

SPRING
singapore
Enabling Enterprise



Understanding the APEC EE MRA and its significance

Michael Ong

Chair, APEC Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) EE MRA

26 May 2009

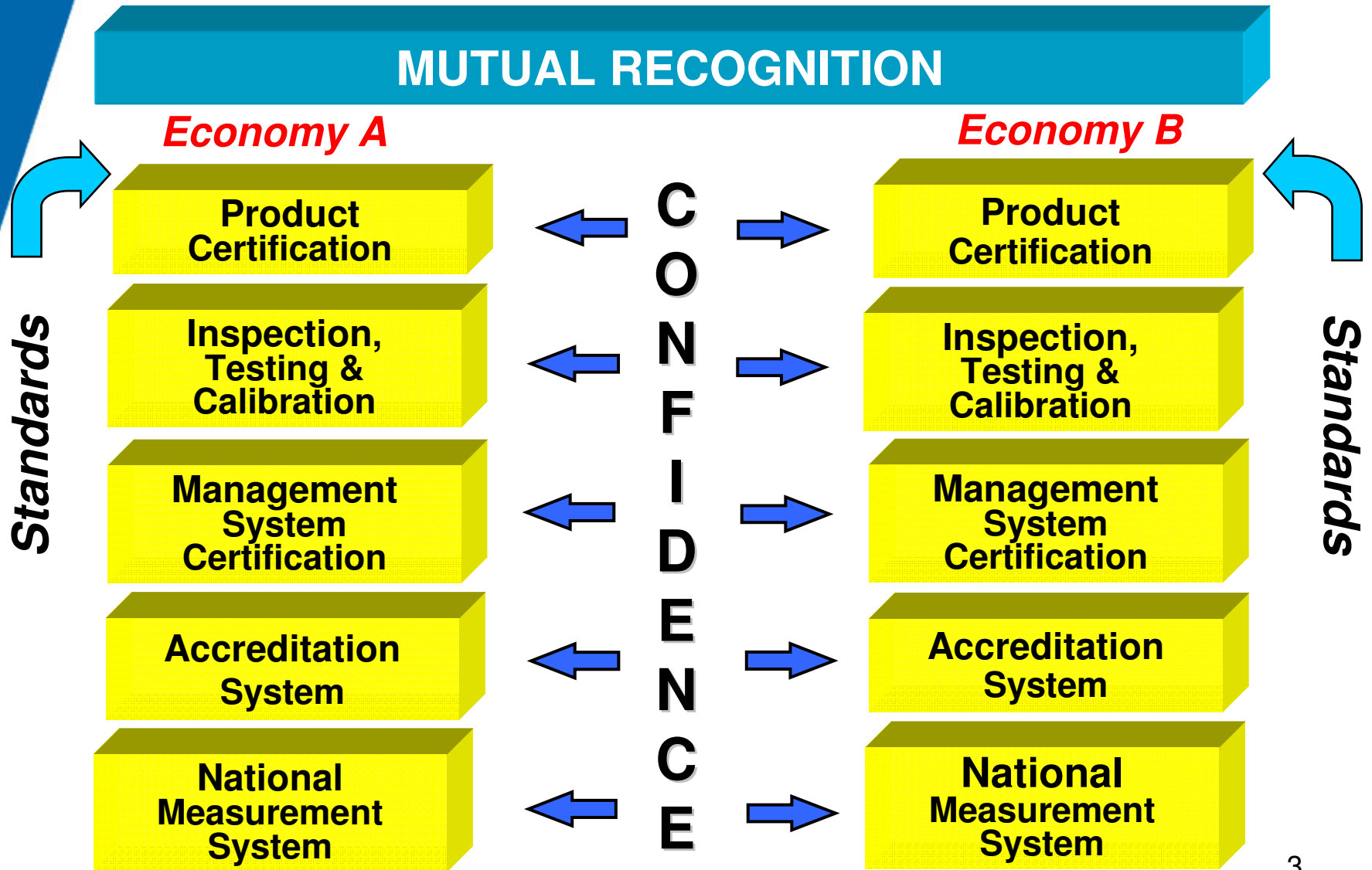


Outline

- Building Blocks for Market Access
- History of the APEC EE MRA
- Significance of the MRA
- APEC Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)
- Steps towards implementation of the MRA
- Status of participation
- Challenges
- Benefits
- Summary

