



NMUN • NY

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2012

Written By: Rubai Aurora, Angela Merriam



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NMUN•NY 2012 Important Dates

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at nmun.org and include a \$1,000 deposit. Discount rates are available until the room block is full or one month before the conference – whichever comes first. **PLEASE BOOK EARLY!**

31 January 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Attendance & Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March) • Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET! <p>(We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)</p>
15 February 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org
1 March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Group Rates on hotel rooms are available on a first come, first served basis until sold out. Group rates, if still available, may not be honored after that date. See hotel reservation form for date final payment is due. • Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to: outreach@nmun.org • Preferred deadline for submission of Chair / Rapp applications to Committee Chairs • All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. (\$125 per delegate if paid by 1 March; \$150 per delegate if received after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline. • Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2012	<p>1 - 5 April – Sheraton New York 3 - 7 April - New York Marriott Marquis</p> <p>The 2013 National Model UN Conference 17 - 21 March & 24 - 28 March (both at Sheraton; Sun-Thurs)</p>

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2012

1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. Mail papers by 1 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. These e-mail addresses will be active when background guides are available. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please put committee and assignment in the subject line (Example: GAPLEN_Greece).

2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org.

This set (held by each Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments.

Note: This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.

- The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)

- Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted.

Please put committee, assignment and delegation name in the subject line (Example: Cuba_U_of_ABC). If you have any questions, please contact the Director-General at dirgen@nmun.org.

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Organisation of Islamic Cooperation	oic.marriott@nmun.org
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Security Council B.....	scb.marriott@nmun.org
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OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org
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Secretary-General	secgen.ny@nmun.org
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THE 2012 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

1 – 5 April (Sheraton) & 3 – 7 April (Marriott) • www.nmun.org

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation at National Model United Nations 2012. Directors Angela Merriam and Rubai Aurora will be your guides through committee session and have prepared this background to help you in your research and preparation. Angela has a B.S. in Economics and a M.A. in Public Policy. She has been living in China for the past two years and currently works at an environmental NGO. Prior to that, she worked briefly on trade policy negotiations for the Canadian government. She has been involved in various MUN conferences over the past eight years and this is her third time directing an NMUN committee. Rubai holds a B.A. degree in Political Science and Human Rights and is currently working for a rural development agency in New Delhi, India. Her work focuses on improving local governments systems and access to justice for marginalized communities. She has been involved in Model United Nations for the past five years.

The topics available for discussion are as follows:

1. Responding to the Effects of Natural Disasters and Enhancing Emergency Preparedness
2. Regional Economic Integration and a Free Trade Area of the Pacific (FTAAP)
3. Global Health Epidemics: Threats to Agriculture, Trade, and Tourism

APEC is an agency specializing in improving regional cooperation through trade and economic development. However, as a leading regional body it takes an active role in developing policy and strategies for addressing other common issues effecting Member Economies in human security as well, for a compressive approach to sustainable development.

The background guide will serve as an introduction the topics. In addition, the bibliography provides delegates with research material that will give you further insight. We encourage delegates to research well beyond the parameter of the background and have a full understanding their Member Economy's position. Each delegation must submit a position paper. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by March 1, 2012. Please refer to the message from your Directors-General explaining the NMUN position paper requirements and restrictions.

We wish you the best of luck in your preparations. Be prepared to challenge yourself during committee session and make the best of this exceptional learning experience!

Sincerely,

Sheraton Venue
Rubai Aurora
Director

Marriott Venue
Angela Merriam
Director

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Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2012 NMUN Conference

At the 2012 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee to which it is assigned. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee affects the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers, NGOs, or judicial experts. To understand these differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and should establish precise policies and recommendations about the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in entirely original material. *The NMUN Conference will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism.* In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and it may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample paper on the following page for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single-spaced pages (one double-sided paper, if printed)
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Margins must be set at one inch for whole paper
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page,
- The use of national symbols is highly discouraged
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf format required) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15, 2011. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.
2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference.

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 1, 2012 (GMT-5) for delegations attending the NMUN conference at either the Sheraton or the Marriott venue.**

PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE, ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION NAME (Example: AU_Namibia_University of Caprivi)

A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Amanda D'Amico, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Nicholas Warino, Director-General, Marriott venue at dirgen@nmun.org. There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide
- Outline of (official) policy aims within the committee's mandate

Each delegation can submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparation for the mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 2,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and it is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location, your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

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**Delegation from
The United Mexican States**

**Represented by
(Name of College)**

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the *Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution *Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions* (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)* in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoking Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy

and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the *American Convention of Human Rights*.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its *National Program for Human Rights* or the *Plan Puebla Panama*. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an other to enhance durable peace in Africa is the institutional reform of the United Nations. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.

Committee History

Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum for plurilateral cooperation among a diverse group of countries, with the goal of enhancing economic growth in the region and strengthening the Asia-Pacific community.¹ It held its first conference in 1989 with 12 Member Economies, and has since nearly doubled in size and currently encompasses 21 Member Economies.² Decisions are taken by consensus and commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis, which principles are reminiscent of the UN.³ APEC Member Economies account for around 40% of the world's population, approximately 54% of world GDP, and around 44% of world trade.⁴ Member economies are all part of the "pacific-rim" region, while countries outside this region may be granted observer status.⁵

In 1994, APEC officials agreed on a series of policy goals later called the Bogor Declaration. The Bogor Goals of "free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies" are "key to achieving APEC's vision" and a central part of the organization's work.⁶ While the global climate has changed considerably since then, the goals outlined in the Bogor Declaration remain perhaps the clearest statement of APEC's aims.

Structure

Members of APEC are classified as Member Economies rather than Member States, given that Taiwan (represented under Chinese Taipei), Hong Kong, and mainland China (People's Republic of China) are separate members.⁷ Apart from these annual meetings, regular working groups and committees meet, comprising of government officials and private sector representatives from each Member Economy. These working groups are broadly aligned with the three pillars of APEC, namely: 1) Trade and Investment Liberalization, 2) Business Facilitation, and 3) Economic and Technical Cooperation.⁸ Among ten working groups and four committees, the most important are the Trade Promotion Working Group (TPWG) and the Committee for Trade and Investment (CTI).⁹

APEC itself is also institutionally unique in that, unlike many other IGOs, APEC emphasizes and encourages participation by the private sector in working groups and policy discussions with government officials.¹⁰ In an effort to further this cooperation with the private sector, APEC Leaders established the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in 1995. The ABAC advises Leaders and officials on issues of interest to business in the region and responds to requests from sub-groups and committees for information about the business perspective on specific areas of cooperation.¹¹

APEC's Complex Role

As a relatively new IGO, APEC has since its creation been struggling to carve out a useful and sustainable niche within the geopolitical sphere.¹² Some scholars highlight APEC's role in terms of facilitating business transactions and maintaining dialogue among member economies.¹³ The Director of the Australian APEC Study Centre asserts, "In a region of staggering diversity and complexity, APEC is really the only forum for the exchange of opinions and the development of cooperation to meet common problems."¹⁴ Since APEC's inception in 1989, trade barriers within the region have been decreased significantly, although other analysis reveals that APEC's influence was primarily indirect as much of this trade liberalization was achieved through the WTO forum, which was created 1995 shortly

¹ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), *History*, 2011.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), *About APEC*, 2011.

² Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), *History*, 2011.

³ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), *About APEC*, 2011.

⁴ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), *About APEC*, 2011.

⁵ Lee, *Clinton urges India to expand influence*, 2011.

⁶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), *1994 Leaders' Declaration*, 1994.

⁷ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), *About APEC*, 2011.

⁸ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), *Scope of Work*, 2011.

⁹ Institute of Asian Research, *APEC: What is It?*, 2011.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Permanent Observers*, 2011.

¹¹ Australian Government Document, *Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)*, 2011.

¹² McKay, *Successes, Weaknesses, and Future Prospects*, 2002.

¹³ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC's Future*, 2010.

¹⁴ McKay, *APEC: Successes, Weaknesses, and Future Prospects*, 2002.

after APEC.¹⁵ The APEC Secretariat points to the reduction of transaction costs for doing business within the region, the creation of the APEC Tariff Database, and others among the organization's successes.¹⁶ It has also encouraged economic and technical cooperation through building capacity and skills in APEC Member Economies to "enable [Member Economies] to participate more fully in the regional economy and the liberalization process."¹⁷

Several challenges for APEC remain. Some see it as battling against redundancy with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which since 1967 has been a stable forum for regional cooperation among a subset of APEC members and has since expanded into many ASEAN+X groupings.¹⁸ The founding of the WTO in 1995 created for the first time a binding global trade regime not only more ambitious in scope but also more ambitious in depth than would be likely under APEC's mandate of voluntary cooperation.¹⁹ More recently, the East Asian Community (EAC) consisting of Japan, South Korea, and the People's Republic of China (China) has similarly been working to increase regional cooperation, and APEC Member Economies have been holding an annual East Asian Summit.²⁰ The negotiations toward a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement have also created a forum specifically through which to pursue trade liberalization in the region.²¹ It has thus been criticized by some as a vehicle for maintaining American hegemony in Asia by those that do not agree with its overall mandate, but also by others as "a pretty empty chatter."²²

In terms of other forms of plurilateral trade liberalization, ASEAN economies have expressed a preference in signing trade agreements with economies of greater geographical proximity or more flexibility in commitments through ASEAN+X agreements.²³ These ASEAN+X agreements include ASEAN+ China, ASEAN+EU, ASEAN+Japan among others, and seem to have allowed the otherwise relatively small and weak parties within ASEAN more bargaining power within these 'bilateral' negotiations.²⁴ Some have also argued that ASEAN+3 arrangements - including ASEAN members in addition to Japan, China and South Korea - which has a similar structure to APEC, has displaced APEC as "the most significant embodiment of the new regionalism in the Asia-Pacific."²⁵ The rebalancing of geopolitical power including the increasing economic prominence of certain actors in East Asia, in particular China, indicates that preferences toward other groupings such as the ASEAN+3 or the EAC mentioned above may only gain importance in the coming years.

APEC's recently appointed Executive Director Muhamad Noor Yacob has said he is committed to pursuing a "new growth paradigm" that goes beyond liberalization.²⁶ Similarly, the director of the Berkeley APEC Study Centre, Vinod Aggarwal, argues that APEC should emphasize the following three areas of cooperation: regional economic integration with an emphasis on finding new pathways to an FTAAP; a new growth strategy where growth is "balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure;" and human security or cooperation on issues such as food security, counter-terrorism and emergency preparedness.²⁷

In terms of its trade liberalization goals, Aggarwal asserts, "APEC doesn't have to serve as the exclusive forum to negotiate an agreement." For example, if the TPP or the East Asian Community were viable, APEC could use this as a blueprint for further expansion.²⁸ APEC's strengths of greater institutionalization than other groupings, and its broad membership, could provide needed impetus to pursue an FTAAP as a long-run goal.²⁹ Beyond trade liberalization and other forms of economic cooperation, APEC has more recently expanded its agenda to include "pressing regional priorities."³⁰ Some of this shift in focus is relevant to topics discussed in this meeting's agenda,

¹⁵ World Trade Organization. *International trade and tariff data*, 2011.

¹⁶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, *Achievements and Benefits*, 2011.

¹⁷ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, *Achievements and Benefits*, 2011.

¹⁸ McKay, *Successes, Weaknesses, and Future Prospects*, 2002.

¹⁹ World Trade Organization, *Understanding the WTO: Basics*, 2011.

²⁰ Wihardja, *East Asia Summit: New members, challenges and opportunities*, 2011.

