Capacity Building Workshop on Green Supply Chains to Address Environmental Challenges

APEC Committee on Trade and Investment

November 2026

Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



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Table of Contents

Glossary 1

Executive Summary 2

1. Introduction 3

2. Background 3

3. Workshop Overview 4

3.1 Participants 4

3.2 Structure of the Workshop 6

4. Detailed Session Summaries 7

4.1 Session 1 - Opening Remarks 7

4.2 Session 2 – Concepts and Practices on GSC 9

4.3 Session 3 – Round-table Dialogue of Policy and Business 10

4.4 Session 4 – Discussion on GSC Cooperation 15

5. Conclusion 16

Annex – Post-Event Evaluation Report 17

Glossary

APEC – Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

CPOPC – Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries

CTI – Committee on Trade and Investment

ESG – Environmental, Social and Governance

GSC – Green Supply Chain

GSCNET – APEC Green Supply Chain Cooperation Network

GWP – Global Warming Potential

HVAC – Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

ISPO – Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil

LCA – Life Cycle Assessment

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

MSPO – Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

RSPO – Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

SMEs – Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Scope 3 – Indirect greenhouse gas emissions occurring in the upstream and downstream value chain of an enterprise

WTO – World Trade Organization

WRI – World Resources Institute

Executive Summary

In recent years, global environmental risks and their impacts are intensifying. Correspondingly, opportunities for coordination of approaches to environmental policies have received increasing recognition and attention. In this context, APEC held the Capacity Building Workshop on Green Supply Chains to Address Environmental Challenges in Suzhou, China, in May 2026. The Workshop gathered 50 participants from multiple APEC economies, international institutions and leading industrial enterprises, covering government authorities, industry practitioners and academic representatives. Centering on green supply chain capacity building, the event hosted keynote presentations, industry round-table dialogues and discussions to exchange governance concepts, practical experience and industrial practices, and explore feasible pathways for facilitating dialogue on green supply chains in the region.

The Workshop boosted mutual understanding among participants on advancing green supply chain development and resilient regional sustainable economic growth. It summarized diversified practical experiences from economies and key sectors including home appliance, agri-food and energy industries, while identifying main gaps across the region. Significant disparities exist among APEC economies and industries in technical capacities and risk response capabilities. MSMEs and grassroots producers, as critical parts of regional supply chains, would significantly benefit from receiving more attention and support in green supply chain development.

1. Introduction

Since the early 21st century, environmental challenges including frequent extreme weather events and declining biodiversity change have undermined the resilience of supply chains across the APEC region.

In this context, the Capacity Building Workshop on Green Supply Chains to Address Environmental Challenges was held in Suzhou, China, on 20–21 May 2026. 50 representatives took part in the event, including government authorities and private sector representatives from the following APEC economies: Brunei Darussalam; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; the Philippines; the United States and Viet Nam; relevant institutions such as the World Resources Institute, the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (COPC) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil.

Participants exchanged views and methodologies for green supply chain management, shared practical experiences of economies and industries leveraging green supply chains to respond to environmental pressures, and explored directions and priority areas for APEC regional cooperation on green supply chains. The Workshop facilitated information exchange on regional green supply chain policies and practices, and built collaborative capacity of participating economies by raising awareness of environmental challenges, sharing actionable references, inspiring transformation ideas and generating follow-up cooperation.

2. Background

APEC economies are experiencing diverse environmental challenges posing risks to people's well-being. Unlike localized ecological issues in the past,

modern environmental challenges are largely global and interconnected, oftentimes crossing economy and socioeconomic boundaries. The region, particularly the most vulnerable economies, are exposed to the adverse effects of extreme weather events. Rapid biodiversity decline also persists, with around one million species facing extinction (UNESCO, 2019), which weakens key ecosystem functions. Additionally, intensified extreme weather and widespread pollution degrade ecosystems, causing economic losses and social risks. These compound issues that surpass unilateral domestic solutions. Challenges associated with the environment have often been recognized in high-level APEC statements.

