

SUMMARY RECORD

25th Meeting of the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

22 August 2017

The 25th meeting of the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group (ACTWG) was held at Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam on 22 August 2017.

Agenda Item 1 – Registration

The 25th meeting of the ACTWG was chaired by H.E. Mr. NGUYEN Van Thanh, Deputy Government Inspector General of Viet Nam and was attended by 20 APEC Member economies (all economies except for Mexico); and Non-member participants from the American Bar Association (ABA), Transparency International (TI), UNODC/WB Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Agenda Item 2 – Opening Remarks

The **ACT Chair, H.E. Mr. NGUYEN Van Thanh** warmly welcomed all delegates to the 25th ACTWG meeting in Ho Chi Minh City. He looked forward to economies' continued support for him as 2017 ACTWG Chair, so that his mission would be successfully completed. He hoped that the ACTWG would reach a consensus on all the issues set out in the agenda.

Agenda Item 3 – Adoption of the Agenda

After receiving several inputs from member economies, the ACTWG members adopted the agenda of the 25th ACTWG Meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – APEC Secretariat Report

The **Program Director** gave an update on APEC Projects. He gave key advice for project implementation and informed some changes for the new project session in 2018, including updates to the Guidebook and new scoring framework. Member economies were advised to contact the Program Director, look at the Guidebook on APEC Projects and search the ACS website for any project-related issues.

Agenda Item 5 – Members' opportunity to report on Anti-corruption progress and development on implementing the UNCAC and other initiatives related to Anti-corruption and Transparency

5.1. **Viet Nam** updated on its anti-corruption works since the 1st SOM of APEC 2017. Accordingly, the economy made many positive progresses. The National Assembly passed the revised Penal Code, which supplemented many new regulations to enhance the detection and handling of crimes in general, and corruption and money laundering crimes in particular. Viet Nam issued regulations on inspection and supervision of asset declaration for senior officials (vice minister or higher levels). In the second quarter of 2017, Vietnamese investigation agencies initiated 51 new cases and 82 defendants for corruption crimes. Prosecutors at all levels prosecuted 20 cases and 54 defendants for corruption charges. People's Courts at all levels tried 17 cases with 18 accused. Viet Nam also strengthened international cooperation in anti-corruption through working visits to China, Singapore and Malaysia. Besides, the role of society, including the press agencies, in fighting corruption was promoted. Moreover, the quality of public administration services was improved. Some other anti-corruption activities included drafting the revised Law on Anti-corruption to submit to the National Assembly; developing the Government's Action Program on Anti-corruption towards 2020; implementing the 2017 Anti-corruption assessment indicators in localities, using Korean experiences and technical assistance; and kicking up the UNCAC implementation review in the second review cycle.

5.2. **Peru** gave an update on its measures in prevention and punishment of corruption, as well as promoting transparency. Regarding studies on Corruption, in October 2016 it was created the Presidential Integrity Commission which presented a report with 100 anti-corruption proposals, and in December 2016, the High Level Anticorruption Commission presented the "Final Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Plan 2012-2016", which delivered the main achievements obtained, as well as the difficulties and lessons learned in its implementation. In March 2017, the Peru-OECD 2017 Integrity Forum was held in Lima, an event in which the 'OECD Study on Integrity in Peru' was officially presented, a document that has a set of recommendations, covering issues related to political financing, the promotion of public ethics and the management of conflicts of interest, lobbying, whistleblower protection, internal control and risk management, among other issues. On prevention of Corruption, various entities of the Executive Branch adopted as a good practice the publication of a "Sworn Statement of Interests", applied to senior officials, ministers and deputy ministers, a measure undertaken to avoid conflicts of interest in public administration. In addition, it was approved the Peruvian Technical Standard, the ISO 37001 "Anti-bribery management system", positioning Peru as one of the first Latin American countries to promote the application of this bribery prevention tool in both public and private organizations. On combat and punishment of corruption, the Executive Branch has issued several legislative decrees linked to the sanction of acts of corruption that extends the term of the penalty of principal disqualification; that incorporates the perpetual disqualification for crimes committed against the Public Administration; that creates the register of lawyers sanctioned for professional malpractice, among others. Also, in December 2016 the Office of the Public Prosecutor established a Special Team to investigate the offenses of corruption of officials in which the Brazilian company ODEBRECHT and others had committed, referring to the bribes they would have committed for several years. On promotion of transparency, it was created the "National Authority of Transparency and Access to Public Information" Finally it was highlighted that Peru's efforts to adapt its legal system to international standards has been recognized in the reports of the monitoring mechanisms of the UNCAC and the Inter-American Convention against Corruption; and that Peru was admitted as an associate member of the Working Group to combat the Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in the International Commercial Transactions of the OECD.

5.3. **Japan** concluded the UNCAC on July 11, in the wake of the enactment of the domestic law to implement UNCAC on June 15. Even before becoming a state party to UNCAC, Japan had domestically and internationally made an active effort for effective implementation of UNCAC. And, since the conclusion of UNCAC, Japan would actively involve international cooperation as a party of UNCAC such as in Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the UNCAC and judicial and investigative cooperation among the parties to the Convention. In 2016, for effective implementation of UNCAC by each economy, this economy contributed funding to administration of the second cycle of Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the UNCAC through UNODC. As one of international cooperation including judicial and investigative cooperation, as a steering member, Japan was actively involving Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network-Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP) for cooperation and information sharing among investigative authorities in Asia Pacific region. As the chair, Japan would hold ARIN-AP Annual General Meeting in Tokyo on 27 – 28 September this year. As one of measures to strengthen anti-corruption in Asia Pacific region, Japan was proactively involving ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific co-hosted by ADB and OECD, contributing funding every year.

5.4. **Papua New Guinea (PNG)** acknowledged the impact of corruption on economic growth, thus recognized the importance of a domestic framework that can mitigate the impact and respond to corrupt practices, show international solidarity and implement international obligations, including UNCAC. To implement the Convention, the Government of PNG built the National Anti-corruption Strategy 2010-2030. The National Anti-corruption Strategy Taskforce was established in 2012 to oversee the implementation of the Strategy. The Government also endorsed a series of National Anti-corruption Technical Plans of Action and established the Technical Working Group to assist the Taskforce. In the first UNCAC review cycle, PNG was reviewed by Malawi and Tajikistan in 2013 as well as conducted review UNCAC implementation of Sri Lanka and Republic of Marshall Island in 2013 and Kenya in 2014. For the second review cycle, PNG would review Swaziland. Amendments to the Constitution for the establishment of the Independent Commission against Corruption was passed in 2014 and an Organic Law was being considered. The economy also was building a comprehensive whistleblower regime and established the financial intelligence analysis and supervision unit within the Central Bank.