²¹ Office of the United States Trade Representative, *Trans-pacific partnership announcement*, 2009.

²² The Economist, *APEC—a pretty empty chatter: Four adjectives in search of a conclusion*, 2007.

Beeson, *American hegemony and regionalism: The rise of East Asia and the end of the Asia-Pacific*, 2006.

²³ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC's Future*, 2010, p. 11.

²⁴ Chang, *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*, 2008.

²⁵ Berger/Beeson, *APEC, ASEAN+3 and American power*, 2005, p. 69.

²⁶ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC's Future*, 2010, p. 12.

²⁷ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC's Future*, 2010, p. 12.

²⁸ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC's Future*, 2010, p. 13.

²⁹ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC's Future*, 2010, p. 13.

³⁰ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, *Achievements and Benefits*, 2011.

including emergency preparedness (through the creation of the Task Force for Emergency Preparedness) and human security (through the creation of a Health Working Group). Cooperation on these issues is still somewhat underdeveloped within an APEC forum and is more likely to be considered in the context of continuing work by the EAC and ASEAN+3.

Yet some analysts, even those in support of APEC's free trade agenda, are more critical of the organization's future. An analyst from the Brookings Institute remarked, "If APEC does not want to be seen as an annual parade of leaders in local clothing and a 'photo opportunity,' its current organization, agenda, and objectives must be transformed."³¹ The Brookings Institute continued to argue that APEC should "use its collective weight to continue pushing the WTO Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiation forward." The Brookings Institute concluded by arguing that "APEC can still provide some basic functions for business and trade facilitation, can encourage measures to make investment more convenient, can provide technical and development assistance, and can foster socialization, in addition to playing its role as an important meeting venue for regional leaders."³²

However, the unanswered question regarding APEC is the global disenchantment with free-market economics and financial liberalization since the financial crisis of 2008.³³ When trade and financial market liberalization has been shown to be a direct contributor to this recent crisis, how must the organization re-think its focus on facilitating this same liberalization, whether it is through a WTO forum or its own forum?³⁴ Furthermore, given this recent history, how may APEC be forced to reconsider its role given the international normative framework of human rights, democracy, and the right to development?³⁵ This is especially important to consider given that many participants in the organization are either non-democratic governments or industry representatives.

Conclusion

Some scholars insist that "[APEC]'s reputation is sagging, but it will hang on as all international organizations have robust instincts for self-preservation."³⁶ The ability of this disparate group of economies to maintain a notion of community, a unified regional architecture, and thus undertake a collective region-building project given the realities of 'hybrid regionalism' is yet to be determined. The economic crisis has created global ripples of ideological crises, budget crises, and identity crises. An organization that is struggling to maintain relevance on every front, APEC members must carefully consider its role *vis-a-vis* other IGOs, its central priorities, and its own comparative advantage in addressing the problems of economies from those as diverse as Oaxaca, Mexico, Beijing, China, and Sydney, Australia.

Annotated Bibliography

Committee History

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. (1994). *Bogor Declaration - APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration of Common Resolve*. Retrieved September 28, 2011 from: http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/1994/1994_aelm.aspx

One of the most important documents to come out of APEC yet, this outlines APEC's goals of free trade throughout APEC member economies by 2010 for developed countries and by 2020 for developing countries. Furthermore, it sets as a goal the liberalization of trade with non-APEC states. The APEC website also has a number of other very interesting articles on trade facilitation and tariff and non-tariff measures.

Aggarwal, Vinod and Peter Volberding. (2010) *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC's Future*. *APEC Japan*, 2: 10-13.

³¹ Hu, *APEC: The Challenge of Remaining Relevant*, 2008.

³² Hu, *APEC: The Challenge of Remaining Relevant*, 2008.

³³ Stiglitz, *Freefall: America, Free Markets and the Sinking of the World Economy*, 2010.

³⁴ Stiglitz, *Freefall: America, Free Markets and the Sinking of the World Economy*, 2010.

³⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 2200A (XXI)*, 1966.

United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution A/RES/41/128*, 1986.

United Nations. (2000). *United Nations Millennium Declaration*. A-RES-55-2.

³⁶ Hu, *APEC: The Challenge of Remaining Relevant*, 2008.

A paper written by the director of the APEC Studies Centre at Berkeley, this outlines some suggestions on how the organization may continue working toward its mission while also ensuring it does not become redundant in the international sphere. While the APEC study centre has its own institutional interests, it is useful in highlighting the nature of global dynamics and how their relation to APEC.

Edward, Lincoln J. (2001). *Taking APEC Seriously*. The Brookings Institute. Retrieved September 28, 2011 from: http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2001/12japan_lincoln.aspx

The Brookings Institution, a well-known US foreign policy think-tank, has a number of papers outlining the US interest in a potential FTAAP or other forms of Pacific-Rim economic integration. It is funded by donors including the US government and certain multinational corporations, and on its board of directors sit a variety of former US government officials. It is very useful for providing a US perspective on a number of issues including the role and function of APEC and free trade in the Asia-Pacific region. This particular article outlines US national interest in APEC and how to use the organization to encourage free trade and liberalization of financial markets.

McKay, John. (2002). Successes, Weaknesses, and Future Prospects. In: Singh, Daljit & Smith, Anthony L. (Eds.), *Southeast Asian Affairs 2002* (pp. 42 - 53) Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

Written by the director of the Australian APEC study centre, this article outlines the general history of APEC, including the emergence of its objectives and goals, and then the creation of its programs, in particular the "three pillars" of the organization. It also measures the organization's performance against its stated goals and outlines potential future directions. One particularly notable contention is the author's view on the relation of APEC vis-a-vis ASEAN+3 (ASEAN members, Korea, Japan, and China) in terms of providing a regional forum for cooperation and on security issues in APEC.

Wihardja, Maria Monica. (2011). *2011 East Asia Summit: New members, challenges and opportunities*. East Asia Forum. Retrieved September 28, 2011 from: <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2011/06/01/2011-east-asia-summit-new-members-challenges-and-opportunities/>

The East Asia Summit is an annual forum held by the leaders of East Asian states plus Australia and since 2011 also the United States and Russia. The East Asia Forum website includes a variety of articles, including many which touch on issues such as APEC or various other regional groupings, including this article on the East Asia Summit. It is a useful news resource which will help delegates to stay up-to-date on recent developments in the region.

I. Responding to the Effects of Natural Disasters and Enhancing Emergency Preparedness

Introduction

The Member Economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) are reported to experience over 70% of the world's natural disasters.³⁷ The causes, which include climate change, urbanization and mismanagement of land resources, are expected to increase the vulnerability of the region to more devastating disasters.³⁸ The highly damaging effects due to the lack of coordination and early warning systems in the recent major natural disasters in the region, including the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2010 earthquake in Chile, and the most recent extremely devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in 2011, has put emergency preparedness on the list of key topics on APEC's human security agenda.³⁹

International Frameworks

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) was created in 1999 as a branch of the United Nations Secretariat. Originally, the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction focused on

³⁷ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)*, Achievements.

³⁸ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)*, Achievements.

³⁹ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)*, Achievements.

monitoring the operation of General Assembly *Resolution 54/219* (2000).⁴⁰ General Assembly *Resolution 56/195* (2002) expanded the role of the ISDR to act as a monitoring agency for streamlining disaster risk strategies and working towards their universal implementation.⁴¹ The UNISDR's role further expanded in 2005 under the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015* to act as a supporting and monitoring agency for the implementation efforts of the framework.⁴² In the Asia-Pacific region, the UNISDR has formulated a "five-year roadmap to cope with weather-related hazards in Asia."⁴³ The Incheon roadmap concentrates on three main concepts: (1) to increase knowledge and abilities of the public to respond, (2) to share knowledge and expertise between nations, and (3) to set norms in policy making to better plan for responding to disasters.⁴⁴

The UN *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, a pivotal part of the international framework for disaster risk reduction, documents the discussion and conclusion agreed up by the international community at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in January 2005 in Hyogo, Japan and is the basis for all following frameworks and strategies developed by the APEC Member Economies.⁴⁵ The Framework for Action has its base in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action or the "Yokohama Strategy," which was originally adopted in 1994.⁴⁶ The review of this strategy during the conference identified shortfalls in policy making on a government level, including the understanding of weakness and risks in current strategies, best practices, and proper documentation.⁴⁷

The Framework for Action established five priorities with key activities as guidelines for the successful implementation of the framework. First, disaster risk reduction strategies must be institutionalized in country public policy.⁴⁸ The key activities include developing community participation, effective resource management, and integrating national and legislative frameworks.⁴⁹ Second, there is a need to significantly improve early warning systems through the thorough evaluation of risks capacity building of national institutions.⁵⁰ The third priority focuses on the value of education to prepare communities and increase their level of awareness by using schools and community centers as focal points for knowledge sharing.⁵¹ In order to address the issues of inadequate infrastructure, the fourth priority draws attention to the preparedness of emergency supply centers including hospitals.⁵² The fifth and final priority listed in the *Hyogo Framework for Action* focuses mainly on the systematic development of policy and national action plans in order to strengthen response mechanisms at all levels.⁵³

The 2010-2011 Midterm Review of the *Hyogo Framework for Action*, facilitated by the UNISDR, reported an overall uneven progress in the Disaster Relief Reduction (DRR) systems, especially related to early warning systems and response preparedness.⁵⁴ In addition, there are areas with major gaps in development, including the integration of DRR policy with policy addressing climate change and humanitarian aid plans.⁵⁵ Other areas that have been outlined in the review focus on improving the awareness drive activities on the ground by creating tools and education materials in local languages.⁵⁶ UNISDR calls for a joint plan of action to address these shortfalls in the progress of implementation of the priorities outlined in the Hyogo Frame for Action.⁵⁷

⁴⁰ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Our Mandate*.

⁴¹ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Our Mandate*.

⁴² United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Our Mandate*.

⁴³ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Our Mandate*.

⁴⁴ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Our Mandate*.

⁴⁵ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, Preamble.

⁴⁶ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p. 2.

⁴⁷ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p. 2.

⁴⁸ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005.

⁴⁹ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p. 6.

⁵⁰ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p. 7.

⁵¹ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p. 9.

⁵² United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p. 10.

⁵³ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p. 12.

⁵⁴ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Midterm Review* 2011, p. 19.

⁵⁵ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Midterm Review* 2011, p. 69.

⁵⁶ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Midterm Review* 2011, p. 70.

⁵⁷ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Midterm Review* 2011, p. 70.

UNISDR also conducted a review in 2011 of the progress of the five priorities set by the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Asia-Pacific region.⁵⁸ The findings also show uneven progress towards the initiatives set out by the framework. UNISDR reported that against the first priority there is little progress towards institutionalizing DRR into policy development in the region, including inadequate budgeting for national DRR programs.⁵⁹ As it pertains to the second priority, the region is lacking in development of proper “hazard and risk mapping.”⁶⁰ In relation, there is a need for better regional cooperation in strengthened regional early warning systems.⁶¹ The UNISDR review found that there is significant room for improvement on the streamlining of knowledge sharing mechanisms. The review also found little progress towards achieving the fourth priority that puts an emphasis on the importance of linking DRR policy and climate change policies on both a regional and national level.⁶² The overall adequate progress of the regions implementation of the framework is also reflected in the stagnate implementation of the fifth priority towards of developing comprehensive strategies.⁶³

Current APEC Policy Frameworks

APEC Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia-Pacific Region APEC Senior Officials adopted the APEC Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region in 2005 along with the creation of the APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP).⁶⁴ The strategy seeks to establish cooperative efforts amongst APEC Member Economies and other regional entities in order to better equip the region for responding to and preparing for natural disasters. It is important to note that the strategy paper clearly states, “APEC is not, nor will it likely become, a major aid delivery or disaster management organization, and this strategy does not seek to expand APEC activities into these areas.”

