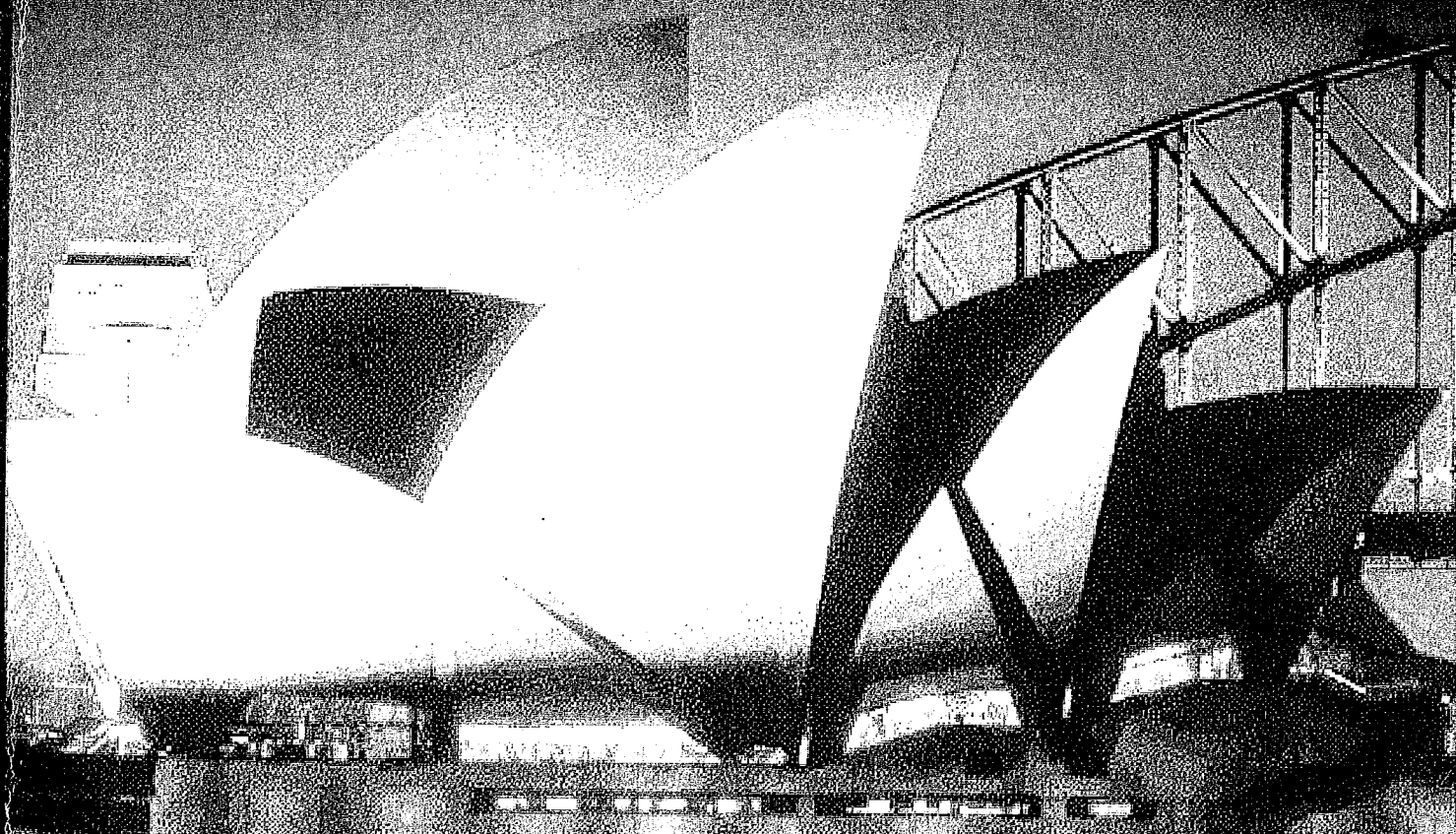


ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION

# MEETING SUMMARY

FIRST APEC ARCHITECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
SYDNEY AUSTRALIA 12-14 JUNE 2002



# THE APEC ARCHITECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



**Renaissance Hotel**  
13-14 June 2002, Sydney, Australia

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Participating Delegations

Australia, (Chair); People's Republic of China; Hong Kong China; Japan; Malaysia; New Zealand; Philippines; Thailand, Chinese Taipei; United States of America.

