Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

APEC's Regional Information Society : A Contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: TEL Working Group

Executive Summary

It was agreed at SOM I that APEC should contribute its experience to the WSIS and that Senior Officials would submit on APEC experiences to the WSIS, with input from the TEL and other APEC fora, such as the ECSG.   In line with this agreement, TEL compiled the following document as an input to the WSIS, including an overview of APEC activities and comments on the 'Draft declaration of Principles' and the 'Draft action plan'.

The TEL drafted its contribution document and sent it for comments.   The TEL Chair received comments from US, Chinese Taipei and the ECSG.   This document reflects all the views of those who made contributions and is consisted of two main parts:

PART A: APEC's Achievements Towards Developing an Information Society
PART B: APEC TEL's Suggestions to Strengthen WSIS Documents.

The report seeks to share APEC's extensive expertise in ICT sectoral issues, ranges from e-commerce to human resource development.   APEC member economies recognize that information and communications technologies have increased the availability and dissemination of knowledge and made a significant impact on the economic development, governmental activities and social progress of our region.

APEC emphasizes the importance of sound economic policies, corporate governance, and legal and regulatory frameworks to encourage competition and innovation in the information society.   The report highlights APEC's commitment to protect ICT infrastructure from criminal misuse.

APEC's submission shows that its experience in promoting best practices, information exchange and collaborative cross-border projects in ICT and its significant contributions to the reduction of structural and regulatory barriers to free trade in ICT services, equipment and investment has enhanced ICT development levels within the Pacific Rim.

To meet the deadline of the WSIS Secretariat, the document must be submitted by the end of May 2003.

Finally, the TEL Chair thanks the TEL economies for their hard work, and also thanks for the valuable comments from Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Mexico, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, US and the ECSG, and advice from the APEC Secretariat.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. SOM endorse the attached paper as APEC's contribution to WSIS.
2. SOM Chair forwards the paper to the WSIS by 30 May 2003.
3. SOM consider having an APEC representative at future WSIS meetings.

APEC's REGIONAL INFORMATION SOCIETY
A Contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society
Executive Summary

The Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) welcomes this opportunity to share its unique experiences in developing an information society in the APEC region with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). APEC's objective in submitting this paper is to highlight the significant body of work underway to enhance regional cooperation and demonstrate the importance of leveraging regional cooperative groups and initiatives as building blocks to implement the "Action Plan" (Part A).

Using APEC's extensive expertise in ICT sectoral issues, ranging from e-commerce to human resource development, this paper also offers suggestions to strengthen the WSIS' "Draft Declaration of Principles" and the "Draft Action Plan" (Part B).

Established in 1989, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) facilitates economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC members represent over 2.5 billion people from 21 member economies[2], half the world's GDP and nearly half of the world's trade. In this regard, APEC offers an excellent example of the importance of regional cooperation toward the goal of building an inclusive information society.

APEC member economies recognize that information and communications technologies (ICT) have increased the availability and dissemination of knowledge on an unprecedented scale, making a significant impact on the economic development, governmental activities and social progress of our region. APEC emphasizes the importance of sound economic policies, corporate governance, and legal and regulatory frameworks to encourage competition and innovation. Trade and investment liberalization and facilitation boost common prosperity in the information society.

The success of APEC's work stems from its practical and cooperative approach to

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[12] Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA and Viet Nam

addressing issues and challenges, as well as the voluntary and non-binding way economies from a diverse constituency of governments, industry, academia and consumer groups, participate in activities. In particular, APEC members recognize and appreciate the private sector's role in building a universal information society.

APEC has worked through a number of sub-fora, with industry and academia, and in conjunction with other international and regional organizations to understand and develop appropriate policy frameworks to achieve sustained economic growth and societal development. APEC activities promote best practices, information exchange and collaborative cross-border projects in ICT. Recent projects emphasize building capacity, confidence and new technology while increasing security and penetration of telecommunications and information technology throughout society. The regional work of APEC has made significant contributions to the reduction of structural and regulatory barriers to free trade in ICT services, equipment and investment, and has enhanced ICT development levels within the Pacific Rim. Key to APEC's success has been the interweaving of ICT policy with the overall trade and investment liberalization agenda so that each can provide fuel to drive the other. With a number of APEC economies amongst the world's most advanced information based societies, APEC commends this work to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to inform its work and decisions.