The core objectives of this strategy are rooted in the ability of Member Economies to fully utilize all resources available to them under the membership of the regional body and to bring together several levels of intervention to support those economies effected by natural disasters.⁶⁵ The first objective is increasing the level of knowledge sharing and best practices strategies. The information shared should focus on “human and economic costs” of a natural disaster and the intensities of damaged based on the level of preparedness.⁶⁶ Member Economies would be able to use the knowledge disseminated for developing national awareness campaigns and preparedness strategies. The second objective is to identify the gaps in disaster risk reduction.⁶⁷ The third objective will focus on community level initiatives to raise preparedness levels.⁶⁸ Putting a strong emphasis in preparing Member Economies populations and making each individual at all levels of society aware and emphasizing the importance of involving civil society organizations.⁶⁹

The Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness proposes seven initiatives that provide Member Economies with a guideline of the types of steps that are necessary for the successful development of a

⁵⁸ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p.70.

⁵⁹ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *HFA Progress in Asia Pacific: Regional Synthesis Report 2009-2011*, 2011, p. ii.

⁶⁰ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *HFA Progress in Asia Pacific: Regional Synthesis Report 2009-2011*, 2011, p. ii.

⁶¹ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *HFA Progress in Asia Pacific: Regional Synthesis Report 2009-2011*, 2011, p. ii.

⁶² United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *HFA Progress in Asia Pacific: Regional Synthesis Report 2009-2011*, 2011, p. iii.

⁶³ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *HFA Progress in Asia Pacific: Regional Synthesis Report 2009-2011*, 2011, p. iii.

⁶⁴ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, Aims and Objectives.

⁶⁵ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.5.

⁶⁶ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.5.

⁶⁷ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.5.

⁶⁸ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.5.

⁶⁹ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.6.

comprehensive policy.⁷⁰ The focus of the first initiative is the completion of an extensive field assessment of the “economic and social costs of disasters and projection for future disasters” in the region.⁷¹ Through qualitative and quantitative studies the body will have a better understanding of the economic and human security damage that can occur, in addition to the identification of the enterprises that are most susceptible to damage.⁷² Second, with heavy emphasis on the multiple occurrences of highly damaging Tsunamis in the region this initiative will establish the weaknesses in tsunami early warning systems. Based on the positive results of the ‘Tourism and Risk Management Strategy’ developed by the APEC Centre for Sustainable Tourism (AICST), the third initiative will produce risk management ‘packages’ for Member Economies in all local languages. Fourth, is the initiative to strengthen ties and create joint efforts between private and non-governmental organizations.⁷³ The fifth initiative looks towards creating connections between disaster preparedness information systems in the region in order to increase the availability of data and replicated best practices.⁷⁴ The sixth initiative addresses the issues of community awareness through the development of a “Disaster Preparedness Guide” for distribution to small and medium enterprises throughout the APEC region at all local levels.⁷⁵ The final initiative suggested in the strategy takes a specific look at better preparing businesses that are particularly at-risk in the event of a natural disaster.⁷⁶

APEC Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation (2008)

The APEC Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation were formalized in 2008 concluding the Senior Officials’ Meeting in Lima Peru.⁷⁷ The principles are defined in two categories and are comprised of basic rules for successfully preparing for natural disasters on different levels.⁷⁸ For individual Member Economies, heavy emphasis is given to the disaster risk management as an integral part of policy development and good governance strategies.⁷⁹ Concentrating on the capacities government facilities, it is important to have all organizations from military to civil society agencies well prepared and ready to collectively take action in the event of a disaster.⁸⁰

The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)

APEC considers emergency preparedness as one of its principle components in its Human Security Agenda due to its increased impact on multiple Member Economies.⁸¹ APEC Senior Officials established the Emergency Preparedness Working Group, originally known as APEC’s Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP), in 2010 with the mandate to “coordinate and facilitate emergency and disaster preparedness within APEC.”⁸² The EPWG’s work is administrative in nature, and the Group coordinates larger efforts made by the Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation.⁸³ The Emergency Preparedness Working Group is the organizational agency for APEC’s Emergency Preparedness activities, including roundtable meetings, seminars, workshops, and symposiums on a range of issues, including “responding to climate change to disaster resilience.”⁸⁴ Recently, in March 2011, the working group met in Washington, DC to discuss how to increase collaboration, better

⁷⁰ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.14.

⁷¹ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.14.

⁷² Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.14.

⁷³ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.15.

⁷⁴ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.15.

⁷⁵ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.15.

⁷⁶ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p.16.

⁷⁷ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p. 15.

⁷⁸ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p. 15.

⁷⁹ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region*, 2008, p. 15.

⁸⁰ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *APEC Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation*, 2008, p. 1.

⁸¹ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)*, Achievements.

⁸² Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)*, Achievements.

⁸³ Senior Officials’ Meeting 1, *Terms of Reference for Task Force Emergency Preparedness (TFEP)*, 2008.

⁸⁴ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)*, Current Activities

evolve with technology, and provide better services for Member Economies.⁸⁵

APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum

The first APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Seminar was held in Cairns, Australia in 2008.⁸⁶ The forum is designed to serve as a venue for Member Economies to discuss the most relevant issues related to disaster response systems and share best practices.⁸⁷ The forum also serves as an opportunity for the TFEP to discuss ideas and problem-solving techniques with other international organizations in both the private and public sector.⁸⁸

Recognizing the need for continued planning and cooperative efforts regarding emergency preparedness and enhancing response mechanisms within the region, the Emergency Management CEOs Forum is scheduled to occur annually until 2013.⁸⁹ The 2008 meeting agenda focused on two main topics: the development of a "strategy for disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response in the Asia Pacific Region 2009-2015" and "building business and community resilience."⁹⁰ The meeting held in 2009 in Vietnam focused on the strengthening of public and private partnership to increase the capacity of business to protect themselves during emergency situations.⁹¹ Additionally, emphasized is the early-warning systems and disaster risk reduction (DRR), including climate change adaption and understanding the effects of climate change on disaster predictability.⁹²

Case Study: The 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami

The December 26, 2004, Indian Ocean earthquake that hit the western Sumatra Islands measured at 9.0 on the Richter scale.⁹³ The earthquake aftershocks triggered a series of tidal waves causing a tsunami that was reported to have traveled at over 600 km/ph.⁹⁴ Aceh, Indonesia was the hardest hit along with Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar.⁹⁵ The tsunami eventually reached Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives, and even Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Yemen.⁹⁶ The total death toll exceeded 280,000 people, with 7,800 missing and over 2.4 million people affected.⁹⁷ The most vulnerable groups included those depending on fisheries and agriculture, including women and socially marginalized communities.⁹⁸

UNISDR identified preliminary lessons learned from the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in the weeks following. The first was the obvious lesson learned of the intense vulnerability of the region.⁹⁹ The second was the need to reassess the increased vulnerability due to the dependence on costal land and livelihoods.¹⁰⁰ The lessons identified reported "public awareness" as a defining factor in many of the cases of survival, stating the community leaders were able to prepare their people to evacuate to safety.¹⁰¹ The relation the lessons also outlined the lack of

⁸⁵ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), Current Activities*.

⁸⁶ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *2008 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*, 2008, p. 2.

⁸⁷ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *2009 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*, 2009, p. 2.

⁸⁸ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *2009 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*, 2009, p. 2.

⁸⁹ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *2009 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*, 2009, p. 4.

⁹⁰ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *2009 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*, 2008, p. 3.

⁹¹ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *2009 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*, 2009 p. 6.

⁹² Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *2009 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*, 2009 p. 6.

⁹³ United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, *Moving Forward Post-Tsunami; voices of the vulnerable*, 2006, p. xiv.

⁹⁴ United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, *Moving Forward Post-Tsunami; voices of the vulnerable*, 2006, p. xiv.

⁹⁵ United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, *Moving Forward Post-Tsunami; voices of the vulnerable*, 2006, p. xiv.

⁹⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, *Moving Forward Post-Tsunami; voices of the vulnerable*, 2006, p. xiv.

⁹⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, *Moving Forward Post-Tsunami; voices of the vulnerable*, 2006, p. xiv.

⁹⁸ United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, *Moving Forward Post-Tsunami; voices of the vulnerable*, 2006, p. xv.

⁹⁹ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *10 preliminary lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004*, 2005, p. 1.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *10 preliminary lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004*, 2005, p. 1.

¹⁰¹ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *10 preliminary lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004*, 2005, p. 1.

national and regional early warning systems.¹⁰² Relief efforts also lacked in coordination between national governments and civil society organizations.¹⁰³ The low levels of preparedness on a national level resulted in some important lessons learnt in the coordination of activities not only in aid distribution but also in policy making and the use of resources such as media and technology for early warning systems.¹⁰⁴

The most significant step towards progress in the early warning systems after the 2004 tsunami has been the establishment of the Tsunami Warning System (TWS) in the Indian Ocean.¹⁰⁵ The Pacific TWS was established in 1965 in response to the number of tsunami related natural disasters in the region.¹⁰⁶ However, the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) was not put into place until after the devastating 2004 tsunami. The TWS sends data regarding the sea level and activity to the national warning centers, which then transmits that data to a regional seismic station that analyzes the reports to the countries on the disaster situation.¹⁰⁷

The Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) completed the specialized study in Thailand in 2008. “Women in Times of Disaster” extensively outlines the major inefficiencies in the disaster preparedness and relief efforts of the Member Economies affected by the 2004 Tsunami.¹⁰⁸ In Thailand the death toll reached beyond 5,000 with the majority of those affected women.¹⁰⁹ The study outlines the shortfalls of inadequately preparing community members on evacuation routes and improper shelters and aid distribution techniques.¹¹⁰ Suggested interventions that are aimed and better preparing not only women but all members of the vulnerable groups include awareness and capacity building, implementing lessons learned, organizing gender disaggregated data, and making extra efforts to include women in the decision making and planning processes at the national DRR policy level.¹¹¹ It is important to note: *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015* identifies the necessity of a gender sensitive strategy for disaster response as an essential aspect of designing and implementing a successful disaster preparedness strategy.¹¹²

Current APEC Projects

Member Economies through the APEC forum implement projects that address identified needs in areas such as capacity building for fellow Member Economies and implementing planned projects towards bridging the gap in those identified areas.¹¹³ Projects are proposed and funded by Member Economies with organizational support provided by the APEC secretariat.¹¹⁴ A 2010 project “Hazard Mapping and Risk Vulnerability Assessment (RVA)” focused on provided specialized training as a three day capacity building workshop on implementation strategies for DRR. Each Member Economy participated with two representatives on the national DRR strategies. The objective of the project was to develop the skills of the participants with through the sharing of best practices and learning

¹⁰² United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *10 preliminary lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004*, 2005, p. 1.

¹⁰³ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *10 preliminary lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004*, 2005, p. 1.

¹⁰⁴ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *10 preliminary lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004*, 2005, p. 2.

¹⁰⁵ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, *Five years after the tsunami in the Indian Ocean; from strategy to implementation*, 2010, p. 6.

¹⁰⁶ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, *Five years after the tsunami in the Indian Ocean; from strategy to implementation*, 2010, p. 6.

¹⁰⁷ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, *Five years after the tsunami in the Indian Ocean; from strategy to implementation*, 2010, p. 15.

¹⁰⁸ Sustainable Development Foundation, *Women in Times of Disaster; The Integration of Gender Issues and Gender Perspectives in Disaster Management*, 2009, p. x-xi.

¹⁰⁹ Sustainable Development Foundation, *Women in Times of Disaster; The Integration of Gender Issues and Gender Perspectives in Disaster Management*, 2009, p. x-xi.