5.5. **Hong Kong, China** gave information about the two-day international Seminar ‘Cutting the Financial Vein of the Corrupt’ which featured keynote speeches, case studies, a plenary session and related workshops. The seminar was organized by ICAC Hong Kong, with attendance by 240 delegates from anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies, justice departments, regulatory bodies, international organizations and the accounting and legal professions from 41 jurisdictions and 100 organizations. Back to back to the Seminar was a one and a half day training on financial investigation and asset recovery methodology and strategy attended by around 80 delegates.

5.6. **Chinese Taipei** spoke about its progresses on UNCAC implementation, corruption prevention, investigation, whistleblower protection as well as international cooperation and asset recovery. The Act to Implement UNCAC was put into effect and the Integrity Building Action Plan was amended. In order to comply with UNCAC, a bill relating ethics staff’s exercise of authority was being discussed and the chiefs of all levels of authority in the economy were enjoined to be devoted to the risk management of the authorities’ integrity. In addition, Chinese Taipei also carried out control and supervision, implemented audit check, tracking and evaluation on the affairs with high corruption risks and conducted audit on governmental procurements and inspection of construction quality of public projects. The “Act on Property-Declaration by Public Servants” and “Act on Recusal of Public Servants Due to Conflicts of Interest” were revised to strengthen the mechanisms of supervision on and disclosure of political donations and implement the lobbying registration system. Chinese Taipei established information platforms, planned and made progress on promoting administrative transparency, conducted public opinion poll and research for integrity to grasp the pulse of public opinions and international trends and to implement anti-corruption policies. The economy enhanced the data entry of requests for making an intercession, acceptance of valued gifts, taking invitations to dinner and other integrity and ethics events and the random check on the cases of requests for making an intercession. Furthermore, this economy made efforts in promoting campus integrity, deepening character education for students and strengthening corporate integrity, building private sector’s consensus on anti-corruption. Chinese Taipei amended the “Anti-Corruption Informant Rewards”, and strengthened the investigation into corruption, malfeasance and illegality and carried through administrative corruption investigation and affixed administrative responsibilities. To protect the reporting person, Chinese Taipei drafted the bill of the “Whistleblower Protection Act” to provide the protective measures of non-disclosure of identity, personal safety and working rights protection for the whistleblowers reporting the corruption, malfeasance and illegality or the malpractice that impacts the governmental authorities’ integrity image. Besides, Chinese Taipei was amending the Extradition Act, actively participating in the activities of governmental or non-governmental organizations and related integrity forums, sought transnational mutual legal assistance, followed the clues to track the income gained from overseas money-laundering and strengthened hunting down and bringing to justice the criminals fleeing abroad that committed serious offences.

5.7. **Thailand** shared anti-corruption progresses which Thailand had undertaken significant development at all levels. At international level, for the first cycle of the UNCAC review mechanism, Thailand completed its own review and, as a reviewer, completed the reviews of Myanmar and Sierra Leone. The remaining process of the first cycle was to approve the country report. Thailand would be a state under review by Iran and Bhutan in year two of the second cycle, commencing in June 2017. At regional level, Thailand emphasizes on the importance of fighting corruption in the ASEAN region, particularly repression of corruption at the border areas of neighboring ASEAN countries. The National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand (NACC) and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) established a working group aiming to strengthen mutual efforts to eradicate corruption along the border of the two countries. After successfully organized the first and second Bilateral Working Group meeting hosting by MACC and, NACC respectively, the third meeting will be held this October by MACC in Langkawi, Malaysia. At domestic level, to suppress corruption, a specialized Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases was established on the first of October, 2016 by upgrading a division of Thailand’s Criminal Court that had already been handling corruption and malfeasance cases. More importantly, Thailand was going to expand such specialized court into nine regions, covering the entire 76 provinces of the country. On the dimension of prevention, after amendment of the Organic Act on Counter Corruption in 2015, liability of legal persons for bribery was enshrined. Bribes paid by an employee for corporate benefits will trigger liability of the corporation, if the juristic person does not have appropriate internal control measures to prevent the commission of such offence. Guidelines for legal persons’ appropriate preventive measures would be prescribed by the NACC later this year. Most recently, on the 8th of August this year, the cabinet passed the resolution to approve all the mentioned measures and designated relevant agencies to study for implementation on the matter.

5.8. **Chile** updated that since its Anti-money laundering Act was modified at the end of 2015, several activities have been taken by the FIU for public organizations. First, FIU developed a system with guide of red flag for public organizations to detect and report suspicious transaction from public officials. A committee was established with one representative from each public organization that functioned as a compliance officer. The committee gathers at least once a month to make recommendations and talk about the red flag guide and criteria when reporting to the FIU. Therefore, through 2017 most public service agencies have implemented a Compliance Unit, where a compliance officer is in charge of that task. A risk matrix was developed, in order to be able to identify red flags regarding the public sector, and the FAU generated a Guide of Red Flags for the Public Sector to use for these purposes. Second, in accordance to the creation of Compliance Units in public services, Ethics Codes had been developed, in order to regulate probity standards and good performance of the public duties by civil servants. One of the relevant Codes of Ethics was the one adopted by the Public Procurement Service ChileCompra, which was highlighted since a lot of domestic bribery cases affect public procurement. Third, Asset and Conflict of Interest disclosure was then mandatory for all high ranked officials and the contents and opportunity of the declarations could be revised and supervised by the Comptroller General. If they do not comply with the opportunity or contents, differing with the real assets and conflicts of interest, they might be compelled and even removed from their position. Fourth, regarding whistleblower's protection, in June 2017, the Public Prosecutor's Office signed an agreement with the Chilean Chapter of Transparency International, in order to provide mutual cooperation and especially to create and develop a whistleblower's protection system (ALAC). Accordingly with this initiative the Public Prosecutor's Office recently obtained funding from the Europe Aid to develop a project in order to design and implement an adequate whistleblower's Protection System in Chile that would start by the end of 2017.