**A List of Delegates is attached at APPENDIX 1.**

**Apologies:** Papua New Guinea, Canada, Indonesia.

### ITEM 1. Welcome to Delegates

The meeting was declared open at 9.30 am, Thursday, 13 June 2002.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to all delegates attending the meeting. It was noted that Papua New Guinea had unfortunately been obliged to pull out shortly before the meeting and Fiji, which was expected to attend as a guest economy, had also withdrawn.

Canada and Indonesia had again expressed their support for the project, and their wish to be kept informed of progress, even though they had not been able to send representatives to this first meeting of the Steering Committee.

The Chair referred to the number of delegates present who had also attended the first APEC Architect meeting in Brisbane last year, at which commitment to the project had been obtained. It would now be the responsibility of the Steering Committee, constituted at that meeting, to develop a methodology for implementation of the project and to formulate proposals for establishing the APEC Architect Register.

## **ITEM 2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The delegate from Malaysia gave notice that he wished to take the opportunity provided in the Agenda to make a brief presentation to the meeting at a convenient time.

No other matters concerning items in the Agenda were raised.

## **ITEM 3. Confirmation of Summary Conclusions of the First APEC Architect Meeting**

The Summary Conclusions of the first APEC Architect Project Meeting in September 2001 in Brisbane had been agreed "subject to endorsement by the appropriate authorities in the participating APEC economies".

In accordance with that resolution, each delegation formally confirmed that the responsible authority in its economy endorsed the Summary Conclusions agreed at the first APEC Architect Project meeting.

## **ITEM 4. APEC Architect Criteria – Accredited Education Programs in Architecture**

The Chair introduced this item by restating the aim of the project, expressed in the Summary Conclusions of the previous meeting, "to establish a mechanism to facilitate mobility for architects for the provision of professional architectural services in participating APEC economies".

The primary objective of the first meeting of the Steering Committee was to determine benchmark criteria for APEC Architects in accordance with principles adopted at the inaugural meeting. These criteria would derive from common elements and procedures in the education, training and registration of architects in participating economies. When combined with a period of appropriate professional practice as a registered/licensed architect, it was intended that they would satisfy at least some of the requirements for professional recognition in a host economy.

Reference was also made to the project's commitment to promotion of standards of best practice and the consequent importance of ensuring that criteria adopted for admission to the proposed APEC Architects Register satisfied international standards.

### **Architectural Education**

Before opening discussion on the first of the criteria, accredited architectural education programs, the Chair referred to the pie chart diagrams summarising the general content of architectural education in each economy. These had been circulated prior to the meeting, revised as necessary and confirmed by all participating economies as reasonable examples of their education provision. Common subject areas had been grouped in broad categories of Design, Technology and Environmental Science, Social, Cultural and Environment Studies, and Professional Studies. Subject areas that did not

fit readily into these core subject areas were identified as Related Studies and Unrelated Studies.

Delegates were reminded that the summary diagrams were intended only as broadly descriptive illustrations of common elements in the architectural programs of participating economies. It was recognised that some of the apparent variations between economies would be due to differences in interpretation and categorisation of subjects and would not necessarily reflect fundamental differences in architectural education.

Amended diagrams of education provision in Chinese Taipei and Thailand and a summary of recognition procedures for architects in Indonesia were distributed to delegates.

The meeting then turned its attention to consideration of common aspects of programs of architectural education to determine an acceptable education requirement for the proposed APEC Architect register. Observable trends in the summaries were noted and the Steering Committee was asked to agree on the general core subject areas in an accredited/recognised program that would be required to meet APEC Architect criteria, and to decide the emphasis or weighting that should be placed on them.

Delegates looked first at the core subject area of Design which had emerged as the dominant category in the education summaries. Despite the difficulties experienced by several economies in apportioning the components of their courses of study into the proposed categories, the meeting agreed unanimously that Design should be the central competence required of an APEC Architect.

