

## THE APEC ARCHITECT PROJECT THIRD CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING

### AGENDA BRIEFING NOTES

#### Introduction

The purpose of the APEC Architect framework, reiterated and endorsed by participating economies at each Central Council meeting, is to provide a reliable mechanism to facilitate the mobility of architects for the provision of architectural services throughout the APEC region by reducing current barriers to professional recognition. Over the past few years a total of 16 APEC economies have worked together in a spirit of cooperation and commitment to create the APEC Architects Register to accomplish these objectives, having as of now 14 economies as members of the APEC Architect Central Council.

#### Background

APEC is a cooperative association between 21 regional economies, founded to promote economic and technical cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC builds on WTO General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) principles for the progressive liberalization of trade in services through the reduction of regulatory restrictions, leading to reciprocal agreements between member economies where appropriate.

The APEC Architect project is a direct response to these commitments. It is an initiative of the Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG), an APEC organization concerned with the development of human resources within the region by enhancing opportunities for the transfer of knowledge and skills between participating economies. Most restrictions to trade in services apply to the establishment of a commercial presence and the presence of natural persons in a host nation, the usual methods of service provision employed by architects.

The APEC Architect project began as an initiative of the Australian government in 2001, when representatives of eleven APEC economies met in Brisbane to discuss how HRDWG principles could be applied to the architectural profession in the Asia Pacific region. A Steering Committee was formed to work towards the establishment of a Register of APEC Architects whose professional standards and experience would define a level of competence that would reduce current barriers to the professional recognition of foreign architects in APEC economies. The Register would establish a basis for negotiation of reciprocal recognition agreements between economies.

Over the course of three successive APEC Architect meetings, held in Sydney 2002, Kuala Lumpur 2002 and Taipei 2004, the Steering Committee fully explored the professional standards and registration/licensing systems for architects in each participating economy. Elements of architectural education, practical training and professional examination that would satisfy some, or all of the requirements for registration/licensure in participating economies, were identified and adopted as APEC Architect registration criteria. APEC Architects would also be required to have completed a period of professional experience as a registered architect. A structured framework was developed to implement the project.

At the following meeting in Honolulu, 2004, the APEC Architect Provisional Council was formed, comprising nominees of the Provisional Monitoring Committees established in each participating economy to administer a section of the APEC Architect Register. Outstanding procedural matters were resolved and a detailed process to administer the Register of APEC Architects agreed. The meeting concluded Australia's undertaking to initiate the project and Chinese Taipei took over administrative responsibility for the APEC Architect framework.

These preliminary negotiations culminated at the APEC Architect meeting held in Tokyo in 2005, when all preparations were completed and the Monitoring Committees of twelve participating economies were authorized to maintain a section of the APEC Architect Register. The Central Council, composed of members nominated by the twelve authorized Monitoring Committees, was duly constituted in readiness for the launch of the APEC Architect Register. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2005, the work and dedication of all participants came to fruition with the inauguration of the APEC Architect Register.

The meeting in Mexico City marked the conclusion of the development phase of the APEC Architect framework and the beginning of its future role as a valued gateway for architects seeking opportunities to export full professional services throughout the Asia Pacific region. Following a review of the effectiveness of provisions implemented until then, participating economies advised the Central Council of the policies they had adopted for the professional recognition of APEC Architects from other economies. These commitments form the basis of a framework for the reciprocal recognition of APEC Architects. Also, two newly formed Monitoring Committees were authorized

### **The Third Central Council Meeting in Vancouver.**

As of today, the APEC Architect has had a successful outcome made possible by the willingness of participants to learn about, and understand the structure and standards of the architectural profession in other economies, to recognize the needs of those involved and to work together to find acceptable solutions. But many commitments have yet to be made along with their compliance.

It is expected in this meeting in Vancouver to make several steps forward towards achieving the ultimate strategic objective of the HRDWG and APEC Architect, with the development of a stronger APEC Architect Mutual Recognition Agreement Framework, and to make it succeed on how it must be vigorously publicized and promoted.

As long as this spirit of goodwill and determination to succeed is maintained and agreed policy and principles rigorously applied, APEC Architect will prove a vital resource for the architectural profession, and those who regulate it, throughout the APEC community.

## **Item 1 - Welcome to Delegates**

The Chair will welcome all delegates of participating economies to the meeting, and extend a welcome to the representatives of any other economies who may be attending their first APEC Architect meeting as observers.

## **Item 2 - APEC Meeting Procedures**

The Chair will outline meeting procedures for delegates who are not familiar with them.

