

## **PART TWO: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

### **SECTION A: *ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS***

APEC economies will pursue economic and technical co-operation in order to attain sustainable growth and equitable development in the Asia-Pacific region, while reducing economic disparities among APEC economies and improving economic and social well being. Such efforts will also facilitate the growth of trade and investment in the region<sup>17</sup>.

APEC economies will conduct economic and technical cooperation on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and equality, mutual benefit and assistance, constructive and genuine partnership and consensus building. APEC economies shall make voluntary contributions commensurate with their capabilities and the benefits of the co-operation shall be shared broadly.

In pursuing economic and technical cooperation, APEC economies will develop an environment favorable to the effective operation of market mechanisms and integrate into the co-operation process the business/private sector as well as involve wherever possible other pertinent institutions.

Recognizing their shared responsibility for sustainable development, APEC economies will integrate environmental considerations in all relevant APEC activities.

While respecting the autonomy of each APEC economy over its policies, APEC economies recognize Common Policy Concepts, Joint Activities and Policy Dialogue as the three essential elements to be taken into account in each specific area of APEC economic and technical co-operation.

### **I COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

APEC economies will develop Common Policy Concepts including goals, basic principles and priorities in each specific area of APEC economic and technical cooperation. APEC economies recognize that, given the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region, Common Policy Concepts will serve to:

- a. guide Joint Activities; and
- b. inform the development of each APEC economy's policies/activities.

### **II JOINT ACTIVITIES**

In the light of Common Policy concepts, APEC economies will engage in Joint Activities such as compilation and sharing of data and information, surveys, training, seminars,

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<sup>17</sup> Economic and technical cooperation which directly supports trade and investment liberalization and facilitation is mainly dealt with in Part One.

research and technical demonstrations. Various means including Partners for Progress (PFP) will be utilized to strengthen these activities. APEC economies will prepare economic outlooks for the Asia-Pacific region that will provide a useful reference for APEC activities. Joint Activities will serve to:

- a. improve APEC economies' ability to analyze current and future economic trends, and develop and implement policy measures;
- b. utilize regional resources more effectively; and
- c. increase the effectiveness of policy measures.

### **III POLICY DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will hold Policy Dialogue on economic issues.

- a. Dialogue on Common Policy Concepts and Joint Activities will serve to:
  - develop and review Common Policy Concepts;
  - evaluate the effect of Joint Activities;
  - develop further Joint Activities; and
  - identify the best way to implement cooperation in the light of differences in policies among APEC economies.
- b. Dialogue on each APEC economy's policies/activities will allow APEC economies to:
  - share expertise and experience; and
  - consult and exchange views on their policies/activities in the light of Common Policy Concepts.

## **SECTION B: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN SPECIFIC AREAS**

Bearing in mind the three essential elements, APEC economies will pursue economic and technical cooperation. The following is an illustrative reference of Common Policy Concepts and Joint Activities/Dialogue in specific areas of cooperation. The full text of Action Programs in specific areas is annexed and forms an integral part of this Action Agenda.

### **1. AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

#### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

Given differences in needs and levels of development among APEC economies, strengthening Agricultural Technical Cooperation (ATC) is expected to lead to balanced agricultural development, resource utilization and conservation as well as improved food variety and quality. APEC economies will seek to enhance the capability of agriculture and its related industries to contribute to economic growth and social well-being. APEC economies will undertake ATC on the basis of principles including:

- a. paying due consideration to the diversity of agricultural sectors;
- b. recognizing the rapid changes occurring in the agricultural sector; and
- c. adding value to activities undertaken by international agencies.

## **JOINT ACTIVITIES**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. promote activities on conservation and utilization of plant and animal genetic resources by, for instance, developing individual genetic resources databases by 2003;
- b. promote research, development and extension of agricultural biotechnology by, for instance, following up on activities carried out with respect to communications by 2004;
- c. strengthen regional cooperation in production, processing, marketing, distribution and consumption of agricultural products by, for instance, developing cooperative work plans for development of supermarket/cold-chains and related distribution systems by 2003;
- d. strengthen regional cooperation in plant and animal quarantine and pest management by, for instance, conducting a survey of the availability of specific technical expertise by 2003;
- e. strengthen regional cooperation in the development of agricultural finance systems by, for instance, updating information on agricultural finance systems by 2003;
- f. promote agricultural technology transfer and training by, for instance, identifying key information on agricultural technology transfer and training by 2002; and
- g. strengthen regional cooperation in sustainable agriculture and related environmental issues by, for instance, establishing the directory of experts, institutions and centers of research for sustainable agriculture by 2002.