It proved more difficult to establish a system for ranking the other core subject areas in order of their importance. Delegates from Japan, Thailand and Chinese Taipei each explained the problems they had encountered in trying to fit subjects in their architectural programs into the suggested categories. The delegate from the Philippines pointed out that the use of different measures, such as contact hours or credits, to express the emphasis given to various subject areas made comparisons difficult. It became clear that it would require detailed and time-consuming analysis of courses of study in each economy for the meeting to reach a viable decision on any form of weighting. Also, any such system would inevitably rely on quantitative measures because of the difficulty of establishing and applying qualitative standards.

Discussion followed on the value of defining a minimum weighting for Design only, in terms of the emphasis placed on the subject in an accredited architectural program. Although there appeared to be agreement that this might be desirable, variation in education systems between economies made it difficult to establish an appropriate basis for comparison. Delegates from Japan and the US expressed the view that quality should be the measure for establishing a minimum requirement for Design, not the period of time spent on it. In the end, the meeting concluded that there was no immediate necessity to define precise standards and suggested, instead, that consensus be reached on the overall distribution of core subject areas, possibly ranked in order of importance.

After further discussion it was agreed that Design should be recognised as the core subject area of primary importance in an accredited program of architectural study, and that it was not in fact necessary to define a more precise benchmark standard at this stage of the APEC Architect project.

The Committee next turned to consideration of the other core subject areas and debated the value of attempting to indicate their relative importance. The Chair noted that the education summaries had indicated a clear ranking in terms of priority from Design to Technology and Environmental Science followed by Social, Cultural and Environmental Studies with Professional Studies in fourth place. There was general agreement that these categories should be adopted as the education criteria for an APEC Architect. However difficulties of categorisation again arose, particularly in relation to Technology and Environmental Science subjects, and the meeting concluded that to proceed further along the detailed path of analysis and minimum weighting of subject areas would be unproductive.

The Japanese delegation was of the opinion that the project should place greater reliance on the recognition process than on the content of architectural education programs. The possibility of establishing a minimum length of an accredited architecture program was also raised by the New Zealand delegate but not pursued. The meeting agreed with the suggestion of the Philippine delegation that the category described as "Unrelated Studies" should instead be called "General Education".

The meeting also endorsed the proposal of the Thai delegate that 'Related Studies' and 'General Education' be identified in addition to the other proposed core subject areas as optional subject areas for recognised programs of architectural education.

The Steering Committee agreed to the following:

*The core subject areas in an accredited/recognised program of architectural education are:*

*Design, as the predominant subject category, and  
Technology and Environmental Science  
Social, Cultural and Environmental Studies  
Professional Studies*

*Other subject areas within architectural education programs may include:*

*Related Studies  
General Education*

## **Accreditation/Recognition Procedures**

The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the significance of the process agreed at the first APEC Architect Project meeting for determination of the education requirement for an APEC Architect, which placed reliance on the systems employed by

participating economies for the accreditation/recognition of architectural education. Although the formal procedures adopted for this purpose differ in some respects between economies, they share common principles of good governance.

To establish reliability of process, it was proposed that the Steering Committee reach consensus on the regulatory principles required to underpin the systems of accreditation/recognition that would be acceptable for APEC Architect purposes. This approach had the broad support of the meeting. Various draft principles in relation to the authority, legal status and composition of the body responsible for accreditation, its transparency and accountability and the methodology to be used, were considered by the Steering Committee.

The delegate from Japan pointed out that Japanese architectural programs were not accredited by visits of inspection but formally recognised by government authorities. The meeting agreed to Japan's request that the term 'recognition' be used in addition to 'accreditation' in subsequent reference to and report on these matters.

Various other issues were discussed. Delegates from Hong Kong and Malaysia questioned the proposed inclusion of definition of 'legal status' of the accreditation/recognition body as not entirely appropriate where the process was conducted by a professional association, rather than a statutory authority. The meeting agreed to modify the proposed wording to indicate that the reference to legal status only applied 'where appropriate'.

At the suggestion of the delegate from the Peoples Republic of China, the possibility of developing guidelines for the composition of accreditation/recognition bodies and the methodology used was considered but, in the end, rejected as being too restrictive.