5.9. **China** started to undergo the first cycle implementation review since 2013. The executive summary of the review report was published on line on November 16, 2016, and full report was being drafted. Since its accession to the UNCAC, China has been calling for the full use of UNCAC in carrying out international anti-corruption cooperation and promoting cooperation with other countries in mutual legal assistance, extradition, and asset recovery and law enforcement based on the convention. Since 2014, China has been waging a war, the Skynet Operation, against corrupt fugitives and their illegal assets transferred abroad. With the support of many countries, we have made notable progress in this war, recovering the stolen assets of 9.1 billion RMB and bringing 43 out of the 100 fugitives for which China has requested cooperation via the INTERPOL red notice system with the One Belt and One Road Initiative, China focused its efforts on eliminating bribery and making the Belt and Road construction corruption-free.

5.10. **Indonesia** updated about its UNCAC implementation. The economy was the state party under review by Yemen and Ghana in the first year of the second review cycle. It already completed its response to the self-assessment checklist on the implementation of chapter II and chapter V. They started preparing for the review process since September 2016. KPK was the focal agency coordinating the involvement of 22 other institutions for the review. It was planned that the country visit would be conducted in Jakarta in September 2017.

5.11. **Korea** completed the first review cycle of Korea in 2014. For the second review cycle, Korea has been cooperating with Viet Nam in reviewing Solomon Islands and Korea will be reviewed in 2019. Having suffered from a series of political corruptions including the influence-peddling scandal by the previous president's confidante, which led to her impeachment, Korean people are now calling for ending corruption more strongly than ever before. Anti-corruption is the new President's top priority in running the state. The ACRC is now putting together all public organizations' anti-corruption capacities to establish comprehensive anti-corruption measures, and working to set up and operate president-convened consultative meeting consisted of anti-corruption related agencies. The ACRC is also planning to enact laws to recover crime proceeds, strengthen protection of public interest reporters such as whistleblowers, and prohibit public officials from making improper solicitations to private persons. Going forward, the ACRC will cooperate with not only other public organizations, but also the private sector, including civic groups, to speedily implement its strong anti-corruption policies. By doing so, the ACRC will do its part in meeting the people's strong desire for a transparent nation and will contribute to making Korea a leader in anti-corruption area.

5.12. **The Philippines** reported that the *Presidential UNCAC Inter-Agency Committee (PUIPCOM)* has been closely working with the Office of the Ombudsman on a number of areas, including the UNCAC Compliance Review, implementation of anti-corruption laws and prosecution of corruption crimes, prevention and other UNCAC-related matters. In the 5th session of the Conference of State Parties to UNCAC, the Philippines was in the second UNCAC review cycle. Philippines would be

a reviewing state party of Mauritania and would undergo its own review in 2018. The economy would be hosting the *South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC)* meeting in Manila in November 2017. Under the approved work plan of the Presidential UNCAC Inter-Agency Committee, several key activities are lined-up for action---Cluster meetings – prioritization of legislative and other measures, medium and long term actions and identification of technical assistance needs; Identification of relevant agency (UNCAC unit/office) and creation of Special Working group to draft guidelines of cooperation; Drafting of Progress Report of compliance on Chapters 3 and 5 of UNCAC to be transmitted to the UNODC; In preparation for the second review cycle on Chapters 2 and 5, the PUICOM had approved the governmental experts nomination; Approval of Guidelines for Civil Society Organizations; Transfer of data from Preliminary Assessment Report to the Revised Self-Assessment Checklist; Assignment of UNCAC Articles to cluster members; Participation of the Philippines to the bi-annual Conference of State Parties slated in November 2017; and Preparation and holding of the 5th State Party Conference, recognized as a best practice for an UNCAC State Party such as the Philippines. Moreover, it has various legislative proposals/initiatives in compliance with the provisions of the UNCAC, which are clear manifestations of its domestic and international commitment to fight corruption in all fronts. Thus, the pending bill to empower the Office of the Ombudsman to obtain at any time all documents that may show a public officers assets, liabilities, net worth, and business interests. If, passed this will be an exemption to the bank secrecy law, legislative proposal to grant immunity to whistle blowers; grant of additional investigative and prosecutorial powers to the Office of the Ombudsman which includes the employment of wiretapping in special meritorious cases; several money laundering cases/bank inquiry cases were filed by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) before the Department of Justice (DOJ), Regional Trial Court (RTC), and to the Office of the Ombudsman, and other initiatives to enhance law enforcement in criminal investigation of corruption cases. Within APEC framework, the Philippines sent its report on best practices in promoting social engagement in anti-corruption as requested by Viet Nam. Hence, a comprehensive report of its anti-corruption prevention programs and other initiatives were highlighted-Ombudsman Integrity Caravan; Enhancing the Income and Asset Declaration System; Development of Ombudsman Stylebook; Investment Ombudsman Program; Environmental Ombudsman; Integrity Accountability in Public Service (ITAPS); Campus Integrity Crusaders; Graft and Corruption Education Teaching Exemplars; Blue Certification Program; Integrity Management Program; Red Tape Assessment; International/Local linkages in anti-corruption matters; Citizen's Charter; Youth Leadership Camp; Use of Social Media; Philippine Government Electronic System; Philippine Transparency Seal; Civil Society Organizations; Gender Development Program and Telephone Hotline accessible to the public *8888 Citizen's Complaint Hotline.

5.13. **Russia** considered UNCAC a universal legal instrument which plays a central role in anti-corruption. In 2015, Russia hosted the 6th session of the Conference of State Parties to UNCAC and it was then preparing for the 7th session which would be held in November 2017 in Vienna, Austria. Russian biannual plans on combating corruption were approved by the President regularly. With regard to international cooperation in identification, seizure and return of criminal assets, Russia reiterated its support for the UN to develop an international legal instrument for asset return. Russia was interested in learning anti-corruption experiences from all APEC economies to improve its legislation, policies and practices. Law on Anti-corruption of this economy was revised many times on the basis of learned best practices.

