

**SUMMARY RECORD
PREPARATORY MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION STEERING COMMITTEE**

Ottawa, Canada, 8 May 1998

1., 2. OPENING ADDRESS AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES BY CHAIR

Mr. Tomas Astorga, Chairman, APEC GMEED, welcomed all the delegates and explained the procedural issues related to approving the steering committee. He explained the new EWG guidelines for third level groups that should apply for the creation of this sub-group.

There was a general acceptance that proposed activities for this group are conditional upon approval by EWG at its next meeting.

3. REVIEW OF THE KEY ISSUES OF THE SUMMARY RECORD OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION WORKSHOP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON MINING (ECOW'97) IN TOKYO.

The chairman presented a short review.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION STEERING COMMITTEE.

Japan read the draft terms of reference for the new proposed committee. After discussion, a small group was asked to revise the terms of reference. The member representatives accepted the changes proposed.

Canada nominated Mr. Takanori Kamei, Director, Mines Safety Division, Environmental Protection, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, as chairman of the new steering committee and the other delegations supported such nomination. Mr. Kamei thanked the delegates for his nomination and joined Mr. Astorga to co-chair the meeting.

5. PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION

5.A KEY ISSUES OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION TO BE FOCUSED FROM EACH MEMBER ECONOMIES.

There was a presentation on small-scale mining by the Philippines, explaining the difficulties faced by small quarry operators.

5.B. PROPOSED PROJECTS

5.B.1. ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION WORKSHOP (ECOW'98) IN SANTIAGO, CHILE: PRESENTATION OF THE WORKSHOP OUTLINE.

Chile made a presentation regarding international environmental legal regulations and mining suggesting further discussion on these issues. There was an open debate and several delegations supported the convenience of further discussion.

After that, Chile described the preparations and provisional program for ECOW'98, which will be held in Santiago from September 28th to 30th 1998. Chile asked this agenda to be approved at the meeting of GEMEED 3, Monday, May 11th.

Chile requested early submission of papers for the conference. In conjunction with ECOW'98, Japan offered to fund a visit to facilities in Copiapo. Chile thanked Japan for the offer. Canada suggested trying to visit the training center in Copiapo at the same time.

5.B.2. SUSTAINABLE MINING SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN APEC ECONOMIES (PRESENTATION BY AUSTRALIA)

Australia presented a cooperation project on sustainable mining, with a view to obtaining TILF funding in 1999. To obtain this funding the project must be approved by GEMEED before consideration by the APEC Secretariat in June 1998 (If the application for TILF funding is delayed, no funds will be available until 2000 at the earliest). The representative of the EWG Secretariat indicated that 1998 is the "Year of economic and technical cooperation". In order to achieve consensus, Australia will be discussing this project with delegates during the GEMEED meeting.

5.B.3, 5.B.4, 5.B.5. PROPOSED PROJECTS BY JAPAN

Japan briefly summarized three project proposals, as follows:

- **Information service centre on internet for environmental issues in APEC economies**

Japan will elaborate a model of this information centre and will send it to the Secretariat to be distributed to the member economies for comments and observations.

- **Research project on the trends in international environmental law affecting the mining industry**

Japan suggested a round table at ECOW'98 to discuss the proposal of research project on the trends in international environmental law affecting the mining industry. This discussion should be pursued at ECOW'98.

- **Research on life cycle assessment in metal mining**

Japan will be distributing questionnaires to economies to elicit their views related to the research on life cycle assessment in metal mining.

All delegates supported the objectives of these three projects.

6. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held in conjunction with ECOW'98.