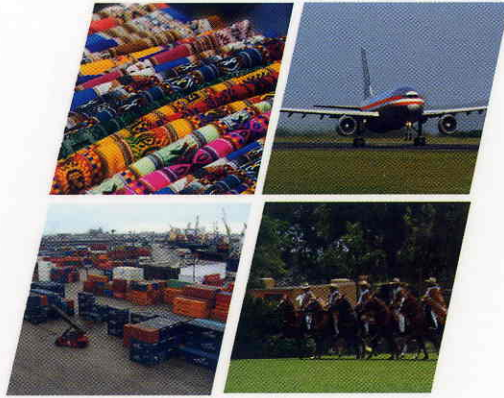




Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

# BLUEPRINT

APEC Sub-Committee  
On Customs Procedures



A New Commitment  
for the Asia-Pacific Development



DECEMBER 2008



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## Introduction from the SCCP Chair



The 2008 APEC Peru theme 'A New Commitment for the Asia-Pacific Development' seeks to build a political space to harness the political will of Member Economies. This is supported by the technical and financial capacity-building. They have helped to substantively increase the flow of capital and labor among APEC Economies. Hence within the APEC Framework, Peru has proposed for the agenda to include effective assistance to Member Economies to facilitate greater global and regional economic integration through social-economic indicator enhancements that recognize the differences in industrial and economic infrastructure, competitiveness and trade facilitation.

Therefore one of the main objectives of APEC is the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures to facilitate trade in the Asia-Pacific region. The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) - through its Work Program - undertakes this important task, which aligns to the set of priorities and actions in the Ministers' and Leaders' Declarations.

The 2008 Agenda for the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures focuses on the following areas:

- Approval and progress of the Single Window Initiative Work Plan
- Approval of Key Performance Indicators and methodologies to measure the progress of the Trade Facilitation Action Plan 2
- Advancing the implementation of the APEC Framework for Secure Trade
- Promoting the enforcement of intellectual property rights
- Improving measures related to the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures
- Collective Action Plan
- Transparency

APEC also promotes ongoing collaboration between the public and private sector. Accordingly these relationships have been strengthened by the work of the Single Window Working Group (SWWG) and the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue (ACBD) held in Callao, Peru. The ACBD theme in 2008 was 'Towards an Effective Trade Facilitation and Protection of Intellectual Property Rights'. The different issues discussed at this meeting were divided into two sessions: 'Promoting Mechanisms of Intellectual Property Rights Border Protection' and 'Security in Supply Chain and Trade Facilitation'.

This Blueprint, handed out to Customs Administrations and international business communities in the APEC region, highlights the outcomes of the SCCP activities, including those of ACBD and other workshops held in 2008.

**Carlos Esteban Posada Ugaz**  
2008 APEC SCCP Chair  
Head of the Peruvian Customs



## SCCP AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) was established in 1994 and its main objective is to simplify and harmonize regional Customs procedures to guarantee an efficient, effective and secure flow of goods and services throughout the APEC region and, as well, to conciliate border facilitation and control.

The SCCP set up the following guiding principles in February 1995 in Fukuoka, Japan:

- **Facilitation:** While ensuring proper enforcement of customs laws and regulations, APEC Customs Administration should strive to improve facilitation of customs clearance procedures.
- **Accountability:** Customs Administrations should be accountable for their actions through a transparent and accessible process of administrative and/or judicial review.
- **Consistency:** Customs laws, regulations, administrative guidelines and procedures should be applied in uniform manner within each economy.
- **Transparency:** Customs laws, regulations, administrative guidelines and procedures should be made publicly available in a prompt and easily accessible manner.
- **Simplification:** Customs laws, regulations, administrative guidelines and procedures should be simplified to the greatest extent possible so that customs clearance can proceed without undue burdens.

The main outcomes achieved by the SCCP in 2008 are:

### TRADE FACILITATION

#### Single Window:

The Single Window Working Group (SWWG) Phase 2 submitted foundation documents to SCCP1 on behalf of members, which set out a strategy for developing and achieving suitable outcomes and products aligned to the six recommendations in the APEC SCCP Single Window Strategic Plan 2007. SCCP1 endorsed the following documents:

- Terms of Reference for the SWWG Phase 2 which provided a context for the activity, the objectives and broadly outlined



the outputs to be delivered. More importantly, it also sets out a three-tiered approach to consultation:

Tier 1 Members of the APEC SCCP SWWG Phase 2 are the following 13 SCCP Member Economies: Australia (Chair); Canada; People's Republic of China; Japan; Korea; New Zealand; Peru; The Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; The United States and Viet Nam. The members will be supported by subject matter expert participants from ECSG, ASEAN, UN/CEFACT and WCO. Tier 2 will involve the construction of a list of relevant international stakeholders identified by SWWG Phase 2 members for SCCP consideration. Tier 3 wider output distribution will be the responsibility of all SWWG Phase 2 members.

