



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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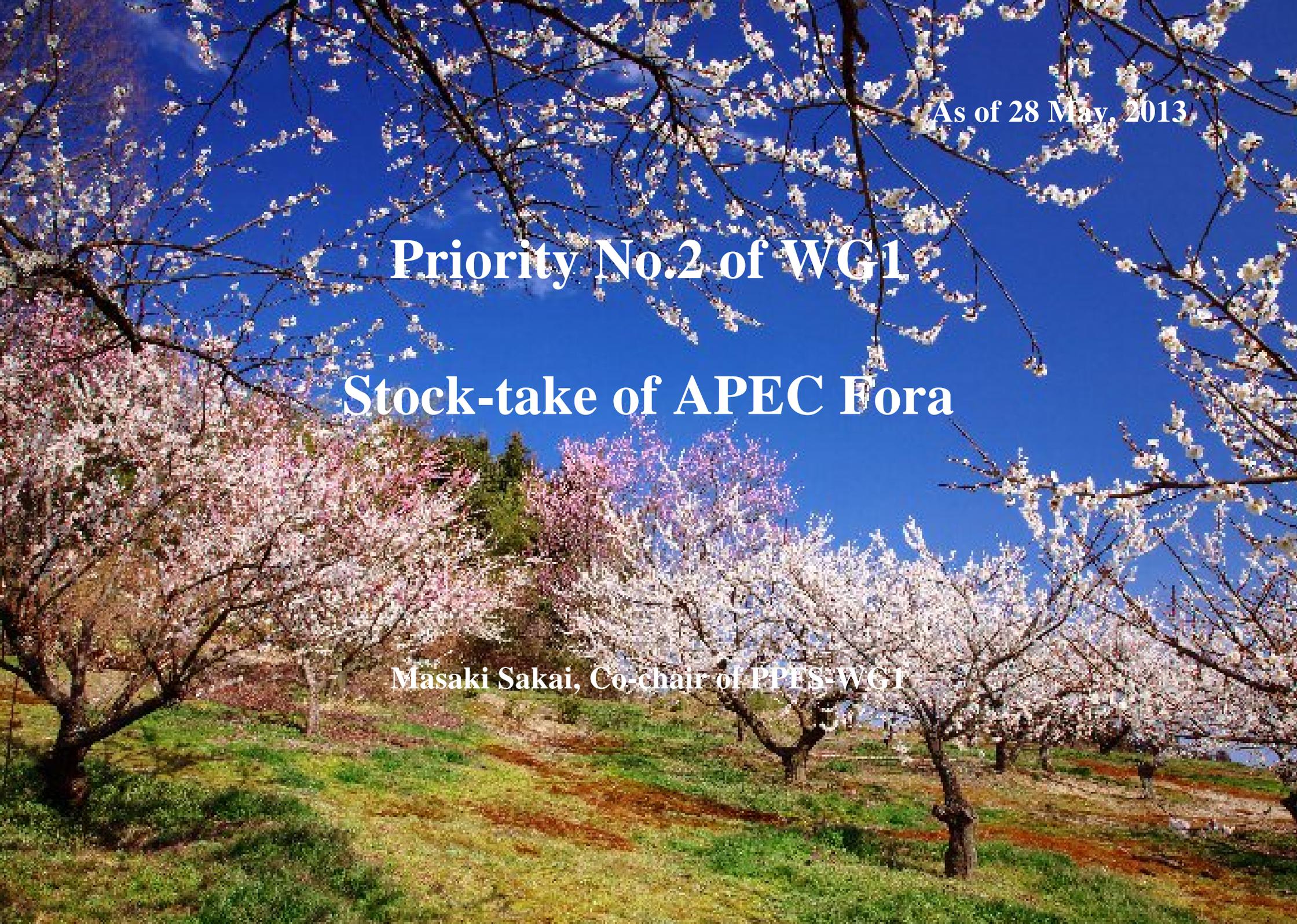
Agenda Item: 8, 9, 10

Report of Working Group 1 - Stock-take of APEC Fora

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Submitted by: WG1 (Japan)



**Second Policy Partnership on Food
Security Meeting
Medan, Indonesia
22-25 June 2013**



As of 28 May, 2013

Priority No.2 of WG1

Stock-take of APEC Fora

Masaki Sakai, Co-chair of PPES-WG1

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Stock-taking of APEC Forum

1 Initiative/Program

APEC Food Security Issues, APEC Food System (AFS), Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS)

2 APEC Forum

APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

3 Date Established and Related Meetings

ABAC delivers written recommendations to Leaders each year. ABAC has addressed food security issues in its 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 reports. (For details, the full text of these reports can be found at the ABAC website, www.abaonline.org. Click on "Business Resources" and then "Previous Reports Library.")