5.14. **The United States** continued to strengthen the government wide efforts to prevent and fight corruption both domestically and internationally. Overseas, the U.S. Department of State and USAID provided about 125 million US dollars to fight corruption and worked with partners to make progresses bilaterally, regionally and globally. Within the framework of ACT-NET, the U.S. government made strong enforcement efforts to combat foreign bribery, especially through the implementation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. With regard to chapter V of UNCAC, the State Department and Department of Justice continued to work together to target perpetrators of corruption both domestically and abroad. Department of Justice implemented the Kleptocracy Asset recovery Initiative and has successfully returned approximately 150 million dollars and assets since 2010 and was then working to return another 30 million dollars. In addition, Department of Justice seized and frozen more than 3 billion dollars in assets linked to corruption in many countries including Malaysia, Nigeria, Uzbekistan, Equatorial Guinea, and Honduras. Domestically, at the end of 2016, the U.S. Congress passed the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, which gives the U.S. federal government the authority to impose financial and visa sanctions on foreign officials and their associates who engaged in significant corruption. The U.S. also had a number of mechanism to prevent the proceeds of corruption from entering the U.S. financial system and to detect the potential movement of illicitly acquired assets. In May 2017, the Senate introduced a bill to strengthen anti-money laundering legislation and to promote transparency in U.S. financial system. The Office of Government Ethics also recently issued

the comprehensive revision of regulations on the executive branch ethics programme including strengthening ethics training programs. In March 2017, the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act was introduced in the US Senate. Later this year, the Treasury Department released the new version of the USAspending.gov site in accordance with the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (Data Act) requirements. Regarding UNCAC, the U.S. looked forward to a successful conference of state parties in November and was currently cooperating with Sierra Leone in reviewing UNCAC implementation of Italy. The economy itself would be reviewed the following year. The U.S. representative also congratulated Japan for being an UNCAC state party and looked forward to working with state parties and APEC economies.

5.15. **Malaysia** shared that within the framework of the UNCAC 2nd Review Cycle, the economy had successfully undergone a peer UNCAC implementation review from 4-7 July 2017. The peer review was conducted by anti-corruption experts from Timor-Leste (Chapter II) and Swaziland (Chapter V). The Executive Summary and the Country Report were being finalized. On 24-25 May 2017 this year, MACC successfully organized the 8th Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) Forum in Kuala Lumpur. This platform of ACA Forum was generally sought to identify desirable roles for anti-corruption authorities and enhance policy capacity by learning from experiences of other countries. It was also geared towards strengthening networking & cooperation in particular in areas of corruption prevention among member anti-corruption agencies within Asia Pacific. International Organisation for Standards (ISO) had developed and launched a new standard called ISO 37001 Anti-bribery Management System (ABMS) in October 2016 with the objectives to help organizations combat bribery and promote an ethical business culture.

5.16. **Australia** provided a brief update on its involvement in the second UNCAC review cycle and some recent developments in anti-corruption policy in the economy. Accordingly, Australia would be reviewed by Iceland and Pakistan and was in the process of finalizing its self-assessment report of our implementation of chapters II and V of UNCAC. Australian officials, alongside Namibian colleagues, reviewed Liechtenstein's implementation of chapters II and V of UNCAC earlier in the second cycle. The Australian Government had recently committed to exploring and implementing reforms to strengthen their existing whistleblower protections, both in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. In December last year, the Australian Government released its first National Action Plan under the international Open Government Partnership initiative which included 15 commitments to enhance public sector integrity and transparency. This would include a review of the jurisdiction and functions of some of the key agencies in Australia responsible for anti-corruption detection and investigation. The Government was also consulting widely on proposed reforms to their foreign bribery laws with representatives from business, civil society and legal, accounting and auditing bodies. The Government has also committed to improve the transparency of information on beneficial ownership and control of companies and to make it more readily available to relevant authorities. Recently, legislation to implement the first phase of recommendations arising from the report on the statutory review of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws was introduced in this economy.

Agenda Item 6 - Report on the implementation of the 2014 Beijing Anti-corruption Declaration

6.1. **China** made an update on carrying on with the Sky Net Operation, deepening international anti-corruption cooperation and cooperation on priority individual cases. First, on March 7th 2017, China started the fourth consecutive year of the Sky Net Operation aiming to bring back corrupt fugitives as well as their illicit gains. The Operation included several affiliated campaigns such as the Fox Hunt Operation, Campaign against transfer of corruption proceeds via offshore companies and underground banks, Campaign of asset recovery by use of confiscation procedures of illegal gains. Since January to July 2017, 680 fugitives from over 60 countries and regions were brought back to China, among whom 188 used to work in the government or government affiliated institutions. 43 out of the 100 fugitives notified via the INTERPOL's red system were brought back to justice with 9.1 billion RMB of assets recovered. Second, China continued to call for more practical international cooperation in anti-corruption efforts. China actively participated in the UNCAC implementation review work, and led the discussion on fugitive repatriation and asset recovery in many multilateral frameworks such as G20 ACWG, BRICS ACWG, APEC and AOA. Bilaterally, the 12th China-US JLG Anti-corruption Working Group meeting was held in July where anti-corruption and law enforcement practitioners from the two countries had candid and in-depth dialogues over bilateral anti-corruption cooperation. In asset sharing, China and Canada signed an agreement on sharing and return of forfeited assets in 2016, the first agreement of this kind China has signed. In 2017, China and New Zealand worked together in a case and started the sharing procedure after 42.85 million New Zealand dollars of illicit assets were recovered. China is also working with countries including Viet Nam, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, etc., to explore the possibility of establishing bilateral anti-corruption mechanisms. Third, China was

prioritizing individual cases in its anti-corruption cooperation with other countries and has made notable progress. With the strong support of the United States, Canada and Grenade, many corrupt fugitives on red notice wanted by the Interpol were brought back to justice, including WANG Chengjian, REN Biao, HUANG Hong, just to name a few. In June 2017, a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Supervision visited New Zealand and Australia and had frank discussion on bilateral anti-corruption cooperation with relevant authorities of these two countries. For the second half of this year, China would focus our efforts on 5 key cases together with the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

6.2. **Thailand** reaffirmed its intention to give continuous endorsement to the implementation of the Beijing Anti – Corruption Declaration. In compliance with the Declaration; Thailand considered adoption of more flexible approaches under domestic legislation for recovery of proceeds of corruption, after the establishment of a specialized Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases last year, on the 29th of March 2017, the court rendered judgment of the bribery scandal of Bangkok International Film Festival and sentenced former Governor of Tourism Authority of Thailand and her daughter in imprisonment of fifty and forty four years respectively. The judgment also forfeited the defendant's properties for sixty-two million baht (around 1.8 million dollar). Previously, the NACC indicted the former governor of Tourism Authority of Thailand for illicit enrichment in the corruption offence of the same case. From the investigation, it was evident that the defendants concealed their money in various countries, including the USA. The NACC was coordinating with the United States to seize and return the proceeds of corruption to Thailand. This would be the first case that has illicit assets recovered to Thailand.