- Work Plan and Timeline which provided the high level tasks and actions required to shape the outcomes and a timeframe to display the progressive delivery of outputs over 2008 and 2009.

The SWWG Phase 2 submitted concept papers supporting recommendations 3, 4, 5 and 6 to the SCCP2 2008. The concept papers for recommendations for 3, 4 and 5 were endorsed with consensus of SCCP members that 6 required further consideration and comment prior to being endorsed.

Recommendation 3: will deliver information products relating to internationally recognized instruments and standards to assist APEC economies in single window design and development.

Recommendation 4: will deliver an information exchange repository populated with economy's progress and results relating to pilot projects and initiatives in international trade facilitation and supply chain security.

Recommendation 5: will deliver a capacity building workshop series satisfying the assistance requested by SCCP Members in the APEC SCCP Development Report 2007.

Recommendation 6: will deliver a roadmap and implementation strategy for single window development and enhancement aligned to the SCCP Single Window Vision. The SCCP agreed to keep this recommendation open for a short time to ensure the delivery of a practical and useable product that achieves the intended purpose.





## Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP2)

The 2007 Ministers' and Leaders' Declaration welcomed the new TFAP2 to achieve another five percent reduction in trade transaction cost by 2010. Ministers Responsible for Trade acknowledged the call from businesses to develop KPIs in order to measure the TFAP2 progress. Therefore the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) instructed the sub-fora to develop such KPIs with supporting application methodology.

SCCP1 agreed to establish one indicator per TFAP2 action, as follows:



Scope	KPI
1. Time-Release Survey (TRS) of Goods	Application of the TRS methodology to achieve a standardized time-release measure.
2. Implement APEC Framework based on the WCO Framework of Standards	Progress in the implementation of risk management processes based on advance electronic submission of cargo information.
3. Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Revised Kyoto Convention	Progress in the adoption and implementation of the Body and General Annex of the RKC.
4. Paperless and/or Automation of Trade-Related Procedures	Progress in the implementation of single window systems.
5. Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS Convention	Progress in the adoption of the HS Convention and incorporation of the HS 2007 changes.
6. Appropriate, Transparent and Predictable Trade-Related Procedures	Progress in the application of steps taken to promote the integrity of Customs Officials and in the consistency of procedures.

CTI requested the Policy Support Unit (PSU) assistance to help the sub-fora in developing reporting methodologies.

### **Time-Release Survey (TRS)**

The SCCP was provided with an activity report on the Time-Release Survey (TRS) CAP item which included the outcomes of workshops held in China in 2006 and in Chile, Peru and Viet Nam in 2007. The sharing of experiences in TRS implementation was led by Japan and Korea.

The main objectives of the TRS are to measure the time taken in each step of the clearance process of goods, identify bottlenecks and assess subsequent improvements of these processes. This CAP item is one of the KPIs approved by the SCCP for measuring the TFAP2 progress.



### **SECURE TRADE**

#### **APEC Framework for Secure Trade**

SCCP members have made further progress in the implementation of the APEC Framework for Secure Trade. Workshops were held in Thailand and Chinese Taipei in 2007 and in China in 2008. Another workshop which will continue the capacity building effort and support the implementation plan is expected to be held in 2009. The APEC Framework is based on the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. Greater understanding of how to meet the challenge of striking an appropriate balance between trade facilitation and supply chain security is a critical and ongoing issue shared by the supply chain stakeholders.



Australia, Korea, Japan and Malaysia shared their experiences in researching, developing and implementing Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) programs that included their progress and future plans.

China shared its experience in implementing the pilot project with the European Union in Shenzhen Pilot Ports (China), Rotterdam (Netherlands) and Felixstowe (United Kingdom) on secure and







smart trade lanes known as the China-EC pilot project. The main issues experienced in the development stage were legislation, data exchange, selection of participating companies, mutual recognition of control results, application of joint risk rule sets and use of container security devices.

