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Summary and Evaluation

Roundtable on UNECE Global Technical Regulations

August 4, 2008 in Vientiane, Lao PDR



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The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint commits ASEAN Member States to harmonize standards in priority sectors, where applicable, by 2015. The ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) and its Automotive Product Working Group (APWG) have agreed to achieve some measure of vehicle standard harmonization by 2010. Harmonization in line with international standards could be beneficial for ASEAN automotive and automotive parts manufacturers by giving them access to world markets. Harmonization in line with international standards could also benefit consumers who would be able to purchase more safe, efficient and environmentally friendly automotive products. Though the 2010 deadline is fast approaching, the APWG has not yet decided how it intends to harmonize nor defined the set of standards to do so.

To help the APWG reach consensus on how to approach harmonization, the ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility, in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), offered a roundtable on United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) global technical regulations on August 4, 2008 in Vientiane, Laos. The roundtable was designed to answer ASEAN Member States questions as regards the implications of accession to either of two UNECE existing frameworks for vehicle regulation: the 1958 Agreement and the 1998 Agreement.

The 43 participants from ASEAN governments and private sector heard from Mr. Kenneth Feith of the U.S. EPA. Kenneth Feith is a Senior Scientist with the Environmental Protection Agency, serves as Senior Advisor to the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, and is the co-head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP 29). He is also Head of the U.S. delegation to the UN/ECE Working Party of Experts on Vehicle Noise. Mr. Feith discussed the creation and functions of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (better known as WP. 29) and discussed the differences between the 1958 and 1998 Agreements governing vehicle regulations.

In addition, two ASEAN Member States – Thailand and Malaysia – discussed their experiences with these agreements, a private sector representative outlined implications for industry, and the APWG co-chairs and discussed the benefits of harmonization for ASEAN as a whole. The ASEAN Secretariat provided a briefing on the importance of these harmonization efforts for ASEAN, particularly in light of the ASEAN Economic Community deadline of 2015 and the ASEAN Economic Community Scorecard which is being used to determine whether or not member states have met their obligations as part of the AEC.

Based on Mr. Feith's presentation of the agreements, he recommended that the APWG start by determining the standards areas in which it would like to harmonize. Then, Mr. Feith says the APWG could pursue one of three options:

1. Member states could choose to adopt a subset of the regulations of the 1958 agreement, without accession, as a first step toward harmonization;
2. Member states could accede to the 1958 agreement¹. Doing so would not obligate states to adopt all regulations into their national laws, however, accession does require that the parties to the agreement allow the import of all products that comply with these regulations from other parties to the agreement. Moreover, new accession countries would not have a voting say in regulations as they are developed.

¹ Malaysia and Thailand have already acceded to the 1958 agreement, though have yet to fulfill their obligations under the agreement.

3. Member states could accede to the 1998 Agreement, where new members would have a voting say in the development of future global technical regulations. This could give member states the most voice, affording them an equal vote with other parties to the agreement in the development of all future regulations. The 1998 agreement could also help ASEAN maintain flexibility – though regulations are adopted by consensus, parties to the agreement can abstain from certain votes in which they would be exempt from the requirement to adopt those regulations into law.

The primary message of Mr. Feith's presentations was his view that the 1998 Agreement represents the future and could give member states an equal "seat at the table" to develop future global technical regulations. Member states were to further discuss these issues at their semi-annual meeting, immediately following the roundtable. Participants rated the roundtable quite favorably and would welcome further Facility assistance in the harmonization process.

Agenda

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

Roundtable on UNECE Global Technical Regulations

4 August, 2008 in Vientiane, Laos

8:00 – 8:30 Arrival/Check-in

8:30 – 9:00 **Introductory Session**

Chair of the ACCSQ Automotive Product Working Group

Host Government Speaker

Introduction to Agenda and Objectives, ASEAN-US Facility

Session 1: Global Approaches to Technical Regulation Regimes

9:00 – 9:30 **Overview of WP 29 Regulation Development Process and Roles and Obligations of Contracting Parties, Ken Feith, U.S. EPA**

9:30 – 10:00 **1958 Agreement: Outline and Salient Features, Ms. Jiraporn Kaewkraisorn, Engineering and Safety Bureau, Department of Land Transport, Ministry of Transport, Thailand.**

- Thailand to share view on 1958 Agreement, accession process and implementation

10:00 – 10:30 **1998 Agreement: Outline and Salient Features, Zabamail Bin Omar, Director, Road Transport Department, Malaysia (to be confirmed)**

- Malaysia to share view on 1958 Agreement, accession process and implementation

10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45 – 11:15 **Comparison of 1958 and 1998 Agreements, Ken Feith, U.S. EPA**

11:15 – 11:45 **Implications of the 1998 Agreement on National/Regional Regulatory Environment, Ken Feith, U.S. EPA**

- EPA to share U.S. best practices in implementing the 1998 Agreement

11:45 – 12:15 **Question and Answer Session**

12:15 – 1:30 **Lunch**

Session 2: Implications for ASEAN

1:30 – 2:00 **Implications for ASEAN Automotive Manufacturers and Manufacturers of Automotive Parts and Components, Eko Rudianto, ASEAN Automotive Federation**

2:00 – 2:30 **Opportunities and Challenges for ASEAN, Chairman of APWG**

2:30 – 3:30 **Road Ahead: Process for Accession, Ken Feith, U.S. EPA**

3:30 – 3:45 **Coffee Break**

Evaluation

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility

Roundtable on UNECE Global Technical Regulations

4 August, 2008 in Vientiane, Laos

Your answers to this questionnaire will help us to improve our training programs. Thank you for taking the time to fill it out.

