



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2022/SOM1/CTI/025**

Agenda Item: XI

## **Chemical Dialogue Convenor's Report**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: CD Convenor



**First Committee on Trade and Investment  
Meeting  
18-22 February 2022**

## CHEMICAL DIALOGUE CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI1 2022

### 1. How the forum's work contribute to CTI's objectives, including taking forward the [Aotearoa Plan of Action](#), as we pursue the [Putrajaya Vision 2040](#):

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

#### a. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *"...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members' effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments..."*

#### b. Regional Economic Integration

- *"...APEC's trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable..."*
- *"...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings..."*

- The CD will continue its efforts to address marine debris including work to examine and overcome barriers to investment in waste management infrastructure that would support a more circular economy.
  - The CD will look to support CTI efforts on sustainable materials management policy and help APEC economies identify and frame domestic policies that promote waste management and recycling (WMR) infrastructure, addressing barriers to trade and increasing markets for sustainable materials.

#### c. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *"...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity..."*

- The CD will continue work to promote regulatory cooperation and convergence, including through introducing a new project proposal related to the OECD's Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) Program, to encourage more APEC economies to participate in such a program.
  - The CD will continue its capacity building work on risk assessments, often a key regulatory activity for chemical regulators that can either facilitate or inhibit trade.
  - The CD will continue work to promote more consistent international implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals ("GHS"). The GHS is an UN-developed system that was designed to promote a globally harmonized approach for all chemical labeling. The CD has revised the GHS comparison report and convergence

recommendations to consider recent developments and will develop additional capacity building efforts to help APEC economies address GHS divergences.

- The CD will continue work to support the implementation of Good Regulatory Practices in the chemical sector.

**d. Innovation and Digitalisation**

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

- The CD continues to explore interest in data exchange, particularly for regulatory cooperation and convergence by focusing on data communication within the supply chain through the digitalization of hazardous information.

**e. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*
- *“...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”*

- The CD continues to support the work of the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris, created to tackle the challenge of marine debris in the Asia-Pacific and encourage cross-fora collaboration among different APEC workstreams.
- The CD continues to explore project proposals related to sustainability and capacity building programs, including projects that align with Thailand’s priority of a Bio-Circular Green (BCG) economy which aim to advance long-term, resilient economic growth together with ensuring environmental sustainability in a holistic manner – by including both the public sector and the private sector to find solutions.

## 2. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2022

*Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2022 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.*

- The CD's main objectives are to:
  - Continue advancing the CD's work on marine debris and sustainability, including encouraging APEC endorsement and participation in CD-led project proposals – including one related to chemical recycling.
  - Provide APEC economy updates on regulatory improvements and action plans and encourage APEC endorsement and participation in CD-led project proposals – including one related to the OECD MAD system, and one related to risk assessment.
  - Endorse the CD Risk Assessment Compendium as an APEC resource and tool for best practices.
  - Advance consistent implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Labelling and Classification of Chemicals, including encouraging APEC participation in CD-led project proposals – including one related to convergence of GHS.
  - Encourage continued contribution to the G.R.E.A.T. system.

## 3. Planned private sector engagement in 2022

*Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2022*

- The CD is one of APEC's three industry dialogues and, as such, the private sector is institutionally involved in every aspect of the CD's work for 2022.
- Additionally, an industry representative serves as the Industry Co-Chair of the CD and Industry representatives serve as co-chairs of each of the CD's Virtual Working Groups – including the Virtual Working on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence; Virtual Working Group on GHS; Virtual Working Group on Data Exchange, and Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris. Multiple working groups are preparing project proposals for the upcoming year, including one on chemical recycling, the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD), and convergence on GHS.

## 4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2022

*Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2022*

- The CD regularly engages in cross-fora collaboration including work with the OFWG on marine debris, work with PPSTI on circular economy, work with CTI on recyclable materials policy, work with the SCSC on regulatory cooperation and Good Regulatory Practice, and work with the SCCP on customs practices for chemicals.
- If endorsed, the OECD MAD proposal will encourage cross-fora collaboration with the OECD's mutual acceptance of data program.

**5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting**

*Please provide in list format*

- The 28<sup>th</sup> Chemical Dialogue took place virtually from 17-18 February, 2022.
- The CD welcomed proposed work from subgroups on regulatory cooperation, GHS, data exchange, marine debris and advanced recycling. This included:
  - Encouraging endorsement of the advanced recycling project proposal “Leveraging Chemical Recycling in a Circular Economy”
  - Encouraging endorsement of the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) Program project proposal
  - Encouraging endorsement of the Virtual Working Group on GHS Work Plan for 2022, and a proposal for convergence in GHS focused on broader acceptance of labels.
  - Welcoming the implementation of an in-person risk assessment capacity building workshop should public health considerations allow;
  - Welcoming the implementation of a virtual workshop series on GHS related to implementation and maintenance.

**6. Was quorum reached at the most recent plenary meeting?**

*Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting.*

- Quorum was reached during the last meeting (CD28) with 18 economies

**7. What is your Forum doing to maintain/increase its relevance to APEC member economies and increase participation from its members?**

*Please provide a brief list of planned efforts to increase participation from members*

- The Forum is maintaining and increasing its relevance to APEC member economies through active virtual working groups (on regulatory cooperation and convergence, on GHS, on Data Exchange, and marine debris) that implement capacity building projects on a variety of regulatory cooperation and marine debris/sustainability issues and has a consistent participation with roughly 100 participants per meeting.

**8. Decision points needed from CTI**

- *Seek CTI's endorsement of the Chemical Dialogue Convenor's Report.*