Concern was expressed by the Japanese delegation that adoption of regulatory principles by the APEC Architect Project, such as those proposed, might compromise domestic regulatory arrangements, but it was generally held that they were intended to provide guidance only, not to act as legally binding commitments on home economies.

The Steering Committee agreed to the following principles of good governance in accreditation/recognition procedures for education programs:

*The accrediting/recognising body should have authority and (where appropriate) legal status and be transparent, independent and publicly accountable.*

*The accrediting/recognising body should have a structured process for the approval of qualifications and compliance with agreed standards.*

✓ *The Steering Committee agrees to respect the accreditation/recognition procedures of each participating economy.*

*The Steering Committee agrees that processes that incorporate the above principles would be accepted as satisfying the accreditation/recognition criteria for educational programs for APEC Architect.*

## **ITEM 5. APEC Architect Criteria – Period of Post-graduate Practical Experience**

It had been resolved at the first meeting of the APEC Architect Project that an agreed minimum period of post-graduate practical experience would be one of the criteria for an APEC Architect. From information obtained in the preliminary survey it was evident that most economies required completion of a period of structured, supervised practical experience of at least two years duration, one of which must be undertaken after graduation, to become registered or licensed to practise as an architect. It was noted by the meeting that this period would be reinforced by the additional requirement that APEC Architects must also complete an agreed period of professional practice as a registered/licensed architect.

The Steering Committee was asked to agree on a minimum period and any other specific prerequisites for the post-graduate experience requirement for an APEC Architect.

The item provoked considerable discussion. Although the surveys had revealed that most economies have a minimum requirement of at least one year post-graduate experience, some delegations were at first reluctant to assign a minimum period to the APEC Architect practical experience requirement, despite the decision to do so having been ratified earlier in the meeting.

These reservations appeared to arise from concern that the proposed one-year period would be at variance with domestic requirements in several participating economies and might conflict with home economy arrangements. Delegates from the Peoples Republic of China, Hong Kong China, Japan, Thailand and Chinese Taipei each expanded on this perceived difficulty. In some cases their requirements were greater and there were also variations according to the length of the course of study undertaken in several economies. It was, however, acknowledged that in such circumstances additional practical experience could be required of APEC Architects by host economies to address any significant differences.

Various other options were canvassed. The Japanese delegation expressed the opinion that the experience component was an integral part of the registration examination and it was not perhaps necessary to consider it separately. There was some support for the suggestion of the delegate from Thailand that an overall total pre-registration and post-registration experience period of seven years be adopted for this criterion. The Malaysian delegate believed that professional experience as a registered architect would have greater importance in facilitating the mobility of architects within the region, a view seconded by the Philippines.

The US delegation believed that the pre-registration/licensure practical experience requirement served a different purpose from the proposed fourth criterion of professional practice as a registered architect and should continue to be regarded as a separate criterion for an APEC Architect. It suggested that some of the inconsistencies that were causing concern might be removed if the practical experience/training requirement for an APEC Architect were redefined as 'pre-registration/pre-licensure' rather than 'post-graduate'. The meeting agreed with this proposition.

Australia proposed that a minimum period of two years practical experience/training prior to registration/licensure as an architect be adopted as the requirement for an APEC Architect, a position supported by the USA.

The Philippines delegation proposed that the practical experience required for this criterion should be described as 'diversified experience', a proposal endorsed by the meeting.

After further detailed consideration of the wording of a statement on its practical experience requirement, the following principle was agreed:

*The Steering Committee agrees that there should be a prescribed minimum period equivalent to a total of two years practical pre-licensure or pre-registration diversified experience as defined by the home economy.*

*The Steering Committee agrees that this will meet the pre-registration or pre-licensure criteria for an APEC Architect.*

#### **ITEM 6: APEC Architect Criteria – Registration/Licensing Requirements for Professional Recognition**

The Steering Committee next considered the proposal that the registration/licensure examinations in participating economies be accepted as satisfying the registration requirement for an APEC Architect. Although several economies believed that the combination of post-graduate and post registration practical experience would be of greater significance in establishing the level of competence of an APEC Architect, the meeting accepted that registration in a home economy provided reliable evidence that required standards had been met.

