



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

APEC

Outcomes & Outlook

2015 • 2016

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Introduction



Economic development does not occur in isolation. This is the legacy left by APEC Philippines 2015 to the overall APEC agenda after more than two decades of helping drive economic growth in the Asia-Pacific. APEC's work is felt by households - residents of the Asia-Pacific have seen their per capita income rise by 45 per cent, lifting millions out of poverty and creating a growing middle class.

Nonetheless, challenges and risks to the global economy remain. In November, APEC's 21 Economic Leaders, in their Manila Declaration, acknowledged uneven global growth rates.

Setting the 2015 theme, "*Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World*" in motion, the Leaders declared support for initiatives that promote competitiveness and a conducive environment for innovation and enterprise. Specifically, setting policies to support the integration of micro, small and medium enterprise in regional and global value chains, promote sustainable use of resources, and boost resilience to disasters — all contributing to the enhancement of business and society as a whole.

While APEC continues to work toward promoting regional economic integration through trade and investment liberalization, there is new energy infused into our mission to help drive economic growth.

For APEC Peru 2016, members will carry forward these initiatives with a strong will to pursue the agenda under the theme, "*Quality Growth and Human Development*."

Dr Alan Bollard
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat



APEC Member Economies

AUSTRALIA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM CANADA CHILE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HONG KONG, CHINA
INDONESIA JAPAN REPUBLIC OF KOREA MALAYSIA MEXICO NEW ZEALAND PAPUA NEW GUINEA PERU
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SINGAPORE CHINESE TAIPEI THAILAND
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIET NAM

APEC Philippines 2015

“Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World”

Building on APEC’s achievements over the past 25 years, APEC 2015 focused on inclusive growth – one that expands the region’s growth story to include a vision of economic prosperity and interconnectedness felt at all levels, such that no one is left behind. The agenda on inclusive growth helps expand access to opportunities and enable people to realize their full potential, which will result in more productive employment opportunities, dynamic economic growth and greater well-being.

This year, APEC enriched its multi-year trade and investment agenda by looking at the human and societal dimensions of economic growth, such as examining the influence of factors like education, skills training, health, ageing and demographic changes, climate change, urbanization, and emergency preparedness on the overall economy and, particularly, on an individual’s economic participation.

Working on both trade and development objectives in 2015, APEC is in a stronger position to advance inclusive and quality growth in the Asia Pacific region in the forthcoming years. In 2015, APEC member economies developed

policy frameworks and action plans that would strengthen the future advancement and implementation of APEC’s expanding regional trade, investment, and development agenda starting with the following APEC 2015 priorities:

- Enhancing the regional economic integration agenda
- Fostering micro, small and medium enterprises’ (MSME) participation in regional and global markets; Investing in human capital development; and
- Building sustainable and resilient communities.

Enhancing Regional Economic Integration Agenda

Members took strides this year to support the overall goal of the regional economic integration (REI).

Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) – To further APEC’s multi-year efforts towards the realization of a FTAAP, APEC has made progress toward conducting the Collective Strategic

Study on Issues Related to the Realization of the FTAAP to be completed by the end of 2016. This year, members examined how other regional trade agreements relate and contribute to an FTAAP.

Structural Reform – Endorsed this year, the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (RAASR) continues APEC’s structural reform work program through 2020. The RAASR reaffirms economies’ commitment to accelerate efforts to address institution building in member economies through structural reform and targeted capacity building for economic governance and unilateral reforms aimed at further improving the services sector, regulatory infrastructure and competition policy.

Cebu Action Plan – The Cebu Action Plan (CAP) stands on the pillars of promoting financial integration; advancing fiscal reforms and transparency; enhancing financial resiliency; and accelerating infrastructure development and financing. The CAP is a roadmap that will guide economies to promote intra-regional trade and investments, connectivity, infrastructure development, and MSME and supply chain financing.





Connectivity – 2015 marked the first-year implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint. Progress towards APEC’s connectivity goal by 2025 is supported by members’ commitment to enhance regional productivity through safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable transportation systems, and to promote innovations in the transportation sector that foster inclusive mobility and global supply chain resilience.

Trade Facilitation – In line with APEC’s commitment to facilitate trade, and to ensure transparency and predictability, APEC launched its Trade Repository (APECTR) which serves as a one-stop portal for information on trade-related regulations. Economies also confirmed the extension of validity of the APEC Business

Travel Card (ABTC) from three to a maximum of five years for participating members beginning September 2015. The ABTC allows business people to travel visa-free in the APEC region. The travel card is fully implemented by 19 economies, while 2 economies are transitional members.

Fostering Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME) Participation in Regional and Global Markets

MSMEs account for an estimated 97 per cent of all businesses and employ over half of the workforce in the APEC region. Recognizing the potential of MSMEs to generate employment

and catalyze inclusive growth, APEC economies emphasized the need to support MSMEs as they engage in international trade and become part of the global economy. Key initiatives from APEC Philippines 2015 that support this priority include:

The Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs – This initiative seeks to globalize MSMEs and outline practical ways forward for their’ participation in global trade, such as access to finance, e-commerce, and markets. The APEC Implementation Plan for the Boracay Action Agenda was also developed to identify areas of convergence across APEC fora and work with partners like ABAC on complementary projects for efficient use of resources in implementing MSME initiatives.

The APEC Iloilo Initiative: Growing Global SMEs for Inclusive Development – As a complement to the Boracay Action Agenda, this guiding framework aims to help integrate MSMEs into international trade and global value chains. APEC will develop the MSME Marketplace as a tool to promote cooperation and linkage across these types of businesses and other stakeholders.

Investing in Human Capital Development

APEC recognizes the importance of human capital and innovation in achieving inclusive economic growth and development. Guided by the goal of building a highly skilled, adaptable, and mobile workforce, APEC economies have

highlighted the vital role of education, science and technology, and health in enhancing human capital and spurring innovation.

Human Capacity Building – In 2015, members committed to enhance strategic cooperation in human capital development geared towards developing 21st century skills that are aligned with global education and training best practices, and that increase people’s employability, productivity, and ability to respond to emerging business demands. APEC is also exploring more ways to develop joint personnel training in smart and green supply chain connectivity.

Education, and Science and Technology – This year, APEC economies committed to strengthen efforts that put science, technology, and innovation as well as higher education

at the forefront of economic policy-making and strategic planning. In addition, APEC ministers endorsed the Joint Statement of the 1st High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology in Higher Education, which aims at advancing cross-border education, inter-university collaboration on science and technology, and the international mobility of academics, researchers, and students as drivers of technological advancements, innovation, and economic growth.

Women’s Participation – Recognizing women as prime movers of inclusive growth, APEC advanced mainstreaming of gender equality in APEC through efforts such as the APEC Women and Economy Dashboard that tracks, measures and communicates progress in reducing barriers to women’s economic participation, and the

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Policy Toolkit on Healthy Women, Healthy Economies improve the physical and mental health, safety and well-being of women in the workplace. APEC also developed the Strategic Plan of the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) 2015-2018 to advance women's full and equal economic participation through improved access to capital and assets; access to markets; skills; capacity building and health; women's leadership, voice, and agency; innovation and technology.

Roadmap for the Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020— This roadmap identifies five critical success factors in overcoming health challenges: (a) securing a whole-of-government commitment to health; (b) establishing platforms for policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement; (c) promote prevention, control and awareness in health care; (d) enabling innovation; and (e) enhance intersectoral and cross-border collaboration.

Persons with Disabilities — This year, APEC committed to enhance the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and endeavor to eliminate barriers to their economic participation. Through newly-established APEC Group of Friends on Disability, member economies now have a platform to share information, resources, and good practices that will advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the economy. APEC is committed developing an Inclusive Mobility Framework aimed to promote safe, secure, and accessible transportation for persons with disabilities.

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

The changing global environment and disruptions to supply chains from natural and man-made disasters threaten lives and livelihoods, and have an adverse economic impact. This year's agenda focused on making business and communities resilient and sustainable in the face of disasters.

Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction — APEC has developed a Disaster Risk Reduction Framework to build adaptive and disaster-resilient economies that promote inclusive and sustainable development in the face of the "new normal" — the increasing frequency, magnitude and scope of natural disasters and the resultant disruption on the increasingly integrated and connected production and supply chains. The framework also enables collaboration in prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and rehabilitation and rebuilding. The DRR Framework is complemented by the APEC Principles on the Movement of Humanitarian Goods and Equipment which aims to facilitate the movement of goods and equipment to disaster areas, address potential capacity gaps in APEC economies, and strengthen cooperation among government institutions, business, and local communities.

Food Security and Blue Economy — In line with APEC's commitment to enhance efforts to ensure the security of the region's food supply and sustainable agricultural and water management, the APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy formulated a Plan of Action with three the following priority areas: resilient oceans and coastal resources, fish loss reduction, and agri-business development.

Energy Resiliency — Affirming the aspirational goals to reduce energy use intensity by 45 per cent by 2035 and double renewable energy mix by 2030, a Task Force on Energy Resiliency was formed to enhance the quality of electric power infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.

The APEC Sustainable Energy Center (APSEC) was also established in China. In transitioning to low-carbon economy, APEC committed to explore the contribution of biofuels and civil nuclear power as a base load power source, advanced coal technologies, liquefied natural gas, solar, wind and marine energy technologies. *Urbanization* — Recognizing both the challenges and the positive contribution of urbanization in APEC economies, members welcomed the implementation of the APEC Cooperation Initiative for Jointly Establishing an Asia-Pacific Urbanization Partnership as well as the outcomes of the first SOM Friends of the Chair on Urbanization and the 2015 APEC City Mayor's Forum: Building Better Cities as pathways to improved and responsible urban management.

APEC 2015 Overarching Initiatives

In the APEC 2015 Manila Declaration, APEC Leaders endorsed the **APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth** which embeds the principles of institution building, social cohesion/equity, and concern for environmental impact of economic/industrial activities as new dimensions with which growth should be pursued. The Strategy underscores how quality growth is about the economic well-being of every individual and of every economy, focusing on how growth can be sustained over the medium- to long-term. In the next 5 years until 2020, governments of each APEC economy are called to ensure the principles of good governance, transparency, and inclusion in their individual economic pursuits.

The **APEC Services Cooperation Framework** (ASCF) was also endorsed by the Leaders recognizing the important role of services in realizing inclusive economic growth. The ASCF is a long-term strategic document which provides a common direction and more coherence in APEC's work on services and help economies gain a deeper understanding of the policy and regulatory settings that will best facilitate innovative, productive, and vibrant services sectors, as appropriate to their needs. This

Framework recognizes that more competitive services sectors help create jobs, produce quality goods, widen choices for consumers, and harness opportunities for businesses particularly for MSMEs.