The joint evaluation outcomes of the first phase will be used for the future development of the second phase which is expected to be initiated in July 2009.

The significance of the China-UE pilot is that it is the first inter-continental pilot project for implementing the Framework of Standards that aims to establish a safe, facilitated and smart international trade supply chain, and to create a Customs virtual territory.

### Tracking Cross-Border Shipments

Australia briefed on its Tracking Cross-Border Shipments Feasibility Study undertaken in 2008 that reviewed the benefits and impacts of using a Unique Consignment Reference (UCR) as a business process and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) as a cross-border tracking technology. The conclusions of the study were divided into three categories such as technology, process and strategy.

- a. The UCR is an enabler of information sharing which would improve data matching accuracy and support standardization and automation of processes;
- b. The UCR concept should be assessed in association with the WCO Data Model, planning for a Single Window and participating in the Authorized Supply Chain;
- c. RFID adoption in the supply chain is low and is unlikely to increase within the next two years;
- d. Proven uses of RFID include container tracking and e-seals. These could be leveraged to implement a joint UCR-RFID solution;
- e. Regional alignment and shared milestones with other APEC Economies would assist to facilitate UCR adoption;
- f. Australian industry did not perceive any significant benefits in UCR or RFID implementation. Many industry segments already use consignment or parcel identifiers similar to the UCR;





A full end-to-end RFID enabled UCR process is presently unattainable.

Australia advised the SCCP that given the hesitancy shown by the Australian trading community and the limitations with this technology, UCR-RFID will not be pursued as a priority, but it will continue to monitor global developments through its Enhanced Trade Solutions Program.



### **Trade Recovery Program (TRP)**

Singapore briefed on the outcomes of the APEC Trade Recovery Program (TRP) capacity building workshop held in Singapore. Delegates from 17 Economies including APEC Member Economies, as well as speakers from APEC economies, international organizations including the World Customs Organization (WCO), World Trade Organization (WTO), World Standards Cooperation (WSC), and private and public sector stakeholders attended the workshop. The key outcomes of the workshop are summarized as follows:

- APEC economies were encouraged to implement the APEC TRP;
- The WCO announced its decision to incorporate a trade recovery standard in its SAFE Framework of Standards, and that this standard would likely be based on the APEC TRP; and
- Singapore announced that it was leading a group of economies in planning and conducting a TRP pilot exercise in 2009.



### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)**

A joint session of IPEG and SCCP was held on 21 February 2008. Delegates from the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) and the Intellectual Property Experts Group (IPEG) attended this meeting. The objective of this meeting was not only to exchange information but also to better understand the current situation and problems related to the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringement and to support the fight against the counterfeiting and piracy of goods. A number of areas were



explored including the type of information and border enforcement processes; procedures and systems required to increase information; and experience exchange to support Customs and other authorities responsible for the iPR border enforcement so as to achieve effective interventions at the border.

IPEG and SCCP agreed to continue this dialogue in their respective fora to identify common issues relating to counterfeiting and intellectual property rights infringement and to share ideas on improvement strategies.



## TRANSPARENCY

### Integrity

Australia as Integrity CAP leader, in consultation with Hong Kong, China as co-leader, developed the Implementing and Monitoring Integrity Action Plans - A Survey of Member Economies' Experiences. The survey sought to identify members' experiences with the integrity self-assessment process, practices adopted to implement the integrity action plans or integrity programs, approaches to communication and training, and monitoring and evaluation of plans and programs.



All economies responding to the survey have developed a code of conduct which applies to its Customs administration. They have an integrity action plan, integrity program or other framework in place, and have faced a range of implementation challenges. Customs administrations continue to focus on integrity issues such as, committing resources to training staff and raising their awareness, improving the perceptions of the trading community, and monitoring and evaluating the results to stamp out corruption.

The survey results indicate that a continued, comprehensive program of technical assistance is no longer required, and for this reason the SCCP2 approved to move the Integrity CAP item to stage 3.