### **APEC meeting procedures**

- There is a maximum of three seats at the table for each delegation.
- Where delegations have more than three members the Head of Delegation should decide who is seated at the table at any time.
- The Chair does not request delegates to speak unless they indicate that they wish to do so.
- Delegates may do this by raising their hand or by standing their delegation sign on end.
- The Chair will call on delegations to speak, not on individuals.
- Delegates must occupy one of the seats at the table to make an intervention, and may exchange positions with fellow delegates in order to do so.

### **APEC Architect Central Council Proceedings**

- **Meeting Quorum:** The Central Council meeting quorum is two thirds of the Central Council Monitoring Committee membership.
- **Decision Making:** All Central Council decisions in connection with changes to APEC Architect criteria and registration policy, and the authorization or conditional suspension of Monitoring Committees, require the two-third support of all Central Council member Monitoring Committees for adoption. Council decisions on other matters are arrived at by consensus of members present. A Monitoring Committee must be represented in order to vote. All decisions requiring voting must be notified in advance of the meeting for pre-circulation with the Agenda.

## **Item 3 - Adoption of the Agenda**

Delegations are invited to raise any matter on the Agenda, or in the supporting documents, about which they require clarification.

Delegates are invited to give notice if they wish to make a presentation under any Item on the Agenda.

## **Item 4 - Confirmation of the Summary Conclusions of the Second Central Council APEC Architect Meeting.**

Each participating economy is asked to confirm the agreement of the appropriate authorities in its economy to the Summary Conclusions of the second meeting of the Central Council held in Mexico City, 23 - 24 May 2006.

(Summary Conclusions of the second Central Council Meeting are attached at APPENDIX 1, p. 25)

## **Item 5 - Constitution of the Central Council**

### **5.1 Applications to form New Monitoring Committees**

As was approved in the Mexico City meeting, any future application for authorization of a newly formed Monitoring Committee from an economy that is not yet a member of the APEC Architect framework is to be submitted to the Secretariat acting at the time for assessment and decision. Authorization would be subject to consideration of the information contained in the Survey Application form and supporting documents on the typical programs of architecture education and the required competencies for professional recognition in the economy. The decision of the Secretariat would be endorsed by the Central Council at its following meeting in accordance with agreed Council proceedings.

At the time of preparation of the Briefing Notes, no application for Authorization had been received from any other APEC member economy not participating in APEC Architect.

### **5.2 Central Council Membership**

At the meeting, each delegation will be asked to table the names of its Monitoring Committee's current nominations to membership of the Central Council.

**Note:** There is no limit to the number of delegates appointed to the Central Council by Monitoring Committees, but each authorized economy is entitled to only one vote.

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#### **Action: Item 5: Constitution of the APEC Architect Central Council**

**The Central Council is asked to receive the nominated representatives of Monitoring Committees to its membership.**

**The Central Council to be declared constituted.**

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## **Item 6 - Review of Progress of the APEC Architect Register**

### **6.1 - Update on the APEC Architect Register**

To ensure a measure of uniformity, the Central Council agreed at its previous meetings the following outline layout for APEC Architect websites:

- *A brief introductory statement*
- *Access to the list of APEC Architects in that economy*
- *Information for registration as an APEC Architect and document download*
- *A statement of home economy recognition requirements for APEC Architects from other economies*

Particulars of APEC Architects to be recorded on the Register include:

- *name and business address;*
- *home economy or jurisdiction in which the architect is registered/licensed;*
- *any other economy in which the architect is registered/licensed.*
- *An opportunity to be provided for APEC Architects to indicate their willingness to consider offers of professional alliance with APEC Architects from other economies.*

In order to reach the APEC Architect objectives, it is important to review progress of the APEC Architect Register and website so deficiencies may be corrected. According to advise by the Secretariat, some contents of participating economy's websites have differences that do not meet APEC and the APEC Architect criteria of uniformity. The main deficiencies noted are:

- At the time of preparation of this document, only four economies had a statement of home economy recognition requirements for APEC Architects from other economies.
- In some Monitoring Committee websites, it is difficult to understand their APEC Architect register mainly for the lack of information of their particulars. Since the APEC Architect Register of each participating economy may be consulted by any person in the world, it is important to have information uniformity agreed by the Central Council.
- Since APEC Architect is part of HRDWG, we are also part of the image of APEC. In this case, some websites do not use logo or colors recommended on the rules and procedures of APEC logo.

Economies are invited to update the Council on their APEC Architect Register and discuss progress so far taking into account the following categories:

- a) Economies that have not yet established their Register databases and websites are invited to advise the Council of progress so far and when they expect to complete the process.
- b) Economies that have their APEC Architect Register databases and websites are invited to comment on any problems encountered and offer any suggestions they may have for revision.
- c) Council to review content of websites and consider amendment if necessary.

It is understood that some economies may depend on other type of decisions in their Home Economies, so the statements made at the Central Council should include this information and probable timetables to correct deficiencies depending on any commitments made.

