

Report of the First Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) Beijing, People's Republic of China, 17 and 18 February 2001

The 1st SCSC meeting for 2001 was held on 17 and 18 February 2001 in Beijing, People's Republic of China. The meeting was attended by representatives from: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; The People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; The Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Peru; the Republic of the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam. The APEC Secretariat, the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (APLAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Co-operation (PAC) were also in attendance.

Mr LI Shaoqing, Director General, State Administration for Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine, The People's Republic of China chaired the meeting.

The meeting considered those documents listed in the Document List.

1. Opening

The Chair welcomed all the member economies to the 1st meeting of the SCSC for 2001.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The SCSC adopted the agenda as proposed.

3. Introduction of the New Chair and Vice-Chairs

The Vice Chairs for the year for 2001, Mr Pg Hj Matusin Matasan, Ministry of Development, Brunei Darussalam, and Mr Héctor Márquez Solís, General Director, Undersecretariat for International Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Economy, Mexico, were introduced by the Chair.

4. Business Arrangements

The Chair provided information on business arrangements for the meeting and support for the delegates. Mr Graeme Drake (New Zealand) was elected to undertake a co-ordinating role in the drafting of the report of the meeting.

The SCSC noted the report from the Chair on developments since the last SCSC in 2000.

5. Report on the Outcomes of the 1st SOM and the 1st CTI

The Chair of CTI presented the outcomes of the 1st SOM and CTI meetings for 2001.

6. Presentation of a Draft SCSC Work Program 2001

The draft SCSC Work Program for 2001 was noted and further discussion delayed until Agenda Item 18 of this meeting.

The report of the Third APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance was noted.

7. Possible Streamlining of SCSC Agenda

SCSC noted the paper presented by Canada on streamlining the SCSC Agenda. Further comment and discussion on the paper will be facilitated as follows:

Due date	Task	Member responsible
2 March 2001	Circulate a model breakdown of reporting requirements to each of the three meetings of SCSC in each year. Also to provide a draft agenda for the next SCSC meeting, inviting SCSC comment.	APEC Secretariat
30 March 2001	Comment on the model breakdown for reporting requirements and draft agenda, including any general comment on the content and principles behind Canada's paper. Comments to go to APEC Secretariat.	All SCSC members
6 April 2001	Circulate SCSC comments with a revised model breakdown of reporting requirements and draft agenda for final SCSC member comment.	APEC Secretariat
13 April 2001	Final comments are to be received by the APEC Secretariat	All SCSC members
20 April 2001	Distribution of the final proposed agenda for the next APEC SCSC meeting in May 2001.	APEC Secretariat
11 May 2001	Preparation and presentation of a recommendation for the breakdown for reporting requirements for SCSC meetings in the future.	APEC Secretariat
28-29 May 2001	The APEC Secretariat recommendation will be discussed and an outcome endorsed.	All SCSC members

8. Alignment with International Standards

a) Sub-Work Program for 2001

SCSC noted and endorsed the report of Japan.

b) Review Process for the Alignment Work

Japan introduced the 2001 VAP format and proposed schedule for 2001 alignment. The reference date for alignment status is 1 January 2001. The timeframe for VAP reports for 2001 was agreed as follows:

Due date	Task	Member responsible
15 March 2001	Format sent to member economies electronically with instructions	Japan
7 May 2001	Completed VAP reports to be sent to Japan	All SCSC members
10 August 2001	Submission of compiled VAP reports to SCSC (subsequently to CTI and SOM)	Japan

c) Good Regulatory Practice

SCSC noted and endorsed the report and work program of Australia. The specific work items endorsed include:

- A consolidation of material produced so far and making it more readily available. This will be done by Australia by September 2001;
- Continuation of the seminar series commenced at the third SCSC meeting in 2000. The next seminar is being organised by New Zealand for the next SCSC meeting in May 2001; and
- Continuation of the conference series, with the next conference being organised by Mexico for 2002.

New Zealand presented an outline for a Good Regulatory Practice Seminar to be held in conjunction with the second SCSC meeting in May 2001. Comments will be considered in preparation of the final seminar outline. The relevant planning dates for the seminar is:

Due date	Task	Member responsible
26 March 2001	SCSC members with interest in presenting on good regulatory practice to inform New Zealand of speaker and topic	All SCSC members
27 April 2001	All presentation abstracts to be provided to New Zealand	All SCSC members
7 May 2001	Seminar programme and arrangements confirmed and circulated to SCSC members	New Zealand

d) International Standards in the Area of Building and Construction and Hazardous Area Equipment

The reports of the Technical Groups were noted.

