THE OSAKA ACTION AGENDA

ANNEX

Action Programs in Specific Areas

AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION
ENERGY
FISHERIES
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MARINE RESOURCE CONSERVATION
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
TOURISM
TRADE PROMOTION
TRANSPORTATION
ACTION PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is an important sector for many APEC economies. It has played an important role in the economic progress in this region. Agricultural development has been strongly influenced by technology. Agricultural Technical Cooperation in coordination with agricultural resources leads to improvement on production capability, and food variety and quality. Because the need and level of development in each member economy is different, strengthening Agricultural Technical Cooperation among APEC members will have a significant impact on a balanced agricultural development, resource utilization and conservation in the region. The Agricultural Technical Cooperation initiative provides an opportunity to enhance agriculture’s contribution to the region’s economic growth and social well being, consistent with the vision of the Bogor Declaration.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

The following objective, principles and strategies are shared as policy concepts by APEC member economies.

a. Goal

To enhance the capacity of agriculture and its related industries to contribute to economic growth and social well-being in the region.

b. Basic Principles

i) Accord with APEC goals for economic and technical cooperation.

ii) Mutually beneficial to all members and open to participation by all interested members.

iii) Avoid duplication with, and add value to, other activities undertaken by international agencies and regional forums.

iv) Pay due consideration to the diversity of agricultural sectors in the region.

v) Recognize the rapid changes occurring in the agricultural sector throughout the region.

vi) Coordinate closely with other APEC joint activities.

vii) Any joint activities to be funded from the APEC central fund or from other sources through APEC.

viii) Arrange meetings in a way which minimizes resource costs to maximize member participation.

c. Priorities

In order to realize the goal of this action program, Agricultural Technical Cooperation will be implemented, with placing priority on the following areas of activities:
i) Conservation and utilization of plant and animal genetic resources.
ii) Research, development and extension of agricultural biotechnology.
iii) Production, processing, marketing, distribution and consumption of agricultural products.
iv) Plant and animal quarantine and pest management.
v) Cooperative development of agricultural finance system.
vi) Agricultural technology transfer and training.
vii) Sustainable agriculture and related environmental issues.

3  JOINT ACTIVITIES

I.  Conservation and Utilization of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources

i) Develop individual genetic resources databases; identify and fill the gaps among these databases by 2003.
ii) Identify APEC-wide needs for genetic resources management based on individual member economy’s genetic resources databases by 2002.
iii) Establish an APEC information network for the exchange of genetic resources-related information by 2004.
iv) Publish an APEC booklet or information package on the relationship between indigenous animals and human with local agricultural implications by 2002.

II.  Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology

i) Through tools developed (e.g. Communicating About Agricultural Biotechnology in APEC Economies: A Best Practices Guide), and through effective use of the APEC Internet site, follow up and document activities carried out with respect to communications and feedback successes to APEC economies by 2004.
ii) Discuss key technical matters on agricultural biotechnology issues related to risk assessment/management of biotechnology products by 2004, in order to facilitate the development of science-based assessment frameworks in all member economies.
iii) Further carry out information sharing related to agricultural biotechnology on member economies such as regulatory frameworks and on relevant international organizations by 2005.
iv) Develop, identify, and participate in training opportunities or internships/fellowships in the areas of regulation, safety assessments, research and detection methodologies related to agricultural products of biotechnology, and document best practices by 2005.
III. Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution and Consumption of Agricultural Products

i) Develop cooperative work plans for development of supermarket/cold-chains and related distribution systems by 2003.
ii) Develop cooperative work plans for improvement of post-harvest and food processing technologies by 2003.
iii) Development of the network system on grade standards, requirements and regulations by 2003.
iv) Develop information network system concerning both supply and demand of food by 2003.

IV. Plant and Animal Quarantine and Pest Management

i) Conduct a survey of the availability amongst member economies of specific technical expertise and information by 2003.
ii) Implement joint surveys of pests and diseases using standardized techniques to better manage pests and diseases which are likely to cross common boundaries by 2004.
iii) Establish an information network system for the exchange of quarantine and pest management information by 2003.

V. Cooperative Development of Agricultural Finance System

i) Update information on agricultural finance systems of individual member economies, including information of consultants/experts by 2003.
ii) Implement a series of training courses on agricultural finance by 2002.

VI. Agricultural Technology Transfer and Training

i) Identify key information on agricultural technology transfer and training useful to member economies by 2002.
ii) Identify key agricultural technology transfer and training activities by 2003.
iii) Develop joint research and training program on agricultural technology transfer and training by 2004.

VII. Sustainable Agriculture and Related Environmental Issues

i) Establish the directory of experts, institutions and centers of research for sustainable agriculture by 2002.
ii) Identify key information on agricultural practices, agro-ecosystem and environmental issues that may affect sustainable agricultural development by 2003.
iii) Identify key information on rural development and socio-economic factors that may affect rural development by 2004.
iv) Establish information network system on sustainable agriculture, related environmental issues and rural development by 2003.
ACTION PROGRAM FOR ENERGY

1 INTRODUCTION

At the request of APEC Leaders, Senior Officials preparing for the Osaka Leaders’ Meeting in 1995 began the task of developing an Action Agenda to implement the Bogor Declaration. Working Groups and other APEC fora were asked to contribute to the Action Agenda by designing mid-term and long-term action programs on economic and technical cooperation (including infrastructure), and, where possible, on trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation. Senior Officials called for short term tangible results which could serve as down payments for the Action Agenda.

In addition to these general requirements, the then Working Group on Regional Energy Cooperation (now EWG) was specifically requested to include in its action program measures to give effect to the 3Es Initiative (economic growth, energy security and environmental protection) of APEC Leaders.

At their meeting in Sydney in 1996, APEC Energy Ministers endorsed 14 non-binding policy principles for rational energy consumption.

Energy Ministers at their fourth meeting (EMM4) held in San Diego, USA, on 12 May 2000, under the theme ‘Turning Vision into Reality’ conveyed their conviction to make the best effort for the simultaneous pursuit of economic growth, energy security and environmental protection, recognising that energy is central to maintaining the region’s economic recovery, building the region’s economic and social future, strengthening the marketplace, and promoting clean and sustainable development. In their message to APEC Leaders, Energy Ministers also committed to a set of primary principles that underpin APEC activities in the energy sector and to a new implementation strategy for APEC’s energy program.

At the 21st meeting of the Energy Working Group (EWG21) held on 18–19 May 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, member economies agreed the Vision, Objectives, and Plan of a new Future Directions Strategic Plan for the EWG.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

a. Future directions strategic plan

Our Vision

The vision of the Energy Working Group holds that the EWG will promote the 3E’s (economic growth, energy security and environmental protection) and more broadly the contribution of energy to the economic, social, and environmental enhancement of the APEC community.
The EWG will achieve this by cooperation among member economies through government policy makers, technical experts, business/private sector representatives and regulators, working in partnership under the aegis of the EWG.

**Our Objectives**

The EWG will work cooperatively over the next five years to promote our vision through voluntary agreements, which take into account the individual circumstances of member economies. As part of its contribution to sustainable development within APEC, the EWG will pursue the following objectives:

i) strengthening the security and reliability of affordable energy to all within our APEC community;

ii) promotion of clean and efficient technologies, and the efficient use of energy to achieve both economic gains and environmental enhancement;

iii) achieving environmental improvement of energy production, use and mineral extraction within our APEC community;

iv) harnessing all expertise available to the EWG to give effect to the above objectives; and

v) implement the *Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC*.

**Our Plan**

The EWG will promote policy approaches and initiatives and adopt work programs within the following strategic themes:

i) Fostering a common understanding on regional energy issues.

ii) Improving the analytical, technical, operational and policy capacity within member economies.

iii) Facilitating energy and minerals resource and infrastructure development in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

iv) Facilitating energy efficiency and conservation

v) Facilitating improved reliability and stability in the provision of energy supply to meet demand.

vi) Facilitating energy technology development, exchange, application and deployment.

vii) Facilitating a diverse and efficient supply mix.

**b. Basic Principles**
In 1996 Energy Ministers endorsed 14 non-binding policy principles for rational energy consumption, agreeing to:

1. Emphasise the need to ensure energy issues are addressed in a manner which gives full consideration to harmonisation of economic development, security and environmental factors.
2. Pursue policies for enhancing the efficient production, distribution and consumption of energy.
3. Pursue open energy markets for achieving rational energy consumption, energy security and environmental objectives, recommending action in the appropriate forum of APEC to remove impediments to the achievement of these ends.
4. Recognise that measures to facilitate the rational consumption of energy might involve a mix of market based and regulatory policies, with the relative components of the mix being a matter for the judgement of individual economies.
5. Consider reducing energy subsidies progressively and promote implementation of pricing practices which reflect the economic cost of supplying and using energy across the full energy cycle, having regard to environmental costs.
6. The regular exchange of experience on the various policies being used by member economies to achieve a more rational energy consumption.
7. Ensure that a least cost approach to the provision of energy services is considered.
8. Promote the adoption of policies to facilitate the transfer of efficient and environmentally sound energy technologies on a commercial and non-discriminatory basis.
9. Encourage the establishment of arrangements for the development of human resource skills relevant to the application and operation of improved technology.
10. Enhance energy information and management programs to assist more rational energy decision making.
11. Encourage energy research, development and demonstration to pave the way for cost effective application of new, more efficient and environmentally sound energy technologies.
12. Promote capital flows through the progressive removal of impediments to the funding of the transfer and adoption of more energy efficient and environmentally sound technologies and infrastructure.
13. Promote cost effective measures which improve the efficiency with which energy is used but reduce greenhouse gases as part of a suggested regional response to greenhouse gas reductions.
14. Cooperate, to the extent consistent with each economy’s development needs, in the joint implementation of projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the Climate Change Convention.

Members will develop and build on these principles, including into additional areas where consensus can be reached, consistent with the EWG Future Directions Strategic Plan.
c. Priorities

The EWG’s Action Program does not attempt to include the full spectrum of the Group’s activities. Rather it seeks to focus on key initiatives that will produce outcomes of direct relevance to the achievement of the objectives of the *Bogor Declaration* and the 3Es initiative.

The activities set out in the Action Program address both elements of the APEC Action Agenda (Part I concerning trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, and Part II concerning economic and technical cooperation) and cover the seven strategic themes referred to in the Plan above.

3 JOINT ACTIVITIES

I. Fostering a common understanding on regional energy issues

The EWG will continue to consolidate its energy database and production of a regional energy outlook. The outlook fosters member economies’ better understanding of the energy policy implications of future energy supply and demand trends and developments, thereby assisting member economies’ decision-making processes. The regional energy outlook is, and will continue to be, produced by the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APERC) formally established in mid-1996, located in Japan and managed under the auspices of the Energy Working Group.

Activities aimed at further expansion of the APEC energy data base will be carried out by the Expert Group on Energy Data and Analysis. This will be achieved through the identification and collection of additional economic and social indicators, and by the collection of data on final energy consumption on a more disaggregated basis. Where possible, this data will be collected from existing authorised international statistics. Other data will be submitted by each member economy. The timeliness and quality of oil market supply and demand data will be improved through activities aimed at improving the collection of this information from APEC member economies. These activities will be enhanced through technical cooperation with other multilateral agencies involved in energy data collection and analysis activities.

The EWG also encourages the free and open exchange of information on member economies policies and programs in the energy sector. This is facilitated through policy dialogue, and the exchange of information on notable energy developments and programs within member economies at EWG officials meetings.

Energy Ministers meeting in Okinawa, Japan, in 1998 recognised the importance of continuing improvements in the production, delivery and use of energy and agreed to implement a voluntary Pledge and Review program. EWG member economies report to meetings on progress against their pledged efficiency programs on an annual basis as a means of exchange of knowledge and information.
II. Improving the analytical, technical, operational and policy capacity within member economies

The EWG will continue to actively pursue the Implementation Strategy endorsed by Energy Ministers in San Diego, USA, in May 2001 through delivery of the implementation facilitation assistance team (IFAT) process and annual reporting on a voluntary basis by member economies against the primary principles contained in the Implementation Strategy.

The IFAT program is a mechanism developed by the EWG to assist APEC member economies to implement agreed energy initiatives, including, amongst other things, power and gas sector reform. Under the program, and at the invitation of a member economy government, a team of energy experts visits the host economy to share experiences and provide advice on options and approaches to implementing energy market reforms or other aspects of the energy sector. Team members are drawn from a cross-section of APEC member economies, including representatives of the EWG Business Network, the Energy Regulators Forum, and other nominated experts.

The EWG will complete a study on ‘Strengthening the Operational Aspects of APEC Energy Micro-Economic Reform’ and deliver a series of workshops aimed at improving the understanding within APEC of the role of micro-economic reform in energy markets and the efficiencies and benefits to consumers that can result. The workshops will also work to inform on issues associated with barriers to investment in the energy sector and the means by which those barriers can be removed and private sector investment can be mobilised.

