



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2015/SMEWG40/015
Agenda Item: 10a

Proposed SCSC Work Plan in Support of SMEWG- SCSC Collaboration

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: SCSC



APEC
PHILIPPINES
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**40th Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group
Meeting
Atlanta, United States
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Proposed SCSC Work Plan in Support of SMEWG-SCSC Collaboration

Background

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) Strategic Plan 2013-2016 has identified the following priority areas to enable better focus for discussion and create direct impact on SMEs¹.

The objectives of the priority areas are as follows:

1. Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation
 - Promote Innovation as a Key Competitive Advantage for SMEs and MEs
 - Empower SMEs and MEs to Recognize Green Issues, and Foster Sustainable Growth and Energy Efficiency
2. Financing
 - Increase awareness and availability of wide-ranging sources of financing, from microfinance to venture capital
 - Strengthen SMEs' Access to Financing
3. Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization
 - Establish Open and Transparent Business Environments for SMEs and MEs
 - Enhance SMEs' and MEs' Capacity to Internationalize, and Assist SMEs and MEs Identify Foreign Business Opportunities

On the other hand, the Sub-committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) Collective Action Plan (CAP)² set out relevant objectives and actions that can assist the SMEWG in furthering its work. These are: "*Cooperation with other APEC Fora*" and "*Technical Infrastructure Development*" that identified, as a priority action for SCSC, supporting capacity building activities that are oriented to training business, especially SMEs, improving their knowledge, expertise and skills on standards and conformance matters, including public consultation.

Noting the information above, the following work streams are proposed to be undertaken by SCSC:

1. Exchanging information on packaging and labelling requirements

- Recognizes the identified Global Value Chains (GVCs) in the PSU Study of Integrating SMEs into Global Value Chains: Policy Principles and Best Practices³ where SMEs have strong concentration of SME participants (including agriculture, food processing, automobile, electronics, and handicraft sectors as key sectors).
- This initiative will be the SCSC's contribution to the on-going efforts of the SME WG of gathering information on non-tariff measures which in this case are technical regulations relating to packaging and labelling requirements that affect the SMEs integration and participation in the cross-border trade.

¹ SMEWG Strategic Plan 2013-2016

² SCSC CAP as of December 2014

³ APEC Project Database 2012

Activities:

1. Identify priority products from agriculture and food processing
 - *Initially the Philippines is proposing a self-funded APEC Survey on Packaging and Labelling Requirements for Pre-packaged Food Products.*
 - *Other products could be identified by SCSC.*
2. Prepare/develop a template to contain relevant information on packaging and labelling requirements of member economies for posting in the APEC SCSC page.

2. Sharing standards and conformance learning materials

- Standards and Conformance Learning Materials that are available in each economy which may include case studies demonstrating success in using standards as a tool to facilitate trade or market access
- Exchanging educational materials such as guidebooks on identified products agreed upon by the Friends of the Chair (FoTC).

3. Capacity building activities oriented to training businesses, especially SMEs, to improve their knowledge, expertise and skills on standards and conformance matters, including the conduct of public consultations.

- Identify areas where SCSC expertise can be utilized such as on understanding and implementing standards and sharing experiences in standards development activities
 - Collaboration with SMEWG in the organization of training events
 - Development of sectoral information on relevant and available standards
 - Development of projects that directly impact the competitiveness of SMEs
 - *Enhancement Project on Material Flow Cost Accounting (ISO 14051:2011) by Japan (Session 1 2015)*
(Note: In Session 1 2015, Japan has proposed for APEC funding for this said project which will be re-submitted for Session 2 2015)