4 Brief Description

ABAC has long believed that APEC should develop a coherent food security policy. It is a champion of the PPFS, was instrumental in persuading APEC to form the PPFS, and is dedicated to insuring that it is an effective forum.

In its 2012 report to Leaders, ABAC noted, "*The long-term goal of the PPFS, with ABAC guidance, is to shape a food system structure by 2020 and provide lasting food security to APEC member economies.*" (Emphasis added.)

At its meeting in Manila in January 2013, "*The Council agreed that the goals and milestones for PPFS need to be clearly defined and executed using disciplines by commercial businesses.*" (Conference Report, Manila, ABAC I 2013)

The ABAC Chair wrote in a July 24, 2012 letter to the PPFS Chair that: "*This experiment in private sector-government integration in the policy process will be watched closely and puts great responsibility on both the leadership and members of PPFS to successfully address an issue vital to the region's well-being and prosperity.*"

During the discussions with APEC leading up to the creation of PPFS, we repeatedly recommended that PPFS should take advantage of the private sector half of its nature to organize and operate based on disciplined business planning methodologies in order to be able to deal with the set of complex issues surrounding food security in a time-phased, resource-effective, results-oriented manner. We see no other methodology as being capable of meeting the goal of PPFS, as expressed in the Kazan Declaration by the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security, "attain a food system structure by 2020 that would be sufficient to provide lasting food security to the economies of the region."

We have been briefed on your Draft PPFS Action Plan and your timeline for implementation. We are encouraged that the proposed Working Group on Stock-Take and 2020 Action Plan can provide the requisite "market research" and all-important core "business plan," and the Working Groups on Best Practice Sharing, Investment and Infrastructure Development, and Trade Facilitation can act as the enterprise's business units to carry forth the elements of the business plan. "

ABAC worked with SOM in 2011 to establish the PPFS and write its Terms of Reference.

By the PPFS Terms of Reference, ABAC nominates three of the four private sector representatives that may serve (with SOM endorsement) from each economy on the PPFS. ABAC members have made many such nominations. ABAC also transparently conducts the process by which the private sector members of the PPFS choose the private sector principle advisor to PPFS; this principle advisor also serves as a vice-chair of PPFS. ABAC has concluded that process and the selectee was Mr. Frank Ning, Chairman of COFCO Group, China.

It has been agreed between ABAC and PPFS that where possible PPFS Management Council meetings will take place during an ABAC meeting to facilitate interaction between the two.

ABAC has agreed that its website may be used as a portal and repository for information collected by PPFS in its stock-take efforts and to collect feedback from PPFS members on draft PPFS documents such as the Roadmap to 2020 (version 2013) or working group documents.

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ABAC Recommendations on Food Security: 1998-2012

1998: APEC Food System

APEC should build an APEC Food System, a long-term project to achieve a more robust regional food system that efficiently links together food producers, processors and consumers and more securely meets the region's future food needs. The work program should involve close public-private collaboration and parallel cooperative action in three areas:

Rural Infrastructure Development

- Improve the availability of rural education
- Promote increased investment in physical rural infra-structure, through
 - ensuring sound macroeconomic and domestic regulatory environments and
 - development of funding mechanisms to facilitate and reduce the cost of private sector investment in infrastructure.

Promotion of Trade in Food Products

- Reduce the cost of trade in food products through trade facilitation measures.
- Provide technical assistance to upgrade SPS procedures where these inhibit food exports.
- Cooperate on harmonization/equivalency of regulation and control systems on consumer requirements.
- Progressively eliminate, ahead of Bogor targets, unnecessary impediments to food trade, including tariffs, WTO-inconsistent NTMs, and export subsidies.
- Pursue cooperation to assure non-discriminatory access to food products.