¹¹⁰ Sustainable Development Foundation, *Women in Times of Disaster; The Integration of Gender Issues and Gender Perspectives in Disaster Management*, 2009, p. xi.

¹¹¹ Sustainable Development Foundation, *Women in Times of Disaster; The Integration of Gender Issues and Gender Perspectives in Disaster Management*, 2009, p. xvii-xviii.

¹¹² United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, 2005, p. 4.

¹¹³ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Project Proposal: APEC Workshop on Hazard Mapping and Risk and Vulnerability Assessment*, 2010.

¹¹⁴ Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, *Project Proposal: APEC Workshop on Hazard Mapping and Risk and Vulnerability Assessment*, 2010.

tools.¹¹⁵ The most recent project in addressing the ability of Member Economies to effectively implement response systems is developed in the “School Earthquake Safety in APEC Economies: Reducing Risks and Improving Preparedness.”¹¹⁶ In line with the priorities identified during the APEC Emergency Management CEOs meeting the project intends on developing the capacity of Member Economies through a two day workshop to share learning and best practices with the entities involved in developing policy specific to disaster preparedness awareness in schools and local communities.¹¹⁷

Conclusion

The Midterm review of the overall progress towards achieving the goals on emergency preparedness set out by the Hyogo Framework for Action clearly identifies major gaps in the rate of progress towards developing stronger emergency preparedness strategies with in the region. Although, there are some areas of progress including the education initiative in schools there is still a need to aggressively take on the challenges of building community awareness and developing systematic early warning systems. Developing policies with a gender sensitive perspective is also essential to the sustainability and effectiveness of awareness campaigns and relief efforts. Corporate social responsibility and participation in emergency preparedness activities is also essential to creating comprehensive solutions. During the committee’s discussion on this topic, it is important to address why there are significant shortfalls in the development towards implementing the *Hyogo Framework for Action* in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, delegates should seek a much broader sense of natural disaster response by understanding the linkages to climate change.

Annotated Bibliography

I. Responding to the Effects of Natural Disasters and Enhancing Emergency Preparedness

APEC Task Force on Emergency Preparedness. (2008). Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region: 2009 to 2015 (TFEP 04/2008A). Retrieved September 1, 2011, from http://aimp.apec.org/Documents/2008/TFEP/TFEP1/08_tfep1_012.pdf

This publication outlines the basic policies for disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness agreed upon by the APEC Member Economies as a whole. It provides the committee with an understanding of the extent of policy making by APEC to date and emphasis the priority areas of work that need to be completed. It is an outcome of the 2008 Emergency Management CEOs’ Forum.

APEC Task Force on Emergency Preparedness. (2008). *APEC Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation*. Retrieved September 1, 2011, from http://www.apec.org/Home/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/~media/Files/Groups/EPWG/08_csom_020.ashx

The Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation outlines the basic principles for developing response systems for APEC Member Economies. These principles are agreed upon by APEC Member Economies and therefore are a good base for further developing and detailing action for disaster response. This document provides an insight into the direction of policy development that APEC Member Economies must take in order to address the situation.

Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF). (2009). “Women in Times of Disaster”: *The Integration of Gender Issues and Gender Perspectives in Disaster Management*. Retrieved September 22, 2011, from http://publications.apec.org/publication-detail.php?pub_id=167

This study done in collaboration with APEC is an in-depth look at the shortfalls in disaster preparedness and response strategy of those countries hit by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. It

¹¹⁵ Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP), *School Earthquake Safety in APEC Economies: Reducing Risk and Improving Preparedness*, 2010, p. 1.

¹¹⁶ Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP), *School Earthquake Safety in APEC Economies: Reducing Risk and Improving Preparedness*, 2010, p. 1.

¹¹⁷ Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP), *School Earthquake Safety in APEC Economies: Reducing Risk and Improving Preparedness*, 2010, p. 1.

outlines the lack of community awareness efforts before hand and the organizational and structural issues associated with the distribution of aid in the aftermath. Most importantly, it gives an analysis of why this tsunami and other natural disaster effect devastate women very strongly.

Task Force on Emergency Preparedness. (2008). *2008 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*. Retrieved September 1, 2011, from http://www.apec.org/Home/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working_Groups/~media/Files/Groups/EPWG/2008_OutcomesReport_ashx

2008 saw a number of policy developments on disaster response from the APEC community, many as a result of the pilot Emergency management CEOs' Forum. This forum is an opportunity for focused discussion on emergency preparedness not only for Member Economies but private business and civil society organizations. The outcomes report summarizes the points and decisions made during the forum sessions.

Task Force on Emergency Preparedness. (2009). *2009 Outcomes Report APEC Emergency Management CEOs' Forum*. Retrieved on September 1, 2011, from http://publications.apec.org/publication-detail.php?pub_id=987

As a continuation of CEOs' Forum, 2009's sessions focused on developing concrete action plans and identifying priority areas for awareness and policy-making. The outcomes report summarizes the points and decisions made during the forum sessions. The recent meeting overview the progress made and outlines specific strategies such as the school education programs.

United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific. (2006). *Moving Forward Post-Tsunami: Voices of the Vulnerable*. Retrieved September 22, 2011, from <http://www.unescap.org/ESID/publications/2410.pdf>

This publication by UNESCAP was one of the first publications post-tsunami to examine the affect of the tsunami due to pre-existing social conditions of the marginalized communities. The report identifies the different types of vulnerable groups including women and migrant workers and identifies their issues. The report is the product of interview sessions with victims and qualitative assessments of the aftermath.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. (2005). *10 preliminary lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004*. Retrieved on September 22, 2011, from <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/5605>

This is a short but impactful list of immediate observations in the flaws in the level of preparedness and response mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The UNISDR provides preliminary analysis on the level of vulnerability that Pacific and Indian Ocean countries face. It also outlined the major shortcoming of the effected nations response systems.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. (2011). *HFA Progress in Asia Pacific; Regional Synthesis Report 2009-2011*. Retrieved September 22, 2011, from <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/21158>

This report is an intensive look at the Asia-Pacific region's progress on achievement of goals set out by the Hyogo Framework for Action. This report looks at the progress of the region as against the five priorities set by the Hyogo Framework. . The document provides good insight on the gaps in policy making and the methods that Member Economies might use to address these issues.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. (2005). *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*. Retrieved September 1, 2011, from <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/42b98a704.html>

The Hyogo Framework for Action is the base document for the APEC Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response and the Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation. It is also a landmark document for worldwide development of disaster response policy-making efforts. The five main priorities outlined in the framework are internationally agreed upon guidelines for developing DRR strategies; these priority areas are the measureable standards for progress reviews.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. (2011). *Hyogo Framework for Action; Midterm Review 2010-2011*. Retrieved September 22, 2011, from <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/18197>

The review of the international framework provides information on the status of the world development towards effective DRR systems. The midterm review goes over the five priorities and examines their global progress individually. The review provides analysis and recommendations for the further development of policies and identifies the steps that need to be taken to fully implement the HFA.

II. Regional Economic Integration and a Free Trade Area of the Pacific (FTAAP)

Introduction

Given the important role of trade liberalization in APEC's mandate, a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) is often cited as one of its eventual aims.¹¹⁸ Yet due to recent changes in the geopolitical climate and the economic crisis in 2008 many now question the relevance of not only the FTAAP in particular but also APEC's trade liberalization mandate more generally.¹¹⁹ While greater economic partnership in the Asia-Pacific is likely, the modes and mechanisms of such cooperation are still heavily contested given the disparate economic and political interests of the countries involved.

Definition of FTAs

A free-trade agreement is a "contractual agreement between two or more countries under which they give each other preferential market access".¹²⁰ Creating a free-trade area (FTA) means that within a group of states tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers are generally abolished but it does not include the creation of a common trade policy towards non-members of that free-trade area.¹²¹ Free-trade areas abolish barriers such as custom duties and measures such as import bans or quotas that restrict quantities selectively.¹²² It covers substantially all the trade in goods between the states of the FTA; modern FTAs also cover trade in services as well as other non-tariff issues such as the recognition of standards, customs cooperation, protection of intellectual property (IP) rights and regulation of foreign investments.¹²³

Structure of an FTAAP

An FTAAP would create the largest free trade area in the world, connecting such countries as economically and politically diverse as the US, China, and Brunei into one large trading block. However, the prospective membership of a possible FTAAP has not been discussed in the framework of APEC.¹²⁴ Such a free trade area could be created through a trade agreement connecting all interested countries into one area eliminating tariffs, import quotas, and preferences on most (if not all) goods and services traded.¹²⁵ Well-known free trade areas are the European Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), although these would differ from an FTAAP as the latter would be created after the WTO which means it would be subject to WTO rules.¹²⁶ Regional trade agreements (RTAs) can often be trade-diverting which may lead to global efficiency losses, and thus the WTO holds a guiding principle of non-discrimination defined in Article I of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Article II of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and elsewhere. Thus, since the creation of the WTO, new free trade areas must be eligible for an exception to these rules; with one possible exemption for the FTAAP being Paragraphs 4 to 10 of Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which outlines requirements for the creation of a free trade area.¹²⁷ A large and diverse literature exists on the economic and political implications of RTAs in theory and practice

¹¹⁸ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *Fact Sheets: Regional Economic Integration Agenda*, 2011.

¹¹⁹ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC's Future*, 2010.

¹²⁰ Association of South-East Asian Nations, *Glossary*, 2011.

¹²¹ OECD, *Glossary of Statistical Terms*, 1999.

¹²² World Trade Organization, *Principles of the trading system*, 2011.

¹²³ Association of South-East Asian Nations, *Glossary*, 2011.

¹²⁴ APEC, *Further Analytical Study on the Likely Economic Impact of an FTAAP*, p. 8.

¹²⁵ General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), *Article XXIV*, 1994.

¹²⁶ World Trade Organization, *Regional Trade Agreements: Rules*, 2011.

¹²⁷ General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) *Article XXIV*, 1994.

Two Trade Policy Dialogues were held in 2009 on a possible future FTAAP also exploring how an FTAAP could be implemented. One of the possibilities discussed at these meetings was the merging of FTAs and RTAs based on APEC studies of the levels of convergence and divergence in FTAs between the member economies of APEC.¹²⁸ There are already several trade agreements in place in the region which include several members of APEC: NAFTA, China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Partnership Agreement, Korea-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) and the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (P4 Agreement).¹²⁹ In addition there are a number of suggested or proposed plurilateral agreements: East Asia Free Trade Agreement between ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea, Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) and the Expansion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).¹³⁰

A study for APEC led by Korea in 2009 identified specific benefits and challenges for APEC economies in creating an FTAAP. The study concludes that there are four policy options for the members of APEC to implement an FTAAP: 1) a comprehensive application of tariff elimination in goods trade under the legal provision of GATT Article XXIV; 2) enhancing trade facilitation; 3) liberalization of services traded; 4) simplifying rules of origin (RoO) by adopting a full cumulation scheme.¹³¹

Trade Agreement and Long-term Development

In the years leading up to APEC's creation in 1989, free trade was purported as one of the most important projects of the modern economy.¹³² The case for free trade is simple, with a basis in Adam Smith's theory of the invisible hand and David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage.¹³³ The proposition that if presented with a free, unhindered economic market, the invisible hand will guide individual actors to make efficient choices toward producing what is in their comparative (rather than absolute) advantage is the core theory on free trade.¹³⁴ Since the late 1980s this logic has increasingly been applied at the international level.¹³⁵ Some economists have asserted that there is a theoretical and scientific consensus within the discipline that if countries are allowed to pursue their own comparative advantage at an internationally then important efficiency gains will ensue.¹³⁶

Yet since the late 1980s when free-market economics was at its peak in terms of intellectual popularity, the intellectual climate has changed considerably, especially with the recognition of failed liberalization projects in post-Soviet Union states and the global financial crisis in 2008.¹³⁷ Disillusionment with the way these efficiency gains have been distributed, or the relationship between financial crises and financial liberalization, may have been part of the impetus for recent Occupy Wall Street protests.¹³⁸ This movement protests the bailout of Wall Street in 2008; the protesters claim that banks are making huge profits while the average population suffers under high unemployment and job insecurity with little support from the federal government.¹³⁹

Despite the global financial crisis the members of APEC have consistently confirmed their commitment to establishing a free trade area in the Asia-Pacific. The Lima Declaration which was the result of the APEC Leader's Meeting in the capital of Peru in 2008 stresses their goals of opening their economies, promoting growth, and supporting the Doha Round as regards global trade liberalization.¹⁴⁰ The Doha Round is the framework in which trade negotiations among the members of the WTO take place; the goal is to reach agreements on lower trade

¹²⁸ APEC, *Free Trade Agreements and Regional Trading Agreements*, 2011.

