



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



APEC COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Annual Report to Ministers





**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

**2025
ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS**

APEC Committee on Trade and Investment

November 2025

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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat
35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119616
Tel:(65) 6891 9600 | Fax: (65) 6891 9690
Email: info@apec.org | Website: www.apec.org

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Dear Ministers,

The APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) and its sub-fora continue to serve as vital platforms for addressing the region's trade and investment priorities. Guided by the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and aligned with the Aotearoa Plan of Action (2021), the Bangkok Goals (2022), and the San Francisco Principles (2023), CTI advances its objectives through eight specialized sub-fora and two industry dialogues focused on the automotive and chemical sectors. Korea's 2025 theme "Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper" has shaped this year's agenda, reinforcing our commitment to the multilateral trading system, economic integration, trade facilitation, connectivity, digitalisation and innovation, and sustainable and inclusive growth.

To support the **Multilateral Trading System** and in preparation for the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14), the CTI family engaged in substantive discussions on economies' priorities, with particular emphasis on WTO reform and the implementation of outcomes from the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs). A key milestone was the Joint Statement issued by CTI and the Investment Expert Group (IEG) in support of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement, recognizing its potential to enhance the business climate and bolster economic resilience across the APEC region.

On implementation of existing WTO agreements, 19 APEC economies have achieved full compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and 17 have submitted their acceptance of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, which entered into force on 15 September 2025.

To advance **Economic Integration in the Region**, the CTI continued to drive progress on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda. Economies actively utilized the Australia-led Information Sharing Mechanism to exchange updates on trade and investment agreements. In line with the 2024 Ichma Statement, CTI worked to bridge divergence and advance areas of convergence, in areas such as trade facilitation, rules of origin, and investment facilitation. The Korea-led Fifth Phase of the Capacity Building Needs Initiative was endorsed to help narrow capacity gaps and strengthen economies' ability to engage in high-standard, comprehensive agreements. In services trade, the Group on Services (GOS) concluded its Final Report on the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR), aimed at enhancing the services trade environment and regional competitiveness. The United States championed the APEC Index for Measuring the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade and introduced the APEC Index Toolkit, which uses case studies to guide economies in applying the Index.

There was progress in CTI's priority in **Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation**. The APEC Policy Support Unit's study on FTAs highlighted growing alignment in trade facilitation measures, particularly in customs automation and electronic systems, while identifying the need for greater transparency, cooperation, and infrastructure to strengthen supply chain resilience. Economies including China; Indonesia; Korea; Singapore; and the United States led initiatives on e-ports, paperless trade, and secure cross-border data flows to deepen digital connectivity. Progress was made on digital customs-business collaboration and green customs practices. The Best Practice Guidelines to Apply the APEC Cross-cutting Principles on NTMs were endorsed in MAG and CTI, which supports trade facilitation in the region. Under connectivity, APEC built capacity in quality infrastructure investment, promoted business mobility through the APEC Business Travel Card, and fostered regulatory cooperation

across key sectors. The Digital Economy Steering Group advanced discussions on AI governance, privacy, and e-commerce regulation. Innovation and IP initiatives supported invention education, patent efficiency, and MSME protection - reinforcing APEC's vision for an open, resilient, and digitally enabled trading system. In line with ABAC's recommendation to establish an APEC Centre of Excellence for Paperless Trade, or ACCEPT, Australia and Singapore led the development of its Terms of Reference, which was endorsed intersessionally in October 2025. ACCEPT will be built on a shared vision for public-private collaboration by partnering with both economies and businesses to implement capacity-building activities, which will help APEC economies collectively move towards paperless trade.

To promote **Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable, and Inclusive Growth**, inclusivity and sustainability have been considered across CTI's workstreams. The CTI family made efforts in empowering MSMEs, especially women-led enterprises, to integrate into regional and global value chains. Australia successfully implemented the APEC Business Activator Pilot for Women-Led SMEs to Access Global Markets, which attracted over 635 applications for 26 slots. The Chemical Dialogue hosted a workshop on circular economy practices in plastic recycling, while the Automotive Dialogue promoted electric vehicles for green mobility. China also led a CTI project that provided a global overview of emissions calculation methodologies.