APEC's REGIONAL INFORMATION SOCIETY
A Contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society

PART A—APEC's Achievements Towards Developing an Information Society

APEC has a long history of leadership in the information and communication technology field. In 1995 APEC joined with Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), APEC's industry advisor, to host the first global conference on the Information Infrastructure in Vancouver, Canada. That conference prefigured the development of general principles that characterized the market-led policy for infrastructure and service development in APEC and the OECD throughout the ICT growth phase of the latter part of the 1990s.

In the years since the historical 1995 meeting in Vancouver, APEC has hosted a series of meetings on Telecommunications at the Ministerial level, and launched the Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII) initiative to improve access to and use of ICTs. Ministers emphasized liberalization and approved a Framework for Action on Electronic Commerce to improve uptake and engender trust by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and consumers. They also adopted a Digital Divide Blueprint for Action, outlining specific activities and policy recommendations to ensure inclusiveness and create digital opportunities. They focused on "Convergence" and developing APEC's human resources for the digital economy, addressed implementation of the e-APEC Strategy, called for improving cybersecurity, developed consumer protection guidelines, and formalized policies on trade and the digital economy.

Building Blocks for the APEC Commitment to the Information Society

APEC Economic Leaders have met annually since 1993 to chart a course for the development of the region. At their first meeting, they envisioned an Asia-Pacific region that harnessed the energy of its diverse economies, strengthened cooperation, and promoted prosperity. To this end, Leaders called for continued reduction of trade and investment barriers to allow goods, services, capital, and investment to flow freely among APEC economies. This pledge was formalized in 1994 in Bogor Indonesia by enunciation of the "Bogor Goals", committing APEC to achieving free and open trade and investment in the region no later than 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies. Subsequent efforts by Leaders have been directed at meeting these Bogor Goals.

The 1995 Osaka Action Agenda and 1996 Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA) built stepping stones for implementing the Bogor Goals. Leaders (1996) endorsed the Information Technology Agreement, which led to the conclusion of the agreement in the WTO, and endorsed the focus of APEC's economic and technical cooperation activities into six areas to provide a framework for future work, including pursuit of the ICT agenda: developing human capital, fostering safe and efficient capital markets, strengthening economic infrastructure, harnessing technologies of the future, promoting environmentally sustainable growth, and encouraging the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The 1995 Seoul Declaration of Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Industry (TELMIN 1) defined five objectives and ten core principles for the construction of an Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII).

Objectives:

1. Facilitating the construction and expansion of an interconnected and interoperable information infrastructure in the region;
2. Encouraging technical cooperation among member economies in the development of the infrastructure;
3. Promoting free and efficient flow of information;
4. Furthering the exchange and development of human resources; and
5. Encouraging the creation of policy and regulatory environment favorable to the development of the Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure;

Principles:
1. Encouraging member economies in the construction of domestic telecommunications and information infrastructure based on their own reality;
2. Promoting a competition driven environment;
3. Encouraging business/private sector investment and participation;
4. Creating a flexible policy and regulatory framework;
5. Intensifying cooperation among member economies;
6. Narrowing infrastructure gap between the advanced and developing economies;
7. Ensuring open and non-discriminatory access to public telecommunications networks for all information providers and users in accordance with domestic laws and regulations;
8. Ensuring universal provision of and access to public telecommunications

services;

9.Promoting diversity of content, including cultural and linguistic
diversity;

10.Ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights, privacy and data
security.

Ministers participating in TELMIN 3 on June 1998 adopted the Singapore Declaration renewing their commitment to accelerate efforts to bring the APII from vision to reality by implementing a broad range of practical projects and applications and by harmonizing policy measures to advance the development of the Asia Pacific Information Society (APIS). The APIS in turn, contributes to creation of the evolving Global Information Society (GIS), mindful that the diversity in levels of telecommunications and information development among member economies requires that greater attention be paid to the special challenges developing economies face in sharing fully in the APIS vision.

The next milestone for the information society came in 1997, when Leaders endorsed the Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) initiative, which seeks to cut tariffs in several key economic sectors, and endorsed the Telecommunications Mutual Recognition Agreement, as well as a framework of public-private partnerships in infrastructure development aimed at making more resources available for infrastructure investment in the region.   The tariff-cutting elements of the priority sectors of the EVSL initiative were placed in the WTO process in 1998 to obtain an early WTO agreement on these sectors.