¹²⁹ APEC, *Further Analytical Study on the Likely Economic Impact of an FTAAP*, 2009, pp. 3-6.

¹³⁰ APEC, *Further Analytical Study on the Likely Economic Impact of an FTAAP*, 2009, pp. 6-9.

¹³¹ APEC, *Further Analytical Study on the Likely Economic Impact of an FTAAP*, 2009, p. 31.

¹³² Stiglitz, *Freefall*, 2010.

¹³³ Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, 1776.

Ricardo, *On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, 1817.

¹³⁴ Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, 1776.

Ricardo, *On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, 1817.

¹³⁵ Stiglitz, *Freefall*, 2010.

¹³⁶ Fuller /Geide-Stevenson, *Consensus Among Economists: Revisited*, 2003.

¹³⁷ Stiglitz, *Freefall*, 2010.

¹³⁸ Karimi/Sterling, *Occupy protests spread around the world: 70 injured in Rome*, 2011.

¹³⁹ Egan/Berkowitz, *Occupy Wall Street, the start of a new protest era?* 2011.

¹⁴⁰ Chilean Library of Congress, *APEC 2008: Commitment to free trade reaffirmed*, 2008.

barriers and revision of trade rules.¹⁴¹ Reaffirming this commitment to forming a free trade area was even seen as an effective mechanism in response to the financial crisis especially regarding the slow pace of the Doha Round.¹⁴²

Regional Trade Agreements

As the nature of the WTO and RTAs is to limit the ability of governments to interfere with domestic markets in order to ensure stability and predictability for trade partners, it means that similarly governments may not be able to respond to democratic demands of their citizens including for provision of health care, environmental regulations, or even economic development.¹⁴³

From the perspective of economic efficiency, some assert that the key point missed by a narrow focus on Ricardo's anachronistic theory is that it is not only comparative advantage but *dynamic* comparative advantage that must be encouraged in order to spur economic development.¹⁴⁴ As industrial development is key to economic development (e.g. moving up the value chain from agriculture to manufacturing), some argue that in order to encourage such industrial development targeted government policies are necessary.¹⁴⁵ One Cambridge economist even argues that the WTO and North-South RTAs (e.g. the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) or a potential FTAAP) may present obstacles to economic growth as they are argued to have "kicked out the ladder of development."¹⁴⁶ For example, some of these strategies historically useful but now inadmissible under WTO regulations are: tariff sequencing, export subsidies, local content requirements, and selective patents.¹⁴⁷ Some of these have little to do with what is traditionally thought of as trade, for example local content requirements are banned through investment provisions of the WTO and other RTA as are selective patents through IP provisions. The relevance of these issues to trade is debatable with even the mandatory WTO Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) agreement, being criticized by a well-known University of Columbia free trade advocate as "[having] to do with collecting royalties, not with trade."¹⁴⁸ Moreover, some assert that North-South RTAs, bilateral investment treaties (BITs) and WTO commitments often contain provisions that may not only increase the likelihood of a financial crisis but can also make it more difficult for governments to institute the necessary recovery measures once it occurs.¹⁴⁹ While RTAs will necessarily restrict the ability of governments to interfere with domestic markets in order to ensure stability and predictability for trade partners, the balance between this important goal and the policy space necessary for governments to promote economic development (among other environmental or health-related goals) is worth considering.

Many technical issues ranging from what provisions to include in an RTA (contested ones are often investment provisions, IP and government procurement), the nature or modalities of those provisions (e.g. a negative or positive list), or the type of dispute settlement mechanism are all highly contentious. These determine not only sectoral trade-offs but inter- and intra-national distribution of gains. The process and end result of these RTAs varies significantly depending on the nature of the negotiating parties and their economies so the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has suggested that developing countries act with more caution when pursuing North-South RTAs rather than South-South RTAs.¹⁵⁰ Power disparities may also play a role in the negotiating process which may affect eventual outcomes.¹⁵¹

Within the context of the UN, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also address the question of free trade and its benefits for developing countries. Goal 8 of the MDGs which aims for the development of a global partnership for development also addresses the question of free-trade and its effects for developing states. Target A of MDG 8 calls for the development of an open, rule-based, predictable, and non-discriminatory trading and financial system; target B addresses the special needs of the least-developed countries, specifically including tariff and quota-free access for least-developed countries' exports.¹⁵²

¹⁴¹ World Trade Organization, *The Doha Round*, 2011.

¹⁴² Chilean Library of Congress, *APEC 2008: Commitment to free trade reaffirmed*, 2008.

¹⁴³ Chang, *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*, 2008.

¹⁴⁴ Chang, *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*, 2008.

¹⁴⁵ Chang, *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*, 2008.

¹⁴⁶ Chang, *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*, 2008.

¹⁴⁷ DiCaprio/Gallagher, *The WTO and the Shrinking of Development Space—How Big is the Bite?*, 2006.

¹⁴⁸ Bhagwati, *Termites in the Trading System: How Preferential Agreements Undermine Free Trade*, 2008.

¹⁴⁹ Third World Network, *A preliminary note on financial crisis and trade and investment treaties*, 2009.

¹⁵⁰ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Competition Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements*, 2006.

¹⁵¹ United Nations Development Program, *The Great Maze: Regional and Bilateral Free Trade Agreements in Asia*, 2005.

¹⁵² UNCTAD/ITC/WTO, *The Millennium Development Goals*, 2011.

The FTAAP and other RTAs: catalysts or competitors?

The slow progress towards a FTA and lack of significant trade concessions in the structure of APEC results from diverse interests and differing approaches in the region towards free trade.¹⁵³ A study from the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies points out that rather than focusing on and pursuing an APEC model of a free-trade area the members are characterized by several competing approaches to free trade which results from diverse domestic interests and complex strategic and tactical alliances.¹⁵⁴

Despite some skepticism about the benefits of RTAs, since the creation of the WTO there has been a “spaghetti bowl” of 489 RTAs notified to the organization, and many existing or being negotiated among APEC members.¹⁵⁵ The most notable of these is ASEAN which developed an RTA in 1992 and has since negotiated RTAs with Japan, China, among other Asian countries.¹⁵⁶ Similarly, the US and Australia have both signed RTAs with many APEC partners and with each other.¹⁵⁷ Although these agreements all have important trade implications for various APEC members, the TPP currently being negotiated is the most relevant due to its broad scope.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement

The TPP, originally a very small agreement signed in 2005 among Brunei, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore, is being modified to incorporate five additional countries - Australia, Malaysia, Peru, the US and Vietnam.¹⁵⁸ Although its original members only constitute 0.8 Percent of the world’s GDP and 2.2 Percent of global trade, it could potentially be the largest free trade area in the world if the US government meets its objective of eventually expanding it to “a high-standard, broad-based regional pact.”¹⁵⁹ Once negotiations are complete, nearly half of APEC’s membership will be included as part of the agreement and thus the TPP vis-a-vis APEC and its goal of a FTAPP is often seen as either a catalyst or competitor.¹⁶⁰ On one hand, the TPP generally encouraging the spirit of free trade may act as a catalyst to further the free trade agenda in the region. Yet on the other hand, some have interpreted the US administration’s 2009 statement cited above to mean that the TPP would eventually include most if not all APEC members and therefore make an APEC-negotiated FTAAP redundant.¹⁶¹

Individual country perspectives vary on this issue, even among those who are expected to sign the final TPP agreement very soon.¹⁶² The US administration faces domestic pressure at home as critics of the TPP argue that US President Obama is going against his campaign pledges to reconsider elements of NAFTA (especially on investment, labor, and environment) and turn around the free-trade policy of George W. Bush.¹⁶³ Also, Australia and the US will likely face considerable obstacles given their disparate perspectives on an investor-state dispute settlement mechanism.¹⁶⁴ The UN Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has recently come out with a study that the economic impact of the TPP will be limited as most countries already have bilateral trade agreements with those involved, and that Latin American countries must carefully consider the risks involved in making concessions regarding intellectual property (IP) and investment.¹⁶⁵ The UN study has also highlighted the fact that in terms of US policy toward the TPP, the US also has a strong defensive interest in “preempting or building a counterweight to a purely Asian bloc,” meaning that other strong Asian leaders may also be unlikely to lend their legitimacy to the agreement. - also doesn’t bode well for FTAAP.

A surfeit of other regional groupings exists, including the East Asian Community (EAC), and ASEAN+X cooperative mechanisms, all of whom are or may be interested in trade liberalization. Among this maze of

¹⁵³ Sato, *Free-Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific*, 2004, p. 219.

¹⁵⁴ Sato, *Free-Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific*, 2004, p. 219.

¹⁵⁵ World Trade Organization, *Regional Trade Agreements*, 2011.

¹⁵⁶ Association of South-East Asian Nations, *AFTA & FTAs*, 2011.

¹⁵⁷ Office of the United States Trade Representative, *United States and Australia Sign Free Trade Agreement*, 2004 .

¹⁵⁸ Office of the United States Trade Representative, *Trans-pacific partnership announcement*, 2009.

¹⁵⁹ Zhang, *The TPP Enlargement and US Intentions*, 2011.

Office of the United States Trade Representative, *Trans-pacific partnership announcement*, 2009.

¹⁶⁰ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC’s Future*, 2010.

¹⁶¹ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC’s Future*, 2010.

Office of the United States Trade Representative, *Trans-pacific partnership announcement*, 2009

¹⁶² APEC, *The Mutual Usefulness between APEC and TPP*, 2011.

¹⁶³ Gallagher/Wise, *The false promise of Obama’s trade deals*, 2011.

¹⁶⁴ Gallagher/Timothy Wise, *The false promise of Obama’s trade deals*, 2011.

