MESSAGE REGARDING POSITION PAPERS FOR THE 2011 NMUN-APEC CONFERENCE

At the 2011 NMUN-APEC Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, at some NMUN conferences they may also serve as observers, NGOs or judicial experts. Review the matrix for specifics about your NMUN simulation. To understand these fine differences (if applicable), 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 establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to 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 traditional position papers. 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 material that is entirely original. 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 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 1 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

1. A separate e-mail each position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee to dirgen.apec@nmun.org.no later than February 15, 2011. The NMUN Director-General will distribute the individual papers to committee directors.

PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE WORKING GROUP, ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION NAME (Example: FOOD_USA_Central_University)

2. An additional e-mail with all position papers (.doc or .pdf) attached to dirgen.apec@nmun.org.no later than February 15, 2011. This second set will serve as a backup copy in case of problems with individual e-mail documents.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Michael Aguilar
Secretary-General
Official Welcome

On behalf of the 2011 National Model United Nations-APEC Conference, we warmly welcome you to this exciting simulation of the Working Group on Human Resources Development. This meeting of delegates with diverse backgrounds, interests, and nationalities presents limitless opportunities for the development of new friendships, new ideas, and new ways of seeing the world. As your committee staff, we – Michael Gaspar and Stephanie Martins – are excited to begin this rigorous diplomatic exercise and hope that you will leave this weekend with a greater understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.

As you begin your preparation, we hope you find this guide to be a useful starting point on a much deeper journey into the working group’s three topics and your country’s highly individualized perspective on these issues. In addition to your research and written preparations, we hope that you come to NMUN-APEC eager to build consensus through negotiation, deliberation and compromise, as the cornerstones of diplomacy.

As an economic cooperation, issues relating to trade and investment have always been at the forefront of discussions for APEC. Work in recent years has taken on more importance with increasing interdependence among Member Economies and globalization throughout the globe. Going forward, APEC and the Working Group on Trade and Investment will face a number of obstacles that will test the policies and procedures of not only Member Economies but APEC itself.

Once again, we welcome you to the 2011 NMUN-APEC Conference. We look forward to working with you at this enriching, educational conference.

History of the Working Group on Trade and Investment

APEC’s work on trade and investment is carried out by the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI). Founded in 1993, in the Declaration of an APEC Trade and Investment Framework, the CTI is the coordinating body that discusses the cornerstone issues of APEC: trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. Its work in these areas is driven by the desire to reduce impediments to business activity in the areas outlined by the Osaka Action Agenda, with the objective of helping APEC economies achieve the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment. To carry out this work the CTI has formed nine sub-groups relating to a variety of issues on trade and investment, including the Business Mobility Group (BMG), Investment Experts’ Group (IEG), Market Access Group (MAG), and the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP). Along with the sub-groups the CTI has also formed three industry dialogues: Automotive Dialogue (AD), Chemical Dialogue (CD) and Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF). Through these sub groups and dialogues the variety of work of CTI is carried out on a daily basis and form the foundation for APEC’s work on these issues.

In an effort to further trade and investment Member Economies regularly submit to the CTI Individual Action Plans (IAP) that detail actions taken to meet stated goals for promoting free and open trade and investment, in line with the Bogor Goals and the 15 Issue Areas of the Osaka Action Agenda. Along with the IAPs, APEC Member Economies also produce Collective Action Plans (CAPs) that detail the collective actions by all APEC Member Economies in the 15 issues areas. The CAPs are used by APEC to outline actions and objectives to meet the free trade and investment goals, as well as to monitor and report on progress. Through these efforts, and others, APEC has been able to achieve tangible economic benefits for many of the Members and going forward the CTI will continue to play a vital role in the work of APEC.
I. Growth in the 21st Century: Making APEC More Relevant to Key Stakeholders

- In what ways has APEC encouraged the inclusion of stakeholders in their discussions? Does your economy feel that the organization in its current form give equal time and priority to stakeholders? Should it in all occasions? How can stakeholders be made more relevant to the work of APEC?