Building Blocks for Market Access

Harmonisation to International Standards





HISTORY

- The APEC EE MRA was drafted by the APEC Ad Hoc Experts' Working Group – with its inaugural meeting in 1996
- The MRA was endorsed in 1999 in Rotoru, New Zealand.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE APEC EE MRA

**The APEC EE MRA is to Facilitate
Intra-APEC trade of EEE and it consists of 3 Parts :**

Part I – Information Exchange

- Increase transparency in EE regulatory regimes within the region to facilitate intra-APEC trade
- Build network amongst EE regulators to share perspectives, information and experiences



Part II – Mutual Recognition of Test Reports

Underpinned by the IECEE CB Scheme and the APLAC Multilateral MRA and Mandatory Requirements imposed by regulators to facilitate their acceptance of conformity assessment results by Designated Testing Facilities of participating member economies



Part III – Mutual Recognition of Certification

Underpinned by the IECEE CB – FCS and PAC Product Multilateral Agreement (MLA) for Product Certification and Mandatory Requirements imposed by regulators to facilitate their acceptance of conformity assessment results undertaken by Designated Certification Bodies of participating Member Economies.



APEC JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The APEC Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was formed in 1999. It is a body established by the APEC Member Economies for the purpose of administering and facilitating the effective functioning of the APEC EE MRA.

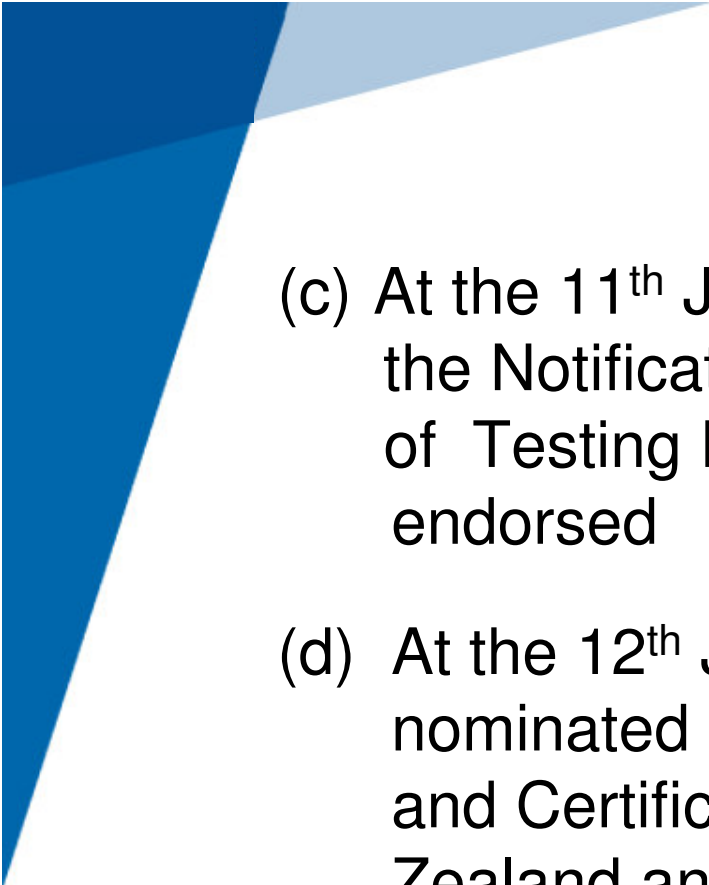
The JAC is to provide a forum and mechanism for discussing issues, sharing information and reaching decisions associated with the operations and implementation of the EE MRA.



STEPS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION

The following were taken toward implementation of the APEC EE MRA :

