



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

APEC
CHILE
2004



BLUEPRINT APEC SCCP SUB COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

One Community Our Future

November 2004



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

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APEC MEMBER ECONOMIES

APEC Member Economies



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Australia
Brunei Darussalam
Canada
Chile
People's Republic of China
Hong Kong, China
Indonesia
Japan
Republic of Korea
Malaysia
Mexico
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Republic of the Philippines
Peru
Russia
Singapore
Chinese Taipei
Thailand
United State of America
Viet Nam

Observers :

ASEAN Secretariat
Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)
South Pacific Forum (SPF)

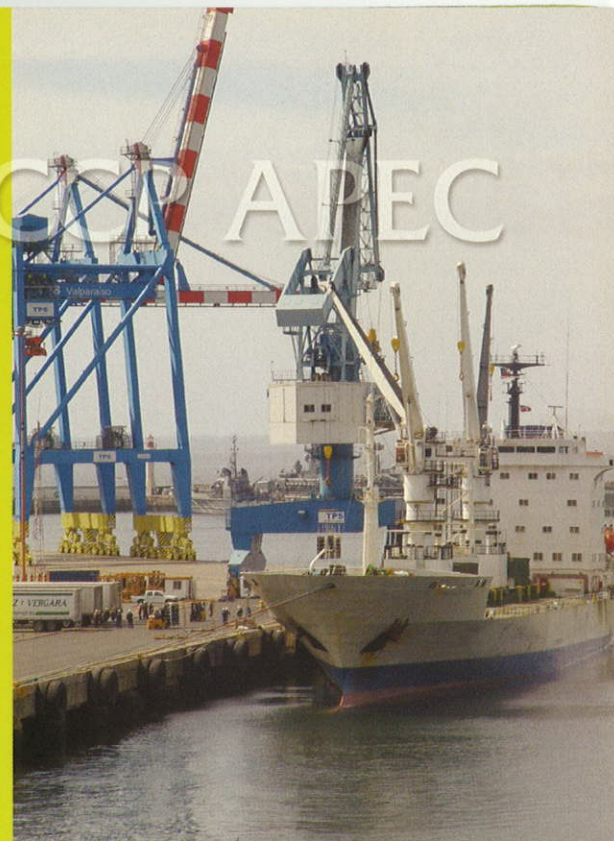
This document contains information on the implementation of the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures' (SCCP) Collective Action Plans and work program. Originally published in October 1997, the SCCP Blueprint is a "living" document which is updated annually. The SCCP stands by the commitments made in earlier editions.

The 2004 Blueprint and the original SCCP Blueprint are available at SCCP Home Page:
www.sccp.org

The SCCP invites the business community to provide input to the SCCP through the Internet at info@sccp.org.sp or by faxing/ e-mailing any of the SCCP members listed at the back of this document.

INTRODUCTION SCCP APEC

Introduction SCCP APEC



APEC was established in 1989, to enhance economic growth and prosperity for the Asia-Pacific Region, by reducing tariffs and trade barriers across the region, through the Bogor Goals "Free and Open Trade and Investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for Industrialized Economies and 2020 for Developing Economies" established in Indonesia in 1994.

The "Three Pillars" are the key areas in which APEC works; Trade and Investment Liberalization, Business Facilitation, and Economic and Technical Cooperation.

To meet the Bogor Goals APEC Member Economies follow a strategic roadmap, known as the Osaka Action Agenda, by reporting progress through Individual Action Plans (IAPs), and Collective Action Plans (CAPs).

In 1994 the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures was established with the main objective, to facilitate trade by simplifying and harmonizing Customs Procedures in the APEC region.

The objective of this unique and most important publication is to inform and update the constant progress that has been made by all SCCP member activities and their results through out the year is the APEC SCCP Blueprint. This information is not only relevant to APEC member Economies, but also to the private sector and its involvement in the activities and improvements in the APEC business community by the simplification and harmonization on Customs Procedures.

Essentially the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures meetings are attended by representatives of each economy, but in order to strengthen

the strategic partnership with the private sector, an annual meeting is organized: the "APEC Customs Business Dialogue" which highlights the strong interaction and commitment by the APEC member economies to the Private Sector, in order to establish fluent communication channels.

The theme for APEC Chile 2004 is "One Community, Our Future". To build a stronger partnership and cooperation between all APEC members, the SCCP has implemented 14 Collective Actions Plans known as CAPs. Three of them are in Stage one; that means that there are still possible improvements and actions to be implemented by APEC member Economies. 11 CAPs are in Stage 2 and demonstrate the progress made by the Sub-Committee that aims to simplify and harmonize Customs Procedures. During the Second SCCP meeting held in Viña del Mar, it was agreed to move from Stage 2 to Stage 3 those CAPs that are fully implemented by APEC members.

With these actions the SCCP looks forward to a significant advancement in APEC's trade and

investment liberalization and facilitation, increasing the efficiency to do business in the region and by contributing to the economic growth for all members.

Due to many projects and initiatives during 2004 the SCCP has reached a significant progress in a number of important areas and particularly with the five priorities established by CTI, that is: support to the WTO; trade facilitation; transparency; structural reform and pathfinder initiatives and it also mentions other cross cutting issues, such as, security, APEC reform, and the FTA's or RTA's, reasserting confidence in its future activities and programs.

The New Economy represents risks and challenges; the extensive use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is a powerful tool that facilitates trade, reduces time, paper, and costs, and it gives the opportunity to access and process relevant information in a short period of time. Integrating trade operations by the extensive use of the ICTs will facilitate, harmonize and simplified Customs Procedures.



SCCP CHAIR

By Raúl Allard, SCCP Chair and National Director of Chilean Customs

It was a challenging experience for me to be the SCCP Chair this year as the Director General of the Chilean Customs Service. I got deeply involved in this program in Thailand, where I accepted to pass through the Peer Review Process.

The theme of APEC Chile 2004, "One Community, Our Future", stresses the real opportunities presented to all of us, to strengthen the ties and links among all the Economies, areas, languages, cultures and continents, represented in APEC, accepting the differences, but with this vision of a shared future.

The main objective of APEC is to increase Trade in the APEC Region by the "Bogor Goals" of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies.

Customs is a sector particularly adapted to the internationalization of its rules and procedures, a highly important factor in an era of trade globalization, but also of culture, technology and information. Customs are key actors in these policies of increasing and freeing trade.

Within this context, this Sub-Committee has been organized, as a very structured area within APEC and the CTI, with its own programs and cooperation, mainly through 14 Collective Action Plans (CAPs), in the first, second and third stage.

We are just completing this year, the first decade of the SCCP. We can draw a rich experience from interactions and mutual technical assistance. We have enjoyed a high degree of continuity in our actions.

We have been able to define broad and ambitious objectives: to simplify and harmonize regional Customs procedures to ensure that goods and services move efficiently, effectively and safely through the region, reconciling border control and facilitation. We also share basic principles: Facilitation, Accountability, Consistency, Transparency and Simplification.

We had our first SCCP meeting in February in Santiago where we started our deliberations, and we recognized that the partnership with other Economies of the Pacific Basin Region, within the framework of APEC, is a priority. There is no doubt that APEC is an important forum. The figures are impressive: APEC Economies represent 60% of the world population, almost half of the GDP and 47% of the foreign trade.

