

2. ADDRESS BY APEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROCEDURE

Ambassador Colin Heseltine, APEC Executive Director, will address Ministers (9:05 - 9:15).

OBJECTIVE

- To inform Ministers of APEC's current priorities and the place of energy in the APEC agenda.

BACKGROUND

APEC and the Energy Working Group (EWG)

The EWG was launched in 1990 to develop a program for energy cooperation in the APEC region, as sought by APEC Ministers meeting in Canberra in November 1989. The EWG's mandate is provided through the Seoul and Bogor Declarations, the Osaka Action Agenda, the Manila Action Plan, APEC Leader's Declarations and Ministerial Statements and directions from APEC Energy Ministers' Meetings in Sydney 1996, Edmonton 1997, Okinawa 1998, San Diego 2000, Mexico City 2002, Manila 2004, and Gyeongju 2005.

The EWG seeks to maximise the energy sector's contribution to the region's economic and social well-being, while mitigating the environmental effects of energy supply and use. The EWG contributes to decision-making through open discussion of members' energy policies and planning priorities; sharing basic resource demand and supply outlook data; considering regional energy policy implications; and responding to wide-reaching energy-related issues.

Given the importance of reliable energy supplies to APEC's economic, social and environmental goals, and in response to a request from APEC Leaders, the EWG developed the APEC Energy Security Initiative (ESI). The ESI comprises measures to respond to temporary energy supply disruptions and longer term policy responses to address the broader challenges facing the region's energy supply that are practical in a policy context and politically acceptable. The ESI also addresses energy for sustainable development by strengthening the security and reliability of affordable energy.

The EWG is considered to be one of the more active of the APEC working groups. Member economies work with the APEC Secretariat to ensure that EWG activities are consistent with APEC procedures and practices and the APEC Secretariat attends EWG meetings.

MEETING PAPERS

- Address by APEC Executive Director - to be tabled.