The EWG will undertake a project aimed at providing quantitative analysis of the broad economic impacts of micro-economic reform policies to deregulate energy markets in the APEC region. Using macro-economic modelling, the project will permit an assessment of the benefits to economies through lower energy prices and more open and transparent energy markets that are expected to flow from regulatory reform. The project will assess the potential benefits of reform at both the economy wide level – through impacts on gross domestic product and sectoral outputs – as well as at the energy sector level – through impacts on energy prices, consumption and trade. The project will quantify the potential impacts of regulatory reform in the energy sector on macroeconomic performance as well as on energy consumption, prices and trade. The project will analyse the impacts of deregulation in the electricity sector as well as in primary fuel markets for petroleum, gas and coal, where appropriate.

III. Facilitating energy and minerals resource and infrastructure development in an environmentally and socially responsible manner

In Edmonton, Canada, in 1997 APEC Energy Ministers endorsed an Environmentally Sound Infrastructure Initiative. Ministers noted that the rapid increase in power infrastructure, which will be necessary to meet the economic and social aspirations of the region, will have impacts on the environment, and that these impacts can be of a local,
regional, or global nature. Ministers further noted that the challenge facing the region was to attract investment in power infrastructure, while at the same time ensuring that such infrastructure was established and operated in an environmentally sensitive way.

In Edmonton, Canada, APEC Energy Ministers also asked the EWG to examine ways to encourage greater strategic input from business. Trade and investment decisions in markets are impacted by the policies and practices set by government. To the extent that policies and practices can be changed to remove impediments, improve transparency and reduce risks, new trade and investment opportunities will open up and costs will be reduced. APEC provides an important vehicle for generating such change, providing a mechanism to influence governments at Leader, Ministerial, and Official level. By informing in a constructive way, change can be influenced. This is not a short-term goal, but rather a longer-term objective that will generate mutual benefits with respect to the economic and social goals of governments through increased private sector investment and trade, and returns to business/private sector through greater opportunities and reduced costs. Crucial to the efficient realization of this objective is strategic input from business/private sector to ensure objectives are well defined and strategies appropriate. As a result, EWG members agreed, at their meeting in March 1998, to the establishment of the APEC EWG Business Network (EBN). The EBN meets twice a year and inputs through dialogue with officials to EWG policy and program development processes.

IV. Facilitating energy efficiency and conservation

Member economies participate in the activities of the five Expert Groups of the EWG. Expert Group activities involve economic and technical cooperation in the areas of Energy Efficiency and Conservation, New and Renewable Energy Technology, Energy Data and Analysis, Clean Fossil Energy, and Energy and Minerals Exploration and Development.

The EWG, Energy Regulators Forum (ERF) focuses its work program on activities that assess, advise and report to EWG on regulatory aspects of energy market developments in the APEC region. The ERF promotes exchange of information and regulatory expertise within and between member economies; facilitating exchanges and strengthening linkages with and between other APEC fora, including the EWG Expert Groups, EWG Business Network (EBN), Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APERC), as well as guests of the EWG and ERF; and encouraging member economies to attend and participate in appropriate APEC and EWG funded workshops and seminars that have an energy regulatory component.

In San Diego, USA, in May 2001 Energy Ministers called for the establishment of the position of an APEC Energy Efficiency Test Procedures Coordinator. The EWG will establish this position with the purpose of continuing the work started by the Steering Group on Energy Standards (SGES) on reducing barriers to trade created by differing energy performance test methods and energy performance requirements. The overall purpose will be met via the five objectives identified by the SGES:
i) Developing, implementing and maintaining a standards web site — this will maintain up-to-date and accurate information about energy standards and regulations in APEC member economies.

ii) Managing a Standards Notification Procedure — to disseminate information relating to changes to energy efficiency standards within member economies to all relevant parties and to provide coordination between member economies on the development of energy standards.

iii) Monitoring international standards processes and developing a database for standards — tracking international developments in the field of energy standards.

iv) Coordinating APEC standards participation networks and algorithm activities within standards development where integrated with APEC priorities — liaising between relevant parties on matters concerning energy standards and regulations, and assisting in the establishment and presentation of a common ‘APEC stance’ on energy standards being developed within relevant international standards fora.

v) Monitoring and reporting on the delivery of the SGES work program to reduce or remove the need for multiple testing.

V. Facilitating improved reliability and stability in the provision of energy supply to meet demand

As part of its broad program of work the EWG will develop and implement an energy security initiative which aims to improve the functioning of energy markets; energy efficiency and conservation; diversification of energy resources; renewable energy development and deployment; and explore the 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. As part of this initiative, the EWG will deliver a project titled ‘Energy Security Initiative: Petroleum Stocks as an Option to Respond to Oil Market Disruptions’. The objective of the project is to provide member economies with further options to consider in addressing the economic impacts of oil market volatility and more fundamental energy security concerns. Consistent with the EWG’s approach to all of the initiatives it develops and executes, participation in developing the initiative and any follow up action by individual member economies based on agreed elements of the initiative will be voluntary. The initiative will provide exchanges of information and experience on policy, analytical and technical issues, stock holdings and draw down arrangements, costs, and integration with other energy security measures. The EWG will use the ‘Best Practice model’ of previous initiatives and will emphasize shared experiences. The project will, through a series of workshops, draw upon existing expertise in the EWG and its Expert Groups, the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre, member economies, and other appropriate organisations.

The EWG will implement an Earthquake Response Initiative that will involve sharing of information and experience. All APEC member economies will strengthen their capacity to prepare for earthquake disasters and to carry out rescue and restoration efforts. Overall, this initiative will lessen the damage to energy systems from earthquakes and increase energy supply security in the region. Initially this initiative will deliver a Report on Energy Infrastructure Earthquake Resistance Guidelines and Regulations of APEC.
Economies. The project will also deliver a seminar at which the participants from APEC member economies will present guidelines and regulations aiming to reduce the impacts of earthquakes on energy infrastructure, as well as best practices on post-earthquake investigation and restoration. The proceedings of the seminar will be published and widely distributed within the APEC region.

The EWG will undertake a project to identify and address barriers (policy, technical, regulatory and legal) to the interconnection of power grids in APEC member economies. Recommendations for action will be presented to the EWG, and two workshops conducted with relevant parties to disseminate information and strategies on overcoming barriers. Through these workshops member economies will develop and gain a greater and more practical understanding of how to target and implement the policies developed. Workshops would be held in venues to maximise participation of member economies. This project is of significance to developing APEC economies, many of which are characterised by underdeveloped power inter-connections.

VI. Facilitating energy technology development, exchange, application and deployment

The APEC 21st Century Renewable Energy Development Initiative consists of the development within the EWG Expert Group on New and Renewable Energy (EGNRET) Technologies of a series of collaborative efforts among its member economies to advance the use of renewable energy for sustainable economic development and growth of the APEC region. EGNRET has identified the priority needs and issues of its members, especially developing economies, for the promotion of sustainable development and growth, relating to the use of renewable energy. Eight collaborative efforts are being developed and will be implemented by multi-economy and multi-disciplinary ‘program teams’ consisting of representatives from governments, the private sector, NGOs, utilities and financing organisations.

The EWG will implement a research project ‘Harmonising Economic and Environmental Objectives of Energy Policy’. The project will deliver the findings of a comprehensive examination of key relevant issues relating to the harmonisation of economic and environmental objectives of energy policy. The information obtained will assist member economies in decision and policy development processes. The work program will aim to improve the information base in relation to environmental impacts of energy production and use, and assess the extent to which the deployment of technology and end use efficiency can contribute to harmonising environmental and energy objectives.

The EWG will undertake a review of the various standards that exist within APEC that govern the application of new and renewable energy technologies. The results of the review will be documented and shared. A universal knowledge of standards and regulations relating to the application of new and renewable energy technologies within member economies will facilitate a better understanding of the potential barriers to trade in these technologies and products.

The EWG will deliver a series of workshops on the impacts of e-commerce on the energy sector within the APEC region. This work will be undertaken by the ad-hoc task force on e-commerce in energy established by EWG20 in Cusco, Peru.
The EWG will finalise work on energy services whose outcomes will not in any way prejudice activities underway in the WTO on services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services. The EWG will report back to the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) so that the Group on Services under CTI can progress this work.

The EWG will undertake work that will provide quantitative analysis of the benefits of the uptake of ‘New Economy’ technologies to the energy sector in APEC member economies. This project will benefit all APEC member economies by providing a common understanding of the implications of these technologies for economic growth and sectoral performance, with a particular focus on energy consumption, production and trade.

VII. Facilitating a diverse and efficient supply mix

The EWG will initiate a project that will determine the extent to which interconnection standards for distributed electricity resources and policies act as barriers to trade within APEC economies. The miniaturisation of electric-generating technologies is a growing trend within APEC economies. These technologies can be placed at the source of electricity consumption rather than at central stations. A lack of interconnection standards could act as a barrier to using these small-scale technologies and, hence, to trade in APEC economies.

4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

The focus of activities in the Action Program is on cooperative action that will encourage increased policy dialogue between member economies, leading to the further development of shared non-binding policy concepts. The strong foundation created in this manner will provide the basis for member economies to undertake mutual examination of each other’s energy policies, in line with common policy concepts and goals, in order to achieve balanced and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.
ACTION PROGRAM FOR FISHERIES

1 PREAMBLE

The Pacific Ocean, with an area exceeding that of the land mass of the entire world, accounts for about fifty percent of the world’s harvest, consumption and exports of fish and fish products. Aquaculture output in the region accounts for approximately seventy-five percent of the world’s total aquaculture production and is playing an increasingly important role in trade and economic development in the region. Fishing is one of the major economic activities in the Asia-Pacific region. In many member economies it forms a significant part of the economic base, and in some smaller economies, particularly in the South Pacific, it provides the only realistic opportunity for their future economic growth and prosperity.

The unique feature of fisheries is that they have a certain limit to their production base. The world’s fisheries, including some in the Pacific, have suffered from over-exploitation and have not always been rationally utilised to ensure sustainable economic development. These factors also apply to aquaculture production which, while seeming to have potential for further expansion, faces environmental limits in the form of water quality, availability of space, etc. Close cooperation among APEC members is required in order to promote long-term optimum utilisation based upon sustainability of the resource. These unique features raise unique issues for the fisheries sector in achieving the direction given by APEC Leaders in the Bogor Declaration.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

The following goal, principles and objectives are shared as policy concepts.

a. Goal

Maximize the economic benefits from, and the sustainability of, fisheries resources for the common benefit of all APEC members.

b. Basic Principles

In achieving the above goal the APEC FWG will be guided by the following principles:

i) Shared responsibility

The sustainable development of the regions fisheries and aquaculture resources is the responsibility of all APEC members if we are to achieve long term economic growth based upon the regions fisheries. Further, in order for the benefits from the sustainable development of the regions resources to be realised and shared, all APEC members have a responsibility to advance trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation.
ii) **Common Interest/Common Benefit**

Many of the problems associated with fisheries and aquaculture management are common to all APEC members. Issues such as over utilisation, user group conflict, environmental degradation, gender, supply and demand trends, and trade and investment barriers are experienced by all members. The solutions developed by some members to these issues could well provide the solutions required in other member economies. There is a common benefit in sharing experiences relating to the resolution of these issues.

iii) **GATT/WTO Consistency**

In order for the maximum economic benefits from the region’s fisheries to be realised, a progressively liberalised and ultimately free and open trade and investment regime must be established. Barriers to trade and investment will be reduced and the free flow of goods, services and capital will be promoted in a GATT consistent manner.

iv) **Equal Partnership and Mutual Respect**

It is recognized that a diversity of circumstances exist in the region. It is also recognized that we all benefit by advancing economic growth, improved education and training and resource sustainability throughout the region.

c. **Priorities**

The Fisheries Working Group has identified the following objectives that the Group will need to address within its work programme in order to achieve its stated goal.

I. **The FWG needs to strengthen economic and technical cooperation in the management of the production base of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the following areas:**

i) Promotion of conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources domestically and regionally.

ii) Solutions to common fisheries resource management problems.

iii) Promotion of the sustainable development of aquaculture in the region.

iv) Solutions to aquaculture disease control.

v) Promotion of habitat preservation.

vi) Enhancement of the food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products.

II. **The FWG needs to promote work in the following areas concerning trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation in the sector:**
i) harmonisation of rules and regulations on product standards concerning fish and fisheries products;
ii) the effects of subsidies on resource management within the sector;
iii) the impact of resource management techniques upon trade;
iv) standard principles for the enhancement of the food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products;
v) current barriers to trade (including tariff and non-tariff measures) and investment in the region; and
vi) the supply gap in fisheries products given growing demand.