Engagement with economic stakeholders remains central to CTI's work. Regular contributions from ABAC, PECC, and PSU, alongside regional and international organizations such as the WTO, WIPO, OECD, and the World Economic Forum, continue to enrich CTI's agenda. Public-private collaboration was further strengthened through initiatives such as Peru's Public-Private Dialogue on SPS notifications, Singapore's dialogue on paperless trade, the United States–Korea Digital Trade Policy Dialogue 2025, the GOS' ASCR Dialogue on the future of APEC's services agenda, and the SCCP's APEC Customs Business Dialogue, which underscored the importance of customs-business collaboration in driving digital transformation.

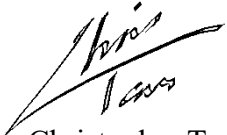
In 2025, the CTI family undertook a comprehensive **Sub-fora Assessment and Review** exercise, an important milestone to evaluate effectiveness and gather feedback for improvement. Of the 10 sub-fora under the CTI, nine reached consensus for renewal. The Chemical Dialogue did not and would conclude its mandate by 31 December 2025.

Closing Reflections

As CTI Chair, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated convenors across the CTI sub-fora. I commend their tireless efforts in advancing our shared vision under Putrajaya 2040. I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable support of the APEC Secretariat, particularly Executive Director Eduardo Pedrosa, CTI Program Director Benjamin Tan and his successor Budiman Mohamed Salleh and the APEC Policy Support Unit led by Carlos Kuriyama.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to Korea for its warm hospitality and logistical support throughout the year. I wish the incoming CTI Chair, Mr. Julio Chan of Peru, every success as he leads CTI through China and Viet Nam's host years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Tan', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Christopher Tan
CTI Chair

Contents

Introduction	viii
CTI 2025 Recommendations	x
Section I: Support for the Multilateral Trading System	1
Section II: Advancing Economic Integration in the Region	5
Section III: Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation	11
Section IV: Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth	19
Section V: Other projects	22
Section VI: Engagement with the Business Sector and Industry Dialogues	23
Section VII: CTI Governance	27
Section VIII: Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plans of Action	31

Appendices

Appendix 1	Table on APEC economy progress in notifying acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies	1-1
Appendix 2	Automotive Dialogue Report	2-1
Appendix 3	Business Mobility Group Report	3-1
Appendix 4	Chemical Dialogue Report	4-1
Appendix 5	Digital Economy Steering Group Report	5-1
Appendix 6	Group on Services Report	6-1
Appendix 7	Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group Report	7-1
Appendix 8	Investment Experts Group Report	8-1
Appendix 9	Market Access Group Report	9-1
Appendix 10	Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Report	10-1
Appendix 11	Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance Report	11-1
Appendix 12	2025 Update on Status of CTI Pathfinder Initiatives	12-1

Tables

Table 1	List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	32
Table 2	Projects by CTI and sub-fora in 2025 approved for APEC funding	34
Table 3	Approved self-funded projects	37
Table 4	Initiatives launched by CTI members in 2025	39
Table 5	CTI-level events in 2025	39

Introduction

APEC Economic Leaders endorsed the Putrajaya Vision 2040 (PV2040) in 2020 and the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) in 2021. The Bangkok Goals Economy and the San Francisco Principles on Integrating Inclusivity and Sustainability into Trade and Investment Policy (SFP) were endorsed by APEC Economic Leaders in 2022 and 2023, respectively. In order to implement our Leaders' instructions, the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) is actively contributing to all three economic drivers under the PV2040, namely (a) Trade and Investment; (b) Innovation and Digitalisation; and (c) Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.

