

JOINT STATEMENT

Agreement of 13 Nations/Regions at the Sixth Government-Industry Meeting

1. Achievements of the 1st-3rd Government-Industry Meetings in the First Series

The Participants resolved:

- * International harmonization of automotive technical regulations and the mutual recognition of approvals are necessary,
- * UN/ECE World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP29) is the most suitable forum for ensuring automotive safety, enhancing environmental protection and facilitating the international distribution of motor vehicles, and
- * Accession to the 1958 Agreement and the 1998 Agreement is important.

Furthermore, the participants established an action plan on the basis of which a Joint Statement was produced. In this Joint Statement a short-term, mid-term and long-term target were initiated.

2. Achievements of the 4th-6th Government-Industry Meetings in the Second Series

Activities focused on the short-term target set forth in the Joint Statement of the First Series, in addition, the theme for the Second Series "Realization and Expansion of Observer Participation in WP29" was determined.

As the first step toward the international harmonization of automotive technical regulations and mutual recognition of approvals, the participants strove to increase their understanding of WP29 and its Working Groups, analyzed obstacles to participation in WP29 and/or its Working Groups, and identified the methods to overcome those obstacles.

Participation expenses, lack of technical expertise, and communication difficulties arising from language problems were identified as obstacles. It was suggested that technical problems could be solved by building collaborative relationships between government, industry and academia; establishing budgets to participate in WP29 by making concerned high-ranking government officials understand the importance of harmonization activities, however the language barrier is not a major problem since many participants already actively participated and get involved in WP29 activities although their native languages are not international language such as English, French, and Russian.

The outstanding achievements from the Second Series were the Government of Thailand's continuing participation in WP29 - while Malaysia, Brunei and India began seriously pursuing observer participation.

Following the progress made in the First and Second Series, the initial targets for participating nations and regions were modified to more ambitious levels at the Sixth Government-Industry Meeting as explained in section 3 below.

3. New Participant Targets for Government-Industry Meetings

The participating nations and regions in the Sixth Government-Industry Meeting have agreed to make best efforts to reach the targets below within the new time schedule.

Short-term target (to be reached by the end of 2003)

- Participate in a WP29 meeting or a meeting of a WP29 Working Group as an observer at least once a year.

- India:	by 2003	- Malaysia:	in 2002
- Indonesia:	in 2002	- Singapore:	in 2002 or 2003

Mid-term target (to be reached by the end of 2005)

- Formulate a reasonable plan for adopting major ECE Regulations.
- Accede to the 1958 Agreement and/or the 1998 Agreement and continuously participate in WP29 or one of its Working Groups.

[58 Agreement]

- Indonesia:	in 2020	- Singapore:	by 2005
- Malaysia:	by 2006		

[98 Agreement]

- Indonesia:	in 2010	- Singapore:	by 2010
- Malaysia:	by 2006		

Long-term target (to be reached by approximately 2010)

- Adopt major ECE Regulations and realize the mutual recognition of approvals for the adopted regulatory items among the nations and regions under the scheme of the 1958 Agreement.
- Propose new or amended ECE Regulations reflecting Asian conditions and have these Asian proposals adopted by WP29.

4. Future Course of Government-Industry Meetings

The participating nations and regions in the Sixth Government-Industry Meeting have agreed to hold future meetings falling under the discussion theme "Realization of ECE Regulations Adoption and WP29 Participation" in order to bring about the international harmonization of automotive technical regulations and the mutual recognition of approvals.

Additionally, the participating nations and regions have agreed to promote the evolution of the Government-Industry Meeting into a conferential body which Asian nations and regions will voluntarily and actively participate in to encourage the harmonization of regulations and the mutual recognition of approvals as well as to have Asian conditions reflected in the establishment and revision of international regulations.

5. Contributions from the Automobile Industry

To assist in reaching the above-mentioned targets, the automobile industry in cooperation with government has agreed to take the following and other significant actions:

- * Formulate a reasonable plan for adopting ECE Regulations.
- * Extend technical assistance for adopting and implementing ECE Regulations.