Standards Olympiad directed to middle and high school students.
- The United States updated participants on its programs on Standards and Conformity Assessment Education held by NIST directed to university undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Singapore also shared its five year education plan, which includes amongst others working with institutes of higher learnings and other standards partners on standards competitions, learning journeys, curriculum and practicum.
- Peru reported that it is on implementation process of the Quality National School which aims to strengthen capacity buildings on quality matters.

### **2. ACTIVITIES WITH ABAC (INCLUDING RESPONSES TO ABAC'S 2015 RECOMMENDATIONS) AND/OR OTHER EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS: INTERACTION WITH BUSINESS**

#### Wine Regulatory Forum (WRF)

- The United States reported on the November 2015 meeting of the Wine Regulatory Forum and the APEC model wine certificate. The members agreed to work on intersessional for the endorsement of the model wine certificate through a draft document that explains what endorsement entails that would be endorsed by CTI not later than SOM 2 in 2016 and ideally announced at the MRT 2016.

#### Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs)

- SCSC received report from the SRB Forum Chair on the activities and future plans of four SRBs, i.e. APLAC, APLMF, APMP and PASC. SRB Forum Chair reiterated the request for member economies to collaborate with SRBs in the development of their projects.

### **3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES FOR 2016**

- A) Endorsement of CAP 2016.
- B) Active continuation of the WTO TBT and SPS Committees.
- C) Active continuation of Voluntary Action Plan (VAP) Alignment Work.

- D) Endorsement of the APEC model wine certificate.
- E) JRAC meeting 2016.
- F) Exchange of Educational experiences and good practices of standards and conformance infrastructure to learn in the APEC region.
- G) Identify the inoperability challenges of products, services and/or systems among the APEC economies based on technical Infrastructure Themes.
- H) Expected outcomes/deliverables of the ongoing projects:
  - Capacity-Building on Enhancement of Total Environmental Efficiency through MFCA, ISO 14051;
  - A database for enhancement of material and energy efficiency;
  - A survey on the initiatives that economies could apply to help MSMEs better understand the benefits of standards & conformance,
  - A publication with APEC recommendations on Best initiatives that economies could apply to help MSMEs better understand the benefits of standards & conformance,
  - A conference that will allow to establish relationship between standards and innovation used in APEC economies (11<sup>th</sup> conference on standards and conformity).
  - Share the results of a metrics assessment on Energy Efficiency of the Commercial Building Sector.
- I) SCSC will present at least 5 concept notes related to 2016 priorities to Session 1 of the approval project process.  
 The prioritized themes are: food safety, measurements and verification standards of energy saving; reference materials, organic products; medical devices verification and validation; Inter-laboratory comparisons with organizations and laboratories conformity assessment; quality control tools.  
 \*Please also refer to the List of Expected TILF Deliverables for 2016.

#### 4. **DECISION POINTS NEEDED FROM CTI**

- Endorse the SCSC Convener's Summary Report.