The delegate from Japan noted that some economies provide for alternative routes for the registration/licensure of architects who have not completed accredited/recognised programs of architectural education. It was questioned whether the criteria adopted by the meeting would preclude such people from becoming an APEC Architect. The Steering Committee agreed that a person who had successfully completed the registration/licensure examination of a participating economy, by whatever route, and subsequently completed the nominated period of professional practice as a registered architect, would satisfy APEC Architect criteria.

The Steering Committee agreed to the following principle:

*The Steering Committee agrees that fulfillment of registration/licensing requirements for recognition as an architect in a home economy be accepted as meeting one of the criteria for an APEC Architect.*



## **ITEM 6A. APEC Architect Criteria – Period of Professional Practice as a Registered/Licensed Architect.**

Although it had been intended to defer consideration of this subject until the next Steering Committee meeting, in view of its relevance and because there was time, the Chair opened preliminary discussion on the outstanding fourth APEC Architect criterion, a period of professional practice as a registered/licensed architect.

It was recognised that delegations would not be in a position to reach any binding conclusions because they had not had an opportunity to prepare for debate or discuss the subject with the appropriate authorities in their respective economies. However, it was felt that there could be merit in exploring some of the issues that would need to be resolved at the next meeting.

Some general principles that might apply in determining a nominated period of professional practice were outlined, such as definition of acceptable areas of experience, the degree of personal responsibility for projects undertaken, indication of the complexity of such projects and the need for formal documentation and authentication.

The Chair referred to the criteria adopted for the APEC Engineer framework which included a requirement for APEC Engineers to have “gained a minimum of 7 years practical experience since graduation and spent at least two years in responsible charge of significant engineering work” as defined. The path followed by the APEC Engineers might provide a useful model for the APEC Architect Project.

General discussion based on personal opinion of each delegation’s members ensued. The US delegation suggested that a five year period of practice as a licensed architect, acting in the capacity of principal with responsibility for projects undertaken, might be an acceptable minimum requirement. This proposition was supported by the delegate from the Philippines, noting that the key element would be that the architect had liability for the work undertaken as the responsible professional, not necessarily as a principal. Australia thought the minimum period should be seven years and proposed that the level of experience required should be defined as responsibility for ‘complex buildings’, a definition of which was tabled by Australia. There was general consensus that the required experience should be well documented and authenticated.

The question was then raised as to where the professional experience should be undertaken. The Japanese delegation suggested that some experience might be in the home economy and some in the host economy. However the New Zealand delegate pointed out that the imposition of a host nation requirement would significantly reduce mobility in those economies where it did not currently exist.

New Zealand also noted that there were other barriers to mobility in the provision of professional services by architects within the APEC region that did not relate to professional qualifications but were significant for the project and should perhaps be addressed by the Steering Committee at an early stage. The Philippines delegation

suggested that, as the project was responding to GATS principles, bilateral agreements might be a practical way forward.

Other matters were raised, including how the agreed period of professional practice as an architect might be assessed, the need for a continuing professional development requirement and how economy specific obligations might be dealt with. Potential terms of reference for this criterion and matters that might require further consideration were agreed to by the meeting.

**Potential Terms of Reference for Professional Practice as a Registered/Licensed Architect are attached as APPENDIX 2.**

### **Presentation by the Malaysian Delegation**

The delegate from Malaysia addressed the meeting on an important new initiative of the Malaysian Government which had recently established a Professional Services Development Centre (PSDC) to harness and maximise the economic potential of the professional services industry, the fastest growing sector within the Malaysian economy. PSDC's role is distinctive compared to other existing professional bodies in Malaysia. While most professional bodies are sector-specific, PSDC aims to develop local professionals within the following five sectors:

#### **Legal services**

**Accounting** - Accounting, auditing and book keeping services; Taxation services.

**Construction Industry** - Architectural services; Engineering services; Integrated engineering services; Urban planning and landscape architectural services; Surveyor (quantity surveyor, land surveyor, valuation surveyor).