III. Sector Specific Factors

In developing these objectives consideration needs to be given to the unique characteristics of the resource concerned. The Vision Statement of the FWG provides a context within which to apply the above objectives. However, various sector specific issues will also need to be addressed. These issues can be summarised as:

i) limitation of supply potential from the resource and growing market demand for fisheries products;
ii) the common property nature of the resource and the associated user conflicts that result;
iii) the lack of effective management regimes in some fisheries;
iv) the excess capacity that currently exists in the world’s fishing fleets;
v) the lack of coherent internationally agreed rules governing trade and product quality for fisheries products;
vii) the incomplete nature of sector specific information regarding subsidies, administrative barriers etc; and
vii) the social impacts upon traditional/artisanal fishers and communities of various fisheries management techniques and trade and investment liberalisation.

3 JOINT ACTIVITIES

I. The FWG needs to strengthen economic and technical cooperation in the management of the production base of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the following areas:

i) Promotion of conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources domestically and regionally. In this regard, the APEC Joint FWG/MRC Task Force on Destructive Fishing Practices has been developed to focus on: 1) developing and implementing model coral reef fishery management guidelines and practices; 2) establishing a regional harmonized code for identifying fish in trade, through a full deliberative process in APEC; 3) establishing a regional certification system; and 4) outreach strategies including training, and engaging the private sector and non-governmental organizations over the coming years. Unfortunately, the FWG has not
followed up on the successful workshop on fishery management concerns hosted by Japan in 1999.

ii) Solutions to common fisheries resource management problems. The FWG hopes that one outcome of an APEC shark project might be capacity building in the APEC region for implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action for shark conservation and management.

iii) Promotion of the sustainable development of aquaculture in the region. We have focused much attention on sustainable aquaculture projects that provide alternatives to reef-destructive fishing practices for the live reef food fish trade.

iv) Solutions to aquaculture disease control. A recently approved project for science-base import risk assessment procedures will contribute to capacity building among fishing companies that are SME’s, initially in shrimp aquaculture.

v) Promotion of habitat protection. Prevention of reef destructive fishing has contributed to the protection of coral reef habitat. More needs to be done in this area.

vi) Enhancement of the food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products. Several early FWG projects contributed to regional implementation of HACCP-based seafood safety programs. More technology transfer and training could be provided to build regional capacity in this area.

II. The group needs to promote work in the following areas concerning trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in the sector.

i) Harmonization of rules and regulations on product standards concerning fish and fisheries products.

ii) The effects of subsidies on resource management within the sector.

iii) The impact of resource management techniques upon trade.

iv) Standard principles for the enhancement of the food safety and quality of fish and fisheries products.

v) Current barriers to trade (including all tariff and non-tariff measures) and investment in the region.

vi) The supply gap in fisheries products given growing demand.

General comment: The work of the FWG is hampered by the refusal of some economies to participate in discussions of trade liberalization. In some cases, this is due to the perception that a few economies might impose their approaches on other economies, thereby challenging the sovereign authorities of each economy to establish its own domestic approaches to international problems. In other cases, the reasons why progress is being blocked are less clear.
III. Sector specific factors – in developing these objectives consideration needs to be given to the characteristics of fisheries. The vision statement of the FWG provides the context within which the above objectives apply. However, various sector specific issues need to be addressed including:

i) limitation of supply potential from the resource and growing market demand for fisheries products.
ii) the common property nature of the resource and the associated user conflicts resulting.
iii) the lack of effective management regimes in some fisheries.
iv) the excess capacity that currently exists in the world’s fishing fleets.
v) the lack of coherent internationally agreed rules governing trade and product quality for fisheries products.
vi) the incomplete nature of sector specific information regarding subsidies, administrative barriers, etc.
vii) the social impacts upon traditional/artisanal fishers and communities.

General comment: The FWG is well-positioned to begin projects that address these concerns. Perhaps the Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting and the WSSD process will begin to provide clarity to our thinking about how to resolve these issues.

4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

Member economies will engage in dialogue on their policies/activities at the Fisheries Working Group to review and further develop the common policy concepts and the joint activities.
1 INTRODUCTION

In response to the adoption of the Bogor Declaration in November 1994, the Ministers decided that an action program would be formed around the components of (a) trade and investment liberalization; (b) trade and investment facilitation; and (c) economic and technical cooperation.

In the context of economic and technical cooperation, a mid/long-term perspective is necessary on human resources development, guided by the principle and recognition that the people in the region are its most important resource. With the dynamism of the region reflected in changing human resources needs, continued priority attention should be devoted to developing human resources. Given the principles enunciated in the Human Resources Development Framework, it is also imperative that an Action Program for APEC HRD be formulated in order to establish policy concepts and provide directions in the pursuit of concrete activities and projects.

In the formulation of the stated Action Program, the HRD Working Group and the other APEC fora shall be guided by the following:

i) The development of human resources contributes to the attainment of economic growth and development. This underscores the importance of designing regional approaches to human resources development within the framework and the priorities set out by the Declaration on the Human Resources Framework for APEC.

ii) Sustainable development depends upon the successful implementation of policies that integrate economic, environmental, and social objectives. As such, it is important to integrate environmental objectives into education and training programs to enhance environmental consciousness on the part of all citizens. Environmental education among children and youth should be an element in APEC HRD cooperative work towards sustainable development.

iii) The accelerating globalization of industry creates a prime opportunity to encourage the establishment and growth of domestic industry and to nurture a highly efficient and productive industrial structure. In recognizing this, the APEC Ministers, during the meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, in November 1994, agreed that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) policy dialogue on human resources development, information access, technology sharing, the availability of finance, and market access, should be further enhanced.

The Action Program for APEC Human Resources Development shall have the following components and features:

i) common policy concepts;

ii) a joint activities framework for HRD;

iii) joint activities for HRD: human resources development program 21;
iv) HRD activities in other APEC committees and working groups;  
v) dialogue on member economies’ policies/activities; and  
vi) time frame.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

The common policy concepts shall essentially consist of the goals, basic principles, and priorities defined by the Declaration on the Human Resources Development Framework. These concepts are shared and acknowledged by the APEC member economies as the basis for the development and implementation of HRD programs within the region.

a. Goals

As stated in the Declaration on Human Resources Development Framework and the 1995 HRD work plan, the goal of human resources development in APEC is to promote the well-being of all people in the region through economic growth and development. Furthermore, HRD has an important role to play in achieving the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment which was emphasized in the Bogor Declaration. This development of human resources will be achieved by planning, developing, and implementing practical and appropriate education and training for present and future managers, entrepreneurs, and workers in the public and private sectors and even non-workers contributing to the economic growth, trade and development of the region. Well-educated and well-trained individuals may contribute to future economic growth and development through their roles as parents and community figures as well as through current or future employment.

b. Basic Principles

APEC HRD will be based on the following principles, as stated in the Declaration on Human Resources Development Framework and the HRD’s annual work plans:

i) The people of the Asia Pacific are the most important resource in economic growth and development, one of whose goals is to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the people in the region.

ii) The development and protection of human resources contribute to the attainment of such fundamental values as the alleviation of poverty, full employment, universal access to primary, secondary, and vocational education and the full participation of all groups in the process of economic growth and development.

iii) Human resources development requires cooperative action by public, and business/private sectors, educational and training institutions.

iv) In designing regional approaches to human resources development, attention must be given to the diversity of experiences and situations in the region.
c. Priorities

The formulation of the Action Program for APEC HRD shall be guided by the priorities enunciated in the Declaration on Human Resources Development Framework and a priority area on trade and investment facilitation and liberalization. These priorities, which call for joint activities, are as follows:

i) Provision of a quality basic education for all.
ii) Analysis of the regional labour market to allow sound forecasting of trends and needs in human resources development.
iii) Increasing the supply and enhancing the quality of managers, entrepreneurs, and educators/trainers in areas of the economy central to fostering economic growth and development. Such areas include training in small- and medium-sized enterprises in entrepreneurship and in the management of sustainable growth incorporating economic and environmental consideration.
iv) Reducing skills deficiencies and unemployment by designing industrial and other training programs for applications at all stages of a person’s working life.
v) Increasing the quality of curricula, teaching methods and instructional materials relating to the education and training of managers and other workers.
vi) Increasing the opportunities throughout the region for people who seek to gain skills required for the economic growth and development of member economies and the region as a whole.
vii) Preparing organizations and individuals to remain productive in the face of rapid economic and technological changes in member economies, the Asia-Pacific region and the global economy.
viii) Cooperation in education and training among member economies will promote human resources development toward the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment in the region. Increased international mobility of qualified persons for HRD activities will also enhance economic growth.

3 JOINT ACTIVITIES FRAMEWORK FOR HRD

The eight priorities earlier indicated basically define the basic mission of APEC for human resources development. It shall be incumbent upon the HRDWG therefore, to translate these mandates into attainable plans for HRD, increasing opportunities for joint activities among member economies to maximize the benefits of human resources development in the region. These priorities, ultimately, when translated into concrete action, shall put into motion the goals and objectives of promoting of well-being of individuals within the region, not only as the means to achieve economic growth and development, but the end itself.

Bearing this major objective in mind, the joint activities shall be developed on the basis of the following framework:

i) Joint activities to be developed shall directly respond to one or more of the priority areas earlier defined in this paper.
ii) Within each priority area are specific activities to be undertaken in the short-, medium-, and long-term to achieve APEC’s HRD goals.

iii) Performance indicators shall be established for each priority area and each joint activity to identify specific milestone points and to provide a basis for the assessment of the progress of activities through a set of pre-defined measurement targets and indicators.

iv) Joint activities shall be monitored and evaluated against the measurement targets or performance indicators to enable the collection of information that will serve as basis for future planning and policy formulation activities within the APEC HRDWG and other APEC fora.

v) A system for the continuous review and assessment of the progress of the joint activities shall be an integral part of program management to allow for modifications in the project approaches and, if necessary, to the action program itself.

vi) A system for reporting and feedback by and among the member economies shall be established to promote complementation in the HRD activities of various member economies.

The HRDWG will examine proposals on such joint activities and, where appropriate, approve them as APEC HRD cooperative projects. The progress and outcome of these projects will be reported to HRDWG meetings. The HRDWG will also prioritize the projects requiring funding from the APEC Central Fund and send them to SOM via BMC for approval.

The other APEC fora shall also undertake human resources development activities in the field for which they are responsible in order to maximize the potentials of economic growth and development in the region toward the promotion of the well-being of its people in the region.

In pursuing HRD efforts, due attention will be given to optimize 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.

4 JOINT ACTIVITIES: HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 21

On the basis of the framework agreed upon, the HRDWG shall examine proposals on joint projects, taking into account this framework and the eight priority areas identified earlier. It shall likewise coordinate with other APEC fora to promote cross-forum cooperation in the conduct of HRD-related activities.

For its Action Program, the HRDWG has identified 21 program areas consisting of 14 sub-programs of the HRDWG addressing the themes developed under the eight priority areas, and an additional 7 sub-programs developed as Leaders’ and Ministers’ initiatives.
Specific projects/activities and their corresponding performance indicators have been established by the HRDWG to guide the course of its activities in the mid- to long-term. The 21 programs of the HRD are as follows:

I. Programs on the Basis of the Eight Priorities

a. Providing High Quality Instruction in Key Subjects (Related to Priority 1)

The development of human resources is highly dependent on high-quality curriculum, effective instructional methods, and use of new and innovative technologies, both for formal and informal education. In particular, enhancing the capacity of teachers to deliver high-quality instruction and ensuring that students have access to high-quality instructional materials are essential to an effective system of education and training. For this purpose, member economies may identify subject areas that they consider particularly critical to economic growth and development. Member economies may gain significant insights toward the improvement of instructional methods through information sharing. Specific activities which the HRDWG has completed include integrating training in use of information and communication technologies into teaching training, methods for formulating standards for vocational teachers, case studies of promising models or practices for teacher induction, teacher development, and teaching/work environments. Comparative study of primary and secondary science education programs in APEC members toward the identification of effective policies and practices to improve science education and an assessment of levels of utilization of computer network systems among students, teachers, and administrators served promote innovative uses of technology in education.

b. Analysis of Labor Market Issues (Related to Priority 2)

Understanding and anticipating the trends and needs in human resources development is vital for all aspects of economic growth. This requires the analysis of regional labor market to allow sound forecasting and policy formulation by member economies. Toward this end, the HRDWG, will undertake researches, conferences, and symposia to facilitate information exchange and data gathering and assessment. Projects to be undertaken in the short-term include the conduct of researches to determine extent of linkages between labor market and education and the role and status of women in social and economic development; and the conduct of symposia on Public-Private Sector Collaboration in HRD and on capacity building in HRD of key basic industries in the region. In the medium-term, it shall establish a HRD data base in collaboration with PECC.

c. Management and Strengthening of Small and Medium Enterprises (Related to Priority 3)

