

1. Introduction

The Road Transport Harmonization Project No. 02/98 was started on February 23, 1998, based on a contract concluded between the APEC Secretariat and JASIC.

The aims of the Project fall into two major categories. One is investigation and analysis of approval systems, including the recall systems, of APEC member economies. The other is to update comparisons of vehicles and components technical regulations up to phase 3. Since the details of operations for these two aims vary, the Project implementation schedule was divided in two, and advances in investigation and analysis covering these two aims have proceeded simultaneously.

As on two occasions with APEC consultants in the past, JASIC has proceeded with an executive body centering on a project leader, based on information obtained from APEC member economies. When the Project was started, work was begun in the hope that full-fledged cooperation could be obtained from APEC member economies.

Nevertheless, understanding has not been obtained despite repeated calls for cooperation from JASIC, and some APEC member economies have not provided information. We want to stress therefore that this report has been completed after exerting every possible effort to make full use of the information and data materials available inside JASIC.

In the course of implementing this Project, major changes have occurred in world conditions. Japan, for instance, became party to the revised 1958 Agreement and began mutual approval of system certifications under the Agreement. Thailand and Australia announced their participation in the 1958 Agreement, and Korea has been studying the introduction of self certification systems. Accordingly, the information provided by each APEC member economy, on which this latest report is based, will probably change in the future. We have done our utmost to prepare this report so it will serve as a reference for each APEC member economy in its effort to maintain an certification system, but we hope that it will continue to be updated by each APEC member economy in the future.

For updating of information, we pledge to give our full cooperation covering every aspect of the Project.

We at JASIC are honored to have been able to take part in this Project, and we hope that each APEC member economy will be able to make effective use of the findings presented herein.