Dissemination of Technological Advances in Food Production and Processing

- Promote regional food technology transfer
- Harmonize food safety-related regulations as they apply to technology.
- Conduct research, development and marketing of food-related technology.
- Ensure dissemination of new technologies is consistent with market principles and intellectual property rights.
- Distribute information on environmentally sound food production and processing techniques.

1999: APEC Food System

We reconfirm our 1998 recommendation that Leaders establish an APEC Food System to harness the resources of the region, and welcome the Leaders' instruction to Ministers to explore this proposal further. ABAC has followed up this year with recommendations on possible first steps towards implementation of an APEC Food System:

- Address the APEC Food System in the Individual and Collective Action Plans, in line with the Osaka Action Agenda;
- Create an APEC export subsidy free zone for agri-food trade;
- Establish science-based sanitary/phytosanitary standards to facilitate production and trade in agri-food products, particularly by developing economies;
- Abolish, by the 2001 Leaders' Meeting, practices which limit food supplies to other members for political or economic reasons and eliminate taxes and quantitative restrictions on exports;
- Recommend to the WTO in 1999/2000 the adoption of commitments to non-discriminatory access to food supplies as a binding rule;
- Commit to progressively eliminating, ahead of the Bogor goals, unnecessary impediments to food trade;
- Enhance the transition capabilities of developing economies through a food "technology culture", a food investment code, and a rural development strategy using the APEC-PECC "RISE" project as well as inputs from multilateral agencies;
- Recognize the social, environmental and other non-food roles of agriculture.

2000: Implement the APEC Food System

The APEC Food System, which Leaders approved last year, is a large undertaking with far-reaching benefits. Robust, high-level attention is necessary to mark it for success.

ABAC articulated eight milestones for achievement in 2000 and 2001 in a letter to APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade. They are in accordance with the APEC principles of comprehensiveness, flexibility, WTO-consistency, and non-discrimination, and also recognize the social, environmental, and other non-food roles of agriculture. ABAC urges Leaders to direct their implementation.

Steps for Implementation

- Support rural economic opportunity, especially the APEC-PECC project Regional Integration for Sustainable Economies (RISE).
- Invite representatives of the World Bank, ADB, and the IADB to attend APEC Leaders' meetings in 2000 and 2001 to discuss rural infrastructure development.
- Create a network of "domestic champions" (i.e., entities in each economy capable of understanding and articulating technological advances in the food industry).
- Declare APEC to be an "agricultural export-subsidy-free zone."
- Require that each economy carry out a self-assessment of all the impediments it faces in increasing its capacity to import and export food products by 2001.
- Increase the number of economies signing on to the APEC Food Mutual Recognition Agreement to at least fifteen by 2001.
- Include, by 2001, a specific section in the Individual Action Plans on what is being done to achieve the APEC Food System.
- Abolish, by the 2001 Leaders meeting in Shanghai, all practices regarding the limiting of food supplies to other members for political or economic reasons and eliminate taxes and quantitative restrictions on food exports.

2001: Implement the APEC Food System

We continue to believe an APEC Food System that is consistent with APEC's principles of comprehensiveness, flexibility, WTO-consistency and non-discrimination is necessary to ensure the long-term availability of food at affordable prices and to maximize the contribution of the food sector to sustainable growth. Accordingly, we emphasize again this year the need for implementation of the plan Leaders adopted in 1999. In addition to our recommendation that the APEC Food System be made a chapter in the Individual Action Plans, we strongly suggest APEC take specific steps to achieve the milestones ABAC recommended last year.