- How does the inclusion of stakeholders aid economic development? How do they contribute to increasing trade and investment? What role could stakeholders play in promoting these areas going forward?

- What are some of the key stakeholders in your countries view? What types of stakeholders are active in your economy? How influential are they and how could that be translate to APEC?

From its inception, APEC has strongly recognized that a critical element to its goal of being an influential organization would be the relationships between its Member Economies and stakeholders. As APEC states “strong and vibrant economies are not built by governments alone, but by partnerships between government and key stakeholders including the business sector, industry, academia, policy and research institutions, and interest groups within the community.” Any of these groups may volunteer to be heard because of APEC’s open policy for application to meetings and events as long as their published guidelines are met. APEC believes that discussions that develop partnerships that initiate proper consideration into actions and expertise with transparency amongst its stakeholders are key to achieving its goals.

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) is one example of the critical role that non-governmental stakeholders possess. Formed in 1995 by APEC, the ABAC was primarily created to assist in the continuing of the Osaka Action Agenda and to act as a consultant to Member Economies when dealing with business concerns. Presently, the ABAC is very active in the region as it has three high-level members representing the business sector in each of the 21 Member Economies and they meet four times a year to discuss their concerns, recommendations and other issues to improve the commerce environment in the APEC region. ABAC is a very active group and prides itself on being transparent and actively requests input from businesses in their region. For ABAC’s 2011 work program, the theme of “21 Economies for 21st Century Prosperity” with the sub-theme of “Employing people and ideas for sustained growth in Asia-Pacific” was adopted. This theme was developed in an effort to build on APEC’s 2010 growth strategy that was adopted after the latest global financial downturn.

Since, at its core, APEC was formed to create a better business environment within Member Economies there are criticisms that the concerns of civil society are overlooked in discussions and policy development. Even with the examples listed, and others, opponents of current APEC procedures point to its lack of stakeholder diversity and urge APEC to consider civil society and other areas in their discussions. An example of this is the difference between the formal distinctions between the business and interest groups. As one writer addressed during meetings regarding technological data protection: “APEC has few strands of work that are outside the economic, commercial and trade areas. …Civil Society is not recognized as a formal partner by APEC. Civil Society has only been represented in the APEC Privacy processes by virtue of invitations from specific member economies…. However, this effectively means observer status. These contrasts with formal recognition of business interests – both the International Chamber of Commerce and the Global Business Dialogue on e-Commerce have great status at the Privacy Subgroup with independent participation rights.”

APEC has started to recognize more groups outside of business sector. The APEC Study Centres Consortium (ASC) is an example of members of the academia community coming together to share their research on APEC. More than 100 institutions partake in the ASC in 20 Member Economies and an annual conference is held. APEC also promotes the input and full participation of women in their programs through their Gender Focal Point. Each of the 21 Member Economies have government representatives that act as liaisons to promote and gather information from women and provide guidance. APEC initiated a website to promote women in leadership positions throughout the APEC region. Member Economies realize the vast potential of women in further developing economies and studies have been shown that in billions in economic growth has been lost due to certain areas in the APEC region not having gender equality in the workplace.
II. Promoting Environmental Goods and Services (ESG) for Sustainable Economic Development

- How can APEC encourage the production and use of environmental goods and services while stimulating the economies of developing countries in the region? How can APEC persuade developed economies to more fully integrate ESG? What non-tariff measures and barriers must APEC overcome in order to accomplish this?

- What impact does the current economic climate have on APEC’s goals regarding ESG? How can APEC work around tightened budgets and other obstacles in the global economy to ensure that investment in research and development of ESG is made a priority?

- What role should APEC have in climate change mitigation? How can APEC persuade economies to develop climate-friendly technologies? How can APEC improve market access for these and other environmental technologies and services?