Personal data

Years of experience in automotive standards

Average 6.5 years (range of 0-40 years)

Country of Representation

Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand

Male/Female

32 Male/11 Female = 43 total

Presentations

On a scale of 1 to 6, please rate how informative each session was for you. A rating of 6 indicates that you found the session highly informative; a rating of 1 that you did not find it informative.

	Presentation	Average
1	Overview of WP 29 Regulation Development Process and Roles and Obligations of Contracting Parties, <i>Ken Feith</i>	5.2
2	1958 Agreement: Outline and Salient Features, <i>Representative from Thailand</i>	4.4
3	1998 Agreement: Outline and Salient Features, <i>Representative from Malaysia</i>	3.7
4	Comparison of 1958 and 1998 Agreements, <i>Ken Feith</i>	5.0
5	Implications of the 1998 Agreement on National/Regional Regulatory Environment, <i>Ken Feith</i>	4.8
6	Implications for ASEAN Automotive Manufacturers and Manufacturers of Automotive Parts and Components, <i>Representative from AAF</i>	4.7
7	Opportunities and Challenges for ASEAN, <i>Representative from APWG</i>	4.6
8	Road Ahead: Process for Accession, <i>Ken Feith</i>	4.9

Subject Matter

Would you like to see more, the same, or less time devoted to the following negotiation topics:

	Topic	More	Same	Less
1	Overview of WP 29	12	20	1
2	1958 Agreement	13	18	3
3	1998 Agreement	22	10	2
4	Comparison of 1958 and 1998 Agreements	24	9	1
5	Implications of the 1998 Agreement on National/Regional Regulatory Environment	23	10	2
6	Implications for Manufacturers	3	3	1
7	Opportunities and Challenges for ASEAN	23	12	0
8	Road Ahead: Process for Accession	19	13	1

General

1. What part of this course did you like the most?

- Comparison of 1958 and 1998 Agreements **(13 similar comments)**
- Implications of the 1998 Agreement on National/Regional Regulatory Environment **(4 similar comments)**
- Detail presentation in 1998 Agreement
- Implications for Manufacturers
- Mr. Ken Feith presentation about Comparison between Ag. 1958 & Ag 98
- Opportunities and Challenges for ASEAN
- 1998 Agreement
- GTR process the real mechanism US experience
- On topic number 1,6,7, and 8
- The overview of the 1998 Agreement
- Overview of the 1998 Agreement and reason US not become CP for 1958 agreement
- Mechanism of 98 Agreement
- 1958 & 1998 Agreement & Comparison both
- 1,4 & 5 as well as 6
- Nos. 5,7,8
- Road Ahead: Process for Accession
- 1 & 4
- Overview of WP 29

2. What part of this course did you like the least?

- 1998 Agreement: Outline and Salient Features **(3 comments)**
- Implication for Manufacturers **(4 comments)**
- Road ahead: Process of Accession **(2 comments)**

- Self Certification System in U.S
- Opportunities and Challenge for ASEAN
- All of Ken's presentation
- Elaboration on 98 Agreement content and requirement
- 1
- 3&5
- Outline and salient features

3. What other topics would you like to see included?

- Implication of the 1998 Agreement on National/Regional Regulatory Environment **(2 comments)**
- Process for Accession
- Implications for Manufacturers
- List of country already sign 1958 and 1998 Agreement
- How to established Administrative Department and Technical Services in each ASEAN Countries under 1958 Agreement
- Vehicle regulations advance not only environmental and safety objectives but save of energy (oil price increase and in to the quantity of oil will decrease)
- How 58 + 59 compliment each other on the road to moving forward on global regulation
- Further information adoption of either 1958 or 1998 into National Regulation
- Practise of 98 Agreement by CP countries
- Help ASEAN on how to compliment of ECE 58 & 98 to realize the future direction
- Detailed standard in developed countries
- Effect of Harmonization on alternative fuels
- Non technical knowledge topic (e.g. basic regulation on safety or environment)
- Case study: how to access/apply for each UNECER. That's interested ex: priority list in area of harmonization
- Practices to work of developing GTR

4. Did this course use a good mix of lecture and interactive discussion?

- Yes **(22 comments)**
- Yes very satisfactory
- Yes, for overview point
- It is good
- Fair
- Discussion in Q&A will be notified for Minutes of Meeting
- Appropriate

5. What sorts of follow-up activities for this course would you find useful?

- No ideas.
- Comparison of 1958 and 1998 Agreements
- Action plan of each country embers in accession to '98 or '58 agreement
- Follow up activities in adopting agreement, std etc.
- Study more comparison 1958 and 1998, for explanation internal
- Detail and example meeting in 1998 Agreement
- Do the training for technical services in ASEAN Country
- Need more detail explanation in other opportunity

- Develop the regulation for new generation of vehicle (use less oil) use more renewable energy
- Study tour to the U.S.A.
- Benefits of 58 + 59 agreement to contracting parties in ASEAN, delivered by all those experts from US,
- UNECE and Japan so it becomes clear to the participants and any confusion is eliminated and participation is/can be focused on strength on 58/98 moving forwarded.
- More discussion and consultation with US on 98 Agreement and its expert
- Continue follow up from today's seminar via future workshop/e-mail
- The direction of the GTR
- More seminar by the experts from developed countries
- No. 5,7,8
- Agree with Mr. Feith's proposal to technical visit in Washington for learning technical experience from NHTSA staff
- GTR (Expert Meeting)
- To give technical assistance & training facility scope to each ASEAN Member Country, because each country has difference problem/request
- Information of 1998 Agreement Development
- 4,8,7,5

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. Additional comments on any aspect of this course are welcome.