Recommendations

- **Renounce the Use of Food Embargoes:** The Leaders, at this year's meeting, should declare that APEC members will abolish all practices regarding the limiting of food supplies to other members for political or economic reasons and eliminate taxes and quantitative restrictions on food exports. Ensuring that trade can reliably complement domestic food production can bring a quantum increase in the region's sense of food security. We also recommend that APEC spearhead an effort to make this commitment to non-discriminatory access to food supplies a binding rule in the entire WTO.
- **Abolish Export Subsidies:** The Leaders should declare APEC a "food export subsidy-free zone" in recognition that such agricultural export subsidies are most pernicious in their effect on developing economies struggling to implement sound agricultural development and well-functioning food markets.
- **Require Self-Assessments and Convene APEC's Agriculture Ministers:** The APEC Food System's call for a self-assessment by each economy on all the impediments it faces, internal and external, in increasing its capacity to trade in food should be finished in 2002. Such assessments should include a strong private sector input, recognize the non-food roles of agriculture, and target technical cooperation needs, market access and non-tariff barriers. Furthermore, we recommend that APEC convene its first ever Agricultural Ministers meeting in 2002 to discuss the self-assessments and steps to be taken to implement the APEC Food System.
- **Use the Individual Action Plan:** Creating an IAP chapter for the APEC Food System is the best way to ensure implementation that is consistent with APEC principles of comprehensiveness, flexibility, WTO-consistency and non-discrimination.
- **Involve International Financial Institutions:** One of the goals of the APEC Food System is the creation of significant economic opportunities in rural and non-metropolitan areas. We recommend that senior representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank be invited to relevant APEC meetings in order to ensure their participation in this element of the APEC Food System.

- **Increase Food MRA Participation:** We recommend a goal of increasing the number of economies participating in the APEC Food Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) to at least fifteen by the end of 2002.

2002: APEC Food System

In 1998 and 1999, ABAC urged the adoption of an APEC Food System. This is a blueprint for achieving rural development, liberalised agricultural trade and food security. In 1999, Leaders approved the APEC Food System and ordered its implementation. In 2001, Leaders called for “accelerated implementation of the APEC Food System initiative.” In 2000 and 2001, citing concerns about inaction, ABAC made very specific recommendations designed to jump start implementation. In 2001, Ministers instructed Senior Officials to respond to ABAC’s recommendations. In 2002, ABAC sent a letter to Senior Officials expressing concern that responsibility for action on the APEC Food System was too diffused and urged the Senior Officials to find “a structure within APEC that will take responsibility to reliably implement the APEC Food System in the accelerated manner the Leaders have called for.”

ABAC is hopeful that this year will see a more purposeful response from APEC bodies to the recommendations it has made on the APEC Food System.

Recommendations

- ABAC invites Leaders to reaffirm their past support for the APEC Food System. Specifically, ABAC recommends that Leaders declare the renunciation of the use of all food embargoes within APEC (per the original ABAC recommendation in 1999); that agricultural ministers become directly involved in the implementation of the APEC Food System; and that Leaders direct that implementation of the APEC Food System be made a chapter in the Individual Action Plans.

2003: APEC Food System

ABAC continues to monitor implementation of the APEC Food System (AFS), adopted by Leaders in 1999. It is to be hoped that the reporting in the new chapter in the Individual Action Plans AFS is designed to achieve. ABAC has noted a proposal put forward within APEC for self-assessments of member economies’ impediments to trade in foods, and for a meeting of APEC Ministers of Agriculture to, inter alia, discuss the self-assessments. These proposals are similar to previous recommendations by ABAC and remain appropriate objectives.

Recommendation

- ABAC urges member economies to adopt the proposals before the APEC Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) and make progress in implementing the AFS.

2004: APEC Food System

The Third APEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM III) in 2003 commissioned the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group to “organize a high-level dialogue on rural poverty, food safety, food security, trade, rural development, sustainable agriculture, natural resource conservation, multi-functionality of agriculture and impediments to agriculture and food production.” ABAC is aware that a meeting of some APEC Ministers for Agriculture was held on the margins of the World Agriculture Forum during 2003.

Recommendations:

- Urge Ministers of Agriculture to meet in the Summer of 2005; one economy to offer to host.
- Urge one or more APEC ministers of agriculture to offer to “champion” the process to implement the APEC Food System.
- Ask PECC to provide a stocktake on progress to date with the APEC Food System, and carry-out an assessment of trends in food demand in the past five years and projections of demand over the next five to ten years, to be completed by Spring (April) 2005.
- Urge the World Bank to consider ways of assisting developing APEC economies adjust to the full implementation of the APEC Food System, to be advised by Spring (April) 2005.
- Declare in Busan in November 2005 that APEC economies will be free of all export constraints – subsidies, embargoes, taxes – by 2010 or earlier.