For this year the CTI established 5 priorities:

- Support for the WTO
- Trade Facilitation
- Transparency
- Structural Reform, and
- Pathfinder Initiatives

There are also other cross cutting issues and objectives such as: security, APEC reform and, possibly, FTA's or RTA's.

Intersessionally, we have been working in all areas through short seminars, workshops, missions, and technical assistance projects.

On September 25th, we hosted the Business-Customs Dialogue here at the Hotel del Mar in Viña del Mar, and a total of 350 participants registered. It was a very relevant opportunity to convene government officials of our Economies, business leaders and representatives of the academic sector to discuss the issues of security, trade liberalization, facilitation and the role of Customs.

The Second SCCP meeting was held in Viña del Mar. During the meeting one important issue was discussed: how the SCCP shall put forward its work during the next years. This matter came up in the Evaluation Working Group and also in the Informal Meeting of Head of Delegations. A set of possible future activities were mentioned, such as, special projects, short term seminars and new CAP items like transparency, security and counter-terrorism, rules of origin and trade facilitation, or the practical application of some international rules such as valuation. A consultation process about new CAPs is underway.



These issues are crucial within the SCCP, and we should explore how to develop an agenda to comply with the objectives established by the Leaders on these matters in order to reach the harmonization and simplification of customs procedures.

In the Mid Term Report on trade facilitation which was presented during the Second SCCP Meeting, it was established that Customs plays a key role in reaching the trade facilitation goals with relation to the 5% reduction of trade transaction costs for 2006. The fact is that Customs are pivotal players in international trade, consequently, our contribution as Customs, and as SCCP must be relevant to attain and support the objectives established by the Leaders of our Economies.

Another important issue: how Customs and the SCCP can deal with our concern with respect to SME (small and medium enterprises) and, establish closer relation and training programs on new customs procedures with them.

In the SCCP, we have been able to establish an efficient and effective network of interaction programs, and common goals. We have to build our future within APEC on the solid basis of the important work already accomplished.

I would like to conclude by saying that our efforts are aimed at ensuring successful and pro-active meetings that will contribute to achieve goals set up by APEC, CTI and our own Sub-Committee. Customs strives to provide modern, efficient, transparent and secure services, through close cooperation between member economies, and also close interactions with the private sector.

APEC ACBD Apec Business Dialogue Chile 2004

The APEC Customs Business Dialogue was held on September 25th in Viña del Mar. It was the most important open meeting of the APEC year.

Over 350 people attended the meeting from the customs environment, business and the academic sector. The meeting convened key players of international trade. The idea to promote a Dialogue between these actors started in 1997 in Canada, and it has demonstrated the importance of this Dialogue in the APEC frame: a successful tool that allows interaction among trade stakeholders.

The meeting, under the theme "A Better Understanding and Communication between Customs and the Private Sector: Trade Facilitation, Customs Security and Modernization", was divided into two simultaneous panels; one on **New Security Standards, Fight against Illicit Trafficking and Trade Facilitation measures: Challenges, Compatibility and Risk Management.**

This panel dealt with the permanent equation between facilitation and foreign trade enforcement. Presentations were made by the:

- Vice - Secretary General of the WCO.
- Director General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Navy.
- Administrator of the Customs Association Program -Private Sector against Terrorism of the United States of America.
- General Customs Administration of China.
- Foreign Trade Manager of the Manufacturer Association.
- Enforcement Sub-director of the Chilean Customs Service.
- Director of the Council of the Chemical Industry of the United States.
- President of the BASC (Business Anti-Smuggling Coalition)

Each of these panelists demonstrated their expertise and made significant contributions to the discussions.

The second panel dealt with the "**Development of Cooperation between Customs and the Business sector: Publicity of operations and advanced resolutions**". Many issues that are relevant for the cooperation between Customs and Business were brought forward by outstanding panelists. Presentations were made by the:

- Vice-president. Carnet Operations. United States Council for International Business.(USCIB).
- President of the Chilean Customs Chamber.
- Planning and Policy research division. Bureau of Customs. Philippines International Affairs.
- Senior Advisor. International Trade. New Zealand Customs Service.
- Latin American Association of Express Companies (CLADEC).
- Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP).
- Chilean Customs Service. Technical Deputy Director.
- Office of regional Customs Cooperation. Customs and Tariff Bureau. Ministry of Finance, Japan.
- General Administration of Customs. Accounting and Classification. Mexico.

The ABAC Chair, Mr. Hernán Somerville, stressed the importance of continuing to work in the achievement of the Bogor goals, and to continue working as SCCP and Customs to reach the objectives of customs facilitation, simplification and harmonization in favor of an increased economic development of Member Economies and trade activities that ensure compliance with the principles of the WTO.

The conclusion of this event will probably be recalled beyond the interesting issues dealt with, and it shall be recognized by its valuable contribution to the establishment of communication and a dialogue platform that is required in today's globalized world, providing trade operators and Customs the opportunity to collaborate toward a more accelerated and safer trade, that will entail increased benefits to each of the participating Economies.

APEC CHILE 2004





FACTS

SCCP Guiding Principles – FACTS

(February 1995, Fukuoka, Japan)

Facilitation

Facilitation: While ensuring proper enforcement of Customs laws and regulations, APEC Customs Administration should strive to improve facilitation of Customs clearance procedures.

Accountability

Accountability: Customs Administrations should be accountable for their actions through a transparent and accessible process of administration and/or judicial review.

Consistency

Consistency: Customs laws, regulations, administrative guidelines and procedures should be applied in a uniformed manner within each economy.

Transparency

Transparency: Customs laws, regulations, administrative guidelines and procedures should be publicly available in a prompt and easily accessible manner.

Simplification

Simplification: Customs laws, regulations, administrative guidelines and procedures should be simplified to the extent possible so that Customs clearance can proceed without undue burdens.

THE SCCP WILL STRIVE TO

The SCCP will Strive to:

- Facilitate legitimate trade and investment in the APEC region.
- Maintain our role in protecting the community
- Simplify and harmonize Customs procedures
- Improve the speed, accuracy and transparency of Customs transactions
- Establish levels of service to provide traders with certainty
- Promote the professionalism and integrity of Customs Administrations
- Encourage voluntary compliance in APEC member economies.
- Consult regularly with the APEC business community to ensure our activities meet their needs
- Form strategic partnership with interested APEC business representatives
- Provide members with the required technical assistance to promote efficiency, effectiveness and equity
- Tailor the pace of progress to the diverse needs and abilities of APEC member economies

CTI PRIORITIES IN 2004

CTI Priorities in 2004

Support for the WTO

- Statements from Leaders and Ministers
- Geneva Caucus
- WTO Capacity Building Projects
- Input from Sub-foa

Pathfinders

- Implementing agreed Pathfinders
- Getting more economies to join Pathfinders, especially in cases where there are very few participants
- Input from sub-foa

Trade and Investment Facilitation

- Implementation of the TFAP
- Measuring progress against the 5% target
- Investment facilitation: work on IPR protection and other issues
- Showing credible results to business
- Input from sub-foa

Structural Reform

- A new priority for Leaders at Bangkok
- Implementation of the Structural Reform Action Plan
- CTI has a limited role to play: need to work with EC, FMP and others
- Role of sub-foa

Transparency

- Implementing the 2002 general standards
- Implementing the 2003 area-specific standards
- Showing credible results to business and other stakeholders
- Input from sub-foa