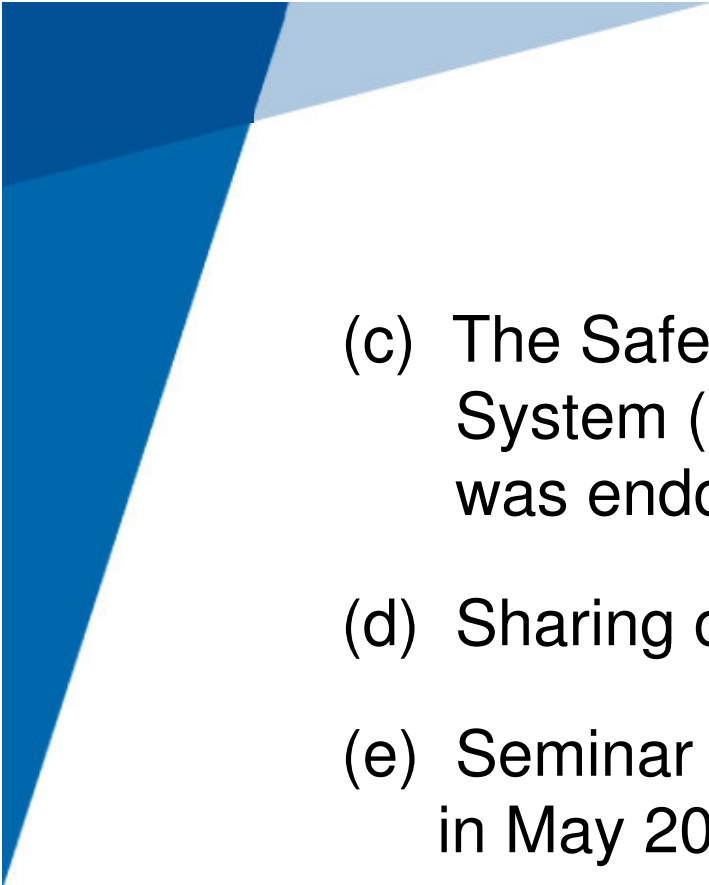
- (a) At the 10th JAC Meeting in April 2007, the application form for listing of Designated Testing Facility and Certification Body was endorsed
- (b) The format for Certificate of Conformity (CoC) was also endorsed at the 10th JAC Meeting

- 
- (c) At the 11th JAC Meeting in November 2007, the Notification procedure for the designation of Testing Facility and Certification Body was endorsed
 - (d) At the 12th JAC Meeting in Apr 2008, Singapore nominated TUV SUD PSB as Testing Facility and Certification Body for Australia and New Zealand and Testing Facility for Malaysia. All have accepted the nomination.



The following were taken to enhance Information Exchange and Networking

- (a) Seminar on Understanding and implementing the APEC EE MRA, 12-13 May 2008 in Brunei Darussalam
- (b) At the 13th JAC Meeting in Nov 2008, the template for Safety Benchmarking was endorsed and implemented

- 
- (c) The Safety Alert Information Interchange System (Hazardous Product Notification) was endorsed
 - (d) Sharing on Information Booklet
 - (e) Seminar on APEC EE MRA in Singapore in May 2009.



Status of Participation in APEC EE MRA

- (a) Part I: Information Exchange - 16 Member Economies with 2 prospective participants (PNG and Peru)

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Vietnam



(b) Part II: Mutual Recognition of Test Reports -
5 Member Economies

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia,
New Zealand and Singapore

(c) Part III: Mutual Recognition of Certification -
4 Member Economies

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, New Zealand
and Singapore.



CHALLENGES


- To increase participation in Part I to 100%
- To increase participation in Part II and III
- To have more Testing Facilities and Certification Bodies designated



BENEFITS

The APEC EE MRA provides the following benefits to facilitate intra-APEC trade in EEE:

- More choices of Testing Facilities and Certification Bodies
- Reduce cost and time to market for importers and suppliers - no retesting and recertification

- 
- Market access certainty - regulator does not perform any conformity assessment activities
 - Information exchange and benchmarking
 - Safety Alert Information exchange.



SUMMARY

The APEC EE MRA is underpinned by :

- IECEE CB Scheme and APLAC Multilateral MRA for Part II
- IEC EECB – FCS and the PAC Product Multilateral Agreement for Part III



SUMMARY

The APEC EE MRA does not duplicate the work of the IEC EE CB Schemes and accreditation bodies MRA/MLA.

It leverages on these Schemes and MRA/MLA with the Mandatory Requirements imposed by regulators to facilitate their acceptance of conformity assessment results undertaken by Designated Conformity Assessment Bodies of participating Member Economies.



SUMMARY

The APEC EE MRA offers significant benefits in terms of intra-APEC trade facilitation of EEE. This includes certainty of market access, reduces cost and time to market.

Its effectiveness depends on increased and active participation of EE regulators of Member Economies.

Thank You

SPRING
singapore
Enabling Enterprise