In order to maximize growth opportunities and enhance the competitiveness of APEC member economies, the HRDWG shall pursue projects that would promote the quality of management and entrepreneurial skills in human resources. Projects to be undertaken under this sub-program include the conduct of ‘Training Programs and Surveys to
Enhance Productivity Among SMEs’, short-term programs that will proceed to the medium-term. Other projects include the promotion and conduct of on-the-job training programs from the mid- to long-term.

d. **Management and Promotion of Sustainable Development (Related to Priority 3)**

To sustain benefits that are to be derived from increased productivity resulting from human resources development, emphasis will likewise be placed on strengthening the management, education, and training systems of member economies for increased environmental awareness and for the effective management of environmental issues within organizations. A significant project to promote this theme would be to produce, in the long term, certification systems for environment managers with emphasis on pollution prevention. Projects to be undertaken in the short-term include the conduct of an APEC-wide study on the ‘Future Directions of Industrial Environmental Technology HRD’ toward the development of environmental industrial strategies; conduct of a ‘Conference on Critical Strategies for Responding to HRD Implications of Environmental Technology Issues’; and the launching of the ‘Economic and Development Environment Investments Project’ to provide EDM training for policy advisors and managers.

e. **Executive Education and Development (Related to Priorities 3 and 7)**

The development of human resources within the region will have to be undertaken at all levels within organizations. The needs of executives and managers should be equally addressed in the light of the emerging trends and realities in the region. The education and development of management personnel to a level where they can accurately gauge the rapidly changing Asia-Pacific economic and technical environment and respond to these changes is critical to the region’s sustained development and growth. Training courses for Economic Development Zone senior managers were also been undertaken which will culminate with a symposium. The conduct of Get-togethers on HRD beginning in 1996 by Entrepreneurs to promote information exchange and to increase manager exchange programs in the long-term; conduct of research on modalities of university-industry cooperation in the region; and research on technology management and HRD support in the APEC region shall be undertaken in the short-term. The development of training materials for management development through research into trends in executive development programs shall also be pursued from the short- to medium-term.

f. **Supporting the Development of Useful Labor Market Information and Policy, Workplace Condition and Social Safety Net (Related to Priority 2, 3, 4 and 7)**

Support strong and flexible labor markets through policy research, collaboration, technical cooperation and the provision of labor market, enterprise-based training, and employment policies including labor market adjustment measures to assist workers affected by globalization and the development of professional and technical personnel; support the development of improved workplace conditions and practices including such
measures as enhancing productivity, the adoption of new technologies, better labor-management relations, and improved safety and health; work on the strengthening of social safety nets in areas such as income support programs, measures to enhance employability, empower individuals, and mitigate dependence.

g. **Industrial Technology Education (Related to Priorities 3, 4, and 5)**

Improving the quality of curricula, teaching methods, and instructional materials relating to industrial technology education is increasingly necessary to optimize the development of human resources who can adequately respond to changing business market opportunities in the emerging borderless Asia-Pacific economic community. Critical elements of this program include the conduct of cooperation efforts geared to encouraging exchange of information on training and skills development policies, strategies, and programs among member economies. Specific projects/activities under this program include establishment of a network of research collaborators toward the identification of best practice approaches in the field of information technology education; and development of ‘Technology Management Training Program for SMEs’.

h. **Lifelong Learning (Related to Priority 4)**

Improving labor productivity and flexibility is central to sustainable and equitable economic growth in the APEC region. As such, human resource development initiatives and strategies should cater to the emerging needs of the region’s manpower in order that they may be equipped to equally address emerging roles and skills requirements in the region. This program emphasizes the significance of creating new approaches and HRD programs for application in all stages of a person’s working life. To provide a solid foundation for various initiatives under this program, the HRDWG has published regional and general papers on lifelong learning programs and intends to develop a database on individuals and agencies developing lifelong learning activities. A conference on ‘Lifelong Learning Approaches and Initiatives’ was held in 1997.

i. **Developing Ways To Monitor Performance of Education Systems (Related to Priority 1)**

In order to determine whether education systems are able to achieve their goals of instilling knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors in students, as well as prepare students for the world of work, further learning, and good citizenship, it is necessary to put in place a strategy to acquire quality data, measure performance, and a system for analysis and reporting. This is important in determining how much of the goals are met vis-a-vis the actual performance of education systems. Cooperative work among member economies under this program should help member economies design methods to develop data and monitor their own system’s performance. As such, projects under this program include the collection and publication of an APEC educational indicators database in 2002. Conferences have been undertaken to promote information sharing on ‘state-of-the-art’ performance measurement approaches and reporting systems: a framework conference conducted in October 1995, a conference on school-based
indicators in 1996 and a conference on student assessment in October 2000. In January 1999, as part of a conference on education management reform, methods of performance assessment currently being utilized were a key aspect of the discussion. The continuous exchange of information is expected to result in the establishment of higher performing systems in the region.

\textit{j. Facilitating Mobility of Persons and Information Exchange For HRD and Economic Growth (Related to Priorities 6 and 8)}

Enhancement of the capacity and opportunities for the movement among member economies of people who have skills relevant for economic growth is a necessary element in achieving trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in the region. Thus, consistent with the goals of APEC, its HRD activities must facilitate the movement and interaction of qualified persons. To further promote HRD in the region as a means to achieve economic goals, projects to be undertaken in the short-term included the sharing of information on best practice and training in systems of accreditation, curriculum development and certification, with engineering as pilot; and conduct of an experts meeting to discuss new exchanges in higher education for the 21\textsuperscript{st} century. In the medium-term, the publication of member economy profiles in booklet and video forms, for distribution among schools in at least half of the members to facilitate student project work; and the establishment of a communication network among education and human resource policy makers to promote information sharing has been pursued. The establishment of APEC Study Centers at institutions of higher education and research centers throughout the region has been undertaken on a continuing basis. The conduct of increased levels of exchanges of students, staff, and researchers through the University Mobility in the Asia Pacific (UMAP) and increased exchanges of education officials through EDNET cooperation are also underway and continuing. A series of bilateral agreements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications between professional bodies or governments are being pursued in the long-term. The establishment of additional bilateral agreements promoted a continuing program for the exchange of education officials in the region in 2000.

Significantly, facilitating the mobility of qualified persons and information exchange for HRD is also being pursued in line with the more general goal of promoting economic growth within the region. This goal emanates from the recognition that the intra-regional movement of qualified and experienced human resources within the region will contribute to the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region. Toward this end, member economies shall share best practices and undertake training programs in the system of accreditation, curriculum development, and certification of professions in the short-term. Mutual recognition of qualification is endeavoured to be realized in the long-term through a series of bilateral agreements between professional bodies and governments in the region.

\textit{k. Management for Organizational Change (Related to Priority 7)}
This program shall be pursued to assist organizations in managing the change process resulting from technological changes and the dynamism of processes in the region. The changes in the economic and technical environment embracing the public and private sector calls for certain levels of restructuring within organizations and corresponding initiatives to enable human resources in organizations to effectively manage the restructuring processes as well as pursue better relations within the workplace. A report on ‘Managing Corporate Change Within APEC Economies’ was published in September 1995 and a seminar relating to Labour-Management-Government relations in the workplace was held in June 2001.

1. Liberalization and Facilitation Of Trade In Services (Related to Priority 8)

The emerging realities in the region provide the impetus for cooperative arrangements among member economies in ensuring the availability of a workforce that would respond to the needs and requirements of the region. Consistent with the vision of a community of nations bonded by a deepening spirit of openness and partnership, the member economies have endeavoured to liberalize and facilitate the exchange of technological know-how and qualified persons to address the skills requirements in the region. Toward this end, member economies will promote cross-member investment in education and training through principles to be established and implemented in bilateral and other agreements in the mid- to long-term. The HRDWG will also undertake an analysis of various researches conducted in the field of cross-cultural management of trade dispute resolution toward the development of course material in the short-term to promote appreciation of this approach in trade dispute resolution among member economies.

m. Standards and Conformance (Related to Priority 8)

Standards and conformance are an important area in regional trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. As such, it is vital to ensure the quality and availability of skilled and trained human resources that can establish and implement effective standards and conformance systems in the region. In line with this, the HRDWG shall undertake in the short-term a study on HRD requirements to promote quality assurance system and implement workshops in the medium-term to discuss expert exchanges and harness opportunities for training in the field of standards and conformance.

n. Intellectual Property Rights (Related to priority 8)

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) have assumed a critical level of importance in the light of the more liberalized flow of goods and services within the global and regional community. Given this, the availability of highly trained human resources to implement systems relating to intellectual property rights will have to be ensured among the member economies. The HRDWG, toward this end, will conduct activities to raise consciousness on IPR systems and their implementation. Part of this undertaking has involved the determination of further needs for training of member economies on the development of IPR and the development and conduct of IPR courses in member economies.
II. Programs Related to Leaders’ and Ministers’ Initiatives

The following Leaders’ and Ministers’ initiatives respond to specific priorities identified earlier and are linked to the fourteen sub-programs of the HRDWG that address the themes of the eight priority areas:

a. APEC Leaders’ Education Initiative

Proposed by the USA, the APEC Leaders Education Initiative (ALEI) will be an investment in the education of future generations to develop regional cooperation in higher education, study key regional economic issues, improve workers’ skills, facilitate cultural and intellectual exchanges, foster understanding on the diversity of this region, and to harness other regional cooperative undertakings in the aspect of education and human resource development.

The establishment of APEC Study Centers is an important component of ALEI. These centers have been established in all member economies to promote collaborative research on APEC related issues. ALEI also includes the implementation of an APEC scholars program to promote the exchange of students and teachers.

b. APEC Business Volunteer Program

Proposed by Thailand, the APEC Business Volunteers Program aims to promote HRD to create business, legal, and other environments favourable to trade and investment by mutual expert dispatch among private sector entities in the APEC region. This initiative also aims to further economic development in the region through the exchange and transfer of managerial and technical skills by exchange of business volunteers.

A significant feature of this program includes the establishment of focal points in each member economy that identifies the needs and expertise available in each member economy for compilation into a roster of available expertise to be used in the networking activities among the member focal points. To facilitate and systematically carry out continuous information exchange and strengthen communication lines among the various focal points, an APEC BVP Coordinating Office in Bangkok, Thailand, was established. This office has also served as an information center with access to updated rosters of experts in member economies and has received applications for expert dispatch for referral to appropriate expert dispatch agencies in member economies.

c. APEC Ministerial Meeting on Human Resources Development

Responding to the APEC challenges, Ministerial Meetings on Human Resources Development have been held since 1996 and biennially since 1997 to maintain the momentum of ongoing HRD efforts and to chart the direction of future HRD work in APEC.
d. **APEC Center for Technology Exchange and Training for SMEs (ACTETSME)**

The project is a result of the APEC Leaders pledge in Blake Island, USA, during which the Philippine Government put forward the initiative to operationalize a center that will collectively harness the resources of APEC member economies to support sustainable development and growth of SMEs in the region. The Center performs the role of a resource center with distinct capabilities in information networking, mobilization of training opportunities for technical know-how absorption and upgrading, and organizing specialized activities to reach out to SMEs for syndicating technology transfer projects in the spirit of intra-regional cooperation and business internationalization.

e. **SME Ministerial Meeting**

The APEC HRDWG has adopted ‘SMEs’ as a key theme in its workplan. This complements the recognition that SMEs are increasingly important in terms of heightening economic complementarities and development in the region. Toward this end, APEC HRD afforded more emphasis on activities that support the growth and development of SMEs, which in turn, has supported the overall APEC goal of further economic growth in the region.

f. **Sustainable Development Ministers’ Meeting**

The Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development was held in 1997. Taking the cue from Senior Officials who review APEC activities in sustainable development regularly in consultation with Chairs and Lead Shepherds of all APEC fora, the HRDWG discusses pertinent issues relating to sustainable development as part of its regular agenda at its meetings.

g. **APEC Education Foundation**

Proposed by the USA and welcomed by the Ministers in Jakarta, Indonesia, the APEC Education Foundation (AEF) was established in 1995 as an expansion of the Leaders’ Education Initiative to advance the cause of education and human resources development in the region. Following the proposal by Korea, the Foundation’s Grants and Programs Secretariat was opened in Seoul, Korea, in 1997 and the Administrative Office later in Monterey, USA. In Vancouver, Canada, APEC Leaders acknowledged the development and progress of the Foundation in the APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration. With financial contributions from the Korean Government and the private sector in the USA, the AEF has supported the endeavors of APEC member economies to enhance collective learning and exchange information. In 2000, the AEF reorganized and consolidated the Secretariat, now integrated in Seoul, to ensure efficiency and transparency. In Brunei, Ministers welcomed ‘the efforts to revitalize the APEC Education Foundation and urged economies to participate actively in the Foundation.’