Raising the bar at Brunei in 2000, APEC Leaders launched an Action Agenda for the New Economy and set the goal to triple the number of people within the region with individual and community-based access to the internet by 2005.   Leaders understood that meeting this goal would require massive infrastructure development and human capacity building and technologies that were then only in their formative stages.   They recognized governments alone cannot achieve this vision and that they would need to harness the cross-sectoral approach of APEC and, where appropriate, implement market oriented policies to attract business investment and utilize the cooperation and skills of universities, training and research institutions, colleges and schools.

In 2001 APEC Leaders continued their emphasis on the new economy by adopting the Shanghai Accord that placed the Bogor Goals within the context of an expanded vision that addresses trade and investment liberalization and facilitation and economic and technical cooperation in an integrated manner.   At the same time, Leaders recommended strengthening APEC activities in areas of critical sector protection, including telecommunications.

At the 5th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information Industry (APEC TELMIN 5, www.apectelwg.org/apec/are/telmin5.html) in May 2002, Ministers adopted the "Shanghai Declaration" emphasizing infrastructure, policies and market regulation, security, and capacity building as a guideline for activities concerning telecommunications and information. Related meetings used this guideline to begin concrete deliberations on an information society. In their Los Cabos Declaration of 2002, Leaders continued to emphasize their vision of free and open trade and investment. They adopted a Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards and a Statement on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth. Sixteen economies adopted a pathfinder initiative to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy.[2]

Coordinating APEC's Information Society Initiatives through the e-APEC Strategy

The e-APEC strategy grew out of the 2000 Action Agenda for the New Economy to provide a blueprint, coordination and stepping stones for APEC ICT activities in a forward-looking, long term, action-oriented plan. The e-APEC Strategy calls for economies and APEC fora to: create an environment for strengthening market structures and institutions; facilitate an environment for infrastructure investment and technology development; and enhance human capacity building and promote entrepreneurship. Multiple APEC fora have been successfully engaged in achieving these goals and the ongoing implementation and success of the e-APEC Strategy continues to be monitored.

Concrete implementation of the e-APEC strategy took off in 2002. APEC Leaders endorsed the APEC Digital Divide Blueprint for Action, agreeing on six attributes of successful policies to bridge the digital divide:

- Leadership – often at economy level but also including local and regional initiatives to create a vision and institutions/structures to address the issues.
- Partnerships – including business, education and social institutions, and government.
- Policy Coherence – to ensure that all policies are working together to create the desired economic and social environment.
- Market Focus – among others, to develop demand that can justify investment required.

2. Brunei, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA and Viet Nam

- Sustainability – to ensure continuation of the services beyond the seed money stage.
- Scalability – to ensure that a program or an initiative can be replicated throughout under-served areas.

APEC continues to closely monitor ICT access penetration levels in the region in hopes of accomplishing its universal access goals by 2010. Work continues in APEC on pilot projects, and a renewed emphasis on the use of next-generation technologies (such as broadband, wireless infrastructure, IP v6 protocols, etc.) and their resulting policy implications, to help achieve Information Society goals.

Cybersecurity

The APEC Leaders' Declaration on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth included specific commitments on promoting cyber security that included commitments to:

- Endeavor to enact a comprehensive set of laws relating to cybersecurity and cybercrime that are consistent with provisions of international legal instruments, including United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/63 (2000) and Convention on cybercrime (2002), by 2003;
- Identify national cybercrime units and international high-technology assistance points of contact and create such capabilities to the extent they do not already exist, by October 2003.
- Establish institutions that exchange threat and vulnerability assessment (such as Computer Emergency Response Teams) by October 2003.
  Drawing on APEC's strengths in capacity building and technical assistance, a number of workshops and seminars are being held to enable economies to meet these commitments.

Electronic Commerce

Highlighting the importance of electronic commerce to APEC's overall trade and investment liberalization, Ministers adopted the Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce in 1998. It called for the creation of the Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG), in order to ensure continued coordination and pursuit of the Blueprint. Its objectives are to work together to:

- build trust and confidence
- enhance government use
- intensify community outreach
- promote technical cooperation and experience exchange

- where appropriate, work towards eliminating impediments to its uptake
- develop seamless legal, technical, operating and trading environments to facilitate the growth and development of electronic commerce

APEC is building consumer trust in e-commerce by helping to protect consumers from fraudulent and deceptive practices when buying goods and services online. Last year APEC Ministers endorsed the Voluntary Consumer Protection Guidelines for the Online Environment and their accompanying report, which can be found at www.export.gov/apececommerce/consumer_protection.html. These cover international cooperation, education and awareness, private sector leadership, on-line advertising and marketing, and the resolution of consumer disputes.

