



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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### *THE OSAKA ACTION AGENDA*

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# **THE OSAKA ACTION AGENDA**

## **Implementation of the Bogor Declaration**

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### **PART ONE: LIBERALIZATION AND FACILITATION<sup>9</sup>**

#### **SECTION A: GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

The following General Principles will be applied to the entire APEC liberalization and facilitation process under the Action Agenda to achieve the long-term goal of free and open trade and investment no later than the year 2010 in the case of industrialized economies and the year 2020 in the case of developing economies.

##### **1. COMPREHENSIVENESS**

The APEC liberalization and facilitation process will be comprehensive, addressing all impediments to achieving the long-term goal of free and open trade and investment.

##### **2. WTO-CONSISTENCY**

The liberalization and facilitation measures undertaken in the context of the APEC Action Agenda will be WTO-consistent.

##### **3. COMPARABILITY**

APEC economies will endeavor to ensure the overall comparability of their trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, taking into account the general level of liberalization and facilitation already achieved by each APEC economy.

##### **4. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

APEC economies will apply or endeavor to apply the principle of non-discrimination between and among them in the process of liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment.

The outcome of trade and investment liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region will be the actual reduction of barriers not only among APEC economies but also between APEC economies and non-APEC economies.

##### **5. TRANSPARENCY**

Each APEC economy will ensure transparency of its respective laws, regulations and administrative procedures which affect the flow of goods, services and capital among

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<sup>9</sup> Liberalization and facilitation are treated together in this part due to their inseparable nature in achieving our goal of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific. The economic and technical cooperation dealt with here is that which directly supports liberalization and facilitation.

APEC economies in order to create and maintain an open and predictable trade and investment environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

**6. STANDSTILL**

Each APEC economy will endeavor to refrain from using measures which would have the effect of increasing levels of protection, thereby ensuring a steady and progressive trade and investment liberalization and facilitation process.

**7. SIMULTANEOUS START, CONTINUOUS PROCESS AND DIFFERENTIATED TIMETABLES**

APEC economies will begin simultaneously and without delay the process of liberalization, facilitation and cooperation with each member economy contributing continuously and significantly to achieve the long-term goal of free and open trade and investment.

**8. FLEXIBILITY**

Considering the different levels of economic development among the APEC economies and the diverse circumstances in each economy, flexibility will be available in dealing with issues arising from such circumstances in the liberalization and facilitation process.

**9. COOPERATION**

Economic and technical cooperation contributing to liberalization and facilitation will be actively pursued.

**10. RELEVANCE, PROGRESSIVENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS**

APEC needs to deliver real benefits to economies and people, demonstrate leadership in confronting emerging issues, which impact on sustainable economic growth and development and bring about measurable progress and change.

**SECTION B: FRAMEWORK FOR LIBERALIZATION AND FACILITATION**

The APEC process of liberalization and facilitation toward achieving the goals set out in the Bogor Declaration will comprise:

- a. actions by individual APEC economies;
- b. actions by APEC fora; and
- c. APEC actions related to multilateral fora,

acknowledging that APEC economies that are ready to initiate and implement cooperative arrangements may proceed to do so while those that are not yet ready to participate may join at a later date. This process will be conducted in accordance with the General Principles, addressing the areas listed in Section C.

**ACTION PROCESS**

**Preparation**

Action Plans were introduced immediately after the Osaka Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Overall implementation of Action Plans began from January 1997. The Action Plans elaborate steps toward achieving the objectives set out in Section C, including both concerted unilateral actions to be taken in line with issue-specific guidelines and collective actions. They will contain specific and concrete details, with time frames, for the near to medium-term, while outlining the basic direction toward 2010 in the case of industrialized economies and 2020 in the case of developing economies.

### **Consultation**

APEC economies commenced informal consultations on the development of Action Plans immediately after the Osaka Economic Leaders' Meeting. They agreed that the consultation process will be an on-going collective effort of a confidence-building nature in order to facilitate exchange of information on progress in the preparation of Action Plans, ensuring transparency and contributing toward attaining the comparability of respective Action Plans. This process will contribute to the consequent development of significant and substantial Action Plans.

### **Submission**

Each APEC economy will submit its Action Plan to the Annual Ministerial Meeting for assessment.

### **Review**

Reviews will be conducted to assess progress in implementing Action Plans in accordance with principles, objectives and guidelines of the Action Agenda. Each relevant APEC forum will conduct a review in its respective area and submit a report thereon to the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). The SOM will then review the overall progress of APEC economies' actions and submit a report to the annual Ministerial Meeting for review. The outcome of these reviews will be fed back into the continuing consultation process to contribute to further development of Action Plans and will be reflected in the activities of APEC fora.

### **Revision**

As Action Plans are of a rolling nature, revision of these will be conducted through a progressive and dynamic mechanism established by the consultation process and reviews, with the results thereof being reflected in the continuing voluntary improvement of Action Plans. Action Plans will also be revised as appropriate in accordance with the expansion and improvement of guidelines and collective actions.

### **Parallel activities**

APEC fora will make proposals for the expansion and improvement of guidelines and collective actions in their respective areas in accordance with developments in the APEC liberalization and facilitation process, taking into account and, where appropriate, utilizing developments in other international fora, particularly the World Trade Organization (WTO). The inclusion of additional areas to those initially defined in Section C may be considered. Proposals on the above will be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting.

APEC fora, including the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), the Economic Committee (EC) and Working Groups, will begin the work outlined in Section C immediately, cooperating with each other to enhance the efficiency of APEC activities. The establishment of additional sub-groups may be considered where necessary. In the above process, duplication of work among APEC fora should be avoided.

Each APEC forum will submit an annual progress report to the SOM. The SOM will review this progress and submit a report to the annual Ministerial Meeting for review. Work by other relevant APEC Ministerial Meetings should be duly recognized.

