



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2016/SOM1/CTI/052**

Agenda Item: 11

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

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: CD Chair



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

**OAA ISSUE AREA:**

**CHEMICAL DIALOGUE CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI**

The Chemical Dialogue (“CD”) serves as a forum for regulatory and policy officials and industry representatives to discuss and identify solutions to challenges facing the industry and downstream users throughout the Asia-Pacific region. APEC economies account for approximately 60 percent of global chemical trade, providing the CD with an important precedential role worldwide. The CD’s primary goals are articulated in its 2014-2016 Strategic Framework. Work has begun on extending this framework for 2017-2019. Currently, the Strategic Framework, and thus the CD’s work, is organized around three Shared Goals, which are:

- (1) Expand and support cooperation and mutual recognition among chemical regulators in the region to facilitate trade;
- (2) Enhance understanding of the chemical industry’s role as an innovative solutions industry; and
- (3) Encourage chemical product stewardship, safe use and sustainability.

Government and industry representatives from 15 APEC economies, as well as invited guests from Brazil, convened for the CD’s Sixteenth Meeting (“CD16”) in Lima, Peru on February 22-23, 2016. On February 22, the industry met for the Industry Pre-Meeting (“IPM”). That was followed by a full day meeting of the Chemical Dialogue plenary session on February 23, 2016. The CD is planning its next meeting at SOM3 in August 2016 in Lima, Peru.

**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**
- B) ADVANCING REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**
  - Achieving the Bogor Goals
  - Exploring an FTAAP
  - Global Value Chain Cooperation
  - MSMEs Internationalization
  - Next Generation Trade and Investment Issues
  - Environmental Goods and Services (EGS)/Green Growth
  - Services
  - Investment

The CD:

- Thanked Chinese Taipei for its continued maintenance of the G.R.E.A.T. website, designed as an information sharing resource on GHS requirements across the region to promote regional economic integration; and
- Endorsed the recommended changes proposed in the Updated on G.R.E.A.T. Project (2016/SOM1/CD/012), including to: establish a new translation function from EU Risk phrase to GHS Hazard statement; add a new page for the progress of UN GHS harmonized classification;

revise the G.R.E.A.T. website to align with APEC website guidelines (Sept. 13); and encourage economies to provide updates and GHS labeling elements in different languages.

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

- Implementation of the Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework and Action Plan (SCFAP)
- New Initiative/Target for Supply Chain Connectivity/Trade Facilitation (Post-SCFAP)
- Contributions to the implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025; APEC Multi-year Plan on Infrastructure Development and Investment; and APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative

The CD:

- Agreed to consider ways to provide input to the work of the CTI on supply chain, including to the CTI's development of a post-Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan ("SCFAP") process, its measurement of supply chain performance, and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- Agreed to provide comments on a new proposal related to self-certification for chemical imports (2016/SOM1/CD/021) by April 15, 2015 and to initiate outreach and potential collaboration with the APEC Subcommittee on Customs Procedures ("SCCP") and Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance ("SCSC") if endorsed;
- Welcomed the update from Japan (2016/SOM1/CD/013) on the chemSHERPA program to share information along the supply chain;
- Requested that economies consider how the CD could learn from and scale up the chemSHERPA program on information sharing to further contribute to APEC priorities on supply chain and to address the growing international challenge of information sharing while preserving confidential business information; and
- Welcomed Chile's presentation (2016/SOM1/CD/023) on a potential platform to promote chemical information exchange and encouraged Chile to circulate a written concept note as early as possible, and to consider collaborating with other economies to leverage existing data exchange projects to the extent existing resources can be helpful.

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

- Standards and Conformance
- Good Regulatory Practice
- Food Safety
- Cooperation with the Economic Committee, Services and Regulatory Reform
- New Regulatory Issues, etc.

At CD16, the CD continued its focus on regulatory cooperation on chemicals management. During Peru's last host year in 2008, the CD endorsed the Best Practice Principles in Chemical Regulation ("Best Practice Principles"). Since 2008, the CD has been focused on promoting implementation of the Best Practice Principles, most recently through a 2014 Workshop on Regulatory Cooperation in Chemicals Regulation and a follow-up 2015 Seminar on Good Regulatory Practices in Chemical Regulation. To carry this work forward, at SOM1, the CD:

- Endorsed the Best Practice Principles Checklist (2016/SOM1/CD/008). The Checklist was drafted as a tool for industry and governments to aid in implementation of the Best Practice Principles. It provides regulators with a series of questions to consider when implementing or revising chemical regulation to ensure the Best Practice Principles are being considered;
- Endorsed the Progress Report on Advancing Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence for Chemicals Management (2016/SOM1/CD/007) from the Virtual Working Group on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence which included the 2016 Work Plan of the VWG;
- Welcomed a revised Concept Note: Sharing Best Practices in Chemicals Regulation (2016/SOM1/CD/009) from the Philippines and agreed to seek endorsement of the concept note for submission in the second funding cycle of 2016;
- Welcomed the report on the Risk Assessment of Metals workshop held on August 28-29, 2015 and agreed to circulate within each economy the invitation to follow-up webinars in March and April to be hosted by Australia, as the Project Overseer;
- Welcomed the update of the Regulators' Forum on its implementation of its 2016-2017 Action Plan and encouraged economies to actively participate in the Regulators' Forum work intersessionally in advance of the Regulators' Forum meeting at SOM3 and provide input into the agenda when circulated;
- Welcomed a proposal from Mexico regarding a potential workshop to promote capacity building on GHS implementation and agreed to seek endorsement of the proposal for submission during the first funding cycle in 2016;
- Noted the time frame related to GHS reporting to Trade Ministers reflected in 2016/SOM1/CD/010; and
- Endorsed recommendations related to revising its GHS reporting template and Smart Form to address comments raised in response to a survey circulated post-SOM3 (recommendations contained in 2016/SOM1/CD/010).

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

- Digital Economy
- IPR
- Food Security,
- Human Capital Development

The CD, as its contribution to APEC’s cross-cutting initiative on ocean-related issues:

- Endorsed, intersessionally, and in collaboration with the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (“OFWG”), a self-funded project proposal from the United States and cosponsored by Japan, related to scaling up lessons learned from beta sites to promote solid waste management to prevent marine debris;
- Received a report from the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris regarding the ongoing implementation of the project proposal and encouraged interested APEC economies to identify willingness to cosponsor the proposal; and
- Noted the intention of the VWG to circulate a draft concept note for potential intersessional endorsement of a self-funded workshop on barriers to financing of waste management infrastructure to be potentially held in July in Asia.

The CD also:

- Agreed to begin considering work on sustainable chemistry and requested that economies interested in further work in this area to identify themselves to the Secretariat; and
- Agreed to provide comments on the Thought Starter on Sustainable Chemistry (2016/SOM1/CD/022) directly to the United States industry through the Secretariat.

### **3. ACTIVITIES WITH ABAC (INCLUDING RESPONSES TO ABAC’S 2015 RECOMMENDATIONS) AND/OR OTHER EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS**

In 2016, the CD has carried forward its efforts to partner with stakeholders both within, and outside, APEC, to meet its Shared Goals and to better contribute to APEC’s objectives. Specifically, the CD:

- Agreed to pursue a potential contribution to the Economic Committee’s Good Regulatory Practices (“GRP”) workshop at SOM3 regarding sectoral implementation of GRP and to carry forward its collaboration from 2015;
- Continued the work of the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris in collaboration with the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (“OFWG”) which has contributed to, and helped carry forward, the work of the SOM Friends of the Chair Initiative on Urbanization;
- Provided a “regional” contribution to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management’s (“SAICM”) fourth International

Conference on Chemicals Management (“ICCM4”) held from September 28-October 2, 2015; and

- Noted the update provided by the Russian Federation on the Virtual Working Group on GHS Data Exchange, encouraged economies interested in participating in the UN Subcommittee on GHS’s pilot projects to provide input through their UNSCEGHS representatives, and agreed that interested economies should identify interest in participating in the VWG’s work to the Russian Federation, including potential action items for the VWG to pursue in its work plan.

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

The CD is expecting to produce the following deliverables in 2016:

- Endorse a 2017-2019 Strategic Framework with revised Shared Goals to ensure the Shared Goals are tailored to the CD’s current and potential future work;
- Endorse the Best Practice Principles Checklist to promote further implementation of the CD’s Best Practice Principles;
- Submit a revised and streamlined annual report on the GHS implementation status in APEC member economies to the Ministers Responsible for Trade;
- Implement the Regulators’ Forum 2016-2017 Action Plan;
- Host a workshop on GHS capacity building on the margins of SOM3;
- Endorse a capacity building project for training of chemical regulators on the implementation of best practice principles in chemical regulation;
- Submit a report to the APEC Ministers Meeting on the efforts undertaken to address the divergences in GHS implementation across APEC at the request of the AMM;
- Implement the approved project related to scaling up lessons learned from beta sites to promote solid waste management to prevent marine debris; and
- Host a workshop relating to identifying and overcoming barriers to financing of sustainable solid waste management infrastructure.

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

The CD requests that the CTI:

- Welcome the CD’s Convener’s Report; and
- Endorse the CD’s Best Practice Principles Checklist (2016/SOM1/CD/008).