Other Important Issues

- RTAs/FTAs
- Mid-Term Review of the Bogor Goals
- Trade and Security
- APEC Reform
- CTI will lead by example
- Better relationship with sub-foa
- Shorter, more efficient meetings
- Clear deliverables, concrete results

CAPs INITIATIVES

CAPs Initiatives

STAGE 1 CAP ITEMS

Simplification Simplification and Harmonization on the basis of the Kyoto Convention

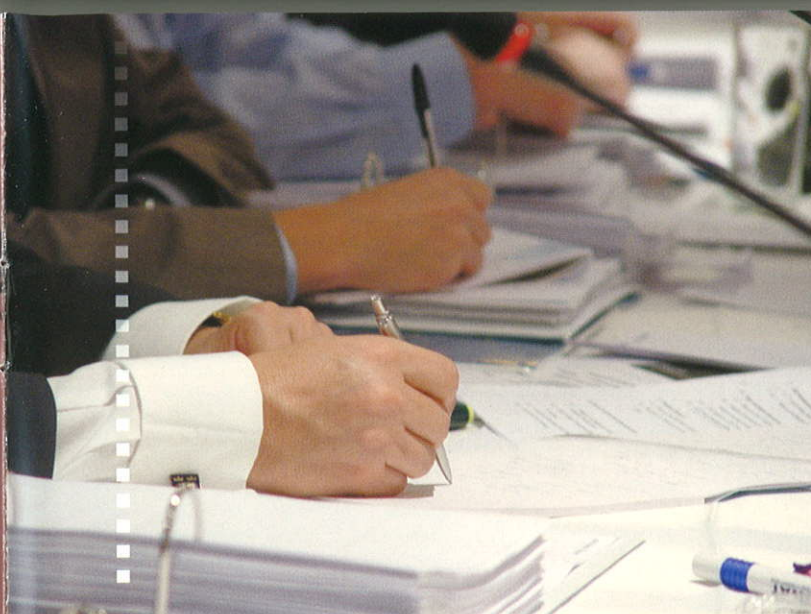
New Zealand and Japan are coordinators of this Collective Action Plan.

7 Economies have acceded to the body and general annexes of the Kyoto Convention.

17 Economies have adopted the principles of the Revised Kyoto Convention, 9 have received technical assistance and 6 have requested it. The Economies that have provided Assistance are Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

This CAP item is the primary vehicle to assist Economies work through the process of accession to the revised Convention of the Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative, co-developed by Japan and New Zealand.

The objective of the Pathfinder Initiative for Economies is to reach a position where they would be able to accede to the Revised Convention, or to reach a point where they would be able to adhere to the provisions of the Kyoto revision Convention as if they were a signatory.



Harmonized APEC Data Elements

This CAP item aims to simplify and harmonize data in Customs procedures and it also allows each Economy to decide about international harmonization.

Canada is the coordinator of this CAP which covers different areas such as:

- Adoption of Computerized customs clearance system. To date implemented by 18 Economies;
- Adoption of common data elements for customs clearance of goods which has been implemented by 16 Economies;
- Commencement of the study on the G7 EDI standard completed by 15 Economies.

On the other hand, 7 Economies have received technical assistance, from Australia and Canada, and 5 have requested it.

Integrity Integrity

This CAP item forms part of the STAR Initiative and is one of this year's priorities, coordinated by Australia.

The Integrity Assistance Program is a four-phase project which aims to raise levels of integrity in customs administrations as a mean of enhancing trade facilitation.

- **Phase 1:** Development of a code of conduct has been implemented by 18 Economies to date.
- **Phase 2:** Completion of Integrity self assessment process has been implemented by 14 Economies.
- **Phase 3:** Development of Integrity Action plans has also been implemented by 14 Economies.
- **Phase 4:** Implementation and monitoring of action plans has been implemented by 13 Economies so far.

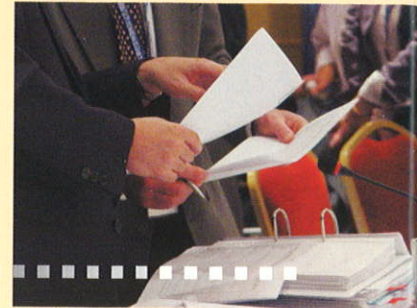
This year 2 workshops have been done; Chile's and Peru's Customs Services have received technical assistance from the CAP coordinator Australia, that provided two experts.

STAGE 2 CAP ITEMS

CAPs INITIATIVES

HS Convention Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention

The Harmonization System allows APEC member Economies to facilitate the consistent, accurate and uniform application of the HS Convention. 21 Economies have adopted the HS at 6-digit level to Tariff Nomenclature. 20 Economies adopted the procedures/organizational framework to ensure consistent and uniform application of the HS. 15 Economies adopted the laws and regulations to provide binding tariff classification to importers. 11 Economies are providing WCO HS Explanatory Notes in local languages to relevant parties including front line officers. 13 Economies are Building Capacity of Customs laboratories. 9 Economies have received technical assistance, 5 have provided and just one has requested it.



Public Availability Public Availability of Information on Custom Laws Regulations, Administrative Guidelines and Rulings

This program provides Customs information in a consistent, accurate and user friendly form, giving traders all the necessary information for their important business decisions. The program also seeks an improvement of Customs Transparency. 20 Economies have completed the publication and availability of custom laws, regulations and guidelines. 20 Economies have construction and maintenance of Customs Website. 19 Economies have established inquiry points for customs procedures. 15 Economies have adopted the process to obtain public comments on changes to customs law/regulations. 18 Economies are preparing leaflet/other materials for providing general or specific information. 2 Economies have request technical assistance.



UN/EDIFACT/Paperless Trading Rulings

Adoption and Support for the UN/EDIFACT/Paperless Trading and Rulings

The objective of this program is to reduce paper documentation in Customs Administrations and adopt electronic technologies as well as procedures. Australia is the coordinator of this program. 19 Economies have a Self-examination to identify opportunities for increased automation. 18 Economies have development of automation/paperless trading objectives. 17 Economies adopted the law/regulation providing for the electronic submission and acceptance of customs documents. 19 Economies are in adoption of computerized customs clearance systems. 17 Economies have achieved maximum use of UN/EDIFACT or other standard electronic formats for customs. The implementation strategies to ensure security and confidentiality of customs and industry data has been accomplished by 15 Economies. 1 Economy has received technical assistance, 3 have provided it and 7 Economies have requested it.



WTO Valuation

Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement

This CAP item is coordinated by Canada and the United States. The program seeks to determine in the most consistent and clearest form possible the determination of the value of imported goods.

The adoption of procedures organizational framework to secure consistent and uniform application of WTO Valuation Agreement within each economy has been implemented by 19 Economies. Adoption of laws/regulations to provide binding Valuation decision to importers has been taken on by 18 Economies.

19 Economies have adopted the Post Clearance Audit Scheme. 17 Economies the adoption of appeals provisions. 12 Economies have received technical assistance, 6 provided assistance and 4 requested it.

CAPs INITIATIVES

WTO Intellectual Property Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement

This Collective Action Plan is coordinated by the United States and its objective is to help the implementation of the WTO TRIPS Agreement and abolish infringements and counterfeit situations of intellectual property rights.

16 Economies have acceded to WTO Intellectual Property Agreement. The adoption of procedures organizational framework to secure border enforcement to protect intellectual property rights has been implemented by 19 Economies.