## **MULTILATERAL ACTIONS**

APEC economies will take the lead in strengthening the open multilateral trading system and enhancing global liberalization momentum by participating actively and positively in multilateral negotiations and exploring the possibility of taking joint initiatives under the WTO. APEC economies will take fully into account the outcome of such multilateral activities.

## **OVERALL REVIEW**

The Action Agenda may be revised and improved as necessary based on the overall progress of liberalization, facilitation and cooperation in APEC, taking into account developments in other international fora, particularly the WTO.

## **SECTION C: ACTIONS IN SPECIFIC AREAS**

APEC economies will take the following actions in specific areas in order to achieve the objectives set out therein in accordance with the General Principles. In the course of the liberalization and facilitation process, economic and technical cooperation will be actively pursued through various means including Partners for Progress (PFP).

### **1. TARIFFS<sup>10</sup>**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will achieve free and open trade in the Asia-Pacific region by:

- a. progressive reduction of tariffs until the Bogor goals are fully achieved; and
- b. ensuring the transparency of APEC economies' respective tariff regimes.

#### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. take into account, in the process of achieving the above objectives, intra-APEC trade trends, economic interests, sectors or products related to industries in which this process may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region and developments in the new economy;
- b. ensure that the achievement of the above objective is not undermined by the application of unjustifiable measures; and

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<sup>10</sup> "Tariffs" here refers to import/export tariffs as well as tariff quotas.

- c. consider extending, on a voluntary basis, to all APEC economies the benefits of tariff reductions and eliminations derived from sub-regional arrangements.

### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- a. participate and ensure the expeditious supply and updates of the WTO Integrated Database and any other APEC databases;
- b. arrange for seminars and/or workshops on industrial tariffs negotiations in consultation with international organisations, where appropriate, including WTO Secretariat on WTO Integrated Tariff Database;
- c. study lessons from modalities for tariff reduction and elimination in regional arrangements; and
- d. encourage the accession of all economies to the WTO Information Technology Agreement, including the adoption of ITA provisions by non-members of the WTO.

## **2. NON-TARIFF MEASURES<sup>11</sup>**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will achieve free and open trade in the Asia-Pacific region by:

- a. progressively reducing NTMs to the maximum extent possible to minimize possible distortion to trade;
- b. in respect to WTO members:
  - Elimination of any measures inconsistent with WTO agreements
  - Full compliance with WTO agreementsin accordance to WTO commitments; and
- c. ensuring the transparency of APEC economies' respective non-tariff measures

### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. take into account, in the process of progressive reduction of non-tariff measures, intra-APEC trade trends, economic interests and sectors or products related to industries in which this process may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region and developments in the new economy;
- b. ensure that the progressive reduction of non-tariff measures is not undermined by the application of unjustifiable measures;
- c. consider extending, on a voluntary basis, to all APEC economies the benefits of reductions and eliminations of non-tariff measures derived from sub-regional arrangements; and

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<sup>11</sup> These non-tariff measures include but are not restricted to quantitative import/export restrictions/prohibitions, import/export levies, minimum import prices, discretionary import/export licensing, voluntary export restraints and export subsidies.

- d. ensure that measures to promote the new economy and strengthening the functioning of markets are consistent with the objectives above.

### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- a. pursue incorporation of information on non-tariff measures into a future version of the APEC tariff database and compile a list of measures recognized as non-tariff impediments and a list of products affected by these impediments;
- b. identify industries in which the progressive reduction of non-tariff measures may have positive impact on trade and on economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region or for which there is regional industry support for early liberalization;
- c. progressively reduce export subsidies with a view to abolishing them; and
- d. abolish unjustifiable export prohibitions and restrictions and endeavor to refrain from taking any such new measures;
- e. pursue a series of seminars/policy discussions on non-tariff measures (NTMs); and
- f. undertake research to develop best practices to enhance transparency and progressively reduce NTMs

## **3. SERVICES**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies, in accordance with the APEC Policy Framework for Work on Services, will achieve free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region by:

- a. progressively reducing restrictions on market access for trade in services;
- b. progressively providing for *inter-alia* most favored nation (MFN) treatment and national treatment for trade in services;
- c. providing, in regulated sectors, for the fair and transparent development, adoption and application of regulations and regulatory procedures for trade in services; and
- d. recognising the role that ecommerce plays in the supply and consumption of services.

### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. contribute positively and actively to the WTO negotiations on trade in services;
- b. expand commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) on market access and national treatment and eliminate MFN exemptions where appropriate;
- c. undertake further actions, where appropriate, to implement the APEC Menu of Options for Voluntary Liberalization, Facilitation and Promotion of Economic and Technical Cooperation in Services Trade and Investment;
- d. make efforts to provide for the participation of concerned parties in regulations and regulatory processes, the fair and transparent application of regulations, and the prompt consideration of applications; and



- e. support APEC capacity building efforts to supply services by, *inter-alia*, strengthening infrastructure, promoting the use of advanced technologies and developing human resources.

## **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will take the following Collective Actions with regard to services in the telecommunications, transportation, energy and tourism sectors<sup>12</sup>, and continue to seek Collective Actions in other sectors.

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

In accordance with the Cancun Declaration, APEC economies will:

- a. work to bridge the digital divide at the domestic, regional and global levels, and to cooperate and collaborate with the business/private sector in this effort;
- b. foster discussion between business/private sector and governments on appropriate means to assess and reward the value of products and services exchanged in the provision of converged Internet services among APEC economies, consistent with the APEC Principles on International Charging Arrangements for Internet Services;
- c. foster the development of effective policies that support competitive markets in the domestic and international telecommunications and information industries;
- d. accelerate the pace of implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment for Telecommunications Equipment (MRA);
- e. work to ensure that policy and regulatory environments better foster the uptake of e-commerce;
- f. implement within voluntary time frames the APEC Interconnection Principles and consult on the need for further discussions on interconnection; and
- g. give attention to user requirements for open standards and systems to support interoperability

In addition, APEC economies are encouraged to conform, where appropriate, to:

- 1. The WTO Telecommunications Regulatory Principles Reference Paper;
- 2. The Information Technology Agreement (ITA); and
- 3. The Guidelines for Trade in International Value-Added Network Services (IVANS).