### **Proposal - Item 6.1: Update on the APEC Architect Register**

#### **It is proposed that:**

- Where possible, economies that have not yet done so, to complete their websites in accordance with Council decisions within the timeframe set following the meeting.
- Economies should set their timetables to correct deficiencies on their websites and APEC Architect Register.
- the Central Council to consider suggestions on possible amendments on Monitoring Committee website and database guidelines, in accordance with any decisions taken at the meeting

## **6.2 - Documentation**

It was agreed by the Central Council at its previous meetings, the use of standard APEC Architect documentation for admission to the APEC Architect Register that require evidence of completion of an accredited program of architectural education and practical experience, plus home economy registration/licensure as an architect, as well as a record of seven-year period of professional experience as a registered architect adopted as an effective way of confirming the professional competence of APEC Architects and proclaiming their status as experienced practitioners.

It was also resolved that Monitoring Committees would issue an APEC Architect Certificate of Registration and an Identification Card to all architects admitted to the APEC Architect Register, in accordance with a standard design. The Certificate and ID Card would bear the architect's name, the name of the home economy and date and currency of APEC Architect registration. Each economy would be free to use the language of the home economy or any other language of choice, but required information must also be provided in English. As agreed, the Australian Monitoring Committee designed the Certificate and ID card, which was circulated to Council members following the meeting. For this meeting they have introduced the updated version according to the advise of the APEC HRDWG.

This Certificate and ID Card are the documents that record the compliance of APEC Architects with agreed criteria and the currency of their registration as such. It is intended that they should act as passports for the professional recognition of APEC Architects in other participating economies.

At the time of writing, some economies had not yet adopted the agreed document guidelines for application as APEC Architects or they were not available for downloading. Council members are invited to advise whether or not they have adopted the agreed documentation and, if not, the reason and when will they be in position to comply. (APEC Architect documents are attached at APPENDIX 2, p. 28)

The application form for Registration as an APEC Architect applies mainly for the domestic economy, leaving APEC Architects from other economies with some difficulty to apply with an agreed standard format. Since Monitoring Committees should include on their websites a statement as to how they may comply for register in their economy, it is advisable to propose and adopt a standardized application form for APEC Architects from other economies that may include the required minimum information tabled at the Central Council and the specific Home Economy Recognition Requirements.

Delegations are invited to comment and discuss on this situation.

We also invite all Monitoring Committees to update all documentation that have the image of APEC with the new logo according to guidelines which may be downloaded from the Central Council website, so they comply with the advise from HRDWG. This must also include all websites of APEC Architect Monitoring Committees.

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## **PROPOSAL – Item 6.2: Documentation**

### **It is proposed that:**

- Delegates of economies to set their timetables to adopt the Document Guidelines accepted by the Central Council.
- To confirm the design, contents and layout of APEC Architect Certificate of Registration and ID Card, according to advise by HRDWG.
- To propose and adopt a unified Registration (Application) Form for APEC Architects from other economies.

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- Monitoring Committees ensure that the variations they introduce to this base document include the required minimum information.
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### **6.3 - Monitoring Committee Reports to Council**

APEC Architect Central Council policy requires *“Monitoring Committees to immediately notify the Council of any changes to their recognition requirements that might conflict with APEC Architect criteria and policy”*. They also have an obligation *“to report to the Secretariat at six month intervals on their APEC Architect registration activities and any other significant developments during the period, for circulation to all participating economies”*.

To ensure consistency of purpose and transparency of application, it was agreed at the Second Council Meeting in Mexico City, that the Monitoring Committees would send a 6 monthly report of their activities to the Secretariat in a format adopted by all the economies. At the time of preparation of this document, only half of the Monitoring Committees have sent at least one report which are on the Central Council website for access.

Monitoring Committees are invited to advise the Council the reason for not submitting the six monthly reports and discuss in what way this situation may be corrected. (Monitoring Committee Survey Report to Central Council format is attached at APPENDIX 3, p. 34)

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### **PROPOSAL – Item 6.3: Monitoring Committee Reports to Council**

**It is proposed that:**

- As a quality assurance measure, the Central Council to consider a timetable set by each participating economy to comply with this procedure.
  - The Central Council to consider suggestions on possible amendments on Monitoring Committee reports in accordance with any decisions taken at the meeting.
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### **Item 7 - Proposal on course of action if any participating economy failed to comply with Council rules.**

It was proposed at the Second Council meeting in Mexico City, to add in the Agenda what course of action the Central Council should take if any participating economy failed to comply with Council rules or requirements over an extended period considering the commitments being taken by all economies.

It was agreed that the Central Council must adopt policies to ensure the compliance of rules and procedures within a defined timeframe, with the possibility that each participating economy should be able to set its own timetable for compliance, and provision would need to be made for varying circumstances.