6.3. **Indonesia** informed that the economy made asset recovery efforts to trace proceeds and all assets owned by perpetrators in parallel with the investigations. This asset tracing process sometimes would relate to foreign jurisdictions. The use of informal channel would be an important alternative in addition to MLA request in the process. International cooperation is not only limited by information exchanging in corruption and money-laundering enforcement but also cooperation in corruption prevention and technical assistance. Regarding the efforts to strengthen anti-corruption bodies, Indonesia re-announced the existence of Joint statement of principles of anti-corruption agency network discussed and recommended in 2012. Regarding the implementation of its commitment to deny safe haven for corruption and money-laundering perpetrators, Indonesia had a mechanism to deny entry to people who illicitly involved in corruption crimes. This mechanism was provided based on a request made through immigration communication channel. The FIU of Indonesia continued to strengthen its international cooperation through its active participation in Asia-Pacific Group on Money-laundering and the Egmont Group. The FIU also had MoU with other 52 countries to improve the speed of information and data exchange on suspicious transactions. Since 2002 Indonesia reformed its legal framework to meet international standards and to efficiently prevent and combat money laundering. Indonesia reformed its legal and institutional framework to adapt the need for money-laundering prevention. The economy also started prosecuting money-laundering for corruption proceeds. This year, the economy was working on the mutual evaluation review process for its compliance with the FATF recommendations. In addition, Indonesia was developing a system to collect, manage and share the beneficial ownership information in a more efficient manner in accordance with international standards. Furthermore, the economy encouraged the private sector to do businesses in accordance with moral and ethics regulations and to fight against corruption in its country.

6.4. **Japan** stated that in accordance with 2014 Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption, Japan made active efforts to conduct technical assistance to economies in Asia-Pacific region for effective implementation of anticorruption mechanism including UNCAC. Since 2000, every year, UNAFEI, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held UNCAC Training Program for practitioners in the criminal justice field in Asia Pacific region. Additionally, in 2016, through UNODC, Japan conducted reforms of prisons and capacity building for public officials involving anticorruption as assistance of criminal justice capacity building in Southeast Asia region. By concluding of UNCAC, the economy aimed to further strengthen international cooperation for anti-corruption in accordance with 2014 Beijing Declaration.

6.6. **Papua New Guinea** established the Central authority for international crimes in civil cooperation matters, which relates to extradition, MLA, enforcement of foreign judgments, enforcement of overseas maintenance and custody order. This economy was then reviewing Extradition Act 2005. Additionally, Papua New Guinea signed an extradition arrangement with Indonesia, developed a checklist for extradition and MLA and placed on its website in the Department of Justice and Attorney General. The economy also developed a template for law enforcement agencies on MLA and extradition.

Agenda Item 7 – Direction of ACT Work

7.1. ACTWG Strategic Plan 2013 - 2020

Chair invited the APEC Secretariat to update the development of the ACT Multi-year Strategic Plan 2013 – 2020.

The Program Director shortly previewed the recent development regarding the Strategic Plan highlighting that the APEC Secretariat had received some comments. He also requested to the delegates to contribute with their inputs to the proposed activities or some amendments regarding specific objectives or indicators.

Member Economies reviewed the plan, and comments and amendments were received from Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, the United States and Papua New Guinea - specifically focused on the language of some principles on anti-bribery and law enforcement, and on the report publication mechanism-. The APEC Secretariat set 22 September 2017 as the deadline for further comments on Strategic Plan 2013-2020.

Papua New Guinea stated the importance to ensure continuity in the work of the ACTWG, given the rotation of chairs with every host economy. PNG expressed its interest to develop a TROIKA mechanism between past, current and incoming hosts (and any other interested member) to meet at least once a year to plan and provide input for the following hosting of the ACTWG meeting to ensure alignment and continuity of the activities of the group. Economies suggested the necessary amendments to the strategic plan and terms of reference to reflect this arrangements. PNG mentioned that it would provide appropriate wording for the amendments and circulate in due course for members' consideration.

7.2. ACTWG response to the Recommendations of the Independent Assessment

The working group endorsed the responses to the Recommendation made by the Independent Assessment 2016, which were briefed by the Program Director. The six recommendations addressed the documentation; communications; and operation of the working group; the governance of the ACT-NET; the ACTWG's coordination with other fora within APEC, and also the strategic plan and the group's direction.

APEC Secretariat briefly illustrated how to access the APEC Collaboration System (ACS) to search all uploaded documents and encouraged the delegates to use the ACS platform. He also informed that all the documents would be double checked before being uploaded to the ACS, and that a proposed document such as 'principles' or 'guidelines' should be requested directly by the economies and approved by the working group beforehand been uploaded.

Most of delegates agreed that the APEC website had been improved the public access to the website and the interaction had become more easily and friendly.

In relation with PNG's comments regarding the structure and governance of the working group, the Program Director mentioned that the Friends of the Chair could be a possible mechanism which seeks to support the role of the coming chair. Further discussion is needed in order to work on the Terms of the Reference.

Agenda Item 8 – Reports on Ongoing and Proposed Projects and ACT Initiatives and Related Synergies with other Relevant International Fora.

8.1. Viet Nam reported on the outcomes of the APEC Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation among Anti-corruption and Law Enforcement agencies for effective asset recovery (held on 18 August 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City).

Viet Nam reported that the Workshop included 02 sessions, 09 presentations of speakers from Australia, Chile, Viet Nam, China, Singapore, the Philippines, the United States and UNODC and many opinions, exchanges, discussions of specialists from APEC member economies, and related agencies and organizations. The Workshop provided an overall picture of legal framework, policies and practices of economies from tracing, verifying, freezing to repatriating, confiscating corrupt assets. It particularly focused deliberations on analyzing, evaluating, from various perspectives, the difficulties, challenges in recovering corrupt assets; current situations of cooperation among domestic law enforcement authorities and among economies to recover corrupt assets. Various recommendations, effective

measures were put forward to improve the effectiveness of asset recovery, particularly in cases where assets had been dispersed abroad. Through the workshop, it was observed that there's a need for member economies' consideration to develop a guidelines or recommendation on this issue; develop a database to facilitate the compilation and sharing of information, good practices; promote the cooperation among law enforcement authorities domestically and internationally.

