

Terms of Reference (Draft)
APEC-GEMEED
Environmental Cooperation Steering Committee

Recognizing the objectives of the Manila Action Plan, which includes promoting environmentally sustainable growth, the Energy Working Group and GEMEED; and recalling the support for a steering committee on environmental cooperation at Environmental Workshop for Sustainable Development on Mining Activities (ECOW'97), hosted by Japan in October 1997; a Steering Committee on Environmental Cooperation will be established on the following basis.

A. Objectives :

1. Promote regional cooperation to mitigate the environmental effects of mining, based on the concept of sustainable development of minerals and metals, and taking into account the economic and social dimensions of environmental concerns.
2. Develop a strategy and action plan to:
 - a) establish priority issues for co-operation and technical exchange; and
 - b) facilitate Environmental Workshops and other events.
3. Promote communication among member economies.
4. Ensure that, where possible, its activities have widespread applicability within APEC economies.
5. Consistent with APEC rules and procedures, encourage the involvement of stakeholders, such as industry and local government, and consult with relevant NGOs.
6. Facilitate the involvement of stakeholders, such as industry and local government.
7. Review its activities and evaluate their effectiveness.

B. Role:

1. Act as facilitator and promoter of issues related to environmental cooperation on mining within APEC.
2. Recommend activities consistent with the Action Plan for approval by GEMEED.
3. Promote partnerships and identify potential sponsors and funding sources.
4. The role of the Steering Committee will be reviewed in 48 months.

C. Organization:

1. The Steering Committee will be formed and managed under the auspices of the GEMEED.
2. The Steering Committee will consist of one representative from each interested member economy.
3. Decisions and recommendations to GEMEED will be made by consensus.
4. The Secretariat of the Steering Committee will be based in Japan, at the following address:

Mine Safety Division
Environmental Protection and Industrial Location Bureau
Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)
1-3-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo, JAPAN
Tel : + 81-3-3501-1870 Fax : +81-3-3501-6565

International Environmental Cooperation Division
Metal Mining Agency of Japan (MMAJ)
Tokiwa Bldg., 1-24-14, Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN
Tel: +81-3-5512-1307 Fax : +81-3-5512-1426
E-mail : ecow@mmaj.go.jp
(Agency Assisting the Secretariat)

5. The Secretariat of the Steering Committee will:
 - a) compile and maintain a membership list;
 - b) circulate documents and information on the committee's activities; and
 - c) prepare meeting agendas.
6. Regular meetings will take place in conjunction with major APEC-GEMEED events, or as determined by member economies.
7. The Steering Committee will maintain a close liaison with the Database Steering Committee to coordinate and exchange information.