## **2. ENERGY**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

Regional energy consumption is rapidly increasing in tandem with the economic expansion of the Asia-Pacific region, turning energy into a potential bottleneck to sustainable economic growth. APEC economies will address the simultaneous achievement of the 3Es (economic growth, energy security and environmental protection) by sharing policy principles and enhancing closer cooperation toward the development of APEC as a sustainable energy community. APEC economies will set priority on the following:

- a. fostering a common understanding on regional energy issues;
- b. facilitating investment in the energy sector where appropriate;
- c. reducing the environmental impact of the energy sector; and
- d. accepting equivalence in accreditation and increasing harmonization of energy standards.

APEC economies will develop a range of shared energy goals, building on and expanding the fourteen non-binding policy principles for rational energy consumption.

## **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. deliver the Implementation Strategy agreed by Energy Ministers in San Diego, USA, in May 2000. The strategy features a program of implementation facilitation visits to member economies as requested on a voluntary basis and a system of self-reporting on progress on implementation of agreed energy initiatives to Leaders;
- b. progress cooperation with the Energy Working Group Business Network (EBN), Energy Regulators' Forum (ERF) and Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APERC) including the consolidation of the APEC energy database and regular dissemination of energy data;
- c. improve environmental performance through expanded programs in the fields of clean fossil energy, new and renewable energy technology and end-use energy efficiency and conservation measures;
- d. develop and implement an energy security initiative which aims to improve the functioning of energy markets through energy efficiency and conservation; diversification of energy resources; renewable energy development and deployment; and exploration of potential for alternative transport fuels, to alleviate pressure on the oil market, including the role that stocks could play as an option to respond to oil market disruptions;
- e. undertake mutual examination of energy policies in line with common policy concepts including strengthening policy dialogue among members on important issues such as energy security, energy infrastructure, energy efficiency, and energy and the environment;
- f. develop, implement and report on voluntary pledge and review energy efficiency programs for improving industrial competitiveness, reducing the environmental impacts of energy production, delivery and use, and producing energy savings;
- g. develop and implement cooperation initiatives that provide benefits to all citizens, give a human face to development, and provide new options for the clean development and use of energy;
- h. sustain the momentum for energy market reform, and contribute to energy security, including to mitigate damages to energy infrastructure after natural disasters;
- i. implement the 21<sup>st</sup> century renewable energy development initiative to advance cooperation in the development and deployment of new and renewable energy technology, especially in developing economies;
- j. implement the general policy framework for cooperation on energy standards, including support for inclusion of energy efficiency with the mutual recognition agreements being developed in the APEC region, and establish an APEC energy efficiency test procedures coordinator to facilitate implementation of a product-by-product approach to greater alignment of energy performance test procedures; and
- k. implement the *Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC*.

### **3. FISHERIES**

#### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

The Fisheries sector, like other renewable resource sectors, has a limited production base. APEC economies will seek to maximize the economic benefits to be gained from fisheries resources by promoting their long-term optimum sustainable utilization. Accordingly, APEC economies will set priority on the following:

- a. promoting the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, the sustainable development of aquaculture as well as habitat preservation;
- b. solving common fisheries resource management problems and aquaculture disease control;
- c. enhancing the food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products; and
- d. promoting sector specific work relating to trade investment liberalization and facilitation.

#### **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter alia*:

- a. facilitate implementation of global sustainable fisheries initiatives in the APEC region;
- b. assist APEC economies in the development of modern cooperative fishery management approaches, patterned on the successful workshop hosted by Japan in 1999;
- c. reduce destructive fishing practices, particularly those that affect coral reefs;
- d. carry on the FWG's important work in sustainable aquaculture; and
- e. support APEC Leaders' trade, SME, IT and gender initiatives.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

#### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

The people of the Asia-Pacific region are its most important asset. The human resources needs of the region are both expanding and diversifying in tandem with its growth and dynamism. In responding to the human resources challenges in the region, APEC has defined three overarching themes underlying work in the HRD Working Group:

- Education;
- Labor and Social Protection; and
- Capacity Building.