The Way Forward

As envisioned in the Manila Declaration, APEC members will together continue to drive regional and global economic prosperity through quality economic growth, as supported by these collective commitments, from 2015 and beyond:

1. To achieve or vision for an integrated community in a comprehensive and systematic manner
2. To support comprehensive and ambitious structural reforms; achieve positive economic, social, and environmental outcomes; and promote good governance
3. To deepen our financial markets and mitigate risks
4. To foster an enabling trading environment that is responsive to new ways in which goods and services are produced and delivered and that promotes inclusiveness, especially for MSMEs
5. To redouble our efforts to empower our people with the tools to benefit from and participate in economic growth
6. To build sustainable and disaster-resilient

economies

7. To make urbanization work for growth
8. To develop the services sector as an enabler of economic growth and inclusion
9. To work with stakeholders to address common challenges
10. To strongly support the work of our Ministers, the APEC Process, and all its Committees and Fora

APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' DECLARATION Manila 2015

Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World: A Vision for an Asia-Pacific Community

We, the Leaders of APEC, met in Manila under the theme of 'Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World,' determined to take action to fully realize the vision laid down by our predecessors of a stable, integrated, and prosperous community in the Asia-Pacific, in which all our people can enjoy the benefits of economic growth and technological progress. Our enduring commitment will underwrite the peace, stability, development, and common prosperity of the Asia-Pacific.

Under the shadow cast by the terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut, and against Russian aircraft over the Sinai, and elsewhere, we strongly condemn all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations. We will not allow terrorism to threaten the fundamental values that underpin our free and open economies. Economic growth, prosperity, and opportunity are among the most powerful tools to address the root causes of terrorism

and radicalization. We stress the urgent need for increased international cooperation and solidarity in the fight against terrorism.

We met at a time when global growth is uneven and continues to fall short of expectation. Risks and uncertainties remain in the global economy, including inadequate demand growth, financial volatility, and structural problems weighing on actual and potential growth. While APEC economies have remained resilient, they face challenges in boosting growth prospects.

Weakening external demand growth highlights the importance of promoting domestic demand. The rapidly changing structures and competitiveness of our economies necessitate that we develop new drivers of growth, such as productivity-enhancing structural reform, services and trade in services, investment liberalization and facilitation, infrastructure investment, science, technology and innovation,

that lead to more balanced and sustainable outcomes.

We are mindful that despite the unprecedented economic growth that has lifted millions of people out of poverty, it continues to be a reality for millions of others in our region. We call for more intensive efforts for its reduction and eradication. We also acknowledge that inequality acts as a brake on economic growth and that reducing it is essential to spurring development and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific.

We recognize the significance of enabling the full participation of all sectors and segments of our society, especially women, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, low-income groups, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to achieving inclusive growth. We underscore the importance of empowering them with the ability to contribute to and benefit from future growth.

We remain united and steadfast in supporting an open, predictable, rules-based, and transparent environment for trade and investment that enables meaningful access to economic opportunities. This provides the best means to deliver sustained and inclusive growth, quality job creation, and financial market stability. We reaffirm the commitment to jointly build an open economy in the Asia-Pacific that is based on innovative development, interconnected growth, and shared interests.

We reaffirm the value, centrality, and primacy of the multilateral trading system under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO). We are committed to strengthening the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open, and inclusive multilateral trading system. To further reinforce our commitment on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the WTO, we have decided to issue a separate statement supporting the multilateral trading system and the 10th Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

We reaffirm previous commitments on monetary and exchange rate policies. We will refrain from competitive devaluation and resist all forms of protectionism.

We reiterate our commitment to achieve the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment by 2020 and to the eventual realization of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). We appreciate the work by our officials to ensure that regional trade agreements complement and strengthen the

multilateral trading system. We welcome the progress made by many APEC members in completing their respective processes to submit the instruments of acceptance to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which will reduce the cost of trading across borders.

While achieving ongoing economic transformation will not be easy, we are confident that we will continue to drive regional and global economic prosperity through quality economic growth.

To this end, we collectively commit:

Building Inclusive Economies

1. To support comprehensive and ambitious structural reforms; achieve positive economic, social, and environmental outcomes; and promote good governance.

- a. We reiterate our commitment to ensure that future growth is strong, balanced, sustainable, inclusive, driven by innovation, and secure against natural disasters and other threats. It should be supportive of gender equality. We remain alert to the risks of the "middle income trap."
- b. We adopt the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth that will prioritize institution building, social cohesion, and environmental impact to give further focus to our efforts to

pursue quality growth, building upon the commitments in the 2010 APEC Growth Strategy, and bearing in mind the commitments in the 2014 APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth. We instruct officials to report, for our review, on APEC's progress in promoting the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth.

- c. We welcome the assessment of the 2010 APEC Growth Strategy, especially the finding that more than 300 million people were lifted out of poverty in the APEC region, mainly due to rapid growth in developing economies. We support further efforts in narrowing the development gap in order to end poverty.
- d. We commend the work done under the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform and welcome the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (RAASR). Promoting structural reform is critical to improving economic efficiency and increasing productivity. We recognize that much more remains to be done to ensure that growth is experienced at all levels of our communities. We therefore support economies in their efforts to explore new growth areas, including reforms aimed at further strengthening the services sector by fostering creativity and innovation through an enhanced regulatory environment.
- e. We welcome the progress made on the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) initiative

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and affirm the EoDB Action Plan (2016-2018) with a new aspirational target of a 10-percent improvement by 2018 in the existing five priority areas on starting a business, dealing with construction permits, trading across borders, getting credit, and enforcing contracts. We welcome the development of an Implementation Plan to guide our efforts to reach this target.

- f. We reaffirm our commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (“2030 Agenda”), which sets a comprehensive, universal, and ambitious framework for global development efforts for the next 15 years, and to ensuring that no one is left behind in our efforts to eradicate poverty and build an inclusive and sustainable future for all. We also reaffirm our commitment to implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which provides a comprehensive roadmap to help economies implement policies to attract and mobilize diverse sources of financing critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- g. We encourage further progress and practical initiatives to carry out the 2013 mandate of exploring trade in products that contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth through rural development and poverty alleviation.

- h. We recognize that corruption impedes economic sustainability and development and agree to combat the harmful effects of the illegal economy and to promote cultures of integrity across borders, markets, and supply chains. We reaffirm our commitment to open and accountable governance and to promoting international cooperation in the areas of repatriation or extradition of corrupt officials, asset recovery, criminalization, and prevention of corruption among APEC member-economies. We support the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies in advancing pragmatic anti-corruption cooperation and welcome the Cebu Manifesto for the Protection of Anti-Corruption Officials.
- i. We welcome the efforts and activities that APEC members have undertaken to counter terrorism, including capacity-building initiatives to combat terrorist financing, and to prevent foreign terrorist fighter travel through advance passenger risk analysis and other measures. We further encourage economies to implement fully the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy and to continue taking collective and individual actions and sharing best practices to secure infrastructure, travel, supply chains, and financial systems from terrorist activities.

2. To deepen our financial markets and mitigate risks.

- a. We recognize that in spite of the progress we have made, millions of our citizens do not have access to reliable financial services, leaving them with insufficient access to capital to invest in their futures. We highlight the importance of financial inclusion and literacy to poverty alleviation, ensuring that our people can fully benefit from the access to cheaper capital and financing that comes with it.
- b. We recognize that financial integration through moving towards more liberalized financial services and capital accounts, while maintaining adequate safeguards as well as increased access to finance for MSMEs and businesses in the supply chain, will foster greater trade and investment in the region.
- c. We welcome the Cebu Action Plan (CAP) and commend our Finance Ministers for their collaborative efforts in crafting a multi-year roadmap of deliverables and initiatives to build an Asia-Pacific community that is more financially integrated, transparent, resilient, and connected. We emphasize the importance of macroeconomic cooperation including the sharing of experiences in macro-prudential policy frameworks to minimize systemic risks and promote financial stability in the APEC region.



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Fostering Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Participation in Regional and Global Markets

3. To foster an enabling trading environment that is responsive to new ways in which goods and services are produced and delivered and that promotes inclusiveness, especially for MSMEs.

- a. We live in a connected world in which many goods and services are no longer produced in one location but are the result of firms cooperating within and across our borders. This benefits consumers, creates jobs, and fosters development. We need all our businesses, regardless of size, to connect to where opportunities exist. We need to develop policies that take full advantage of global value chains (GVC) and encourage greater participation and added value. We will promote competition, entrepreneurship, and innovation through effective and comprehensive measures, including balanced intellectual property (IP) systems and capacity-building.
- b. We underscore the significance of the participation of MSMEs in global commerce to inclusive growth and will take action to facilitate such participation. We recognize that internationally-oriented MSMEs can make substantial contributions to poverty reduction through employment

creation, productivity improvements, and economies of scale. However, because the costs of doing business impact disproportionately on our MSMEs, especially in terms of cumbersome rules and regulations, we need to address the barriers to their internationalization and integration into GVCs. Towards this end, we adopt the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs and instruct Ministers to implement actions laid out in the Agenda and report their progress to us by 2020.

- c. We welcome the APEC Iloilo Initiative: Growing Global MSMEs for Inclusive Development, and support the creation of the APEC MSME Marketplace to provide opportunities for business and strengthen collaboration with public and private organizations to support MSME development. We also welcome progress in collaborative efforts to enhance GVC resilience in this region.
- d. We recognize the importance of MSMEs' access to finance as a key enabler of MSME expansion, internationalization, and productivity improvement. We welcome the commitment made by the private sector and international finance organizations to collaborate with the public sector through the recently launched Financial Infrastructure Development Network under the CAP. We emphasize the importance of promoting MSMEs' resilience against disasters,

financial crises, and other unexpected events. In addressing these challenges, we recognize the important role of public finance such as credit guarantee systems designed for MSME operational continuity and the importance of enhancing closer collaboration with relevant public and private sector institutions.

- e. We emphasize opportunities that the internet and digital economy offers to achieve innovative, sustainable, inclusive, and secure growth, with a view to improving connectivity. The internet and digital economy will allow businesses, especially MSMEs, to participate in GVCs and reach a wider consumer base through new business models, creating a truly global market place for the exchange of goods, services, capital, and ideas. With regard to MSME development, we commit to continue to promote cross-border privacy, and to protect consumer interests. We instruct our officials to advance the work to facilitate the internet and digital economy. We also instruct officials to implement the Work Plan for Facilitating Digital Trade for Inclusive Growth as a Potential Next Generation Trade and Investment Issue.

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

4. To build sustainable and disaster-resilient economies.

- a. We recognize that our region, located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, is particularly vulnerable and exposed to disasters. We face typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, rising sea levels, and pandemics, the impacts of which are magnified by our densely populated cities. It has become a "new normal" for us to face natural disasters of increasing frequency, magnitude and scope, and their resulting disruption of the increasingly integrated and interlinked production and supply chains.
- b. We welcome and adopt the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Framework to facilitate collective work in building adaptive and disaster-resilient economies supporting inclusive and sustainable development in the face of the "new normal." Through the APEC DRR Framework, we will minimize the losses we endure and ensure that our communities have the support to overcome adversity and to build back better. We instruct Ministers to craft an action plan in 2016 to operationalize the APEC DRR Framework and renew existing efforts such as business continuity planning, strengthening early warning systems, search and rescue, post-disaster recovery,

promoting appropriate donations, and enhancing capacity building. We welcome the APEC Principles for the Movement of Humanitarian Goods and Equipment during Emergencies to better protect lives and livelihoods. We also note the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

- c. We welcome Finance Ministers' efforts to build financial resilience through the CAP, noting that this also entails developing innovative disaster risk financing and insurance mechanisms, in light of the heavy fiscal burden experienced by some economies due to the increasing damage of natural disasters.
- d. We request the Chief Science Advisors and Equivalents to explore further the provision of coordinated scientific advice surrounding and during emergencies, in coordination with other relevant APEC fora.
- e. We recognize that disaster resilience includes the ability to collaborate in detecting and preventing the spread of communicable disease. We welcome the development of the Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 Roadmap. We welcome APEC's working partnership with other relevant global initiatives for strengthening infectious disease control, and the training network established to ensure the safety of our region's blood supply.
- f. In line with our goal to promote sustainable communities, we are firmly committed

to achieving a fair, balanced, ambitious, durable, and dynamic agreement on climate change at the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) in December. We therefore reaffirm our aspirational goals to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035 and double renewable energy in the regional energy mix by 2030 to achieve sustainable and resilient energy development within the Asia-Pacific.