In 2007, APEC leaders came together in Sydney to discuss ways in which they could promote environmental goods and services (EGS) in the Asia-Pacific region. The APEC leaders were primarily concerned with creating a nexus between economic development and environmental objectives, and determined that open global trade and investment would be at its crux. At the forefront of this discussion was the issue of climate change, and how the APEC economies could harness their resources to collectively develop clean energy technologies that would not only advance their climate goals, but could also contribute to sustainable development throughout the region. In furtherance of this objective, the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) began developing an EGS work program, which would be centered around four basic components: 1) research and development; 2) supply; 3) trade; and 4) demand. Each component would require the full cooperation of all APEC economies, and would depend heavily on the sharing of best practices, coordinated action, and training and education.

In 2009, CTI instructed APEC’s Market Access Group (MAG) to conduct a mapping exercise in order to identify EGS-related projects across APEC fora and sub-fora since the Sydney meeting. The product of this exercise was a Mapping Matrix, which is updated regularly by the APEC Secretariat so as to better coordinate joint efforts and avoid potential overlap of crucial resources. Based on these updates, APEC members agreed that more had to be done in order to “support sustainable economic growth,” “increase utilization of EGS,” and “enhance the capabilities of members to develop their EGS sectors.” APEC members agreed to launch and contribute to the Environmental Goods and Services Information Exchange (EGSIE): a website meant to facilitate EGS work through transparency, collaboration, and information sharing. Members also identified several “follow-up” actions to strengthen the economic development/EGS nexus. In order to take these actions, it would be necessary to identify goods and services that economies could utilize that would serve the dual purposes of climate change mitigation and sustainable economic development. APEC members would also have to explore ways to make EGS technologies more readily available throughout the region, especially for developing economies with specific needs. In order to make progress on any of these objectives, EGS would have to be disseminated and utilized to a greater degree. However APEC members quickly identified several obstacles to this task, including differing economic conditions from one State to the next, non-tariff measures and barriers, and divergent standards – especially in the case of energy efficiency.

The 2010 Leaders’ Declaration addressed once again the need to tie economic growth with environmental sustainability. A Free Trade Area in Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) was highlighted as a conduit to achieving greater dissemination and utilization of EGS, and the Declaration encouraged APEC members to contribute to the creation of such an area, and in the meantime to reduce existing barriers to EGS and clean technologies. They concluded their Declaration by instructing APEC Ministers and Senior Officials to “accelerate [their] work to strengthen and deepen regional economic integration” in 2011, to “address barriers to trade and investment,” and to “ensure high-quality, sustainable growth in the future.”
III. Strengthening Regional Economic Integration: Reversing Direct Investment Levels in APEC Economies

- How has regional integration been achieved so far among Member Economies? What types of policies has APEC developed to promote regional integration? How successful has APEC been in achieving integration among Member Economies? What further steps can it take to further integration?

- Trade and investment are important aspects of promoting regional integration? What types of polices has your economy developed that aid in the promotion of integration, particularly in relation to trade and investment? How can policies like these be developed among other Member Economies? How can they be furthered in your country?

- What other types of organizations that Member Economies belong to are also working to promote regional integration? What types of cooperation does APEC undertake with other Regional Economic Communities? How can this cooperation be furthered?

In November 1994, APEC came together to announce the Declaration of Common Resolve in Bogor, Indonesia, which has now come to be known as the Bogor Goals. One the main goals is to achieve free and open investment within all Member Economies by 2010 and 2020 for developed and developing nations respectively. In order to achieve these goals, regional economic integration (REI) would have to be accelerated. Generally speaking, regional economic integration is a covenant, either binding or not binding, to lessen or eliminate trade barriers within the members of the agreement. This in turn will help attract direct investment into economies of the covenants’ parties. Direct investment is critical for economic growth as it expands employment, expands trade routes, transfers technology and capital within countries. Also, it should be noted that there are different types of regional economic integration agreements that determine the level of investment allowed in an economy. Examples of the benefits of REI are: “The standardization of certification for telecommunications equipment, the synchronization of food safety standards, the alignment and recognition of education qualifications and the harmonization of rules of origin criteria in a number of areas such as steel products and consumer electronics, (are) some of the benefits being delivered from this multi-year effort.” These, among other factors, equal less costs for companies doing business across different borders and allowing for increased investment.