¹⁶⁵ Gallagher/Wise, *The false promise of Obama’s trade deals*, 2011.

organizations vying for the spot of most powerful economic cooperative body, shifting geopolitics is a notable trend that will likely play heavily into the end result. For instance, according to the Berkeley APEC Study Centre Vinod Aggarwal, “the TPP is usually viewed as a vehicle for increased US influence, while Japan’s EAC has emphasized the renewed role of Tokyo;” how regional power dynamics influence future cooperation is yet to be seen. China is also clearly vying for the position of regional hub and a think tank connected to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated that the TPP “will negatively impact the East Asian cooperation process and the economic growth of East Asian countries.”¹⁶⁶

Thus even strong supporters of APEC, including V. Aggarwal are not convinced of APEC’s importance in the creation of an FTAAP, arguing, “APEC doesn’t have to serve as the exclusive forum to negotiate an agreement.”¹⁶⁷ Instead, Aggarwal suggests that APEC can rely on other trading blocs, including the TPP or EAC if they were viable.¹⁶⁸ Thus if an FTAAP is determined to be a feasible long-term goal for the Asia-Pacific region, geopolitical interests at play in terms of negotiating forum will likely remain an important factor. Since its inception APEC has developed an approach towards a free-trade agreement which consists of a combination of highly publicized annual summit meetings, less publicized but more tangible trade ministers meetings and numerous and sectionalized technical meetings.¹⁶⁹ The APEC member economies emphasize voluntarism and consensus building as the appropriate method of decision-making.¹⁷⁰

Conclusion

The ambitious goals of APEC upon its inception, and reflected through the Bogor Goals, are closely aligned with the case for the creation of an FTAAP. An agreement encompassing APEC economies would potentially be the largest trade liberalization agreement in history after the creation of the WTO as APEC member countries control half of world trade, account for 60 Percent of the global economy, and are home to nearly 3 billion people.¹⁷¹ Yet the most fundamental dilemma facing APEC at the moment is the value of this ambitious trade liberalization it advocates as one of its goals. Other discussions will be tertiary to this consideration.

In terms of APEC’s role, questions such as the organization’s relevance in the creation of a potential FTAAP, versus pursuing free trade in other forums such as the TPP and EAC must be carefully considered. What are the benefits of APEC facilitating negotiations on an FTAAP versus pursuing similar goals in other fora, and what are the geopolitical interests involved? In terms of Asia-Pacific trade liberalization, which provisions would be included in a final agreement: e.g. would IP, investment provisions, government procurement would be included? What sort of dispute settlement mechanism would be pursued?

The proliferation of regional FTAs has made trade negotiations in the Asia-Pacific region a complex three-layered bargaining process consisting of the WTO, APEC and sub-regional arrangements both complementing and competing with each other.¹⁷² Delegates should consider how the establishment of a FTAAP can be established in the context of these three levels of free-trade negotiations.

More broadly will be the question of APEC’s trade liberalization goals in the broader context of international agreements such as the Declaration on Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).¹⁷³ How does the FTAAP or the TPP relate to the Millennium Development Goal 8 to “develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system,” or to otherwise to consider in a historical context the development implications of free trade agreements?¹⁷⁴ How does the FTAAP relate to APEC’s 2008 Leaders’ Declaration which promises to address the social dimensions of trade and “reduce the gap between developing and developed members”?¹⁷⁵ Given APEC’s quest to further carve out a role for itself within an increasingly competitive Asia-Pacific political space, these larger goals will be ever more important for the organization.

¹⁶⁶ Zhang, *The TPP Enlargement and US Intentions*, 2011.

¹⁶⁷ Aggarwal/Volberding, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC’s Future*, 2010 p. 4.

¹⁶⁸ Aggarwal/, *Beyond Bogor: Reflections on APEC’s Future*, 2010, p. 4.

¹⁶⁹ Sato, *Free-Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific*, 2004, p. 223.

¹⁷⁰ Sato, *Free-Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific*, 2004, p. 223.

¹⁷¹ Brilliant, *A Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific: An Idea with Merit, but Is It Feasible?*, 2007.

¹⁷² Sato, *Free-Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific*, 2004, p. 237.

¹⁷³ United Nations General Assembly, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2000.

¹⁷⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *Millennium Development Goals*, 2000.

¹⁷⁵ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *2008 Leaders’ Declaration: A New Commitment to Asia-Pacific Development*, 2008.

In an increasingly globalized world, economic cooperation will remain relevant. Yet in a territory where competing interests and large social questions are reflected in very technical negotiations and agreements the old adage “the devil is in the details” is increasingly relevant. There are a variety of factors that will impact not only which sectors in each economy will gain and which will lose, but also overall which actors reap more economic gains from an agreement, whether the gains will be long-term or short-term, how these agreements affect a government’s ability to create effective environmental regulations, labor laws, or how to encourage long-term development.¹⁷⁶

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II. Regional Economic Integration and a Free Trade Area of the Pacific (FTAAP)

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Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation. (2008). *Bogor Declaration - APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration of Common Resolve*. 1994. http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/1994/1994_aelm.aspx

One of the most important documents to come out of APEC yet, this document outlines its primary goal of free trade throughout APEC member economies by 2010 for developed countries and by 2020 for developing countries.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation. (2008). *2008 Leaders’ Declaration: A New Commitment to Asia-Pacific Development*. Retrieved on October 22, 2011 from http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/2008/2008_aelm.aspx

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Brilliant, M. (2007). *A Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific: An Idea with Merit, but Is It Feasible?*. The Brookings Institution. Retrieved October 10, 2011 from:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2007/09northeastasia_brilliant.aspx

The Brookings Institution, a well-known US foreign policy think-tank, has a number of papers outlining the US interest in a potential FTAAP or other forms of Pacific-Rim economic integration. It is funded by donors including the US government and certain multinational corporations, and on its board of directors sit a variety of former US government officials. It is very useful for providing a US perspective on a number of issues including the role and function of APEC and free trade in the Asia-Pacific region.

Chang, Ha Joon (2008) *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*, New York: Bloomsbury Press.

Taking a historical perspective on the policy mechanisms important or necessary for the pursuit of long-term economic development, this book provides provides the foundational argument against free trade as it is approached by the WTO and many North-South FTAs. It outlines the argument that long-term economic development requires looking at dynamic comparative advantage, or in other words, how to move up the value-chain from an economy dependant on primary resources to an economy centred on manufacturing, service-provision, and eventually high-technology.

World Trade Organization (2011). *Regional Trade Agreements: Rules*. Retrieved October 22, 2011 from http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/region_e/regrul_e.htm

As all APEC member economies are either members of the WTO or working toward membership of the WTOs regulations integrally affect any trade discussion taking place in APEC. This site helps to clarify how RTAs are regulated under the WTO in order to ensure maximal efficiency within the trading system.

¹⁷⁶ Stiglitz, *Freefall*, 2010.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2006). *Competition Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements: How to Assure Development Gains*. UNCTAD: New York.

UNCTAD has done considerable research on the nature of various multilateral and bilateral trade agreements. While it will be difficult to get into the technicalities of many issues where governments behavior is prescribed by trade agreements - including competition provision/anti-trust, intellectual property, investment regulations, and government procurement - a number of UNCTAD papers such as this one provide a background to these technical issues. These seemingly technical issues can become quite politicized given a complex geopolitical landscape so it is imperative that delegates find an authoritative source while developing your country perspectives.

United Nations Development Program. (2005). *The Great Maze: Regional and Bilateral Free Trade Agreements in Asia*. Policy Paper, Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Initiative, UNDP: Colombo.

Another very important publication which considers the general arguments around North-South, South-South, and other regional trade agreements and their implications on development. It considers the inherently political nature of FTAs and discusses how this in practice helps to shape the questions of whom participates and how. It also looks at a number of case studies in the Asia-Pacific, which may be helpful for developing a country-specific perspective.

Zhang, Bin. (2011). *The TPP Enlargement and US Intentions*. China Institute of International Studies. Retrieved September 28, 2011 from: http://www.ciis.org.cn/english/2011-06/15/content_4268828.htm

This source may be helpful for the delegation from China and similar country-specific sources may be helpful for those delegates representing other countries. This paper is from a think-tank connected to China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is thus very useful in providing a China perspective on a number of issues as well as highlighting the highly-politicized nature of the topics at hand.

III. Global Health Epidemics: Threats to Agriculture, Trade, and Tourism

Introduction

The international community has attempted to address the threats of global health epidemics through various policy guidelines and toolkits. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has also taken extensive measures to prepare and build better understandings of the risks to the Member Economies that a health epidemic would cause through workshops, information networks and policy guidelines.¹⁷⁷ The APEC community has placed special emphasis on developing strategies for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or by its medical term H5N1, due to its threats to many sectors including agriculture, trade, and tourism.¹⁷⁸ Regional pandemic scares, such as 2004 outbreak of not only severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) but also of H5N1, had a significant impact on all three sectors.¹⁷⁹ In cooperation with efforts from the international community, the APEC Member Economies are addressing the abilities of government and internal institutions of addressing such health threats and controlling the effects.¹⁸⁰

International and Regional Frameworks

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) has established Guiding Principles for International Outbreak Alert and Response on the appropriate response by the international community.¹⁸¹ The Guiding Principles for International Outbreak Alert and Response focus on ensuring that information regarding possible epidemics or outbreaks statuses

¹⁷⁷ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Inter-governmental Entities*, 2011, p. 1.

¹⁷⁸ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force, *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines*, p. 1.

¹⁷⁹ Otte and Hinrichs, *Impacts of avian influenza virus on animal production in developing countries*, 2008, p. 5.

¹⁸⁰ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group, *2010 projects*.

¹⁸¹ United Nations World Health Organization, *Global Alert and Response*.

is confirmed and information is disseminated within the network in an efficient manner.¹⁸² WHO coordinates national and local strategies to work cohesively towards establishing effective methods of preparing for health related emergencies.¹⁸³ The principles underline the importance of involving grassroots level civil society organizations that have access to remote populations by empowering them to take action in the communities they work in.¹⁸⁴ In addition, the principles clearly emphasize the importance of conducting all activity related to public health awareness or emergency response in consideration to equal human rights perspectives and fair and transparent practices.¹⁸⁵

The WHO has also created the Global Outbreak and Response Network (GOARN) as an active system to quickly disseminate information regarding the status of possible outbreaks and to share research and best practices developed.¹⁸⁶ Together with its partners including other UN entities, governmental departments, and international organizations such as International Committee of the Red Cross, it is able to provide support through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and advisory activities to Member States.¹⁸⁷ In 2004, in response to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, the WHO met to formulate communication guidelines for the international community in the event of a disease outbreak.¹⁸⁸ The document produced reports specifically on successful methods implemented during the SARS outbreak to act as lessons for future cases.¹⁸⁹ Reported were the best practices in communication which include the establishment of a trusted and reputable information source for the public, effective early warning systems, and preplanning by national governments on response mechanisms.¹⁹⁰

UNOCHA-Pandemic Influenza Contingency (PIC)

In addition, the Pandemic Influenza Contingency (PIC), a unit of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), coordinates pandemic preparedness within the United Nations System and between Member States in response to the threat of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).¹⁹¹ In 2007, PIC developed a toolkit consisting of “39 Steps Governments Should Take to Prepare for a Pandemic.”¹⁹² These steps including themes of central government planning where the focus is on clearly defining the responsibilities of government entities, empowering civil society to engage in active planning and proper allocation of funds towards health facilities.¹⁹³ Other key steps outlined in the toolkit cover issues ranging from engaging in response planning in local community levels to improving wide communication and information sharing networks.¹⁹⁴

UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC)

In specific response to global threat of influenza, the United Nations established the UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC).¹⁹⁵ This body was formed to act as organizational link between UN entities and Member States to manage efforts being made to address the effects of HPAI through thorough documentation and information sharing, preparedness efforts and studies on the effects of influenza on different aspects including agriculture.¹⁹⁶ UNSIC’s key achievements, as reported in its final review in July of 2011, includes success in “influencing coordination culture” by improving knowledge sharing and cooperative efforts between United Nations agencies.¹⁹⁷ It has also worked on changing the level of preparedness not only within the UN system but outside between

¹⁸² United Nations World Health Organization, *Global Alert and Response*.

¹⁸³ United Nations World Health Organization, *Global Alert and Response*.

¹⁸⁴ United Nations World Health Organization, *Global Alert and Response*.