**Healthcare** - Medical and dental services; Veterinary services; Services provided by midwives, nurses, physiotherapists and paramedical personnel; Pharmacists;

**Education.**

In addition to the above, PSDC has also included the participation of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) as its member. CIDB aims to develop both professional and non-professional players within the construction industry.

Key activities had been identified to support the strategies adopted by the PSDC to achieve its goals which could have application for the APEC Architect Project. The Centre was committed to developing strategic linkages with capacity building organisations in other countries, especially those within the region and with networking foreign institutions for joint participation in research and development activities. It intended to play a lead role in the development of mutual recognition agreements where appropriate and promote the exchange of technologies through facilitation of local and international workshops and training programs.

The Malaysian delegation believed that the APEC Architect Project and the principles it embraced had direct relevance for the PSDC goals and looked forward to a continued positive dialogue and possible joint participation with other economies in the future.

The Malaysian presentation was well received by other delegates. The Philippines voiced its support for the program, adding that it could act as a facilitator for the APEC Architect project. The US delegation thought it a progressive move and commended the Malaysians for undertaking it. New Zealand also endorsed the concept.

## **ITEM 7. Summary Conclusions**

The Chair drew delegates' attention to the draft Summary Conclusions of the meeting which had been tabled. These referred to the principles agreed during the course of the meeting in respect of common elements of architectural education programs, accreditation/recognition procedures, fulfillment of a period of pre-registration/pre-licensure experience and recognition as an architect in a home economy.

**The Summary Conclusions of the first meeting of the APEC Architect Steering Committee were adopted.**

Each economy was asked to obtain endorsement of the Summary Conclusions by the responsible authority for confirmation at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Potential terms of reference for a period of professional practice as a registered/licensed architect, attached at Appendix 2, were also agreed to by the meeting for the purpose of preliminary discussion by the appropriate authorities in each economy for further consideration and resolution at the next meeting.

**The Summary Conclusions of the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the APEC Architect Project are attached at APPENDIX 3.**

## **ITEM 8. Provisional Program**

The meeting moved to consideration of proposals for future conduct of the project and a provisional timetable for next meeting of the Steering Committee. The provisional program for future conduct of the project was agreed to.

**A Provisional Program is attached at APPENDIX 4.**

In considering matters to be addressed at the next meeting, the delegate from Malaysia referred to Item 9 of the meeting Briefing Notes which outlined possible opportunities for liberalisation in the provision of professional services within the region. In Malaysia's view, the APEC Architect Project objectives should be identified in relation to GATS initiatives as a potential platform for future mutual recognition agreements. It was suggested that these issues be addressed at an early stage.

## **ITEM 9. Next Meeting**

Delegates welcomed the offer of the Malaysian delegation to host the second meeting of the Steering Committee in December, with Australia continuing in its current capacity of lead economy and secretariat for the meeting.

**It was agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee would be held in Kuala Lumpur, on 12-13 December 2002.**

The US delegation asked that the third Steering Committee meeting be held in July 2003, within the same fiscal year for budgetary convenience. Japan asked that meeting agenda and documents be distributed at least one month prior to the meeting to allow adequate time for advance preparations. Both of these requests were agreed to.

At the conclusion of business the US delegation, seconded by New Zealand, formally thanked Australia for hosting and facilitating the first meeting of the Steering Committee. The Chinese Taipei delegation joined them in expressing appreciation of the progress that had been made and the outcomes achieved.

The Chair, in turn, thanked all delegates for their attendance and participation and for all that they had achieved in successfully concluding the program before them. The meeting was declared closed at 3pm, 14 June 2002.

**DELEGATION LIST**  
**APEC Architect Meeting in Sydney, 13-14 June 2002**

**Chair**



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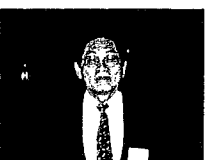
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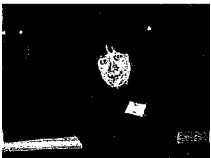
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## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED/LICENSED ARCHITECT

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### Potential Terms of Reference for Period of Professional Practice as a Registered/Licensed Architect, for Further Consideration and Discussion.