2005: APEC Food System

In the 1995 Leaders' Statement, food scarcity was mentioned as a possible future impediment to economic growth and promised APEC action. ABAC responded and proposed several explicit steps in its 1998 and 1999 reports designed to create an APEC Food System that would keep food abundant and affordable. The Leaders adopted the ABAC proposal in 1999 and called again in their 2000 and 2001 Statements for vigorous implementation. However, there has been little accomplished on the APEC Food System despite the Leaders' directions and ABAC's appeal for specific actions to invigorate it.

There are three reasons ABAC again calls attention to the APEC Food System. First, visible action by APEC on the sensitive issue of food, and demonstrating that it can be approached cooperatively instead of contentiously, can very positively influence the WTO negotiations. Second, as concerns about possible tight energy supplies arise APEC should be reminded that, as the Leaders pointed out ten years ago, it needs to take early action to assure that it does not face food shortage pressures a few years hence. Growing populations with greater affluence will dramatically increase food demand; combined with environmental

stresses and water shortages this could spell trouble, with an adverse reaction for every business in the region, unless addressed cooperatively. Third, as APEC takes stock of itself this year it needs to look at how it organizes to carry out assigned tasks.

Recommendation

- Make a serious study of what went wrong on the APEC Food System before the 2005 Busan meeting and decide what corrective action to take from the “lessons learned.”

2008: Responding to Food Supply and Price Issues

There is widespread concern among regional business regarding the impact of shortages in the supply of basic food products and subsequent marked increases in prices. These problems are due to a number of factors, notably increased global demand for food products, as well as energy-related challenges including oil price rises. In some economies, defensive measures are being taken, including imposition of export restrictions to retain supplies for domestic markets, which cause adverse consequences for other economies. In addition to avoiding such unhelpful short-term measures, it is essential that the underlying long-term problems be addressed. Within APEC, there is an established framework for guiding policy decisions in this area - the APEC Food System (AFS) developed by ABAC and adopted by Leaders in 1999.

As set out in the 1998 and 1999 ABAC Report to APEC Leaders, the AFS visualizes a regional food system built on the guiding principles of rural development and capacity building, technology development and sharing, and trade and investment liberalization in food products. As APEC’s main vehicle for addressing food security issues, the AFS seeks to create an environment based on a vision of a regional food system where: consumers have access to the food they desire at affordable prices; the productivity of the food sector is enhanced through region-wide availability of food-related technological advances and through efficient resource use; supply security is improved through cooperation and interdependence; the vitality of rural communities is enhanced through improved infrastructural development and through access to viable non-farm employment and industry.

The AFS includes specific programs to pursue the vision. Those programs have direct relevance to the situations faced today. We recognize and applaud the fact that much work has been done in many economies to try and implement the System. Nevertheless, we feel that much more can be done within APEC to fully embrace the AFS. ABAC stands ready to work closely with APEC on this issue and plans to put special emphasis on the AFS and food issues from now through the 2009 Leaders’ Meeting.

Recommendations

- Renew the commitment entered into by APEC Leaders in 1999 to bring the AFS into effect, and to instruct officials to review and update the AFS and develop policies and programs required for its effective implementation; and
- Renounce the use of embargoes or export restrictions as a means of addressing food shortages.

2009

ABAC commissioned a document entitled "Strategic Framework for Food Security in APEC." (It can be found at: <https://www.abaconline.org/v4/download.php?ContentID=22609929>.) This document called for direct input and participation by the private sector in an, "ongoing mechanism at a high level to ensure the policy and technical cooperation necessary to achieve an integrated food system."

Ensuring Food Security

ABAC reasserts that its initial plan for action on an APEC Food System (AFS) should remain a priority for APEC. It is important to understand how this system's dynamics might have changed or may need to change in relation to new and recent regional trade and business realities and in the increasingly important context of sustainability. The ultimate goal is for APEC to take a cohesive strategic approach to food that includes food security alongside issues on development and trade and investment. ABAC has broadened the original AFS commitment in 1999 to better reflect current issues and proposes a process for more coordinated dialogue between ABAC and APEC notably through the proposed Food Industry Dialogue Group above. In particular, ABAC stands ready to facilitate business input into the proposed Food Security Ministerial to take place in Japan in October 2010.