18 Economies have adopted procedures dealing with applications for suspension of release of counterfeit goods. 14 Economies have the adoption the system to notify importers and right holders on suspended goods. 10 Economies have received technical assistance, 4 have provided it and 6 have requested it.

Clear Appeals Introduction of Clear Appeals Provision

The final objective of this plan is to provide Customs administrations with open and transparent decision making processes on the implementation of clear appeal provisions. According to this plan, 19 Economies have implemented the adoption of regulations to establish appeal system.

20 Economies have established a transparent review process to appeal customs decisions and actions.

17 Economies have established a transparent judicial process in place to appeal customs decisions adverse to operators.

16 Economies have adopted procedures to provide written ruling on issue.

Also, 6 Economies have received technical assistance, 2 have requested it and Canada has provided it.



Mr. Mario ARRUE

The main objective of APEC is to facilitate trade in the Asia-Pacific region. Amongst a range of activities, the APEC forum works collaboratively on implementation of the specific guidelines of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Customs is in the middle, between the origin of goods and their final destination in the marketplace. With this in mind, customs procedures need to be compatible so that goods can travel fluently from producer to consumer. This will help increase trade between economies and constitutes an essential element of the objectives of APEC.

Deputy Director of Enforcement.
Chilean Customs



Ms. Cynthia DUNCAN

APEC is a highly useful forum because it brings together all the customs organizations from the region which otherwise don't have much of an opportunity to work collaboratively to find solutions that can really bind together the world on the customs front.

APEC has been a sound supporter of the ATA Carnet. In fact APEC customs officials have promoted to their governments that all APEC economies be part of the Carnet system. The fact that Chile has signed the convention is a sign of the work that APEC has done, applying a bit of pressure for others that are not part of the system to become part of the system.

If you are not part of the game, you shouldn't be surprised if the outcome isn't what you want it to be.

Vice President, Carnet Operations, United States Council for International Business (USCIB).



Mr. James O'CONNOR

The 21 APEC Economies comprise well over 50% of world trade; customs issues either promote or prevent world trade, so APEC is a great place to make sure that it is promoted.

The APEC Customs-Business Dialogue extends the value of APEC. It is one of the best forums around for the business community.

A theme of years past in APEC is that APEC Means Business and that is clearly what we are looking for, why we take an active role in the American Chemistry Council, because we think that this is the opportunity for us to move forward, especially in the area of trade facilitation.

Senior Director, International Trade, American Chemistry Council.

Temporary Importation Provisions for Temporary Importation

This CAP item aims to improve the provisions for temporary importations.

14 Economies have accessed to the A.T.A. Carnet Convention and/or Istanbul Convention.

18 Economies have adopted the standard document and procedures for handling goods under temporary admission.

13 Economies have established dedicated windows for clearance of temporary importation goods.

16 Economies have adopted control procedures/organizational framework on imported goods subject to temporary importation procedures.

6 Economies have received technical assistance provided by Australia, Canada and the United States. 5 Economies have requested technical assistance.

Risk Management Risk Management Techniques

The objective of this CAP item is to support the implementation of sound risk management practices in order to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while maintaining effective customs control.

19 Economies have adopted a risk management methodology to identify high risk and low risk shipments and application of methodology to cargo examinations and document reviews.

18 Economies have established infrastructure to manage risk.

16 Economies have adopted a system to analyze risk.

14 Economies have established a risk management training system.

14 Economies have received technical assistance provided by Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand and 6 Economies have requested technical assistance.

CAPs INITIATIVES

Express Consignment Clearance Guidelines on Express Consignment Clearance

This CAP item aims to implement the WCO Guidelines on Express Consignment and the international standards for Customs Clearance of express goods, allowing rapid, and reliable delivery services.

Adoption of law/regulations for express consignments based on WCO Guidelines on Express Consignments has been declared completed by 17 Economies

Establishment of dedicated clearance windows to process express consignments has been completed by 15 Economies.

Adoption of a system to provide customs clearance service 24 hrs. a day has been implemented by 17 Economies.

Adoption of simplified clearance procedures for express consignments has been implemented by 17 Economies.

5 Economies have received technical assistance, 6 Economies have provided it and one has requested it.



Mr. Sang-Yirl NAM

APEC contains important economies in terms of contribution to trade volume and overall economic activity; it covers most of the areas of the globe, with the exception of Europe, and many of the most significant countries in terms of industrial activity.

APEC activities to facilitate interaction between government and business, such as the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue are very practical and important.

Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP). Korea.



Lingkang CHEN

APEC is a very good forum for promoting the stability and prosperity of the international community. Customs play a very important role in supporting the prosperity of this community.

APEC SSCP activities help customs organizations to move goods quickly in and out of countries in the region, which, I believe, is highly important.

When we make the flow of goods, the flow of travel faster we reduce the operational costs of business, which is a good thing. APEC's work in this area can only benefit the regional business community.

Chinese Embassy Representative in the US.

Customs Business Partnership

This CAP item was designed in August 2001, with the objective to enhance the cooperation and communication between customs and the business sector.

The Economies that have Implemented this CAP item are:

16 Economies entered into cooperative relations with business partners by signing MOU's or other forms of cooperative instruments.

16 Economies established official consultation or liaison channels with the trade for better understanding and cooperation.

16 Economies developed, improved and widened the scope of partnership programs initiatives.

16 Economies monitored satisfaction of the business community.

Acting as mentors and shared best practices are Australia, Hong Kong China, and People's Republic of China, requested technical assistance.

In the second SCCP meeting, Hong-Kong China, distributed the Compendium of Best Practices in which it was agreed to moved this CAP item from Stage 1 to Stage 2.

STAGE 3 CAP ITEMS

Advanced Classification Ruling Introduction of an Advanced Classification Ruling System

The objective of this CAP is to establish simplified procedures for classification on information prior to importation, so that international trade can be carried out in an accurate and predictable manner.

The adoption of law regulations to provide an Advanced Classification Ruling System has been implemented by 13 Economies.

The adoption of procedures organizational framework to accept requests and provide an advance classification ruling has been accomplished by 17 Economies.

6 Economies have received technical assistance , 4 Economies provided it. Technical assistance was requested by 3 Economies.



Mr. Geert HINNAERT

On the two sides of the Pacific we have entirely different worlds. And, if you look at one side of the world, for example, North and South America, you can see that these economies are so different from one another. The most important part of APEC is that so many economies, with different histories and cultures come together and if half the information that is exchanged is used by economies, the world would be so much easier to work in and customs would be much more efficient.

The APEC Customs-Business Dialogue provides a good opportunity to find out how importers are working and how other companies such as transport companies are working. The side meetings are very interesting and valuable.

The model port of Shanghai between the Chinese and US customs, supported by business, was an excellent APEC initiative. To see a country that was so closed suddenly become so open and model to the rest of the world is fantastic.

Director, Latin American Association of Express Companies (CLADEC).



Mr. Kunio MIKURIYA

The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) is one of the most dynamic and active APEC fora. We are very happy to cooperate with APEC, because APEC SCCP customs activities give us one tangible model for how to organize regional activities. APEC is a good forum for us at the WCO to be involved in because it is a multilateral institution facilitating cooperation in the region.

Increasingly there is awareness of trade transaction costs, which can be very high. We also need to be aware of inefficient, unnecessary and cumbersome customs procedures which can be perceived as one of the main remaining trade barriers. The APEC forum provides an excellent opportunity to address these issues.