Uniting these themes are eight priority action areas:

- i) providing a quality basic education;
- ii) analyzing the regional labor market to allow sound forecasting of trends and needs in HRD;
- iii) increasing the supply and enhancing the quality of managers, entrepreneurs, scientists and educators/trainers;
- iv) reducing skills deficiencies and unemployment by designing training programs for applications at all stages of a person's working life;
- v) improving the quality of curricula, teaching methods and instructional materials for managers and other workers;
- vi) increasing opportunities for people seeking to gain skills; and
- vii) preparing organizations and individuals to remain productive in the face of rapid economic and technological changes;

as stated in the *Declaration on a Human Resources Development Framework*, and further engage in:

- viii) promoting HRD toward the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment.

## **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will undertake Human Resources Development Program 21, consisting of 21 sub-programs. In this program, APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. implement the *APEC Business Volunteer Program*, a mechanism for facilitating the voluntary dispatch of business experts among business/private entities in the region in order to exchange and transfer managerial and technical skills;
- b. implement the *APEC Leaders' Education Initiative*, a set of measures to enhance regional cooperation in higher education and to study key regional economic issues, including the establishment of an APEC Study Center in each APEC economy and the promotion of collaborative research on APEC-related issues;
- c. conduct studies on teacher development practices, on science education programs, and on uses of technology in education, in order to promote the provision of high quality instruction in basic education;
- d. conduct training of executives, managers, engineers, officials and other workers to increase the supply and enhance the quality of these people;
- e. accelerate cooperation relating to trade and investment liberalization and facilitation by means such as holding training courses on standards and conformance and intellectual property rights in order to ensure the availability of the experts required to maintain effective systems in these fields; and
- f. facilitate the mobility of qualified persons in the region through bilateral agreements between interested APEC economies for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications,

and, in addition to this program, will:

- g. conduct regular dialogue on the HRD policies and HRD situation of each APEC economy, establishing performance indicators such as adult literacy levels and levels of enrollment in elementary and secondary education as a basis for conferral; and
- h. support the development of useful labor market information and policy, improved workplace conditions and practices, and strong social safety nets, in support of human capacity building and social integration.

In pursuing this program, due attention will be given to optimise integration of gender and youth into APEC activities. In responding to the *Beijing Initiative* which calls for involvement of the stakeholders in human capacity building efforts, APEC economies will explore mutually beneficial cooperation between the government, business/private and education/training sectors.

## **5. INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

Improved levels of industrial science and technology will enhance economic growth, quality of life, environmental protection and development of a well-balanced industrial structure. APEC economies will improve the IS&T capabilities of each economy by recognizing eight non-binding principles for effective collaboration and by setting priority on the following:

- a. improving researcher exchange and human resources development;
- b. improving the flows of technological information and technology;
- c. facilitating joint research projects;
- d. improving the transparency of regulatory frameworks; and
- e. contributing to sustainable development.

### **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. strengthen APEC cooperation in key technologies through collaborative R&D initiatives, technology road mapping, technology foresight, improvements in the transparency of regulatory frameworks, and other joint activities. Key technologies would include advanced materials, nanotechnologies, industrial biotechnology, environmental technologies, information and communication technologies;
- b. connect research and innovation in APEC economies through strengthening collaboration between government, industry (especially SMEs) and the research community; technology diffusion initiatives especially the transition of emerging technologies to new industries; and enhancing information flows on science and technology among member economies, including through ASTWeb;
- c. build human capacity for S&T for the New Economy through S&T awareness in

- secondary schools; training/skills development initiatives in critical areas of industrial S&T, environment, and health; researcher exchanges/cooperation; fostering partnerships between educational institutions and industry; and adoption of distance learning technologies;
- d. help ensure the prevention and control of infectious diseases through implementation of the APEC Strategy for the prevention and control of infectious diseases of particular significance to the region through the sharing of priority health information, joint educational and training activities, sharing across strategic human and technical resources, and other relevant cooperative actions;
  - e. meet environmental challenges through science, technology and innovation within a framework of sustainable industrial development. Initiatives will include implementation of the recommendations of the APEC Cleaner Production Task Force, promoting environmental sustainability, natural disaster mitigation, and addressing climate change, resource productivity and conservation of biodiversity (except for conservation of plant and animal genetic resources in agriculture mentioned in the section 1). Appropriate waste management approaches, particularly for SMEs, will continue to be a priority with an emphasis on improving water quality and urban air quality; and
  - f. undertake dialogue on Industrial Science and Technology policies across APEC economies related to S&T policy, technology development and diffusion, networking and collaboration, gender and the scientific underpinnings of regulations and standards.

