

**Report of the Second Meeting of the APEC  
Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance  
(SCSC)  
Shenzhen, People's Republic of China,  
28 and 29 May 2001**

The 2nd SCSC meeting for 2001 was held on 28 and 29 May 2001 in Shenzhen, 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; the Republic of the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam. The APEC Secretariat, the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (APLAC), the Pacific Accreditation Co-operation (PAC), and the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) were also in attendance.

Mr LI Shaoqing, State General Administration of the People's Republic of China for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine, chaired the meeting.

The meeting considered those documents listed in the Document List.

**1. Opening**

The Chair welcomed all the member economies to the 2nd meeting of the SCSC for 2001.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The SCSC adopted the agenda as proposed.

**3. 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.

**4. Report on the Developments since the 1<sup>st</sup> SCSC**

SCSC noted the Chair's report on developments since the last SCSC in February 2001.

**5. Coordination with Other APEC Fora**

The SCSC noted the report from the APEC Secretariat on activities relating to the SCSC work program in other APEC fora, and the report on the Ad Hoc Task Force on Trade Facilitation from Hong Kong, China.

**6. Alignment with International Standards**

**a) Review Process for the Alignment Work**

SCSC noted and endorsed the report of Japan. APEC members who have not yet submitted their completed 2001 Voluntary Action Programs (VAP) are requested to do so **by 30 June 2001**. Completed 2001 VAPs should be sent to [nakagawa-chika@meti.go.jp](mailto:nakagawa-chika@meti.go.jp). Japan will provide an overall summary of 2001 VAP at the next meeting of SCSC in August 2001.

**b) Good Regulatory Practice**

The SCSC noted the report from New Zealand on the Good Regulatory Practice Seminar held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2001. Copies of the Proceedings will be available on the APEC website.

The SCSC endorsed the proposed seminar outline presented by Malaysia for the next seminar on Good Regulatory Practice. This is scheduled for August 2001 in Dalian, People's Republic of China, as part of the APEC 2001 SOM III series of meetings. Malaysia requested SCSC members to submit nominations for speaker and topics to be covered at the seminar **by 15 July 2001**.

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

The reports of the Technical Groups were noted.

**7. Recognition of Conformity Assessment in the Regulated Sector**

**a) Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEMRA)**

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

The SCSC agreed to consider at the next meeting in August 2001 whether the EEMRA should extend to regulations other than those related to electrical safety and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).

The SCSC noted the offer by the JAC Chair to prepare a proposal for an information gathering exercise to consider how APEC member economies perceive 'essential electrical safety'. New Zealand will distribute the proposal for consideration.

The JAC Chair also reported that the JAC had confirmed that all necessary documentation was now in place for full operation of the MRA. Member economies are now encouraged to facilitate participation.

**b) 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. The SCSC discussed the effectiveness of these Agreements and Arrangements. Reference was made to the existing project Promoting Active Participation of the APEC Member Economies in the APEC-MRAs (CTI 07/2001T) that will research current MRA related implementation issues. The results of this project will be reported to APEC SCSC in 2002. The effectiveness of the above Agreements and Arrangements can be reviewed at that time.

**c) Trade Facilitation in Information Technology Products**

The United States, on behalf of the lead economies (Japan, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) presented an interim report on the results of the survey on Implementation Plans and Infrastructure Needs. As of 26 May 2001, responses have been received from Brunei Darussalam; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea, Malaysia; Philippines; Singapore; the United States; and Vietnam. Member economies

were asked to review the information for its accuracy and those who have not responded are asked to provide a survey response to the Information Technology Industry (ITI) Council ([arollins@itic.org](mailto:arollins@itic.org)) **prior to the next SCSC.**

The United States, as the overseer of the TILF project to beta test a business-to-government (B2G) e-service website called DeclareNet (CTI 23/2000 T) presented a final report. The project has achieved its objectives, was completed on schedule, and stayed under budget. The SCSC took note of the report, the continuing challenges to launching the pilot website, and endorsed the following actions:

- (1) **by 1 October 2001**, each APEC economy communicates to HP/ITI its interest to participate or not participate in a DeclareNet pilot (No requirement to sign a "Statement of Intent").
- (2) **before SOM III**, the United States will distribute a questionnaire to SCSC members to assist members' consideration of the possibility of developing a roadmap on the use of DeclareNet.
- (3) that SCSC holds a workshop at the margins of SOM III. The workshop is to report on the feedback from the APEC regulators and the manufacturers, and to have an open "brainstorming" session on how to best launch a DeclareNet pilot.

