



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

---

**2017/SOM1/SCE-COW/013**

Agenda Item: 7

## **Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group Proposed Workplan for 2017**

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: ACTWG Chair



**SOM Steering Committee on Economic and  
Technical Cooperation - Committee of the Whole  
Meeting  
Nha Trang, Viet Nam  
28 February 2017**

## **Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group's Proposed Workplan for 2017**

### Introduction

In light of the initiatives launched by previous chairs, the Anti-Corruption and Transparency (ACT) Working Group wish to continue to promote and strengthen the implementation of existing APEC commitments, including the UN Convention against Corruption and other related international standards and commitments.

ACT will be guided by our commitments in the 'Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption', 'APEC Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency'; 'APEC Code of Conduct for Business'; the 'APEC Principles on the Prevention of Bribery and Enforcement of Anti-bribery Laws' and the 'General Elements of Effective Voluntary Corporate Compliance Programs'.

"Creating new dynamism, fostering a shared future" is the theme for this 2017. The priorities during the Vietnam's year as Chair will focus on:

1. Promoting Sustainable, Innovative and Inclusive Growth
2. Deepening regional economic integration
3. Strengthening MSMEs Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age
4. Enhancing Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Response to Climate Changes

ACT will develop its 2017 work plan according to these priorities, contributing to fostering economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, primary goal of the APEC forum.

### 1. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2017.

- To host a workshop on 'Promoting social engagement in fighting corruption' in partnership with the UNODC (SOM 1) in Khanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam
- To host a workshop on 'Enhancing Whistleblower protection in corruption cases' (PNG and Chinese Taipei) (July 2017), Taipei.
- To host a workshop on 'Enhancing cooperation among law enforcement agencies for effective asset recovery' (SOM 3) in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
- To host a workshop on APEC ACT Pathfinder Dialogue IV on 'Combating Corruption and Illicit Trade' (USA and Vietnam) (SOM3) in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
- To promote and foster collective efforts in the fight against corruption with other international organizations including the ones mentioned above.
- To host the 4<sup>th</sup> ACT NET Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.
- To host the ACT-NET Training Workshop on Asset Recovery.

## **Collaboration with international organizations**

The ACT will continue to enhance collaboration with international organizations in the fight against corruption. The ACT would like to invite the following regional and international organizations, which are interested in fighting corruption, to participate as observers in ACT's meetings and workshops.

- American Bar Association (ABA)
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- The World Bank
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)
- Transparency International (TI)
- INTERPOL
- Asian Development Bank – Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
- APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)
- ASEAN Corporate Social Responsibility Network

## 2. Itemized Work Plans for 2017

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<p><b>APEC Workshop on Enhancing Whistleblower Protection in Corruption Cases (ACTWG 01 2016)</b></p>	<p>Combatting corruption must be a concerted effort in order for corrupt officials and other perpetrators to be held accountable and punished for their illegal actions. Not only does it require a whole-of-government approach, but also cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the community at large. In order for members of the public, public servants and the private sector to assist law enforcement agencies to combat corruption, governments through their legislators and law enforcement agencies must afford persons who are willing to share information, some degree of protection and safety. Whistle-blower protection is vital to the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.</p> <p>Most APEC economies have existing mechanisms for whistle-blower protection, and therefore have experiences and practices that can add value to APEC and domestic corruption efforts if shared. Papua New Guinea and Chinese Taipei propose to hold a workshop on enhancing whistleblower protection in corruption cases this July. This workshop aims to bring together experts (legislators, law enforcement officers, policy makers) to share these experiences and best practices on how whistle-blower protection can be afforded, more so, how it can best work in practice. The project also aims to build capacity of those involved in legislating and enforcing whistle-blower protection.</p>	<p>2015 APEC Leaders' Declaration recognized that corruption impeded economic development and called for promoting cultures of integrity. Moreover, Leaders supported international cooperation to prevent corruption in APEC.</p> <p>ACT Multi-year Strategic Planning 2013-2017</p>	<p>ECOTECH Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Economic Integration</li> <li>- Structural Reform</li> <li>- Human Security</li> </ul> <p>Contributes to all of them by the efforts of ensuring integrity of processes, good governance and transparency in systems within APEC member economies.</p>	<p>ABAC's relevant participants and ACTWG's external stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Workshop on Promoting Social Engagement in Fighting Corruption (Self-funded)</b></p>	<p>Corruption undermines development by distorting the rule of law and weakening the institutional foundation on which economic growth depends. The harmful effects of corruption are especially severe on the world's poorest, who are most reliant on the provision of public services, and are least capable of paying the extra costs associated with fraud and corruption. The real challenges in the struggle against corruption reach into all sectors of society. The UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) calls on governments to increase transparency, improve public access to information, and to promote public contribution to government decision-making processes.</p> <p>To contribute to address this issue, the ACT, in collaboration with the UNODC, will organize a workshop on 'Promoting social engagement in fighting corruption' in Nha Trang City in February 2017. The workshop will focus its deliberations on measures to promote the roles of enterprises, social organizations and the citizens in</p>	<p>2016 APEC Leaders' Declaration encouraged all economies to implement critical anti-corruption actions, with a specific focus on bribery of domestic and foreign public officials, and with the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>2016 AMM highlighted the importance of best practices shared on the implementation of anti-corruption and anti-bribery compliance programs designed to prevent and detect bribery, considering</p>	<p>ECOTECH Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Security</li> <li>- Sustainable Growth</li> </ul>	<p>ABAC's relevant participants and ACTWG's external stakeholders.</p>