However, there are still gaps in understanding and management capacity among member economies and sectors on environmental challenges and supply chain management, which present an opportunity for capacity building.

In this context, China, proposed to hold a workshop to provide a platform for relevant stakeholders to exchange views and practices on green supply chains, and improve the level of the understanding and knowledge around the region.

3. Workshop Overview

3.1 Participants

Fifty participants joined the Workshop from Brunei Darussalam; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; the Philippines; the United States and Viet Nam. Speakers and participants represented:

- Government agencies from customs, environment, industry, trade and commerce fields;

- International organizations related to GSC, including World Resources Institute (WRI), the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO);
- Leading enterprises from the home appliance, refrigeration and air conditioning, agri-food and energy sectors.

The composition of representatives classified by the economy and institutional attributes they belong to are shown in the following figure.

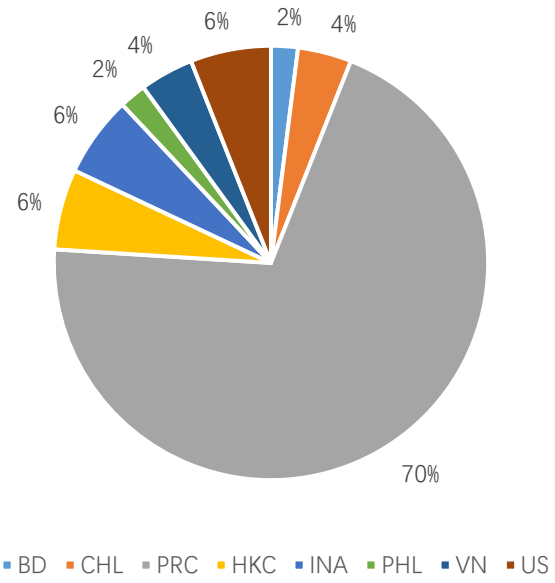


Fig 1 Proportion of Participants by Economy

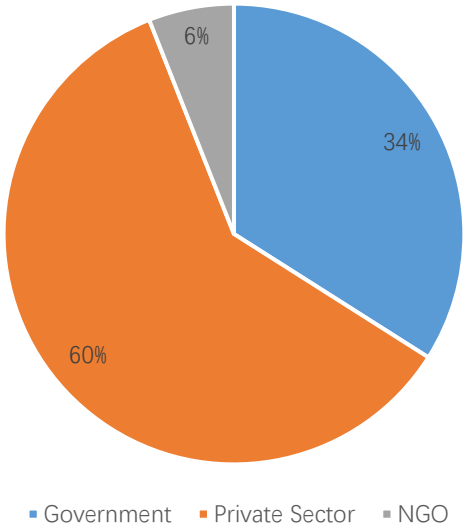


Fig 2 Proportion of Participants by Sector

3.2 Structure of the Workshop

The workshop was organized into four main sessions, complemented by a closing reflection session:

- Session 1 - Opening remarks

  Remarks by Chinese senior officials from Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of MEE and Suzhou Government analyzed Asia-Pacific economic trends, shared China's green practices, reviewed APEC supply chain progress and proposed coordinated regional green cooperation.

- Session 2 - Concepts and Practices on GSC

  Presentations from member economies to analyze global trade rules in environmental goods and services, carbon accounting standards and domestic green supply chain policies, sharing relevant practices, challenges and targeted development suggestions.

- Session 3 - Round-table Dialogue of Policy and Business

Presented proven experience from leading enterprises in the home appliance, refrigeration & air conditioning, agri-food and energy sectors, and discussed challenges and prospects for international GSC cooperation.

- Session 4 – Discussion on GSC Cooperation

  Shared APEC Green Supply Chain Cooperation Network's proposals on regional green supply chain cooperation based on its decade-long development, with participants putting forward directional suggestions covering activity formats, thematic topics and diversified participants for future capacity-building cooperation.

