

Minutes as of 8 Dec 2017

**APEC/SCSC 22nd JOINT REGULATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ELECTRICAL AND
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (JRAC) MEETING**

9am – 5pm, 20 August 2017

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam (at Rex Sunflower)

1. Opening and Welcome by JRAC Chair 2017

1.1 The JRAC Chairman Mr. Mohd Elmi Bin Anas presented the opening speech outlining the arrangements for the meeting and welcomed the economies to the meeting, and thanked Program Director (PD) of the APEC Secretariat for his assistance.

1.2 The SCSC Chair on behalf of the Host economy, welcomed the members to Viet Nam and to the JRAC meeting. He thanked the APEC Secretariat, and thanked the members and the IEC representative for their attendance and participation in the meeting. He noted that the JRAC is a pathfinder activity delivering a contribution to the economy and wished the participants well in their time in Viet Nam.

2. Self-introduction by attending members

2.1 Members attending the meeting introduced themselves and the organisations that they represent:

- Chile
- Hong Kong, China
- Japan
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Russia
- Chinese Taipei (including APLAC representation)
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

3. Endorsement of the draft agenda

3.1 The draft agenda was agreed and adopted noting a change to the outgoing chair being from Korea. ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/001](#))

4. Confirmation of JRAC Membership

- Malaysia – JRAC CHAIR 2017
- New Zealand – JRAC SECRETARY 2017
- Australia
- Brunei Darussalam
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Hong Kong, China
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Korea
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- The Philippines

- Russia
- Singapore
- Chinese Taipei
- Thailand
- Viet Nam
- IEC (Three years guest for SCSC 2017-2019)

5. Adoption of the minutes of the 21st JRAC Meeting by JRAC Chair

5.1 The minutes were confirmed and endorsed. ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/002](#))

5.2 Updates on SCSC Priorities 2017 by SCSC Chair ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/003](#))

5.3 The major updates of SCSC in 2017 and APEC Governance Reform including revision of TILF Pathfinder Initiatives by APEC Secretariat ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/004](#))

5.4 The SCSC Chair discussed the status of the JRAC:

The JRAC does not have to have a full 21 members. Currently the JRAC has 19 members, 18 of which have active membership, although fewer regularly attend meetings.

The IEC participation has been agreed for a period of three years in the beginning of 2017.

New Zealand commented that the JRAC, if operating as intended Terms of Reference (TOR) could be an effective way to exchange information between members and that we should encourage all the members to participate and that members confirm their attendance prior to the meetings and at SCSC meetings.

The JRAC Chair noted that budget restrictions affected attendance and that there may be an opportunity to coordinate meetings with the ASEAN committee.

The JRAC member agreed that the JRAC should consider to explore a two day meeting for the 2018 year with a possible joint workshop with the ASEAN Regulators.

5.5 PD commented that:

The institutional memory of the JRAC is important.

The JRAC is a pathfinder activity and has two mandates one of which to maintain a Regulatory dialogue.

The CTI is reviewing the guidelines for pathfinder activities.

The CTI guidelines under which the JRAC operates have a sunset clause which sets a term of 4 years.

This means that the TOR must be reviewed and the JRAC needs to consider its ongoing role to remain relevant.

5.6 Economy Updates

Members update MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT ON CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT using Information Interchange Format (APEC EEMRA Information Interchange Format PART1) ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/019](#)).

Chile ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/005](#)), Hong Kong, China

([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/006](#)), Malaysia ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/007](#)), Philippines

([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/016](#)), Chinese Taipei ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/009](#)) and Thailand ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/010](#)) submitted the updates prior to the meeting.

- Chile gave a brief introduction to their regulatory system and suggested that economies should share their risk models.
- Malaysia highlighted that its regulations need to be amended in order to be in line with ASEAN harmonised system/AHEER.
- New Zealand described their paper, explaining that they operate a three level regime based on risk assessments provided by a “Risk Engine”. ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/008](#))
- New Zealand agreed to facilitate an exchange of information on the risk models employed by the economies.