- g. We reaffirm our commitment to rationalize and phase out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption while recognizing the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services. We welcome progress made to date while recognizing the need for further ambitious efforts to meet our goal. We express our appreciation to those economies who have volunteered to undergo a voluntary inefficient fossil fuel subsidy peer review. We welcome ongoing initiatives to share best practices and facilitate capacity building to further progress toward this goal.
- h. We affirm the importance of energy resiliency in promoting energy security and sustainable development and in providing energy access. We commend the initiative of creating a Task Force on Energy Resiliency, the initiative for enhancing the quality of electric power infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, and the establishment of the APEC

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Sustainable Energy Center. In transitioning to low-carbon economy, we will explore the contribution of biofuels, civil nuclear power as a base load power source, advanced coal technologies, liquefied natural gas, solar, wind, and marine energy technologies. We appreciate efforts towards a diversified, flexible, and integrated natural gas market in the APEC region.

- i. We emphasize the need for improved sustainable agriculture, food security, food safety, and nutrition to build resilient communities across the region. We therefore instruct Ministers to implement the APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy Plan of Action in the areas of resilient oceans and coastal resources, fish loss reduction, and agri-business development. We support the APEC Food Safety Co-operation Forum and its Partnership Training Institute Network. We encourage progress on the APEC Food Security Roadmap toward 2020, to contribute to the achievement of APEC's food security goal.
- j. We recognize the important role of forests in supporting our communities, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating and adapting to climate change. We reaffirm our commitment to the aspirational goal in the Sydney Declaration of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020 and to promote sustainable

forest management, conservation and rehabilitation, and combat illegal logging and associated trade. We welcome the report of assessment of progress towards the aspirational goal on forests in the Sydney Declaration.

- k. Building on our commitments in previous years, we will take actions to combat wildlife trafficking and related corruption through further reducing illegal supply, transit, and demand; strengthening domestic and global enforcement, enhancing legislative frameworks, and other criminal justice tools; enhancing efforts in each of our economies to treat wildlife trafficking crime seriously; and increasing cross-border law enforcement cooperation and other interaction among wildlife enforcement networks as appropriate.

5. To make urbanization work for growth.

- a. Our cities are potential centers of creativity and innovation, providing jobs and livelihoods for billions of people. We emphasize the importance of proper planning and adequate infrastructure for sustainable city development. We therefore welcome the work of our officials to discuss the challenges of rapid urbanization in APEC, including innovative ways of addressing waste management and water-related challenges.

b. We remain committed to a new type of urbanization featuring green, energy-efficient, low-carbon, and people-oriented development. We commend the efforts of member economies in implementing the APEC Cooperation Initiative for Jointly Establishing an Asia-Pacific Urbanization Partnership. In this regard, we welcome China's initiative to host an APEC high-level forum on urbanization in 2016. We encourage ongoing efforts in this direction toward energy efficient and low-carbon development in urban settings, including the implementation of the APEC Low-Carbon Model Town Project, use of green codes and standards for buildings, and the Energy Smart Communities Initiative.

c. We recognize that the region's shifting demography, including ageing populations and urbanization, has profound implications for the region's food system. We will enhance efforts to improve security and safety of the region's food supply, sustainable agricultural and water management, and seek to increase citizens' access to food including through better connectivity between urban, rural, and remote areas; facilitation of investment and infrastructure development; and reduction of food loss and waste along the food value chain.

d. At the same time, we acknowledge that our rural communities should not be left behind in the economic and social development of the region. In this regard,

we are determined to make efforts to strengthen rural communities through sharing experiences of rural development, with a view to forging comprehensive strategies to eradicate poverty and enhance the welfare of rural communities in the region.

- e. We commend efforts to develop safe, secure, resilient, efficient, and sustainable transportation systems, and to promote innovations in the transportation sector as we move towards achieving inclusive mobility and global supply chain resilience. We instruct our officials to continue to enhance their work on connectivity of transportation networks.

Investing in Human Capital Development

6. To redouble our efforts to empower our people with the tools to benefit from and participate in economic growth.

- a. In 1996, we endorsed a framework for economic and technical cooperation to ensure that all APEC members can fully participate in and benefit from an open trading environment. We are pleased with the joint efforts and progress made in improving the delivery of capacity building and cross-fora collaboration among working groups and fora. We underscore the need to avoid the emergence of a

divided community in the region - those connected to global markets benefitting from integration and those left behind being unable to realize their potential.

- b. We emphasize the importance of investment in human capital through the development of skills that industry needs to effectively contribute to the next phase of our region's economic growth. In the current environment characterized by the rapid and ubiquitous use of technology, our people, in particular women and youth, need to be equipped not only with technical skills in science, technology, and innovation but must also be adaptable and resilient. We therefore instruct our officials to work closely with businesses, education and training providers, employment services, and civil society to understand the skills needed by the industry and to develop education and training programs that will equip people with the skills and competencies to join the workforce and fulfill their potential.

- c. We underscore the synergy between our ambition to improve human capital development and our goals to improve people-to-people connectivity and to continue the promotion of cross-border cooperation in education. We welcome the early realization of our 2020 student mobility target of 1 million intra-APEC university-level students per year. We also recognize the close correlation

between human capital development and progress in ICT and its benefits.

- d. We remain committed to advancing women's full participation in the economy in concrete, actionable, and measurable ways, including through enhancement of women's representation in leadership. We therefore call for strengthened efforts to support the mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment across APEC's work streams, including the Women and the Economy Dashboard as a tool for identifying priorities for policy action.
- e. We welcome the progress of APEC cooperation to enhance economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and encourage further collaboration among member economies in promoting inclusive development.
- f. We recognize the importance of our health systems in promoting the development of human capital and inclusive growth and look forward to further work in 2016 to address the fiscal and economic impacts of ill-health.

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Enhancing the Regional Economic Integration Agenda

7. To achieve our vision for an integrated community in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

- a. We reaffirm our commitment to advance the process in a comprehensive and systematic manner towards the eventual realization of the FTAAP as a major instrument to further APEC's regional economic integration agenda. We commend the progress made by our officials on the work on the implementation of the Beijing Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of the FTAAP, which includes the Collective Strategic Study on Issues Related to the Realization of the FTAAP, the Information Sharing Mechanism, and the 2nd Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI). We instruct Ministers and officials to continue this work and, in particular, we look forward to receiving the findings and accompanying recommendations of the Collective Strategic Study when we meet again next year in Peru.
- b. We reiterate our belief that the FTAAP should be pursued as a comprehensive free trade agreement by building on ongoing regional undertakings. We also reaffirm our vision contained in the Pathways to FTAAP that it should be

high-quality and incorporate and address next generation trade and investment issues. In this connection, we note the recent development on the free trade agreements in the region and the progress of the possible Pathways to the FTAAP, including the finalization of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, and we encourage the early completion of negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

- c. We reaffirm the commitment we made in 2012 to reduce our applied tariffs on the APEC List of Environmental Goods to five per cent or less by the end of this year. We congratulate those economies that are on track to fulfill this groundbreaking commitment and strongly urge those that have yet to fully implement this commitment to redouble efforts to meet the end of the year deadline.
- d. We welcome the progress that has been made under the work streams of the APEC Strategic Blueprint for Promoting Global Value Chain Development and Cooperation and instruct officials to further develop this work.
- e. We reaffirm our commitment to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively integrated, innovative, and interconnected Asia-Pacific. We welcome progress implementing the APEC Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025 under the pillars of physical, institutional and people-to-

people connectivity. We will take further action to ensure continued implementation of this Blueprint and to promote regional and sub-regional connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region.

- f. We appreciate progress in implementation of initiatives which will greatly improve connectivity and infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, and progress of the initiatives which help resolve the bottleneck of financing in this field. We encourage further collaboration among these initiatives in order to promote regional economic integration and the common development of the Asia-Pacific.
- g. We emphasize the importance of investment in quality infrastructure and connectivity to realize our vision for an Asia-Pacific community. We welcome the initiatives set out by the CAP to maximize the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modality for infrastructure delivery, to tap long-term investments for infrastructure through capital market development, and to continue efforts in inclusive infrastructure, in urban development, and in regional connectivity.

8. To develop the services sector as an enabler of economic growth and inclusion.

- a. We acknowledge that international trade in services facilitates cross-border business activity, reduces costs,

spurs innovation, boosts competition and productivity, raises the standard of domestic services suppliers, and widens the range of choice for consumers. We also acknowledge that trade in services has an enormous potential for creating jobs, and for increasing competitiveness in the global market, providing whole-of-economy benefits. Inclusive growth cannot be achieved without addressing services-related issues, as many MSMEs operate in this sector.

- b. For these reasons, we endorse the APEC Services Cooperation Framework to ensure that all our citizens can benefit from and contribute to high quality growth. We instruct our officials to develop a strategic and long-term Services Competitiveness Roadmap in 2016 with the adoption of a concerted set of actions and mutually agreed targets to be achieved by 2025. We appreciate services-related initiatives such as manufacturing-related services.



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Strengthening Collaboration

9. To work with stakeholders to address common challenges.

- a. Given our diversity, our achievements thus far in APEC provide a benchmark for how, through cooperation, we can advance regional economic integration and achieve shared prosperity. Building on our achievements, we commit to engage in an enhanced degree of cooperation within and across our economies with a broad range of stakeholders. We reaffirm the need to have a well-coordinated and whole-of-government approach to rulemaking in our economies. This should rely on open and inclusive public consultation processes involving the full range of domestic and international stakeholders.
- b. We therefore welcome our increased collaboration with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), international and regional organizations, the private sector, local government executives, civil society, academia, MSMEs, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and industry experts, engaging in constructive dialogues that allow us to find solutions to the challenges we face and build a better, more inclusive world.

10. To strongly support the work of our Ministers, the APEC Process, and all its Committees and Fora.

- a. We therefore endorse the 2015 APEC Joint Ministerial Statement and commend the work of our Ministers and officials as reflected in the results of the Sectoral Ministerial Meetings, High-Level Policy Dialogues, the Finance Ministers' Process, the Committees and Working Groups of the Senior Officials' Meeting, and all related mechanisms.
- b. We instruct our Ministers and officials to continue their work, including implementation of the recommendations, work programs, and action plans of the outcome documents for 2015 sectoral ministerial meetings and high-level policy dialogues, bearing in mind the vision contained in this Declaration, as well as our previous meetings.
- c. We express our appreciation for the contributions by relevant members to the APEC Fund, the establishment of Sub-Funds on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific and Global Value Chains, Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth, and Connectivity, and Mining, and the voluntary provision of training opportunities to developing economy members. We look forward to future work to better align our resources with our priorities.