## **8. Recognition in the Voluntary Sector**

SCSC noted the reports from Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs). The following annual meetings were confirmed:

- PAC, 2-8 September 2001 in Beijing
- APLAC, 22-27 October 2001 in Beijing

PAC peer evaluation for the Product Certification MLA has commenced.

APLAC noted the entry of KAN, Indonesia to the APLAC MRA.

SCSC members are encouraged to contact their economies' ISO member bodies to ensure voting takes place on an ISO/DIS 16528 under ISO TC 11 Boilers and pressure vessels.

## **9. Co-operation on Technical Infrastructure Development**

### **a) Review of the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program**

SCSC noted the final report on the Mid-term Technical Infrastructure Development Programme, and the paper outlining proposed revisions to the programme. Submissions on the proposed revised programme are sought from member economies by **1 August 2001**. A revised programme will be presented by Australia at the next SCSC meeting in August 2001.

### **b) Integrated Regional Approach to Enhance Food Control Systems**

The SCSC noted Australia's progress report on the Food Drug Interface (FDI) Work Programme and the outcomes of the meeting of the ISTWG/SCSC, and approved the work plan as a part of SCSC work. The Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation for the Australian effort in developing the programme.

It was explained that the work programme would now focus on two aspects:

- Project 1 — continuance with information gathering and exchange of the regulatory profiles of APEC member economies. Australia indicated that it would continue to lead this project, and would progress this work without APEC funding. The scope is to remain focused on FDI, and the finalised template will be available on the APEC website.
- Project 2 — developing information and case studies on decision tree analysis (including standardisation of relevant terminology) for implementation of Food/Drug interface policy development and regulation. The SCSC noted that Australia intend to apply for TILF funding for this project.

SCSC member economies were advised that a simplified electronic regulatory profile template would be available shortly. SCSC members are invited to consult internally and circulate their comments amongst SCSC members. The simplified electronic regulatory profile template will be discussed at the next SCSC meeting in August 2001.

## 10. Transparency

The United States advised that revised SCSC contact point information had been prepared, with a number of economies providing new contact names and details. Any outstanding revisions to contact point information for member economies, should be submitted as soon as possible.

## 11. SCSC Projects

SCSC noted the report provided by the APEC secretariat summarising implementation of SCSC projects.

Vietnam confirmed that Component 2 of the APEC CTI 07/2001T - Workshop on MRA implementation would be held on 16-17 July 2001 in Kuala Lumpur. SCSC members are encouraged to register **before 15 June 2001**.

Canada, with New Zealand support, commented that SCSC should develop some high level principles and criteria for assessing TILF applications related to capacity building projects.

The SCSC noted the progress reports from the Philippines. The SCSC noted People's Republic of China confirmation to host the final workshop for the APEC Speakers Bureau on Standards Based Management Systems project (CTI 21/2000T) in September 2001.

The SCSC noted completion report of Stage 1 of the APEC Workshop on Quality Systems for National Metrology Institutes (CTI 10/2000T), and its recommendations.

## 12. The March BMC and the August BMC

The SCSC discussed 14 TILF proposals. It was noted that the following two proposals had already been approved by the SCSC intercessional:

- the People's Republic of China proposal for APEC/WTO Capacity Building: SPS Implementation Program (2002 urgent TILF Proposal relating to WTO Capacity Building – SCSC a) (2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/025again), and;
- New Zealand's proposal for APEC Resource Pack and Symposium for Operation of National Point-of-Enquiry under the SPS and TBT Agreements for the WTO

(2001 Urgent TILF Proposal relating to WTO Capacity Building – SCSC b)  
(2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/026again

The final Approve/Disapprove decisions and Ranking is recorded as follows:

2001 TILF			
Document reference	Title	Approve/Disprove	Ranking
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/026again	APEC Resource Pack and Symposium for Operation of National Point-of-Enquiry under the SPS and TBT Agreements for the WTO (2001 Urgent TILF Proposal relating to WTO Capacity Building – SCSC b)	Approve	1
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/027	Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) Readiness project in Product Certification (2001 Urgent TILF Proposal – SCSC c)	Approve	2