5.7 The Chair to take stock of the progress in implementing the EE MRA (update status participation in Part I, II and III)

- The chair reported that there have been no further changes to participation in the EEEMRA.
- In response to a question from New Zealand, the member economies present advised that participation was not a function of the MRA itself, and that changes to the EEEMRA would not alter participation.
- The JRAC Secretary commented on the lack of increased participation and enquired if members would like the EEEMRA to be reviewed or be expanded to cover increased cooperation.

Members agreed that this should be a subject for future workshop session.

5.8 APEC JRAC Benchmarking (*Members submitted the Benchmarking updates prior to the meeting and PD collated them into one table.). ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/011](#))

- The chair noted that some information was missing from the database and urged economies to complete the benchmarking information.
- Chile expressed an interest in member economies exchanging information on risk assessment systems.

Action point on Chile to initiate this.

6. Presentations and discussions led by New Zealand:

6.1 Proposed JRAC study program for the 2018 year

- New Zealand spoke to their paper proposing a project exploring high risk products ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/012](#))
- New Zealand explained it would be a self-funded project.

The proposal was discussed.

- Member economies suggested providing some examples of the risk factors

New Zealand agreed to modify the table to provide examples for filling in the table

- There were no objections to the proposal proceeding the JRAC endorsed the application to be prepared and circulated.
- Chile supported the proposal and added that they have consumer group that has an evaluation process. Chile noted that it will need to circulate the proposal to other agencies in their economy.
- PD explained that the procedure would require a proposal to be forwarded to all JRAC members then the SCSC members for endorsement. The Project Overseer (PO) would have to identify in the Proposal if the proposal would be for a one off or ongoing project.
- New Zealand undertook to follow the procedure and submit a proposal to the APEC Secretariat (PD) who would then circulate it to JRAC and SCSC intersessionally.
- It was agreed that initially the proposal would be submitted as a one off proposal.

6.2 Gender Equality in Standardisation – Report on activities in APEC and UNECE ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/013](#))

- New Zealand spoke to their paper on gender bias in standardisation and tabled a synopsis of a related APEC project. The paper was discussed between the economies present.
- Malaysia informed that all electrical accidents reported to the Malaysian Energy Commission will be investigated and analysed and would like to share this information with JRAC members in future.
- The IEC representative spoke to the issue of participation noting IEC interest in gender issues and advised that gender champions were being established to improve input from females into the Standards process and that this issue will be addressed in all IEC meetings.

6.3 Consideration of the risks to children occurring from LiPo battery powered equipment

- A paper on the safety of Children's toys using LiPo batteries was tabled by New Zealand ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/014](#))
- The meeting agreed to bring information on child safety to the next meeting for further discussion.
- Viet Nam noted that they are also concerned about child safety and are revising their Regulations.
- Chinese Taipei noted concern about battery powered toys and support the need for further work on this safety area.
- The IEC representative advised that the IEC 62133.2 Standard had been revised.
- Member economies agreed to bring information on incidents involving children's toys to the next JRAC meeting.

7. Follow-up actions from the previous meeting of APEC JRAC

7.1 Updating for SCSC representatives and contact information of members

- PD reminded the JRAC members to keep the membership updated through the APEC secretariat (PD).

7.2 Consideration on providing/introducing a pilot programme

- See items 6 and 7.4.

7.3 Consideration on the tenure of Chairmanship/Secretary

- The Chair introduced a proposal that the term of chair of the JRAC be extended from one to two years and to assign the responsibility for the JRAC Secretary for each meeting to the economy hosting the APEC meeting (i.e. PNG in 2018).
- PD noted that this would require an amendment to the TOR for the JRAC (specifically 3.4) and noted that copies of the TOR had been provided with the meeting papers. If supported this would require approval by the SCSC.
- New Zealand supported both changes and agreed to provide chairmanship for the next two years, noting that this would allow project work to be continued between meetings.
- JRAC Chair supported the proposal and noted that this would assist by providing strong leadership and better continuity.
- Chile asked for clarification if their economy might be expected to provide both chair and secretary in 2019. It was confirmed that Papua New Guinea would takeover chairmanship from NZ (*PNG is to be chair in 2019-2020 and Chile is to be secretary in 2019).
- PD the SCSC chair circulates this to all JRAC members for comment/support as a proposed change to the TOR, this proposal would be circulated along with the other changes proposed to the TOR. (see 7.4)

