

AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE (SCSC) AND THE ASIA PACIFIC SPECIALIST REGIONAL BODIES (SRBs)

PURPOSE:

To strengthen and formalise the relationship between the SRBs and the APEC SCSC.

ISSUES:

- To acknowledge the role played by the SRBs in underpinning the agenda and work programs on the APEC SCSC.
- To ensure that all initiatives proposed by the APEC SCSC take full account of the areas of expertise and work programs of the SRBs to both avoid any duplication of activity and maximize the use of the expertise within the SRBs.
- To create as a *necessary deliverable* an action on each member economy delegate to the APEC SCSC that they contact and maintain links with their member representatives in each of the SRBs.
- In recognition of the fundamental role that the work programs and initiatives of the SRBs play in underpinning the activities of APEC and, specifically, the SCSC, to identify a proportion of APEC funding for SRB initiatives and/or to assist in the SRBs in accessing funds from other sources.
- To recognise the value of co-operative support from the SRBs to APEC SCSC programs and to encourage and facilitate liaison meetings between SRB Secretariats such as adjacent to an SCSC meeting.
- To allow participation by full memberships of all the SRBs in all joint SCSC-SRB activity, recognising that not all memberships of the SRBs coincide with APEC membership.
- To recognise that priority should be given to providing funding assistance to attend APEC SCSC-SRB events to both developing economy representatives from the APEC region and specialists from outside the region.
- To allow the SRBs direct access to the APEC SCSC through the SCSC Chair, while at the same time maintaining the co-ordinating role of the “Shepherd” and the observer status of the SRBs at SCSC meetings.
- Given their specialist knowledge, to ensure that the SRBs have the opportunity, along with APEC SCSC delegates, to comment on all relevant items in the APEC SCSC agenda and work program in advance of meetings. To encourage active participation of the SRBs in SCSC activities, including all relevant agenda items in SCSC meetings.

Originally proposed by SRB Shepherd (New Zealand) in 1999.