Each session included presentations from experts, a moderated discussion, and an opportunity for audience engagement.

4. Detailed Session Summaries

This two-day capacity-building workshop featured a full agenda consisting of opening remarks, sharing session on concepts and practices on GSC, round-table dialogue of policy and business, and discussion on GSC cooperation.

4.1 Session 1 - Opening Remarks

Representatives from MoC PRC, MEE PRC, FECO MEE and Suzhou Government attended the workshop and delivered speeches.

The representative from MoC PRC, stated in his opening remarks that the Asia-Pacific region constitutes the largest component of the global economy and acts as a primary engine for world economic growth. As economic globalization enters a phase of profound readjustment, the traditional trade landscape has undergone tremendous shifts. Trade growth is no longer driven by scale expansion but by value upgrading, and green development has created an

entirely new track for trade. He underscored the importance of building a resilient and green supply chain network for Asia-Pacific economic and environmental cooperation. He expressed hopes that the APEC Green Supply Chain Cooperation Network could play an expanded role in facilitating exchanges, dialogues and mutual learning among economies, and boosting regional green supply chain collaboration.

In his address, the representative from MEE PRC, remarked that the world faces severe ecological and environmental challenges at present, and green, circular, low-carbon and efficient development has gained global importance. In recent years, China has stayed committed to green and low-carbon development, continuously optimized its energy mix, achieved remarkable improvements in ecological and environmental quality, and actively participated in global environmental governance to contribute Chinese wisdom and solutions to worldwide sustainable development. To advance the Asia-Pacific green transition, he put forward proposals on upholding multilateralism, deepening pragmatic cooperation and strengthening partnerships. He called on all economies to build consensus, take coordinated actions, advance the green and low-carbon transformation of supply chains, jointly foster a beautiful Asia-Pacific, and advance the building of an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future.

The representative from FECO MEE, extended a welcome to all participants on behalf of the organizers and expressed gratitude for support from all sides. He reviewed the progress and outcomes achieved since the launch of the APEC Green Supply Chain Cooperation Network, and shared China’s practices and experience in advancing green supply chain development through policy refinement, local pilot programs, industrial initiatives and platform development. He voiced the expectation that all parties would deepen cooperation, expand cooperation areas, jointly build sustainable Asia-Pacific supply chains, and set

a new model for coordinated economic and environmental development across economies.

The representative from Suzhou Municipal People's Government welcomed all participants on behalf of the host city. He introduced Suzhou's geographical features, history, cultural heritage and socio-economic achievements, and presented the city's measures and results in accelerating the green and low-carbon shift of development models and vigorously developing new quality productive forces. He expressed Suzhou's aspiration to work with all Asia-Pacific partners to align trade and investment facilitation with green standards efficiently, and jointly build a more open and win-win cooperation system for green supply chains.

4.2 Session 2 – Concepts and Practices on GSC

In this session, speakers from Institute of International Market Research, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce (CAITEC), World Resources Institute (WRI) Beijing Office, and Ministry of Environment of Chile respectively presented policy concepts including green trade, product life cycle management and sustainable consumption, as well as pathways and measures to advance them in coordination with green supply chain management.

The speaker from CAITEC outlined the roles and contributions of international organizations including the WTO, APEC and OECD in advancing global green trade via agreements, regional inventories, data research and other instruments. He reviewed China's green trade development journey: from initial conceptual integration to carbon peaking and carbon neutrality as the guiding framework. Leveraging top-level design and a full suite of supporting policies, China has fostered new drivers for foreign trade growth and taken the lead in green product exports. He analyzed challenges and opportunities facing global

green trade, and outlined future development pathways for China's green trade covering four dimensions: participation in international rulemaking, technological innovation, green industrial chains, and supporting policies.