The challenge for economies in addressing the issue of data privacy is protecting the personal information of consumers while also preventing the interruption of trans-border data flows. In order to foster the development of compatible approaches to data privacy in the region, APEC began a work agenda on data privacy in 2002.   This work plan includes completion of a mapping exercise of APEC economies' approaches to data privacy-- with an accompanying report, development of APEC privacy principles and implementation mechanisms; and the continued exchange of information on developments related to data privacy within individual economies.   To manage this work, APEC has established a Data Privacy Subgroup.   For more information go to :
    www.export.gov/apececommerce/privacy.html.

APEC's e-commerce agenda continues to focus on data privacy, consumer protection, cybersecurity, paperless trading, trade facilitation and SME e-commerce development.

Trade Facilitation
Trade Facilitation is one of APEC's three main pillars of work to achieve the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment.   As part of the Shanghai Accord, endorsed by Leaders in 2001, APEC Members agreed to significantly reduce transaction costs by five percent across the APEC region over the next five years.   In 2002, Leaders and Ministers adopted the Trade Facilitation Action Plan, a framework for achieving the objectives of the Shanghai Accord.   The Action Plan envisions APEC members implementing specific trade facilitating reforms, and estimating cost-savings that business will derive from their implementation.   One of the four main categories for the reforms is electronic commerce, and includes measures related to authentication, cybersecurity, and the development of a portal of information on the legal, regulatory, and policy practices related to these issues in the APEC region.

Trade in the Digital Economy

Reflecting APEC's ongoing commitment to advancing and strengthening the information society, sixteen economies adopted the Leaders Statement to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy in 2002. The Statement integrates requirements on services, intellectual property and tariffs into one agreement to promote trade in the digital economy in a cross-cutting way. The agreement will be used to set trade policy targets in new areas important for ensuring the free flow of trade and investment in the digital economy and to strengthen e-commerce.

The general objectives of the Initiative entail liberalization and open trade policies leading to:

- greater development of e-commerce and economic growth
- promotion of market access and trade across sectors using electronic networks
- domestic regulation designed to be least restrictive to trade
- a long-term moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions
- support of demand-driven capacity building projects to ensure all economies benefit from the growth of the digital economy

Although not all APEC economies have agreed to the initiative, the sixteen signing economies are able to progress towards the goals of the Statement which may include, on a voluntary basis, the participation of the five non-signing economies.

Paperless Trading

In 1998, APEC economies committed to reduce or eliminate the requirement for paper documents needed for customs and other cross-border trade administration, where possible, by 2005 for developed and 2010 for developing economies. APEC economies are working with business to facilitate paperless trading for cross-border transactions. Initiatives being introduced include:

- Electronic customs clearance systems
- Electronic cargo and port manifests
- Electronic carnets to facilitate the movement of samples for trade displays
- Electronic certificates of origin; and
- Electronic SPS Certification.

Education and Social Initiatives

APEC has also recognized the importance of developing human capacity and of

harnessing information technologies for the future. These themes have led APEC to undertake activities in several fora to address education and the application of information technologies in social services including health services.

Part B.   APEC TEL's   Suggestions to Strengthen WSIS Documents

APEC appreciates the "Draft declaration of Principles" and the "Draft action plan" posted on the WSIS website at the 2^(nd) Preparatory Committee (Prep-Com-2), identifying comprehensive enumeration of the significance of an Information Society, the role of the ICT in the Information Society, and challenges facing the Information Society.   APEC acknowledges ITU's efforts to lead the initiative, provide a big picture view and lay out individual steps in the process for the forthcoming Information Society.

APEC also appreciates the efforts of the regional WSIS preparatory conferences held to address the specific concerns, needs and priorities of the respective regions.   Many APEC member economies participated actively in and value the decisions of the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference held in Tokyo and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference held in the Dominican Republic.   APEC values the common understanding forged in the Regional Declarations.

As preparations for the WSIS Phase I progress, APEC would like to commend the authors of the "Draft declaration of Principles" and the "Draft action plan", and make suggestions in the following areas.

1. e-Security and Cybersecurity

Security is indispensable for the use of ICT-related services, such as e-commerce, etc.   It is important to raise the need for strategic approaches to security infrastructure.   APEC has been implementing measures for supporting establishment of CERTs in economies without CERTs, encouraging collaboration concerning Telecom ISACs, and exchanging opinions on electronic authentication.

