

Annex IV: BUSINESS/PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE APEC PROCESS

Note from the APEC Secretariat

Other than ABAC's consultation with Economic Leaders, business/private sector involvement in activities of the 28 or so sector-specific and other operational APEC fora has hitherto ranged from substantial to non-existent.

By decisions in 1998 and 1999, Senior Officials have sought to encourage more such involvement. The forum/meeting concerned is now authorized to decide (by consensus) on a case-by-case basis.

It is entirely open to ABAC members (and staffers) to seek participation in any APEC meeting that may be of special interest or relevance to ABAC's agenda and objectives. The APEC Secretariat stands ready to facilitate such participation.

The attached matrix records the current status and plans (if known) of business/private sector representatives' participation in APEC fora as informally assessed by the APEC Secretariat.

A Stocktaking by the APEC Secretariat (Updated 17 May 1999).

APEC Forum	Business Involvement to Date	Future Plans	Remarks / Assessment
Senior Officials Meeting	ABAC Chair provides occasional briefings, and PECC observes meetings.	Continuation of past practice.	Actual dialogue with business has rare, though the May 1999 session with the ABAC Chair was a productive exception. SOM approved new guidance in September 1998 and February 1999 to facilitate business/private sector contacts by working-level fora.
SOM Ecotech Subcommittee	None at meetings to date. ESC Chair and ABAC Chair exchanged letters in 1998 on ESC's role and APEC's hope to increase business involvement in ecotech activities.		SOM approved guidance in September 1998 authorizing ESC to invite ABAC reps for policy dialogue on how APEC can advance its ecotech agenda.
Budget and Management Committee	None		
Committee on Trade and Investment	PECC observes meetings and sometimes brings a business perspective to its analytical support for CTI work, e.g. discussion papers prepared for the Trade Policy Dialogue. CTI conducts regular outreach to business via speeches, Internet, publications, and media relations. Business representatives provided extensive inputs to EVSL experts groups.	Continuation of past practice. Some EVSL experts groups will continue independent existence, e.g. the APEC Automotive Dialogue.	Business involvement has been limited at plenary level. SOM approved guidance in September 1998 authorizing CTI to invite ABAC reps to plenary meetings for policy dialogue on how APEC can further promote TILF. Attendance by ABAC and other business reps is authorized for CTI sub-groups.
CTI – Dispute Mediation Experts Group	Business people and private legal experts occasionally attend meetings as members of economy delegations. They have attended seminars on the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding and a symposium on alternative dispute settlement. A 1997	Continuation of past practice.	Business involvement to date has been moderate.

	DEMG project received private sector funds in the form of a law firm's donating a consultant's time to write a guidebook on dispute mechanisms in APEC.		
CTI – Government Procurement Experts Group	Some business people have attended educational programs either as expert speakers or members of economy delegations.	Continuation of past practice.	Business involvement to date has been limited.
CTI – Group on Services	Business representatives were invited to participate in and give presentations to the APEC Training Program in Services, May 1998 in China.		
CTI - Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group	Business people participated in IPR symposia in 1996 and 1997, and an ABAC rep attended the August 1998 meeting to explain ABAC's 1997 recommendations on IPR. A contact point list of business/private sector experts on IPR has been developed and put on the APEC Homepage for public use. A Joint APEC-ABAC Symposium on IPR was held in February 1999 in Japan.	Each member economy will contact its domestic business sector, including its ABAC representatives, and inform the Experts Group about their concerns and suggestions.	Business involvement to date has been moderate.
CTI – Investment Experts Group	Past practice was for IEG members to invite three business people from each economy to the annual Investment Symposium, but business attendance has been uneven and not high. Tentative efforts to engage ABAC at IEG meetings have not borne fruit.	IEG decided in June 1998 that there should be no limit on the number of participants from each economy at future symposia and to invite business/private sector representatives, in particular ABAC, to provide input on symposium topics.	The symposia have allowed policy dialogue. Business has had significant influence on IEG plans and programs, mainly via economy positions.