Through economic integration driven by technological progress, urbanization, trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and improved connectivity, our lives have become increasingly intertwined. It is incumbent upon all of us to work together to ensure our common destiny. In spite of the challenges we face, the future of our region will be bright as we stand true to our pledge to shape the future through Asia-Pacific partnership, with a view to fulfilling our goals of common development, prosperity, and progress, by harnessing our people's collective abilities in the spirit of mutual respect and trust, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation.

Recognizing that APEC work is a continuing process and that continuity of agenda is key to APEC's relevance, we thank the Philippines for its leadership this year as it has built on the vision and work of the previous APEC hosts.

We look forward to meeting again in Peru in 2016 and will work closely with the future hosts from 2017 to 2022, namely Viet Nam, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Thailand. We welcome the offer of the Republic of Korea to host APEC in 2025.

ANNEX A: APEC STRATEGY FOR STRENGTHENING QUALITY GROWTH

ANNEX B: APEC SERVICES COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



ANNEX A

APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth

1. We, the APEC Leaders, reaffirm our commitment to the 2010 APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy. We recognize its continuing relevance in guiding APEC towards its fundamental purpose of providing prosperity to the region through trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.
2. This year, in Manila, we reaffirm our aspirations towards a balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure growth in the APEC region, by agreeing on an APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth for the period until 2020 to bring greater focus to the importance of pursuing quality growth as envisaged in the 2010 APEC Growth Strategy.

Strengthening the 2010 APEC Growth Strategy to Respond to Emerging Challenges

3. We recognize the continued important contribution of the APEC region to global economic growth. We emphasize that

liberalization and facilitation in trade and investment continue to be core drivers of economic growth and development in the region. Improving the quality of growth and ensuring that it remains dynamic requires greater impetus for a concerted effort among APEC members.

4. We recognize that global economic growth continues to face major challenges and note that regional growth remains moderate and uneven. The Asia-Pacific region is faced with such challenges as: 1) potential volatility in financial markets; 2) increasing inequality; 3) the gap in physical infrastructure; 4) the need to foster innovation and increase access to skills; 5) environmental concerns that include the impact of climate change; and 6) food security and sustainable management of agriculture. We support the APEC Finance Ministers' work to strengthen economic growth and promote financial stability in the APEC region.

5. We welcome global efforts to lift economic growth, including the existing work of the G20 and the United Nations, which

recently released the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We reaffirm APEC's commitment in complementing the global efforts in addressing the many challenges to sustainable economic growth. The APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth will bring more synergy between the APEC Growth Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The APEC Growth Strategy and Related Initiatives

6. The 2010 APEC Growth Strategy includes action agendas for each attribute. We welcome the effort to evaluate the progress of APEC member economies vis-à-vis the action agendas. While APEC as a region has made progress in achieving growth in all its attributes, much still remains to be done, particularly in making sure that the gains already achieved are further expanded and sustained. We enjoin APEC fora to continue their efforts, guided by their respective strategic plans, in contributing to the ultimate goals of the 2010 APEC Growth



Strategy, as enriched by the 2015 APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth.

7. We endorse the agreement on the Renewed APEC Agenda on Structural Reform (RAASR) which covers the areas of inclusive growth, innovation, and services. The RAASR builds on APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform (ANSSR), which we endorsed in 2010, to help economies attain high quality growth and become more resilient. This initiative encourages APEC economies to implement structural reforms in priority areas, and also provides the chance for APEC economies to participate in capacity-building programs and other technical cooperation activities

to train government officials in the implementation of those reforms.

8. We also endorsed in 2014 the Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth which aims to promote closer cooperation in five areas: 1) economic reform; 2) new economy; 3) innovative growth; 4) inclusive support; and 5) urbanization. We reaffirm the commitment to accelerate the pace of reform and innovation, and explore new growth areas. We note that this Accord includes policy actions in each of the five Growth Strategy attributes and thus provides strong support to the implementation of the Growth Strategy.

The 2015 APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth

9. The APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth builds on the 2010 APEC Growth Strategy by strengthening and sustaining quality growth as expressed by the Key Accountability Areas (KAAs) of institution building, social cohesion, and environmental impact. Without institution building, social cohesion, and addressing environmental impacts, we will not be able to sustain quality growth. The KAAs are also intended to give more traction to the five attributes

Outcomes

and help align the Growth Strategy with the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. We agree to strengthen cooperation that directly relate to and contribute to the achievement of the KAAs.

a. Institution Building

Institutions matter for economic growth and development because they shape the incentives of key economic actors in society; in particular, they influence investments in physical and human capital and technology, and the organization of production.

We recognize that different development levels and economic conditions affect the prioritization of the various aspects of institution building. Some of the more important economic institutions are: (i) rules-based economy that promotes legal certainty and reduces the cost of doing business; (ii) a market-based economy supported by sound public institutions and regulations; (iii) deep financial markets that efficiently intermediate savings combined with effective regulatory systems that promote financial stability; (iv) a shareholder-oriented corporate governance system; (v) mechanisms that support trade and investment liberalization and facilitation; and (vi) a labor market that allows re-allocation of labor in response to market demand but at the same time protects the welfare of workers.

The action agenda in the area of institution building should recognize different levels of development and therefore feature a multi-track and multi-speed program.

b. Social Cohesion

We see social cohesion as both an end and a means to achieve economic growth and development. We see the role of society in working cohesively towards the well-being of all its members by fighting exclusion and marginalization, by creating a sense of belonging, by promoting trust, and by offering to its members the opportunity of upward mobility.

Public policies are often more effective in socially cohesive societies resulting in greater poverty reduction and a more stable growth process. Lack of social cohesion hampers the ability to implement efficient fiscal policy aimed at reducing inequality. Social cohesion also reduces transaction costs, that is, the costs incurred in making economic exchanges, such as information gathering, communications, and contract enforcement. Finally, social cohesion enhances growth by facilitating collective action, that is cooperation among individuals in pursuit of shared objectives.

c. Environmental Impact

Responses to climate change include measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to increase carbon sequestration,

and to adapt to the effects of climate change. Measures to reduce emissions will encourage economies to move toward low carbon societies. Meanwhile, we emphasize the need to adapt to climate change through disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Adaptation entails investments in science and technology, disaster resilient infrastructure, and eco-system based adaptation, among other strategies. Both adaptation and mitigation measures will be important for agriculture, fishery, forestry and industrialization policies. We reiterate the call of Leaders through the 2010 APEC Growth Strategy to develop more resource-efficient economies that will enable us to prosper as low-carbon and resilient societies. We continue to encourage new green industries and jobs.

The Role of the Private Sector

11. We recognize that the private sector plays an important role in economic growth and development, especially in achieving 'growth that matters' – as they foster innovation, create employment, and promote corporate social responsibility. We encourage private sector participation in developing whole-of-economy, whole-of-society approaches towards ensuring dynamic and quality growth.

Implementation

12. We resolve to implement the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth, building upon our commitment to the 2010 Growth Strategy and bearing in mind the commitments in past and ongoing APEC initiatives in various APEC fora. We commit to work to support individual economies in their implementation of the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth – consistent with the KAAs as presented in the Annex which we adopt as a living document – by sharing experience and capacity building.
13. We instruct the Senior Officials to commission the PSU to report in 2020 on the impact of the extensive APEC work program on improving growth, and to report to Leaders, for their review, on APEC's progress in promoting the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth. At that point, Leaders may consider the future direction of this Strategy.



ANNEX B

APEC Services Cooperation Framework

We, the Leaders of APEC, gathered in Manila on 19 November 2015 to reaffirm our commitment to achieve inclusive growth in the APEC region. We recognize the important role of services in realizing this goal.

The services sector accounts for a dominant share of our economies, providing high quality jobs and new avenues for growth. Efficient and competitive services sectors provide whole-of-economy benefits.

We acknowledge that international trade in services facilitates the transfer of technology and management know-how, spurs innovation, boosts competition and productivity, raises the standard of domestic services suppliers, reduces costs, and widens the range of choice for consumers.

Recognizing that the development of services including their efficient delivery requires a strategic approach, we therefore adopt this APEC Services Cooperation Framework (ASCF) as follows:

Advancing the Services Agenda

1. As part of our commitment to realizing APEC's vision as outlined in the Bogor Leaders' Declaration and achieving APEC's goal of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific no later than the year 2020, we recognize the importance of advancing regional cooperation in services.
2. We value APEC's past and ongoing work on services across the various APEC sub-fora, contributing significantly to efforts towards implementing the APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy, the APEC Connectivity Blueprint,

and the 2014 APEC Strategic Blueprint for Promoting Global Value Chains Development and Cooperation.

3. We welcome the outcomes of the second meeting of the APEC Ministers Responsible for Structural Reform and the emphasis they placed on services.
4. We commend APEC for its work in services trade and investment, such as the Services Action Plan, the APEC Principles for Cross-Border Trade in Services, and the Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) Database. We also recognize the significant contribution of the Manufacturing Related Services Action Plan, the Environmental Goods and Services Work Programme, the Environmental Services Action Plan, and the establishment of the APEC Public Private Partnership on Environmental Goods and Services (PPEGS) to APEC's ongoing work on services.
5. We have explored ways to further deepen cross-fora collaboration on services such



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as through the first joint meeting of the Economic Committee, the Group on Services, and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) on Regulatory Reform and Services held in 2015. The Public-Private Dialogues on Services, initiated by Indonesia in 2013, were undertaken in cooperation with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and PECC, to broaden the base for consultation. These dialogues stressed the value of intensified focus on services and facilitated the sharing of regulatory experiences and challenges, as well as generated views on ways to improve services competitiveness taking into account APEC economies' circumstances.

6. We recognize the rapid changes taking place in the delivery of services, such as through

digitally-enabled trade. To boost services trade and investments in the region, APEC needs to further deepen and build momentum in its work on services.

Vision

7. We agree to set our long-term vision for services in APEC.
8. Recalling the Bogor Goals of 1994, we resolve to strengthen our efforts in services through the following principles of cooperation:
 - Free and open trade and investment in services consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) principles;
 - Transparent and improved communication;
 - Collaboration and engagement across

the APEC platform and with various stakeholders;

- Competitiveness in services through human and institutional capacity building and increased participation of developing member economies; and
 - Cross-sectoral and sector-specific approaches.
9. In line with the 1995 Osaka Action Agenda, the 2000 Policy Framework for Work on Services, and the 2009 APEC Principles for Cross-Border Trade in Services, taking into account individual economies' situations, we affirm the importance of the following strategic directions:
 - Transparency of laws, regulations, and administrative procedures;

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- Progressively reducing restrictions to services trade and investment, including unnecessary localization requirements;
- Non-discrimination between domestic and foreign service suppliers;
- Good regulatory practices and effective competition policy;
- Facilitating the mobility of service suppliers and business persons; and
- Supporting capacity building to develop the ability of economies to competitively supply services.

10. We believe that the 2015 ASCF will play a pivotal role in fully achieving the Bogor Goals, in providing a common strategic direction and in promoting coherence in APEC's work on services. The ASCF will ensure that APEC's multi- fora and multi-stakeholder services agenda will remain dynamic and responsive to economic, market, and technological developments of each APEC member economy.

