



32nd Transportation Working Group Meeting



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2009/TPTWG32/MEG

MARITIME EXPERTS GROUP FINAL REPORT

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: Maritime Experts Group Chair (Japan)

Report of the Maritime Experts Group

at TPT-WG 32nd in Singapore

27-29 July 2009

1. Introduction

The MEG has met on 27-29 July 2009 and was attended by 35 delegates representing 15 economies: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and Viet Nam. The Chairman, Mr. Takeshi MURAOKA, welcomed the delegates to a joint meeting of MEG and MEG-SEC.

2. Election of Deputy-Chair of MEG

Mr. Jerry Rysanek, a representative of Canada, was unanimously elected by member economies for another term of two years as the Deputy-Chair of the MEG.

3. Joint-Meeting of the MEG and the MEG-SEC

3.1 Independent Review of TPT-WG

Mr. John Platts, in his capacity as APEC consultant, provided the outline of the questionnaire for the independent review that he has been tasked to undertake. The MEG and MEG-SEC noted that although the questionnaire is developed in a certain format, Mr. Platts encouraged the MEG and the MEG-SEC members to answer it in a flexible manner, as they deem appropriate.

3.2 Piracy and armed robbery against ships and Workshop to strengthen collaboration with APEC member economies to counter piracy and armed robbery

MEG and MEG-SEC members participated in the workshop and adopted the report as attached in Annex 1.

4. New and Ongoing Projects and Issues

4.1 Realizing the Bogor Goals in the Maritime Transport Sector

Japan presented a progress report and explained in the “Next Step Progress Plan” that a champion should be designated for the Policy Item 9 “*Subsidies to National Flag Vessels*” to complete the allocation of champions for all Group 1 “Maritime Service Group” items. Japan has agreed to act as champion for that item and invited interested economies to be co-sponsors of this project, which would contribute to the realization of Bogor Goals (see also paragraph 4.4 below).

The MEG noted that Group 1 is a priority among the three groups of policy items and also discussed how to proceed with the policy items in Group 2 and 3. The MEG agreed to ask the APEC Port Services Network (APSN) to consider providing input to the MEG on policy items 6 and 8. As regards Policy item 7, it was suggested that it could be considered as part of the project on “Bottlenecks in freight transport logistics focusing on port sectors” proposed by Japan.

China as champion for Policy item 3 will report its progress at the TPT-WG33.

4.2 Facilitation of International Shipping Project – Competition Policy Related to Liner Shipping

The MEG commenced at this meeting substantive discussion on the guidelines proposed by the consultants and considered papers prepared by Canada, Japan and the United States. Following discussion, the MEG endorsed the proposed Guideline 1, with reservations by some member economies. The MEG has not taken any decisions on the other guidelines.

The MEG will consider at its next meeting a common understanding on the guidelines to make it clear that they are non-binding. The MEG also agreed to hold a workshop on the proposed “Guidelines on liner shipping” as part of TPT-WG33. The MEG discussed invitees other than APEC, as suggested by Canada. The invitees will be expected to cover their own costs of participation at the workshop. Many economies supported that suggestion while one economy questioned whether it would be appropriate to invite participants from outside the APEC region. The MEG decided provisionally, to set aside a day and a half during TPT-WG33 for the workshop on Tuesday all day and Wednesday morning of the meeting week at TPT-33WG. The MEG discussed an initial format as attached Annex 3.

4.3 Cargo Preference and Restrictions Applying to Specific Trades

Republic of Korea presented the project proposal of “Cargo Preference and Restrictions Applying to Specific Trends”. The MEG had comments on substance as well as the funding of this proposal and invited Republic of Korea to submit the revised proposal at the TPT-WG33.

4.4 Subsidies to National Flag Vessels

The MEG noted the introduction of new project proposal by Japan. During an initial review by MEG, it was noted that only five (5) economies seem to have support measure and that these measures were acceptable under Policy item 9. Japan was invited to submit a concrete project proposal at TPT-33, and clarify which other economies would likely be the subject of this study, given the earlier findings concerning the five economies that have support measure, to make sure that the cost of any new study is well justified.

4.5 Bottlenecks in Freight Transport Logistics focusing on Port sectors

The MEG noted the introduction of a new project proposal by Japan on “Bottlenecks in freight transport logistics focusing on port sectors”. Since the APSN plans to hold an APEC Port Development Conference in November 2009, this will be an opportunity for Japan to present a more developed idea on this issue at the APSN conference and seek feedback from the conference on how to approach this issue. The MEG encouraged Japan to subsequently prepare a more concrete project proposal and circulate it well in advance of TPT-WG 33 so that MEG members could review it.