### **TRANSPORTATION**

APEC economies will:

- a. respond to the Leaders 'Auckland Challenge' of 1999, by implementing the eight steps for more competitive air services on a voluntary basis and by identifying further steps to liberalize air services in accordance with the Bogor Goals, and provide annual progress reports to Leaders through SOM (*Note:*

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<sup>12</sup> The following Collective Actions have been extracted from the annexed Action Programs of Working Groups in which substantial progress has already been made in services, in order to illustrate liberalization and facilitation related activities to be undertaken in these sectors. Activities in these sectors are also dealt with in Part Two.

*some components of this project may fall under Part II Ecotech, subject to further developments);*

- b. develop by 2005 an efficient, safe and competitive operating environment for maritime transport, including ports, in the region through improved transparency of maritime and port policies (*Note: some components of this project may fall under Part II Ecotech, subject to further developments);*
- c. complete the Road Transport Harmonization Project and encourage the development of mutual recognition arrangements for certification of automotive product and harmonization of economies' vehicle regulations through cooperation within United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; and
- d. seek to eliminate the requirement for paper documents (both regulatory and institutional) for the key messages relevant to international transport and trade as soon as practicable by 2005.

## **ENERGY**

APEC Economies, by developing and building on the 14 non-binding policy principles endorsed by APEC Energy Ministers at their Sydney meeting in 1996 which are consistent with the vision, objectives and strategic themes of the recently endorsed Future Directions Strategic Plan that will guide their work over the next five years:

- a. will facilitate trade and investment in the energy sector by:
  - (i) responding to the outcomes of a current study on "Strengthening the Operational Aspects of APEC Energy Micro -Economic Reform" that will, *inter-alia*, inform on barriers to investment in the energy sector and how to remove the barriers.
  - (ii) analysing the broad economic impacts of micro-economic reform policies to deregulate energy markets.
  - (iii) responding as appropriate to the identification of the barriers (policy, technical, regulatory and legal) to the interconnection of power grids in APEC member economies.
  - (iv) actively pursuing the Implementation Strategy and considering the use of Implementation Facilitation Assistance Teams (IFAT) to assist in further reform of the energy markets.
  - (v) strengthening policy dialogue among member economies on important issues affecting energy markets.
  - (vi) supporting the APEC 21st Century Renewable Energy Development Initiative which seeks to advance the use of renewable energy for sustainable economic development and growth in member economies.
  - (vii) encouraging in the longer term a greater strategic input from business through the Energy Working Group Business Network (EBN).
- b. will seek to reduce barriers to trade created by differing energy performance test methods and energy performance requirements by supporting the establishment of an APEC Energy Efficiency Test Procedures Coordinator.
- c. will strengthen energy security in the region by developing and implementing an energy security initiative with the aim of improving the functioning of energy markets; energy efficiency and conservation; diversification of energy

resources; renewable energy development and deployment; and enhance short term preparedness such as oil stocks and surge production of oil; and explore the potential for alternative transport fuels.

## **TOURISM**

APEC economies will:

- a. Remove impediments to tourism business and investment by:
  - (i) promoting and facilitating the mobility of skills, training and labor;
  - (ii) promoting and facilitating productive investment in tourism and associated sectors;
  - (iii) removing regulatory impediments to tourism business and investment; and
  - (iv) encouraging liberalization of services trade related to tourism under General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)
- b. Increase mobility of visitors and demand for tourism goods and services in the APEC region by:
  - (i) facilitating seamless travel for visitors;
  - (ii) enhancing visitor experiences;
  - (iii) promoting inter- and intra-regional marketing opportunities and cooperation;
  - (iv) facilitating and promoting e-commerce for tourism business;
  - (v) enhancing safety and security of visitors; and
  - (vi) fostering a non-discriminatory approach to the provision of visitor facilities and services.
- c. Sustainably manage tourism outcomes and impacts by:
  - (i) demonstrate an appreciation and understanding of natural environment and seek to protect the environment
  - (ii) foster ecologically sustainable development opportunities across the tourism sector, particularly for small and medium sized enterprises, employment and providing for open and sustainable tourism markets
  - (iii) protect the social integrity of host communities with particular attention to the implications of gender in the management and development of tourism
  - (iv) recognize, respect and preserve local and indigenous cultures together with our natural and national cultural heritage
  - (v) enhance capability building in the management and development of tourism.
- d. Enhance recognition and understanding of tourism as a vehicle for economic and social development by:
  - (i) Harmonizing methodologies for key tourism statistical collections, consistent with activities of other international tourism organizations
  - (ii) facilitating the exchange of information on tourism between economies
  - (iii) promoting comprehensive analysis of the role of tourism in member economies in promoting sustainable growth

- (iv) expanding our collective knowledge base on tourism issues in order to identify emerging issues and assist in the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on an APEC Tourism Charter.

#### **4. INVESTMENT**

##### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will achieve free and open investment in the Asia-Pacific region by:

- a. liberalizing their respective investment regimes and the overall APEC investment environment by, *inter-alia*, progressively providing for MFN treatment and national treatment and ensuring transparency; and
- b. facilitating investment activities through, *inter-alia*, technical assistance and cooperation, including exchange of information on investment opportunities.

##### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. progressively reduce or eliminate exceptions and restrictions to achieve the above objective, using as an initial framework the WTO Agreement, the APEC Non-Binding Investment Principles, any other international agreements relevant to that economy, and any commonly agreed guidelines developed in APEC including the Menu of Options for Investment Liberalization and Business Facilitation;
- b. seek to expand APEC's network of bilateral and regional investment agreements and contribute to multilateral work on investment;
- c. facilitate investment flows within the Asia-Pacific region through promoting awareness of investment opportunities, enhancing market access conducive to investment, undertaking capacity building and technical cooperation activities, and implementing measures such as those in the Menu of Options; and
- d. examine ways to incorporate new investment forms and activities for the sound and sustainable economic growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region including investment forms and activities that support the new economy.

##### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- 1. Transparency

##### **Short-term**

- a. Increase the transparency of APEC investment regimes by:
  - (i) Updating the APEC Guidebook on Investment Regimes;
  - (ii) Establishing software networks on investment regulation and investment opportunities;
  - (iii) Improving the state of statistical reporting and data collection; and
  - (iv) Increasing understanding among member economies on investment policy-making issues.

- 2. Policy Dialogue

### **Short-term**

- b. Promote dialogue with the APEC business community on ways to improve the APEC investment environment.
  - c. Continue a dialogue with appropriate international organizations dealing with global and regional investment issues.
3. Study and Evaluation
- Short-term
- d. Define and implement follow-on training to the WTO implementation seminars;
  - e. Undertake an evaluation of the role of investment liberalization in economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - f. Study possible common elements between existing subregional arrangements relevant to investment.

### **Medium-term**

- g. Refine APEC's understanding of free and open investment.

### **Long-term**

- h. Assess the merits of developing an APEC-wide discipline on investment in the light of APEC's own progress through the medium-term, as well as developments in other international fora.
  - i. Study the advantages and disadvantages of creating investment rules – bilateral, regional, or multilateral – with a view to fostering a more favorable investment environment in the Asia-Pacific region.
4. Facilitation
- Short-term and continuing
- j. Undertake practical facilitation initiatives by:
    - (i) Progressively working towards reducing impediments to investments including those investments related to e-commerce;
    - (ii) Undertaking the business facilitation measures to strengthen APEC economies; and
    - (iii) Initiating investment promotion and facilitation activities to enhance investment flow within APEC economies.
5. Economic and Technical Cooperation
- Short-term*
- k. Identify ongoing technical cooperation needs in the Asia-Pacific region and organize training programs which will assist APEC economies in fulfilling APEC investment objectives.
6. Capacity Building Initiatives
- l. Undertake new activities that contribute to capacity building.

7. Menu of Options
  - m. Ongoing improvement of the Menu of Options.

## **5. STANDARDS<sup>13</sup> AND CONFORMANCE**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will, in accordance with the Declaration on APEC Standards and Conformance Framework and with the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) and the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) attached to the WTO Agreement:

- a. align their domestic standards with international standards;
- b. endeavour to actively participate in international standardization activities;
- c. promote good regulatory practice for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations in the APEC region;
- d. achieve recognition of conformity assessment including mutual recognition arrangements in regulated and voluntary sectors;
- e. promote cooperation for technical infrastructure development to facilitate broad participation in mutual recognition arrangements in both regulated and voluntary sectors; and
- f. ensure the transparency of the standards and conformity assessment of APEC economies.

### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. continue alignment of domestic standards with international standards in the priority areas which the SCSC will identify priority areas for alignment in the short to medium term in pursuing this goal;
- b. participate actively in the international standardization activities of international standardizing bodies and encourage relevant bodies in their economy to participate in the international standardizing bodies accordance with the rules and procedures of these organisations;
- c. consider to pursue trade facilitation in information technology products;
- d. participate<sup>14</sup> in recognition arrangements<sup>15</sup> of conformity assessment including mutual recognition arrangements in regulated sectors through: (i) the development of bilateral, multi-sectoral recognition arrangements, which might, at a later stage,

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<sup>13</sup> “Standards” include mandatory as well as voluntary standards. The term “standards” is used in this document to refer generally to matters covered in the TBT and SPS Agreements.

<sup>14</sup> It is recognised that not all member economies have the pre-requisite technical infrastructure to enable them to fully participate in mutual recognition arrangements. Cooperation among APEC economies to strengthen member economies’ technical infrastructure is therefore necessary (see Guideline (e)).

<sup>15</sup> The term “mutual recognition arrangements” does not necessarily mean an instrument or instruments which creates or create legally-binding international obligations.

- provide the basis for plurilateral arrangements; and (ii) the development of plurilateral recognition arrangements in particular sectors;
- e. encourage relevant bodies in their economy to participate in work programs of the five Specialist Regional Bodies<sup>16</sup> and to participate in recognition arrangements<sup>7</sup> of conformity assessment including mutual recognition arrangements in the voluntary sectors;
  - f. improve and maintain the level of their technical infrastructure to facilitate broad participation in recognition arrangements in both the regulated and voluntary sectors, with the SCSC supporting the development of technical infrastructure through economic and technical cooperation, where needed, to improve calibration and testing facilities and the training of personnel, in pursuing this goal;
  - g. continuously strive to increase transparency of their standards and conformance requirements by means of facilitating the dissemination of such information through publications and electronic homepage and publicizing the availability of these means; and
  - h. consider participation in:
    - (i) the Treaty of the Metre (La Convention Du Metre); and
    - (ii) the Treaty of OIML (La Convention Instituant Une Organisation Internationale De Metrologie Legale)in accordance with the rules and procedures of these treaties

## **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will take Collective Actions with regard to standards and conformance in the following four areas:

### **ALIGNMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION**

APEC economies will:

- a. continue identifying additional priority areas for alignment with international standards;
- b. continue to report on the progress in their alignment plans every year;
- c. conduct a comprehensive review of their alignment work in 2005; and
- d. continue to promote active participation in international standardization activities.