With Korea as the host economy for 2025, the three CTI plenary meetings in 2025 were aligned with the overall CTI work programme, principally to (a) support the Multilateral Trading System; (b) deepen Economic Integration in the Region, including through discussion of the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) agenda; (c) promote Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation; and (d) promote Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. Within these areas, the CTI also focused on specific Leaders' and Ministers' instructions from recent years, on issues such as environmental goods and services and efforts of participating Members of the WTO Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs) to incorporate the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement and the Agreement on Electronic Commerce into the WTO legal framework.¹

With its extensive body of work, CTI in 2025, as APEC's lead body on trade and investment issues, continues to oversee and is supported by 10 sub-fora and its subsidiary bodies, as well as several entities and platforms.²

- i. Automotive Dialogue (AD)
- ii. Business Mobility Group (BMG)
- iii. Chemical Dialogue (CD)
- iv. Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)
 - a. Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS)
- v. Group on Services (GOS)
- vi. Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)
- vii. Investment Experts' Group (IEG)
- viii. Market Access Group (MAG)
- ix. Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)
 - a. Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (JRAC)
 - b. Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)
 - c. Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC)
- x. Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)

All CTI sub-fora met twice, with the majority of meetings taking place on the margins of SOM1 and SOM3. In between the meetings, the CTI sub-fora continued their work and implemented their respective projects. The CTI Chair introduced the CTI priorities to each sub-fora at each

¹ 2025 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement

² See Section VI: CTI Governance

of their first meetings, and invited the sub-fora convenors to participate in the CTI plenaries where feasible.

The CTI also worked closely with other APEC committees and working groups to ensure that Leaders' and Ministers' instructions on trade and investment issues were implemented in a coordinated manner. In this regard, Chairs of the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) and Policy Partnership for Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) participated in CTI plenary meetings.

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), APEC observers such as the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), as well as a large number of guests, were active in participating in the CTI and the sub-fora meetings.

The 2025 CTI Annual Report to Ministers highlights the CTI and sub-fora's progress and achievements, including in support of Korea's 2025 theme "*Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper*" and its priorities of:

- i. Connect: Seek to strengthen physical, institutional, and people-to-people exchanges
- ii. Innovate: Focus on strengthening competitiveness through digital innovation
- iii. Prosper: Advance sustainable growth, empowering vulnerable groups

The Report is structured around the CTI's priorities and key activities as set out by CTI:

Section I:	Support for the multilateral trading system
Section II:	Advancing Economic Integration in the Region
Section III:	Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation
Section IV:	Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth
Section V:	Engagement with the business sector and industry dialogues
Section VI:	Governance
Section VII:	Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

Finally, CTI is pleased to inform that CTI and its sub-fora maintained their momentum in 2025:

- i. Across CTI and its sub-fora, 53 projects were approved, with 33 projects approved for APEC funding in 2025 (see Table 2. Note: compared to 46 in 2024).
- ii. 20 self-funded projects were approved in 2025 across CTI and its sub-fora; (Table 3. Note: 21 in 2024);
- iii. Two CTI-level initiatives were launched in 2025 (Table 4);
- iv. 11 CTI-level events (not including plenary meetings) were/would be conducted this year (see Table 5) (Note: 22 in 2024);
- v. The above does not include the numerous events, publications and work done by CTI's sub-fora, the details of which can be found in the relevant appendices; &
- vi. Nine projects and initiatives have not yet achieved consensus.

CTI 2025 Recommendations

CTI recommends that Ministers:

- Note:**
- Table on APEC economy progress in notifying acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies Appendix 1
 - CTI sub-fora reports:
 - The Automotive Dialogue (AD) Appendix 2
 - The Business Mobility Group (BMG) Appendix 3
 - The Chemical Dialogue (CD) Appendix 4
 - The Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) Appendix 5
 - The Group on Services (GOS) Appendix 6
 - The Intellectual Property Experts Group (IPEG) Appendix 7
 - The Investment Experts Group (IEG) Appendix 8
 - The Market Access Group (MAG) Appendix 9
 - The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) Appendix 10
 - The Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) Appendix 11
 - 2025 Update on CTI Pathfinder Initiatives Appendix 12
- Endorse**
- The 2025 CTI Report to AMM

Section I: Support for the Multilateral Trading System (MTS)

Throughout 2025, CTI members continued to actively share views and implement initiatives in support of the MTS. In this regard, the upcoming 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) in March 2026 serves as an important reference point as APEC members prepare for this milestone.

To stay updated on WTO developments, the CTI included discussions on the MTS at each of the three CTI plenary meetings. At CTI1, led by Mr Choong-jong OH, Director General for Multilateral Trade and Legal Affairs of Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), CTI members discussed the MTS, sharing perspectives on how APEC could support next year's MC14. At CTI2 and CTI3, members shared their respective priorities at the WTO ahead of MC14, which included a variety of perspectives. Members also discussed ways for the WTO to reform and be more relevant, and shared various proposals related to MTS. At the Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting (MRT) in May, our ministers were joined by the WTO Director-General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. We welcome her participation and views.