SCSC members are encouraged to action the Questionnaire being undertaken by Technical Group 2 Performance-based Criteria for Housing Progress. Responses are to be sent to co-convenor, Canada, by **30 March 2001**. The contact address:

Robert Bowen
Director, Codes and Evaluations
Institute for Research in Construction
National Research Council of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
Tel: +1 613 993 9503
Fax: +1 613 941 0822
Email: bob.bowen@nrc.ca

SCSC endorsed the request from Technical Group 4 Hazardous Area Equipment Standards to hold an APEC wide seminar on their subject area in August-September 2001.

9. Recognition of Conformity Assessment in the Regulated Sector

a) Sub-Work Program for 2001

SCSC noted and endorsed the report of Australia. Canada gave advance notice that they planned to present a proposal for a MRA in Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) covering unintentional electromagnetic interference.

b) Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Electrical and Electronic Equipment

SCSC noted the report of the APEC Secretariat and the Chair of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC).

c) Reports on Implementation of:

i) the APEC MRA on Conformity Assessment of Foods and Food Products;

ii) Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Toy Safety; and

iii) APEC Arrangement for the Exchange of Information on Food Recalls

SCSC noted the report from the APEC Secretariat.

10. Recognition in the Voluntary Sector

a) Sub-Work Program for 2001 and Joint Commitments between the SCSC and Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs)

The SCSC supports the submission of detailed proposal from APLMF for a “Training Workshop on High Capacity Oil and Gas Flow Measurement” to its next meeting in May 2001.

The Statement of Commitment that was agreed by SCSC and CTI in SOM III, 2000 confirms the commitment of the SRBs to work in co-operation with APEC SCSC.

Malaysia, being the Lead Economy for the SRBs, will be the contact for the communication and exchange of information on programs/projects proposed and undertaken by the SRBs.

b) Reports from the Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs)

SCSC noted the reports from SRBs.

APLAC noted the growth of the APLAC MRA, and the OAA item for all APLAC members to participate in the MRA by 2005. During the current year, the main focus of APLAC is to achieve regulatory recognition of accredited test reports from MRA signatories. APLAC is also extending its laboratory accreditation MRA to include inspection bodies.

PAC reported on two new MLAs covering EMS and Product Certification.

Professor LEE Kun-Mo, Chair of PASC XXIV from Korea, invited all SCSC members to participate in the meeting of PASC XXIV, which will take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 23-26 April 2001.

11. Co-operation on Technical Infrastructure Development

a) Sub-Work Program for 2001 and

b) Review of the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program

The SCSC noted and endorsed the report of Australia and Brunei Darussalam.

In terms of the Final Report on the Review of the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program (2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/030) it was noted that some SCSC members have not yet provided their economy's inputs. These are needed before Australia can complete the review. All outstanding economy inputs on the Review are required to be with Australia by **1 May 2001**. Upon consideration of these comments the Final Report will be completed.

Additionally, all SCSC members are to comment on the Draft Strategy for the Revision of the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program (2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/031) by **1 May 2001**. Comments are to be communicated to Australia.

c) Report on Partners for Progress (PFP) Project

Japan reported on the fifth, and last, PFP training program which was held in Malaysia in November 2000.

APEC member economies requested a continuation of this training program. In response Japan and Malaysia, as lead economies, will propose to undertake the same training program in the future as a TILF-funded project under a different name. The SCSC look forward to receiving this proposal from Japan and Malaysia. The Proposal will be distributed for members' review and input prior to the next meeting of SCSC, with a view to gaining endorsement at the second SCSC meeting in May 2001.

d) Integrated Regional Approach to Enhanced Food Control Systems (CTI 13/99T and CTI 06/99T)

i) APEC Workshops on the Food/Drug interface

SCSC noted the report from Australia and endorsed the following recommendations:

1. Extend the time for completion of the Regulatory Profiles until the end of May 2001;
2. Endorse the attached work plan pro-forma;
3. Identify any generic work on the broad subject areas (such as Good Regulatory Practice) which has or is being undertaken;
4. Nominate four SCSC members to prepare one of the draft work plans for the six identified projects in the report (Australia indicated they would be willing to undertake either project 1 or 4, and Thailand confirmed they would undertake Project 5).
5. Nominate appropriate experts, preferably participants in the Food/Drug Workshops, to participate in the technical meeting and then the SCSC/ISTWG side meeting early in 2001; and
6. Agree to review the final Food/Drug Interface work plan at the meeting of the SCSC in May 2001.

ii) Progress report on training in Risk Analysis

SCSC noted the report from Australia. The final evaluation report will be available by March 2001.

e) 1999 Projects

i) Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) Readiness Project (CTI 32/99T)