APEC’s Regional Economic Integration (APEC REI) agenda is a long-term programme directly aimed at promoting the Bogor Goals of free and open investment. Currently a common free trade agreement (FTA) amongst its 21 members, similar to NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement), does not exist. However, there are discussions regarding the establishment of a possible Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific. The APEC Business Advisory Council has recommended further integration among Member Economies and the APEC REI has investigated further the possibilities for establishing a free trade agreement. Even without a free trade agreement, the APEC REI agenda has done remarkably well, achieving: 42 bilateral and regional free trade agreements; the creating of model economy measures to improve quality; establishment of integration economic indicators; forming of the APEC Policy Support Unit; and the crafting of the Investment Facilitation Action Plan.

During the 2007 Sydney meetings, the Member Economies developed the Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP). The IFAP purposely encompasses many areas but its goal is simply to continue the work done by APEC in fostering an environment in which businesses may invest without risk of increased costs and unfair business practices. IFAP has four main priorities: strengthening regional economic integration; strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of economic growth of Member Economies; expand employment opportunities; and further advancement towards the Bogor Goals. To achieve these, IFAP focuses on items, which make direct investment easier for businesses. For example, during a recent IFAP review, there were a number of different areas considered for promoting greater trade and investment, including: E-transparency which includes the “Publish(ing) laws, regulations, judicial decisions and administrative rulings…”; Reducing investor risk through “Establish(ing) timely, secure and effective systems of ownership registration and property use rights for land and other forms of property.”; and Simplifying business regulation including reducing business costs by “Shorten(ing) the processing time for applications.”
The progress of APEC’s economic integration and its facilitating direct investment has produced dividends as shown through the high level of it within Members’ Economies. During a 2010 APEC meeting, its Policy Support Unit stated, “…APEC members are three times more likely to export to, and two times more likely to import from, a fellow member than a non-member.” In the end, the importance of open economies is what will increase economic integration and investment. However, inconsistencies among Member Economies hinder the ability to achieve regional integration and investment.

Annotated Bibliography

History of the Working Group on Trade and Investment


This link is to the homepage for the Committee on Trade and Investment. Here delegates will find information on the history and current activities of CTI, as well as some of the achievements the committee has reached since its inception.


The Osaka Action Agenda was developed in 1995 as a way to implement the Bogor Goals. This link provides information on the Action Agenda as well as the key areas of work that Member Economies are to work in to achieve the Bogor Goals.

I. Growth in the 21st Century: Making APEC More Relevant to Key Stakeholders


The APEC Business Council is a private sector body that presents recommendations to APEC Leaders during an annual dialogue. This website provides a good overview of what exactly the ABAC is and how it functions. As a key stakeholder voicing the concerns of the business sector it is an important body for business stakeholders in APEC.


Stakeholders are an important aspect of the work of APEC, particularly in relation to trade and investment issues. Stakeholder involvement includes the business sector, academic and research institutions, and womens groups. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the different stakeholders that are working with APEC and the types of cooperation that they are undertaking.


The Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) supports gender equality as a means to contribute to the achievement of APEC goals. As a key stakeholder group within APEC, it is important for delegates to familiarize themselves with the work the GFPN is undertaking. The GFPN has provided recommendations to APEC on ways to better implement gender policies in their different areas of work.
The homepage for the ABAC provides useful information for delegates who are looking to gain a better understanding of a key stakeholders role within APEC. From this link, delegates can get information on the work that the ABAC undertakes in a variety of areas and how successful a stakeholder they have been within APEC.

