

## **CO-CHAIRS' STATEMENT OF 2<sup>ND</sup> APEC BLUE ECONOMY FORUM**

December 6-7, 2012, Tianjin, P. R. China

### **BACKGROUND**

The 2012 APEC Leaders' Declaration highlighted the important role of marine resources and marine ecosystems in regional economic integration and food security in the APEC region. In line with the Leaders' Growth Strategy, the APEC Ministerial Meeting supported the efforts in addressing sustainability of ocean and marine resources through a holistic approach, and encouraged efforts to mainstream ocean related issues through regional economic integration, which was underlined in the 2010 Paracas Declaration by focusing priorities on: 1) sustainable development and protection of the marine environment; 2) adaptation to climate change on the oceans; 3) promotion of free and open trade and investment; and 4) preserving the role of oceans in food security.

The call has been echoed in major global and regional fora prior to and following the Rio+20 Conference which addressed the need to articulate how the Green Economy approach to sustainable development is to be applied in the marine environment and the ocean sector, which, in many member economies, has been marked by unabated degradation of ocean and coastal ecosystems and depletion of natural resources; coastal States, especially small island developing States (SIDS), have made Blue Economy one of the priority areas of debate in regional and global preparatory processes. Moreover, the Rio+20 Ocean Declaration emphasized the need to move forward towards a Blue Economy to ensure that the use of marine resources contributes to income and jobs, pollution and waste reduction, social equity and inclusiveness, food and nutrition security, and poverty eradication. The need to explore a holistic solution to achieve sustainable development on oceans by developing Blue Economy was also highlighted at the 2012 East Asian Seas Conference, in the Yeosu Declaration, and in the UN Secretary General's Oceans Compact.

As a follow-up to the 1st APEC Blue Economy Forum held on November 5, 2011, in Xiamen, China, which resulted in some key consensus on policies and procedures in developing the Blue Economy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> APEC Blue Economy Forum was convened on December 6-7, 2012, in Tianjin, China, and aimed to advance regional understanding and support of the Blue Economy to facilitate mainstreaming Blue Economy in the development agendas of APEC member economies.

### **COMMON UNDERSTANDING**

Over 200 participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APEC Blue Economy Forum, coming from 15 APEC Member Economies, other related Asia-Pacific economies, and 10 international organizations, discussed important issues related to the development of Blue

Economy in the Asia-Pacific region and reached a common understanding, including but not limited to the following:

1. Applies the principles set forth in the Rio+20 Outcome Document and relevant APEC documents as appropriate, including but not limited to, the principles of sustainability, inclusiveness and innovation.
2. Recognizes the importance of improving respective member economies' integrated policy and projects.
3. Encourages efforts to mainstream the Blue Economy in APEC Economies' respective development agenda.
4. Integrates land- and ocean-based economies, considering that the land and the ocean form an integrated whole.
5. Supports inclusive growth as one of the five pillars of the APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy by increasing income and creating job opportunities, particularly for vulnerable groups of the population by optimizing multiple economic benefits.
6. Values the role of innovation in the Blue Economy by improving the technological capability and dissemination within marine industries, including the development of eco-tourism, application of low-carbon technologies and renewable marine energy.
7. Promotes connectivity and communication among APEC Member Economies to facilitate the free flow of goods, services, trade and investment in a sustainable and equitable manner.
8. Encourages the involvement of the private sector, in particular SMEs through ABAC and other public private partnerships (PPPs) in ocean-related activities and the Blue Economy, and promotes women's role in Blue Economy.
9. Implemented in line with ecosystem-based management to balance economic development and environmental protection.
10. Strengthens the role of ocean-related cooperation in emergency preparedness, disaster relief, as well as in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
11. Enhances cooperation and coordination among relevant APEC sub-fora on Blue Economy issues, while avoiding duplication and establishing partnerships with international organizations as appropriate.

### **CALL FOR ACTION**

We, the co-chairs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> APEC Blue Economy Forum, call for steps to be taken to achieve the sustainable development goals related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS through the following priority regional cooperative measures in the development of Blue Economy:

1. Establishing APEC Blue Economy model programs to explore the pathway of Blue Economy cooperation;
2. Exploring possible ways to develop the methodology of classification and measurement for Blue Economy in the APEC region to assess performance;
3. Supporting a more active role of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development

Center in promoting Blue Economy cooperation;

4. Continuing the development of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report;
5. Calling for relevant APEC sub-fora, such as ATCWG, CTI, EPWG, EWG, PPFS, PPSTI, PPWE, SMEWG, TPTWG, TWG, and others, to carry on cooperation in promoting Blue Economy;
6. Strengthening the capacity building of APEC economies, especially developing economies, through training programs, information exchange and experience sharing, and other initiatives;
7. Increasing public awareness of the importance of ocean conservation and the Blue Economy, particularly for future generations.