



Australian Government
AusAID



The Australian
APEC Study Centre
MONASH University

Strategies to Promote Structural Reform by Focussing on the Drivers of Economic Growth in APEC

Training Program ~ 21 – 25 May 2007
Melbourne, Australia

Mr Tony Hinton
Project Leader and Academic Co-ordinator

Background and Objectives

The purpose of the program is to enhance the public policy formulation capacity of officials in economic and financial agencies, particularly in relation to policy settings that influence productivity performance.

Through the program, participants will develop a better understanding of key drivers that improve productivity growth. They will also be trained to understand the measurement of productivity as a tool to assess effectiveness of measures used to implement APEC goals to improve economic performance.

Faculty

The delivery of this training requires a set of skills and knowledge that encompasses an understanding of public policies measures that enable improvements in productivity. The Program Co-ordinator is Mr Tony Hinton, a former Commissioner with the Australian Productivity Commission (2002–2007) and a former Australian Ambassador to the OECD in Paris, as well as a senior Australian Treasury official for many years.

Program experts will come from a range of fields including officials from the Australian and New Zealand public sector such as the Productivity Commission and the Treasury, and from Australian academic and business institutions such as Mercer and NAB. Other experts will come from international organisations, such the OECD.

Structure of the Program

Each session will have a chairman / moderator and will be comprised of two parts. First a presenter will speak to a paper for that session. Secondly, a panel of discussant(s) will respond to questions from participants. The participants will be encouraged to participate actively, drawing on their own country experiences. Active discussion sessions will be encouraged.

The training course will first focus on the definition and measures of productivity. The program will then examine the various aspects of public policy that impact on productivity with a particular emphasis on structural reform. Some of the components will include institutional issues, competition policy, good regulatory systems, labour market, financial sector reform and international trade. A PNG case study will also be presented.

The final day will include opportunities for participants to present their perspective on four key areas, elements of which will be discussed throughout the program. These areas are:

- The importance of productivity enhancement;
- Areas with the potential for structural reform;
- Challenges and impediments to structural reform; and
- Structural reform: particular challenges for developing economies.

Day 1 – Monday 21 May 2007

Session	Title
	Registration and administration of Per Diems
	Welcome and overview of program
1.1	APEC Economy Reports – (One participant from each of the six represented economies makes a 5-10 minute presentation about the priorities for structural reform in their economy)
	Coffee Break
1.2	Productivity: definition, measurement, reasons for importance
1.2a	Discussion
	Lunch
1.3	Productivity: determinants and influences
1.3a	Discussion
	Coffee Break
1.4	Productivity: use of econometric modelling
1.4a	Discussion
	Dinner

Day 2 – Tuesday 22 May 2007

Session	Title
	Introduction
2.1	Structural Reform: broad front, costs and benefits, and removal of impediments
2.1a	Discussion
	Coffee Break
2.2	Adjustment Techniques
2.2a	Discussion
	Lunch
2.3	Productivity: institutional issues
2.3a	Discussion
	Coffee Break
2.4	Productivity: competition policy
2.4a	Discussion

Day 3 – Wednesday 23 May 2007

Session	Title
	Introduction
3.1	Structural reform, productivity enhancement and good regulatory system
3.1a	Discussion
	Coffee Break
3.2	Structural Reform and Productivity: business economist perspective
3.2a	Discussion
	Lunch
3.3	Structural Reform: international competitiveness
3.3a	Discussion
	Coffee Break
3.4	Productivity: labour market
3.4a	Discussion

Day 4 – Thursday 24 May 2007

Session	Title
	Introduction
4.1	Productivity: financial sector reform
4.1a	Discussion
	Coffee Break
4.2	Productivity: international trade
4.2a	Discussion
	Lunch
4.3	Structural Reform: PNG experience
4.4	Structural Reform: further PNG experience
	Coffee Break
4.4a	Discussion
	Preparation time – (participants given time to prepare for their presentation sessions on Friday)

Day 5 – Friday 25 May 2007

Session	Title
	Introduction
5.1	Group A Presentation: The importance of productivity enhancement
5.1a	Discussion
5.2	Group B Presentation: Areas with the potential for structural reform
5.2a	Discussion
	Coffee Break
5.3	Group C Presentation: Challenges and impediments to structural reform
5.3a	Discussion
	Lunch
5.4	Group D Presentation: Structural reform: particular challenges for developing economies
5.4a	Discussion
	Coffee Break
5.5	Key Messages
	Discussion
	Graduation Ceremony and Closing Session