Deputy Secretary General of WCO

Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative

Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative

In October 2001 the APEC leaders endorsed a Pathfinder approach as a mean of advancing progress towards accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention across APEC economies. In addition, APEC Ministers noted the importance of the Revised Kyoto Convention and encouraged its adoption at the earliest opportunity. As of July 2004, 35 WCO members have acceded to the Revised Kyoto Convention.

6 APEC economies have acceded to the body and general annexes. One expressed interest in assistance on the Revised Convention. The project to assist economies work through the process of accession to the revised Convention is the Kyoto Pathfinder Initiative, co-developed by Australia and New Zealand.

10 APEC members participated in Stage 1 of the Pathfinder (a workshop on the use of the Guidebook and a post self assessment phase were carried out). These participants were, Brunei, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Peru, PNG, Thailand and Vietnam.

Of these 10 participants, 2 (Thailand and Chinese Taipei) identified specific areas where technical assistance was required under Stage 2 (Stage 2 being technical assistance to address any requirements identified during the self assessment phase).



SCCP Counter-Terrorism

SCCP Counter-Terrorism

On October 2002 the APEC Leaders made a Statement on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth. This Declaration was implemented through the Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) Initiative. Within the STAR Initiative there are four objectives that clearly fall within the responsibility of customs administrations:

- implementing a container security regime
- implementing common electronic data standards developed by the WCO
- promoting private-sector adoption of supply chain security
- assuring integrity of officials involved in border operations

To advance in this implementation process, the 2004 Viña del Mar SCCP Meeting reminded all the Economies of the need for all members to complete the Counter-Terrorism Action Plan (CTAP) matrix. The matrix will identify the steps being taken by each member economy to implement STAR and areas where assistance may be needed. The responses will identify possible capacity building efforts.

Transparency Standards

APEC Leaders Transparency Standards on Customs Procedures

As a response to the Leaders' Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards, the SCCP committed to work in the implementation of APEC Transparency Principles provided in the "Transparency Strategy by 2005". In the first 2004 SCCP Meeting, Economies agreed to study the proposal submitted by the United States, to decide the methodology to implement the "Transparency Standards on Customs Procedures" approved in October, 2003. In the 2004 Viña del Mar SCCP Meeting, the Chair distributed Chapter 6 of the IAP concerning customs procedures and invited the Economies to report during the Meeting.

The Transparency Standards on Customs Procedures cover various customs practices, such as:

- Availability of Customs-related information to public;
- Publication of any regulations governing Customs procedures in advance;
- Implementation of advanced rulings;
- Maintaining transparency and fairness in Customs procedures; and provision of contact points to address questions of interested parties.



Evaluation Working Group Evaluation Working Group

To support trade operator needs, the SCCP focused in ensuring the effective implementation of the work programs. To provide an update on a regular basis, the SCCP adopted assessment approach through the Evaluation Working Group (EWG). The aim of this working group is to assess progress in implementing the 14 SCCP Collective Action Plans (CAPs) and to evaluate the effectiveness of the technical assistance program.

Through the SCCP EWG an Assessment/Evaluation Matrix was developed and it is updated regularly. All APEC member economies complete it for each CAP item, and are able to group the CAPs under three categories. The first category is for current/ongoing items (Stage 1 CAPs), and the second is for items in which technical assistance has largely been completed and the majority of member economies has implemented or is in the process of implementation (Stage 2 CAPs), and the third in which all technical assistance requested has been provided (Stage 3 CAPs).

The EWG provides a complete overview of the implementation process held by each economy and it is a powerful tool, which assists with capacity building strategies and implementation work as well as a mechanism for reporting to the CTI on SCCP activities.

This year the main issues of the EWG agenda were the

- CAP Assessment Evaluation Matrix updates.
- Adoption of CAP Criteria.
- Stage 3 CAP proposals and adoption, a process of consultation is underway

The EWG continues to have a strong support, expressed by inputs, and the adoption of the new proposal, which will streamline the reporting process by member economies.



TRADE FACILITATION

Trade Facilitation

The APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) presented through Australia the Mid-Term Report on trade facilitation to the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI).

Since 1994 the SCCP has been working towards the harmonization and simplification of Customs procedures in the Asia-Pacific region. SCCP activities support the efficient, safe and effective movement of goods and services through the region.

In 2001, APEC Leaders' committed to implement the APEC Trade Facilitation Principles with a view to reduce trade transaction costs by 5% in the year 2006. In response the Framework for APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan was developed. The Plan includes 4 key elements of which the SCCP participates in the 'movement of goods' component.

In early 2004, it was agreed that given the ongoing work of the CTI to develop a quantitative methodology to measure transaction costs the SCCP would concentrate efforts on providing a qualitative report; it would be a compilation of initiatives implemented since 2001. These examples, or case studies, form the basis of the SCCP trade facilitation mid-term report.

Customs administrations from the APEC region have achieved significant progress in streamlining, upgrading and harmonizing their activities. The case studies that follow demonstrate SCCP members' commitment to improve trade facilitation arrangements in an environment of increased security scrutiny.

Australia

Cargo Management Re-engineering.

Canada

G7 Initiatives.

Chile

The Chilean Process of Exiting Goods.

People's Republic of China

China Customs' Efforts and Measures On Trade Facilitation.

Hong Kong, China

Enhanced Facilities and Streamlined Clearance Procedures for Land Boundary.

Vehicular Crossings.

Implementation of Intermodal Transshipment Services.

Implementation of Open Bond System.

Implementation of Electronic Data Interchange - Manifest.

Indonesia

Implementation of Priority Channel.

Japan

Computerization (Implementation of 'Single Window' and "CuPES").

Large-scale X-ray inspection equipment.

The Republic of Korea

Fewer Items Subject to Meeting Ex/Import Permits.

The On-Dock Clearance System.

An Improved System for Personal Effects.

The Internet-Based Declaration System.

A Wider Application of the Paperless Declarations.

Malaysia

Implementation of The e-Logistics Project in Penang.

Mexico

Express: Certified Enterprises - FAST: Free and Secure Trade.

Gamma Rays System.

New Zealand

Automation.

Papua New Guinea

Upgrade of Customs automated system.

Peru

Enhancement of importation simplified clearance service effectiveness in the main warehouses.

System of Customs Price.

Interconnection with SENASA.

Philippines

Simplify procedures and reduce the requirements for a paper documentation in Customs clearance.

Singapore

Simplified Bank Guarantee System.

Simplification Of Basis Of Duty Payment For Intoxicating Liquors.

Revision of Licensed Warehouse Fees.

Chinese Taipei

Implementation of Web-based Customs Declaration System.

Thailand

E- Customs

The Gold Card Privileges and Customs Alliance Club.

Inspection Rate Reduction.

Container x-ray Technology Implementation.

United States of America

Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).

Viet Nam

Customs Modernization.

PEER REVIEW PROGRAM

Peer Review Program



Peer Review Program is voluntary, and provides an opportunity to all APEC Member Economies to identify "Best Recommend Practices" for the implementation of Cap Items.

This process requires a strong commitment among APEC Member Economies to take the self assessment process and to receive experts that will participate in the peer review program.

This process is designed to help APEC member Economies assess the depth of implementation of the Stage 2 CAP items.