The Way Forward

11. We agree to develop a strategic and long-term APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap in 2016 with the adoption of a concerted set of actions and mutually agreed targets to be achieved by 2025. The process of drafting the Roadmap will begin with discussion of the elements of the Roadmap followed by deliberations on actions and mutually agreed targets. The Roadmap will, among others:

- Build on APEC's past and ongoing work on services;
- Promote increased and strengthened APEC cross-fora dialogue and collaboration such as joint meetings, projects, and initiatives;
- Pursue close collaboration with ABAC, PECC, and other stakeholders through regular Public-Private Dialogues on Services;
- Broaden multi-stakeholder engagement through the APEC Virtual Knowledge Center on Services—a virtual knowledge-sharing platform on information and best practices of services-related policies and programs of APEC;
- Foster exchange of good regulatory practices and promote effective competition policy;
- Seek better ways to produce services-related statistics and increase the number of APEC economies with indices for measuring the regulatory environment in services including by providing capacity building and exploring the development of an APEC index, taking into account, as appropriate, existing indices maintained by other fora such as the OECD;
- Regularly organize, through the relevant APEC Working Groups and Committees, discussion fora among services regulators; officials responsible for trade, investment, and competition policies; and the private sector; and

- Leverage partnerships with regional and global bodies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations (UN) Bodies, International Trade Center (ITC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and the World Bank, among other institutions, to implement the Roadmap, and avoid duplication and ensure coherence with existing initiatives.

12. The desired outcomes of the ASCF are:

- Increased services value-adding capacity of APEC economies;
- Cultivation of globally competitive services sectors of APEC economies;
- Expansion of trade and investment in services in APEC economies via improvements in physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity;
- Enhancement of GVC participation of all businesses especially micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs);
- Wider access to more efficient and greater variety of services for APEC and its people;
- Job creation and growth while promoting social inclusion and human development; and

- Addition of measures in pursuit of the APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy for inclusive, innovative, balanced, secure, and sustainable growth.

13. We urge our Ministers and Senior Officials to mainstream this Framework into the strategic and long-term planning of APEC's work program through all the relevant Committees and Working Groups, in particular the Group on Services (GOS).

14. Finally, we instruct Senior Officials to develop a mechanism for implementing the ASCF beginning 2016.



Annex to the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth

GROWTH ATTRIBUTES (related to specific action items)	KEY ACCOUNTABILITY AREAS (1 – Primary KAA; 2 – Secondary KAA)		
	Institution Building	Social Cohesion	Environmental Impact
BALANCED			
Balanced Growth Across Economies			
1. Initiatives to address excessive current account deficits, mainly through boosting domestic savings, with attention to local conditions in order not to derail economic growth	1		
2. Initiatives to address excessive current account surpluses to reducing reliance on external demand and strengthening domestic demand-led growth	1		
3. Initiatives to strengthen multilateral cooperation to promote external sustainability and pursue the full range of policies conducive to reducing excessive imbalances and maintaining current account imbalances at sustainable levels.	1		
4. Initiatives to move towards more market determined exchange rate systems that reflect underlying economic fundamentals	1		
Balanced growth within Economies			
1. Initiatives to establish open, well-functioning, transparent, better-regulated and competitive markets	1		
2. Initiatives to develop financial markets	1		
3. Initiatives to increase domestic demand	1		
4. Initiatives to strengthen social safety nets	2	1	
5. Initiatives to promote a competitive environment	1		
6. Initiatives to enhance public sector and corporate governance	1		
Facilitate growth through infrastructure development			
Initiatives for innovative solutions, technical assistance, and advisory services for raising private and public financing for infrastructure-related projects	1	2	

INCLUSIVE			
Promote job creation, human resource development, and active labor market policies			
1. Initiatives to improve quality education for women, youth, elderly workers, and vulnerable groups including people with disabilities	2	1	
2. Employment opportunities for women, youth, elderly workers, and vulnerable groups	2	1	
Promote SMEs, MEs, and entrepreneurship development			
1. Initiatives to encourage SME participation in high growth sectors	2	1	
2. Initiatives to increase SME access to global markets (high value-add products, opportunities global markets, trade barriers)	2	1	
3. Initiatives to improve the business environment, increase management capacity, and expand access to relevant technologies	1	2	
Promote more inclusive to finance and financial services			
Initiatives to facilitate access to finance for SMEs, MEs, women entrepreneurs, and vulnerable groups including people with disabilities	2	1	
Enhance social resilience and social welfare through means such as improving social safety nets			
1. Initiatives to support the individual's economic security (sharing experience, capacity building)	2	1	
2. Well-functioning safety nets programs that enhance social insurance coverage and encourage labor market participation	2	1	
3. Initiatives to accelerate the reduction of the population below the poverty line	2	1	
4. Initiatives to improve income distribution through social protection that is based on community empowerment and economic opportunities of the low income population	2	1	
Create new economic opportunities for women, elderly, and vulnerable groups			
Initiatives to increase economic opportunities for women, elderly, people with disabilities, and vulnerable populations (employment, business, opportunities, quality education)	2	1	
Promote tourism		1	2

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SUSTAINABLE			
Enhance energy security and promote energy-efficiency and low-carbon policies			
1. Initiatives to enhance energy security	2		1
2. Initiatives to promote energy-efficiency	2		1
3. Initiatives to promote low-carbon policies	2		1
Develop a low-carbon energy sector			
Initiatives to introduce low-emission power sources and to assess the potential of options to reduce carbon emissions	2		1
Improve to access for environmental goods and services (EGS) and develop EGS sectors			
1. Initiatives to increase utilization of EGS, reduce barriers to trade and investment in EGS and enhance the capabilities of members to develop their EGS sector, which will take into account different circumstances and different level of development of each economy	2		1
2. Diffusion, climate friendly, and other EGS technologies	2		1
Promote green jobs education and training			
1. Initiatives to build skill competencies, share best practices, and support education for sustainable development jobs	2		1
2. Initiatives to promote ecotourism	2		1
Promote private investment in green industries and production process			
Initiatives to promote private investment in green industries and production processes	2		1
Promote conservation and more sustainable management of agriculture and natural resources			
1. Initiatives to enhance forest management	2		1
2. Initiatives to conserve soil	2		1
3. Initiatives to conserve marine resources	2		1
4. Initiatives to manage watersheds	2		1
5. Initiatives to promote sustainable agriculture	2		1
6. Initiatives to adopt to water-related risks	2		1
Promote the establishment and development of green supply chains			
Initiatives to strengthen capacity building of green supply chains and the relevant networking efforts	2		1

INNOVATIVE			
Promote Innovative Development, Economic Reform, and Growth			
1. Initiatives to overcome the Middle-Income Trap	1	2	
2. Initiatives to tap into the growth potential of emerging sectors, such as the Internet Economy, the Blue Economy, and the Green Economy	1		2
3. Initiatives to advance cooperation on urbanization and sustainable city development		1	2
Realize smart socioeconomic activity through enhanced ICT use and by sharing best practices			
Initiatives to promote smart socioeconomic activity through enhanced ICT use and by sharing best practices	1	2	
Promote Digital Prosperity			
Adopted policies and regulations to foster innovation and use of ICTs. Promoting:			
1. Trade and Investment in ICT products and services	1		
2. Adapting globally accepted standards and international practices	1		
3. Investment in high speed broadband infrastructure	1		
4. Competitive environment conducive to emerging technologies and innovative services	1		
5. Effective privacy protection	1		
6. Information and communication flows	1		
Develop a skilled, adaptable, and professional APEC work-force			
Initiatives to develop technical and vocational education and training to nurture more skilled personnel in certain strategic directions	1	2	
Enhance Dialogues and information sharing on innovation policy			
Initiatives to share best practices for more effective policy making and implementation	2	1	
Promote innovation and creativity through effective, comprehensive, and balanced intellectual property (IP) Systems			
1. Initiatives to improve intellectual property right protection and enforcement	1		
2. Initiatives to improve IP utilization	1		
3. Initiatives to improve IP commercialization	1		
Promote cooperation on standards			
1. Initiatives to promote cooperation on standard in coordination with Specialist Regional bodies and promote greater alignment of domestic standard in international standards	2	1	
2. Initiatives to promote cooperation on standardization in advanced technologies	2	1	

Outcomes

Promote innovation in Life Science			
Initiatives to stimulate innovation and application of medical and related ICT innovations in health systems (investment, sustainable development in the pharmaceutical and biologics industries, regulatory harmonization on medical products, cooperation to prevent trade in counterfeit medical products)		1	
SECURE			
Counter terrorism and promote secure trade			
Initiatives to counter terrorism and promote secure trade agenda – promoting transportation security, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism finance, supply-chain security and trade recovery, cyber security, protecting infrastructure	1		
Prepare for emergencies and natural disasters			
1. Initiatives to understand disasters' economic and social costs	2		1
2. Initiatives to identify gaps in disaster risk reduction approaches	2		1
3. Initiatives to develop practical mechanisms to maximize business and community resilience	2		1
Enhance infectious disease preparedness and control of non-communicable diseases, and strengthen health systems			
1. Initiatives to effectively manage emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases	1		2
2. Initiatives to build capacity for the prevention of non-communicable diseases	1		2
3. Initiatives to strengthen health system	1	2	
Strengthen food security and food safety			
1. Initiatives to promote food security through sustainable development of agriculture	2	1	
2. Initiatives to promote food safety	2	1	
Combat corruption and promote transparency			
1. Initiatives to address corruption and transparency in public sector governance	1		
2. Initiatives to address corruption and transparency in private sector governance	1		



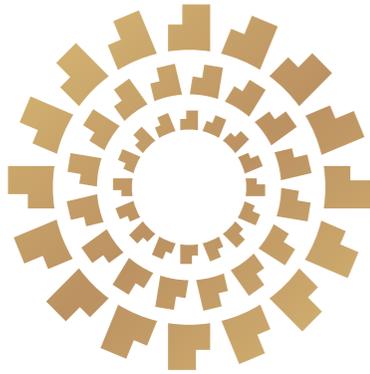
Manila, Philippines • 17 November 2015

Statement on Supporting the Multilateral Trading System and the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference

1. We join in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Asia Pacific has been one of the fastest-growing trading regions, benefiting significantly from the stability and predictability of the multilateral trading system. In this regard, we reaffirm the value, centrality and primacy of the multilateral trading system under the auspices of the WTO. We will continue to work closely together to strengthen the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system as embodied in the WTO.
2. The WTO's achievements have contributed significantly to our economic dynamism and resiliency in the past twenty years. Within the established framework of the multilateral trading system, we commit APEC to continuing to support the effectiveness of the WTO and the further promotion of its objectives for the benefit of all.
3. We are committed to working together for a successful Nairobi Ministerial Meeting that has a balanced set of outcomes, including on the Doha Development Agenda, and provides clear guidance to post-Nairobi work. As on previous occasions, we will provide the necessary political impetus to achieve these outcomes. We instruct our Ministers to engage actively and constructively in the discussions, with the objective of achieving concrete, meaningful, balanced and development-oriented outcomes.
4. The early entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which was approved as part of the 2013 Bali Package achieved at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference, would make a significant contribution to the sustainability of global trade and highlight the value of the WTO to its stakeholders around the world. In this regard, we recognize the leadership of APEC Economies, with more than half of them having ratified the TFA to date. We call upon the remaining APEC Economies to do so as soon as possible, ideally before MC10.
5. We also welcome the decision by WTO Members, which clarifies the interim mechanism agreed by Ministers in Bali, to engage constructively to negotiate and make all concerted efforts to agree and adopt a permanent solution on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes by 31 December 2015. We are encouraged by the progress in the implementation of other Bali decisions, and engage to continue to pursue their full implementation.
6. Recognizing the importance of facilitating access to medicines as set out in the Paragraph 6 System, we urge all WTO Members to accept the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement. Entry into force of the Protocol by MC10 would also demonstrate the potential of the WTO to deliver practical, development-oriented outcomes.
7. We reaffirm our pledges against all forms of protectionism, through our commitment to a standstill until the end of 2018, and to roll back protectionist and trade-distorting measures. We recognize the need to exert further efforts to comply with this commitment. We remain committed to exercising maximum restraint in implementing measures that may be consistent with WTO provisions but have a significant protectionist effect, and to promptly rectifying such measures, where implemented.
8. We acknowledge that bilateral, regional and plurilateral trade agreements can play an important role in complementing global liberalization initiatives. We will continue to work together to ensure that they are consistent with WTO agreements and contribute to strengthening the multilateral trading system.
- 8.1. We therefore welcome the agreement reached on product coverage in the Information Technology Agreement expansion negotiations, and we welcome the efforts by participating members to conclude the negotiations on staging timeframes before MC10. APEC ITA expansion participants agree to work together to achieve broader participation in this Agreement.
- 8.2. We also welcome the recent progress made in the Environmental Goods Agreement which include a number of APEC Economies and we welcome the efforts by participating members to achieve meaningful progress by MC10.
- 8.3. We likewise take note of efforts to explore possibilities of factoring into the multilateral negotiations possible contributions by participants in concluded plurilateral ITA expansion and EGA initiatives.
9. Under APEC's theme of "Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World", we welcome the successful 5th Global Review of the Aid for Trade Initiative. We urge the WTO to continue its work in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, including through initiatives for the increased participation of MSMEs in regional and global markets. In the same spirit, APEC will continue to contribute to this objective building on the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs.



Outlook



APEC PERU 2016

Since its establishment, APEC’s primary goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC is united in its drive to build a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by championing free and open trade and investment, promoting and accelerating regional economic integration, encouraging economic and technical cooperation, enhancing human security, and facilitating a favourable and sustainable business environment.

In 2016, Peru will lead efforts to continue advancing regional economic integration and growth. This includes aiming to complete strategic study on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific; building on the results of the mid-term assessment of the Bogor Goals progress; and driving the implementation of APEC’s quality growth strategy.



Promoting the developing of human capital to enable our economies to take qualitative leaps in a highly competitive global market, is also among this year’s priorities, as well as enhancement of the APEC food market, including tackling issues on sustainability, market access, investment and capacity building.

Building on the initiatives of APEC 2015, we aim to further support the modernization of small and medium enterprises in the Asia-Pacific region. We are committed to implementing the Boracay Action Agenda and the Cebu Action Plan, to support the integration of these enterprises in global value chains and their financial inclusion.

- APEC 2016’s vision is to help:
- 1) Advance regional economic integration and quality growth;
 - 2) Modernize micro, small, and medium enterprises in the Asia-Pacific;
 - 3) Promote human capital development; and
 - 4) Support the regional food markets.

Advancing Regional Economic Integration and Quality Growth

Economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region now faces both opportunities and challenges. The proliferation of regional RTAs/ FTAs has

created favourable trade liberalizing momentum that complements the multilateral trading system as embodied in the WTO. However, it has posed complex new challenges to regional economic integration and to businesses.

Under the regional integration agenda, Peru 2016’s will endeavour to move the following forward:

- a) FTAAP
- b) Bogor Goals
- c) Global Value Chains
- d) Quality Growth

Outlook

Modernizing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the Asia-Pacific

Strengthening MSMEs remain a permanent objective, as they are a key component of APEC economies. MSMEs generate employment, serve as an engine for development and catalyse inclusive growth. In this sense, there is a need to incorporate them into the regional and global value chain by facilitating their access to finance; building their capacities to make use of technology; and enabling their access to new markets and information and knowledge. It is also important to encourage them to innovate so that they grow in a sustainable way and compete in the global economy. These are all issues and objectives widely shared by APEC economies.

In a highly competitive and integrated international market with new economic, social and cultural challenges emerging every day, MSMEs need to cover “gaps” or address “key constraints” that prevent them from incorporating in global value chains and becoming modernized. Supporting MSMEs to become more innovative, integrative and sustainable will let them gain access to the new demands of global markets, achieving an important step towards their modernization. Modernization of MSMEs should imply improving their productivity; making use of the best innovative tools available to obtain access

to untapped markets; information and financing Mechanisms; and improving their production patterns in a more sustainable and eco-friendly way.

Specifically, Peru 2016 will work to:

- a) Promote Innovation and SMEs connectivity
- b) Move SMEs integration and development forward through productive infrastructure
- c) Integrate green SMEs into global value chains
- d) Internationalize and MSMEs and their insertion in global value chains

Human Capital Development

Human capital development refers to the skills achieved by workers and reflected in increasing productivity and competitiveness of enterprises through innovation in processes and products. Its development involves processes to shape and enhance the skills and competencies of people through either education or work experience.

Under this scope, the theme of human capital development can be addressed from various angles: education, labour, employability, innovation, among others being critical the build of alliances within the public and private sector.

APEC's work highlights the importance of strengthening the nexus between academia and the private sector as a method for enhancing

the acquisition of 21st century skills, including through industry-academy collaboration to improve learning and recognizing the need to promote coordinated action with the private sector in all job-training programs, including those designed by the governments to be for the socially vulnerable populations.

In 2016, APEC's work on strengthening human capacity in the region will focus on:

- a) Higher and technical education
- b) Employability & skills for work
- c) Educational, scientific, technological and innovative capabilities

Regional Food Markets

Food security has become an increasing concern among many APEC economies. APEC has gradually incorporated issues related to food security in its agenda since 1996, when APEC was called for an open regional food system.

Challenges to food security include projected population reaching 9.6 billion by 2050, which is inversely related to the availability of resources needed to produce food like land, water, and environmental competitiveness. As an example, the amount of land owned by individual farmers is projected to decline from 0.22 hectares in 2012 to 0.18 in 2050. Adverse weather conditions associated with climate change can cause yield declines in some important staple food crops, especially rice, wheat, and fish

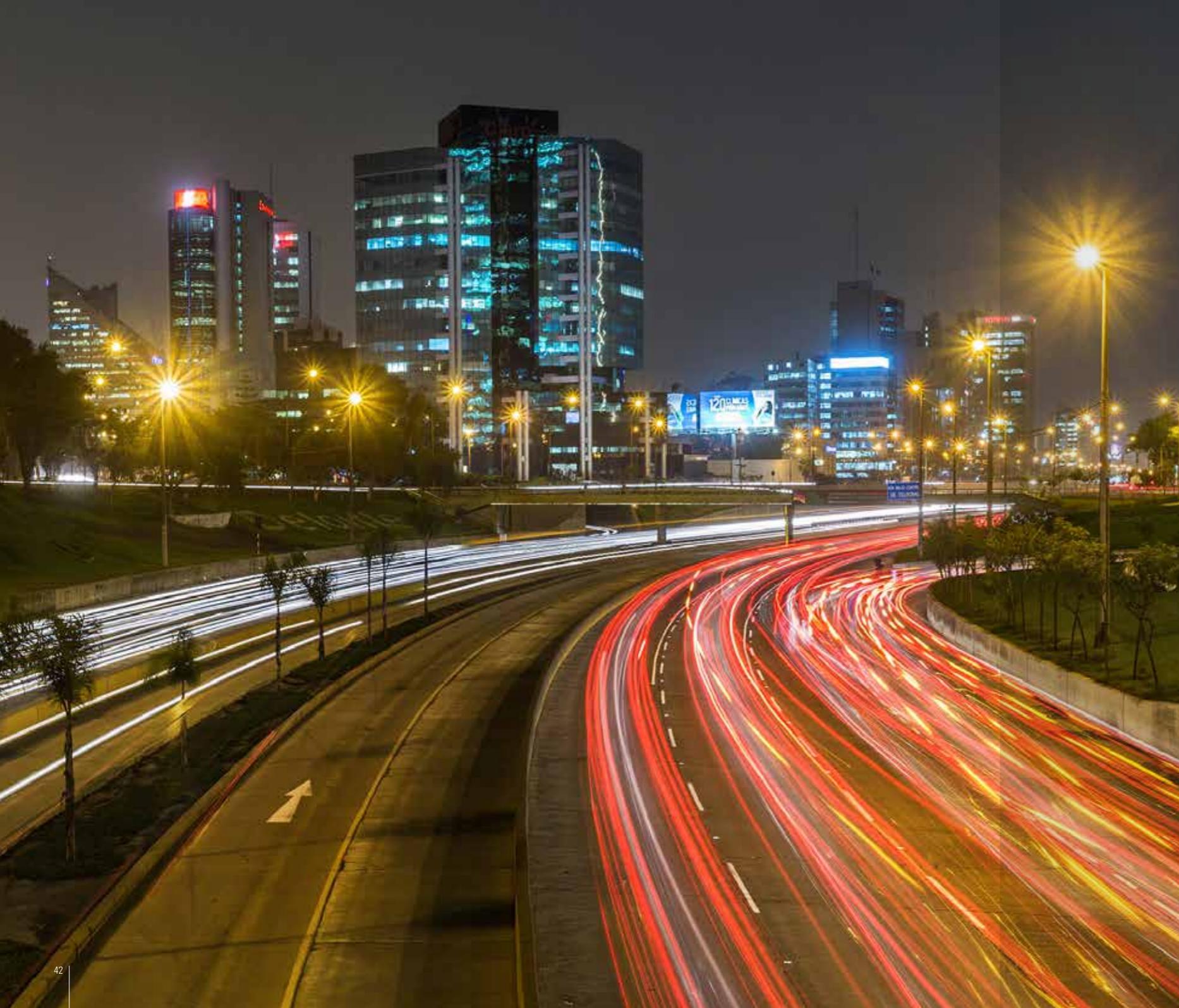


products. Traditional knowledge transfer and technical cooperation for innovation in issues such as plant breeding are important to meet these challenges.

Food safety issues, in the context of domestic and international standards as well as the mutual recognition of standards, need more focus. Specifically, on equivalence of phytosanitary and zoosanitary technical standards for import and export of agricultural products in APEC. Another challenge to food security is market access limitation. High tariffs and the increasing use of non-tariff measures hinder the trading of products in agriculture and fishery.