As a grant-making organization intended to channel investments into the development of human resources in the region, the AEF will continue to promote educational cooperation,
research and scholarship, and community building through a concerted approach among the public and private sectors and educational and training institutions. In collaboration with various partners of APEC, the AEF will also seek ways to contribute to human capacity building within APEC in its priority areas. In order to build a solid basis to advance its objectives, efforts will be accelerated to establish a financial resource base and enhance public outreach.

5 HRD ACTIVITIES IN OTHER APEC FORA

Considering the critical role of human resources in promoting growth and development potentials in the region, its continued development has been pursued in consonance with policy and program initiatives that has been developed and undertaken in the various APEC fora.

A regular agenda item at HRDWG meetings provides for discussion on HRD-related activities in other APEC fora. These include:

- **APEC Strategic Plan on Capacity Building** through programs on building capacity for implementation of WTO Agreements (Committee on Trade and Investment).
- ‘Transforming Digital Divide into Digital Opportunities’ (Economic Committee).
- ‘Training for Building Skill on Marketing Strategy’ (Trade Promotion WG).
- ‘APEC Marine Environmental Training and Education Program’ (Marine Resources Conservation WG).
- ‘Distance Learning Strategic Needs Analysis Project’ (Telecommunications and Information WG).

6 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

a. Policy Dialogue

Members will implement regularly policy dialogues at the HRDWG to promote better understanding and appreciation of policy concepts described above and to facilitate HRD joint activities among member economies. Such dialogues shall include discussions and sharing of experiences and insights among APEC member economies on progress achieved in the field of human resources development, and consultation on each member’s policies in the light of common policy concepts.

APEC members will review the outcome of joint activities and the status of HRD in each economy on the basis of performance indicators to be established by the HRDWG.

b. Dialogue Themes
APEC economies will conduct the necessary dialogue on appropriate themes from the entire range of HRD issues. These will include:

1) Exchange of Information on Key Policy Developments

Policy developments occurring in the field of human resources development in the member economies shall be shared to promote cooperative undertakings in training and education. It is envisioned that through a direct and deliberate pattern of information exchange, the member economies will be able to enhance cooperation and harness opportunities for the formulation of complementary policies and standards in the region. It is also through improved channels of information exchange that the distinct character of political, economic, and social realities prevailing in the member economies can be appreciated for closer cooperation in the pursuit of HRD programs within the APEC.

ii) Promotion of Professional HRD Practices and Standards

Efforts to promote professional HRD practices and standards shall be pursued by the HRDWG. This will be done through sharing of information on current HRD practices and curriculum development systems of various member economies.

As a parallel strategy, systems will be provided and harmonized whenever possible, for the promotion of personnel exchanges.

7 TIME FRAME

a. Yearly

Formulation of an annual work plan to implement the Action Program.

b. Regular

Action Program shall be reviewed regularly and amended whenever necessary to improve performance.
ACTION PROGRAM FOR INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1 INTRODUCTION

The Asia-Pacific region now accounts for 50% of the world’s GNP and 40% of international trade and continues to display strong economic growth. The region also has great potential in terms of both economic supply and demand.

In order to secure sustainable economic growth, it is vital not only to facilitate increased investment in the region but to promote widespread access to and knowledge about industrial science and technology (IST).

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

The common policy concepts shall essentially consist of the goals, basic principles, and priorities defined by the APEC Agenda for S&T Industry Cooperation into the 21st Century, which was finalized following the 1998 meeting of APEC S&T Ministers in Mexico City, Mexico. These concepts are shared and acknowledged by the APEC member economies as the basis for the development and implementation of IST programs within the region.

a. Vision

Our vision for the 21st century is of a dynamic and prosperous Asia-Pacific region built on the development and application of industrial science and technology which improves quality of life while safeguarding the natural environment.

b. Goals

*By the year 2020 industrial science and technology policies and programs in the APEC region should achieve:*

i) enhanced economic growth, trade and investment opportunities;

ii) better quality of life and a clean environment;

iii) a well-balanced industrial structure which builds on the diversity of the region;

iv) improved levels of scientific knowledge promoting economic activities, particularly business/private sector growth, as well as technological sophistication in the region;

v) the smooth flow and application of information, technology and expertise;

vi) consistent and transparent policy measures in key areas such as industrial standards;

vii) enhanced links between government agencies, the private/business sector (including SMEs) and academic institutions engaged in collaborative industrial science and technological research and development; and
viii) efficient and effective support for industrial science and technology cooperation projects and programs.

c. Non-binding Principles for effective IST collaboration

Recognizing the diversity in size, economic development and technological capacity of member economies, international collaboration in industrial science and technology should proceed on the following basis:

i) joint activities and dialogue should support the vision and goals of the Action Program;

ii) there should be opportunities for all parties to join in regional multilateral research collaboration programs;

iii) contributions to and benefits from collaboration should be equitable, balanced and geared to members’ capabilities;

iv) projects should encourage complementary and collaborative public and business/private sector investments in the development and diffusion of technologies;

v) collaborative activities should ensure, whenever possible, the active participation of SMEs;

vi) collaborative activities could be implemented throughout the full innovation cycle from basic research to pre-competitive industrial R&D;

vii) a consistent and transparent approach should be adopted to standards and standard setting activities, in order to facilitate technological flows; and

viii) collaborative activities should ensure that any intellectual property rights are protected and that the results and commercial benefits are allocated fairly.

d. Priorities

The ISTWG will work on the following priorities with joint activities and dialogue identified in Sections 3 and 4 below, keeping in mind gender-related issues, to realize the Common Policy Concept of the Action Program. The Working Group will keep these activities under review in the light of experience and develop new or revised activities consistent with the vision, goals and principles of the Action Program.

The following key priorities have been drawn from the Common Policy Concept:

I. Improved Flows of Technological Information and Technology

The flow of technological information and technology is critical for sowing the seeds of economic growth and technological innovation. This can include the trade and investment in technologies, with assurances of adequate protection of intellectual property and equitable allocation of results and commercial benefits. It is particularly important to ensure that technological information and technology flows provide direct and tangible benefits to all sectors, especially SMEs.
II. Improved Researcher Exchange and HRD in IST

Technological and industrial innovation will not occur at the regional, member economy or firm level if researcher exchange and the full human capacity of the workforce, management and research sectors is not geared to the needs of a changing industrial and economic context.

Specific strategies will focus on the expansion of researcher exchange, with due regard to skill development, and to education and training needs in industrial science and technology, complementing and supporting the work of the APEC HRD Working Group.

III. Facilitation of Joint Research Projects

The increased costs and complexity of science and technology require new approaches in the region. The ISTWG will establish new mechanisms and processes for joint research on issues of concern. A number of existing collaboration programs provide potential models and new initiatives are being developed in discussions between member economies.

IV. Improved Transparency of Regulatory Frameworks

Member economies have identified the need for clarity and transparency in the regulatory framework affecting flows of technology and expertise. Reforms in this area are critical to ensuring innovation in the region. Work in this area will be linked to the work carried out by other APEC fora.

V. Contribution to Sustainable Development

The ISTWG, in keeping with its vision statement, is concerned to ensure that the development and deployment of industrial science and technology contributes to sustainable development. Workshops and symposiums will be helpful for sharing the information and current technologies necessary to ensure that the business/private sector in the region can introduce new technologies that not only prevent environmental degradation but also contribute to a better lifestyle for all people in the region.

VI. Enhanced Policy Dialogue and Review

There are major benefits to be gained by sharing information on the efficiency and effectiveness of alternative policy and program approaches. Actions will be implemented to facilitate a regular exchange of views, and member economies are encouraged to develop policies by sharing knowledge and experience in these areas.
3 JOINT ACTIVITIES

I. Strengthen APEC Cooperation in Key Technologies

The rapid introduction of new generations of technology, the increasing complexity of these technologies, and the demand for speed-to-market introduce challenges to both the private sector and the research community in all APEC economies. The ISTWG recognizes that to meet these challenges, APEC economies must strengthen their cooperation in the development of key technologies. The ISTWG would achieve this goal through collaborative R&D initiatives, technology road mapping, technology foresight, the sharing of technological information and technology, and improvements in the clarity and transparency of regulatory frameworks affecting flows of technology and expertise. Initiatives would include APEC Technomart, with its focus on SMEs; continued support for the APEC Centre for Technology Foresight; specific projects and initiatives and projects to support the development and use of key technologies such as advanced materials, nanotechnologies, industrial biotechnology (in agreement with ATCWG on agricultural biotechnology applications), environmental technologies, information and communication technologies.

II. Connect Research and Innovation in APEC Economies

The need to strengthen connections within and across APEC economies between scientific research, the development of key technologies, and their application through innovation in the marketplace is critical to economic growth in the APEC region. The ISTWG will pursue this goal by strengthening collaboration between government, industry (especially SMEs), and the research community through development of technology diffusion initiatives which facilitate the transition from emerging technologies to their application for new industries and other socioeconomic objectives. Information flows on science and technology among member economies will be achieved through the expanded use of ASTWeb, specialized side meetings designed to bring the developers and users of S&T together, and events such as Technomart.

III. Build Human Capacity for S&T for the New Economy

In the ‘New Economy’, knowledge is key. Recognizing that knowledge is embodied in people, the ISTWG will work towards the continuous development of the engineers, scientists, technicians and technologies needed for APEC member economies to secure economic growth in the New Economy. Initiatives will include S&T awareness in secondary schools (APEC Youth Science Festivals); training/skills development initiatives in critical areas of industrial S&T, environment and health; gender awareness and integration; researcher exchanges/cooperation; fostering partnerships between educational institutions and industry; and adoption of distance learning technologies.
IV. Help Ensure the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases and Other Environmental Initiatives

The ISTWG recognizes the need to address health challenges to improved quality of life, economic growth, and trade across the APEC region, and the importance of S&T in responding to health challenges. Priority will be given to collaborative activities designed to respond to the economic and human challenges posed by select target diseases in the region – whether naturally occurring or deliberately caused -- such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, influenza, dengue hemorrhagic fever, hepatitis and a number of zoonotic enteric and other diseases. Emphasis will be given to the optimal use of electronic communication technologies and to the strengthening of existing regional training mechanisms, notably in laboratory technologies and field epidemiology. Close attention will be paid to existing global and regional intergovernmental disease control activities in order to ensure that APEC actions in that regard add value and synergy to activities currently under way. Analytic capacity of the economic impact of APEC cooperation in infectious disease prevention and control will be strengthened. ISTWG activities will draw upon the APEC Infectious Disease Strategy endorsed by leaders in 2001 and addressing six main areas for cooperative activity: electronic networking, surveillance, response, capacity building, cross-sector partnerships, and political and economic leadership.

V. Addressing the Challenges of Environment and Sustainable Development through Science, Technology and Innovation

Environmental challenges of the APEC region will be addressed through science, technology and innovation within a framework of sustainable industrial development. Initiatives will include cleaner production, environmental sustainability, natural disaster mitigation, climate change, resource productivity and conservation of biodiversity (except for conservation of plant and animal genetic resources in agriculture mentioned in the action program for agricultural technical cooperation).

Steps will be taken to implement the recommendations of the Cleaner Production Task Force. In particular, ISTWG will leverage the multiple new Cleaner Production promoting organizations that APEC helped to stimulate or reinforce and continue to implement the goals of the APEC Cleaner Production Strategy through dialogue and projects. ISTWG will also explore the possibility of ISTWG delegates carrying the cleaner production message and lessons learned to other multilateral organizations (e.g., UNEP/UNIDO, APRCP18) by actively participating in events as APEC representatives.

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18 United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Asia Pacific Roundtable on Cleaner Production (APRCP)
ISTWG will continue to encourage projects and share best-practices related to mitigation technologies for natural disasters (particularly earthquake, volcanic activity and weather-related phenomena).

Innovation initiatives will focus primarily on appropriate technology, methods and tools to enable SMEs to adopt cleaner production practices. This will include cleaner supply chain management and incorporate appropriate application of advances in information technologies for design, communications, training and skills development. In this context, adoption of appropriate waste management methods will continue to be a priority with an emphasis on assisting APEC economies to improve water quality and urban air quality within a supportive legislative framework.

4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

ISTWG member economies will exchange views and share knowledge and experience on Industrial Science and Technology-related issues, including their own IST policies and infrastructure, in order to advance the priorities of the ISTWG and its member economies.

The ISTWG will strengthen the dialogue on the industrial S&T policies of member economies in two specific ways. Firstly, the ISTWG will continue to include a policy dialogue on the S&T policies of member economies as a standard part of ISTWG plenary meetings. Secondly, the ISTWG will explore the organization of an annual APEC S&T Policy Forum which would bring together government, universities, and the private sector to discuss best practices and policy approaches to the S&T and innovation challenges facing the APEC region.

The ISTWG will continue to develop and strengthen indicators and statistics on the infrastructure, resources, and investments of member economies in IST and by industry sector which will assist the planning and implementation of cooperative activities.

