

Report of the Third Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) Dalian, People's Republic of China, 18 and 19 August 2001

The 3rd SCSC meeting for 2001 was held on 18 and 19 August 2001 in Dalian, 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; 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), the Asia Pacific Metrology Program (APMP), the Pacific Accreditation Co-operation (PAC), the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC) and the Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC) were also in attendance.

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

The meeting considered those documents listed in the Document List.

1. Opening

The Chair welcomed all the member economies to the 3rd 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 2nd SCSC

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

5. Alignment with International Standards

a) Review Process for the Alignment Work

SCSC noted the report of Japan on the overall summary of the 2001 VAP, and encouraged economies to further align their standards with international standards.

b) Good Regulatory Practice (GRP)

The SCSC endorsed the good regulatory practice database and for it to be hosted by Australia with a link from the APEC website. In future the lead economy for GRP seminars shall be responsible for submitting documents to Australia for uploading to the GRP database.

The SCSC noted that in 2001 it had successfully undertaken the following GRP work:

- 2 seminars on GRP;
- Australia had developed a web database to record GRP information; and
- Agreed to hold the 2nd Conference of GRP at SOM III in 2002.

The SCSC noted the report from Malaysia on the GRP seminar held on 17 August 2001. Based on the report followed by discussion on Russian regulatory reform in standardisation and conformity assessment at the Workshop on Good Regulatory Practice, the SCSC welcomed Russia's positive direction of reforms, as presented in their draft laws, to make its standards, regulation and conformity assessment procedures compatible with WTO (TBT) requirements and APEC Good Regulatory Practice.

SCSC endorsed the reports and corresponding work programs from Mexico on the GRP seminar scheduled for SCSC I in 2002 and the 2nd APEC Conference on Good Regulatory Practice scheduled for SCSC III in 2002. In accordance with the work programs SCSC members are encouraged to undertake the following tasks by the dates as indicated:

Member economies to submit comments on draft outlines to Mexico via APEC Secretariat	13 October 2001
Member economies to submit final comments on revised outlines to Mexico via APEC Secretariat	21 October 2001

6. Recognition of Conformity Assessment in the Regulated Sector

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

SCSC noted the report of New Zealand on behalf of the Chair of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). SCSC members are invited to discuss the scope of the EEMRA with their domestic regulators in advance of the next JAC meeting at SOM I in 2002 that will be considering this issue.

b) Trade Facilitation in Information Technology Products

The SCSC noted and endorsed the report of the United States on the DeclareNet Workshop (2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/016). The conclusions and agreed actions include:

On the co-development of roadmaps, agreed to the following conclusion and actions:

- (1) Support the proposal for APEC-based IT companies and ITI members, to co-develop with each interested economy a "roadmap" that is individually tailor-made to facilitate its implementation of the Work Program on trade facilitation of computers and peripherals. The development of each roadmap should involve participation by representatives from industry, regulators, consumer interests and relevant government agencies in that economy, and be focused on practical implementation issues.
- (2) APEC economies were asked to inform ITI (arollins@itic.org) of their interest in this initiative or for further information if there are questions.
- (3) In parallel, ITI will follow-up with those APEC economies that showed interest at the workshop.

On DeclareNet, agreed to the following actions:

- (1) APEC economies to inform ITI (arollins@itic.org) by **October 31, 2001** of their interest to participate in a DeclareNet pilot to further its development.
- (2) ITI and HP to discuss with interested economies possible incentives for manufacturers' participation in a DeclareNet pilot **before December 2001**.
- (3) ITI and HP to report to SCSC **before December 2001** if there is critical mass and necessary incentives for continuing the DeclareNet pilot, or put it on hold.

7. Recognition in the Voluntary Sector

SCSC noted the report from Malaysia. SCSC members and SRBs are requested to send any comments with regard to Criteria for APEC TILF Funding of Project Proposals by Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) to Malaysia by **31 December 2001**.

With regard to future SCSC representation to SRB meetings SCSC agreed the Chair of SCSC is responsible for representing SCSC, and may, in circumstances when this is not possible for the Chair to attend SRB meetings, nominate another APEC SCSC member to represent SCSC at those meetings.

SCSC noted the reports from Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs).

8. Co-operation on Technical Infrastructure Development

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

SCSC endorsed in principle the recommendations of the revision of the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program from Australia and Brunei Darussalam. The SCSC and SRBs noted the draft revised text of the Mid Term Technical Infrastructure Development program and agreed to submit any comments by **15th September 2001** to Australia (christopher.nedin@isr.gov.au).

b) Integrated Regional Approach to Enhance Food Control Systems

The SCSC noted Australia's report on the Regulatory Profile Information for Products at the Food/Drug Interface (2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/03) and endorsed in principle the recommendations. SCSC members agreed completion of items 1-8 are voluntary, and items 9 onwards are to be completed as a priority, as these elements represent the revised Food and Drug Interface Regulatory Profile which SCSC have already endorsed.

In relation to Australia's proposal to establish an ad hoc group on Food Standards and Conformance, SCSC member agreed that further time would be given to consult with agencies and provide comment to Australia by 30 October 2001. Australia will then send a revised proposal to SCSC members for intercessional endorsement.

c) 4th APEC Conference on Standards and Conformance

SCSC endorsed the report from Mexico, including the work program that set dates for SCSC member involvement in planning for the Conference, to be held at SCSC III in 2002. In accordance with the work program SCSC members are encouraged to undertake the following tasks by the dates as indicated:

Member economies to submit comments on draft outlines to Mexico via APEC Secretariat	13 October 2001
Member economies to submit final comments on revised outlines to Mexico via APEC Secretariat	21 October 2001
Member economies to nominate speakers for final outlines	19 November 2001

9. Transparency

The United States reported that the member economy contact point list has been updated and posted to the APEC Secretariat website. The information can be accessed at www.apecsec.org.sg/download/scsc/SCSCContact2001.pdf

10. SCSC Projects

The SCSC noted the reports from the APEC Secretariat on the decisions from the July meeting of the APEC Budget Management Committee (BMC) and the project summary report for current APEC SCSC TILF projects.

