**APEC END TUBERCULOSIS COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK**

**SUB-WORKING GROUP**

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**Drafting Members**

* The Republic of the Philippines
* Viet Nam

**Cross Fora Collaboration**

* Life Sciences and Innovation Forum

**Lead Economy**

* People’s Republic of China

**Background**

Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death among infectious diseases and estimated 10.4 million people fell ill with TB and 1.7 million died from the disease (including 0.4 million co-infected with HIV) in 2016. Moreover, drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) is a continuing threat. 600 000 newly diagnosed cases were resistance to rifampicin, the most effective first-line drug and490 000 of those had multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB).

Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is globally a high burden infectious diseases which requires long treatment protocols and has a low cure rate. MDR-TB is continuing to be a huge public health problem all over the world, especially in some economies in the Asia-Pacific region. It is critical to detect multi-drug resistant tuberculosis patients and adopt the standardized treatment regimen. However, low case detection rates, diagnosis delay and a lack of social supports are main obstacle of effective TB and MDR-TB control.

In APEC region, disease burden of TB is still high, affecting all economies and across all age groups. One third (3 of 10 million) of total estimated global TB burden is in APEC region. There are 7 high TB burden economies, 4 high TB-HIV co-infection burden economies and 8 high MDR-TB burden economies. To reduce TB burden in this region, it is necessary to promote accessibility to high quality medical care for TB, MDR-TB and TB/HIV vulnerable groups, including the elderly, migrants, and teenagers, which will greatly benefit the APEC economies.

### In 2015, United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals for a better world. These goals aim to end poverty, fight inequality, and promote good health and well-being. To ensure healthy lives and well-being for all, it is important to fight against the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. In 2016, The UN General Assembly called for more actions to end TB. Echoing this, more collaboration is encouraged to help end the TB epidemic by 2030. To relieve TB burden in the APEC community and help create an APEC community of shared healthier future, we call for building of a TB collaboration framework.

Previously, at the 2017 Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Action on TB and MDR-TB in the APEC region held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, participants agreed that:

a) The APEC region has shown important progress in controlling the TB epidemic but the response needs to be transformed and accelerated, urgently applying innovations, in keeping with WHO End TB Strategy and Global Plan End TB 2016-2020, with more attention on best practices in the Region, and focus on supporting increased multi-sectorial accountability, across and beyond government; and,

b) The APEC region should be able to reach the SDG and WHO target of ending the TB epidemic by 2030, building on universal health coverage and development efforts, research & innovation, as well as strengthened cross-border collaboration and multi-sectorial collaboration.

Subsequently, the APEC HWG meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, March 2018, called upon all APEC member economies to develop an APEC End TB collaboration framework in 2018 to address urgent cross-economy issues, include MDR-TB response capacity, TB and migration, research, and to increase capacity and funding to urgently expand TB research, establishing and/or strengthening TB research networks and collaboration, which will help implement the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 and AMR initiatives.

Eventually we jointly reached a consensus to build such a TB collaboration framework in the 2018 HWG Work Plan to enhance collaborative preparedness and response to public health emergencies and disasters including the prevention and control of tuberculosis.

**Goal**

The goal of the APEC End Tuberculosis Collaboration Framework is to strengthen the collaboration and knowledge sharing of strategy, policies and techniques to contribute to TB prevention and control, to reduce the disease burden and mitigate the impact of TB to the economy, trade and security in the region. To sum up, this collaboration aims to contribute to the achievement of END TB goal by 2030 in the region.

**Cooperation Areas**

1. **Policy Exchange:** To exchange the TB control and prevention strategy and policies for strengthening political commitment following multi-sectorial accountability framework in Moscow Declaration to End TB.
2. **APEC TB Research and Innovation Networking:** To build TB research capacity in all economies to scale up new techniques, new drugs, new vaccine and new approaches in APEC region to address TB, MDR-TB, XDR-TB and TB/HIV.
3. **Information Sharing:** To exchange TB epidemic trends in terms of mortality and morbidity and set up inter-economies TB patients referral mechanism.
4. **Training and Workshop:** To encourage member economies to hold trainings and workshops to improve the capacity for TB control and prevention in terms of measures of infection control, surveillance, TB and TB/HIV diagnosis and treatment based on excellence practice.

**Activities**

**1. Policy Exchange**

1.1 To hold one day meeting at the first half of June 2019 in China (host economy) to share current polices and measures of MDR-TB epidemiology and current holistic system to deal with MDR-TB in APEC region for monitoring emerging drug resistance for new drugs and improving systematic support to diagnose and treat MDR-TB.

* 1. Review the adaptation of multi-sectorial accountability framework to end TB in UNGA HLM on End TB in regional and country levels.

* 1. **(To be added by member economies)**

**2. APEC TB Research and Innovation Networking:**

2.1. Remote communication for establishing and consolidating APEC TB research and innovation network to encourage all economy active participation.

2.2. To hold two day APEC scientific conference on End TB in the fourth quarter 2019 in Viet Nam, including research capacity building workshop.

**3. Information Sharing**

3.1 Remote communication to set up a mechanism for TB patients referral inter-economies

3.2. **(To be added by member economies)**

**4．Training and Workshop**

4.1 To conduct one day training course on molecular epidemiology to study of facing Challenge of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis in the context of globalization, at the first half of June, 2019, in China.

4.2 **(To be added by member economies)**

**Key Dates**

Solicit opinions from all member economies by email: Week of September 1st, 2018

Completion: Week of September 17th, 2018