



4 August 2014

H. E. Han Changfu

Chair, APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security
Minister of Agriculture
People's Republic of China

Dear Minister Han:

ABAC welcomes APEC's focus on food security as critical to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth. The upcoming September meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Food Security will be an important opportunity to continue the momentum in APEC's drive to attain food security by 2020 through a focus on raising agricultural productivity and sustainability, facilitating investment and infrastructure development, and enhancing trade and markets.

ABAC has a long history of championing the importance of engaging the private sector to help find solutions to achieving food security in the region. The APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) was created in response to the Ministers' acknowledgement of the importance of working hand-in-hand with the private sector. The PPFS is ABAC's prime vehicle for engaging on food security in the region.

ABAC continues to be a strong supporter of the PPFS, and believes that the progress made to date provides a good foundation on which to engage the private sector in an even deeper strategic dialogue. We welcome the opportunities given to the private sector to make its contribution this year and look to expand this in the years to come, particularly by extending the time made available for the private sector to meet and discuss recommendations in advance of PPFS plenary sessions.

ABAC welcomes the continuing development of the Roadmap on Food Security developed by the PPFS as a high-level expression of what needs to be done by governments, the private sector and other stakeholders working together to make progress towards specific PPFS goals. In ABAC's view, the Roadmap needs to be implemented through a series of meaningful and verifiable projects undertaken jointly by public and private sectors and through information sharing and regional policy collaboration. Progress in these areas should be reviewed at regular intervals and the Roadmap adjusted to take account of changing circumstances.

ABAC agrees that the following key areas should underpin the PPFS work program in the year ahead:

1. Ensuring Sustainable Development of the Agricultural and Fishery Sectors

In the 2012 Kazan Declaration, APEC Ministers Responsible for Food Security declared that "Increasing agricultural production on a sustainable basis is an essential factor of lasting food security in the APEC region."

In this context, ABAC emphasizes the critical role of the market, the need for robust regulatory frameworks, the importance of finance, the critical role of agricultural technology including mechanization, the sharing of best practices in sustainable management, capacity building in the area of food storage and food loss, close attention to control of pests and diseases and actions to improve worker training, health and safety. ABAC encourages APEC governments to adopt mechanisms for knowledge sharing and technical cooperation, and to identify and eliminate barriers that limit public-private cooperation.

2. Facilitating Investment and Infrastructure Development

ABAC welcomes the report commissioned this year on grain infrastructure and draws attention to the lessons learned. ABAC emphasizes the importance of food infrastructure development and encourages projects such as cold chain infrastructure development. To facilitate investment in food infrastructure, ABAC recommends that APEC governments focus on establishing policies and regulatory regimes that liberalize and encourage investment flows, promote public-private ownership structures, and improve private sector input into government decision-making to maximize productivity and improve regional food value chain and supply chain connectivity.

3. Enhancing Trade and Markets

ABAC welcomes the 2012 Ministerial Statement reaffirming the commitment of APEC Ministers Responsible for Food Security to strengthen food security by promoting open and transparent markets.

We support policies that enable the free flow of food to match supply and demand across the region. We urge APEC governments to continue to resist protectionism in all its forms, to eliminate trade-distorting policies, to remove non-tariff barriers, and establish internationally recognized, science-based standards across the region.

The achievement of food security by 2020 is an important goal to ensure the future well-being of citizens in the APEC region. It is also an indispensable element for achieving regional economic integration. Without food security, economies in the region will continue to under-perform and important human potential will be lost. With food security, economies and their people will be able to contribute more effectively to economic and social advancement which is the primary goal of APEC.

We are ready to discuss the above-mentioned issues and policy recommendations with you at the upcoming APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security in Beijing this September.

Yours sincerely,



Ning Gaoning
ABAC Chair 2014