The SCSC noted the report from the Philippines.

f) 2000 Projects

i) Project on Quality Systems for Calibration Services at National Metrology Institutes (CTI 10/2000T)

The SCSC noted the report from the Philippines.

ii) APEC Speakers' Bureau on Standards-Based Management Systems (CTI 21/2000T)

The SCSC noted the report from the Philippines. The Project Overseers announced that the deadline for submission for nomination to the Experts/Trainers Design Workshop, which will be held in Tokyo in March/April 2001, has been extended to **28 February 2001**.

iii) Technical Training for APEC Testing and Calibration Laboratory Professionals (CTI 22/2000T)

The SCSC noted the report from New Zealand.

g) 2001 Projects

i) APMP Expert Training for APEC Member Economies in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam to Assist Participation in Global MRA in Measurement Standards (CTI 01/2001T)

The SCSC noted the report from the Philippines.

ii) Promoting Active Participation of the APEC Member Economies in the APEC-MRAs (CTI 07/2001T)

The SCSC noted the report from Vietnam. The survey, which is Component 1 of the project, will be drafted and circulated to SCSC members prior to the next SCSC meeting in May 2001. The workshop, which is Component 2, will be held from 16-17 July 2001 in Kuala Lumpur. Invitations for participants will be sent by the end of February 2001. Component 3, the training course, will be held in November 2001 in Vietnam.

Vietnam expressed its appreciation to Malaysia and New Zealand for assistance in the project.

iii) APLMF Training Project on Rice Moisture Measurement (CTI 09/2001T)

The SCSC noted the report from Australia.

h) Consideration of Technical Infrastructure Development Projects

i) Urgent Proposal on Workshop on Evaluation of Measurement Uncertainty

The SCSC endorsed this Urgent Proposal, with the addition of Japan as a co-sponsor with Singapore.

ii) Urgent Proposal on Multilateral Recognition Arrangement Readiness Project in Product Certification

The SCSC agreed to review this proposal and reconsider it at the next SCSC meeting May 2001. Australia, Canada and New Zealand offered to have their national accreditation bodies peer review the proposal prior to Philippines resubmitting it. Comments from any SCSC members on the proposal shall be sent to the Philippines by **31 March 2001**.

12. Transparency

a) Sub-Work Program for 2001 and

b) Updating Member Economy Contact Points

The SCSC noted the United States report.

c) Sustainable Development Project on the Research on Food Labelling Laws, Regulations and Standards in APEC Member Economies (CTI 03/2000T)

The SCSC thanked the People's Republic of China for completion of the Sustainable Development Project. The People's Republic of China invited comment on the non-paper on Food Safety Warnings.

d) TIC-CAR Project through the APEC Co-operation Centre for Conformity Assessment (CTI 11/2000T and CTI 08/2001T)

The SCSC noted the report from Korea. Korea requested all SCSC members encourage their accreditation bodies and conformity assessment bodies to register at the TIC-CAR Database.

13. Trade Facilitation in Information Technology Products

a) Implementation of Work Program

The SCSC noted and endorsed the work program presented by the United States. SCSC members will be requested to respond to a survey on their intentions to implement the work program on trade facilitation and/or to identify needs for technical assistance. The survey will be distributed and responses must be returned by **11 May 2001**.

b) Business-to-Government (B2G) e-Service Website for Post-Market Surveillance of SDoC (CTI 23/2000T)

The SCSC noted the report on the Seminar on DeclareNet (2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/049). SCSC members are requested to have their regulators participate in the pilot stage of DeclareNet. Regulators should contact Mr. David Ling of Hewlett-Packard (david_ling@hp.com or via fax at 1-650-857-4882) by 30 April to indicate their interest and begin discussion on the terms for the pilot.

The United States will take back to David Ling SCSCs request to provide an indicative Statement of Intent to facilitate consideration for participation in the pilot.

SCSC members were also requested to complete a survey on the relevance of DeclareNet by 1 April 2001, with response to David Ling (see contact information above).

14. European Commission (EC)/SCSC Dialogue

The SCSC noted the report on the SCSC/EC Dialogue provided by Canada. Specific comments under agenda item are as follows:

1. The role/influence of CEN/CENELEC in the international standardisation activities by ISO/IEC, including the meaning of the Vienna Agreement and the Dresden Agreement.

There are differences in the perception of the influence the Vienna Agreement has on the process of international standardisation. It is noted standardisation bodies would continue to discuss these perceptions as the Vienna Agreement is reviewed.

2. The merits and problems arising from the global approach adopted by EC.

Discussions under this item concluded that MRAs had proven more challenging to implement both within APEC and in the EU than originally expected.