¹⁸⁵ United Nations World Health Organization, *Global Alert and Response*.

¹⁸⁶ United Nations World Health Organization, *Outbreak Network*.

¹⁸⁷ United Nations World Health Organization, *Outbreak Network*.

¹⁸⁸ United Nations World Health Organization, *Outbreak communication; Best practices for communicating with the public during an outbreak*, 2004, p. 1.

¹⁸⁹ United Nations World Health Organization, *Outbreak communication; Best practices for communicating with the public during an outbreak*, 2004, p. 1.

¹⁹⁰ United Nations World Health Organization, *Outbreak communication; Best practices for communicating with the public during an outbreak*, 2004, p. 24-25.

¹⁹¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Hazard Info and Monitoring Tools*.

¹⁹² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *39 Steps Governments Should Take to Prepare for a Pandemic*, p. 1

¹⁹³ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *39 Steps Governments Should Take to Prepare for a Pandemic*, p. 1

¹⁹⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *39 Steps Governments Should Take to Prepare for a Pandemic*, p. 2-4.

¹⁹⁵ United Nations Development Group, *United Nation System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC)*. Home.

¹⁹⁶ United Nations Development Group, *United Nation System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC)*. Home.

¹⁹⁷ Willits-King, *Final Review of UN System Influenza Coordination*, 2011, p. 3.

Member State governments as well.¹⁹⁸ Other UNSIC achievements outside the UN system focus broadly on expanding coordination efforts between Member States and improving regional cooperation towards developing efficient response systems.¹⁹⁹

Regional Bodies

On a regional level, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) seriously began to address the issue as a regional body in 2008.²⁰⁰ Through a series of consultative meetings the work of this body concentrated mainly on increasing the capacity of the health sector organizations and government entities in the region, in addition to involving those outside of the public health sector including major corporations.²⁰¹ The main achievements of this regional body include addressing the risks associated with global health epidemics and forming a regional network of multi-sector involvement through the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan, Republic of Korea); the network has increased the efficiency of situation monitoring of Emerging Infections Diseases (EID).²⁰² In addition, the collaboration efforts have extended to forming strong links between the human public health and animal health service providers in order to develop joint policy recommendations on developing areas of capacity building, research, and knowledge-sharing platforms.²⁰³

The tourism initiative under ASEAN works to identify and minimize the risks to the tourism industry during disease warnings and outbreaks, especially to those countries with economies heavily dependent on tourism by developing guidelines for managing threats to tourism including increasing awareness and safety measures for travelers.²⁰⁴ Further, a strategic initiative organized by ASEAN with specific support from the Japanese government is the stockpiling of 500,000 courses of antiviral drugs and 700,000 to combat outbreaks of disease such as H5N1.²⁰⁵

In addition to ASEAN, other regional bodies, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), have created joint policies and programs to address global health concerns. SAARC coordinates a program for Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) in the region.²⁰⁶ The program looks at enhancing the local and national government capacities to control the spread for HPED with an emphasis on increasing the research and development of veterinary sciences.²⁰⁷ Additionally, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) programs and projects focus on maintaining a number of Internet and Web-based communication networks between the Pacific Island states.²⁰⁸ The communication networks include the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN), under which the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPP) is managed.²⁰⁹

Current APEC Policy Frameworks

Health Task Force and Health Working Group

The APEC Health Working Group (HWG) was originally formed as the Health Task Force in 2003.²¹⁰ The APEC appraisal aimed to highlight the importance of the task force and promoted it to working group status in 2007.²¹¹ The

¹⁹⁸ Willits-King, *Final Review of UN System Influenza Coordination*, 2011, p. 4.

¹⁹⁹ Willits-King, *Final Review of UN System Influenza Coordination*, 2011, p. 4.

²⁰⁰ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 26.

²⁰¹ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 26.

²⁰² United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 30.

²⁰³ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 32.

²⁰⁴ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 32.

²⁰⁵ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 41.

²⁰⁶ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 78.

²⁰⁷ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 78.

²⁰⁸ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 84.

²⁰⁹ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 84.

²¹⁰ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group, *About HWG*.

working group's mandate revolves heavily around providing technical support for the Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) activities and reports.²¹²

Current activities of the HWG in 2011 focused on the organization of the first Senior Officials Meeting (SOM1) in March held in the United States for discussion on addressing pandemic threats of different strains of influenza and other diseases such as HIV/AIDS. The policy developments of the meeting focused on increasing awareness and knowledge dissemination strategies in order to respond to health epidemics and to capacity building efforts for communities and government entities within APEC Member Economies.²¹³ The 3rd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM3) in September 2011 focused on increasing the level of regional preparedness for disease outbreaks, better preparing response systems and technology and stressed the importance of “multi-sect oral collaborations,” most importantly the involvement of corporations and civil society organizations.²¹⁴ Projects for 2011 calendar year include the International Initiatives to Control Antimicrobial Resistance in the Asia-Pacific Region, focusing on the capacity building of Member Economies to enhance their response mechanisms at all levels including agriculture protection and treatment centers.²¹⁵

Workshops and trainings organized within the APEC framework have also focused on the development of Rapid Response Teams (RRT) for diseases such as H5NI.²¹⁶ The “one world, one health” workshop focused on gathering all the key stakeholders including government health departments and ministries and civil society to collaborate on developing comprehensive strategies to addressing the risks of health epidemics.²¹⁷

APEC Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic Guidelines

In order to prepare APEC Member Economies in the event of a pandemic, the APEC Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic Guidelines was developed.²¹⁸ The guidelines main points from the recommendations focus on a number of strategies. The first point focuses on well-designed action plans from each country based on its internal needs with an emphasis on developing early warning systems.²¹⁹ The second addresses the importance of collective action at the time of an outbreak to assist those most effected and to engage in efficient methods of containing the spread of the disease.²²⁰ Further, the guideline looks towards the essential role of government strategies and their role in providing institutional aid including boarder control in the event of an outbreak.²²¹ The list of guidelines also addresses the need for well-managed communication systems and information sharing networks.²²² The capacity building of businesses and civil society organizations to coordinate prevention campaigns and control efforts during an outbreak is also a part of the recommendations.²²³ With an emphasis on holistic preparedness for outbreaks the importance of preparing and securing banks and other monetary agencies to function in the outbreak stage to be able to provide support for relief efforts is highlighted.²²⁴

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) integrates global health concerns along with its advisory roles for trade expansion. ABAC conducts workshops for the private sector on disaster preparedness including health

²¹¹ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group, *About HWG*.

²¹² Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group, *About HWG*.

²¹³ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group, *About HWG*.

²¹⁴ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group, *Current Activities*.

²¹⁵ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group, *2010 projects*.

²¹⁶ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Inter-governmental Entities*, 2011, p. 55.

²¹⁷ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Inter-governmental Entities*, 2011, p. 55.

²¹⁸ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force Meeting, *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines*, p. 1.

²¹⁹ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force Meeting, *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines*, p. 2.

²²⁰ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force Meeting, *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines*, p. 2.

²²¹ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force Meeting, *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines*, p. 3.

²²² Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force Meeting, *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines*, p. 3.

²²³ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force Meeting, *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines*, p. 4.

²²⁴ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force Meeting, *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic APEC Guidelines*, p. 5.

epidemics such as H5N1.²²⁵ The council also aims at increasing communication and awareness in the trade industry in order to successfully engage in activities for disease spread control and prevention techniques.²²⁶ The APEC Pandemic Flu Planning Guide for Small and Medium Enterprises was developed in 2007 as a checklist for local business and larger corporations as well in addressing threats to their industries due to flu or viral outbreaks, threats including disruption to the supply chain.²²⁷ APEC conducted a special training for the participants of the 26th meeting of the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) on preparing for flu related pandemics.²²⁸

For improving the communication network the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Emerging Infections Network (APEC EINet) was created in collaboration with the University of Washington-Seattle in 1996 and acts as a timely and reliable information source on the latest updates of emerging infectious diseases to the public.²²⁹ In addition, its mandate expands to include efforts to encourage collaboration between APEC Member Economies and expert academics and scientists in the field.²³⁰ EINeT has organized regular videoconferences between APEC Member Economies to discuss a variety of “hot topics” since 2006 to share best practices in addressing a variety to disease outbreaks. The outcomes of the videoconferences have influenced policy formation on issues such as the proper development of streamlined response systems common to APEC Member Economies and the importance of detailed documentation and record keeping of disease outbreaks.²³¹

Case Study: In depth look at Avian Influenza (H5N1) and Its Effect

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) also known by its common name “the bird flu” is a disease most commonly found in migratory birds and is easily spread to birds most commonly consumed by humans.²³² The virus is highly contagious amongst the bird species creating a major threat to poultry farms raising chickens, ducks, turkey, and other birds for human consumption.²³³

The disease is only infectious to human if poultry has not been properly prepared for consumption.²³⁴ Close contact with an infected bird may also lead to the spread of the disease to humans. To date, even though H5N1 is highly contagious amongst animals, there are few reported incidences of human infection.²³⁵ WHO reports that the total number of deaths due to Avian Influenza between the years 2003 and 2011 is 316.²³⁶ Although the direct risk at this time to human lives is not very high with H5N1, the risk of its mutation into a deadly disease is.²³⁷

The year 2004 and following saw large outbreaks of H5N1 in many Asian countries including Thailand, where over 60 million birds were destroyed or culled, in Vietnam 50 million, and in Indonesia where about 17 million birds were destroyed in order to control the outbreak.²³⁸ The disposing of selling dead birds is often an option for the farms; however larger farms see higher financial strains when an outbreak is reported due the halt in poultry sales.²³⁹ The consumers’ fear in consuming meat and eggs from areas that are known to have outbreaks of the Avian Influenza

²²⁵ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 64-65.

²²⁶ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 64-65.

²²⁷ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 64-65.

²²⁸ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Intergovernmental Entities*, 2011, p. 61.

²²⁹ EINET, *About*.

²³⁰ EINET, *About*.

²³¹ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Working Group Disease Network (EINET): *Expert Roundtable Series on Hot Topics in Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 2010, p. 2.

²³² United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, *Avian flu: Background*.

²³³ United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, *Avian flu: Background*.

²³⁴ United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, *Avian flu: Background*.

²³⁵ United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, *Avian flu: Background*.

²³⁶ United Nations World Health Organization, *Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO*.

²³⁷ United Nations World Health Organization, *Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO*.

²³⁸ Otte and Hinrichs, *Impacts of avian influenza virus on animal production in developing countries*, 2008, p. 5.