The Steering Committee engaged in a preliminary discussion about a prescribed minimum period of post-registration/post-licensure diversified professional practice. The meeting discussed the possible length of such a period, with suggestions ranging from 5 to 7 years. The meeting also discussed ways in which the experience of APEC Architects could be assessed in terms of its diversity, comprehensiveness and level of responsibility. Other terms of reference for assessing appropriate experience were discussed, including:

- Independent practice;
- Responsible/liable practice;
- Practice involving significant architectural work;
- Practice involving projects of substantial duration, cost and complexity;
- Continuing professional development.

Some matters for further consideration might include:

- The length of the period;
- How the level of experience should be described;
- Whether it should be a requirement that the practice be as a principal or sole practitioner with responsibility for one or more projects of a defined degree of complexity;
- Whether practice in any country would be acceptable or whether it should include a specified period of practice in the home economy; and
- Any other requirements, including any which are specific to the home economy

## **SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS**

**First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the APEC Architects Project  
Sydney, 13-14 June 2002**

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### **Summary Conclusions**

**The Aim of the APEC Architect project is to establish a mechanism to facilitate mobility for architects for the provision of professional architectural services in participating economies.**

**The Steering Committee has endorsed the Summary Conclusions of the first APEC Architect project meeting in Brisbane (September 2001).**

**In accordance with the Procedure agreed at the inaugural project meeting, the Steering Committee has considered and agreed on a set of principles which would satisfy the criteria for admission to the APEC Architect Register.**

### **Item 4a**

#### **Common elements of architectural education programs**

The Steering Committee agrees that the core subject areas in an accredited/recognised program of architectural education are:

Design, as the predominant subject category, and  
Technology and Environmental Science  
Social, Cultural and Environmental Studies  
Professional Studies

Other subject areas within architectural education programs may include:

Related Studies  
General Education

### **Item 4b**

#### **Accreditation/recognition procedure for education programs in architecture**

The Steering Committee considered the accreditation/recognition procedures of participating economies and accepted the following principles of good governance in the accreditation/recognition procedures for education programs in architecture.

The accrediting/recognising body should have authority and (where appropriate) legal status and be transparent, independent and publicly accountable.

The accrediting/recognising body should have a structured process for the approval of qualifications and compliance with agreed standards.

The Steering Committee agrees to respect the accreditation/recognition procedures of each participating economy.

The Steering Committee agrees that processes that incorporate the above principles would be accepted as satisfying the accreditation/recognition criteria for educational programs for an APEC Architect.

#### **Item 5**

##### **Fulfilment of period of pre-registration or pre-licensing experience for recognition as an architect in a home economy**

The Steering Committee agrees that there should be a prescribed minimum period equivalent to a total of 2 years practical pre-licensure or pre-registration diversified experience as defined by the home economy.

The Steering Committee agrees that this will meet the pre-registration or pre-licensure criteria for an APEC Architect.

#### **Item 6**

##### **Fulfilment of registration/licensing requirements for recognition as an architect in a home economy**

The Steering Committee agrees that fulfillment of registration/licensing requirements for recognition as an architect in a home economy be accepted as meeting one of the criteria for an APEC Architect.

### **Next Meeting of the Steering Committee**

The meeting further agreed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee would be hosted by Malaysia and held in Kuala Lumpur on 12-13 December 2002. Australia would continue to act in its current capacity of lead economy and secretariat for the meeting.

## **PROVISIONAL PROGRAM FOR FUTURE CONDUCT OF THE APEC ARCHITECT PROJECT**

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### **Provisional Program for Future Conduct of the Project**

**The Second meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12-13 December 2002, to:**

- **Confirm the conclusions reached by the First Steering Committee.**
- **Agree on professional experience requirements criterion.**
- **Consider proposals for establishment and maintenance of APEC Architect Registers.**
- **Develop strategies for assessment and authorisation of economies that wish to participate in APEC Architect and for monitoring continued compliance with agreed process.**
- **Consider administrative arrangements and budgetary requirements prior to the third Steering Committee meeting, to be held in July 2003.**

**Prior to the third Steering committee, negotiate preliminary agreement on the forgoing and obtain commitment to establishment of an APEC Architect Coordinating Committee.**