7.4 Revision of the JRAC Terms of Reference ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/018](#))

The JRAC discussed the revision of the TOR:

- PD noted that the CTI was reviewing the pathfinder initiatives which were expected to have a limited duration and therefore the TOR needed to be reviewed for the JRAC to remain relevant.
- JRAC Sectary recommended changing the TOR to include “reviewing” of the EEEMRA.
- New Zealand recommended adding “and information sharing” to the TOR.
- PD identified that although 14 economies are required to attend an SCSC meeting, there is no clarity for now regarding quorum requirement for JRAC (*subsidiary group).
- IEC agreed to check the reference to the IEC guide and provide any necessary revision to the TOR text.
- PD will alter the JRAC TOR as discussed, then circulate it with recommended changes for any other areas identified.
- PD noted that the NTM initiatives may be possible area for the JRAC to contribute to.
- Changes will also be made to the role and term of the JRAC Chair.
- Relocation of some clauses and general editorial changes will be made and then circulated to members by PD for further comments.

The JRAC Chair recapped on the discussions that:

- A quorum is important, but does not necessarily apply. It could however be made mandatory.
- The sunset clause must be resolved, the TOR needs to be reviewed to address the sunset clause.
- PD will address this to SCSC members at upcoming SCSC2 meeting on 23-24 August and advise the JRAC members later.
- Document 2000/ JAC/007 is to be circulated by PD to members for information. (*Equivalent document of [2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/004anx](#) in this list)

8. Presentation by the guest members

8.1 ASEAN:

The JRAC chair gave a presentation in his role as the ASEAN Chair.
([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/015](#))

- The presentation was supplied by the ASEAN Secretariat (copy provided).
- Ten member states of the ASEAN now operate a system that was harmonised in 2015 – AHEEERR. This regime uses ISO System 1 applying to low risk products and ISO System 5 applying to High risk products.
- The system currently has 9 certification bodies and 22 test laboratories.
- The regime excludes electrical medical equipment.
- The members held a discussion about working towards a closer relationship between the APEC JRAC and the ASEAN EEE Regulators group.
- There was general agreement between the members to explore this.

8.2 IEC:

- A presentation was made to the JRAC by Denis Chew on IEC activities.
([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/017](#))
- IEC certificates can now be viewed online.
- An IEC Regulators forum is planned for Busan in October 2018
- Members were invited to comment on the forth coming Regulators forum.
- There was general support for the Regulators forum.
- The JRAC Chair thanked Denis and the IEC for the presentation.

9. Confirmation on Governance of JRAC and next meeting

9.1 JRAC CHAIR 2018

- New Zealand confirmed agreement to provide the chair for the next two years (2018 & 2019) and noted that New Zealand would be APEC host in 2021.

9.2 JRAC Secretary 2018

- This would be explored with Papua New Guinea by PD.
- PNG to confirm acceptance to provide Secretary for the next meeting.

9.3 Next meeting confirmed to be at SOM 3 at date and location to be confirmed by APEC host.

- Meeting to be a two day meeting with one day occupied by a workshop. (TBC)

10. Other Items for Consideration

10.1 There being no further items for consideration, the JRAC Chair concluded the meeting by recapping the key achievements of the meeting:

- NZ project proposal
- Amendments to JRAC TOR
- Exploring relationship with ASEAN EEEMRA JSC
- Chair and Secretary changes
- Presentation from ASEAN on their system
- Presentation from IEC

10.2 The Chair closed the meeting thanking all those who attended, including the IEC for attending the meeting and making their presentation.

10.3 The Chair offered special thanks on behalf of the JRAC to the host, Viet Nam for their hospitality.

11. Meeting Documents by APEC Secretariat

11.1 The JRAC members agreed that all meeting documents would be released, with the exception of the paper on gender bias submitted by New Zealand. ([2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/000](#))

12. End of Meeting