8.2. The United States and Viet Nam reported on the outcomes of the APEC Pathfinder Dialogue IV on Combating Corruption and Illicit Trade (held on 19-20 August 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City)

Viet Nam reported that over 140 participants from member economies, specialized anti-corruption and anti-illicit trade agencies, legal experts, judiciary bodies and international organizations participated in the Dialogue. With 5 sessions, presentations of 13 speakers and a lot of comments from the floor, the Dialogue focused its deliberations on anti-corruption, illegal logging, wildlife trafficking. During the two days of dialogue, participants actively took part in discussion sessions to figure out solutions to foster pillar actions in the coming time, which were: increasing the engagement and collaboration of the private sector in combating illegal logging and wildlife trafficking; finding appropriate modes of ethical training and exchange of expert in this field; the need for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, focusing on the exchange of criminal information and international cooperation in law enforcement among economies to fight against these transnational crimes.

The United States added that the 4th Pathfinder Dialogue brought together two working groups: ACTWG and EGILAT to discuss about the wildlife trafficking and illegal logging. The session on following the money to detect and investigate organized crimes using anti-money laundering and assets confiscation techniques had a lot of useful comments. Besides, ABA presented the concept note of the creation of regional coalition for combating the corruption on wildlife trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region through cross border and multi-agency collaboration.

8.3. Chinese Taipei and Papua New Guinea reported on the outcomes of the 2017 Workshop on Building Effective Whistleblower Protection Systems (19- 20 July 2017, in Chinese Taipei)

Chinese Taipei thanked Papua New Guinea for collaboration in organizing the Workshop. The Workshop shared the same intention of raising the people's awareness of the whistleblower protection. There were 36 APEC delegates from twelve economies joined the Workshop: Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand, the U.S and Viet Nam. During the Workshop, each economy made brief report on condition of whistleblower protection. Most of the APEC economies had whistleblower protection regimes; the cooperation among agencies in the whistleblower protection faced challenges; it was necessary to simplify the procedures so potential whistleblowers were not disadvantaged due to its complexity.

Chinese Taipei and Papua New Guinea revised the draft of Recommendations for Whistleblower Protection. At the workshop, all 13 economies also shared best practices and experiences on this issue. The Workshop supposed that APEC needed to refer to the Whistleblower Protection Rules in G20 Countries and UNCAC; ACTWG and ACT-NET could act as platforms for experience sharing.

Papua New Guinea said that the Recommendations will be revised again according to the further comments received by 22 September, and endorsement for the Recommendations would be sought from the group before the first meeting of ACTWG in 2018.

Chile expressed the interest in the topic of the Workshop held by Chinese Taipei and PNG and looked forward to the endorsement of the Recommendations as these would be useful inputs for Chile to amend the whistleblower protection legislation. It also expected that the topic on whistleblower protection would be discussed in the next ACT-NET meeting.

Russia would also contribute to drafting the Recommendations, and suggested to avoid providing the precondition definitions for the Recommendations and to find acceptable legal languages.

Viet Nam expressed its appreciation to the works done by Chinese Taipei and Papua New Guinea. Viet Nam said that the Workshop contributed much to the APEC Viet Nam 2017's success. Viet Nam would also soon make feedbacks to the draft Recommendations.

8.4. The United States and Viet Nam reported on the ACT Coordination Meeting with International Organizations (held on 21 August 2017)

Viet Nam reported that the meeting focused on discussing anti-corruption capacity building priorities within APEC member economies. Many results, good practices from organizations and economies were shared, such as the UNODC's technical assistance program and the building of capacity to fight corruption in economies in Asia-Pacific; regional efforts to provide technical support and capacity building for partners to identify risks and capacities to fight corruption, particularly anti-money laundering; success stories in preventing and combating corruption by educating, raising people's awareness and promoting active participation from non-state sector in anti-corruption, encouraging people and non-state actors to get involved in policy making process, creating a balance of interests in the legal system.

8.5. Viet Nam reported on the 4th ACT-NET Meeting

Viet Nam reported that at the Meeting, 20 member economies actively discussed and exchanged information on their respective legal framework, including advantages, difficulties in their practical fight against money laundering, recovery of corrupt assets, international cooperation in repatriating refugees, handling corruption cases, as well as practical experiences relating to using informal international cooperation channels to handle arising difficulties. Through the meeting, together with the sharing of information, member economies also discussed cooperation projects for ACT-NET in the future and issues interested by member economies. This was an important orientation for next steps of ACT-NET under APEC framework in the coming time in order to strengthen collaboration among member economies in general and in the fight against corruption in particular. At the meeting, Indonesia also informed about the coming training Workshop in Bali under ACT-NET framework. Besides important results, the Meeting also identified a variety of issues that need further discussions, clarification in the coming meetings to promote direct connection among law enforcement agencies of member economies, in order to facilitate information sharing, mutual legal assistance, extradition, corrupt assets recovery or joint investigations of corruption cases.

China thanked Viet Nam for successful ACT-NET Meeting and thought that it was well-organized and productive. Especially the topic chosen for the ACT-NET Meeting was practical and valuable to the law enforcement officials in the anti-corruption works. China also looked forward to the successful ACT-NET meeting in the Papua New Guinea in the next APEC year.

Indonesia also congratulated Viet Nam for successfully conducting the ACT-NET Meeting. It added the comments on the proposal of the compilation of the focal point contact list of the ACT-NET. The list should be updated annually and uploaded on the website.

8.6. China and Indonesia briefed the preparation of the Training Workshop on Asset Recovery

China said that the Workshop would be held from 6-8 December 2017 in Bali, Indonesia. The workshop was going to discuss the challenges in the asset recovery practices and help the ACT-NET colleagues and law enforcement officials to enhance to build capacity in this area. The agenda of the workshop had been drafted with study session. The topics were the basic principles and the international framework for asset recovery, asset trace, freezing and confiscation, repatriation, anti-money laundering, cross-border investigation, formal and informal approaches to asset recovery. Besides, the workshop would also discuss the suggestions and recommendations for the future; share the experiences and information; improve capacities in asset recovery. The workshop would have the broad and active participation from ACTWG and ACT-NET colleagues; invite all the APEC delegates, international initiatives relating to the anti-corruption and asset recovery and academic experts. The invitations would be sent to the focal point of the ACTWG and circulated to the respective ACT-NET colleagues. China and Indonesia also thank the supports from the APEC economies and sponsors economies, 2017 ACT Chair, APEC Secretariat for supporting the funds.

Indonesia briefly introduced the logistic preparations for the upcoming workshop in Bali and said that the host would fund two people of each eligible economy participating in the workshop. It also thanked the United States, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong China, Korea, Viet Nam for the positive support for the training workshop project; Australia for funding the Australian and New Zealand speakers attending the workshop.