2002 TILF			
Document reference	Title	Approve/Disprove	Ranking
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/035	4 <sup>th</sup> Conference on Standards and Conformance (2002 TILF Proposal – SCSC k)	Approve	1
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/031	Training Program on ISO 14000 Series Product Orientated Standards: EL, LCA, and DfE (2002 TILF Proposal – SCSC g)	Approve	2
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/029	Peer Review and its Criteria of Quality Systems in National Metrology Institutes (2002 TILF Proposal SCSC e)	Approve	3
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/030	TIC-CAR Project through the APEC Cooperation for Conformity Assessment (the third year) (2002 TILF Proposal – SCSC f)	Approve	4
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/036	2 <sup>nd</sup> Conference on Good Regulatory Practice (2002 TILF Proposal – SCSC l)	Approve	5
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/034	Training on Calibration of Rice Moisture Meters (2002 TILF Proposal – SCSC j)	Approve	6
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/025again	APEC/WTO Capacity Building: SPS Implementation Program (2002 TILF Proposal relating to WTO Capacity Building – SCSC a)	Approve	7
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/032	Training in Risk Assessment in Support of Food Safety Measures (2002 TILF Proposal – SCSC h)	Approve	8
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/037rev	Training on Testing and Calibration Laboratory Assessment (2002 TILF proposal – SCSC m)	Approve	9
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/028	PAC Peer Evaluators Workshop (2002 Urgent TILF Proposal – SCSC d)	Approve	10
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/033	Training Course on High Pressure Gas Pipeline Measurements (2002 TILF Proposal – SCSC i)	Approve	11
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/038rev	Hosting for PAC and APLAC General Assemblies (2002 TILF Proposal – SCSC n)	Withdrawn	

### 13. WTO Agreements

The SCSC noted the APEC Budget Management Committee (BMC) approval of the Standards and Conformance Training Programme, overseen by Japan and Malaysia. SCSC members were invited to submit comments and possible **speakers by 15 June 2001**. Japan and Malaysia will then circulate the draft programme including the name s of the speakers by 30 June 2001, and will confirm the programme and speakers by 31 July 2001.

The SCSC also noted the bilateral work of Japan in providing further capacity building

Japan reported on the outcome of the last TBT meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2001.

The SCSC noted and endorsed the work plan of China and Mexico on the WTO SPS Agreement. A revised copy was circulated to SCSC members (2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/040rev). Reporting of SPS matters shall take place as required. The People's Republic of China and Mexico noted that seminars are expected, and input from SCSC members is requested.

#### **14. Other TILF Issues**

##### **a) Review and Building on the OAA Guidelines**

SCSC reviewed the revised text presented by the APEC Secretariat and subsequent comments from Australia, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, China and Japan.

Japans suggested changes to Guidelines (a) and (e), Hong Kong, China changes to (f) and People's Republic of China's changes to (b) and (g) were accepted.

The revised OAA Guidelines entitled "Amendments to the OAA Guidelines Agreed by SCSC" on 29 May 2001 were confirmed by SCSC.

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

The Chair reported no response had yet been received from SCSC request to the Market Access Group (MAG) Convenor on what sectors and types of NTMs that the MAG would specifically like SCSC to consider. Singapore informed that the SCSC request was in the process of consideration by MAG and the CTI. A response to SCSC is expected after the CTI has decided on MAG's proposed action. MAG will then inform the SCSC before 2001 SOM III.

#### **15. Possible Streamlining of SCSC Agenda**

SCSC agreed on functional and format changes submitted by Canada, Australia, Mexico and Korea, including the model reporting break down and an agenda cover sheet. Australia will circulate a draft cover sheet for use at the next APEC SCSC meeting.

SCSC also noted that Japan advice that reporting on WTO matters may need to take place on an as required basis, and not be limited to an annual reporting basis.

Canada's proposal to include discussion on policy issues was supported by SCSC members. This will be further discussed at the next APEC SCSC meeting August 2001.

#### **16. Other Matters**

#### **17. 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/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/007  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/008  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/009  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/013  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/025

2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/026  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/027  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/028  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/029  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/030  
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2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/035  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/036  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/037  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/038  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/041  
2001/SOM2/CTI/SCSC/042

**18. Adoption of the SCSC Chair's Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SCSC meeting in 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**.

**19. Adjournment**

Brunei Darussalam, on behalf of SCSC members, expressed their sincere thanks to the Chair and his staff for the excellent meeting.

The meeting will reconvene in Dalian, People's Republic of China, on 18-19 August 2001.