## **6. INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

The pace of economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region depends on the improvement of economic infrastructure. APEC economies will seek to accelerate infrastructure improvement together with the support and enhancements it provides to wider economic, environmental and community development initiatives, facilitating investment in infrastructure and encouraging business/private sector involvement.

### **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. conduct analytical work on issues relating to the overall infrastructure environment;
- b. explore ways to enhance the effectiveness of infrastructure improvement, such as:
  - compiling best practices for use as benchmarks in the examination of the respective roles of the public and business/private sectors,
  - developing guidelines on infrastructure policy, regulation and investment to ensure a more transparent and coherent environment for the business/private sector; and strengthening of infrastructure services' support to regional and



urban sustainable economic development, APEC Food System enhancements, environmental management;

- c. catalyze and support economic infrastructure and related cooperation networks and links to other fora such as to:
  - promote the exchange and application of best practices,
  - focus capacity development and training in infrastructure and development planning,
  - encourage the integration and local application of other APEC supported initiatives, such as under the APEC Food System, sectoral infrastructure measures, and the addressing of gender and sustainable development concerns; and
- d. conduct public-private sector dialogue to support the identification, prioritizing, and implementation of these and economic infrastructure cooperation initiatives.

## **7. MARINE RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

The marine environment contributes substantially to the economic viability of APEC economies through trade in fisheries and aquaculture products, other marine commodities and tourism. These are dependent on active conservation of marine resources and the marine environment, degradation of which has significant socioeconomic costs. While enhancing trade and investment in marine products, APEC economies will aim to protect the marine environment and to ensure continuing socioeconomic benefit. APEC economies will set priority on the following:

- a. addressing integrated ocean and coastal zone management;
- b. enhancing coordination in the implementation of UNCED Agenda 21 (Oceans Chapter and other related chapters) recommendations in the APEC Region;
- c. reviewing and resolving marine algal toxin issues.

### **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. make recommendations on related policies, standards, certification, regulatory requirements, conformance assurance and other areas;
- b. improve the flow of information on marine resource management and conservation;
- c. provide guidance on management of critical areas of their coastal zones, and also on development of effective communication, information exchange and planning mechanisms;
- d. assess structural barriers to the conservation and sustainable development of marine resources, develop strategies for action and develop an action framework; and

- e. conduct policy dialogue and establish public-private partnership to share scientific and technical information and resource, to identify and assess environmental and gender issues, and to develop practical, action-oriented approaches to maintaining the quality of the marine environment.

## **8. SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

SMEs are a critical engine for growth and innovation in the Asia-Pacific region, able to respond flexibly to technological advancement and the diversification of consumer needs. APEC economies will cooperate to maintain and develop SME dynamism by improving the economic environment so that SMEs may fully exploit their creativity and mobility, by helping SMEs address priority fields – human resources, information access, technology and technology sharing, financing and market access – and by improving SME policies. APEC economies will base their cooperation on principles such as:

- a. ensuring the availability and transparency of information on their respective SME policies to help improve SME policies in the region;
- b. developing and implementing non-discriminatory market-oriented SME policies to maximize SMEs' responses to market mechanisms and to provide the most favorable environment for SME economic activities and for further SME development; and
- c. recognizing that SME policies should focus not only on individual enterprises, but also on group enterprises and cooperatives.

### **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. convene training programs, seminars and workshops, including the APEC SME and New Business Support Workshops;
- b. undertake industrial studies, such as 'Industrial Outlook Study', consisting of comprehensive/sectoral studies on intra-regional industrial interdependence taking into consideration gender considerations, to enable SME policy makers and SMEs to come to a better understanding of the economic environment;
- c. survey each economy 's SME policies and reporting by economies, on a voluntary basis, their respective policies/best practices on SME development and their differential impacts on women and men, in order to enhance mutual understanding of APEC economies ' policy practices, using the agreed criteria and ideas of best practices;
- d. further develop and implement the program of activities for the APEC Centre for Technology Exchange and Training for SMEs as a resource centre for handling information networking, developing equal training opportunities for women and men and organising SME-targeted activities.