The speaker from WRI analyzed the impacts of domestic and international green trade policies on the low-carbon transition of supply chains. She interpreted mainstream domestic and international accounting standards including LCA and product carbon footprint calculation, and shared WRI's practical achievements in developing carbon accounting standards, building emission factor databases and delivering supply chain projects. Drawing on real cases, she elaborated five implementation pathways for full product life cycle management, and put forward supporting recommendations concerning multi-stakeholder collaboration, standard coordination, data accessibility and green finance support.

The speaker from Ministry of Environment, CHL, introduced Chile's National Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan (2025–2030) formulated by a dedicated commission and its quantified targets set for 2030. She explained the three core pillars and 160 measures contained in the 2026–2028 action plan, and showcased Chile's progress and outcomes in areas including the formulation and enforcement of plastic restriction legislation, environmental public welfare curricula, research on repairability assessment for electronic products, and pilot biodiversity conservation projects in coastal communities. She concluded with experience-based pathways to strengthen green supply chains from policy formulation to on-the-ground implementation.

4.3 Session 3 – Round-table Dialogue of Policy and Business

This session featured three dedicated presentations and dialogues focusing on green supply chain practices and cooperation respectively in the home

appliance, refrigeration and air conditioning sector, agri-food systems, and energy sector.

(1) Home Appliance, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning

Haier Smart Home shared its experience of anchoring the corporate operational carbon neutrality target for 2050 and advancing emission reduction measures underpinned by four pillars: energy efficiency improvement, renewable power adoption, refrigerant replacement and digitalization. Notably, the enterprise has set phased Scope 3 carbon reduction targets for its domestic and overseas subsidiaries. It adopts full-life-cycle green product management and leads the low-carbon upgrading of the entire supply chain via two mechanisms: data sharing and green procurement.

Solvay presented its practices as an advanced materials firm. Through four generations of iterative refrigerant technologies, the company has launched low-GWP eco-friendly HFO product series to replace traditional high-carbon refrigerants across HVAC, automotive, data centers, heat pumps, cold chains and home appliances. Large-scale commercial application of such products has delivered remarkable energy-saving and emission-cutting benefits.

Sanhua Group Co., Ltd. shared its multi-pronged green transition measures focused on refrigeration component manufacturing, with staged carbon neutrality targets set for 2030, 2050 and 2060. The company drives decarbonization through technological innovation, internal management optimization and industrial chain collaboration. Its initiatives include partnering with third-party institutions for greenhouse gas inventory verification, conducting full-life-cycle carbon footprint assessments in line with international standards, developing an in-house carbon accounting system, and participating in the formulation of multiple energy conservation standards.

Copeland Environmental Technology (Suzhou) Co., Ltd. outlined its overall carbon reduction achievements and future decarbonization roadmaps, with a

special focus on energy-saving technical renovations at its Suzhou factory and refrigerant recovery & consumption reduction practices at its R&D center. It showcased global projects deployed along three core pathways: energy transition, low-GWP refrigerant substitution and cold chain sustainability, and elaborated on how its products support low-carbon development across supermarkets, residential buildings, data centers and other sectors.

Anhui Wanlang Magnet & Plastic Co., Ltd. shared its experience centered on green design. The enterprise develops low-carbon products such as energy-saving door seals, TPE door seals and lightweight glass, and realizes localized green delivery by building production bases near target markets both at home and abroad. It also introduced its plans to deepen modular R&D, construct factories powered by renewable energy, and drive low-carbon upgrading of the home appliance industrial chain through full-value-chain green solutions.

Following the featured presentations, the five panelists exchanged insights and held in-depth discussions on a range of topics: corporate experiences and challenges in cross-border trade and international cooperation, joint decarbonization efforts between upstream and downstream supply chain partners, and the application of digital and intelligent technologies in green supply chain development.

