



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2017/SOM3/024
Agenda Item: 8

SCE Chair's Report

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: SCE Chair



**Third Senior Officials' Meeting
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
29-30 August 2017**

SCE Chair's Report to SOM

The SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) met in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam on 25 August 2017. Key outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

1. The SCE took note of the draft Report on the New Fora Assessment System developed by the contractor Sustineo, and requested for the report to be circulated intersessionally by 8 September 2017 for SCE's comments and final endorsement on or by 30 September 2017. The SCE established the Assessment Team which will comprise the troika Papua New Guinea, Chile, Malaysia, and volunteers New Zealand, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and China. The consultant will also propose by circulation the list of fora which will be subject to the new assessment system in 2018.
2. The SCE endorsed the APEC Guidelines on Cross-Fora Collaboration (2017/SOM3/SCE/003) by Papua New Guinea and agreed to recommend it to SOM for final approval.
3. The SCE noted the presentation by the Lead Shepherd of the HRDWG and approved the HRDWG Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (2017/SOM3/SCE/004c).
4. The SCE noted the Progress Report on Development of Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy by the HRDWG EDNET Coordinator (2017/SOM3/SCE/004d) .
5. The SCE agreed for the ACTWG Strategic Plan 2013-2020 (2017/SOM2/SCE/004a) to be deferred for consideration in SCE1 2018.
6. The SCE noted the revised Terms of Reference for the HRDWG (2017/SOM3/SCE/005b) and the TELWG (2017/SOM3/SCE/005d) and resolved to recommend to SOM that the revised TORs be approved in-principal subject to further inclusion of appropriate clauses reflecting the new fora governance reforms relating to quorums and sunset clauses.
7. The SCE noted Fora report on TWG and also noted that further updates on MOI will be provided by Indonesia in SCE1 2018.
8. SCE noted the response by ACTWG to the independent assessment.
9. SCE noted the progress of GOFD in drafting the report "Advancing Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Internet Economy in the Asia-Pacific Region" (2017/SOM3/SCE/008).
10. SCE noted the progress report on BMC SWG outcomes and the work on the revised Guidebook on APEC projects.
11. The SCE endorsed the outcome of SCE-led Policy Dialogue on Bridging Gap in Economic Development and Integration of Remote Areas for Sustainable Growth in the APEC Region initiated by Russia (2017/SOM3/SCE/010).
12. SCE noted China's proposal to conduct the completion assessment of the progress towards achievement of the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal (2017/SOM3/SCE/009).
13. SCE noted Australia's verbal update on the APEC Labour Mobility Initiative.
14. SCE also noted Japan's verbal update on its initiatives on women empowerment and health including UHC and ageing.

Recommendations

It is recommended that SOM:

1. Note this report;
2. Approve the APEC Guidelines on Cross Fora Collaboration;

3. Approve in principal the revised TORs for the HRDWG and the TELWG, subject to further insertion of the new fora governance clauses,
4. Note Russia's report on Bridging Gap in Economic Development and Integration of Remote Areas for Sustainable Growth in the APEC Region initiative (2017/SOM3/SCE/010) and proposed action to develop an Outline to determine possible ways APEC could further add value to remote areas in the APEC Region.

Attachment: Summary Report of SCE3 of 2017.

Summary Report - SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH

25 August 2017
Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam

1. The Third meeting of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) was held in Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam on 25 August 2017. It was attended by representatives of all APEC Economies except Mexico, and the APEC Secretariat.
2. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Ivan Pomaleu, APEC Senior Official for Papua New Guinea...

Agenda Item 1: Welcome by SCE Chair and Adoption of the Agenda

3. The SCE Chair welcomed all members to the third meeting of SCE in 2017.
4. The meeting adopted the draft agenda (2017/SOM3/SCE/001) with notes that China would present its Concept Note on Completion Assessment of the Progress Towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal; China would present its report on Advancing Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Internet Economy in the Asia-Pacific Region; Australia would provide an update on the APEC Labor Mobility Initiative; and Russia would provide a report on the outcomes of the SCE-Led Policy Dialogue on Bridging Gap in Economic Development and Integration of Remote Areas under item 5.

Agenda Item 2: Review of the Operation of and the Policies on SCE Fora

Item 2.1 New System of Fora Assessment

5. The SCE Chair recalled that the SCE has decided to reform the existing system of independent fora assessment, creating a new standardized system intended to harmonize approach to ensure consistency and comparability. The SCE's decision also included the use of an outside service provider to process data and prepare materials in order to reduce the burden on fora and the Secretariat.
6. The contractor, Sustineo, delivered a presentation on the draft report and program reflecting the progress made thus far.
7. Economies welcomed the draft report and provided comments relating to how the program will be rolled out, including issues on the role to be performed by the Assessment Team and a proposal on the Clustering of Fora for the purposes of collaboration, coordination and assessment. The contractor is expected to circulate intersessionally a revised draft report that factors in economies' comments by 8 September. Members' comments on the draft report are then due by 22nd September to enable finalization and SCE approval by 30th September.
8. SCE recalled decision at SCE3 2016 for the establishment of an assessment team for 2018 to comprise of representatives from the preceding, current and next year's SCE chairing economies, together with volunteering economies. SCE noted the volunteer economies to include China, New Zealand, Singapore and Chinese Taipei. The SCE endorsed the establishment of this assessment team to comprise of; Chile, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and China.
9. SCE noted the Secretariat's list of fora to be assessed in 2018: EWG, STWG, EGILAT, TPTWG, HWG, HRDWG, TWG, MTF and GOFD. Members raised concern about the number of fora to be assessed, and noted suggestions to reduce the fora to be assessed to a more manageable number. The APEC Secretariat will coordinate with the contractor to identify a reduced number of fora to be assessed. The revised list of fora will be circulated to members for their consideration and approval together with the Sustineo report.