Peer Review Team aim's to:

- To review the procedures on CAP items an economy marked as "complete".
- To determine if CAP items that are marked "complete" have been implemented to the furthest extent possible.
- To identify "best practice" in the implementation of CAP items.
- To identify opportunities for improving (if any).
- To identify specific methods to achieve improvement (if any).
- To conduct the review as an educational tool that advances the implementation of CAP items within the economy.

CHILE'S EXPERIENCE IN THE PROGRAM

Chile agreed to undergo the Peer Review Program in 2003. In Phuket the Director General confirmed his intention to accept this assessment on a strictly voluntary basis.

The Peer Review questionnaire was classified under the following five items:

Transparency of Customs Procedures

- Publication and availability of customs laws, regulations and guidelines.
- Construction and maintenance of customs website.
- Establishment of inquiry points for customs procedure.
- Adoption of process to obtain public comments on changes to customs law/regulations
- Preparation of leaflet/other materials for providing general or specific information

Adoption of principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement

- Adoption of procedures and organizational framework to secure consistent and uniform application of WTO valuation agreement within your economy.
- Adoption of laws and regulations to provide binding valuation decisions to importers.
- Adoption of post clearance audit scheme.
- Adoption of appeals provisions.

Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement.

Introduction of clear appeal provisions.

- Accession to the WTO intellectual property agreement.
- Adoption of procedures/organizational framework to secure border enforcement to protect intellectual property rights.
- Adoption of procedures dealing with applications for the suspension of release of counterfeit goods.
- Adoption of the system to notify importers and right holders on suspended goods.

Introduction of clear appeals provision.

- Adoption of laws/regulations to establish an appeal system.
- Establishment of a transparent review process to appeal customs decisions and actions.
- Establishment of a transparent judicial process to appeal customs decision adverse to operators.
- Adoption of procedures to provide written rulings on issue.

Provisions for Temporary Importation, e. g., acceding to the A.T.A Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention

- Accession to the A.T.A. carnet convention and/or Istanbul Convention.
- Adoption of standard documents and procedures for handling goods under temporary admissions.

- Establishment of dedicated windows for clearance of temporary importation goods.
- Adoption of control procedures/organizational framework on imported goods subject to temporary importation procedure.

The answering process implied improving some implementation tools and techniques, re-evaluating certain Customs procedures, implementing activities, and a self-assessment exercise.

From 11 to 13 November, SCCP experts from New Zealand and United States, visit the Chilean Customs headquarters in Valparaiso to carry out the review.

They submitted the "Summary Evaluation Sheet" containing the five CAP items that had been implemented by our Economy.

The co-ordinator remitted the "APEC Peer Review. Chilean Peer Review Evaluation Sheets". The Peer Review Team members conducted their work in a highly professional manner and in a friendly environment.

It was a very good exercise that will be useful for Chilean Customs as an external opinion about some important issues for APEC and the private sector.

An excellent level of co-operation was achieved, since the success of such activity is based on mutual understanding and trust developed between Economies.

Chile's Customs Service thank's Peer Review Team for their visit and work, and we would like to encourage other Economies to participate.

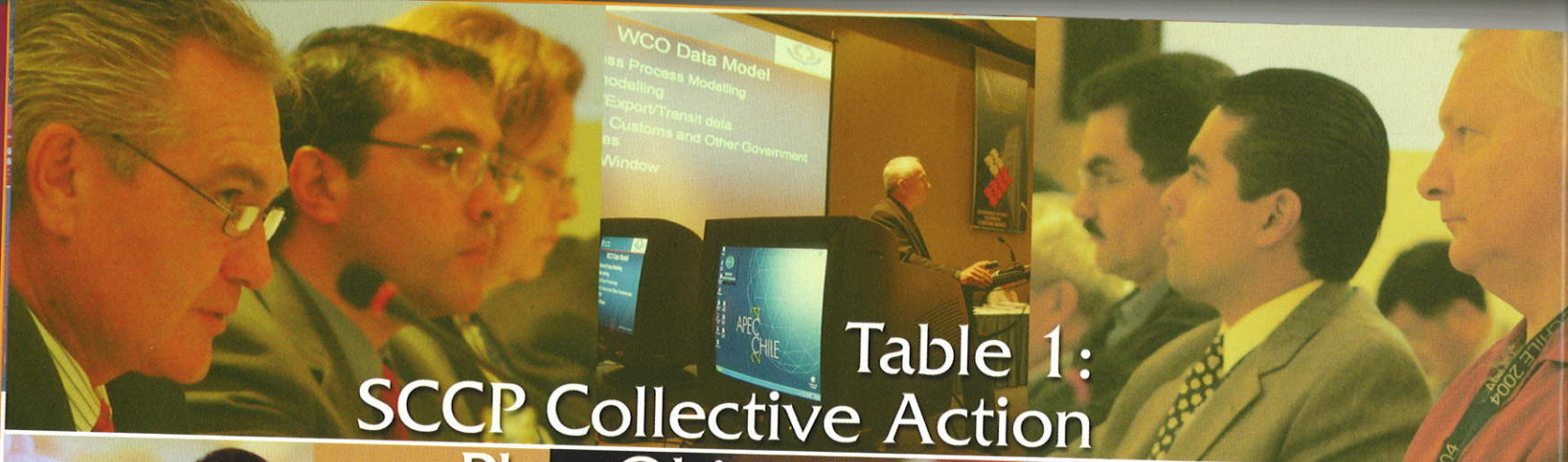
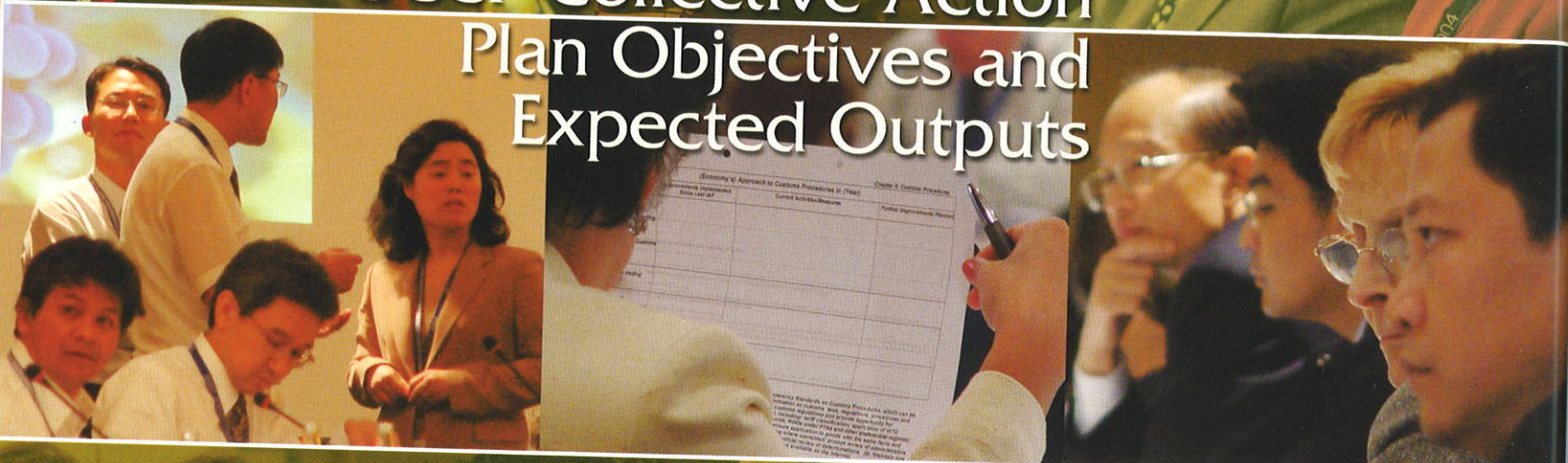