(2) Agri-Food Systems

Cargill China elaborated on the climate and resource constraints confronting agricultural development. It presented the corporate global sustainability targets framed around climate action, water and soil conservation, and livelihood improvement, as well as initiatives rolled out domestically and overseas including ecological cultivation, low-carbon plant retrofits, green cold chains, and multi-stakeholder agricultural pilot projects and joint standard-setting. The company also outlined its roadmap to support the low-carbon transition of the global grain industrial chain going forward.

McDonald's China illustrated how it builds a green supply chain through sustainable ingredient sourcing, regenerative agriculture promotion and smart industrial park development. It also shared green business models that drive industry-wide progress, such as constructing LEED-certified zero-carbon green restaurants, rolling out digital energy-saving renovations, phasing out plastic materials in favour of eco-friendly packaging, and establishing recycling platforms for waste materials.

Mengniu Dairy introduced its green sustainability strategy and phased carbon neutrality targets. The company outlined full-industry-chain low-carbon practices: developing ecological pastures and implementing responsible sourcing upstream; building smart green factories and adopting lightweight eco-packaging midstream; and optimising low-carbon warehousing and logistics downstream. It also showcased its ESG achievements and industry influence.

CPOPC gave an overview of the organisation and Sino-Malaysian-Indonesian palm oil trade landscape. It analysed the status and recognition gaps of mandatory sustainability certification schemes including Indonesia's ISPO and Malaysia's MSPO. Against emerging market demands and trends, CPOPC presented its efforts to build a bridge for green supply chain cooperation between China and other economies via three pillars: mutual recognition of standards, smallholder support and data-backed verification.

RSPO introduced the organisation's background and the current state of the palm oil sector. It explained its tiered certification standards, full value chain traceability systems and a suite of smallholder empowerment programmes. The presentation analysed existing bottlenecks and favourable policy frameworks within China's palm oil market, and outlined promising prospects as leading domestic enterprises ramp up investments in sustainable palm oil supply chains.

Following the featured presentations, the four panellists exchanged insights and held in-depth discussions covering key topics: major opportunities and

practical challenges for sustainable agricultural commodity trade, upstream-downstream collaboration experience in agri-food sustainability practices, core elements of Scope 3 emissions management, as well as cases and challenges of green finance enabling supply chain decarbonisation.

(3) Energy Sector

China Power Engineering Consulting Group Co., Ltd. introduced the definition and industrial strategic value of green hydrogen-based fuels, elaborated on the development status and existing bottlenecks of relevant industries in the Asia-Pacific region and China, and outlined the company's full-value-chain business layout, implemented projects and self-developed core technologies. It put forward proposals for industrial coordination within the APEC region covering mutual recognition of standards, joint technological breakthroughs and co-development of projects.

FAW-Volkswagen presented its corporate profile and industrial layout, and detailed tangible green initiatives and achievements across four full-value-chain segments: supply chain, manufacturing, logistics and finished products. It showcased key practices including carbon footprint accounting and various green certification accolades. After analyzing prevailing developmental challenges, the company laid out follow-up low-carbon targets for its product portfolio and manufacturing plants.

Chemours outlined its business layout and operational overview. Aligned with global environmental regulatory trends, the company explained technical routes for low-GWP refrigerants, liquid cooling fluids and other low-carbon products, as well as their real-world applications in data centers, hydrogen energy, power batteries and semiconductors. It illustrated its green development roadmap of tapping chemical R&D strengths to expand into clean energy and high-end electronics sectors.

GCL Group introduced its industrial footprint and ESG governance framework, and analyzed global opportunities and challenges facing the energy sector. Centered on short-, medium- and long-term carbon reduction targets, it elaborated on the competitive edges of core low-carbon technologies such as granular silicon. The company shared its experience in building green supply chains via a full-chain digital carbon management system and seven major decarbonization pathways, and supporting downstream clients to meet green compliance requirements and achieve low-carbon transition through low-carbon product offerings.