We recommend WSIS emphasize collaboration and cooperation in these areas.   The "Draft declaration of Principles" and the "Draft action plan" properly emphasize   security and cultures concerning cybersecurity.   Thus APEC encourages the inclusion of the following topics in Paragraph 27 *"Fighting cybercrime "5) Security""* in the "Draft action plan":   exchanging opinions on CERTs, Telecom ISACs and electronic authentication; promoting legislation based on convention on the 'Council of European Convention on Cybercrime' for example; and promoting capacity building for the development of national CERTs.

2. Business Facilitation – Promotion of e-Governments

To realize an information society, it is vital to prepare infrastructures with users in mind.

In particular, efforts to promote e-business and e-governments are significant. APEC has been actively considering such efforts and the necessity of collaboration with local governments to provide applications meeting people's needs.

Thus APEC encourages inclusion of the following topics in Paragraph 36, *"e-Government, "7) Promotion of development-oriented ICT applications for all"* in the "Draft action plan*,": the significance of both infrastructure and application with regard to promotion of e-governments, and toward the practical promotion of e-governments, take into account the user need, collaboration of central and local governments, cooperation between the private and public sectors for promoting e-governments and the significance of e-government's effects as a driving force in the market concerning multifaceted e-services.

3. Broadband

It is obvious that broadband platforms are essential infrastructures for constructing an information society. At APEC, following the first Broadband Workshop at TEL27 (March 2003), proposals on policy measures essential for promoting broadband will be made to TELMIN 6 to be held in 2004.

APEC supports the descriptions on the significance of strengthening broadband network infrastructures in Paragraph 4 and encourages inclusion of the topic of promoting local content distribution in the section on Media (44) of the "Draft action plan." In the sections on e-learning (38) and e-health (39), it might be appropriate to include descriptions of their importance for creating a favorable environment for the private sector to invest in the development of new services and for keeping the commercial viability of infrastructure and access in rural/remote areas. Furthermore, APEC recognizes the goal of realizing a "ubiquitous society" for broadband provision anywhere and encourages that this be reflected in the Paragraph 9 of "Draft declaration of Principles".

4. Bridging the Digital Divide

APEC set forth a goal (APEC Leaders' Declaration 2000) that Leaders commit to develop and implement a policy framework which will enable the people of urban, provincial and rural communities in every economy to have individual or community-based access to information and services offered via the Internet by 2010. To realize this goal, APEC has been implementing various projects, such as IP-based wireless LANs in island areas, and has developed a Digital Divide Blueprint for action including monitoring ICT access penetration levels (including internet usage) in economies in the APEC region. To promote concrete actions to transform the digital divide into a digital opportunity, APEC

agreed on six attributes of successful policies to bridge the digital divide which are i) leadership, ii) partnerships, iii) policy coherence, iv) market focus, v) sustainability, and vi) scalability.

APEC believes that these six key factors can be well applied to the successful realization of the information society and is pleased that most of them are reflected through both of the "Draft declaration of Principles" and the "Draft action plan".   In addition, APEC hopes that the scalability of programs or initiatives will be considered to ensure that the programs and initiatives will be replicable throughout areas such as underserved and un-served regions.

APEC welcomes that in Paragraph 11 of the "Draft declaration of Principles" and Paragraph 2, etc. of the "Draft action plan," there are descriptions on bridging of the digital divide, and in particular, the concrete goals set forth in Paragraph 45.
In order to realize these ambitious goals, it might be appropriate to include progress reports on benchmarks from member economies to be compiled for 2005 Phase II (Tunis), in the "Draft action plan" (45).   APEC also recognizes that affordability and funding are the main obstacles for many economies to achieve the goals stated in Paragraph 45. Therefore it is important to remove barriers to entry, provide more choices to phase in these goals and commitments, provide flexibility for capacity and respond to the rapid changes in this field.

5. The Role of Local Community
APEC is pleased that Paragraph 27 "All partners – public, private sector and civil society organizations" in the "Draft declaration of Principles" and Paragraph 17 "Cooperation among stakeholders" shows the importance of partnership and cooperation among governments, private sectors, ICT providers, and local communities.

APEC would like to note that the partnership of civil societies or local communities might not be limited only to their participation or employment.   Their ownership may underline and support the necessary infrastructure and applications.