3. The merits and problems arising from the ‘Accreditation Preference Principle’ that the EC seems to uphold.

It became apparent that there is a small difference in perception of impartiality of accreditation bodies. Europe preferred specification-oriented requirements while APEC bodies preferred performance-oriented specifications and believed that European approach would harm many accreditation bodies in their participation in international activities and maintaining competence that evolved in different circumstances and histories. EC admitted that there would have to be a compromise between impartiality and competence.

4. The actual application of conformity assessment schemes by the regulatory authorities of EC, EA/MLA, IEC/CB Scheme)

The item was discussed.

5. EC’s experience of the Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity (SDoC)

SCSC and EC exchanged experiences of SDoC. In areas of low risk systems appear workable but questions remained over defining the extent of risk, the frequency of third party testing and post market surveillance activities.

15. Review of TBT Agreement

Japan reported on the outcome of the second WTO/TBT triennial review that took place last year.

It was viewed as vital to ensure participation of currently underrepresented APEC economies in ISO and IEC activities. Furthermore, the value of Annex 4 of the review output, addressing the principles for development of international standards, was emphasised as one of the extremely valuable outputs of the review. SCSC deemed it important for national trade representatives and ISO/IEC national representatives to co-ordinate in their own economy to put the ISO and IEC systems, as well as Vienna Agreement and Dresden Agreement, into compliance with these Annex 4 principles.

It was also viewed that with its experience, SCSC can contribute in the area of capacity building for the implementation of the TBT Agreement, which was discussed in the Triennial Review. The APEC Secretariat introduced establishment of the Informal Group on Implementation of WTO Obligations and Rules of Origin (SCSC/007). SCSC members are requested to submit their applications for TILF Funds for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for WTO-related capacity building to SCSC Chair, copied to the APEC Secretariat, by **19 March 2001**.

16. Co-ordination with Other APEC Fora

a) Report on the Progress of Work by the ad hoc Task Force on Trade Facilitation

SCSC noted Hong Kong, China’s report. Japan expressed some concern regarding the Principles, as expressed in their submitted comments on the second draft. SCSC members are requested to provide further comments on the Principles for Trade Facilitation direct to their ad hoc Task Force representatives.

b) Report on Activities Related to SCSC Work Programs in Other APEC Fora

SCSC noted the APEC Secretariat's report.

SCSC Vice-Chair attended the Human Resource Capacity Building Co-ordination meeting on 14 Feb 2001. SCSC VC presented the comments on Human Capacity Building as submitted by SCSC Chair to CTI. SCSC VC cited the numerous examples of SCSC efforts in the area of HRD and reiterated projects in support of private sector requests.

The Chair of the Meeting in conclusion requested all parties to look into providing suggestions for inputs to the strategies and TOR of Human Capacity Building for the possible theme of a new economy (IT). Some member economies suggested that the definition of new economy should be defined in order for members to focus.

Inputs, if any, are to be co-ordinated by the APEC Secretariat on behalf of SCSC.

17. Other Matters Related to the SCSC Work Program for 2001

a) Review and Building on the OAA Guidelines

SCSC reviewed its recommendations on the revisions to the OAA Guidelines taking into account the nature of the exercise as outlined by CTI Chair's letter of 12 January, and agreed that it would not need to submit another recommendations to CTI at this moment. SCSC members should note that they are requested to review member economies' inputs/comments relating the standards and conformance area of the OAA Guidelines in April and finalise by **11 May 2001**.

b) Work Program on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)

SCSC discussed the MAG Convenor's request on NTMs. SCSC agreed that the SCSC Chair should seek guidance from the MAG Convenor on what sectors and types of NTMs that the MAG would specifically like SCSC to consider.

18. The SCSC Work Program for 2001

SCSC agreed on the SCSC Work Program for 2001 subject to the recorded changes contained in 2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/010/Rev.

19. Other Matters

20. Meeting Documents

The meeting considered the public release of documents tabled at the meeting. It was agreed that with immediate effect, all documents would be accessible to the public with the exception of the following documents:

2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/008
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/009
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/010
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/021
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/022
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/023
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/030
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/042

2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/043
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/047
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/053
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/054
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/055
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/056
2001/SOM1/CTI/SCSC/057

21. Adjournment

Australia, on behalf of SCSC members, expressed their sincere thanks to the Chair and his staff for the excellent start to APEC SCSC for year 2001.

The Chair requests the co-operation of member economies to note the action points contained within these minutes, and complete their actions by the dates identified in the action point tables or **in bold**.

The meeting will reconvene in Shenzhen, People's Republic of China on 28 and 29 May 2001.