Upon the conclusion of the featured presentations, the three panellists shared insights and engaged in in-depth discussions covering a series of topics: corporate strategies and layouts for new energy development, expansion of new application scenarios and markets for energy products, experience and recommendations for cross-border international cooperation, as well as opportunities and challenges for the energy industry to support the growth of data computing capacity.

4.4 Session 4 – Discussion on GSC Cooperation

In this session, drawing on over a decade of development, the APEC Green Supply Chain Cooperation Network shared proposals and visions to advance regional green supply chain cooperation in six key areas: boosting policy dialogue, facilitating exchange of practical experience, scaling up capacity-building activities, strengthening supporting services for cooperation, deepening digital application, and enhancing collaboration across the full supply chain.

Building on the above presentation, representatives from participating APEC economies and industrial enterprises put forward possible recommendations

for future capacity-building and related cooperation under the APEC Green Supply Chain framework.

- In terms of activity formats: Participants suggested supplementing knowledge-sharing sessions with more modules such as best practice and case studies, interactive workshops, and on-site field visits and research.
- In terms of thematic priorities: Further exploration could be carried out around supply chain policies for the construction, real estate and infrastructure sectors, policies and practices for circularity, recycling and remanufacturing, capacity building for small and medium-sized supply chain enterprises, and incentive mechanisms to drive the green and low-carbon development of supply chains.
- In terms of stakeholders: It was proposed to deepen participation by primary upstream suppliers (including farmers, micro, small and medium enterprises, etc.) and industry associations and chambers of commerce, while scaling up targeted support for small economies and relevant partners.

5. Conclusion

After two days of exchanges and discussions, the Workshop deepened mutual understanding among participating economies on green supply chains and demonstrated efforts and achievements made by diverse supply chain stakeholders. In the future, such capacity-building activities could be meaningful for advancing environmental policies in the region and bridging capacity gaps between economies.

Annex – Post-Event Evaluation Report

Background

The Capacity Building Workshop on Green Supply Chains to Address Environmental Challenges in Suzhou, China, in May 2026.

Centered on the theme "Capacity-Building on Green Supply Chains for Addressing Environmental Challenges", the Workshop adopted keynote speeches, industry dialogues and panel discussions as its core formats. Participants exchanged philosophies and methodologies for green supply chain management, shared practical experiences of economies and industries leveraging green supply chains to respond to environmental pressures, and explored directions and priority areas for APEC regional cooperation on green supply chains.

The workshop was attended by 50 participants from APEC economies and relevant organisations, and feedback received was uniformly positive.

Workshop evaluation

At the end of the workshop attendees were requested to provide feedback on the suitability, interest, length, and topic selection of the workshop among other things. 47 attendees filled the form (shown at the end of this document) and the results are as follows:

The first section asked attendees to score several attributes of the workshop in a scale from 1 to 3 where 3 is strongly agree and 1 is disagree. Table 1 shows the results for the main attributes.

	Attribute	Score
1	Objectives of training	2.9
2	Relevance to me	2.7

3	Delivery of content	2.9
4	Pace of delivery	2.9
5	Instructor suitability	2.9
6	Materials provided	2.8
7	Interest in further workshops	2.9

The very strong results are very encouraging for APERC and demonstrates a strong appetite and need for further work in this area.

The form also asked the audience about most appreciated part of the course. The feedback mainly covers sessions for enterprise experience sharing and the Policy-Business Round-table Dialogue.

98% participants stated that their understanding of green supply chains has been greatly enhanced after the Workshop.

Attendees were also asked to provide areas for improvement. Comments for this question included:

- Site visits
- More specified sector identification

Thinking of the future, the audience was asked to provide topic suggestions for future workshops. The suggested topics include:

- Carbon accounting standards
- Systematic knowledge sharing on GSC management
- Life cycle assessment
- Innovations in GSC management
- Green customs,
- CBAM and green trade
- Green finance
- Government's roles in supporting GSC management of enterprises