

## Terms of Reference

### APEC Energy Working Group Business Network (EWG Business Network)

#### Background

Trade and investment markets are impacted by the policies and practices set by government. To the extent that policies and practices can be changed to remove impediments, improve transparency and reduce risks, new trade and investment opportunities will open up and costs will be reduced.

APEC provides an important vehicle for generating such change, providing a mechanism to influence governments at Leader, Ministerial, and Official level. By informing in a constructive way, change can be influenced. This is not a short-term goal, but rather a longer-term objective that will generate mutual benefits with respect to the economic and social goals of governments through increased private sector investment and trade, and returns to business through greater opportunities and reduced costs.

Crucial to the efficient realisation of this objective is strategic input from business to ensure objectives are well defined and strategies appropriate. Recognising this, APEC Energy Ministers, at their second meeting in Edmonton in August 1997, asked the EWG to examine ways to encourage greater strategic input from business.

As a result, EWG members agreed, at their meeting in March 1998, to the establishment of the APEC "EWG Business Network".

#### B. Role of the EWG Business Network

The EWG Business Network is being established to provide a business perspective on energy-related issues that can be considered through the APEC process. The Business Network's involvement with the EWG would be complemented by the work of the Energy Regulators' Forum.

The EWG's current agenda reflects the priorities agreed by APEC Ministers and/or APEC Leaders.

#### C. Interface with the EWG

The Business Network will be invited to attend EWG meetings. The EWG Business Network is expected to report to the EWG on their suggestions on future work topics and specific initiatives. The EWG will decide in advance of each meeting which agenda items the Business Network will be invited to participate in, or observe. The EWG will decide on a project basis as to the Business Network's role in the progressing of initiatives.

## **D. Organisational Aspects**

### ***Membership***

Each APEC member economy can nominate a maximum of two representatives to the EWG Business Network, and will determine how their representatives to the Business Network will liaise with their respective domestic business communities.

A representative of the PECC Energy Forum will be included as an observer to the Business Network, recognising the importance of the continuing role of the PECC Energy Forum as a link between the EWG and the business community.

### ***Leadership***

The Chairman or Facilitator of the EWG will coordinate the first meeting of the Business Network, which could be held either face-to-face or via a teleconference link-up. For the purpose of any subsequent meetings, Business Network representatives may decide to elect from amongst their membership, a Chairperson/Facilitator.

### ***Secretariat***

The EWG Secretariat (based in Canberra, Australia) will provide secretarial support to the Business Network.

### ***Communications***

It is expected that representatives will normally communicate by electronic means (ie. via the Internet, including e-mail) where available. Conventional means of communications (ie. telephone and fax) shall continue to apply when and where required.

### ***Meetings***

The EWG Business Network may meet from time to time as a group and will be invited by the EWG to report and make presentations to the EWG on particular issues. Business Network representatives may also be invited to participate in other relevant EWG activities such as workshops or seminars. Business Network representatives will normally be expected to fund their own travel costs.

### ***Decision Making***

In line with APEC protocols, any recommendations of the EWG Business Network will need to be adopted by consensus, although differing views on issues may well emerge and be reported.

### ***Review of Terms of Reference***

Consistent with EWG Guidelines, the terms of reference for the EWG Business Network will be reviewed every two years.

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