8.7. Papua New Guinea presented a Concept Note on best practices on prevention measures in APEC member economies. Explained that the project explored ways for ACTWG to promote the culture of integrity and transparency to strengthen the corruption prevention mechanism. The sharing of best practices and experiences provide the opportunities for exchanging knowledge and effective method of

corruption prevention. The workshop would be held in the margin of SOM 1 in Papua New Guinea to generate discussion and recommendations for effective corruption prevention measures. Best practices and experience in developing good corruption prevention mechanisms would be gained through the sharing from experts of member economies, private sectors, NGOs and international organisations. PNG informed that the Concept Note got through the first stage of APEC project funding and it had been considered by principle decision makers before final approval. Papua New Guinea looked forward to the favourable outcomes and thanked the group for participating in the scoring process and for assigning high scores for the project. Papua New Guinea also thanked the co-sponsors: Australia and Chinese Taipei and certainly hope that ACTWG member could actively participate in the project.

Agenda Item 9 – Promoting social engagement in anti-corruption

9.1. Viet Nam reported on the progress of the Compilation of APEC Best Practices on Promoting Social Engagement in Anti-corruption

Viet Nam said that before compiling, Viet Nam conducted a survey among member economies for better understanding of their needs for providing and sharing such information as well as the availability of such information. Based on economies' responses to the survey, Viet Nam had developed a Template for APEC Economies' Sharing of Good Practices in Promoting Social Engagement in Anti-corruption and a List of Topics which were either of high interest or high availability of information for sharing. Until the SOM 3, Viet Nam had received responses from 12 member economies with 48 good practices, demonstrating significant efforts of member economies in promoting the role and responsibility of the society in anti-corruption work. Most of good practices were related to promoting the role of society through political will, communication activities, networking, forums and sharing activities to enhance social perception as well as the support of society in anti-corruption work. Viet Nam would like to thank the APEC Secretariat for the kind support in connecting it with member economies since SOM 1 and during the compiling process. The Compilation was uploaded on the APEC website at <https://www.apec2017.vn>. Viet Nam also expressed its sincere thanks to member economies for collaboration prompt responses. Viet Nam hoped that member economies would keep the Compilation updated with more good practices in the coming time, making it a useful source of reference for all.

Chinese Taipei would like to congratulate Viet Nam for efforts of compiling APEC best practices on promoting social engagement in anti-corruption. It said that it would be willing to take this Compilation its educational material to further improve its social engagement in anti-corruption.

The United States expressed its appreciation to Viet Nam for prioritizing the issue under its chairmanship and expressed its please for supporting Viet Nam in conducting the compilation. It was pleased to see the transparency international, ABA, other participants for joining the Group for supporting and continuing the commitment to transparency.

Papua New Guinea believed that the outcomes and the discussions at the Workshop on enhancing the social engagement in anti-corruption would be useful.

9.2. Chile shared some good practices to engage private sector and civil society in anti-corruption

Chile said that in the framework of the OECD Convention on bribery of the foreign public officials and foreign affairs, Chile regularly hold the capacity building sessions on main provisions and principles of the Convention to small and medium sized businesses. Regarding the banking sector, the government held the regular sessions to promote, study and coordinate measures in preventing and combating fraud, forgery and adulteration of document, money laundering and other crimes against public trust. The Confederation of Production and Commerce was working to generate initiatives to improve existing institutions in various areas of national interest, so as to provide the business point of view to the Legislative Branch. It made the close links with the unions, workers, universities, study centers and the media. The National Mining Society established the Legal and Compliance Management Area to ensure the implementation of the law on the penal liability of the legal person which regards to the money laundering, terrorist financing and bribery as well as the decree that promote and defense the competition of market. All these organizations participated in the self-evaluation process of the implementation of the UNCAC. 23 entities from public and private sector as well as civil society, coordinated by the Comptroller General of the Republic and UNDP were also involved in that process.

Agenda Item 10 – Report from International Organization on their Anti-Corruption activities and Synchronizing with ACT

10.1 The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported on their anti-corruption activities

UNDP briefly reported its mission in Asia – Pacific of partnering with people to help empower lives and build resilient nations. UNDP also briefed anti-corruption partners and respective projects such as Australian DFAT: Regional Project on Anti-corruption for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in Asia Pacific (Bhutan, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam); UKFCO: Regional Initiative on Mitigating Integrity Risks in Government Contracts; USAID: Regional Project to Improve Judicial Integrity; KOICA: Anti-Corruption Assessment Tool; NORAD: Prevention of Forest Crimes within REDD+ Programme. UNDP reported that political and economic captured with a small elite concentrating all powers; over 900 million people in Asia Pacific had paid a bribe when accessing to public services (TI); Asia Pacific region accounted for almost 40% of illicit financial outflows globally (GFI/UNDP); It took longer to enforce a business contract and obtain an electricity connection in South-Asia than in any other part of the world (ADB). Therefore, UNDP cooperated with partners to execute some measures such as: Supporting institutional development (e.g. supporting the capacity of oversight agencies, anti-corruption strategies); Developing the corruption risks mitigation tools(e.g. in infrastructure, health, education and water sectors, engaging government, private sector, CSO); Promoting social accountability(monitors and oversight of services by communities, CSOs, etc); Empowering (e.g. engagement with youth and women's groups, collective action with private sector); improving the service delivered to the people; preventing and tackling the corruption and contribute to the SDGs. UNDP said it helped countries to develop anti-corruption Policies; open government and community empowerment; ensured the inclusive service delivery (procurement, water, education, & health); improved judicial integrity. UNDP also introduced some useful knowledge publications and tools. It also looked forward to working with the APEC economies to combat corruption and promote economic prosperity within the region.

Viet Nam expressed the impression to the contributions of UNDP to the anti-corruption throughout the world in general and Viet Nam in particular. Viet Nam thanked UNDP for their support in implementation of UNCAC, other initiatives and effective projects. Especially, most recently, UNDP helped Viet Nam to carry out the Korea's ACRC initiative of assessing 63 provinces' anti-corruption works.