Recommendations

- Reaffirm Leaders' support for the AFS and to agree to key elements on issues such as food security as proposed by ABAC.
- Call again for a commitment from APEC Leaders against export embargoes and restrictions on food.

2010: Ensuring food security

ABAC is pleased that APEC is addressing the important issue of food security. It welcomes the holding of the first ever Ministerial Meeting on Food Security in Niigata, Japan in October this year as a means to deliver action on food security.

In November last year, ABAC published the document "Strategic Framework for Food Security in APEC" which explores key issues affecting food security. The study presented several recommendations which ABAC believes APEC economies should implement.

Recommendations

- **Undertake a food system approach.** Leaders should recommit unequivocally to the regional APEC Food System approach rather than addressing issues in a piecemeal manner. This includes ending distorting measures such as import restrictions and subsidies.
- **Establish a coordinating mechanism.** There needs to be an ongoing, high-level mechanism to ensure policy coherence and continuity, as well as the technical cooperation, necessary to successfully address the many issues that will combine to create regional food security. This mechanism, reflecting the Leaders' 2009 Declaration that food security is a major priority for APEC, must formally include the private and research sectors if it is to have the dynamism and access to current information to be able to address the many complex issues that affect food security. It must also have sufficient authority to provide priorities for APEC and to coordinate the various APEC fora working on food and food security-related issues.
- **End export restrictions.** Leaders should commit to formally ending all export embargoes, quantitative restrictions food security and export taxes for all food products traded between APEC member economies. Simply put, trade cannot reliably enhance domestic production, or allow for efficient specialization, if supply is not completely reliable.
- **Advance the Doha Round agricultural negotiations through the APEC Caucus.** The pursuit of regional food security through a food system approach in APEC could be instrumental in making progress in the Doha Round.

2011: Ensuring food security

In 1999, ABAC proposed that an integrated "APEC Food System" be established. Leaders endorsed the concept but implementation was desultory. In 2009, ABAC proposed that a high-level public-private process be established to be the central driving force in creating a coherent action agenda for food security in APEC.

In 2010, the first ever APEC ministerial-level meeting on Food Security was held. The ministers declared that a "meaningful consultation with relevant stakeholders is critical to making sustained progress towards our food security goals" and instructed Senior Officials to integrate the private sector into APEC's food security efforts. As a result, APEC has created a Policy Partnership for Food Security in which the private sector can play the role envisioned by ABAC and the ministers. ABAC strongly applauds this development.

ABAC recognizes that there are some new challenges which make the food situation ever more complex: (1) total global food demand and supply is in tight balance; (2) imbalance in the regional distribution of food is worsening; and, (3) food prices are both higher and more fragile. Therefore, ABAC fully supports the APEC Leaders' call to enhance international cooperation and increase financial and technological support from developed economies to developing ones.

Recommendations:

Both within the Policy Partnership for Food Security and individually, APEC economies should:

- Set up guidelines for balanced and efficient use of food sources for consumption by humans, animals and the energy sector via:
 - || Agricultural Land-Use Zoning
 - Designated clusters for efficient use of water supply
 - Government measurement for zero waste consumption
 - Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) plantation for the energy sector
 - || Farmers' Co-ops for Land Consolidation where appropriate
 - Reduced trade barriers to allow proper pricing signals

- Enhance food production and set policies to increase agricultural productivity via:
 - || Developing irrigation systems and water resource management
 - Matching crops to the most suitable land
 - Greater collaboration and investment in R&D for modern farm management
 - || Increasing IP-protected, market-based agricultural technology diffusion
 - || Zero waste production
 - Increasing yields by using "New Seeds"
 - Improving the knowledge base of farmers
 - Mutual recognition of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Code of Conduct (CoC)
 - || Ending export subsidies and export restrictions

- Set/adopt international standards on food; improve product quality via technology; identify major roadblocks and carry out good policy to ensure more efficient supply chains for food to market.

- Strengthen monitoring of the impact of financial instruments and reduce uncertainty in agricultural markets.