Table 1: SCCP Collective Action Plan Objectives and Expected Outputs



OBJECTIVES EXPECTED OUTPUTS

OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
<p>1 Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention. To ensure consistency of application, certainty and a level playing field for business through the HS Convention, the standard international harmonized system for the classification of goods.</p>	The accurate, consistent and uniform application of the HS Convention by all APEC member economies.
<p>2 Public Availability of Information on Customs Laws, Regulations, Administrative Guidelines and Rulings provided to the business sector on an ongoing basis. To ensure traders have access to all the pertinent information for business decisions through the provision of accurate, consistent and user-friendly information to business on an ongoing basis.</p>	To improve transparency of APEC Customs Administrations. To enhance the APEC Customs Administrations' competency in the dissemination of information on customs laws, regulations, procedures, rulings and guidelines.
<p>3 Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Kyoto Convention. To improve efficiency in customs clearance and the delivery of goods in order to benefit importers, exporters and manufacturers through simplified customs procedures and best practices.</p>	Simplified and standardized customs procedures implemented by all APEC members.
<p>4 Adoption and Support for the UN/EDIFACT- Paperless Trading. To use the standard UN electronic messaging format for automated systems, the United Nations/ Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, to promote an electronic highway for business.</p>	The implementation by member administrations of UN/EDIFACT international electronic messaging standards as the basis for their computerization programs.
<p>5 Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Valuation Agreement. To facilitate administration of the World Trade Organization's Valuation Agreement on standard procedures for valuing goods.</p>	The implementation of the agreement by members, in a timely and orderly manner, to meet members' international obligations under the Agreement.
<p>6 Adoption of the Principles of the WTO Intellectual Property Right (TRIPS) Agreement. To implement border enforcement procedures for protecting intellectual property rights.</p>	A strategic program designed and developed to implement border endorsement of the Agreement by members, in a timely and orderly manner, to meet international obligations under the Agreement.
<p>7 Introduction of Clear Appeals Provision. To provide business with an opportunity to challenge potentially erroneous or inequitable Customs decisions through mechanisms for transparent, independent and timely appeals.</p>	Implementation of Customs appeal mechanisms by all members. The enhanced transparency and effectiveness of the appeals process and client service initiatives within APEC customs administrations.
<p>8 Introduction of an Advance Classification Ruling System. To establish simplified procedures for providing classification information prior to importation, thus bringing certainty and predictability to international trading and helping traders to make sound business decisions based on legally binding advice.</p>	The introduction of simplified procedures for an advance classification ruling system to the customs procedures of each APEC economy by the year 2000.
<p>9 Provisions for Temporary Importation e.g. Acceding to the A.T.A. Carnet Convention or the Istanbul Convention. To help business move goods such as commercial samples, professional equipment, tools of trade and exhibition material across borders with a high degree of certainty as to how these goods will be treated by Customs by having standard procedures for admitting goods on a temporary basis.</p>	The implementation of the terms of the A.T.A Carnet and Istanbul Conventions. The provision of a common import/export document of the temporary importation of goods. An internationally accepted security for goods entitled to temporary admission without payment of duties and taxes.
<p>10 Harmonized APEC data Elements. To develop a comprehensive directory supported in UN/EDIFACT which includes a simplified "core set" of data elements, largely derived from commercially available data, that would satisfy the standard data requirements of the majority of APEC trade transactions and so facilitate the exchange of information and provide a foundation for common forms and electronic commerce.</p>	The development of a set of trade data elements required for ordinary goods for home consumption. The development of a set of best practices guidelines for the processing and clearance associated with the movement of goods until the goods are no longer under any customs control.
<p>11 Risk Management Techniques. To focus Customs enforcement efforts on high-risk goods and travelers and facilitate the movement of low-risk shipments, through a flexible approach tailored to each APEC economy.</p>	The implementation of a systematic risk management approach will allow APEC Customs administrations to facilitate legitimate trade and travel while maintaining control.
<p>12 Guidelines on Express Consignments Clearance. To implement principles contained in the WCO Guidelines on Express Consignment Clearance, the international standard procedures for clearance of express goods, working in partnership with express industry associations.</p>	The timely implementation of the international standard for Customs clearance of express shipments. Trade facilitation while maintaining essential customs control responsibilities.
<p>13 Integrity. To raise level of integrity in Customs Administrations.</p>	More accountable, consistent, reliable and transparent Customs Administration.
<p>14 Customs-Business Partnership. To enhance the cooperation and communication between Customs and the business sector.</p>	The development of Customs-Business Partnership with the relevant players/parties in the business sector through the signing of MOU's or other instruments of cooperative arrangement. The establishment of permanent and regular liaison/consultation channels between Customs and the relevant players/parties in the business sector.

Table 2: Collective Action Plan SCCP Collective Action Plan Implementation Schedule

Plan Co-ordinator	Target Date	HS Convention of Japan	Public Availability of Information	Kyoto Convention	Paperless Trading	WTO Valuation Agreement	TRIPS	Clear Appeal Provisions	Advance Classification	Temporary Importations	Common Data Elements	Risk Management	Express Consignment Clearance	Customs Integrity	Customs Business Partnership
		Japan	HK, China Singapore	New Zealand Japan	Australia	Canada USA	USA	Canada Philippines	New Zealand Korea	USA Chinese Taipei	Canada	Australia USA	USA PR, China	Australia HK, China	HK, China Mexico Chinese Taipei
Australia	2002	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Brunei		■	■					■	■		■	■		■	
Canada		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Chile		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
PRC		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HK, China		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Indonesia		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Japan		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Korea		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Malaysia		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Mexico		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
New Zealand		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
PNG		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Peru		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Philippines		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Russia		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Singapore		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Chinese Taipei		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Thailand		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
USA		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Viet Nam		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