The ISTWG will exchange information on the scientific and technological underpinnings and requirements of standards and regulations in order to promote and implement common standards across member economies in such areas as cleaner production, diseases surveillance, and environmental management. Collaboration and information sharing will be undertaken, as necessary, with the CTI Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance, especially in regards to industrial standards systems and measurement laws.
ACTION PROGRAM FOR MARINE RESOURCE CONSERVATION

1 INTRODUCTION

The use of the marine environment is essential to the economic viability of the economies in the Asia-Pacific Region. Fisheries and aquaculture products are major trade commodities, tourism is increasing and demands a clean and attractive environment, and the diversity of marine organisms has significant potential for new fisheries sustainable development and other economic benefits.

Marine environmental degradation has significant socio-economic costs in terms of risks to human health, impacts on fisheries resources and aquaculture development, effects on resource management and regulatory activities. As populations grow and problems intensify, a highly trained workforce will be needed to ensure marine resource conservation and sustainable development.

Rehabilitation of the marine environment will enhance trade opportunities, and marine environmental quality and resource conservation are important areas for business involvement and technology development throughout the region.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

a. Goals

i) To seek reconciliation of economic growth with improved environmental outcomes, so as to achieve sustainable development.
ii) To enhance trade and investment in marine products while protecting the marine environment and its resources.
iii) To ensure continuing socio-economic benefits through maintenance of marine environmental quality.
iv) To overcome structural barriers in order to conserve marine bio-diversity and the integrity of ocean ecosystems.

b. Strategies

i) Development of marine resource conservation infrastructure.
ii) Transfer of technology through capacity building, training and education.
iii) Good technological solutions.
iv) Informed planning through co-management.
v) Policy and legal approaches.

c. Major issues and key initiatives
i) Integrated ocean and coastal zone management.
ii) Regional implementation of UNCED Agenda 21 (Oceans Chapter and other related chapters) recommendations in the APEC Region.
iii) Marine algae toxins (Red tides/harmful algae blooms).

3 JOINT ACTIVITIES

a. Directions for joint activities

i) To demonstrate the value of integrating environmental and gender issues into economic decision-making.

ii) To make policy recommendations on policies, standards, certification, regulatory requirements, conformance assurance and other areas which will set the framework to aid trade and investment liberalization and facilitation under conditions that will ensure that resulting development and exploitation of resources is sustainable.

iii) To improve the flow of information on marine resource management and conservation to enhance APEC members’ access to developments across the region.

iv) To address both specific commodities and services in the marine resource sector that require action in order to facilitate trade and investment, and structural barriers in terms of environmental management deficiencies and transportation safety.

v) To set priorities, based on feasibility of attaining effective results, and potential impact on trade and investment.

b. Policies, standards and conformance for trade in marine commodities and services

i) The MRCWG will review specific marine products and service sectors, and develop policy recommendations designed to enhance investment and liberalize trade in these. These will include the marine bioproducts, tourism, ocean engineering, pollution abatement, submarine mineral and energy, and fisheries and aquaculture sectors. This will include recommending a common basis for standards and conformance assurance mechanisms, where appropriate, to ensure transparency and clarity in the regulatory framework, ensure that the development and exploitation of marine resources is carried out in a sustainable manner, provide economic benefits to coastal communities, and ensure public safety.

ii) The MRCWG will implement a program that will provide the basis for complementary policies, standards and procedures to ensure that fisheries products entering the trade market in the APEC Region are not contaminated with algal toxins (completion 2003).
c. Structural framework to ensure sustainable development of marine resources

i) APEC has an important role to play in developing policies, standards and conformance to safeguard the environment on which the conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine resources depends. These include areas such as management of land-based sources of pollution and critical ecosystems, energy and mineral exploration and production in the marine environment, marine transportation, and emergency response. It also provides a vehicle for economic and technical cooperation in marine environmental research, and the development of human resources associated with the application of engineering, technological and other specialized skills.

ii) The MRCWG, on a continuing basis, will identify opportunities to promote economic and technical cooperation among members in the marine resource conservation sector, in areas such as planning and economic assessment skills, vessel design and shipboard safety equipment, spill response technology and infrastructure, pollution abatement and treatment technology, waste disposal technology, biological resource assessment, oceanography and human risk assessment, to improve the overall effectiveness of expertise and technical capacity in APEC (continuing).

4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

In light of the diversity of the marine resource conservation issues, dialogues will be promoted to share scientific and technical information in such areas as human resource development in management, monitoring, analysis and research among the APEC members, to identify and assess serious environmental issues, and to develop practical, action-oriented approaches to maintaining marine environmental quality, through:

i) continuing activities of the Marine Resource Conservation Working Group;

ii) collaboration as appropriate with other APEC bodies such as the Energy, Fisheries, Tourism and Transportation Working Groups, to avoid duplication and create synergism of common interest;

iii) making use of existing multilateral and bilateral marine fora and developing collaboration with them if and as appropriate, to avoid duplication, to benefit from their experience, and to identify opportunities for complementary activities; and

iv) developing relevant links with the business/private sector, for example as related to the appropriate exploitation of marine resources for commercial or tourism purposes.
1 INTRODUCTION

The Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Action Program contributes to the formulation of the APEC Action Agenda by creating a program that pursues APEC objectives of relevance to SMEs. In the context of the overall APEC philosophy of trade liberalisation, facilitation and economic cooperation, the SME Action Program seeks to foster the objectives, as stated in the Bogor Declaration, of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region by no later than 2010 for industrialised economies and 2020 for developing economies, as well as economic and technical cooperation towards achieving sustainable growth in the region.

Role and Importance of SMEs

The Asia Pacific region is increasing its share of world trade – growing from 37% in 1983 to 44% in 1993. To a large extent, this reflects the rapid growth in intra-APEC trade. Between 1989 and 1993, the value of trade by APEC economies rose by about $US1 trillion, and almost 80 per cent of this increase was due to greater levels of trade between APEC members.

In order to secure sustainable economic growth, it is vital to promote the growth of a strong SME sector in the APEC region.

SMEs provide a critical engine of growth, vitality and innovation in the region. They have the ability to respond flexibly to technological innovation, and the diverse and demanding nature of consumer needs. These qualities make building a strong SME sector of central importance in maintaining Asia-Pacific dynamism into the 21st century. Contingent upon enhanced competitiveness and the development of the necessary human resources, SMEs are well positioned to take advantage of the continuing liberalisation of regional trade and investment, and become a driving force behind regional development.

The SME Action Program underlines the strong contribution of SMEs to economic activity within the APEC region, particularly relating to intra-regional trade and investment.

SMEs make up well over 90% of all enterprises in the region, contribute between 30-60% of GDP, and are a source of about 35% of the region’s exports.

SMEs also play an important role in creating employment, covering between 32-84% of the employment in individual APEC economies, and are major contributors to employment growth.
While SMEs are important across the APEC region, there are differences in the role of SMEs in the various economies. The SME Action Program seeks to utilize the diversity among SMEs to attain complementarities that will bring about more efficient production and greater employment opportunities, and be of mutual benefit to member economies.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

a. Goals

Members aim to maintain and develop SME dynamism by fostering a conducive environment in areas such as human resources development, information access, technology and technology sharing, financing, and market access, thus allowing SMEs to exploit their creativity and mobility to the greatest possible extent on the basis of market principles.

Our vision is of a dynamic and prosperous Asia-Pacific region built on:

i) an SME sector that is recognised by member economies, both individually and collectively, as a key driving force contributing to economic prosperity in the APEC region, and as central to the APEC Action Agenda;
ii) SMEs that are dynamic, innovative, flexible, strong employment and wealth creators, responsive to the demands of the international marketplace, globally focused, and interactive across regions, to the mutual understanding and benefit of all member economies;
iii) member economies that understand the opportunities and constraints facing SMEs in the regional economy; that work cooperatively to remove impediments to the development and growth of the sector, and share their knowledge and experience in regard to SME policies; and
iv) progress against milestones in the five priority areas (as identified in the SME Action Program) where SMEs face greatest difficulties, resulting in a sector that has the management skills, access to information, technology, capital, and access to markets it needs to promote wealth and employment creation shared amongst all member economies.

b. Basic Principles

SMEs are engaging dynamically in cross-border economic activity and playing an increasingly important role in heightening economic complementarities in the regional economy.

It is therefore important for member economies to develop a set of basic principles on desirable SME policies, including the following:

i) Members will take account of the different needs of APEC economies arising from differing levels of economic development.
ii) Activities undertaken as part of the SME Action Program will be transparent, cooperative and of mutual benefit to member economies.

iii) Members will work to ensure the availability and transparency of information on their respective SME policies to help improve the SME policies of other members.

iv) Members recognise the importance for policy development of listening to SMEs and understanding their needs, to ensure that policy remains responsive and relevant, and will involve the business/private sector in activities under the SME Action Program.

v) Members will develop and implement non-discriminatory market-oriented SME policies to maximise SMEs’ responses to market mechanisms, and so provide the most favourable environment for SME development, growth and economic activity.

vi) Members recognise the importance of working with other APEC Working Groups and Committees, official APEC observers, and other international organisations, in the interests of SMEs in the region.

c. Priorities

Member economies recognise that SMEs have particular advantages, and face particular difficulties, in an increasingly free and open trading environment. At the first APEC SME Ministerial meeting, held in Osaka, Japan, in October 1994, it was agreed that APEC’s role in support of SMEs should focus first on addressing the areas where SMEs face greatest difficulties.

The SME Action Program addresses the common difficulties faced by SMEs in all APEC economies in the five priority areas of:

i) Human Resources Development.

ii) Information Access.

iii) Technology and Technology Sharing.

iv) Financing.

v) Market Access.

3 JOINT ACTIVITIES

In order to address the issues identified within each of these priority areas, members have agreed to take cooperative action. The items for action have been prepared in the context of the recommendations of the Second Experts Meeting on SMEs and work being conducted by other APEC Working Groups and Committees. The action items serve as a tool to focus on the specific steps to meet identified milestones in each of the priority areas and so achieve the vision for SMEs. We recognize that policies should focus not only on individual enterprises but also on groups of enterprises and cooperatives.

I. Human Resources Development
Human resources development (HRD) is the basis for the development of all enterprises. As SMEs become more involved in a global economy, it will be increasingly important for them to learn about and adapt to different cultures and business practices. The fostering of entrepreneurial high-quality managers and technicians from the limited resources available is therefore a top-priority issue.

\[ \text{a. Policy Objectives/Milestones} \]

Member economies will expand opportunities for the development of SME human resource capabilities (i.e., entrepreneurship, business and managerial skills, technical capabilities, technology sharing, linguistic skills, understanding of different cultures, and knowledge of business practices and legal requirements in different markets) in the region by developing SME relevant training projects, as well as supporting the training conducted by SMEs themselves. Member economies will ensure that both women and men benefit from the development of SME human resources capabilities which are designed in accordance with the new challenges and opportunities brought forward by the new economy.

By the year 2020, SMEs will be increasingly globalizes and internationally competitive as a result of improved human resource capabilities, particularly in the areas of managerial and technical skills and technology sharing.

\[ \text{b. Action Items} \]

Member economies will take action in the area of HRD to enhance SME entrepreneurial, technical and managerial skills for both women and men. Action items agreed by member economies are:

i) To place greater emphasis on capacity building measures relating to HRD, including a special focus on reaching women with these measures.

ii) To inculcate the culture of entrepreneurship and business skills among the young women and men, and to work with the relevant APEC fora to integrate entrepreneurship and business skills into school curricula.

iii) To develop the cooperation programs in accordance with the steps that have been outlined in the 2001 evolving cooperation initiative for SME and new business support.

iv) To consider opening up the domestic training programs to member economies, on a voluntary basis, and to include a list of trainers that are available to conduct training across the APEC region.

v) To promote enhanced skills development for new entrepreneurs and expanding consumer confidence through consumer education activities tailor-made with interested APEC member economies under the 1999 Consumer Education and Protection Initiative.

\[ \text{II. Information Access} \]
As information becomes an increasingly important global commodity, SMEs are finding that the success or failure of a project hinges on the collection, processing and utilization of relevant sex-disaggregated information.

a. Policy Objectives/Milestones

Member economies will promote the development of user-friendly and efficient information access systems that allow SMEs (whether owned by women or men) to gather the information they need on government policies, technology, the market, potential business partners. There are two broad issues to consider: the role of governments as information brokers facilitating access to information, and the development of and access to information technologies that are appropriate to the needs of women and men owned SMEs,

By the year 2020, SMEs will be increasingly globalizes and internationally competitive as a result of improved information flows, particularly in the areas of government policies, technology, the market, and potential business partners. They will exploit developments in information technology, and have timely and improved access to the information that they need — information that is accurate, user-friendly, and of high quality.

b. Action Items

Member economies will take action in the area of information access to promote the development of user-friendly and efficient information access systems, and the dissemination of accurate and timely information that will meet SMEs’ needs, especially in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), including Electronic Commerce, as envisaged in the e-APEC strategy. Action items agreed by member economies are:

i) To place greater emphasis on the development of infrastructure concerning ICT.

ii) To take into account that future work program on the use of ICT and E-commerce be focused on definite sector of SMEs and to work with the relevant APEC fora in addressing this issue.

iii) To give priority to hasten the work on strengthening the regulatory and security measures for E-commerce.

iv) To consider contributing to the further development of the BizApec.com website.

v) To coordinate with relevant APEC Fora including the APEC TELWG and the Electronic Commerce Steering Group in expediting the on-going work on reducing the costs of access to the Internet.

vi) To implement the relevant recommendations arising from the ‘APEC 2000 SME Electronic Commerce Workshop’.

vii) To undertake the ‘2001 E-Commerce Symposium on SMEs’ initiative.

viii) To increase the supply of qualified small business counsellors by launching a ‘Training and Certification Program for Small Business Counsellors’ across the APEC Region.
III. Technology and Technology Sharing

For the mobility and entrepreneurship of SMEs to fuel more effectively the economic dynamism of the region, SMEs themselves need to actively participate in development and commercialization of new products and technologies that will boost productivity. However, many SMEs experience problems in this area because they lack managerial capability and information on available technologies, have a limited number of technicians, and little financial leeway.

a. Policy Objectives/Milestones

Member economies will foster the desire of SMEs to improve their own technological and managerial capabilities by:

i) improving technical training and technical guidance for SMEs;
ii) developing R&D in technology areas important to supporting and other industries;
iii) assisting the development efforts of SMEs;
iv) improving opportunities for SMEs to share in new technologies; and
v) improving technology management and business practices.