Customs Procedures: 2008 Collective Action Plan  
CAP Items Status  
Stage 1 and 2

CAP	CAP Leader	Co-Leaders	Current CAP	Status Update/ Comments
Harmonization of Tariff Structure with the HS- Convention	Japan	Korea, Papua New Guinea	Stage 2	Technical assistance is ongoing. Most recent assistance took place on 25/1/08 and 29/3/08. Item remains in Stage 2.
Simplification and Harmonization on the Basis of the Revised Kyoto Convention	New Zealand	Japan	Stage 1	No requests for assistance Item remains in Stage 1.
Harmonized APEC Data Elements	Canada	Australia	Stage 1	Technical assistance is ongoing. October 2008 workshop is planned.
Integrity	Australia	Hong Kong, China	Stage 2	All Stage 2 items have been met. Propose moving to Stage 3. With any newly identified work, a new CAP item can be developed.
Implementation of APEC Framework Based on the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade	The United States	China	Stage 1	Three seminars in support of the implementation of the APEC Framework completed in 2007-2008. More work remains to be done, however, no CAP item remains in Stage 1.
Time-Release Survey (TRS)	Japan	Indonesia, Korea	Stage 1	Technical assistance is ongoing with workshops planned for The Philippines and Brunei Darussalam.

The other CAP Items remain in Stage 3.

## SCCP CAP IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

HS CONVENTION	REVISED KYOTO CONVENTION	COMMONS ELEMENT	INTEGRITY	APIC FRAMEWORK	TIME RELEASE
					
<b>Leader</b> - Japan	<b>Leader</b> - New Zealand	<b>Leader</b> - Canada	<b>Leader</b> - Australia	<b>Leader</b> - The United States	<b>Leader</b> - Japan
<b>Co-Leader</b> - Korea - Papua New Guinea	<b>Co-Leader</b> - Japan	<b>Co-Leader</b> - Australia	<b>Co-Leader</b> - Hong Kong, China	<b>Co-Leader</b> - China	<b>Co-Leader</b> - Korea - Indonesia

Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brunei Darussalam	✓	»	»	✓		
Canada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cale	✓	✓	✓	✓		
China	✓	✓	✓	✓	»	»
Hong Kong, China	✓	✓	✓	✓	»	
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Japan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Korea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	»	✓	»	»
Mexico	✓	✓	✓	✓	»	»
New Zealand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Peru	✓	»		✓		
The Philippines	✓		✓	✓	»	✓
The Russian Federation	✓	✓	»			
Singapore	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chinese Taipei	✓	✓	✓	✓	»	✓
Thailand	✓	»	✓	✓	✓	»
The United States	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Viet Nam	✓	»	»	✓		
Implemented	✓					
Partially	»					



**Workshop on Experience Exchange in the Adoption of International Instruments and Standards in Single Window Initiatives – CTI 01/2008T**

The project Workshop on Experience Exchange in the Adoption of International Instruments and Standards in Single Window Initiatives was a result of the third recommendation in the Phase I SWWG. Thus, the project aimed at learning experiences from economies adopting international instruments and standards and developing guidelines for APEC economies to implement standards in single windows.

In the framework of this project, a questionnaire was submitted in order to collect information regarding standards and instruments used by APEC economies. A workshop, attended by APEC Member Economies delegates and the public and private sectors, was held on 20-22 May 2008 in Arequipa, Peru to exchange experiences and best practices.



There were interesting presentations concerning standards proposed by GSI-Peru and the World Customs Organization aimed at facilitating foreign trade. Australia presented its experiences in process analysis, simplification and improvement, and demonstrated the importance of both having foresight and proper data harmonization. Japan also presented its experience in document standardization and simplification showing the reengineering of its Single Window that manages to substantively reduce clearance time. Then Chinese Taipei presented a case study on integrated systems and shared its achievements and standards in the matter.



As a result of the project, a compilation of standards and instruments currently used by APEC economies was created as well as a dossier with relevant information to be used.

**Workshop on Application of Valuation Criteria in Advance Ruling in APEC Member Economies – CTI 11/2008T**

The workshop on Application of Valuation Criteria in Advance Ruling in APEC Member Economies was held on 23-24 May 2008 in Arequipa, Peru. Delegates from 15 APEC member economies and representatives from the public and private sector attended the workshop.



The workshop facilitated the sharing of knowledge and experience that economies have in developing and applying Customs valuation criteria in advance rulings.

Economies applying advance rulings were able to discuss, compare and identify areas where improvements could be made to current processes. Likewise, economies that do not apply advance rulings were able to learn from the shared experience and collect detailed and specific information enabling them to identify best practices to support an efficient implementation.