### **GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE**

APEC economies will:

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<sup>16</sup> Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)  
Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)  
Asia Pacific Metrology Program (APMP)  
Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)  
Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC)

continue to update the consolidation of materials in the Good Regulatory Practice Database as well as to investigate means of enhancing regulatory practice in the APEC region through a program of case studies and seminars with a particular focus on performance-based regulations and sector-specific good practices.

### **RECOGNITION OF CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT**

APEC economies will, in cooperation with relevant Specialist Regional Bodies, where appropriate:

- a. review the implementation and use of mutual recognition arrangements;
- b. continue to consider mechanisms to facilitate the recognition of conformity assessment results;
- c. review and improve the effectiveness of the APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products, the Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety, the APEC Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls, and the APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Electrical and Electronic Equipment by, among others, looking into the possibility to adopt an information technology management system;
- d. implement the work program on trade facilitation in information technology products, by 2005 in the case of industrialized economies and by 2008 in the case of developing economies; and
- e. encourage establishment of and participation in a network of mutual recognition arrangements in the voluntary sector by 2005.

### **COOPERATION ON TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

APEC economies will:

- a. undertake projects for the implementation of the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program; and
- b. conduct a comprehensive review on implementation of the above program after 2005.

### **TRANSPARENCY**

APEC economies will:

- a. update the APEC Contact Points for Standards and Conformance Information, which have been uploaded to the APEC Homepage;
- b. develop and keep current the database on conformity assessment operators and their activities/service offered and establish an APEC Cooperation Center for Conformity Assessment; and
- c. Promote the transparency of regulatory systems and standards by maintaining appropriate and accessible information date basis, including Directory of Food Trade Contacts in the Directory of Food Trade Contacts.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

APEC economies will:



- a. pursue closer cooperation with the Specialist Regional Bodies in line with a Statement of Commitment to Mutually Agreed Objectives;
- b. monitor the developments within the WTO Committees on the Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures, as well as undertake projects for the implementation of the APEC Strategic Plan on WTO-Related Capacity Building;
- c. pursue better coordination with other APEC fora; and
- d. implement the reform of the SCSC through the rationalization of its agenda, priority setting exercise and better coordination with other groups.

## **6. CUSTOMS PROCEDURES**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will facilitate trade in the Asia-Pacific region by:

- a. simplifying and harmonizing customs procedures;
- b. encouraging the use of technologies and ecommerce as productivity tools in keeping with developments of the new economy; and
- c. enhancing cross-border co-operation in the movement of goods and services to counter terrorism.

### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will take actions toward achieving the above objectives:

- a. along the lines of the Strategic Direction of the Action Program of the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures by
  - taking fully into consideration the Guiding Principles (FACTS: Facilitation, Accountability, Consistency, Transparency, Simplification) of the above Action Program;
  - recognizing APEC Principles on Trade Facilitation; and
  - making use of information and communication technologies (ICT) as tools to improve productivity; and
- b. along the lines of the Leader's Statement on Counter Terrorism.

### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will take Collective Actions with regard to customs procedures in the following areas:

#### **HARMONISATION OF TARIFF NOMENCLATURE**

APEC economies will harmonize tariff nomenclature by adopting or abiding by the principles of the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS Convention) 2002 Version by 2002.

#### **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION**

APEC economies will continue making available to the public information on administrative guidelines, procedures and rulings in addition to customs laws and regulations through the media, publication, website, etc.

## **SIMPLIFICATION AND HARMONIZATION ON THE BASIS OF THE REVISED KYOTO CONVENTION**

APEC economies will simplify and harmonize customs procedures by adopting or abiding by the principles of the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures which was revised by World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1999 (Revised Kyoto Convention).

## **COMPUTERIZATION THROUGH UN/EDIFACT AND PAPERLESS TRADING**

APEC economies will enhance computerization of customs procedures by adopting and supporting the UN/EDIFACT standard and endeavor to reduce or eliminate the requirement for paper documents needed for customs to realize paperless trading.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH WTO AGREEMENTS**

APEC economies will:

- a. harmonize customs valuation systems by adopting or abiding by the principles of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (WTO Customs Valuation Agreement), while encouraging further acceleration, if possible, through technical assistance; and
- b. protect intellectual property rights by adopting or abiding by the principles of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), with regard to border control while encouraging further acceleration, if possible, through technical assistance.

## **APPEAL PROVISION**

APEC economies will introduce and improve clear appeal provisions.

## **ADVANCE RULING SYSTEMS**

APEC economies will introduce and improve advance tariff classification ruling systems.

## **TEMPORARY IMPORTATION**

APEC economies will provide facilities for temporary importation, by taking such action as acceding, where appropriate, to the Customs Convention on the A.T.A. Carnet for the Temporary Admission of Goods (the A.T.A. Convention).

## **RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH**

APEC economies will introduce a risk management approach to allow customs administrations to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while maintaining high-level border control by 2002.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

APEC economies will apply information and communication technology including Internet for customs clearance, and where possible, provide one stop shop service for cargo clearance procedures.

## **COMMON DATA ELEMENTS**

APEC economies will explore the feasibility of harmonizing among APEC economies common data elements based on international standards under the auspices of the WCO for customs processing of cargo to facilitate international trade.

## **EXPRESS CONSIGNMENTS**

APEC economies will implement principles contained in the WCO Immediate Release Guidelines, the international standard procedures for clearance of express goods, working in partnership with express industry associations.

## **INTEGRITY**

APEC economies will implement programs to raise the level of integrity of customs systems.

## **CUSTOMS-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP**

APEC economies will enable the cooperation and communication between Customs and the business sector through the establishment of permanent and regular liaison/consultation channels and the development of Customs-Business partnership by signing Memoranda of understanding or other instruments of cooperative arrangement with relevant players/parties in the business sector.

