

Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria

ASF Sub-Fund on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth (IERG)

The IERG sub-fund is overseen by the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE). Any interested economies, from any APEC fora, may apply this sub-fund by submitting project concept notes which fall within the scope of the sub-fund and the ambit of APEC funding criteria. Nevertheless, SCE's endorsement will be the determining factor as to whether a project is eligible to access the sub-fund.

The funding of a single project applying for the IERG Sub-Fund is subject to a cap of USD150,000. All projects funded through the APEC Support Fund and its Sub-funds must primarily benefit developing economies.

Eligibility Criteria for the Sub Fund

Drawing on the direction set in *the APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth* endorsed at the AELM in 2014 (Annex C of the 2014 Leaders' Declaration), the proposed criteria are intended to be in line with the priority areas specified in the aforementioned document. Therefore, to be considered as eligible for the IERG Sub-Fund, the project must contribute to at least one of the following priorities:

- Overcoming the Middle-Income Trap;
- Implementing the APEC Initiative of Cooperation to Promote Internet Economy;
- Implementing the APEC Cooperation Initiative for Jointly Establishing an Asia-Pacific Urbanization Partnership, including establishing a cooperative network of sustainable cities in APEC economies, organizing sustainable urban development forums and policy dialogues, and carrying forward relevant projects that advance sustainable urbanization goals;
- Implementing APEC Initiatives on Blue Economy cooperation;
- Implementing the "Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020" initiative;
- Carrying out relevant projects that promote experience sharing, policy dialogue, capacity building and practical cooperation, directly contribute to the goals and priorities of the APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth, and primarily benefit developing economies.

Project concept notes applying for the IERG Sub-Fund will be checked against these criteria for their eligibility.

Process for Applying for the Sub Fund

1. Submit your concept note to the Program Director for your group by the 'internal deadline' that is advertised on the APEC website. Your concept note should indicate which sub fund you are applying for at the relevant place on the template. Your concept note must address the eligibility criteria for the sub fund. Your Program Director will help to facilitate endorsement and scoring of your concept note by your group, and ensure that the concept note meets APEC requirements. There are approximately two weeks for this process.
2. Following endorsement and scoring of your concept note by your group, your concept note will be provided to SCE, who will consider your concept note against the eligibility criteria for the sub-fund and decide whether it is eligible to access the sub-fund. There are approximately two weeks for this process.
3. Concept notes will be considered eligible for the sub-fund unless there is a dissenting view raised by one or more members. If there is a dissenting view, the concept note will be considered ineligible for the sub fund. Any responses from Committee members that are provided late will not be included in the process. Committee members will not be identified individually with the decisions they make on eligibility.

4. Committee members who have a dissenting view are encouraged to provide their reasoning. Any reasoning that is provided on why your concept note is ineligible will be shared with you.
5. Concept notes that have been considered eligible for the sub-fund will then be considered for funding under the sub-fund as part of the project session. They will be considered following the same procedures as all concept notes applying for project funding, and will compete with other concept notes that are eligible for the sub-fund. They are not guaranteed of funding.
6. Concept notes that have been considered ineligible for a sub fund cannot be considered for funding under that sub fund. But they can still be considered for funding under the ASF General Fund. They will be considered following the same procedures as all concept notes applying for project funding, and will compete with other concept notes in the ASF General Fund. They are not guaranteed of funding.