The final report relating to the Project CTI 11/2006T contains the results and identifies best practice examples in the application of the valuation criteria in Advance Rulings. This report also contains a recommendation for continuing this activity to a second stage which would see a workshop run in 2009. This workshop would focus on the practical implementation of this methodology to support Member Economies to effectively incorporate advance rulings into their valuation processes.

#### **Study to Identify Best Practices in Processes from Transportation Arrival to the Presentation of Goods Declaration – CTI 16/2006T**

The project 'Study to Identify Best Practices in Processes from Transportation Arrival to the Presentation of Goods Declaration' represents a study to improve the processes in a specific segment of the foreign trade supply chain. This is to establish a framework that contains measures to allow the optimization of trade transactions, time and cost for the private sector primarily.

With the assistance of an external consultant, a questionnaire addressed to member economies was developed. This questionnaire was the main tool for identifying the key reasons that affect the development of transport operations and administrative processes in the different stages of the supply chain prior to the presentation of the goods declaration.

Based on the responses to the questionnaire, a proposal of identified best practices has been established to benefit those stakeholders involved in the supply chain, including Customs administrations.

The results of the study were disseminated to Member Economies as the final deliverable of this project.

#### **APEC Framework for Secure Trade Seminar – CTI 17/2006T**

The APEC Framework for Secure Trade Seminar was held in Guangzhou, China from 31 March to 4 April 2008 with the participation of delegates from 15 APEC Member Economies. The key objectives achieved in this seminar were: promoting a better understanding of the key principles contained within the APEC Framework for Secure Trade; informing Customs administrations of basic elements needed to enact practices consistent with the Framework; and providing an overview of validating and auditing private security procedures to personnel who will be involved in the supply chain security, which is essential to the Authorized Economic Operator program as described in the Framework.





### Towards an effective Trade Facilitation and Protection of Intellectual Property Rights'

The APEC Customs-Business Dialogue (ACBD) is one of the most important activities in the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) calendar. The ACBD was held on 12 August 2008 in the Real Felipe Fortress in Callao, Peru. Ms Maria Ysabel Frassinetti Ybarguen, Acting National Director of Peruvian Customs, chaired the meeting.

The theme for the ACBD this year was: 'Towards an effective Trade Facilitation and Protection of Intellectual Property Rights', and the meeting was divided into two sessions:

- Session I: Promoting Mechanisms of Intellectual Property Rights Border Protection
- Session II: Security in the Supply Chain and Trade Facilitation

The SCCP Chair highlighted that Customs' role, within the context of global trade and the integration of processes, relies on a balance between trade facilitation and control. She recognized the importance of the business sector's cooperation in promoting the security of international trade and developing strategies and data exchange mechanisms. In so doing, training officials can better identify counterfeit and pirated goods, and hence Intellectual Property Rights protection is better enforced. She also encouraged active participation of businesses to strengthen the supply chain security as a mechanism to allow greater international trade facilitation.

**Christophe Zimmerman**, Coordinator for the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy from the World Customs Organization (WCO)

Current Global Strategies and Priorities in the Fight against Counterfeiting and Piracy

The fight against counterfeiting and piracy is a worldwide problem we face together. The WCO SECURE Program is a non-binding program that collects best practices examples in legislation, risk





analysis, profile targeting and selection all aimed at creating a secure Customs chain.

Some recommendations include:

- Make improvements to the IPR legislation;
- Increase cooperation with right-holders;
- Conduct a specialized risk analysis;
- Encourage information exchange among all stakeholders; and
- Continue capacity building efforts.

**Martin Moscoso**, Head of the Copyrights Office from the Peruvian National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOPI)

#### Identifying Counterfeit and Pirated Goods

The fight against counterfeiting and piracy is everyone's responsibility which involves national police and Customs, and legal and health authorities. In an environment where specialized staff resources are scarce, we need to cooperate with the private sector and other government agencies in order to implement strong procedures and policies to identify counterfeit and pirated goods, and to produce a risk management system which includes information provided by right-holders.

We need to sign agreements with the private sector in order to establish ongoing cooperation and information exchange to identify suspected goods infringing IPR, and to provide capacity building in identification and thus succeed in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy.

**Saori Nojima**, IPR Specialist from Japan Customs' IPR National Center

#### Data Exchange as an Assistance Tool in the Intellectual Property Rights Border Protection from a Customs perspective

Certain information is disseminated on websites to raise public awareness. The information exchange with right-holders is an indispensable tool to effectively detain suspected goods,



determine if suspected goods infringe IPR, cooperate in capacity building to cope with complicated cases, and establish a risk management with information provided by right holders.