10.2. The American Bar Association (ABA) reported on their anti-corruption activities

ABA briefly updated the works of the ROLI in supporting Asia-Pacific in combating corruption and transparency crimes. ABA said it looked forward to continuing the supply of anti-corruption capacity building systems as we sought to do through the coordination meeting this year building on ABA's experiences of over 25 years in delivering rule of law integrity programs around the world. ABA also mentioned how it advanced the implementation of the UNCAC through other aspect of its regional anti-corruption program which based in Thailand. The regional anti-corruption program served the whole of the Asia-Pacific region. Some of the highlights of the programs over the past year include various projects of interest to the ACTWG. They included development of the law enforcement checklists; working with civil society to promote coordinator partnership through the government in fighting corruption. It worked with Interpol and UNODC to provide training on combating corruption in forestry sector in Singapore in November 2016. It provided anti-corruption training for the private sector through the Asia-Pacific anti-corruption ethics and compliance summit in November 2016. ABA also worked to combat human trafficking through assisting the development of Bali process roadmap on strengthening counter trafficking responses and provided bilateral assistance to many APEC member economies.

10.3. Transparency International (TI) reported on their anti-corruption activities

TI said beside of corruption perception index, TI had global corruption parameter transparency in reporting on anti-corruption, national integrity system assessment, the UNCAC progress report and the reviewing of anti-corruption agency in the Asia – Pacific. It also had principles for countering bribery, social accountability through the aid of effectiveness. TI worked with all different institutions, stakeholders and public sector, government, private sectors and civil society. it worked to support the engagement of the people by advocating how adopt blower-protection and support legal center as well as online reporting.

According to the corruption perception index report, most countries in the world were affected by corruption at the civil level with the average score of 44. The corruption perception index in 2016 highlighted the connection between the corruption and inequality. That was because of the unequal distribution of power in the society and unequal distribution of wealth.

Look at another statistic for Asia-Pacific region, the global corruption parameter, the majority of the Asia – Pacific countries sit at the bottom half of the corruption perception index. TI found that more than 1 in 4 people had paid of bribe to access public service, making on bribery rate for each country (equal to more than 900 million people across 16 countries in the survey had paid bribe). TI also mentioned 4 key recommendations to reduce the bribery and helped people speak up without fear: government should integrate anti-corruption target into all SDGs including hunger poverty education, health and gender equality and climate action and developed mechanism to reduce corruption; legislature should adapt and enforce comprehensively legislation to protect whistleblower based on prevailing international standards developed by TI; authorities should prevent and sanction bribe paying and taking to end impunity related to bribery; anti-corruption agencies should engage with and encourage large number of citizens who were willing to refuse to pay bribe and report corruption.

TI also had many programs in Asia-Pacific to help strengthening the capacity of anti-corruption agencies in this region.

10.4. The World Bank/UNODC Initiative on Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) reported on their anti-corruption activities

StAR briefly mentioned activities in assets recovery and hoped that in the future StAR would have opportunities to help all member economies in assets recovery. Those were country engagement of policy influence partnership, knowledge and innovation and communication. In terms of partnership, StAR was involved in the number of different global and regional network that assist the cooperation among law enforcement officials, prosecutors and police from different countries working on assets recovery. Regional networks were particularly relevant to ACTWG included RNAP (with secretarial at Korean supreme prosecutor office) and RRAG which covered the Latin - America region. Great majority of APEC member economies were covered within these two networks. ACT-NET was also welcomed to this network cooperation. Regarding knowledge products, StAR stressed that there were tremendous works of information produced in the past ten years since StAR was created. StAR had been worked with a great number of resources publication guides, tools, data, knowledge products and databases and dealing with assets recovery. StAR also invited member economies to look at the website star.worldbank.org to explore if had any need during dealing with issues of assets recovery. Legal implementation issues, databases that collected assets recovery cases were assets recovery country guides, beneficial ownership guides etc. Regarding the communication, emails can be exchanged through the website, raise the awareness about the importance of the assets recovery issues at the global level. Regarding country engagement issues, StAR worked with different countries around the world including a number of APEC economies to deal with assets recovery issues. Most of these engagements were the multi-year country engagement: generic capacity building, case-related capacity building. Methodology was arranged with different tools or methods from traditional training workshop to place of method or practical facilitation, help connected with the legislation when they were seeking evidence, assets.

Agenda Item 11 – Deliverables

Chair invited economies to discuss on the draft ACT Statement for APEC Ministers Meeting’s Declaration and APEC Leaders’ Declaration. Upon comments by member economies, Chair requested economies to continue to review the draft Statement and send feedback to the APEC Secretariat by September 2, 2017.

Agenda Item 12 – Other Issues

12.1. Guidelines for Cross – Fora Collaboration (SCE Chair)

SCE Chair Representative briefly presented the draft Guidelines for Cross-For a Collaboration. The Guidelines applied to all committees and their subfora, across committees and their fora. The Guidelines aimed to build a culture of collaboration amongst APEC fora; encourage diversity in views on cross-cutting issues; multi-disciplinary approaches to discussing issues and finding solutions; promote open dialogue and free exchange of information; optimization of resources in progressing APEC work. SCE Chair Representative also introduced

12.2. ACT Chairmanship 2018

Papua New Guinea thanked Viet Nam for a great and successful 2017 APEC hosting and facilitating all the APEC meetings. In 2018, Papua New Guinea looked to advance the discussions on the regional economic integration, free and open trade, business facilitation and growth. Papua New Guinea also looked to focus on the inclusive and sustainable growth and to explore the opportunity to discuss this inline of the resources sector. Besides, there would be discussions on good governance, transparency and fighting corruption. It also looked forward to success of the working group and add value to the discussion. Papua New Guinea expressed the interest in exploring the way to better coordinate with past, current and future host of ACTWG and welcome all member economies to Papua New Guinea 2018 APEC. Papua New Guinea also briefly introduced the logistic preparation for the next APEC year.

Agenda Item 13 – End of Meeting

The ACTWG Chair made the final remarks, giving a brief summary of the issues discussed during the meeting. He expressed the pleasure to observe fruitful discussions during the meeting: the Strategic Multi-year Workplan 2013-2020 had been discussed with valuable inputs from member economies; the Compilation of APEC member economies' good practices in promoting social engagement in anti-corruption had been developed with initial meaningful inputs from member economies, and posted on the APEC Database System; outcomes of the ACT anti-corruption workshops and dialogue and the 4th ACT-NET meeting held in 2017 had been acknowledged. The Chair also remarked that ACTWG recognized the need to continue to strengthen anti-corruption capacity building through a number of approaches including regional training courses, conferences and workshops.

The Chair thanked all member economies and attended organizations for their active participation and contributions to the meeting as well as to all other ACT events in the APEC Viet Nam Year 2017 and encouraged everyone to keep working for transparency and the fight against corruption.