



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2022/SOM3/CTI/029

Agenda Item: XIV

Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance Convenor's Report

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: SCSC Convenor



**Third Committee on Trade and Investment
Meeting
Chiang Mai, Thailand
26-27 August 2022**

SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE (SCSC)

including SCSC Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee on Electrical and Electronic Equipment Meeting (JRAC)

**SCSC CONVENOR'S REPORT
& 2022 CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS**

Specific to CTI

<p>Was quorum reached at the most recent plenary meeting? Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 2nd Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC2) Meeting was held during 19 - 20 August 2022, including the 29th Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (JRAC) Meeting and its workshop on Challenges for Electric and Electronic Products was held in 18 August 2022, Chiang Mai, Thailand with a virtual platform.• The SCSC meeting was chaired by Mr. Ekanit Romyanon and run fully with 19 Member Economies, 3 SRBs Members, namely Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF), Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP), and Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC); as well as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).• The 29th JRAC meeting was chaired by Ms. Rocio Barreda Santos and run fully with 16 Member Economies, and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).
<p>Key outcomes from your SOM3 meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 10th Voluntary Action Plan (VAP) focusing on Circular Economy; and the fourth survey of the updated 7th VAP focusing on Conformity Assessment, EMC, Electric Devices, Electric Vehicle, Electrical Appliances, Lighting, PV modules, Batteries, Textiles, Rubber Products, and Management Systems.• Discussed draft indicators to evaluate progress of SCSC towards the Aotearoa Plan of Action and Putrajaya Vision 2040• The outcomes of “The 14th SCSC Conference: BCG for APEC MSMEs - Challenges and Ways Forward” which was virtually held on 6 July 2022• JRAC’s Updates on the Part I (Information Interchange) under the APEC EE MRA and Workshop on Challenges for Electric and Electronic Products
<p>Decision points needed from CTI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek CTI’s endorsement of the SCSC Convenor’s Report.

For AMM's information

- Key outcomes and achievements in 2022
- 2022 SCSC Priorities in response to Ministerial, SOM and CTI direction including (1) to develop and promote the standard and conformance projects/activities in relation to the Bio-Circular-Green Economic (BCG) Model; (2) to encourage and strengthen the new practices for COVID-19 recovery to sustain trade and investment in the region; (3) to enhance digital and innovation environment as market-driven strategy and global connection; and (4) to support and strengthen the MSMEs Trade Facilitation.
- The 10th Voluntary Action Plan (VAP) focusing on Circular Economy; and the fourth survey of the updated 7th VAP focusing on Conformity Assessment, EMC, Electric Devices, Electric Vehicle, Electrical Appliances, Lighting, PV modules, Batteries, Textiles, Rubber Products, and Management Systems.
- *8 new Concept Notes (APEC Fund) were endorsed by SCSC in 2022 as follows:*
 - Australia (1)
 1. “Applying international cybersecurity standards to support resilience for agriculture technology”
 - China (3)
 2. “Webinar on standards and their supporting digital platforms to facilitate product circularity data exchange for APEC economies”
 3. “Digital Advertising and Standards: Fostering Inclusive Economic Growth in APEC Region”
 4. “APEC Webinar on Sharing Standards of Detection of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by Nucleic Acid Amplification Methods”
 - Indonesia (1)
 5. “Reaction to COVID-19: Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Energy Efficiency of Lighting Products in Buildings in the APEC region”
 - United States (3)
 6. “Strengthening E-labeling Practices for ICT Products – Support to Travel-Eligible Economies”
 7. “Strengthening Expertise with the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement”
 8. “Sharing Best Practices and Capacity Building on the Role of Battery Energy Storage Systems Standards in Promoting Safety, Energy Resilience & Sustainability”
- *10 Projects were entirely completed in 2022 as follows:*
 - Australia (1)
 1. “Trade Facilitation through the Development off an APEC Food Safety Risk Communication Framework”
 - China (2)
 2. “Ageing-inclusive Digital Economy: Bridging the Digital Divide for the Elderly by Standards and Conformity Assessment”

3. “Regional Workshop on Cold Chain Logistics and Food Safety, Transport Safety Standards”

Indonesia (1)

4. “Implementation of Smart City Standards in Indonesia based on SNI ISO 37122 during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

Japan (1)

5. “Capacity Building on Testing and Conformity Assessment of Fine Bubble Technologies for Use in Agro/Aqua-Culture and Water Treatment in the APEC Region”

New Zealand (2)

6. “14th Conference on Good Regulatory Practice Conference (GRP14)”

7. “Low-Carbon Hydrogen International Standard – Post-Workshop Report”

Thailand (2)

8. “The 14th SCSC Conference: BCG for APEC MSMEs - Challenges and Ways Forward”

9. “The 15th Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) Conference”

United States (1)

10. “Supporting Safe Reliable Drone Technology to Address COVID and Routine Implementations”

- 7 Projects are related to COVID-19 as follows:

China (3)

1. “APEC Webinar on Sharing and Analyzing Good Practices and Standards of Digital Technology Tackling Pandemic”

2. “Webinar on Sharing and Analysing Standards of Facilitating Product Circularity Data Exchange across APEC Economies”

3. “APEC Webinar on Sharing Standards of Detection of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by Nucleic Acid Amplification Methods”

Indonesia (2)

4. “Reaction to COVID-19: Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Energy Efficiency of Lighting Products in Buildings in the APEC region”

5. “Implementation of Smart City Standards in Indonesia based on SNI ISO 37122 during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

Thailand (1)

6. “The 15th Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) Conference”

United States (1)