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
	<p>monitoring, detecting and handling corruption; roles of the media, especially of investigative journalism and responsibility of the State in fostering social engagement in the fight against corruption. Presentations delivered by international experts will highlight roles of all stakeholders, existing barriers, regional good practices, and suggest recommendations for further actions.</p> <p>It is expected that the discussions, findings and recommendations of the workshop will be the core and essential inputs for developing an ACT paper of principle on ensuring effective and safe participation of the business and the people in anti-corruption.</p>	incentives by member economies to encourage businesses to establish effective voluntary anti-corruption programs		
<b>Pathfinder Dialogue IV on ‘Combating Corruption and Illicit Trade’ (Self-funded)</b>	<p>Following previous agreements and drawing upon the successes of past editions of APEC Pathfinder Dialogues, the APEC ACT wishes to continue this work in partnership with EGILAT, MTF, and other appropriate APEC subfora. We expect to organize a workshop in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in August 2017 to further enable anti-corruption authorities, law and justice officials, and civil society to work together to fight corruption and illicit trade – wildlife trafficking -- and also support to legitimate trade and economic growth through anti-bribery initiatives.</p>	<p>2016 AMM highlighted the importance of best practices shared on the implementation of anti-corruption and anti-bribery compliance programs designed to prevent and detect bribery, considering incentives by member economies to encourage businesses to establish effective voluntary anti-corruption programs and support for our pathfinder dialogues on fighting corruption and illicit trade. Focus of PFIV will be on combating corruption and WLT; explore 2d day ACT-EGILAT meeting on combating corruption and illegal logging.</p>	<p>ECOTECH Priorities:  - Human Security</p>	<p>APEC’s Cross Cutting Issue on ‘Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change’.</p> <p>APEC’s following Sub-fora: - EGILAT - SCCP - MTF - OFWG</p> <p>ABAC’s relevant participants and ACTWG’s external stakeholders.</p>

<p><b>Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation among Law Enforcement Agencies for Effective Asset Recovery (Self-funded)</b></p>	<p>Several countries, especially economically deprived nations, have endured the brunt of systemic corruption as their public wealth illegally stolen by public officials flowed into bank accounts and properties in developed countries and offshore financial centres. By taking advantage of differences in legal systems, the high costs in coordinating investigations, lack of international cooperation, and bank secrecy in some recipient countries, corrupt officials have been able to preserve much of their stolen assets overseas. Successful conviction of criminals and/or confiscation of their assets creates a strong deterrent for potential corrupt officials that there is no safe haven for stolen assets.</p> <p>Additionally, asset recovery was recognized as a fundamental principle of the UNCAC. The signing and ratification of the UNCAC by over 180 countries is seen as a major step in furthering cooperation between countries to join forces to fight corruption and assist each other in recovering stolen assets. Legal precedents, increasing international cooperation, as well as enhanced capacities make asset recovery more possible now than ever.</p> <p>In that context, the ACT will organize a workshop on 'Enhancing cooperation among law enforcement agencies for effective asset recovery'. This workshop mainly aims to discuss 2 major issues: (1) cooperation among anti-corruption authorities of member economies; and (2) collaboration efforts among domestic anti-corruption bodies. Discussion sessions of the workshop will help draw an overall picture of regional cooperation among anti-corruption authorities for effective asset recovery – legal framework and practice, barriers, national and international experiences, recommendations for further actions. The ACT invites all member economies and other relevant organizations to be actively involved in the workshop that will take place in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in August, 2017.</p> <p>It is expected that the discussions, findings and recommendations of the workshop will be the core and essential inputs for developing an ACT paper on enhancing international and domestic cooperation among anti-corruption law enforcement agencies for the effective asset recovery.</p>	<p>2016 APEC Leaders' Declaration encouraged all economies to implement critical anti-corruption actions, with a specific focus on bribery of domestic and foreign public officials, and with the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including through the APEC Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET).</p>	<p>ECOTECH Priorities: - Human Security</p>	<p>ACTWG's external stakeholders.</p>
---	--	--	---	---------------------------------------

<p><b>ACT-NET Training Workshop on Asset Recovery</b></p>	<p>Recognizing the threat of transnational corruption to international economic growth, social development and financial stability, the APEC leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to deny safe havens for corrupt officials and their proceeds of corruption. They are also committed to further strengthen the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET) and drawing on the experiences of law enforcement by sharing best practices, and promoting cross-border cooperation.</p> <p>Achievements have been made in all these aspects among the APEC and the efforts have also been applauded and recognized by the international community. In order to further translate our leaders agreement into concrete action, China and Indonesia propose to hold a Training Workshop on Asset Recovery under the APEC ACT-NET in the second half of this year in Bali, with a view to enhance capacity building among anti-corruption authorities and law enforcement agencies in the Asia-Pacific region regarding anti-money laundering and asset recovery.</p> <p>This training workshop, by taking a practical perspective, aims to discuss problems and address challenges in asset recovery practice. It will provide a comprehensive overview on approaches and tools in asset recovery, and, most importantly, on how law enforcement officials can effectively use formal and informal means in obtaining assistance in asset recovery process. This project is also designed to improve skills of investigators and prosecutors, such as, registering restraint order overseas, drafting MLA request, collecting and providing electronic evidence, tracing illegal money flows, and managing confiscated asset from corruption cases.</p>	<p>2016 APEC Leaders' Declaration encouraged all economies to implement critical anti-corruption actions, with the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including through the APEC Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET).</p> <p>2016 AMM reiterated the commitment to further strengthen the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET) and drawing on the experiences of law enforcement by sharing best practices, and promoting cross-border cooperation, both formal and informal, to investigate and prosecute corruption and bribery cases.</p>	<p>ECOTECH Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human Security</li> <li>- Sustainable Growth</li> </ul>	<p>ACTWG's external stakeholders.</p>
---	--	--	---	---------------------------------------