<p>CTI – Subcommittee on Customs Procedures</p>	<p>Customs brokers, importers, exporters, and freight forwarders attend the annual APEC Customs/Industry Symposium. The business/private sector partly funded the 1998 APEC Customs-Industry Dialogue in Kuala Lumpur through sponsorship and fees. SCCP also continues to explore further partnership with the private sector to organize and conduct activities for its members as part of its comprehensive technical assistance program, including on the UN/EDIFACT, risk management and temporary importation.</p>	<p>SCCP will continue to explore potential partnerships with the business/private sector to progress its work program.</p>	<p>Business involvement has been extensive. The symposia provide useful public-private exchanges. SOM has endorsed SCCP's Guidelines for SCCP and Business Strategic Partnerships (on accepting financial support).</p>
<p>CTI - Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance</p>	<p>Business people have attended some meetings as part of economy delegations and seminars and conferences. An ABAC rep attended the June 1998 meeting to explain ABAC's 1997 recommendations. SCSC members agreed in 1997 to pursue closer links with business and to solicit increased business input into SCSC's work.</p>	<p>Under its revised terms of reference, SCSC will encourage business involvement and private sector participation in standards and conformance activities.</p>	<p>Business involvement has been moderate to date. SCSC Chair has informed the ABAC Chair about SCSC initiatives and solicited ABAC's support and input.</p>
<p>CTI – Informal Experts Group on Business Mobility</p>	<p>Chair has briefed ABAC on the group's progress via letters to the ABAC Chair. Efforts to invite ABAC rep to a meeting have been unsuccessful so far due to scheduling conflicts.</p>	<p>Will continue to invite ABAC to send a rep to meetings.</p>	<p>The group's work program has flowed from ABAC and other business recommendations on business mobility.</p>
<p>CTI – Competition Policy and Deregulation</p>	<p>A symposium on regulatory reform was held in 1998 specifically to get business input on APEC's work on deregulation. The group works very closely with PECC, whose principles for competition policy form the basis of APEC's work. PECC</p>	<p>Continuation of past practice.</p>	<p>Business involvement has been moderate to date.</p>

	has briefed CPD Workshops on them.		
Economic Committee	No business participation at plenary level. Business has attended the Public/Private Sector Roundtables on Infrastructure and the FEEEP Symposium in September 1997 and has extended direct financial support to them, including through sponsorship of the event or of associated social functions.	Continuation of past practice.	SOM approved guidance in September 1998 authorizing EC to invite ABAC reps to plenary. Attendance by ABAC and other business reps is authorized for sub-groups. The invitation to the business/private sector to provide financial and/or in-kind support is at the discretion of the economy hosting a particular event.
EC – Infrastructure Workshop	Business people do not attend meetings but do participate as part of economy delegations in the annual Public-Business/Private Sector Dialogue. Both small and large firms are represented.	Continuation of past practice.	Business representatives have a significant influence on the outcomes of the Infrastructure Dialogue.
Agricultural Technical Cooperation Experts Group	An ABAC representative gave a briefing on the proposed APEC Food System to the July 1998 meeting in Portland. Private sector reps made significant contributions to seminars on agricultural finance held in 1997 and 1998, as well as the third biotechnology workshop held in 1998. ATC EG has worked closely with PECC, especially in the area of marketing, processing and distribution of agricultural products. In cooperation with PECC, the contact list of agricultural experts has been prepared and recently updated and the Trade Facilitation Manual, which outlines each economy's regulations on standards and conformance, has been prepared.	ATC EG will explore possibilities for expanding contacts with the business/private sector.	Business involvement is on the rise.
Energy Working Group	Business representatives attend meetings of both the	Continuation and improvement of past	EWG terms of reference call for business/private

