



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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Session I

## **Healthy Asia Pacific 2020**

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: HWG Chair



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Economy  
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## Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020

Recalling that APEC economies have been making continuous and effective efforts jointly, including through public-private partnerships, to address potential health-related threats to the economy, trade and security; and have strengthened and deepened pragmatic collaboration in the fields of prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, non-communicable disease, maternal and child health, health system strengthening, population aging, traditional medicine and health information technology;

Noting that many APEC economies are experiencing a significant transformation in their demographics and economic development, and in the context of their health challenges, are facing increasing health-related threats and a growing burden of disease, which impact their health systems, and the sustainable development of economy, society and environment;

Recognizing that health is central to development; that it is a prerequisite for, an outcome of, and effective indicator of sustainable development; that health and health equity are integral to public policies of all sectors; that the value of health capital in an economy dwarfs any other form of capital; that by developing and sustaining dynamic health systems in the region and strengthening cooperation between health policy development and health industries and trade, economies can promote healthy populations and make substantial contributions to our region by Shaping the Future through Asia-Pacific Partnership;

Consistent with the 2020 Bogor Goals that are targeted at sustainable economic development, we developed the “Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020” initiative, which aims to promote people’s health and well-being through their whole life-course by means of whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and whole-of-region approach to promote the health security, growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region.

We will focus on the following key areas through to the Year 2020:

**1. Continuing to work on the unfinished health-related MDGs in a manner that complements activities of the post-2015 agenda.** Strive to ensure clean water, sanitation and nutrition; promote the basic immunization coverage for children and encourage the utilization of new and underused vaccines; further disseminate knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and ensure access to related services to support the United Nations’ “Every Woman Every Child” initiative and to eliminate preventable child and maternal death; ensure universal access to well synergetic high quality treatment and services for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; facilitate an environment conducive to the eradication of neglected tropical diseases in Asian-Pacific region; action on the prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance including monitoring and surveillance, and collaborate to strengthen laboratory capacity building, and medical product regulatory systems to ensure the availability of safe and effective medical products.

**2. Strengthening the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including injuries.**

Adopt a holistic, multi-sectoral and life-course approach in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases posing the heaviest burden in the region, including cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, as well as mental illnesses, disabilities, violence and injuries. Reduce intermediate risk factors (including obesity, high blood pressure, high blood glucose, dyslipidemia, impaired lung function, stress and anxiety), by taking actions that would have a positive effect on modifiable health risk factors including life style choices (such as smoking cessation policies, nutrition consultation, physical activity promotion, and counteraction against substance abuse); prevent and control non-communicable diseases through the whole life course by providing continuous health management, early diagnosis and early treatment for patients and high-risk groups; and reduce disabilities caused by occupational hazard in working places, road traffic and injuries by addressing environmental and occupational health related risk factors (such as pollution, road traffic accidents and workplace risks).

**2. Strengthening health systems to support Universal Health Coverage.** Collaborate with stakeholders and share experiences to provide the whole population, including the poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups, with access to safe, effective, high quality and affordable primary health care without the risk of suffering from financial hardship, while at the same time ensuring long term sustainability to the system. To that end, establish an adaptive health systems, which are financially sustainable, provide access to safe and effective essential medicines and traditional and complementary/alternative medicines, which are supported by a motivated, appropriately-trained workforce; with effective, interoperable health information systems; and sound governance structures

**4. Improving health emergency preparedness, surveillance, response and recovery systems for public health events and disasters in the APEC region.** Improve and coordinate domestic strategies, policies and emergency preparedness for health emergency response in line with the World Health Organization *International Health Regulations*. Allocate sufficient resources, as appropriate, to strengthen monitoring, early warning and rapid response to public health emergencies, especially for outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and disasters in the Asia Pacific region. Ensure access to healthcare services in emergency by protecting basic health infrastructures, promoting multi-sectoral sector approach and strengthening capacity building in the health emergency response workforce. Improve the capabilities of communities to respond to and quickly recover from public health emergencies and disasters.

Proposed actions are:

**1. To put “Health in All Policies” and a “Whole-of-Government” approach into practice as appropriate.** We will encourage multi-sectoral action in health policy development, implementation and evaluation. Non-health sectors such as commerce, agriculture, environment and transportation are encouraged to incorporate potential implications for health and health equity into policy making, implementation and evaluation, thereby avoiding harmful health impact and improving population health and health equity.

**2. To adopt the “Whole-of-Society” approach and empower individuals and communities.**

Encourage and facilitate individuals (including marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women, the seniors, the disabled and migrant populations) and communities’ participation in health planning, legislation, services delivery, education, training, monitoring and knowledge dissemination to advance health for all. Drawing on existing evidence or by conducting the social determinants of health and taking appropriate actions accordingly to reduce health inequities and to create an inclusive, productive and healthy society.

**3. To encourage public-private partnership.** Strengthen the government’s role in regulation and guidance at macro level and encourage private sectors to invest in health care industry, providing primary health services and public health goods. Encourage the public and private sectors to play a vital role as responsible employers in advocating healthy lifestyle. Encourage governments and non-governmental organizations, including civil society, academia, and industry to build public-private partnership to address health-related issues, drawing on the expertise in the APEC community.

**4. To encourage health research and support health innovation and to promote their translation into practice.** Explore cooperative mechanisms to promote bio-medical sciences, health and health policy research and development that adds value to health systems, the health of the population, and to sustainable economic growth in an appropriately regulated environment. Strengthen evidence-based medical and health policy research, especially basic and operational researches on cost-effective preventive interventions to meet the health needs of low-and-middle-income economies in the region. Advance coordination in health R&D among developed and developing economies, and among public and private sectors. Encourage member economies to develop innovative health R&D financing channels and mechanisms. Encourage the sharing of innovative knowledge and training in transferring innovative research and technology in the region. Provide convenience to developing member economies in accessing to patent information to increase their opportunities to use and strengthen their capacities in the application of innovation knowledge.

**5. To support member economies in addressing health-related challenges through Asia-Pacific partnership.** Make full use of regional resources and promote trade in health within the region, so as to develop the capacity of economies to address current and emerging health issues throughout the whole health value chain, including identifying barriers in the supply chain that drive up costs and inhibit access to medical products by patients. Encourage member economies to share best practice and experiences in health reform and development. Meanwhile, encourage developed economies to work with / collaborate with to developing economies, and the latter to make good use of these resources and opportunities to develop their own health systems and capacities by strengthening disease prevention and control and ensuring basic medical services are available to all. Encourage government, industry and civil society to expand and promote bilateral, regional and sub-regional dialogues and exchanges on health issues among member economies. Strengthen the dialogues, cooperation and coordination between Health Working Group, the LSIF, and other APEC fora and multilateral health bodies, as appropriate, with the goal of encouraging the incorporation of health related issues into their working plans and related

policies. This will help ensure that there are joint and coherent efforts in Asia Pacific region to promote health development and set a model for global health governance.

We have achieved much in health, but we still have a long way ahead in advancing a healthy Asia-Pacific by 2020. We call for member economies to work together for a healthier Healthy Asia-Pacific through our partnership.