6. Applications
APEC would like to note in Paragraph 29 "Demand-driven applications" in the "Draft declaration of Principles" that applications and government services, such as e-learning and e-health, will enhance the commercial viability of ICT infrastructures and access networks in rural/remote areas.

APEC hopes this demand-driven applications idea shall be added to "7. ICT-applications" in the "Draft declaration of Principles", and to "7. Promotion of development-oriented ICT applications for all" in the "Draft action plan".

7. Content

To encourage the use of ICT and to foster mutual understanding of cultural and linguistic diversity, local people should be able to create their own content or applications, or, at least, be able to participate in the process.

APEC hopes that Paragraph 50 of the "Draft declaration of Principles", and Paragraph 43 of "Draft action plan" shall include the idea of content creation by local users.

8. Information Exchange

Because of the rapid growth and development of ICT, APEC recognizes the importance of information exchange and experience sharing. For example, problems or successes in ICT deployment in some economies could serve as case studies for others when implementing similar projects or solving their problems.

APEC welcomes the sharing of experiences and encourages this idea be included in Paragraph 53 "International and regional co-operation" of the "Draft declaration of Principles". APEC hopes that the exchange of information and the sharing of experience ideas shall be reflected again in "D. International cooperation and financing" of the "Draft action plan".

9. Human Resource Development

APEC recognizes the importance of life-long human capacity development and application of ICT for the benefits of the people in the region. Therefore, there are many programs and projects to take advantage of these opportunities by the development of ICTs. In the "Draft action plan" and the "Draft declaration of Principles", there are descriptions on importance of Human Capacity Building (paragraph 20 to 23). This clearly reflects that the APEC and the WSIS draft share these common goals and attitudes.

However, in the Declaration, only the roles of intergovernmental organizations are briefly mentioned. To incorporate the vision and vitality of the World Information Society,

APEC suggests "Capacity building for ICT use" (22) reflect the roles of multilateral, bilateral, regional and global cooperation in facilitating the development and use of ICT capacity building, human resource development, education and training.

10. The Next-Generation Technologies

In the diverse economies of the APEC region, despite recognition of the merit of the next-generation technologies, their introduction may be difficult.   Thus APEC has been actively deliberating issues concerning introduction of the next-generation technologies, including IPv6, the mobile internet, broadband satellites, etc.

APEC encourages the inclusion of the following topics in section   "6) Enabling environment" in the "Draft declaration of Principles": diffusion and promotion of developing technologies on next-generation technologies, their importance for realization of global ICT infrastructures, the necessity of fundamental technologies such as IPv6, mobile internet, broadband satellite communications and in promotion of next-generation ICT infrastructures.

11. Promotion of Standardization

APEC successfully negotiated a multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on conformity assessment for telecommunications equipment.   This is an example of collaborative activity, which reduces costs and time to market for equipment vendors and helps encourage trade in telecommunications products.

Though there are some descriptions on standardization in the "Draft declaration of Principles" ("6) Enabling environment" and the "Draft action plan", APEC encourages the addition of a description of promotion of information exchange with relevant countries towards harmonization of standard conformity assessment including mutual recognition on telecommunications.

12. Enabling Environment

ICT market liberalization plays a critical role in developing and advancing the information society by lowering cost and enhancing consumer choice.

Since APEC has as one of its key objectives the promotion of trade liberalization and economic cooperation, the importance of ICT market liberalization and the promotion of fair competition should receive mention by the Summit.   Through APEC activities, member economies recognize that the WTO Telecoms Reference Paper can serve as a

valuable tool to guide the liberalization process and regulatory measures. TEL working group has done considerable work in Interconnection. Interconnection charges set on the basis of non-discriminatory and transparent terms and conditions are an important issue for effective competition.

Therefore APEC encourages inclusion of the following topics in the appropriate sections of the WSIS documents, on Enabling environment and market environment: ensuring a suitable interconnection for a suitable ICT market environment and promoting various market liberalization efforts in providing for a ubiquitous society.

13. Leveraging on Regional Organizations

APEC note that the "Draft Declaration of Principles" in paragraph 53 and the "Draft action plan" in paragraph 45 e) recognize the important role that regional organizations such as APEC play in integrating the use of ICT in the development process and making available the necessary resources.

APEC hopes that the Summit can go a step further to actually leverage on the work programmes of these regional and sub-regional fora to achieve its vision and objectives as set out in the "Draft declaration of Principles" and the "Draft action plan".