2012: Strengthening food security

Since the 1st APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security in Niigata in 2010, the situation in the field of food security has remained an issue of high importance. ABAC is pleased that the 2nd APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and the inaugural meeting of the APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) were held in Kazan in May this year. However, as food security is a multi-faceted complex issue which cannot be solved overnight, it is imperative to tackle the key points and make progress year by year under the strategic framework of the “APEC Food System” to achieve substantial breakthroughs.

In 2012, ABAC’s Food Security Initiative is focused on strengthening food security by increasing food technology dissemination, developing food export/import infrastructure as well as facilitating food trade within the region. ABAC urges concrete actions with more involvement from the private sector, firstly, aiming at expanding global food supply and nutritional capacity and, secondly, facilitating food trade and market.

Recommendations

- Establish technology dissemination centers in APEC economies in the agri-food sector to coordinate innovative activities, provide assistance with technology dissemination, assess risks and possible consequences from using innovative technology, and develop demonstration projects for food-related technology dissemination.
- Promote investment in the agri-food sector by developing a regional strategic investment plan and elaborating measures to attract targeted investments into the agri-food sector.
- Facilitate close collaboration with the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum and set global standards in ensuring food safety and efficiency in cross-border trade flow.
- Develop a unified methodology for assessing post-harvest losses in the APEC member economies’ food sector to acquire comparable data in order to analyze this problem and elaborate ways to resolve it.
- Assist individual economies to assess the deficits and challenges in grain-related infrastructures and design a framework for the development of food market infrastructure to minimize food losses during storage and transportation.
- Improve global food market transparency by strengthening cooperation between Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) of G20 and Asia-Pacific Food Security Information Platform (APIP).
- Monitor the G20 “Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture” and consider adopting, coordinating and implementing measures.

2013: Strengthening food security

The key focus of ABAC in 2013 in the area of food security would be to oversee the implementation of the PPFS's Action Plan for 2013 which envisages developing a Roadmap to achieve the PPFS's long-term goal to set up a food system structure by 2020 sufficient to provide lasting food security to economies of the region.

- Draft a Roadmap for 2020 (version 2013)
- Best practice sharing for corporations & farmers cooperation to ensure food security
- Joint study on how to strengthen investment and technological cooperation in agriculture to enhance food security
- Enhancing Trade
- Facilitating Collaborative Activities of Companies & Farmers

Stock-taking of APEC Forum

1 Initiative/Program

Ocean and Fisheries Working Group – continuing activities related to Food Security

2 APEC Forum

Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG)

3 Date Established and Related Meetings

- In 2011, the Marine Conservation Working Group (MRCWG) and the Fisheries Working Group (FWG) merged to form the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG).
- The 1st Ocean and Fisheries Working Group Meeting was held in Kazan, Russia 24-26 May 2012.

4 Brief Description

Current and Near-term OFWG Food Security Related Activities:

- The OFWG 2013 Work Plan includes activities geared toward:
 - Identifying potential participation of other relevant groups and private sector stakeholders in OFWG, in regard to fisheries and aquaculture products, as well as to trade promotion;
 - Advancing inclusive growth by strengthening the role of fisheries and aquaculture products in food security;
 - Advancing sustainable growth through sharing information about sustainable development and protection of the marine environment; and
 - Enhancing OFWG capacity building efforts in response to the directions of Leaders, Ministers, and Senior

Officials.

- The OFWG is making progress on completing its multi-year Strategic Plan, which is likely to highlight the area of Food Security.
- Current capacity building efforts include:
 - S OF 01 2013A: “APEC Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning”-- workshop to be held in Xiamen, China in 2013 – tba; and
 - FWG 01/2010A : “Potential Contribution of Small Pelagic Fish to Food Security within the Asia Pacific Region” -- project is ongoing and final report is nearly complete.
 - Work on the “Marine Sustainable Development Report” is underway, led by China.
- Other recent activities include the following:
 - China and the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center held the “APEC Blue Economy Forum” in Tianjin, China in December 2012.
 - The APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center also held the “APEC Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning” in Xiamen, China on 23-28 September 2012.
 - Chinese Taipei hosted the “13th APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment” on 17-19 September 2012 in Taipei.

Further information is attached.