## **COMMON FIELD SURVEYS**

APEC economies will work towards conducting common field surveys on the time required for cargo clearance, recognizing the necessity of a common yardstick.

## **IMPLEMENTATION, TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

APEC economies will develop implementation plans and a framework for coordinated technical assistance and human resources development in support of the above Collective Actions, with particular emphasis placed on implementation of customs procedure-related agreements such as the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement, the TRIPS Agreement and the Rules of Origin Agreement (ROO).

## **PROMOTION OF DIALOGUE WITH THE BUSINESS/PRIVATE SECTOR**

APEC economies will promote dialogue with the business/private sector (importers, exporters, customs brokers, forwarders, etc.) within each economy to assist in improving customs-related trade practices.

## **COUNTER-TERRORISM**

APEC economies will develop a proposal to promote counter-terrorism cooperation in support of the APEC Leaders' Statement through various means such as the promotion of Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements and the use of existing customs networks.

## **7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will:

- a. in conformance with the principles of the TRIPS Agreement:
  - ensure adequate and effective protection, including legislation, administration and enforcement of intellectual property rights,
  - foster harmonization of intellectual property rights systems in the APEC region,
  - strengthen public awareness activities and
  - promote dialogue on emerging intellectual property policy issues, with a view to further improve intellectual property rights protection and use of the intellectual property rights systems for the social and economic benefit of members.
- b. address the challenges for intellectual property rights arising from the rapid growth and developments of the New Economy by:
  - establishing legal frameworks to promote creative endeavor and encourage on-line activity;
  - ensuring a balance between the different rights and interests of copyright owners, users and distributors;
  - establishing an appropriate balance among all stakeholders, including content providers and ISPs in terms of the liabilities for infringing intellectual property on-line; and
  - providing incentives for innovation without sacrificing the community's interest in reasonable access to information.

### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. ensure that intellectual property rights are granted through expeditious, simple, and cost-effective procedures;
- b. ensure that adequate and effective civil and administrative procedures and remedies are available against infringement of intellectual property rights; and
- c. provide and expand bilateral technical cooperation in relation to areas such as patent search and examination, computerization and human resources development in order to ensure adequate intellectual property right protection in compliance with the TRIPS Agreement.

### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will take the following collective actions:

- a. Deepening the Dialogue on Intellectual Property Policy;
- b. Support for Easy and Prompt Acquisition of Rights:
  - (i) Participation in International IP-related Systems
  - (ii) Establishing Internationally Harmonized IPR Systems
  - (iii) Cooperation on Searches and Examinations;
- c. Electronic Processing of IPR-related Procedures:
  - (i) Electronic Filing Systems
  - (ii) Dissemination of Information by Electronic Means;
- d. Appropriate Protection of IPR in New Fields:
  - (i) Protection for Biotechnology and Computer-related Inventions
  - (ii) Protection for Geographical Indications
  - (iii) Electronic commerce;
- e. Cooperation for Improvements to the Operation of IP System;
- f. Establishing Effective Systems for IPR Enforcement:
  - (i) Establishment of Enforcement Guidelines
  - (ii) Exchange of Information Concerning IPR Infringement
  - (iii) Cooperation with other fora/authorities
- g. Promoting IP Asset Management in APEC Economies;
- h. Raising Public Awareness;
- i. Facilitation of Technology Transfer through Ensuring IP Protection.

## **8. COMPETITION POLICY**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will enhance the competitive environment to increase consumer welfare in the Asia-Pacific region, taking into account the benefits and challenges of globalization, developments in the New Economy and the need to bridge the digital divide through better access to ICT, by:

- a. introducing or maintaining effective, adequate and transparent competition policy and/or laws and associated enforcement policies;
- b. promoting cooperation among APEC economies, thereby maximizing inter-alia, the efficient operation of markets, competition among producers and traders and consumer benefits.
- c. improving the ability of competition authorities, through enhanced capacity building and technical assistance, to better understand the impact of globalization and the New Economy.

### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. review its respective competition policy and/or laws and the enforcement thereof taking into account the “APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform”;
- b. enforce competition policies and/or laws, (including those prohibiting anticompetitive practices that prevent access to ICT and other new technologies), to ensure protection of the competitive process and promotion of consumer welfare, innovation, economic efficiency and open markets;

- c. disclose any pro-competitive efforts undertaken (e.g. enactment of competition laws, whether comprehensive or sectoral);
- d. implement as appropriate technical assistance in regard to policy development, legislative drafting, and the constitution, powers and functions of appropriate enforcement agencies;
- e. establish appropriate cooperation arrangements with other APEC economies, including those intended to address the digital divide; and
- f. undertake additional steps as appropriate to support the development of the New Economy and to ensure the efficient functioning of markets.

## **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- a. gather information and promote dialogue on and study;
  - (i) the objectives, necessity, role and operation of each APEC economy's competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures, thereby establishing a database on competition policy;
  - (ii) competition policy issues that impact on trade and investment flows in the Asia-Pacific region;
  - (iii) exemptions and exceptions from the coverage of each APEC economy's competition policy and/or laws in an effort to ensure that each is no broader than necessary to achieve a legitimate and explicitly identified objective;
  - (iv) areas for technical assistance and the modalities thereof, including exchange and training programs for officials in charge of competition policy, taking into account the availability of resources; and
  - (v) the inter-relationship between competition policy and/or laws and other policies related to trade and investment;
- b. deepen competition policy dialogue between APEC economies and relevant international organizations;
- c. continue to develop understanding in the APEC business community of competition policy and/or laws and administrative procedures;
- d. continue to develop an understanding of competition policies and/or laws within their respective governments and within relevant domestic constituencies, thereby fostering a culture of competition;
- e. encourage cooperation among the competition authorities of APEC economies with regard to information exchange, notification and consultation;
- f. contribute to the use of trade and competition laws, policies and measures that promote free and open trade, investment and competition;
- g. encourage all APEC economies to implement the "APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform; and
- h. undertake capacity building programs to assist economies in implementing the "APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform".