**Yoshihito Ishikawa**, Councilor for Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.– ABAC Japan

#### Participation of Business in IPR Border Protection

Sharing information amongst Economies will prevent and avoid future infringements. It is very useful to collect data from the private sector, public sector and other agencies and exchange that information as well as facilitate active private sector participation wherever possible.

This data exchange helps to improve the compliance and efficiency of the legal framework. Demonstrably, the Japanese public-private partnership model is characterized by information exchange meetings between Customs and Business which raises public awareness on the subject.

**Rafael Reaño**, Manager of International Agreements and Valuation from Peruvian Customs - SUNAT.

#### Progress on the Study to Identify Best Practices in the Processes from Transportation Arrival to the Presentation of Goods Declaration

In this project, the main information collection tool was a questionnaire divided into three categories:

1. factors attributable to interface facilities;
2. factors attributable to other stakeholders; and
3. Use of data/information technology standards.

The responses to the questionnaire showed interesting findings.

Regarding the first category, the results of the questionnaire showed that cargo handling capabilities are affected by the availability of suitable equipment and their adequate maintenance





and, as well, by labor productivity and regulatory restrictions on operations. The results also revealed that the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an essential element in the management of organizations in terms of resources, internal operations and exchange of information with authorities, administrations and other key stakeholders.

Regarding the second category, cargo evacuation constraints may reflect the operational policies of a port. Namely, vessel and cargo documentations are not provided on a timely basis, especially prior to the arrival of the transportation vehicle.

Finally, responses to the third category showed that half of the responding economies do use international standards for ICT. The other half has taken initiatives towards the use of the same standards.

**Andrew Jackson**, Executive Program Manager – Growth Markets  
IBM Corporation

#### Supply Chain Security and Trade Facilitation

A global economic integration is important for making businesses more competitive. The adoption of the international guidelines for Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status, set out in the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, recommended both industry and Government to work together to secure ongoing consultation on AEO aspects, and begin pilot programs with industry partners.

What legitimate traders expect from Customs is predictability, common processes and data that adhere to global standards, rapid clearance time, low cost processing, mutual recognition, voluntary partnership programs with collateral benefits, asset and brand protection, clarity of rules and consistency of treatment.

AEO programs within various economies are encouraged to participate and even though companies must apply, they still do create a level of certainty. This is important in light of the increasing role Customs Administrations play at making an economy more competitive.



As more customs authorities explore the benefits and opportunities in adopting a risk-based compliance approach, these programs should hopefully proliferate.



**Adrian Correa**, Chairman of the Conference of Express Companies of Latin America and the Caribbean (CLADEC)

#### Prevention and Risk Control as a Tool for Trade Facilitation

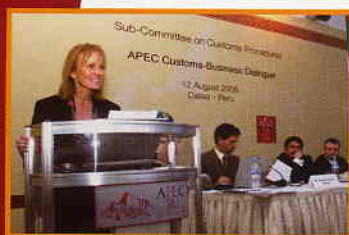
The express delivery services worldwide are really important for facilitating trade. The key message is that trade facilitation and reduction of transaction costs should be achieved through the implementation of security measures and risk management in the supply chain in accordance to the Revised Kyoto Convention, Guidelines for Immediate Release and WCO SAFE Framework of Standards. Once best practices, recommendations and WCO Framework of Standards are applied, international trade processes are simplified, and costs become more reasonable for participants.

**Carmen Fuentealba**, Manager for International Business of the Santiago Chamber of Commerce

#### The Benefits of ATA Carnet System to APEC Customs Authorities and to Business Community

The ATA Carnet system is an international Customs document created to facilitate the temporary admission of goods of three main categories: samples, professional material and products for fairs and exhibitions. This system is also an international guarantee to Customs authorities worldwide that customs duties and taxes will be paid.

The ATA Carnet facilitates the temporary admission of different kinds of goods. It also provides a strong support for exporters; for example, it assists those who need to transport their samples to international trade fairs or deliver their professional material to undertake professionals' activities. The ATA system is quicker and cheaper than traditional temporary import methods.





