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Convenor's Summary Report on Competition Policy and Deregulation

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: CPDG Convenor



**Competition Policy and Deregulation Group
Khon Kaen, Thailand
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CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT ON COMPETITION POLICY AND DEREGULATION

Khon Kaen, Thailand
May 24th, 2003

1. Introduction

The CPDG considered as part of its work program the implementation of APEC Principles to enhance competition and regulatory reform because it recognises their strategic importance to support the strengthening of markets to ensure and sustain growth in the region.

The main focus of the group is to promote activities related to information sharing, dialogue and study on competition policy and deregulation, competition legislation and its interrelationship with other policies related to trade and investment, increase transparency, promote culture competition among government and domestic constituencies and elimination of trade impediments or unnecessary restrictive regulations.

2. Developments since Merida 2002

- **Broadening of the Osaka Action Agenda.**

In the last CPDG meeting, according to the Leader's mandate of Shanghai, the OAA was broadened to reflect changes in the global and regional economy to facilitate the achievement of the Bogor goals.

- **APEC-OECD Cooperative Initiative**

The third workshop of the APEC-OECD Cooperative Initiative on Regulatory Reform (first stage), was held in Jeju Island in Korea, on October 16-17, 2002. The meeting concentrated on (1) the relationship between transparency and regulatory reform, competition policies and market openness; and, (2) challenges of regulatory reform in key economic sectors.

This year, the second stage of this Initiative will continue with the celebration of the Fourth Workshop. Initially it was scheduled on May 21-22, nevertheless, it was decided to postpone it considering that the success and effectiveness of the workshop was threatened by the low assistance of participants and speakers due to the outbreak of the [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome \(SARS\)](#).

- **Training Program to promote Economic Competition in APEC Economies**

This program aims at promoting the implementation of the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform through seminars focusing on regulation in the energy, transportation, telecommunications and finance sectors.

The first two components of this project, addressing energy and transportation, were held in Mexico City, on May 30-31 and September 19-20, respectively. The two remaining components will be developed in 2003 and 2004.

- **Training Program on Competition Policy**

APEC Training Program on Competition Policy was submitted jointly by the CPDG and Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure (SELI). The main objective of this Program is to provide developing economies with technical co-operation and assistance by taking advantage of the accumulated APEC knowledge and expertise on competition policy.

The first component of this project was held in Bangkok, Thailand, August 6-9, 2002. The second component was scheduled 25-27 March, in Hanoi Vietnam, but due to the SARS was also postponed.

3. Issues Related to Instructions from the Leaders, Ministers and SOM to be implemented in 2003.

- **WTO Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System**

The importance of supporting an open, rules-based multilateral trading system under WTO was reaffirmed. The CPDG has considered to ensure that the cooperative dynamic in APEC complements, supports and contributes to the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) by encouraging and coordinating confidence building activities.

- **Transparency**

Aware of the relation between Transparency and Investor's Confidence, the implementation of APEC Transparency Principles should be pursued.

- **IAP**

The improvement and updating of IAPs should be continued.

- **CAP**

Work on the revision and enhancement of CAP should continue to carry on producing tangible deliverables.

- **Strengthening functioning of markets**

Considering the complementarity of SELI's and CPDG's activities, further work has to be developed in order to enhance business and investor's confidence.

- **Structural Reform**

Initiatives on structural reforms aimed at strengthening the market fundamentals across the region will be discussed in order to promote dialogue and work in this area.