Stock-taking of APEC Forum

1 Initiative/Program

APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)

2 APEC Forum

Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC): A subgroup of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)

3 Date Established and Related Meetings

- April 2007 in Hunter Valley, Australia
- July 2009 in Singapore
- May 2011 in Montana, USA

4 Brief Description

- Some 60 regulators from 16 economies participated in the first meeting in Australia and a strategy for capacity building in the region was developed at the Forum and endorsed by the SCSC. The Forum will be led by China and Australia and will coordinate capacity building activities which aim to: improve food safety cooperation outcomes; accelerate progress towards harmonization of food standards with international standards; improve the transparency of food standards and regulations of APEC member economies; and facilitate trade in food products.
- Since 2007, the FSCF has undertaken significant capacity building throughout the APEC region in areas of risk analysis; development of food laws, standards and enforcement systems; microbiological risk assessment; management of food safety incidents and food recalls.
- At the May 2011 forum in USA, the APEC FSCF and the World Bank signed an MOU to explore opportunities for deepening the working relationship with the World Bank on carrying out capacity building activities to promote and support food safety in the Asia-Pacific region. The Food Safety Cooperation Forum's Partnership Training Institute Network (FSCF PTIN) was created specifically to address the need to engage the food industry and academic food safety experts with the regulators, to strengthen capacity building in food safety.
- An APEC Food Safety Incident Management Workshop was also held with the key recommendation to establish an APEC FSCF Food Safety Incident Network that would have as its primary objectives (1) improved information-sharing and communication, including on risk assessment, risk management and risk communication, among member economies to provide accurate and timely information on emerging food safety issues or in the event of a food safety incident; (2) development and implementation of FSCF-agreed approaches to improved food safety incident preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms within APEC; and (3) strengthened participation of member economies in the World Health Organization's International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) and other international networks to increase the ability to respond to food safety emergencies of global significance.

Stock-taking of APEC Forum

1 Initiative/Program

ATCWG Medium Term Work Plan (2010-2015)

2 APEC Forum

Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)

3 Date Established and Related Meetings

- September 2010 in Japan

4 Brief Description

In the period from 2010-2015, ATCWG will serve as a forum for member economies to enhance the capacity of agriculture and its related industries to contribute to economic growth, food security and social well-being in the region.

The Medium-Term goals of ATCWG are as follows:

- 1) Improving agricultural production and distribution through increased innovation, nutritional value, and food safety;
- 2) Improving human and institutional resource capacities in agriculture through education and training;
- 3) Improving aspects of environmental and natural resource management, infrastructure development related to food security;
- 4) Improving agricultural information systems and analysis;
- 5) 5. Improving the preparations for natural disasters and cross border threats.

*The data source is “Food Security Policies in APEC” published by APEC Policy Support Unit.

Stock-taking of APEC Forum

1 Initiative/Program

General work of the Committee and its sub-fora such as the Market Access Group (MAG), Investment Experts Group (IEG) or Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) and more specifically, through the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) of the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC).

2 APEC Forum

Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)

3 Date Established and Related Meetings

November 1993 (to replace predecessor body, Informal Group on Regional Trade Liberalisation). Meetings are normally held in margins of the Senior Official Meetings.

4 Brief Description

- Food security is a cross-cutting issue in APEC. While the general work undertaken may not be specifically dedicated to food security, CTI's initiatives aimed at promoting open trade and investment; fostering innovation; facilitating faster, more certain and less costly supply-chains; and simplifying customs procedures help to create an appropriate enabling environment for regional food security and thereby address key elements of the APEC food security agenda. These elements include promoting investment in agriculture, facilitating trade in food and agricultural products, expanding food supply capacity through enhanced agricultural productivity, innovation and technology cooperation and minimising food losses. These initiatives can therefore, both directly and indirectly, make a positive contribution to and reinforce the PPFS work program. Details on the nature and status of some of this CTI work, including the Supply-Chain Connectivity Action Plan, Bogor Goals Individual Action Plan progress reports, trade and innovation practices, Investment Facilitation Action Plan and aspects of the Customs Procedures Collective Action plan, can be found in the CTI's 2012 Annual Report.
- Please refer to pages 18-19 for the work undertaken in the FSFC.