

OTHER KEY EWG INITIATIVES

E-COMMERCE IN ENERGY/PROGRAM ON BEST PRACTICE IN ENERGY SERVICES

Members should note that the E-Commerce in Energy and Energy Services Initiatives have combined their Workshops, and therefore both these Initiatives will be addressed under one Agenda Item.

At EWG20 the delegate from the Republic of Korea made a presentation on the proposal to establish an E-Commerce Energy Task Force to address the issue of E-commerce as it relates to energy. EWG Members considered and agreed to the proposal.

When agreeing to the proposal delegates stressed the need for the Task Force to liaise closely with the APEC wide E-commerce Task Force to avoid duplication. Members also agreed that the Task Force would liaise closely with those involved in the Energy Services project to achieve synergies where possible.

Following consultation with the United States, it was agreed that a combined E-Commerce in Energy/Energy Services Workshop be held on 15 May 2001. The E-Commerce Initiative occupied the first part of the day and the Energy Services Initiative, which was coordinated by the US, occupied the second part of the day. A report on the outcomes of the combined E-Commerce in Energy/Energy Services Workshop was presented to EWG21.

At EWG21 members noted the Report on the combined Workshop on E-Commerce in Energy/Energy Services. Members supported the proposal by the Republic of Korea and Pacific Economic Corporation Council (PECC) to interactively cooperate on the two Initiatives. EWG members agreed to a second workshop concentrating on electricity or natural gas and the role of E-Commerce in these markets. EWG members noted the proposal that there be a third workshop to produce a compendium of 'Best Practice' in Energy E-Commerce/Energy Services.

In supporting the two Initiatives, members stressed that the second combined workshop should focus on information exchange and should be compatible with and not duplicate the work of broader APEC groups on E-Commerce and Services or the application on Services currently before the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and that members positions at the WTO would in no way be prejudiced.

It was agreed by EWG members that PECC and the Republic of Korea advise the EWG Secretariat of details of the next combined workshop for circulation to member economies.

At the sixth meeting of the EWG Business Network (EBN) held in Sydney, Australia, on 16 August 2001, members discussed the outcomes of EWG21 regarding the E-Commerce in Energy/Energy Services Workshop. EBN members noted that the Energy Services Initiative was interactively cooperating with the E-Commerce in Energy Initiative and that the two Initiatives would be holding further combined workshops. A short Progress Report on the second workshop was provided to EBN members by the US representatives.

At the seventh meeting of the EBN held in Cebu, Republic of the Philippines, on 16 March 2002, an update on the progress of this Initiative was to be provided by the United States. However, this item was deferred until the next EBN meeting.

EWG members were advised that the second combined Workshop was to be held as part of EWG22, however, on advice from the US and the Republic of Korea, the Workshop did not take place at EWG22. Instead, a report on the progress of the second combined E-Commerce in Energy/Energy Services Workshop was provided at EWG22.

- Members noted the Progress Report provided by the Republic of Korea.

No Workshop has been planned for EWG23.

In the meantime, work on E-Commerce and Services is being pursued in the broader APEC groups.

E-Commerce

Currently APEC has a *Steering Group on E-Commerce* and an *Ad Hoc e-APEC Task Force* to progress e-commerce issues.

At SOM1 (Mexico City, Mexico 27-28 February 2002) the ECSG reported on implementation of its 2002 Work Plan, including the delivery of paperless trading Individual Action Plans and the review and update of the 1998 APEC *Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce*.

The e-APEC Task Force (eATF) reported to SOM1 on their work plan to implement the e-APEC Strategy.

Services

The Group on Services (GOS) was established as an informal subgroup of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) mandated to address the area of services contained in the Osaka Action Agenda and in directions from Leaders, Ministers, the SOM and the CTI. APEC members have worked towards the objective set by the Osaka Action Agenda, of progressively opening services markets by reducing restrictions to market access and providing for *inter alia* MFN and national treatment for traded services. However, development on services in the energy sector will mainly arise from the WTO negotiations on services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations.

Action Proposed for the Twenty-Third Meeting

- Members to note the current status of the project on the E-Commerce in Energy/Energy Services.
- Members to note the broader work of the APEC groups on E-Commerce and Services is being pursued.