

2007 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

APEC's 2007 ECOTECH Priorities

- Continuing to revitalize the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH).
- Implementing the outcomes of an extensive review of all APEC Working Groups, Task Forces and Networks.



Recommendations to the 19th APEC Ministerial Meeting

1. Welcome the outcomes from the implementation of the 2006 SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) Fora Review and ongoing efforts to reform APEC's economic and technical cooperation.
2. Endorse the new guidelines for Lead Shepherds and Chairs and the Guidelines for the Establishment of new fora.
3. Welcome the achievements of the Working Groups and SOM Taskforces and welcome the ongoing improvements that will be achieved through the Program of Independent Assessments of all SCE Fora.
4. Endorse the proposal to turn the Health Taskforce into a Health Working Group.
5. Endorse the move of the Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) to become a sub-forum of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI).
6. Endorse the proposal to merge the Non-Ferrous Metals Dialogue (NFMD) and Expert Group on Mining, Exploration and Energy Development (GEMEED) into a Mining Taskforce.

SCE's Key Achievements in 2007

2006 Fora Review

In 2006, the SCE undertook an extensive review of all APEC Working Groups, Task Forces and Networks which resulted in recommendations to merge, improve operations or disband certain sub-fora. All recommendations have been successfully implemented to reduce duplication and strategically align expertise and skills for ensuring better outcomes for APEC.

2007 Independent Assessments

The Committee continued its rolling assessments to improve the effectiveness of the SCE fora. In 2007, the Tourism Working Group (TWG) completed its assessment and new assessments were commenced for the Marine Resources and Conservation Working Group (MRCWG), Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) and High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB). In 2008, the Human Resource Development Working Group (HRDWG), Energy Working Group (EWG), Anti-Corruption Taskforce (ACT) will be independently assessed.

APEC Support Fund

In 2007, the APEC Secretariat signed MOUs with China (US\$2 million over three years) and the United States (US\$800,000) for contributions to the APEC Support Fund (ASF). This funding will be used to promote cooperation in high priority ECOTECH sectors, and to help developing economies in their efforts to promote economic development and prosperity. The ASF funded 30 ECOTECH capacity-building projects in 2007.

Quality Assessment Framework

In 2007, an adapted Quality Assessment and Evaluation Framework was endorsed for the use for all projects, including Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation (TILF) projects, to harmonize standards and develop a common approach to project quality across APEC.

Toward a Dynamic Community for Sustainable Development and Prosperity

ECOTECH Projects

In 2007, a total of 79 ECOTECH-related APEC-funded projects (excluding Committee on Trade and Investment and Economic Committee projects) were reported as implemented by APEC Working Groups and SOM Task Forces. Some projects undertaken by different APEC fora in 2007 to support economic and technical cooperation include:

Developing Human Capital

Projects across a number of APEC fora aimed to raise capacity of the public and business sectors involved in domestic legislation, policy making and social system development in the field of foreign direct investment. Planned outcomes brought economic regulations and guidelines in developing economies experiencing rapid economical growth.

Developing Stable and Efficient Markets through Structural Reform

Undertaken by the Economic Committee and Finance Ministers Process, these activities educated regulators on current best practices and highlighted the experiences of developed economies in regulating their respective industries.

Strengthening Economic Infrastructure

The Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL) and the Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) implemented projects applied to the information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

Facilitating Technology Flows and Harnessing Technologies for the Future

Projects are conducted to enhance the region's capacity in using converging technologies to contribute to the prevention and management of emerging infectious diseases, as well as to provide more effective, accurate and timely climate information to assist APEC's Climate Center for Climate Information Services.

Safeguarding the Quality of Life Through Environmentally Sound Growth

APEC economies account for nearly 90% of all aquaculture fisheries in the world and 70% of the consumption of global fish production. All APEC economies sought to maintain their regional seas and common oceans in good health to ensure the sustainability of fish production for the future.

Developing and Strengthening the Dynamism of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Local cultural industries exist in almost every APEC economy and are targeted for government assistance. Their products are attractive to foreign buyers and therefore have high export potential. Projects aimed to build e-commerce capacity; transform digital divides; generate employment; develop human resources potential; stimulate economic growth; strengthen the dynamism of SMEs; and increase exports through the promotion of entrepreneur export potential.

Integration into the Global Economy

Activities to support integration into the global economy occurred across a range of different fora, including promoting trade through the development of standards across the region, improving competitiveness through capacity building and education or even improving customs and quarantine processes.

Human Security and Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building

To protect against terrorism, the annual Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) Conference was held to enhance public-private partnership, to ensure secure trade in an effective way and to reduce any adverse impacts of anti-terrorism activities on trade and investment. Projects also aimed to combat corruption related to money laundering, to prepare for an avian influenza (H5N1) threat and to enhance regional emergency response capacity.

Promoting the Development of Knowledge-Based Economies

In 2007, TEL undertook a project to deploy the Government Chief Information Officer (CIO) Training Model in the APEC region. And the ESG undertook a project to build capacity in paperless trading.

Addressing the Social Dimension of Globalization

Members have undertaken an assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as the challenges and obstacles to implementing measures to combat IUU fishing. A workshop on the participation of women and ethnic communities in the science and technology workforce has been approved. APEC member economies continue to discuss how to build the capacity in rural communities through the use of available and accessible ICT tools.

APEC Senior Officials' Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation

As part of the reform process, with effect from 2006 the ESC was transformed into the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) with an enhanced mandate to strengthen the prioritization and effective implementation of ECOTECH activities by various APEC fora.

The objectives of the SCE are:

- To strengthen implementation of APEC's ECOTECH activities by prioritizing in accordance with Leaders' and Ministers' commitments, coordinating and providing oversight of the work of APEC Fora.
- To provide policy guidance on ways to contribute to APEC's ECOTECH goals.
- To coordinate ECOTECH objectives and priorities between the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting and Ministerial Meetings.

In 2007, SCE continued to focus on revitalizing its policy agenda.