	<p>WG and its Expert Groups as part of economy delegations. Business is also represented at EWG meetings by the PECC Energy Forum. Acting on Energy Ministers' instructions to sustain and improve business contacts, EWG in March 1998 set up the EWG Business Network, which replaced the Ad Hoc Business Forum on Power Infrastructure. The latter had been set up in 1996 and fulfilled its mandate. The Network comprises two business reps from each member economy. It held its first meeting in April 1999 and had dialogue with EWG. Business participates in and supports EWG seminars, training programs and technology demonstrations. A business sector-Ministerial dialogue has been held in conjunction with each Energy Ministers' meeting held to date.</p>	<p>practice. EWG Business Network will meet twice a year back-to-back with EWG meetings.</p>	<p>sector involvement, which has been extensive and had significant influence on EWG plans and programs.</p>
<p>Fisheries Working Group</p>	<p>The PECC Fisheries Task Force has been involved with FWG since 1991, and business people have attended some meetings, usually as members of economy delegations. Some projects relating to seafood trade have had private sector participation or input into project design. Private sector reps took part in the Aquaculture Forum held in conjunction with FWG-9 in June 1998.</p>	<p>FWG plans to develop procedures to improve business involvement in its activities.</p>	<p>Business involvement to date has been limited.</p>
<p>Human Resources Development Working Group</p>	<p>A small number of firms and trade associations attend meetings, including those of subsidiary Networks, as part of economy delegations. However, active participation is limited to discussion of</p>	<p>Continuation of past practice.</p>	<p>Business involvement to date has been limited.</p>

	<p>projects, usually at Network-level, and policy dialogue with governments is rare. Business has been involved in HRD events such as seminars and training programs and has provided funding for some. ABAC members briefed HRD Ministers at their 1997 meeting in Seoul.</p>		
<p>Industrial Science and Technology Working Group</p>	<p>Business representatives have participated in IST WG meetings as members of many economies' delegations. Business/private sector has also been actively involved in individual projects such as Technomarts I and II, the Technology Transfer Workshop, the APEC S&T Industrial Parks Network, and the APEC Youth Science Festival. The Virtual Center for Environmental Technology Exchange is supported by a committee including 60 private companies, and many business people attended a symposium held by the Center in 1997.</p>	<p>The Mexico Declaration, a key element of IST WG's 1999 work program, calls for action to engage the private sector in public policy dialogue and promote linkages among universities, public science agencies and industries to enhance the development of technologies and research training capacities. IST WG is actively trying to increase business/private sector participation in its ecotech activities, including the implementation of the Cleaner Production Strategy. Technomart III, to be held in Australia in November 1999, will be the first APEC technomart will be managed and primarily funded by the private sector. A business conference will be held in advance of the 17th IST WG meeting in Seattle in August 1999. Government delegates, business leaders, trade association executives</p>	<p>Business involvement in IST WG is rising rapidly.</p>

		<p>and academic experts will discuss biotechnology, environment and health issues.</p> <p>The APEC Conference on the Contribution of Science, Engineering and Technology to Sustainable Economic Development in the APEC Region will be held in October 1999 with strong participation from the private sector.</p>	
<p>Marine Resource Conservation Working Group</p>	<p>Business representatives do not normally participate in MRC WG meetings. However, business participated in a workshop on Cyanide Fishing and Live Reef Fish to develop guidelines for toxin-free fish. Draft guidelines for involvement of the business/private sector in MRC deliberations have been discussed. They identify more than 10 points of reference to steer the WG in strengthening its links with the business/private sector and lay out six possible options to initiate the process.</p>	<p>The draft guidelines have been amended based on the comments and will be considered and endorsed at the next WG meeting in May for implementation.</p>	<p>Business involvement to date has been limited.</p>
<p>Telecomm-Telecommunications Working Group</p>	<p>Both individual firms and trade associations attend meetings, including those of subsidiary Steering Groups, as part of economy delegations. PECC observes meetings and encourages private sector collaboration by organizing a twice-yearly business roundtable to share information on TEL and its plans. An issue-specific APEC-PECC dialogue is held at each TEL meeting, allowing business attendees to</p>	<p>Continuation of past practice.</p>	<p>Business involvement has been extensive. Its active participation provides the business sector with opportunities to exert considerable influence on TEL programs and policy initiatives. The invitation to the business/private sector to provide financial and/or in-kind support is at the discretion of the economy hosting a particular event.</p>