■ Implemented
■ Partially
■ On-Going Process
■ Not applicable

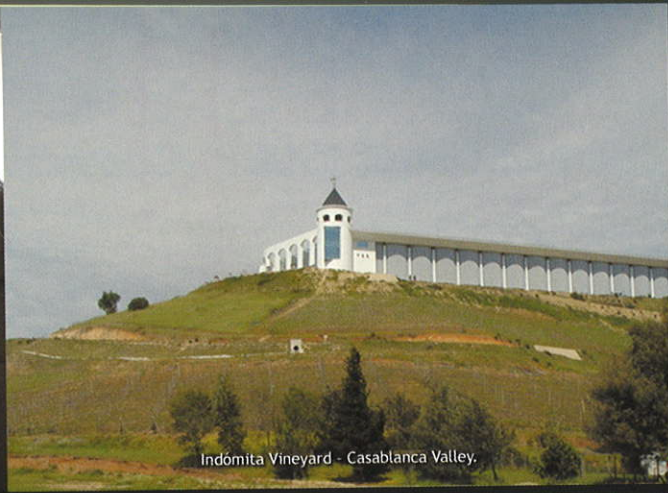
APEC SECRETARIAT SCCC Contacts

Fax, Telephone & Email List of "SCCP" Contacts

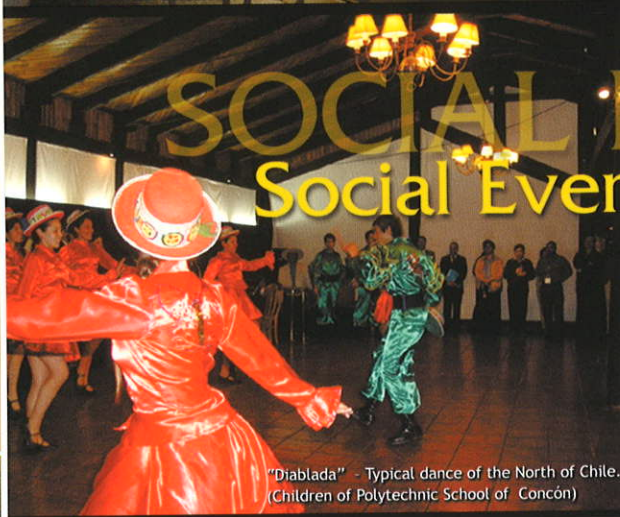
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Vice Chair of 2004	Ms Naengnoi Na Ranong	(66 2) 249 2381	(66 2) 249 0443 (66 2) 667 7222	sccc2003@customs.go.th naengnoi@mof.go.th
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Malaysia	Mr Ismail Niza Ali	(60 3) 8889 5861	(60 3) 8882 2416	ismailniza@customs.gov.my
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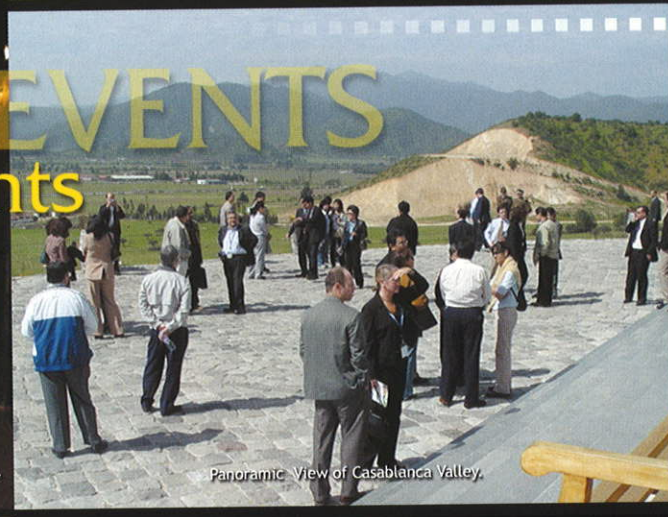
Turri Restaurant - Concepción Hill - (Valparaíso)



Indómita Vineyard - Casablanca Valley.



"Diablada" - Typical dance of the North of Chile. (Children of Polytechnic School of Concón)



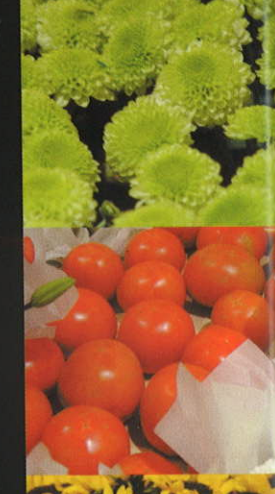
Panoramic View of Casablanca Valley.



Support Staff SCCP - Students of Valparaíso University.



Children and Professors of Polytechnic School in the Yacht Club of Higueraillas, Concón.

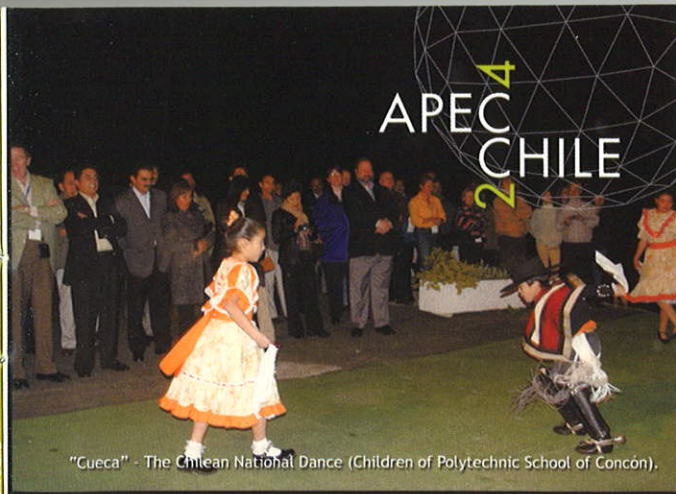


"Rapa Nui Dance" - Typical dance of the Eastern Island. (Children of Polytechnic School of Concón)



Group Photograph SCCP - Indómita Vineyard. (Casablanca Valley)





"Cueca" - The Chilean National Dance (Children of Polytechnic School of Concepción).



"La Sebastiana" - Pablo Neruda's House in Valparaíso (Nobel Prize).



Welcome Cocktail SCCP - Terrace of Hotel del Mar (Viña del Mar)



Wine Barrels - Indomita Vineyard (Casablanca Valley).

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release

SCCP meetings, social and cultural related events were widely reported by the local press, emphasizing the importance of such meetings for foreign trade among Asia Pacific Economies, as well as the challenges that Customs administration must face in facilitation and security matters.

Excerpts from letter sent by Australian representative Gareth Lewis to SCCP Chair in October 7

"...From the moment I saw the Andes before I landed at Santiago airport I knew Chile was a special place.

Valparaíso, Viña Del Mar and all of the coast there are a wonderful mixture of history, modern architecture and lovely coastal scenery. The Hotel Del Mar was excellent, including the conference facilities. The evening at Higuierillas Yacht Club with all the dancing was terrific, the evening in Valparaíso to see Pablo Neruda's museum and the singing at the Turri restaurant was also memorable. The afternoon at the Indomita Vineyard was wonderful too-that was the most Australian-like experience I had in Chile...."



APEC CHILE SCCP Blueprints

ACRONYMS

Acronyms

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation
ABAC	APEC Business Advisor Council
ACRS	Advance Classification Ruling System
ACBD	APEC Customs Business Dialogue
AGGI	Advance Group on Gender Integration
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
A.T.A.	Carnet Admission Temporaire - Temporary Admission Carnet Convention
BMC	Budget and Management Committee
CAP	Collective Action Plans
CAPEC	Conference of Asia-Pacific Express Carrier
CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
DDA	Doha Development Agenda
FACTS	Facilitation, Accountability, Consistency, Transparency, and Simplification
G7	Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United States
HS	Harmonized System of Tariff Classification
IAP	Individual Action Plan
IATA	International Air Transportation Association
IBCC	International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce
IECC	International Express Carriers Conference
IFCBA	International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations
NAFTA	North America Free Trade Agreement
OECD	Organization for the Economic Co-operation and Development
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
ROO	Rules of Origin
SCCP	Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
SOM	Senior Officials or Senior Official's Meeting
SPF	South Pacific Forum
STAR	Secure Trade in the APEC Region
TILF	Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects on Intellectual Property Rights
UN	United Nations
UN/EDIFACT	UN Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
WCO	World Customs Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization



PHOTOGRAPH

Official Photograph

Panoramic view of Viña del Mar



Second APEC SCCP Meeting, Viña del Mar, Chile
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Asia-Pacific
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