

## EWG SECRETARIAT REPORT

### APEC Management Issues

The APEC Secretariat report provided by Mr Tong Xianguo summarises the decisions by APEC Leaders, Ministers, and Senior Officials relating to the Energy Working Group that were made since EWG22 was held in September 2001. The Report also attaches the relevant guidelines and APEC policy directions that are relevant to the EWG.

### Communications

Improved communication among members and the sub-groups of the EWG remains a key priority for the EWG Secretariat so that the EWG functions efficiently.

In order for the EWG to have effective linkages with its sub-groups, it is vital for the Chairs of the Experts Groups, ERF and EBN to advise EWG representatives about the activities being undertaken by their Groups. This would ensure that even if some economies are not be actively involved, or are unable to attend meetings, they will be informed of what is occurring within these Groups and can contribute if they so wish.

To assist communication between the EWG and its sub-groups, the EWG Secretariat maintains a Contact List with E-mail addresses of EWG officials, Chairs of the Experts Groups, ERF and EBN and a Calendar of Events on the EWG Website.

Therefore, please advise the EWG Secretariat of any changes to the Contact List as well as the title, date, and venue of any activity being planned so the Contact List Calendar of EWG Events can be updated. Tentative dates and venues are also acceptable, but please confirm as soon as dates and venues are finalised so the calendar can be amended. The EWG Secretariat is required to forward the updated Calendar of Events to the APEC Secretariat at the beginning of each month.

Please provide any amendments to the current EWG Contact List at [Annex 1](#) and EWG Calendar of Events at [Annex 2](#) to EWG Secretariat during EWG23.

Your cooperation in improving communications in the EWG is appreciated.

### Guest Status in EWG Activities

Bangladesh, Venezuela and Pakistan enjoy guest status in EWG activities until the end of 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively. The IEA enjoys guest status in the activities of the Energy Regulators' Forum and the Expert Group on Energy Data and Analysis until the end of 2003.

Guest participation at EWG and Expert Group activities by any other economy or agency need prior approval of APEC Senior Officials. Therefore, if EWG members or sub-groups wish to invite a guest to participate in any EWG activity, please submit a request to the EWG Secretariat at least six weeks prior to the activity. Past experience has proved that a failure to give six weeks prior notice to the EWG Secretariat will almost certainly result in Senior Officials not being in a position to give a decision in sufficient time for a guest to participate.

On the delegated authority of the SOM, guest participation in one-off non-policy activities such as symposia, workshops and seminars can be approved by the EWG if there is member consensus. However, early requests to the EWG Secretariat for guest participation at such activities would preclude short deadlines for response by members.

### **Implementation Facilitation Assistance Team**

The Philippines Government hosted an Implementation Facilitation Assistance Team (IFAT) visit to Cebu on 14-15 March to provide technical assistance and expert advice on the development of the Philippine natural gas industry. Both the Philippine's EWG representative and the IFAT team Leaders will provide their reports on the visit under Agenda Item 4.

From the perspective of the EWG Secretariat, the positives arising out of the visit were the strong participation by the Philippine Department of Energy and representatives from both international and domestic businesses; the commitment to the visit demonstrated by Secretary Perez, Undersecretary De Dios and Undersecretary del Callar; the frank and open discussions which lead to a very effective dialogue; the smooth running of the event and the agenda format; and the assistance provided to the IFAT team by Department of Energy officials.

Lessons which came out of this IFAT which will be useful for future visits were the need for early provision of information papers by the host to enable potential team members to determine whether they have the relevant expertise to nominate for inclusion on the team; early selection of team members would facilitate more collective preparation for the event by the host and team in advance of the visit, and would assist in minimising incompatibility of electronic presentation formats; and the need to allocate additional time after the event to facilitate team members in the preparation of a more comprehensive draft report before returning to their home economy.

### **Action Proposed for the Twenty-Third Meeting**

- Members to provide any amendments to the current EWG Contact List at Annex 1 and EWG Calendar of Events at Annex 2 to EWG Secretariat during EWG23.
- EWG members or sub-groups to submit a request for guest participation in EWG activities to the EWG Secretariat, at least six weeks prior to the activity.