## **9. GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will:

- a. develop a common understanding on government procurement policies and systems, as well as on each APEC economy's government procurement practices; and
- b. achieve liberalization of government procurement markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Bogor Declaration, contributing in the process to the evolution of work on government procurement in other multilateral fora; and
- c. increase the use of electronic means to conduct government procurement and in so doing seek to promote the uptake of ecommerce more broadly.

## **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. enhance the transparency of its government procurement regimes and its government procurement information;
- b. establish, where possible, a government procurement information database and provide the information through a common entry point; and
- c. review on a voluntary basis and take appropriate steps to improve the consistency of its government procurement regime with the APEC Non-binding Principles on Government Procurement (transparency, value for money, open and effective competition, fair dealing, accountability and due process , and non-discrimination); and
- d. provide for and promote government procurement through electronic means wherever possible.

## **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- a. utilize questionnaire surveys to exchange information on existing government procurement regimes and on publication of government procurement information in APEC economies;
- b. maintain contact points to facilitate on-going exchange of the above information;
- c. hold workshops, seminars and training courses on government procurement procedures, laws, regulations, regional and plurilateral agreements, and the impact of technological development on government procurement;
- d. encourage establishment of an APEC government procurement information database, including information on procurement opportunities and the provision of a common entry point (such as World Wide Web (WWW) Home Page on the Internet) for participation by members on a voluntary basis; and
- e. continue to report voluntarily on the consistency of their procurement regimes with the APEC Non-binding Principles on Government Procurement and on the improvements to their regimes.

## **10. DEREGULATION/REGULATORY REVIEW AND REFORM**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will facilitate free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific Region by, *inter alia*:

- a. enhancing the transparency of regulatory regimes (including through the use of new technologies);
- b. eliminating domestic regulations that may distort or restrict trade, investment or competition and are not necessary to achieve a legitimate objective; and
- c. speeding up reforms which encourage efficient and well functioning product, labour and capital markets and supportive of institutional frameworks.

## **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. explore economy wide processes for the transparent and accountable identification and review of domestic regulations that may distort or restrict trade, investment or competition;
- b. consider the adoption of regulatory reform to reduce those distortions and their resulting costs, whilst maintaining the achievement of legitimate objectives; and
- c. promote the consideration of competition policy in regulatory reform.

## **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies, taking into account work done in other areas of APEC activity will:

- a. publish annual reports detailing actions taken by APEC economies to deregulate their domestic regulatory regimes; and
- b. develop further actions taking into account the above reports, including;
  - (i) policy dialogue on APEC economies' experiences in regard to best practices in deregulation, including the use of individual case studies to assist in the design and implementation of deregulatory measures, and consideration of further options for a work program which may include:
    - identification of common priority areas and sectors for deregulation;
    - provision of technical assistance in designing and implementing deregulation measures; and
    - examination of the possibility of establishing APEC guidelines on domestic deregulation; and
  - (ii) regular dialogue with the business community, including a possible symposium.

## **11. IMPLEMENTATION OF WTO OBLIGATIONS (inc RULES OF ORIGIN)**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will ensure full and effective implementation of Uruguay Round outcomes within the agreed time frame in a manner fully consistent with the letter and the spirit of the WTO Agreement.

On Rules of Origin, APEC economies will:

- a. ensure full compliance with internationally harmonized rules of origin to be adopted in relevant international fora; and
- b. ensure that their respective rules of origin are prepared and applied in an impartial, transparent and neutral manner.



## **GUIDELINES**

On WTO Agreements:

- a. Each APEC economy which is a WTO member will fully and faithfully implement its respective Uruguay Round commitments.
- b. Each APEC economy which is in the process of acceding to the WTO Agreement may participate in APEC Uruguay Round implementation actions through voluntary steps to liberalize its respective trade and investment regimes consistent with the WTO Agreement.
- c. Each APEC economy will, on a voluntary basis, accelerate the implementation of Uruguay Round outcomes and deepen and broaden these.

On Rules of Origin:

Each APEC economy will:

- a. align its respective rules of origin with internationally harmonized rules of origin to be adopted as a result of the WTO/WCO process; and
- b. ensure predictable and consistent application of rules of origin.

## **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- a. utilize on an on-going basis Uruguay Round implementation seminars and other appropriate means to:
  - (i) improve APEC economies' understanding of provisions in the WTO Agreement and obligations thereunder;
  - (ii) identify operational problems encountered in implementation of the WTO Agreement and areas in which APEC economies may require technical assistance; and
  - (iii) explore cooperative efforts to provide such technical assistance in implementation;
- b. consider implementation of suggestions for follow-on work from Uruguay Round implementation seminars; and
- c. undertake technical assistance based on discussion at the above seminars, including cooperative training projects targeted at prevalent implementation problems to be undertaken in conjunction with the WTO Secretariat and other relevant international institutions.

On Rules of Origin

APEC economies will:

- a. gather information on APEC economies' respective rules of origin, both non-preferential and preferential, and operation thereof without duplicating WTO work in this area, exchange views and develop a compendium of rules of origin for the use of the business/private sector;
- b. facilitate, complement and accelerate, in the short term, WTO/WCO work on harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin; and

- c. study in due course the implication of rules of origin on the free flow of trade and investment, with a view to identifying, in the longer term, both positive and negative aspects and effects of rules of origin related practices.