**APEC  
PROJECTS  
FOR 2009**

Project Number and Title	Type of project	Proposing Economy
CTI 01/2009A Capacity Building Workshop Series and APEC SWWG Phase 2	Workshops and short training courses	Australia
CTI 05/2009T Implementing the APEC Framework for Secure Trade: Seminars on Targeting and Risk Management, and Border Enforcement Training	Seminar	Peru, The United States
CTI 11/2009T Organizing the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue (ACBD) in 2009	Symposium	Singapore
CTI 15/2009T Workshop on Implementation of Valuation Advance Rulings in APEC Member Economies	Workshop	Peru
CTI 17/2009T Seminar on Implementation of Border Measures for IPR Protection	Seminar	Peru
CTI 26/2009T Experience Exchange in the Adoption of Tools for Goods Identification	Seminar	Peru

Co-sponsors	Objective
Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Peru, The Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, The United States, Viet Nam	To deliver the capacity building requested by economies and workshop all products relating to the six recommendations to the public and private sector stakeholders on preparation for the final delivery at 2009 SCCP2.
Australia, Thailand	To promote a better understanding of principles contained in the APEC Framework for Secure Trade. To assist Member Economies in the adoption of the APEC Framework for Secure Trade.
Hong Kong, China; Korea; Thailand	To improve Customs-Business partnership in the Asia-Pacific Region through the control of Information Technologies by securing and facilitating the supply chain and open and transparent relationship between Customs and the private sector.
Australia, Chile, New Zealand	To evaluate experiences and learn best practices of economies in process of implementing Valuation Advance Rulings.
Chile, The United States	To learn best practices and procedures of the IPR Border enforcement measures.
Chile, The United States	To learn experiences from economies who have adopted international instruments for identifying goods





### APEC Tariff Database

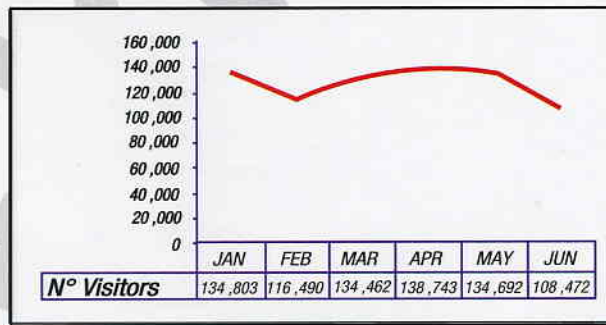
The availability of Customs information is one of the key elements of trade facilitation. The business community needs more specific information regarding tariffs in overseas markets for decision making in business.

To provide this trade-related information, APEC deals with the Tariff Database on the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) Website. This serves as an international language of trade. This also provides users with an easy access tariff program from APEC Member Economies that includes concessions, prohibitions and other information. The database can be found at [www.apectariff.org](http://www.apectariff.org)

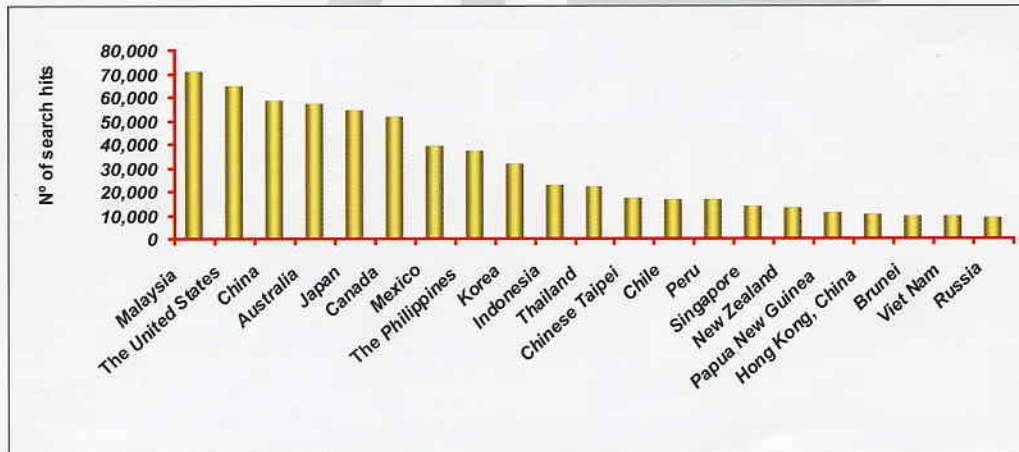
Tariff data in this database is reproduced under both the WCO's and APEC Member Economies' authorization and is supported by the APEC Secretariat.