Declining agricultural investment in industrialized economies and underinvestment in agricultural R&D and infrastructure in developing economies are also hampering efforts to secure the sources of food. Other challenges include changes in food consumption, in terms of variety, quality, safety and nutritional value as well as food losses and food wastage. Rising food prices from increasing and competing demands for agricultural products is also a problem. Peru 2016 will support achievement of food security through the following themes:

- a) Sustainability
 - Climate Change
 - Development of rural communities (RD)
 - The blue economy and effective control against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing
- b) Market access
 - Working towards transparent application of SPS and food standards
 - Food trade facilitation
 - Global Value and Supply Chains
- c) Investment and infrastructure
- d) Food production and trade related services



Key Meetings in 2016

Meeting	Date
First Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	20 February - 4 March
Second Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	5 - 15 May
Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting	17 - 18 May
Tourism Ministerial Meeting	TBC
Third Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	15 - 28 August
Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting	9 September
Education Ministerial Meeting	4 - 6 October
Finance Ministerial Meeting	14 - 15 October
Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting	14 - 15 November
APEC Ministerial Meeting	17 - 18 November
APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting	19 - 20 November
Women and the Economy Forum	TBC

Note: Dates are subject to change, for the latest information please go to:
<http://www.apec.org/Events-Calendar.aspx>

APEC Milestones

2015 • Manila, the Philippines

APEC Leaders united behind the opportunity to build inclusive economies in a bid to make economic growth felt broadly by more sectors in society. Acknowledging uneven global growth and the presence of risks and uncertainties in the global economy, the Leaders agreed to set forth policy enablers for integration of micro, small and medium enterprises in regional and global markets; for building sustainable, and resilient communities; developing human capital; and enhancing the regional economic integration agenda. They also expressed support the achievement of quality growth, and endorsed a network on services cooperation, recognizing that the services sector represent a significant percentage of businesses in the region.

2014 • Beijing, China

APEC Leaders commit to taking a concrete step towards greater regional economic integration by endorsing a roadmap to translate the vision of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) into a reality. As a first step, APEC will carry out a collective strategic study on issues related to the realization of the FTAAP. Members implement the first-ever APEC Connectivity Blueprint to achieve targets for better physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages across the region by 2025. In order to capture higher value-added growth, policies to promote innovation, human resource development and sustainability are part of the new APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth. Recognizing the importance of promoting diversified energy supplies, APEC economies agree to work toward doubling the share of renewables by 2030 in the region's energy mix, including in power generation.

2013 • Bali, Indonesia

APEC Leaders reaffirm their commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system and achieving the successful Doha Round outcome at the World Trade Organization (WTO) 9th Ministerial Conference. APEC Leaders endorse a multi-year plan on infrastructure development and investment. As a first step under this plan, a Public Private Partnership Centre in Indonesia

will be established. To encourage people-to-people connectivity, APEC seeks to promote cross-border cooperation with the target of 1 million intra-APEC university students per year by 2020. APEC holds its first joint Ministerial Meeting on Women and SMEs to promote women entrepreneurship.

2012 • Vladivostok, Russia

APEC Leaders endorse an APEC List of Environmental Goods that directly and positively contribute to green growth and sustainable development objectives. APEC seeks to address transparency as a new next generation trade and investment issue, and Leaders endorse the APEC Model Chapter on Transparency for RTAs/FTAs to be used as a guide by APEC economies.

2011 • Honolulu, United States

APEC Leaders commit to taking concrete steps toward a seamless regional economy; addressing shared green growth objectives; and advancing regulatory cooperation and convergence. To reach these goals, APEC resolves to reduce, by the end of 2015, applied tariff rates of environmental goods to 5 percent or less, taking into account economies' circumstances, without prejudice to APEC members' positions in the WTO. APEC sets the goal to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035. In addition, APEC commits to take specific steps

by 2013 to implement good regulatory practices by ensuring internal coordination of regulatory work; assessing regulatory impacts; and conducting public consultation.

2010 • Yokohama, Japan

APEC Leaders provide a roadmap for members to realize an economically-integrated, robust and secure APEC community. This includes the formulation of a comprehensive, long-term growth strategy. APEC completes an assessment of its progress towards the Bogor Goals and finds significant gains in the areas of liberalizing trade in goods, services and investment, as well as trade facilitation. APEC formulates the APEC Strategy for Investment and endorses the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform. APEC holds its first APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security.

2009 • Singapore

APEC resolves to pursue balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth, while Leaders agree to extend their standstill commitment on protectionism until 2010. The first-ever joint meetings of APEC senior trade and finance officials are held to address the economic crisis. APEC launches the Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework and the Ease of Doing Business Action Plan to make doing business in the region 25 percent cheaper, faster and easier by 2015.

Member economies also commence work on an APEC Services Action Plan and an Environmental Goods and Services Work Program.

2008 • Lima, Peru

APEC Economic Leaders address the global financial crisis in the Lima Statement on the Global Economy, in which they commit to take all necessary economic and financial measures to restore stability and growth, to reject protectionism and to intensify efforts to advance the WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations. APEC focuses on the social dimensions of trade, reducing the gap between developing and developed members and Corporate Social Responsibility. Leaders welcome the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan aimed at improving the investment environment in the region.

2007 • Sydney, Australia

For the first time, APEC member economies issue a Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development outlining future action in support of a new international climate change arrangement and announcing a forward program of practical, cooperative actions and initiatives. Leaders also adopt a major report on closer regional economic integration, including structural reform initiatives, and welcome the second APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan

which aims to reduce trade transaction costs by a further five percent by 2010.

2006 • Ha Noi, Viet Nam

APEC Economic Leaders endorse the Ha Noi Action Plan which identifies specific actions and milestones to implement the Bogor Goals. Leaders conclude that the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan has achieved its target of a five percent reduction in trade transaction costs in the region between 2002 and 2006. APEC takes a strategic approach to reform fora and strengthen the Secretariat.

2005 • Busan, Korea

APEC completes the Mid-Term Stock-take of Progress towards the Bogor Goals. The stock-take finds that average tariffs in the APEC region have been reduced to 5.5 percent, down from 16.9 percent when APEC was established in 1989, and that APEC is on schedule to meet the Bogor Goals. It also outlines the Busan Roadmap to the Bogor Goals. The APEC Privacy Framework is launched.

APEC Milestones

2004 • Santiago, Chile

APEC adopts Best Practices for RTAs and FTAs, a reference guide for APEC members undertaking RTA/FTA negotiations. The Leaders' Agenda to Implement Structural Reform (LAISR) is launched. It addresses five priority areas: regulatory reform; corporate governance; public governance; competition policy; and strengthening economic legal infrastructure. Leaders endorse the Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency.

2003 • Bangkok, Thailand

Members undertake to implement the APEC Action Plan on SARS and the Health Security Initiative to help the region prevent and respond to health threats. Leaders pledge to strengthen regional efforts to promote sound and efficient financial systems and encourage the development of domestic and regional bond markets.

2002 • Los Cabos, Mexico

APEC adopts a Trade Facilitation Action Plan and the Statement to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy. The Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative is launched and a Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards is endorsed.

2001 • Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Leaders issue APEC's first Statement on Counter-Terrorism and pledge to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. Leaders also adopt the Shanghai Accord which focuses on: broadening the APEC vision to reflect changes resulting from the digital economy; clarifying the roadmap to reach the Bogor Goals; and strengthening the IAP Peer Review Process and capacity building activities. An e-APEC Strategy identifying the necessary policy environment and specifying appropriate goals and actions to maximise the benefits of the digital economy is also endorsed.

2000 • Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

APEC commits to the Action Agenda for the New Economy. Leaders set the goals of tripling internet access throughout the APEC region by 2005, and achieving universal access by 2010.

1999 • Auckland, New Zealand

APEC Leaders endorse the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform aimed at addressing the structural and regulatory weaknesses that contributed to the Asian financial crisis. APEC commits to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and 2010 in developing economies. The APEC

Business Travel Card scheme is approved and a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Electrical Equipment and a Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC are endorsed.

1998 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

APEC Ministers agree on a Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce, including a commitment to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and by 2010 in developing economies.

1997 • Vancouver, Canada

APEC endorses a proposal for early voluntary sectoral liberalisation in 15 sectors and decides that Individual Action Plans should be updated annually.

1996 • Manila, the Philippines

The Manila Action Plan for APEC is adopted, outlining the trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation measures required to reach the Bogor Goals. The first Collective and Individual Action Plans are compiled, outlining how economies will achieve the free trade goals.

1995 • Osaka, Japan

APEC adopts the Osaka Action Agenda which provides a framework for meeting the Bogor Goals through trade and investment liberalisation, business facilitation and sectoral activities, underpinned by policy dialogues and economic and technical cooperation. The APEC Business Advisory Council is established to inject a business perspective into APEC deliberations and to give advice on business sector priorities.

1994 • Bogor, Indonesia

APEC sets the Bogor Goals of "free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialised economies and 2020 for developing economies." The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations conducted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is concluded. APEC is widely considered to have been a significant force in bringing the Uruguay Round to a conclusion.

1993 • Blake Island, United States

APEC Economic Leaders meet for the first time and outline APEC's vision of "stability, security and prosperity for our peoples."

1989 • Canberra, Australia

APEC begins as an informal Ministerial-level dialogue group with 12 founding members.



About APEC

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. APEC's 21 members aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

APEC ensures that goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders. Members facilitate this trade through faster customs procedures at borders; more favorable business climates behind the border; and aligning regulations and standards across the region.

APEC works to help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy. For example, APEC projects provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad. Recognizing the impacts of climate change, APEC members also implement initiatives to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable management of forest and marine resources.

The forum adapts to allow members to deal with important new challenges to the region's economic well-being. This includes ensuring disaster resilience, planning for pandemics, and addressing terrorism.

APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

Member Economy and Year Joined	Population (thousands)	GDP (US\$m)	GDP per capita (US\$)	Imports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial Services (US\$m)	Exports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial Services (US\$m)
Australia (1989)	23,490.7	1,453,770.2	61,887.0	299,327.8	294,589.6
Brunei Darussalam (1989)	417.4	17,256.8	41,344.0	5,617.5	10,988.3
Canada (1989)	35,540.4	1,786,655.1	50,271.1	580,967.0	559,620.7
Chile (1994)	17,762.6	258,061.5	14,528.3	86,733.7	86,919.8
China (1991)	1,364,270.0	10,360,105.2	7,593.9	2,340,938.4	2,574,761.7
Hong Kong (1991)	7,241.7	290,896.4	40,169.6	676,242.3	630,034.3
Indonesia (1989)	254,454.8	888,538.2	3,491.9	211,254.8	199,212.3
Japan (1989)	127,131.8	4,601,461.2	36,194.4	1,012,183.6	841,926.6
Korea (1989)	50,424.0	1,410,382.9	27,970.5	639,480.7	678,424.2
Malaysia (1989)	29,902.0	326,933.0	10,933.5	253,579.1	273,548.9
Mexico (1993)	125,385.8	1,282,720.0	10,230.2	443,295.3	418,542.2
New Zealand (1989)	4,509.7	188,384.9 (2013 data)	42,409.0 (2013 data)	55,428.5	56,034.9
Papua New Guinea (1993)	7,463.6	15,413.2 (2013 data)	2,108.8 (2013 data)	6,261.7	5,846.9
Peru (1998)	30,973.1	202,902.8	6,550.9	49,860.7	45,042.8
The Philippines (1989)	99,138.7	284,582.0	2,870.5	87,230.4	86,922.8
Russia (1998)	143,819.6	1,860,597.9	12,735.9	426,969.6	562,635.8
Singapore (1989)	5,469.7	307,871.9	56,286.8	507,569.7	549,909.1
Chinese Taipei (1991)	23,403.6	529,587.0	22,632.0	319,268.2	370,571.9
Thailand (1989)	67,726.0	373,804.1	5,519.4	280,839.9	282,515.5
United States (1989)	318,857.1	17,419,000.0	54,629.5	2,864,229.8	2,308,137.2
Viet Nam (1998)	90,730.0	186,204.7	2,052.3	163,566.2	161,308.4

Source: StatsAPEC <http://statistics.apec.org/> (December 2015 Update)
 Note: GDP (US\$m) and GDP per capita (US\$) are at current prices. GDP and GDP per capita data for New Zealand and Papua New Guinea refer to 2013 data.