10. The meeting noted suggestions by economies to provide more clear roles and responsibilities of the Assessment Team, and that a Terms of Reference be developed for the Assessment Team. The meeting anticipates that the final report will provide a basis for the determination of roles and responsibilities from which the Assessment Team can use in developing its own Terms of Reference, which may be brought for SCE consideration in SCE1 2018.

Item 2.2 Promotion of Cross-Fora Collaboration

11. Papua New Guinea provided updates on the progress on the APEC Guidelines on Promoting Cross-Fora Collaboration, highlighting in particular the incorporation of comments from members, and the sharing of the draft Guidelines with APEC committees and other fora.
12. SCE expressed wide support and endorsed the APEC Guidelines on Cross-Fora Collaboration by Papua New Guinea noting that draft guidelines had been circulated to CTI, EC and SCE fora conveners. SCE endorsed the APEC Guidelines on Cross-Fora Collaboration and decided to recommend it for subsequent SOM endorsement at SOM 3.

Agenda Item 3: Fora Administration

Item 3.1 Fora Strategic Plans

13. SCE noted the presentation by the Lead Shepherd of the HRDWG, and endorsed the HRDWG Strategic Plan (2017/SOM3/SCE/004c). SCE further noted the presentation by the EDNET coordinator on the APEC Education Strategy. The HRDWG Strategic Plan (2017/SOM3/SCE/004c) was approved by SCE
14. SCE decided that the ACTWG Strategic Plan be considered at SCE1 in 2018 to allow for review and comments.

Item 3.2 Fora Terms of Reference

15. The SCE noted the revised Terms of Reference for HRDWG and TELWG, and further recalled the approval of the fora governance reform pertaining to quorum and sunset clauses in SOM 2, 2017. SCE further noted the timing of the governance reform approval and the active work being undertaken by the HRDWG and the TELWG. SCE recommends for SOM to give its in-principal approval of the Terms of Reference for HRDWG and TELWG, subject to the appropriate amendments being inserted subsequently to reflect the new governance requirements in respect to the quorum and sunset clauses.

Item 3.3 Report on the SCE Fora

16. SCE noted the draft TWG Report which was submitted in advance of SCE3's submission deadline of 5 September. SCE endorsed the TWG Report, with the expectation that the report will be resubmitted when it is updated to reflect the completion outcomes of the TWG in October 2017.
17. SCE noted that ACTWG submitted its Response to an Independent Assessment, which alluded to ACTWG effectiveness as a forum that nurtures and sustains good governance, economic development and prosperity, and facilitates working together to fight corruption and ensure transparency. The assessment provided 6 recommendations seeking improvement in specific areas>The ACTWG has reviewed, updated and endorsed the Responses to the Recommendations outlined in the Independent Assessment.
18. SCE noted updates provided by coordinator of MOI. Indonesia advised that a coordinator for MOI had not yet been appointed. Updates will be provided at SCE 1 2018.

19. SCE noted the report made by China on the Group of Friends on Disabilities, in particular the progress in drafting the report on “Advancing Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Internet Economy in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

Item 3.4 Other Administrative Actions

20. SCE noted the update on the Secretariat work on implementing the BMC-SWG outcomes in time for Project Session 1 in 2018. Including by incorporating the SCE 2016 Capacity Building Policy into the Guidebook on APEC Projects.

Agenda Item 4: Other Business

21. SCE noted the presentation by Russia on the outcomes of the SCE-led Policy Dialogue on Bridging Gap in Economic Development and Integration of Remote Areas. SCE endorsed the next steps to develop an Outline to determine possible ways APEC could further add value to remote areas development and integration. SCE noted Australia’s co-sponsorship of the development of the outline, and support by members for the initiative.
22. SCE noted China’s proposal to conduct completion assessment of the progress towards achievement of the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal. Some members raised questions on the proposal for China to consider in furthering this proposal. SCE noted the initiative and encouraged China to further engage with economies raising questions.
23. SCE took note of the update presented by Australia on the development of an APEC Labor Mobility Initiative and that Australia is expecting to circulate a document setting out the initiative before Concluding SOM for consideration. Australia proposed possible incorporation in the Leaders Declaration.
24. SCE also noted Japan’s verbal update on two initiatives, firstly on gender diversity and women’s empowerment, and secondly on health including the Multi Stakeholder Forum for investing in Healthy and Active Aging for Sustainable Growth held in August.

Agenda Item 5: Document Access

25. The meeting established the document classification list (2017/SOM3/SCE/000).