**TARIFF DATABASE REGISTERED IN JANUARY – JUNE 2008**



**SEARCH ON THE DATABASE BY ECONOMY**



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# APEC GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACRONYMS		DESCRIPTION
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperatio	Established in 1989, it is the main vehicle to promote open trade and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.
ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council	Established in 1995, ABAC comprises senior business people from each APEC economy to provide advice on forum action plan implementations and other specific business priorities.
ABTC	APEC Business Travel Card	Preferential scheme for Business people travels to APEC Economies. The ABTC scheme is part of the BMG work agenda.
ACBD	APEC Customs-Business Dialogue	An annual meeting for APEC Economies' Customs Administratations representatives and business community to discuss issues related to trade facilitation and security.
ACRS	Advance Classification Ruling System	The Advance Classification Ruling System is a system in which importers and stakeholders may request Customs administration a tariff classification (tariff heading) and duties before import.
AD	Automotive Dialogue	Since 1997, it is a CTI forum in which government officials and industry senior representatives work on common interest issues.
AELM	APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting	Since 1993, it is an annual meeting of heads of state and/or heads of government from APEC Member Economies. These meetings' declarations established a thematic and policy agenda for the forum.
AHTN	ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature	The AHTN is an eight-digit commodity nomenclature adopted by the ASEAN member countries to harmonize their tariff nomenclature at the eight-digit level.
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	One of the three organizations which are APEC official observers: it comprises Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.
ATA CARNET	Temporary Admission Carnet	The ATA Carnet is an international Customs document that allows the holder to temporarily (up to one year) import goods without payment of normally applicable duties and taxes, including value-added taxes.
BMC	Budget and Management Committee	Advises SOM in budget and management issues. It is responsible to prepare a budget and recommend projects' approval.
BMG	Business Mobility Group	CTI Group committed to the enhancement of business people mobility through data exchange in regulatory regimes, visa and procedure processing.
CAP	Collective Action Plan	Collective actions for APEC Economies in OAA's 15 areas. It establishes actions and objectives to achieve open and free trade and investment.
CEO	Chief Executive Officers' Summit	It provides to business leaders a platform to discuss on applicable solutions to sustainable development and to reaffirm the business role in the region.
CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment	Established in 1993 to further RTL work. It coordinates APEC work for trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.

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CTTF	Counter Terrorism Task Force	Established in 2003 to assist to identify and assess counter-terrorism needs, coordinate capacity building and technical assistance programs and cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations.
EC	Economic Committee	Established in 1995 to further ETI work and promote structural reform within APEC.
ECOTECH	Economic and Technical Cooperation	One of APEC Pillars covering several activities of capacity strengthening and data exchange.
ECSG	Electronic Commerce Steering Group	Established in 1999 to coordinate activities related to electronic commerce in APEC. It promotes and facilitates the development by creating legal, regulatory and policy environments in the APEC region that are predictable, transparent and consistent.
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange	It is a Middleware software to enable the connection to different business systems such as ERP and CRM.
FACTS	Facilitation, Accountability, Consistency, Transparency and Simplification	The SCCP's guiding principles can be summarized by the acronym, FACTS : Facilitation, Accountability, Consistency, Transparency and Simplification.
FTAAP	Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific	APEC long-term objectives in the regional economic integration process.
GFPN	Gender Focal Point Network	Established in 2002 after AGGI conclusion, its main objective is to advice implementation of a framework for women integration in APEC.
HS	Harmonized System of Tariff Classification	International harmonized system of standards for goods' classification.
IAP	Individual Action Plan	Document that annually reports Economies' progress regarding Bogor Goals.
IATA	International Air Transport Association	The International Air Transport Association is an international industry trade group of airlines headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, where the International Civil Aviation Organization is also headquartered.
IEG	Investment Experts' Group	CTI Group to promote and facilitate open investments in the region.
IPEG	Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group	IPEG supports a strong and effective intellectual property rights' system as part of the CTI.
IBCC	International Bureau of Chambers of Commerce	The ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) is the voice of world business championing the global economy as a force for economic growth, job creation and prosperity. ICC activities cover a broad spectrum, from arbitration and dispute resolution to making the case for open trade and the market economy system, business self-regulation, fighting corruption or combating commercial crime.





First SCCP Meeting, Lima, Peru 21-24 February 2008





Second SCCP Meeting, Cusco, Peru, 14-17 August, 2008