	<p>exchange views with TEL delegates. Business representatives met with Ministers in 1996 and attended a Government-Industry Dialogue with Ministers in 1998. Business also participates in and gives substantial financial support to TEL seminars, training programs and technology demonstrations (e.g. on electronic commerce), including hospitality/social functions associated with these events.</p>		
Tourism Working Group	<p>Business participation has been through international organizations such as WTO, PATA, and WTTC.</p>	<p>TWG hopes to work more closely with PECC and ABAC, involving them in its activities and soliciting their members' input on areas TWG should address, especially business views on barriers to tourism growth. TWG is considering a program of workshops with industry across the APEC region to review the level of cooperation with business and identify possible joint activities.</p>	<p>Business involvement to date has been limited.</p>
Trade Promotion Working Group	<p>Since 1994, business delegates have met separately during annual WGTP meetings. The chair of this Business/Private Sector Meeting reports its deliberations to the WGTP meeting. Business has also participated in WGTP activities such as APEC Trade Fairs and the 1995 Venture Capital Workshop.</p>	<p>Continuation of past practice.</p>	<p>Business involvement has been extensive and has influenced WGTP plans and programs.</p>
Transportation Working Group	<p>Some economies regularly include business people in their delegations. TPT</p>	<p>SOM has authorized TPT-WG to invite three international</p>	<p>Business involvement has been extensive to date.</p>

	<p>meetings are preceded by seminars on transportation topics to which business representatives are usually invited. A Transport Minister-Industry Symposium and a separate Industry Forum were held along with the 1997 Ministerial in Victoria. The symposium featured industry presentations and roundtable discussions with Ministers. ABAC members also briefed Ministers. In April 1998 a Seminar on International Vehicle Harmonization was held, and was attended by about 100 participants from the private sector.</p>	<p>industry organizations (IMMA, OICA and FIA) to attend meetings of the Road Transport Harmonization Project Group as guests. Proposed EVSL plans for the automotive sector also envision increased business participation in APEC activities. Approval has also been granted for participation by the Airport Council International – Pacific Region.</p>	
<p>Policy-Level Group on</p>	<p>Delegations seldom include business representatives. However, Business Forums have been held back-to-back with annual SME Ministerials. Conclusions of the Forum are submitted to Ministers at a special session with both policy makers and business people. ABAC representatives also brief SME Ministerial meetings. Private sector recommendations have been considered in shaping the 1998 APEC SME agenda.</p>	<p>The Integrated Plan of Action for SME Development (SPAN) endorsed by Leaders in Kuala Lumpur was prepared with input from SME's and SME support organizations. It calls for public-private sector dialogue and cooperation in the design of APEC SME-related activities by all fora. PLG will also increase the involvement of support organizations in the planning and delivery of the APEC SME Agenda.</p>	<p>Business involvement has been moderate to date, but communication of APEC activities to SME's and business intermediaries has been increased through publication of the report, <i>Helping Your Business Grow: Guide for SMEs in the APEC Region</i>.</p>
<p>Finance Ministers process</p>	<p>PECC observes Ministerial meetings, and representatives of ABAC and the APEC Financiers Group have made presentations with policy recommendations to the Ministerials. Private firms have been involved in the initiative to promote asset-backed securitization.</p>	<p>The APEC Financiers Group is considering a consultant's recommendation for a higher degree of institutionalization and management of a new "knowledge engine" on APEC and other international financial initiatives and economies'</p>	<p>Business involvement has been moderate to date.</p>

		performance with respect to them.	
Ad hoc Task Force on the APEC Food System	The Task Force was established to study ABAC's proposal for an APEC Food System. The group discussed the first draft of a paper on the study in May 1999 at a meeting attended by an ABAC rep.	Work will continue on the Task Force's study, with recommendations for responding to ABAC due to SOM by August.	There has so far been minimal direct dialogue between the Task Force and ABAC on ABAC's proposal.