Benefits of APEC

APEC has grown to become a dynamic engine of economic growth and one of the most important regional forums in the Asia-Pacific. Its 21 member economies are home to around 2.8 billion people and represent approximately 57 per cent of world GDP and 49 per cent of world trade in 2014.

As a result of APEC's work, growth has soared in the region, with real GDP doubling from just USD 16 trillion in 1989 to USD 44 trillion in 2013. Meanwhile, residents of the Asia-Pacific saw their per capita income rise by 45 per cent, lifting millions out of poverty and creating a growing middle class in just over two decades.

Bringing the region closer together, reducing trade barriers, and smoothing out differences in regulations have boosted trade which, in turn, has led to this dramatic increase in prosperity. Average tariffs fell from 17 per cent in 1989 to 5.6 per cent in 2014. During that same time period, the APEC region's total trade increased over seven times—outpacing the rest of the world with two-thirds of this trade occurring between member economies.

About APEC

APEC Process

APEC operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. Member economies* participate on the basis of open dialogue and respect for views of all participants. In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments or treaty obligations.

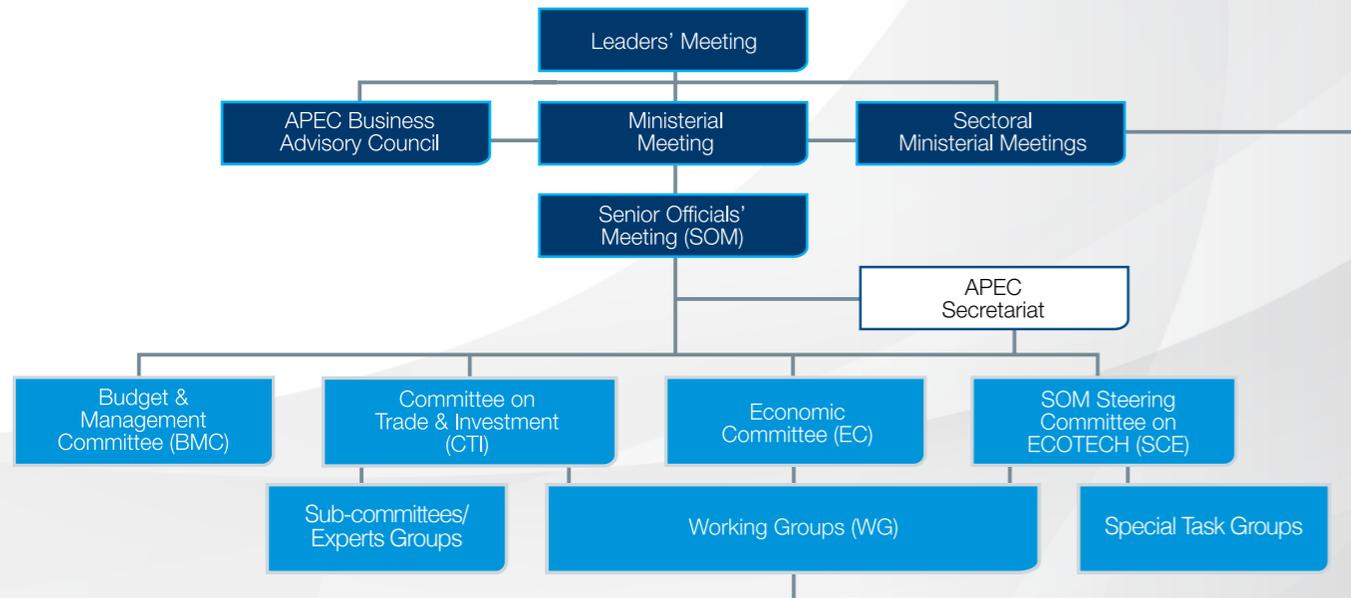
Commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis and capacity building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.

APEC's structure is based on both a "bottom-up" and "top-down" approach. Four core committees and their respective working groups provide strategic policy recommendations to

APEC Leaders and Ministers who annually set the vision for overarching goals and initiatives. The working groups are then tasked with implementing these initiatives through a variety of APEC-funded projects. Members also take individual and collective actions to carry out APEC initiatives in their individual economies with the assistance of APEC capacity building projects.

*The word 'economies' is used to describe APEC members because the APEC process is predominantly concerned with trade and economic issues, and members engage with one another as economic entities.

APEC Organisational Chart



Policy Level
 Working Level

Every year one of the 21 member economies hosts the APEC meetings and serves as the APEC Chair. The APEC host economy is responsible for chairing the annual Economic Leaders' Meeting, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials' Meetings, the APEC Business Advisory Council and the APEC Study Centres Consortium.



The APEC Secretariat

The APEC Secretariat is staffed with a team of diplomats seconded from APEC member economies as well as by professional, specialist and administrative staff. The Secretariat is headed by an Executive Director.



The APEC Secretariat holds ISO 9001 Quality Management Certification. This recognises the continuous efforts made by the APEC Secretariat to provide high quality administrative and support activities. The APEC Secretariat is the first international trade-related secretariat to attain ISO certification.

The APEC Policy Support Unit

The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU), established in 2008, provides research, analysis and evaluation capabilities to assist in the implementation of APEC's agenda. The PSU is guided and overseen by a board that comprises representatives from the current, immediate past and next APEC host economy, and from each major donor.

APEC Stakeholder Participation

APEC recognises that strong and vibrant economies are not built by governments alone, but by partnerships between governments and key stakeholders, including the business sector, industry, academia, policy and research institutions, and interest groups within the community.

APEC member economies recognise that business drives the economies of the region and therefore involves business at all levels of the APEC process. At the highest level, APEC Economic Leaders communicate through annual meetings with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). ABAC comprises high-level business people from all 21 APEC member economies.

Through the APEC Study Centres Consortium (ASCC), APEC member economies actively engage academic and research institutions in the APEC process. The ASCC assists the APEC process by undertaking independent policy research on APEC-related issues. There are APEC Study Centres in most APEC member economies, comprising some 50 universities, research centres and centres of academic excellence.

About APEC

On The Web

The APEC Secretariat – www.apec.org contains information about APEC developments, issues and work programs, an APEC event calendar and links to key APEC websites. You can also follow us on social media:

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Publications

publications.apec.org

APEC Economic Trends Analysis, May 2015

APEC Economic Trends Analysis, November 2015

APEC at a Glance, 2015

APEC in Charts 2015

2015 APEC Economic Policy Report

2015 APEC Economic Policy Report: Executive Summary

2015 CTI Report to Ministers

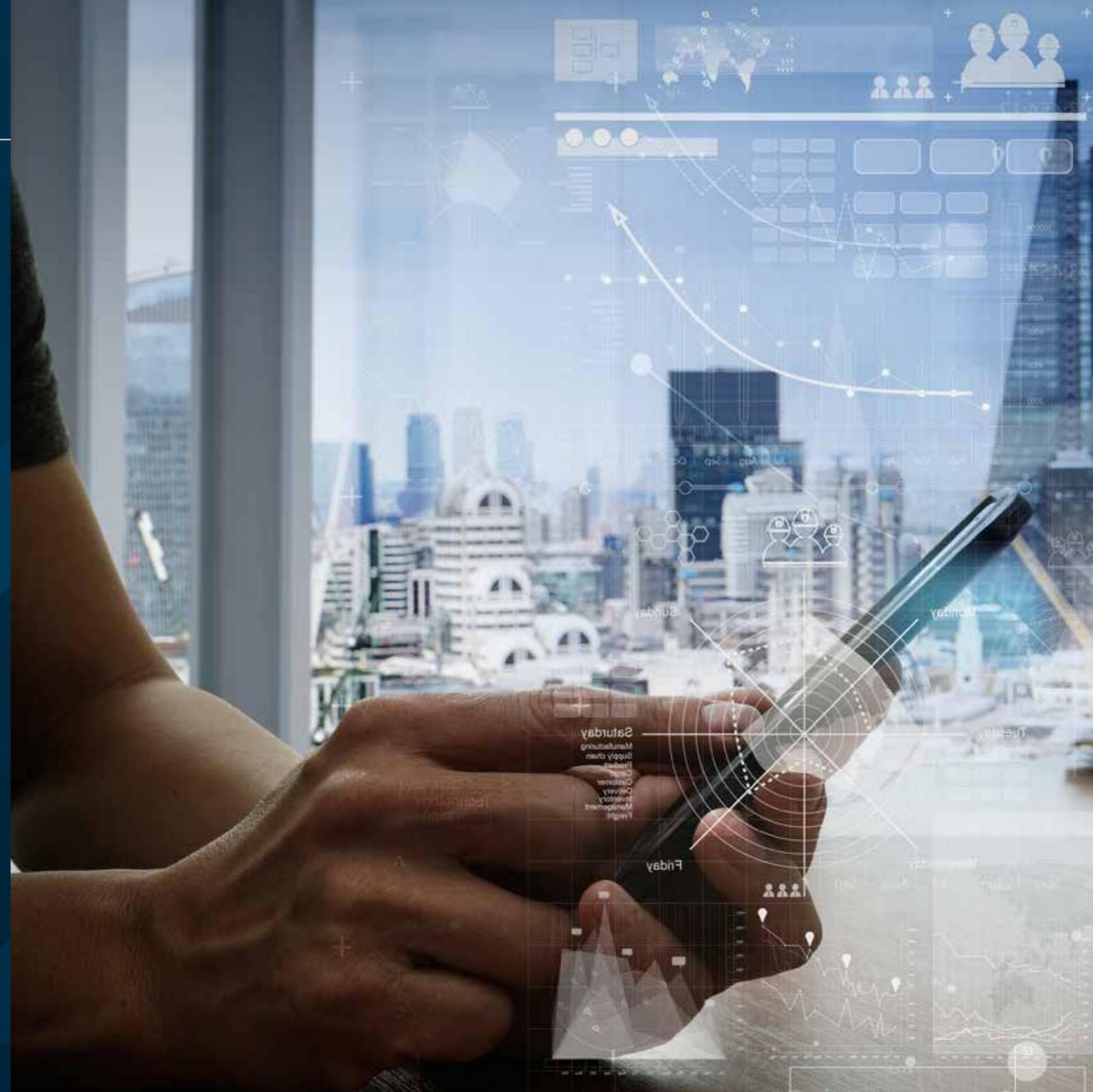
Factsheet: 2015 APEC Economic Policy Report

Factsheet: 2015 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation

APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2015

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