7. “Supporting Safe Reliable Drone Technology to Address COVID and Routine Implementations”

- Discussed draft indicators to evaluate progress of SCSC towards the Aotearoa Plan of Action and Putrajaya Vision 2040

- JRAC's Updates on the Part I (Information Interchange) under the APEC EE MRA and Workshop on Challenges for Electric and Electronic Products

(b) Work undertaken by fora in pursuit of the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and in particular in implementing the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA)

- **Trade and Investment**

1. *Japan* reported on the WTO TBT Committee meetings, while *China* reported on the WTO SPS Committee meetings.
2. *Malaysia* presented details of "Capacity Building Workshop on Understanding Conformity Requirements for Software Controlled Weight and Measuring Instruments for Sustainable Trade".
3. *Peru* reported on the study of the "Initiative on Promoting Transparency of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) World Trade Organization (WTO) Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clarity of Information".
4. *Philippines* reported on "Improving Transparency of Pre-Packaged Food Packaging and Labelling Laws, Regulations and Best Practices: Conference and Compendium".
5. *Chinese Taipei* introduced "2022 Asia-Pacific Pesticide Residue Workshop".
6. *Thailand* updated on the "15th Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) Conference" which was related to COVID-19.
7. *United States* reported on 2022 proposed project "A Trade Facilitative Approach to Risk Communication: MRL Harmonization in the APEC Region".
8. *United States* provided an update on upcoming Good Regulatory Practice activities: "Advancing Good Regulatory Practices to Reduce Barriers to Trade"; the "16th Conference on Good Regulatory Practices"; and "Blueprint for Advancing Good Regulatory Practices in the APEC".

- **Innovation and Digitalisation**

1. *Australia* reported on "Digital Credentialing of Certified Products - a Tool for Facilitating International Trade, Reducing TBTs and Improving Trust for Consumers"
2. *Australia* presented details of "Applying international cybersecurity standards to support resilience for agriculture technology"
3. *China* provided an update on the project "Ageing-inclusive digital economy: bridging the digital divide for the elderly by standards and conformity assessment"
4. *China* highlighted on "APEC Webinar on Sharing and Analyzing Good Practices and Standards of Digital Technology Tackling Pandemic" which was related to COVID-19.
5. *China* introduced "APEC Webinar on Best Practices and Standards of Data Exchange for Trade Facilitation" which was related to COVID-19.
6. *Japan* reported on "Capacity Building on Testing and Conformity Assessment of Fine Bubble Technologies for use in Agro-/Aqua-Culture and Water Treatment in the APEC Region".

7. *Chinese Taipei* updated on “APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Product Safety in Digital Trade”.
8. *United States* reported on “Standardization in Emerging Technologies related to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Measurement”.
9. *United States* highlighted ongoing project “FSCF PTIN Whole Genome Sequencing: Laboratory Capacity Building for Environmental Food Safety Testing”.

- **Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**

1. *Australia* updated on ‘Improving Food Safety Outcomes through Increased Cooperation between Food Safety Regulators and APAC Member Bodies Accrediting Certification, Inspection and Testing Services’
2. *Australia* reported on “Building laboratory capabilities to assure Water Quality in Asia Pacific economies”
3. *Chile* highlighted the project “Strengthen and Expand Knowledge in Sustainable Aquaculture Production Practices to reduce the environmental impact and improve food safety of the food products”
4. *China* updated on “Improving Transparency and Knowledge of Safety Requirements for international trade food in APEC region”.
5. *China* presented the project “The APEC Workshop on Best Practices Sharing of Water Conservation Standards and Evaluation on Their Benefits”
6. *China* reported on “APEC Webinar on Sharing Standards of Detection of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by Nucleic Acid Amplification Methods” which was related to COVID-19.
7. *Japan* provided an update on “Capacity Building on the Development of Climate Actions for Sustainable Growth by use of ISO 14080”.
8. *Malaysia* presented details of “Capacity Building Workshop on Understanding Conformity Requirements for Software Controlled Weight and Measuring Instruments for Sustainable Trade”.
9. *New Zealand* reported on “Low-carbon Hydrogen International Standard”.
10. *Chinese Taipei* updated on “Utilising Renewable Energy Certification to Facilitate APEC Regional renewable Energy Growth”.
11. *Thailand* reported the outcomes of the “14th SCSC Conference: BCG for APEC MSMEs - Challenges and Ways Forward”.
12. *China and Australia*, FSCF Co-chairs updated on the FSCF Terms of Reference.

(c) Work Undertaken by the fora in response to Ministerial, SOM and CTI direction

- 2022 SCSC Priorities in response to Ministerial, SOM and CTI direction including (1) to develop and promote the standard and conformance projects/activities in relation to the Bio-Circular-Green Economic (BCG) Model; (2) to encourage and strengthen the new practices for COVID-19

<p>recovery to sustain trade and investment in the region; (3) to enhance digital and innovation environment as market-driven strategy and global connection; and (4) to support and strengthen the MSMEs Trade Facilitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The theme of the 10th Voluntary Action Plan (VAP) focusing on Circular Economy (Alignment work with international standards)• Discussed draft indicators to evaluate progress of SCSC towards the Aotearoa Plan of Action and Putrajaya Vision 2040
<p>(d) Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora (if any); &</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed draft indicators to evaluate progress of SCSC towards the Aotearoa Plan of Action and Putrajaya Vision 2040• Draft Elements for the Non-prescriptive Practical Guidelines to Support Regulators in the Choice and Design of Conformity Assessment Procedures, currently being developed in the WTO TBT Committee
<p>(e) Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers (if applicable)</p> <p>-Nil</p>