Moreover, in order to foster the region’s SMEs, member economies will work together to share policy know-how, and ensure constructive and practical guidance in improving matchmaking capabilities among firms interested in acquiring and/or sharing technology. In addition to APEC policy dialogue and network creation, this involves the strengthening of bilateral policy dialogue and cooperative projects.

By the year 2020, SMEs will be increasingly globalizes and internationally competitive as a result of the adaptation of existing technologies and rapid take-up of new technologies, improved flows of technological information, and improved technical capabilities. The relationship between large companies and SMEs will be important in facilitating this development.

b. Action Items

Member economies will take action in the area of technology and technology sharing to foster the desire of SMEs to improve their own technological capabilities. Action items agreed by member economies are:

- To take steps to train more experts and managers in the areas of technology, management and international trade, take steps to ensure that women and men have equal access to and benefit from the training.
- APEC Center for Technology Exchange and Training: to further develop and implement the program and activities for the Center’s operation and sustainability as a resource centre with capabilities in: information networking; the mobilization of training opportunities for the absorption and upgrading of technical know-how; and the organization of SME-targeted activities to syndicate technology transfer
projects in the spirit of intra-regional cooperation and business internationalization.

IV. Financing

SMEs do not generally have as much access to finance as large enterprises, and have inadequate information on the various sources and mechanisms to secure finance for their development in some member economies. Furthermore, there are still legal barriers to women’s access to financing and ownership of assets.

a. Policy Objectives/Milestones

Member economies will work to improve the financing environment for SMEs and reduce SME financing costs.

By the year 2020, SMEs will be increasingly globalizes and internationally competitive as a result of improved access, on reasonable terms, to debt and equity finance.

b. Action Items

Member economies will take action in the area of financing to improve the financing environment for SMEs and reduce SME financing costs. It is recognized that financing issues are critical concerns for all SMEs, micro enterprises, family and women-owned business. Action items agreed by member economies are:

i) To enhance the managerial skills and capacity building of SMEs to enable them gain better access to financial and capital markets.

ii) To establish an APEC database to disseminate sex disaggregated information on start-up companies and venture capital.

iii) To cooperate with APEC fora including the Investment Expert Group in establishing the APEC database.

iv) To take action to promote the development of capital markets in the region; and

v) To engage in parallel APEC Finance Ministerial Process where policy discussion on SME finances issues occurs.

V. Market Access

Market access is critical to the globalization efforts of SMEs and their ability to take full advantage of the post-Bogor environment. It is also recognized that appropriate policy on encouraging the growth of SMEs plays significant on strengthening and functioning of markets.

a. Policy Objectives/Milestones

Member economies will expand SME economic opportunities by further liberalizing and facilitating trade and investment to enable SMEs to fulfil their potential. SMEs need
accurate and timely information on foreign markets, market opportunities, cultural and business practices, and regulations specific to these markets.

By the year 2020, SMEs will be increasingly globalizes and internationally competitive as a result of being better able to identify and meet demands for goods and services across APEC economies, and having improved access to timely and quality information about market opportunities.

b. Action Items

Member economies will take action in the area of market access to expand SME economic opportunities by further liberalizing and facilitating trade and investment to enable SMEs to fulfil their potential. Action items agreed by member economies are:


4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

To develop SMEs, APEC members recognize the importance of sharing their knowledge and experience in regard to SME policies, cooperating (as appropriate) to enhance each member’s policies in the light of common policy concepts, and providing opportunities to implement cooperative projects for the fostering of SMEs.

Policy dialogue between members has been promoted through SME Ministerial meetings and Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG).

Through such policy dialogue, the SME Action Program provides an ongoing consultative and practical approach to the commercial needs of the SME sector, an approach that is relevant to the needs of SMEs in the region.

The SME agenda cuts across many of the activities of APEC in its other working groups and committees. The SME Action Program has been prepared in the context of this work. It acknowledges and complements the initiatives of the other APEC working groups and committees.

Acknowledging the work done by other international organizations in SME policy development and recognizing the need to avoid duplication and build on best practices, member economies will seek opportunities to exchange information with non-APEC fora.

I. Execution and Review Mechanism
Member economies recognize the importance of evaluating and reporting on the progress and results of the implementation of the individual action items in the SME Action Program. The SMEWG will therefore continue to monitor and review action items under the SME Action Program and its differential impacts on women and men.

SME Ministers will meet from time to time, as necessary, to maintain the momentum of ongoing policy dialogue and to review progress under the SME Action Program.
ACTION PROGRAM FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Given the critical role of the telecommunications and information infrastructure in strengthening the multilateral trading system, enhancing trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, and intensifying development cooperation, the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG) is making this sector a model in achieving these goals set by APEC Leaders at Bogor in 1994, and therefore has adopted the following Action Program.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

In keeping with the Leaders’ instructions to ministers and officials to begin immediately to develop detailed proposals for implementing their decision, the APEC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information industry gathered in Seoul Korea, in May, 1995 and adopted the following objectives and principles for the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure:

a. APII Objectives

i) To facilitate the construction and expansion of an interconnected and interoperable information infrastructure in the region.
ii) To encourage technical cooperation among member economies in the development of the infrastructure.
iii) To promote free and efficient flow of information.
iv) To further the exchange and development of human resources.
v) To encourage the creation of a policy and regulatory environment favorable to the development of the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure.

b. APII Principles

i) Encouraging member economies in the construction of domestic telecommunications and information infrastructure based on their own reality.
ii) Promoting a competition driven environment.
iii) Encouraging business/private sector investment and participation.
iv) Creating a flexible policy and regulatory framework.
v) Intensifying cooperation among member economies.
vi) Narrowing the infrastructure gap between the developed and the industrializing economies.
vii) Ensuring open and non-discriminatory access to public telecommunications networks for all information providers and users in accordance with domestic laws and regulations.
viii) Ensuring universal provision of and access to public telecommunications services.
ix) Promoting diversity of content, including cultural and linguistic diversity.

x) Ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights, privacy and data security.

c. Priorities

i) The Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information directed the Working Group to develop plans to improve the information infrastructure with the aim of facilitating effective cooperation, free trade and investment, and sustainable development of the region.

ii) The ministers directed that the TELWG expedite work in three areas:
   – trade in International Value-Added Network Services (IVANs);
   – harmonisation of Procedures for Equipment Certification;
   – mutual Recognition Arrangements for Conformity Assessment.

iii) in addition, the TELWG project groups have the following continuing priorities:
   – promote better understanding of the telecommunications and information infrastructure and regulatory environment through data compilation activities.
   – facilitate increased trade flows through electronic commerce.
   – promote the rapid construction of the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure.
   – promote human resources development through a series of training courses applicable to all APEC member economies.

iv) promote technical cooperation, such as joint research and technology transfer.

3 APEC JOINT ACTIVITIES

Economies, through the TELWG, and through their own actions, will implement the Action Plan and policy principles approved by the four APEC Ministerial Meetings on Telecommunications and Information Industry.

Specifically, the economies will undertake the following:

I. Liberalisation and Investment Issues

Development and implementation of plans (issue-specific guidelines) for the telecommunications information sector to achieve the Bogor objectives of trade and investment liberalisation and trade and investment facilitation. They will:

i) 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.

ii) Continue to work to harmonize administrative procedures governing certification of customer telecommunications equipment.

iii) Accelerate the pace of implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment for Telecommunications Equipment (MRA).

iv) Foster the development of effective policies that support competitive markets in the domestic and international telecommunications and information industries.
v) 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.

vi) Implement, within voluntary time frames the APEC Interconnection Principles and consult on the need for further discussions on interconnection.

The following TELWG projects and activities support these objectives:

- Interconnection Task Group.
- Internet Issues Task Group.
- MRA Task Group.
- Regulatory Structures Project.
- Convergence Roundtable.
- MRA Support Project.
- MRA Management System.

II. Business facilitation

i) 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.

ii) Work to ensure that policy and regulatory environments better foster the uptake of e-commerce.

iii) 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.

The following TELWG projects and activities support these objectives:

- Electronic Commerce Seminars.
- Electronic Commerce Capability Building.
- Cross Country Smart Card Based Secure Electronic Commerce Project.
- Electronic Authentication Task Group.
- Business requirements for interactive systems in the APEC region.
- B2B Interoperability Project.
III. Development Cooperation

i) 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.

ii) Implement the APII Test-Bed Projects, including the demonstration projects for interoperability and inter-connectability.

iii) Encourage the testing and dissemination of new technologies to achieve the APII.

The following TELWG projects and activities support these objectives:

- Blueprint on the Digital Divide.
- APII Cooperation Centre.
- APII Technology Centre.
- APII Test Bed Project for Interconnectivity and Interoperability.
- Techno Economic Modelling Project.

IV. Human Resource Development Activities

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.

ii) Continue personnel exchange programme in the field of telecommunications and information by encouraging more participation from member economies in order to support the implementation of APII action plan.

The following TELWG projects and activities support these objectives:

- Distance Learning Pilot Project.
- Distance Learning Strategic Needs Analysis Project.
- Distance Learning Project Based on Basic Telecommunications Technology.
- Skills Standards Project.
- MRA-HRD Project.
- APEC TEL Interconnection Training Project.
- The TELWG has adopted a Gender Integration Plan.

4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

The TELWG has engaged in dialogues on member economies’ policies and activities since its inception in 1990. Since 1991, the working group has issued a series of publications on the state of members’ telecommunications infrastructure and regulatory environment. At the TELWG meetings, members supplement these periodic publications with six-month regulatory updates, which are included in the Chairman’s report.
Interconnection has been identified as an important policy issue about which member economies will exchange information. The information will be included in the TELWG’s six-monthly regulatory policy updates and in the published volumes on the state of APEC member economies. In-depth discussion of this and other policy issues, such as universal service, are planned for the near-term.
ACTION PROGRAM FOR TOURISM

1 PREAMBLE

Given the growing importance of the tourism industry in promoting economic growth and social development in the Asia Pacific region, the Tourism Working Group (TWG) has developed an action program which has as its focus the long term environmental and social sustainability of the industry. It requires that APEC member economies give serious attention to addressing the impediments to tourism movements and investment, and the liberalisation of trade in services associated with travel and tourism.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

Consistent with the APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration of Common Resolve from Bogor, Indonesia, the TWG is committed to working towards:

i) removing barriers to tourism movements and investment and liberalizing trade in services associated with tourism;
ii) developing and implementing the concepts of economic, environmental and social sustainability to tourism development;
iii) facilitating and promoting human resources development;
iv) promoting an enlargement of the role of the private sector in tourism development, through investment opportunities, public and private joint ventures, and linkages with companies and private sector institutions;
v) developing cooperation and programs in the areas of telecommunication, transportation, passenger facilitation, financial and other information-based services related to trade in tourism; and
vi) sharing of information on the nature and extent of the tourism industry in the region, and member economies experience in its development.