²³⁹ Otte and Hinrichs, *Impacts of avian influenza virus on animal production in developing countries*, 2008, p. 7.

greatly impacts the market value of the meat thus causing major issues in the future productivity and demand for the poultry farmers.²⁴⁰

Government bans also have an effect on the agricultural market. Prior to the outbreak of 2004, Thailand exported over 450,000 tons of poultry meat.²⁴¹ After the outbreak Thailand's meat export was reduced by 45%.²⁴² In the same light government policies can lead to the control of the spread of the virus and contribute to developing response standards and mechanisms.²⁴³

The fall in production and export of poultry from Asian countries can be largely attributed to the outbreaks in 2004. "Restrictions on exports from Asian countries affected by AI outbreaks in 2004 and halfway into 2005 contributed to a nearly 20% increase in international poultry prices over the period."²⁴⁴ The restructure in the level of exportable meat available during the outbreaks resulted in an 8% decline in the global poultry trade.²⁴⁵ As mentioned above Thailand suffered greatly after the 2004 outbreak and was relinquished from its position as the fifth largest exporter of poultry meat in the world.²⁴⁶ The only way that the country was able to redeem the market value for its goods was to adjust its focus towards the selling of processed poultry meat.²⁴⁷

Thailand, including other countries such as Malaysia saw drops in the tourism industry as well. Due to the fact that Avian Flu is not considered a pandemic at this stage it has not had the same effect on tourism as the occurrence of a natural disaster or even the outbreak of SARS; however the mild trends show that during the time of outbreak there was slight effect.²⁴⁸ The statistics surrounding the effect on tourism during the SARS epidemic shows the high dependency on the safety levels and popular tourist destinations.²⁴⁹

APEC Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group, established in 1996, has developed a toolkit specifically addressing the effects of HPAI and other diseases such as Swine flu (H1N1) and its effects on the agriculture systems and human health conditions in the APEC region.²⁵⁰ The toolkit developed out of the 2007 workshop 'Sharing experiences with the management of the Avian Influenza H5N1 threat' addresses the lack of documentation and information sharing of best practices and management efficiencies for animal health community.²⁵¹ The content of the toolkit focuses on providing guidelines for government aid schemes, vaccination strategies, safety and health regulations, animal welfare policies and the roles of private and public sector partnerships.²⁵²

The Sharing Experiences with the Management of Avian Influenza H5N1 Threat Workshop that took place in June 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand organized by the UNSIC identifies six "success factors" for the management of H5N1: (1) The importance of comprehensive policy development involving all stakeholders; (2) the prompt dissemination of information and priority actions; (3) The improvement of information sharing amongst health care providing facilities; (4) the increased awareness and responsibility of local communities in reporting disease outbreaks in animals; (5) the mobilization of civil society and private corporations to take an active role in pre-empting health threats; and (6) emphasizing the importance of wide-spread community awareness campaigns.²⁵³

Conclusion

The international community and APEC have acknowledged the risk of a global health epidemic is a major threat to human security that possibly has its origins in the Asia-Pacific region. Although extensive guidelines have been

²⁴⁰ Otte and Hinrichs, *Impacts of avian influenza virus on animal production in developing countries*, 2008, p. 10.

²⁴¹ Otte and Hinrichs, *Impacts of avian influenza virus on animal production in developing countries*, 2008, p. 15.

²⁴² Otte and Hinrichs, *Impacts of avian influenza virus on animal production in developing countries*, 2008, p. 15.

²⁴³ Otte and Hinrichs, *Impacts of avian influenza virus on animal production in developing countries*, 2008, p. 15.

²⁴⁴ Mcleod, *Economic and social impact of Avian Influenza*, 2005, p. 8.

²⁴⁵ Mcleod, *Economic and social impact of Avian Influenza*, 2005, p. 8.

²⁴⁶ Mcleod, *Economic and social impact of Avian Influenza*, 2005, p. 2.

²⁴⁷ Mcleod, *Economic and social impact of Avian Influenza*, 2005, p. 2.

²⁴⁸ Hsiao-I and Chi-Chung, *Assessing impacts of SARS and Avian Flu on international tourism demand to Asia*, 2008, p.10.

²⁴⁹ Hsiao-I and Chi-Chung, *Assessing impacts of SARS and Avian Flu on international tourism demand to Asia*, 2008, p.10.

²⁵⁰ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Inter-governmental Entities*, 2011, p.58.

²⁵¹ Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *About US- Toolkit*.

²⁵² Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, *About US- Toolkit*.

²⁵³ United Nations System Influenza Coordination, *Sharing Experiences with the Management of the Avian Influenza H5N1 Threat*, 2007, p. 2.

developed for national governments to develop strategies the review reports highlight gaps in the implementation of these guidelines. When considering the topic it is important to not only look at creating systems institutions, but taking a close look at gaps in existing system, learning from best practices and expanding the effectiveness of communication networks and response mechanisms. The important question to really address is how can the APEC Member Economies fully utilize the many regional and international networks created to enhance their capabilities and how can they better prepare the agriculture, trade, and tourism industry to engage in risk management planning.

Annotated Bibliography

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. (2011). *Emerging Infectious Disease Network (EINET): Expert Roundtable Series on Hot Topics in Emerging Infectious Diseases*. Retrieved on September 1, 2011, from http://publications.apec.org/publication-detail.php?pub_id=1108

This is summary of the EINET functions and detail of the type of work it does in sustaining knowledge management systems for APEC. This report also provides an outcomes-analysis of the Web sites projects such as the video conferencing and daily news updates. The Web site is known for its innovative methods of disseminating information and developing policy development guidelines through best practices and lessons sharing.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Health Task Force Meeting. (2007). *Functioning Economies in Times of Pandemic, APEC Guidelines*. Retrieved on September 1, 2011, from <http://www.aitoolkit.org/Home/Documents1/FunctioningEconomiesinTimesofPandemicAPECGuidelines.aspx>

The document clearly outlines the main points in the APEC established guidelines for response from Member Economies in a disease outbreak situation. It provides guidelines for those who are directly affected and are seeking international aid and for those APEC Member Economies that can provide assistance in controlling the outbreak and treating those affected. The guidelines address the key vulnerable areas including the economic dependence on livestock production and human health and makes recommendations for actions based on country reports.

Hsiao-I., K and C. Chi-Chung. (2008). *Assessing impacts of SARS and Avian Flu on international tourism demand to Asia, Tourism Management 29 (2008) 917–928*. Retrieved September 1, 2011, from <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261517707002191>

The affects of avian flu on tourism are not apparent or have not been thoroughly studied at this point, however few recorded drops in tourism were reported during the 2004 outbreaks. This article takes the example of SARS and predicts the extent of damage that the avian flu can have on tourism and the economy if there is a pandemic situation. The possible outbreak of H5N1 is predicted to have a much larger impact that the SARS outbreak therefore incorporating lessons learned is essential for further policy development.

McLeod, A. and A. Morgan. (2005). *Economic and Social Impacts of Avian Influenza*. Retrieved on September 1, 2011, from <http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//211939/Economic-and-social-impacts-of-avian-influenza-Geneva.pdf>

This article provides a brief and useful analysis on the economic and social impacts that the avian flu has had on a number of APEC economies to date. It also provides recommendations for action. It especially advises for the well preparedness of local community farm owners and public awareness. The article also provides an important detailed analysis on the economic effects on the different levels of business involved in poultry farming and then importance of protecting the small and medium enterprises.

Otte, J. and J. Hinrichs. (2008). *Impacts of avian influenza virus on animal production in developing countries*. Retrieved on September 1, 2011, from <http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//251044/aj201e00.pdf>

This review provides good insight to the agricultural effects that a diseases such as the avian flu can have on agriculture and livestock production. The authors provide statistics and relevant examples of APEC countries that were affected by previous outbreaks H5N1. It emphasizes the importance of raising the awareness levels of the local community farms for better control of outbreak situations.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (2007). *39 Steps Governments Should Take to Prepare for a Pandemic*. Retrieved September 24, 2011, from <http://un-influenza.org/files/39-steps.pdf>

This document is the complete list of 39 recommendations outlined by OCHA. The recommendations address a range of points for governments to immediately act upon in order to be prepared for health epidemics. The recommendations were developed from learning's after the preliminary threat of H5N1.

United Nations System Influenza Coordination. (2011). *Avian and Pandemic Influenza Related Programmes and Projects of the Inter-governmental Entities*. Retrieved September 24, 2011, from <http://www.un-influenza.org/documents>

This Web site gives an overview of the UNSIC operational system and the work that it conducts internationally in the APEC Region. The site provides access to a number of key documents that are essential for understanding the international framework developed by the United Nations. These guidelines and recommendations can directly be applied to the APEC region as well.

United Nations System Influenza Coordination. (n.d.). *Sharing Experiences with the Management of the Avian Influenza H5N1 Threat*. Retrieved September 24, 2011, from http://publications.apec.org/publication-detail.php?pub_id=173

This report from UNSIC is a review of international activities that took place in response to the preliminary threats of H5N1. The review of experiences and strategies from different nations is important in understanding where there are gaps in the system. The report outlines the need for better-coordinated efforts in responding to the threats of epidemics.

Willits-King. B. (2011). *Final Review of UN System Influenza Coordination*. Retrieved September 24, 2011, from un-influenza.org/files/UNSICFinalReview.pdf

This report was completed by an outside contractor hired for an object review of the progress of UNSIC activities. The review outlines the major areas where the international community and the UN system need to improve their strategies in addressing health epidemics. The review also provides further recommendations for further policy development.

World Health Organization. (2011). *Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network-GOARN: Partnership in Outbreak Response*. Retrieved on September 24, 2011, from <http://www.who.int/entity/csr/outbreaknetwork/goarnenglish.pdf>

This document outlines the main activities and strategies of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network-GOARN. GOARN is a key element in increasing the knowledge sharing and communication links when responding to health epidemics. It is also used as a platform for sharing studies and developments on preparing and preventing outbreaks of diseases like H5N1.

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Rules of Procedure

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as “the Cooperation”) and shall be considered adopted by the Cooperation prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Cooperation.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*

The Cooperation shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*

The Cooperation shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - *Provisional agenda*

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the Cooperation at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Cooperation by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.

Rule 5 - *Revision of the agenda*

During a session, the Cooperation may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Cooperation so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Cooperation decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an important and urgent character is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Cooperation to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Cooperation until a committee has reported on the question. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Cooperation.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Cooperation and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the Cooperation, and shall distribute documents of the Cooperation to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Cooperation may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Cooperation concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Cooperation for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

If the President is unable to perform her/his functions, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Cooperation.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)

Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 - Quorum

The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Cooperation are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Cooperation shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, members of the Cooperation means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting.

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Cooperation, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules,

shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Cooperation and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Cooperation the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to propose to the Cooperation entails her/his power to entertain motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Cooperation.

Rule 17 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18

A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the Cooperation without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Cooperation, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Cooperation may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Cooperation in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional motions will not be well received by the body, the President, in her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Cooperation, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Cooperation.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Cooperation. A motion to close the speakers' list is within the purview of the Cooperation and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Cooperation by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Cooperation shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Cooperation's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Cooperation.

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Cooperation favors the closure of debate, the Cooperation shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions

Subject to rule 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Cooperation would like the Cooperation to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Cooperation unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote

shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Cooperation for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Cooperation by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft report segment. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft report segment and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Cooperation. These draft report segments are the collective property of the Cooperation and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Cooperation, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Cooperation shall have one vote.

This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft report segments, and portions of draft report segments divided out by motion. As such, all references to —member(s) do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

A proposal or motion before the Cooperation for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Cooperation may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

For purposes of this rule, proposal means any draft report segment, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft report segment divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, all substantive decisions of the Assembly shall be made by the consensus among those members present and voting. Procedural decisions shall be made by majority of those members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

All members declaring their representative States as “present and voting” during the attendance role call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Cooperation shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each present member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply "yes," "no," "abstention," or "pass."

Only those members who designate themselves as present or present and voting during the attendance roll call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying pass, must, on the second time through, respond with either yes or no. A pass cannot be followed by a second pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

2. When the Cooperation votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Cooperation shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 34 - Explanations of vote

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

For purposes of this rule, most radical division means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft report segment, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is most radical is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 37 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect perambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment,

the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

For purposes of this rule, furthest removed in substance means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft report segment. The determination of which amendment is furthest removed in substance is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Cooperation decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 42

The Cooperation shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COOPERATION

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States

1. The Cooperation shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Cooperation and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
2. A committee or sessional body of the Cooperation shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
3. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

If the Cooperation considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation again. Delegates invited to the Cooperation according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Cooperation is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements

The Cooperation may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Cooperation and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Cooperation or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the General Assembly and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Cooperation on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Cooperation on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.