ANNEX 8-A

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

General Provisions

1. Each Party shall encourage its relevant bodies to establish or maintain dialogues with the relevant bodies of the other Party with the aim of facilitating the supply of professional services between the Parties through greater recognition of education or experience obtained in the Area of the other Party. This includes encouraging relevant professional bodies to engage in cooperation with a view to formalising recognition of licensing, registration and professional standards.

2. Each Party shall encourage its relevant bodies to take into account agreements that relate to professional services in the development of agreements on the recognition of professional qualifications, licensing and registration.

3. Each Party may encourage its relevant bodies, if feasible, to consider taking steps to implement a temporary or project specific licensing or registration regime based on a foreign service supplier's home licence or recognised professional body membership, without the need for further written examination. That temporary or limited licence regime should not operate to prevent a foreign service supplier from gaining a local licence once that service supplier satisfies the applicable local licensing requirements.

Engineering and Architectural Services

4. Further to paragraph 2, the Parties recognise the efforts in APEC to promote the mutual recognition of professional competence in engineering and architecture, and the professional mobility of these professions, under the APEC Engineer and APEC Architect frameworks.

5. Each Party shall encourage its relevant bodies to consider improving and expanding existing mutual recognition arrangements with the relevant bodies of the other Party to minimise or streamline the recognition requirements for engineering and architectural services, with a view to facilitating trade between the Parties in these services sectors.

Future Work on Professional Services

6. The Parties shall meet within two years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, under the auspices of the Joint Commission, to facilitate the fulfilment of the objectives of this Annex and determine the future direction of possible work between the Parties. Further meetings shall occur at a time agreed by the Parties.

7. The Parties shall liaise, as appropriate, to support their relevant professional and regulatory bodies in pursuing the activities outlined in this Annex. Such support could include providing relevant points of contact, facilitating meetings and providing information regarding each Party's regulation of professional services within its Area.

8. The Joint Commission shall consider any recommendations for initiatives to facilitate trade in professional services and make decisions with respect to those recommendations within a reasonable period of time. Based on the Joint Commission's decisions, each Party shall encourage its respective competent authorities, where appropriate, to implement the agreed recommendations within an agreed time.