This link is to the ABAC Work Program for 2011. To implement the 2011 Work Plan, ABAC has developed five working groups centered on different areas of importance: the Regional Economic Integration Working Group; the SMME and Entrepreneurship Working Group; the Sustainable Growth Working Group; the Finance and Economics Working Group; and the Action Plan and Advocacy Working Group. Each working group is tasked with a number of different priority areas of work—which delegates should familiarize themselves with.

The APEC Privacy Framework was adopted by Ministerial Declaration in October 2004 and this paper provides an analysis of the Privacy Framework and it’s implications for Member Economies. It also provides a good overview of the Framework itself and how it has evolved over the years.

II. Promoting Environmental Goods and Services (ESG) for Sustainable Economic Development

This is the joint statement released by the APEC Ministers after their November meeting in Japan, in which the APEC Business Advisory Council, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the APEC Secretariat, and the Director-General of the WTO all participated. They discussed the current global economy and how to achieve their goals after the financial crisis, as well as regional economic integration of EGS.

This is the written product of the 18th APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, in which APEC leaders discussed how to bring the Asia-Pacific region into the 21st Century. Included within the Declaration is an assessment of what APEC has thus far accomplished, opportunities and challenges, and the leaders’ visions for the future: an economically-integrated, robust, and secure APEC community.

This PDF file describes the EGS Work Program that was initiated in 2009, and which APEC has continued to implement. Delegates may find the Projects Map to be of particular interest, as it provides a description of each initiative taken as of 2009 along with who its proponents were, what category the initiative would
fall under, what Work Program component it satisfies, and what its status was when the document was released. Delegates can use this map to track certain initiatives and determine what progress has been made since 2009.


The APEC Information Management Portal is an online collection of documents, reports, and projects related to APEC’s work. Delegates can conduct a general search for their topic and access hundreds of sources, or can narrow their search to a particular project using the Project Database. The Project Database is regularly updated and is used by APEC to oversee its initiatives and determine what work still has to be done and by whom. Delegates can search by type of project, proposing economy, or by using other search parameters.


This is the website for the Committee on Trade and Investment. Delegates can read a brief history of the CTI and its composition, but more importantly, can access various documents and declarations that in any way involve CTI. The site also provides a summary of recent activities, in which they specifically discuss EGS priority areas for 2011.


APEC created this website in 2009 as a way for Member States to share EGS information and best practices with one another. The website allows visitors to search for documents produced by individual economies, and groups articles under specific categories, such as “clean technology,” “environmental industry,” and “renewable energy.” Delegates will also find market data and reports, as well as a list of current projects and their descriptions.

III. Strengthening Regional Economic Integration: Reversing Direct Investment Levels in APEC Economies


This is a news release from APEC regarding regional economic integration. It discusses briefly the benefits of increasing regional integration, as well as discussing the continuing efforts by APEC and Member Economies to promote regional integration.


The so-called Bogor Goals were established in 1994 during the Economic Leaders meeting in Bogor, Indonesia. The focus of the Bogor Goals is economic development and specifically, free and open trade and investment. The goals continue to be a focus of work for CTI and APEC.

This link provides an overview of APECs work in promoting regional economic integration, particularly in relation to the Bogor Goals. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the actions undertaken by APEC in promoting regional integration in order to understand the types of actions that can be taken going forward.


A key to promoting regional integration is improving trade facilitation among Member Economies. This link provides access to APECs IFAP, which outlines efforts to promote trade facilitation and specific actions that should be taken by Member Economies in this area.


This paper details Australia’s efforts in promoting trade facilitation in accordance with APECs IFAP. It details specific efforts taken by a Member Economy and the importance of the work that is being conducted in the trade facilitation arena.


Foreign Direct Investment represents a key aspect of promoting regional integration and economic development. This paper provides an overview of FDI in 13 Member Economies of APEC and the importance of increasing FDI throughout the region.