



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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2002/CSOM/027

## **Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting**

### **APEC IT Camp for Youth with Disabilities**

Agenda Item: V. 3. b)

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Republic of Korea



Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting  
Los Cabos, B. C. S. , Mexico  
21-22 October 2002

# **APEC IT Camp for Youth with Disabilities Republic of Korea**

## **I. Background**

- The Third Senior Officials Meeting (SOM III) in August 2001 welcomed the new proposal by Korea on Empowering People with Disabilities in the IT Age. It contained three following projects: Seminar on IT Capacity Building for People with Disabilities, Exhibition on IT Equipments for People with Disabilities, and IT Camp for Young People with Disabilities.

## **II. Objectives**

- Increase public awareness of the value of IT for capacity building for people with disabilities;
- Share experiences and best practices of IT policy implementation for people with disabilities;
- Establish a network among APEC members for youth with disabilities to promote cooperations;
- Discuss initiatives and directions of APEC aimed at bridging the digital divide for people with disabilities as well as disadvantaged people in general.

## **III. Outline**

- Date: August 27-30, 2002
- Venues: Korea National College of Rehabilitation & Welfare  
Seoul KyoYuk MunHwa HoeKwan (TEMF Center)
- Host: The Ministry of Health and Welfare
- Organizer: Korean Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (KSRPD)
- Participants: 232 participants from 15 APEC Member Economies
  - 71 Participants from 14 APEC Member Economies (43 Youth with disabilities (YWD), 28 Government officials, IT experts and Assistants)

- 14 APEC Member Economies: Brunei Darussalam, Peoples Republic of China, Hong Kong China, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam
- 89 Participants from 14 cities and provinces in Korea (56 YWD, 33 leaders and assistants)
- 72 staffs ( 20 secretariat staffs, 52 volunteers)

#### **IV. Results**

- **Homepage Contest**

13 team including 4 Korean teams participated.

- **On-line Games**

43 teams have competed their IT skills.

- **Information Searching Contest for People with Visual Disabilities**

There were 5 participants for this Contest.

- **APEC International IT Conference & IT Policy Exchange Meeting**

- **Keynote Speech**

- Dr. Harry F, Rizer (Director, The Center on Disabilities, California State University, Northridge)

- “Empowering People with Disabilities through Information Technology - Valuable Lessons from a Short History”

- **APEC International IT Conference**

- Mr. Michael Fox ( RI ICTA Global Chair/Director, Access Australia )

- Presentations and discussions has proceeded by international, domestic experts on IT, or rehabilitation for persons with disabilities

- **IT Policy Exchange Meeting**

- 34 Government officials and IT experts gathered to discuss the issue on narrowing the digital divide for people with disabilities

- A resolution was adopted for bridging the digital divide for people with disabilities

## **V. Recent Discussion**

- The IT Camp contributed enhancing interests and necessity towards solving the digital divide among APEC member economies.
- Participants strongly called for the APEC IT Camp for Youth with Disabilities and APEC International IT Camp to be held annually for solving the digital divide of people with disabilities. According to this call, representatives from 15 member economies has signed a resolution.

## **VI. Future Plan**

- Lead continuous interests and efforts through public information:
  - Run & Update the official homepage to encourage continued interest in narrowing the digital divide of peoples with disabilities and in enhancing the network among the participants
  - Publish the Report and distribute to APEC Secretariat, member economies, and related organizations.
  - Produce the photo album & Video tape about APEC IT Camp for Youth with Disabilities.
  - Issue a newsletter on APEC IT Camp for Youth with Disabilities.
- Carry forward for APEC IT Camp for YWD to be held annually.

It was strongly urged for this camp to be held annually. Korea as the first hosting Economy is willing to provide useful information and advice for the next events.