## **12. DISPUTE MEDIATION**

### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will:

- a. encourage members to address disputes cooperatively at an early stage with a view to resolving their differences in a manner which will help avoid confrontation and escalation, without prejudice to rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement and other international agreements and without duplicating or detracting from WTO dispute settlement procedures;
- b. facilitate and encourage the use of procedures for timely and effective resolution of disputes between private entities and governments and disputes between private parties in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- c. ensure increased transparency of government laws, regulations and administrative procedures with a view to reducing and avoiding disputes regarding trade and investment matters in order to promote a secure and predictable business environment.

### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy will:

- a. provide for the mutual and effective enforcement of arbitration agreements and the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards;
- b. provide adequate measures to make all laws, regulations, administrative guidelines and policies pertaining to trade and investment publicly available in a prompt, transparent and readily accessible manner; and
- c. promote domestic transparency by developing and/or maintaining appropriate and independent review or appeal procedures to expedite review and, where warranted, correction of administrative actions regarding trade and investment.

### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- a. with respect to resolution of disputes between APEC economies;
  - (i) promote dialogue and increased understanding, including exchange of views on any matter that may lead to a dispute, and cooperatively examine on a voluntary basis disputes that arise, utilizing policy dialogue such as the “Trade Policy Dialogue” of the CTI;
  - (ii) give further consideration as to how the above Trade Policy Dialogue or similar functions of other fora may be used by APEC economies for the exchange of information, enhanced dialogue and mediation; and
  - (iii) examine the possible future evolution of procedures for the resolution of disputes as the APEC liberalization and facilitation process develops;
- b. with respect to resolution of disputes between private parties, and between private parties and APEC economies;

- (i) provide CTI with a listing of arbitration, mediation, and conciliation services available to private entities of other APEC economies, including a description of any such service which might provide a useful model for private-to-government dispute resolution in the Asia-Pacific region, and make such information widely available to the business/private sector in the Asia-Pacific region;
  - (ii) provide CTI with comments regarding experiences with the above services;
  - (iii) accede where appropriate to international agreements for the settlement of disputes between governments and private entities such as the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States; and
  - (iv) accede where appropriate to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention);
- c. with respect to transparency;
  - promote transparency on an APEC-wide basis, through, for example, publication of a guide book on arbitration, mediation, and conciliation services available in each APEC economy; and
- d. with respect to the above collective actions, continue to report to CTI on progress, with recommendations.

### **13. MOBILITY OF BUSINESS PEOPLE**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will:

- a. enhance the mobility of business people who are engaged in the conduct of trade and investment activities in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- b. enhance the use of information and communications technology (ICT) to facilitate the movement of people across borders, taking into account the Leaders' Statement on Counter Terrorism.

#### **GUIDELINES**

Each APEC economy work toward achieving the above objectives:

- a. abiding by directions and statements from APEC Leaders and Ministers;
- b. recognising APEC Principles on Trade Facilitation; and
- c. consistent with the Informal Experts Group on Business Mobility's (IEGBM) capacity building standards and annually agreed goals.

#### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

##### **Exchange Information**

Exchange information on regulatory regimes in regard to the mobility of business people in the region, including through regularly updating the information in the online APEC Business Travel Handbook

##### **Short-Term Business Entry**

Streamline short-term entry requirements for business people. APEC economies will strive on a best endeavour basis and according to their own immigration procedures to implement one or more of the following options:

- i) visa free or visa waiver arrangements;
- ii) participating in the APEC Business Travel Card scheme;
- iii) multiple short-term entry and stay visas which are valid for at least 3 year multiple entry visas.

#### **Business Temporary Residency**

Implement streamlined temporary residence processing arrangements for the intra-company transfer of senior managers and executives, and specialists as defined by individual economies.

#### **Capacity Building (Technical Cooperation and Training)**

Develop and implement the mutually agreed standards and benchmarks essential to capacity building and engage in the capacity building initiatives necessary to provide streamlined visa application and immigration entry, stay and departure processing arrangements.

#### **Dialogue with Business**

Continue to maintain a dialogue with the APEC Business Mobility Group and the APEC business community (including with APEC fora) on mobility issues important to the APEC region and the APEC business community.

### **14. INFORMATION GATHERING AND ANALYSIS (GROUNDWORK)**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will secure a solid platform for the expansion and improvement of Actions in Specific Areas and APEC economies' respective Action Plans by undertaking *inter-alia* cross-sectoral work.

#### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- a. conduct surveys as necessary of trade and investment impediments;
- b. review and analyze the impact of trade liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region;
- c. study and monitor the impact of sub-regional and bilateral trade arrangements such as NAFTA, Association of South-East Asian Nations Free Trade Area (AFTA) and ANZCERTA;
- d. develop databases with regard to merchandise trade, trade in services and direct investment, and update these regularly; and
- e. adopt international standards for trade in services and international investment data such as those developed by the IMF.

### **15. STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

APEC economies will enhance well-functioning economy within the global marketplace in the Asia-Pacific region by:

- a. ensuring a fair, transparent and consistent application of the rule of law in the commercial and corporate domain
- b. strengthening economic legal infrastructure in order to minimize the risk of future economic crises and building business and investor confidence

### **GUIDELINES**

In accordance with the provisions of the Cooperation Framework for Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure, each APEC economy will:

- a. consider strengthening legislation and regulations or institutions and administrative procedures with a view to promoting the fair, transparent and consistent application of the rule of law
- b. update relevant professional capabilities and ensure an effective and ethical legal profession
- c. feed back information on individual economies' efforts to APEC fora as a reference; and
- d. establish and maintain a dialogue on strengthening economic legal infrastructure with the business community

### **COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

APEC economies will:

- a. hold seminars to discuss individual economies' legal designs, if necessary
- b. provide assistance if requested, when designing legal institution and developing human resources for the implementation of legal system
- c. work in closer cooperation with international institutions, Finance Ministers Process and APEC fora, in particular CPDG (Competition Policy and Deregulation Group)