4.6 Impacts of Trade and Transport Policy on International Cargo Shipping and Economic Activities

The MEG welcomed the second interim presentation made by Japan on “Impacts of Transport Policy on International Cargo Shipping and Economic Activities”. However, since the report has not been circulated to MEG members in advance of the TPT-WG 32, the MEG was not able to discuss the interim report. Therefore, the MEG agreed to review the report and send comments on the report to MEG secretariat by the end of November 2009. Japan will consider the comments from MEG members and prepare the final report for the TPT-WG 33 and will circulate it well in advance of the next meeting.

Singapore noted that the interim report had highlighted the importance of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore to international shipping. Singapore informed the MEG about the Cooperative Mechanism on the safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore that was established in 2007. Singapore further informed that they will be hosting the 2nd Cooperation Forum, which is one of the three components of the cooperative mechanism, from 14th to 15th of October 2009. The 2nd Cooperation Forum will provide a platform for dialogue and follow-up between the littoral states, users, and stakeholders of the Straits on key issues and concerns relating to the Straits. Member economies are cordially invited to participate in the event.

4.7 Marine Accident Investigation Capability and Capacity Project

The MEG noted the final presentation by Australia on the response to the questionnaire circulated after TPT-WG 30. The MEG expressed its appreciation to Australia and requested Australia to try, once again, to obtain input from economies that have not yet responded to do so by the end of November 2009. At that point, Australia will finalize the report and circulate to all members of MEG and the Chairman will send a copy to the IMO for information.

4.8 Improvement of Energy Efficiency of Shipping

The MEG noted the explanation of the report on “Improvement of energy efficiency of shipping”. Four of twenty-one member economies submitted their best-practices so far. The

MEG agreed that member economies should submit their best-practices to the MEG Secretariat by the end of November 2009 so that Japan could finalize the report and circulate it to the MEG intersessionally. Japan would brief the MEG on the final report at the TPT-WG33.

5. Projects Completed and Results Achieved

5.1 Sharing Best-Practice in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions at ports

The MEG finalized the project proposed by Japan entitled “Sharing Best-Practice in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions at ports”. The MEG expressed its gratitude to Japan for the very useful work on this report and agreed to:

- a) post it as a Report by MEG on the TPT-WG website
- b) request the Communications branch of APEC Secretariat to issue a press release on the publication of this report, with due acknowledgement of Japan’s contribution to this worthwhile project
- c) request the MEG Chairman to forward the report to the APSN for dissemination to its members.

5.2 The Ballast Water Project

Canada provided a report on the ballast water sampling study. The project was approved as APEC project in 2006 and was then carried out by Canadian government as a self-funded project. The report contains useful information on this topic and thus the MEG requested the Chairman to send the final study to the IMO for information.

6. Economy Reports:

6.1 Presentation by the Host Economy, Singapore

Singapore made the presentation on “Addressing the Environmental Challenges for Shipping and Port Activities”. The MEG appreciated the very useful information contained in these presentations.

7. Discussions on MEG’s Work Plan

The MEG considered this item on the basis of TMM6 directives contained in a paper prepared by the Lead Shepherd and reviewed in detail the status of work on each of them. The outcome of this discussion is set out in the Annex 2 to this report.

8. Other business

The MEG Secretariat reported that two project proposals were not approved by BMC.

- Feasibility Study of Seaborne Trade database
- Development of a Qualification Standard for Officers and Ratings Onboard Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Carriers

9. Recommendations for HOD Meetings:

- a) to note the re-election of Mr. Jerry Rysanek of Canada to the position of Deputy-Chair,
- b) to note the recognition of the seriousness and importance on counter piracy off the coast of Somalia, and appreciation of the continuous efforts to deter pirate operations in the region, also to note actions to be taken by maritime transport authorities as discussed at a workshop held during TPT-WG 32 (see Annex 1); and to express its gratitude to Japan and Singapore for organizing the workshop,
- c) to note the good progress of work on ongoing issues and projects, particularly those linked to Bogor Goals such as the Facilitation of International Shipping Project and to note that the MEG will hold a workshop as part of its next meeting at TPT-WG 33 on the proposed “Guidelines relating to liner shipping” as set out in Annex3,
- d) to note the completion of number of projects including the Ballast Water Projects and the Marine Accident Investigation Capability and Capacity Project,
- e) to note the outcome of “Sharing Best-Practice in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions at ports” and to invite the Communications branch of APEC Secretariat to issue a press release on the publication of this report, with due acknowledgement of Japan’s contribution to this worthwhile project,
- f) to note a new project proposal on “Bottlenecks in Freight Transport Logistics focusing on Port sectors” which would have a link with APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Initiative,
- g) to note the MEG’s Work Plan (see Annex 2).