3 JOINT ACTIVITIES

The APEC TWG’s joint activities, as agreed in the Seoul Declaration on an APEC Tourism Charter at the First APEC Tourism Ministers’ Meeting in July 2000, will include the following items:

I. Removal of Impediments to Tourism Business and Investment

i) In achieving this goal, the TWG will focus its work on the completion of the TWG Project titled ‘Tourism Impediments Study (Phase 1)’. 
II. Increased Mobility of Visitors and Demand for Tourism Goods and Services in the APEC Region

i) A number of TWG initiatives will contribute in progressing this Policy Goal, including the projects ‘Best Business Practices in Accessible Tourism to Travelers with Restricted Physical Abilities, including Senior Citizens’ and ‘The Application of E-commerce in Tourism SMEs’. Other work will include the facilitation of information flows to consumers through the establishment of an ‘APEC Tourism Information Network’ (also under Policy Goal 4), ‘Best Business Practices in Health Issues’ (particularly air transportation), a *Framework for Classification of Festivals and Events* and a project focussing on the ‘Improvement of Tourism Standards in the APEC region’.

III. Sustainable Management of Tourism Outcomes and Impacts

i) The policy action plan includes the endorsement the APEC/PATA Code of Conduct for Tourism. It seeks to protect the social integrity of host communities with particular attention to the implications of gender in the management and development of tourism In addition, the projects, ‘Training for Sustainable Development in the Tourism Industry’ and ‘Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Tourism’, will contribute to the achievement of this goal.

IV. Enhanced Recognition and Understanding of Tourism as a Vehicle for Economic and Social Development

i) The TWG will focus on the development of three projects that directly pertain to this goal: ‘Best Practices on Development of Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSAs)’; the development of an ‘APEC Tourism Information Network’ and an ‘APEC Tourism Research Network’. Work will also be undertaken, through a survey, to gauge each Economy’s position in relation to the development of TSAs and to help in determining the hurdles to wider implementation of TSAs.

ii) The TWG will continue to work with the WTO to ensure the regular collection and dissemination of tourism statistics and data within the APEC region. The TWG will also undertake an investigation into Member Economies’ Tourism Forecasting Capabilities and consider options for enhancing these.

V. Other Priority Actions include:

i) Development and updating of each member economy’s Individual Action Plan for Tourism (IAP).


iii) Pursuance of the three deliverables approved by APEC Tourism Ministers in July 2000 – ‘Sustainable Management of Tourism Outcomes’,
iv) Commencement of a number of other projects which will contribute to tourism development in the APEC region.

VI. Public-Business/Private Sector Cooperation

In its activities the TWG is mindful that there are a number of other organizations working to encourage tourism development in the region, including: the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA); the World Tourism Organisation (WTO); the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC); the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); and is, therefore, committed to working cooperatively with them to avoid duplication of efforts. The TWG is also committed to working cooperatively with other APEC working groups where areas of interest impact on tourism development.

4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

Through its policies and activities, the TWG will endeavour:

i) to facilitate the roles of the business/private sector in tourism development;
ii) to urge the realization of promoting and enlarging the role of the business/private sector in tourism industry including strengthening the role of small and medium enterprises, and
iii) to urge initiatives of developing economies, members may consider human resource development in tourism sectors for the developing member economies.
ACTION PROGRAM FOR TRADE PROMOTION

1 INTRODUCTION

To contribute to the sustained economic development and improved standards of living of all the people of the Asia Pacific region, the APEC Working Group on Trade Promotion (WGTP) agrees to promote the dynamism of intra-regional trade through the activities outlined in this action program.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

a. Goals

i) Promotion of intra-regional trade by providing expanded trade opportunities.
ii) Promotion of mutual understanding of the trade promotion measures of member economies.
iii) Encouragement of participation in the WGTP activities from the industrial and business/private sectors, including trade promotion organizations, by absorbing their expertise and experience.

b. Basic Principles

I. Shared Responsibility

The sustainable development and improved standards of living in the region is the responsibility of all member economies.

II. Common Interest/Common Benefit

Many problems associated with trade promotion related issues are common to all APEC members. There is a common benefit in sharing experiences relating to the resolution of these issues.

III. GATT/WTO Consistency

Member economies will ensure that the activities of WGTP are fully consistent with all the provisions as well as the spirit of the GATT/WTO Agreement.

IV. Equal Partnership and Mutual Respect

While ensuring mutual respect by recognizing the divergent conditions of member economies, all member economies will equally participate in and benefit from the promotion of intra-regional trade.
c. **Priorities**

   i) Promotion of trade-related activities in goods and services.
   ii) Trade financing.
   iii) Trade skills and training.
   iv) Trade information.
   v) Cooperation between the business/private sector and government agencies, including trade promotion organizations.

3 **JOINT ACTIVITIES**

The WGTP will work to expand and improve the content of its activities to include gender issues and to achieve tangible results, making positive efforts in new areas such as creating a trade-friendly environment.

I. **Trade Promotion Activities**

The following activities will be conducted on a regular basis over the short to medium-term:

   i) APEC trade fairs, with sectoral focuses and the APEC Food System in mind, will be held to promote intra-regional business opportunities.
   ii) Seminars involving the business/private sector will be held to discuss common intra-regional trade issues, including specialized sessions such as sustainable development, gender integration and trade in food products.
   iii) TPOs of member economies should be represented as appropriate at WGTP meeting to enhance intra-regional linkages and cooperation.

II. **Trade Financing**

The following events will be held on a regular basis over the short to medium-term:

   i) Seminars will be held on trade financing, covering topics such as export insurance, risk management and credit guarantee funds for SMEs.
   ii) Workshops on venture capital will be held to exchange views on the best practices among member economies.

III. **Trade Skills and Training to Foster Trade Promotion-related HRD**

The following activities will be conducted over the short to medium term:

   i) Trade-related training courses/workshops/seminars will be implemented to cultivate the skills and expertise in both business and public sectors to help boost trade development in the region.
   ii) A mechanism will be developed for the exchange of trade promotion experts
iii) Special training program will be designed to promote the gender integration in the trade promotion field.

IV. Promotion of Information Sharing to Foster a Trade Friendly Environment

Launched in 1998, APECNet features business matching services and two-way hyperlinks to the trade promotion organizations of member economies. Future enhancements will include tender announcements, franchise opportunities, joint ventures, directory of APEC trade shows and facilitating strategic alliances at the corporate level. Efforts will be made to promote the site to business/private sector. Meanwhile, in order to develop a trade-friendly environment, the Working Group will encourage the business/private sector to use BizAPEC website to get information on trade environment in each economy.

The surveys on the core characteristics of trade promotion organizations have been conducted to promote a mutual understanding among member economies, on the roles, functions, and activities of trade agencies in the APEC region.

In order to develop a trade-friendly environment, the Working Group will encourage the business/private sector to use BizAPEC website to get information on trade environment in each economy.

V. Business/Private Sector Participation in WGTP activities

The following activities will be conducted over the short to medium-term:

To address the needs and concerns of the business/private sector, including SMEs, in the face of globalization and e-commerce development, close consultation with business/private sector representatives will be maintained in the process of devising and implementing WGTP work projects. Furthermore, the key participants and beneficiaries of the WGTP projects of events, besides government officials, will continue to be people from the business/private sector. A joint video-conference of government and business/private sector representatives will be held in conjunction with WGTP meeting(s) as and when necessary, in order to ensure that the experience and expertise of the business/private sector are reflected in the WGTP’s activities.

4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

The role of the APEC WGTP meetings is to allow members to exchange views on the trade promotion measures which each is applying, thus promoting common understanding among Members. The expertise and experience of Members’ industrial and business/private sectors and trade promotion organization will be reflected in these discussions and put to use in future activities.
ACTION PROGRAM FOR TRANSPORTATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Transportation plays an important role in the economic and social well being of each economy in the APEC region. The ability of a transportation system to efficiently handle the movement of people and goods is critical in order to maximise economic productivity, facilitate trade, and contribute to the mobility of people. The APEC Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) is committed to achieving the goals set by the APEC Leaders at Bogor, Indonesia, in 1994 for the transport sector.

2 COMMON POLICY CONCEPTS

APEC economies are striving, through economic co-operation, to enhance the prospects of an accelerated, balanced and equitable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world as well. A strategic, coherent and comprehensive approach is required, embracing the three pillars of sustainable growth, equitable development and economic stability, as stated in the Bogor Declaration.

The development of the transportation sector in the APEC region should promote equitable economic development in the APEC region to help people of all economies in the region share the benefits of economic growth.

The action program is prepared as a means of organising the activities in the transport sector to be undertaken in accelerating the process of intensifying development co-operation and enhancing trade and investment liberalisation in the Asia-Pacific region.

As a result of recommendations made by the APEC Ministers and endorsed by Leaders in their meeting in November 1994 in Indonesia, APEC Ministers in charge of Transportation met in Washington, DC, USA, in June, 1995 and adopted a Joint Ministerial Statement. That statement, together with the statement arising from the second meeting of Transportation Ministers in Victoria, BC, Canada, in June 1997, as well as the Transportation Working Group Strategic Direction adopted in November 1999, provide the basis on which the objectives, principles, and priorities for transportation for the Asia-Pacific region are drawn.

The current priorities of the Transportation Working Group, expressed by Transportation Ministers, are:

   i) To facilitate the harmonisation, coordination and transparency of transport policies, regulations, procedures and standards;
   ii) To promote timely rational investment in the region’s transport infrastructure;
   iii) To encourage efficient use of existing infrastructure through the application of appropriate trade and transport facilitation techniques;
   iv) To promote transport system safety and security in the region;
v) To promote on the basis of fair and equitable access to markets, a more competitive transportation operating environment, and to cooperate to address institutional constraints affecting the provision of transportation services in the region;

vi) To facilitate improvement in productivity, skills and efficiency of labour and management in the transport industry.

3 APEC JOINT ACTIVITIES

Member economies, through the TPTWG, and through their own actions, will implement a range of actions aimed at achieving in the most concrete and ambitious way the priorities identified by Ministers and adopted in the Transportation Joint Ministerial Statements of 1995, 1997 and 2002. The TPTWG will also continue with projects started by the group and develop new projects that accord with Ministers statements and its strategic direction as required.

Specifically, the economies will undertake the following:

i) 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;

ii) 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;

iii) Complete the ‘Transportation Road Transport Harmonisation Project’ and encourage the development of mutual recognition arrangements for certification of automotive product and harmonisation of economies’ vehicle regulations through co-operation within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;

iv) Improve by 2005 port efficiency and capacities in the region through the exchange of information and expertise among port experts and programs;

v) Develop by 2005 guidelines, standards and provisional options associated with an integrated transport system for the improvement or elimination of ‘bottlenecks’ in the region;

vi) 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;

vii) Implement the action plan on ‘Intelligent Transport Systems’ (ITS) to promote co-operation in ITS technology and standards;

viii) Continue work to address aviation and maritime safety deficiencies in the region and propose recommendations for improvement;

ix) Develop by 2005 a plan to facilitate the implementation of satellite navigation and communications systems in the region;

x) Implement the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC and identify initiatives for the full participation of women in the transportation sector;
xi) Continue the seafarers training project to meet seafarers’ training needs in the APEC region;

xii) 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;

xiii) Identify by 2005/2010 the intermodal skills needed within APEC member economies and suggest methods of developing training programmes;

xiv) Eliminate barriers to a more competitive transportation operating environment across all modes, ensuring safe and sustainable transport complying with international safety and security standards;

xv) Promote economic and technical cooperation especially for developing economies, to assist them in achieving the Bogor Goals;

xvi) Promote measures, taking into account advancements in technology, to enhance safety, security, environmental protection and energy efficiency;

xvii) Build human capacity in productivity, skills and efficiency of labor and management in the transport sector.

Additional actions will be developed and implemented by the TPTWG to continually update its efforts to achieve the objectives established in the Bogor Declaration, APEC Leaders and Ministers Statements, Transportation Ministers’ Joint Ministerial Statements, and the group’s Strategic Direction.

4 DIALOGUE ON MEMBER ECONOMIES’ POLICIES/ACTIVITIES

The Transportation Working Group has engaged in dialogue on member economies’ transportation policies and activities since its establishment in 1992. During each plenary session of the TPTWG, economies provide information on recent developments in their respective transport sectors. Economies are urged to voluntarily report the transport elements of their economies Individual Action Plans, and a link exists between the TPTWG Website and the IAPs on the APEC Secretariat Website.

The TPTWG, in conjunction with its regular meetings, conducts appropriate seminars as a forum of dialogue among member economies, including both the public and business/private sectors, on specific transportation issues aimed at identifying problems and opportunities. The TPTWG has also sought guest participation from international organisations and industry associations in the transport sector.

The APEC Transportation Ministers at their first meeting in Washington, DC, USA, stressed the need to continue a dialogue among themselves to further promote mutual understanding of transportation issues of common interest and ensure the implementation of the identified priorities for co-operation and action. Similarly in 1997, they instructed the TPTWG to increase business/private sector participation as well as involve ABAC and PECC and give careful consideration to their recommendations on transport issues. At the 3rd Transportation Ministerial Meeting, the program provided an opportunity for industry representatives from all sectors of the transportation industry to interact directly with Ministers.