- e. survey the financial markets for SMEs and establish an APEC database to disseminate and exchange information on start-up companies and venture capital, improve the financing environment of SMEs particularly those owned by women and consult the reports of the finance minister process; and
- f. maintain and update the ' *Guide for Small and Medium Enterprises in the APEC Region* ' – a *Directory of Economies* ' agencies who are in charge of providing support for SMEs.

## **9. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

As the economic interdependence among APEC economies deepens, telecommunications and information infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region has a critical role to play in strengthening market linkages and enhancing trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. APEC economies will therefore seek to develop an Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII) on the basis of the following ten principles:

- a. encouraging APEC economies in the construction of domestic telecommunications and information infrastructure based on their own reality;
- b. promoting a competition driven environment;
- c. encouraging business/private sector investment and participation;
- d. creating a flexible policy and regulatory framework;
- e. intensifying cooperation among APEC economies;
- f. narrowing the infrastructure gap between the developed and the industrializing economies;
- g. ensuring open and non-discriminatory access to public telecommunications networks for all information providers and users in accordance with domestic laws and regulations;
- h. ensuring universal provision of and access to public telecommunications services;
- i. promoting diversity of content, including cultural and linguistic diversity; and
- j. ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights, privacy and data security.

### **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. conform, where appropriate, to the Guidelines on Trade in International Value-Added Network Services (IVANS) and generally conform, where appropriate, to the Guidelines on the regional Harmonization of Equipment Certification Procedures;
- b. continue to work to harmonize administrative procedures governing certification of customer telecommunications equipment;
- c. accelerate the pace of implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment for Telecommunications Equipment (MRA);

- d. share information on the state of the telecommunications regulatory environment and infrastructure development in each APEC economy in order to improve business/private sector access to related policies, regulations and other information;
- e. enhance cooperation and encourage capacity building on information security and network security;
- f. promote electronic commerce through seminars, studies on electronic data interchange application development, and experiments on the interoperability and suitability for electronic commerce of various networks;
- g. increase cooperation in infrastructure activities between APEC and other international institutions and fora;
- h. encourage the testing and dissemination of new technologies to achieve the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII).
- i. promote human resources development by means such as holding training courses on privatization and competition in telecommunications and information industries, and working towards a distance learning pilot project for experts in this area;
- j. work to encourage universal access to internet services, 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.
- k. 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*;
- l. foster the development of effective policies that support competitive markets in the domestic and international telecommunications and information industries.
- m. work to ensure that policy and regulatory environments better foster the uptake of e-commerce;
- n. implement, within voluntary time frames, the *APEC Interconnection Principles* and consult on the need for further discussions on interconnection; and
- o. implement the Gender Integration Plan.

## **10. TOURISM**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

The tourism industry is of growing importance in promoting economic growth and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC economies will seek to achieve long-term environmental and social sustainability of the tourism industry by setting priority on the following:

- a. removing barriers to tourism movements and investment and liberalizing trade in services associated with tourism;
- b. developing and implementing the concepts of environmental and social sustainability in tourism development;
- c. facilitating and promoting human resources development;
- d. enlarging the role of the business/private sector;

- e. developing cooperation and programs in the fields of information-based services related to trade in tourism; and
- f. sharing information among APEC economies.

## **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. identify impediments to tourism growth and formulate strategies that will improve tourism movements and investment in the region;
- b. increase mobility of visitors and demand for tourism goods in services;
- c. encourage and support the protection and conservation of cultural heritage and natural sites and the use of 'best practice' models in implementing the concepts of environmental and social sustainability to tourism development;
- d. enhance recognition and understanding of tourism as a vehicle for economic and social development;
- e. expand human resource development tools and exchange information and experience through the development of a database of core statistical information, including gender disaggregated data, and establish a research network to assist industry and governments to develop more effective marketing and planning regimes;
- f. raise awareness of the economic impact to tourism in the region; and
- g. address the requirement that all APEC economies take all possible measures in order to ensure the safety and security of travellers.