SCSC noted the report from New Zealand on - APEC WTO SPS and TBT Points-of-Enquiry Capacity Building (APEC CTI 27/2001 T) and endorsed the recommendations.

SCSC noted the report from Korea on TIC-CAR (Testing, Inspection and Calibration – Certification, Accreditation and Recognition) Project (APEC CTI 08/2001 T). The SCSC endorsed the use of www.apec3ca.org and www.apectic-car.org as domain names for each of the A3CA and TIC-CAR database, respectively.

SCSC noted the report from Japan and Malaysia on Training Programs on Standards and Conformity Assessment (APEC CTI 24/2001 T). SCSC members were invited to provide speakers for the proposed program, with nominations to Japan by **30 September 2001**.

SCSC noted the report from Singapore on the SCSC Workshop on Evaluation of Measurement Uncertainty (APEC CTI 21/2001 T) and endorsed Singapore's requests for the workshop to be open to other members of the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP) who are non-APEC members.

SCSC noted the report from Viet Nam on Promoting Active Participation of the APEC Member Economies in the APEC MRAs (APEC CTI 07/2001 T). The Project Overseer invites SCSC members to the training session on Mutual Recognition Arrangements, which is Component 3 of the Project, to be held between 5-11 November 2001 in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

With regard to the discussion on possible development of principles and criteria for assessing TILF applications, it was agreed Canada, New Zealand and Japan would discuss further whether to submit any information for SCSCs consideration at their next meeting at APEC 2002 SOM I.

11. WTO Agreements

SCSC noted the report of Japan on the TBT Agreement.

SCSC noted the report of People's Republic of China and Mexico on the SPS Agreement. SCSC members are invited to note that a seminar on SPS matters will be held at SCSC II in 2002.

12. Other TILF Issues

a) OAA Review

SCSC endorsed the draft Collective Actions for the standards and conformance area.

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

The SCSC noted the letter from the Market Access Group Chair.

c) SCSC Report on APEC Food System

SCSC endorsed the report from the SCSC Chair with addition of Training in Risk Assessment in Support of Food Safety Measures (APEC CTI 21/2001 T) being mentioned under the heading of *SCSC Work Related to the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement*.

13. Coordination with Other APEC Fora

The SCSC noted the report from the APEC Secretariat on coordination. SCSC members are invited to submit comments on the how better coordination can be achieved amongst APEC fora to the APEC Secretariat by 30 November 2001.

14. SCSC Future Priorities

SCSC endorsed the following future priorities for APEC SCSC:

	Proposed Priority Theme	Proposed by	Supported by	Lead Economy
1	Projecting Asia-Pacific views Discuss how to utilize the SCSC, its ad hoc Technical Groups, (TGs) and relationships with Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) to reflect Asia-Pacific's views in international standardization activities.	Japan/ Malaysia	Viet Nam	Japan
2	Performance-based regulations The Good Regulatory Practice seminar and Standards and Conformance Conference in 2002 shall provide specific focus on performance-based regulations. Other topics that are also to be included are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the use of voluntary standards with technical regulations; and• reliance by Regulators on voluntary and self declaration	Japan/ Malaysia		Mexico
3	Achieving the Mid-Term Technical Infrastructure Development Program Developing the fundamental technical infrastructure of member economies in order to build both infrastructure and confidence. This could include (but not restricted to):	Vietnam/ Australia		Australia

	Proposed Priority Theme	Proposed by	Supported by	Lead Economy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards: (e.g. harmonisation, alignment with international standards, equivalence) • Measurement and Metrology: (e.g.. involvement in APMP measurement programs, involvement in National Measurement Institutes global MRA, use of external national metrology Institutes for traceability of standards) • Inspection/Testing Facilities: (e.g.. involvement with APLAC MRA, expert visits, extended training, use of external inspection bodies) 			
4	<p>Greater Coordination with other APEC Forums May include representation at, and presentation to, a number of fora identified as having some overlap with the work of the SCSC (e.g. TEL Working Group, Market Access Group, Work Program on Non-Tariff Measures) and seeking of possible joint projects which advance the work of both (or more) groups.</p>	Australia		APEC Secretariat
5	<p>Policy Dialogue SCSC shall have a policy dialogue on standards and conformance at SCSC II in 2002. The specific topics will be finalised in due course.</p>	Japan/ Malaysia		New Zealand

15. Endorsement of CAP

SCSC endorsed the SCSC Collective Action Plan and TILF Deliverables for 2001.

16. Chairmanship

The Chair for APEC SCSC for 2002 shall be Mr Hector Marquez, Director General for International Trade Agreements, Ministry of Economy, Mexico. The vice chairs will be representatives from the People's Republic of China and Thailand.

17. Future Meetings

The SCSC meetings for 2002 will take place as part of the scheduled SOM meetings. The provisional periods are as follows:

SOM I	17-28 February 2002	Mexico City
SOM II	20-28 May 2002	Merida
SOM III	13-21 August 2002	Acapulco

18. 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/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/007
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/008
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/009
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/015
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/024
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/030
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/031
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/032
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/033
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/036
2001/SOM3/CTI/SCSC/037

19. Adoption of the SCSC Chair's Report of the 3rd 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**.

20. Adjournment

Mexico, on behalf of SCSC members, expressed their sincere thanks to the Chair and his staff for the excellent meetings in 2001 and welcome SCSC members to Mexico in 2002.