## **11. TRADE PROMOTION**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

APEC economies will seek to stimulate intra-regional trade through trade promotion measures such as holding trade fairs, disseminating information on trade-related issues and potential business opportunities, and providing advice on trade-related procedures.

## **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- a. hold APEC Trade Fairs on a regular basis;
- b. establish a network among trade promotion organizations in order to enhance linkages and cooperation among them;
- c. improve and convene training courses for the furtherance of trade promotion-related skills, and develop a mechanism for the exchange of trade promotion experts;
- d. compile, exchange and disseminate the information among trade promotion organizations and business/private sectors of member economies, on strategies, measures, and activities which support and facilitate trade promotion in member

- economies, such as internet services, trade financing, assistance for SMEs, performance measurements of promotion activities, etc.;
- e. implement projects to maximize the role of trade promotion organizations in promoting electronic trade among member economies; and
  - f. conduct activities to promote trade in food products and gender integration in the international trade field.

## **12. TRANSPORTATION**

### **COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS**

The ability of a transportation system to efficiently handle the movement of people and goods is critical in order to maximize economic productivity, facilitate trade and contribute to the mobility of people. APEC economies will therefore seek to develop an efficient, safe and integrated regional transportation system. The development of the transportation sector should promote equitable economic development to help people of all APEC economies share the benefits of economic growth. APEC economies will set priority on the following:

- a. facilitating the harmonization, coordination and transparency of transport policies, regulations, procedures and standards;
- b. promoting timely rational investment in the transport infrastructure;
- c. encouraging the efficient use of existing infrastructure through the application of appropriate trade and transport facilitation techniques;
- d. promoting transport system safety and security;
- e. promoting, on the basis of fair and equitable access to markets, a more competitive transportation operating environment and cooperating to address institutional constraints which affect the provision of transportation services; and
- f. facilitating the improvement of productivity, skills and efficiency of labor and management in the transport industry.

### **JOINT ACTIVITIES / DIALOGUE**

APEC economies will, *inter-alia*:

- 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 liberalise air services in accordance with the Bogor Goals, and provide annual progress reports to Leaders through SOM;
- b. develop by 2005 guidelines, standards and provisional options associated with an integrated transport system for the improvement or elimination of 'bottlenecks' in the region;
- c. improve by 2005 port efficiency and capacities in the region through the exchange of information and expertise among port experts and programs;

- d. develop by 2005 an efficient, safe and competitive operating environment for maritime transport and the ports sector in the region through improved transparency of maritime and port policies;
- e. develop by 2005 a plan to facilitate the implementation of satellite navigation and communications systems in the region;
- f. provide by 2002 a mechanism for increased cooperation and communication between APEC Economies in the transportation security area;
- g. continue work to address aviation and maritime safety deficiencies in the region and propose recommendations for improvement;
- h. identify by 2002 road safety issues and problems in the region and develop comprehensive strategies to address these;
- i. implement the action plan on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) to promote cooperation in ITS technology and standards;
- j. consider by 2005 measures to promote transparency in regulations, resolve differences in conformity assessment and facilitate the mobility of transport personnel by encouraging the mutual recognition of professional qualifications;
- k. continue the seafarers training project to meet seafarers' training needs in the APEC region;
- l. implement the *Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC* and identify initiatives for the full participation of women in the transportation sector; and
- m. identify by 2005/2010 the intermodal skills needed within APEC member economies and suggest methods of developing training programmes.

## **SECTION C: FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

APEC fora will make proposals for the expansion and improvement of Common Policy Concepts, Joint Activities and Policy Dialogue in their respective areas where appropriate. The inclusion of additional areas to those initially defined in Section B: Economic and Technical Cooperation in Specific Areas may be considered. Proposals on the above will be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting.

APEC fora, notably Working Groups, will begin the work outlined in Section B: Economic and Technical Cooperation in Specific Areas immediately; cooperating with each other to enhance the efficiency of APEC activities. 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 relevant APEC Ministerial Meetings should be duly recognized.

This Action Agenda may be revised and improved as necessary based on the overall progress of liberalization, facilitation and cooperation in APEC.