ABAC provided input and recommendations throughout the year, including issuing a 'Statement on Open Markets', where ABAC believed that the business community needs a return to the stable trade and economic environment that has underpinned decades of prosperity for all APEC economies.³

Amongst the issues that the CTI and its sub-fora discussed during the course of the year were:

- a. APEC's role to support the implementation of MC13 outcomes and priorities going into MC14;
- b. APEC's role as an incubator of ideas
- c. APEC's role to support ongoing and concluded WTO discussions, such as agriculture; fisheries subsidies; the JSIs / Agreements including on Electronic Commerce; Services Domestic Regulation; Investment Facilitation for Development; and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); the Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment; the WTO e-commerce moratorium; and WTO reform to strengthen all its functions; and
- d. APEC's role to support the implementation of existing WTO commitments, particularly the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA); the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies; and the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and ITA Expansion.

Implementing WTO Agreements

On implementation of the WTO TFA, CTI noted that members' implementation of the agreement saw an improvement, with one member moving to 100% implementation from the previous year. The figures are as follows:

³ 2025/SOM3/CTI/003

Rate of implementation	100%	80-99%	50-79%	Less than 49%
September 2025 (as of 10 Sep 2025)	19 members	1 member (at 97.1%)	1 member (at 68.9%)	0 members
September 2024	18 members	2 members (both members are above 94%)	1 member (at 64.7%)	0 members
November 2023	17 members	3 members (all 3 are above 85%)	1 member	0 member
November 2022	17 members	3 members (all 3 are above 85%)	1 member	0 member
November 2021	14 members	4 above 90%; 3 below 88.7%		

Extracted from the [WTO TFA Database](#)

On fisheries subsidies, the agreement entered into force on 15 September 2025. CTI supported to expedite the entry-into-force of the agreement by embarking on a transparency exercise in which members' status of acceptance would be reported in the CTI Chair's Report to Senior Officials at SOM2 and the CTI Report to Ministers at AMM. The table monitoring acceptance is attached as **Appendix 1**. As of 15 September 2025, 17 APEC economies have submitted acceptance of the Agreement.⁴ APEC members are also taking part in Phase II of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.

On the ITA, which had its origins in APEC, the MAG continued their work on a project "*Study on the Impact of Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and Future of ICT Trade*". The objective of this project was to increase knowledge about the latest trends of ICT products and technologies, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, and to increase awareness of the importance and implications of ITA and ITA2 for APEC economies. The project has two main outputs: a research report and a virtual workshop. The research report, now published on the APEC website, analysed various aspects of ICT trade, policies, and emerging technologies within APEC economies.⁵ Additionally, Japan provided an update on its presentation at the WTO ITA Committee regarding its study.

Ongoing discussions

Several WTO-related discussions are being led/co-led by APEC members, and updates are provided by economies at the CTI plenary. They include:

- a. Information Sharing Mechanism (ISM): Policy Dialogue on WTO-plus Aspects of FTAs/RTAs (led by Australia);
- b. Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) (led by China);

⁴ Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; the United States; and Viet Nam

⁵ [https://www.apec.org/publications/2024/07/assessing-study-on-the-impact-of-information-technology-agreement-\(ita\)-and-future-of-ict-trade](https://www.apec.org/publications/2024/07/assessing-study-on-the-impact-of-information-technology-agreement-(ita)-and-future-of-ict-trade)

- c. Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR) (led by New Zealand);
- d. Joint Statement Supporting the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions and the WTO JSI on Electronic Commerce (led by Korea); and
- e. Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD Agreement) (co-led by Chile and Korea)

While the JSI on Investment Facilitation was concluded in the form of the IFD Agreement, members noted that there were still some obstacles to integrating the agreement into the WTO architecture. China encouraged APEC members who are parties to the Agreement to implement the agreement unilaterally.

Members' projects and initiatives supporting the MTS

At the CTI, Korea proposed “CTI-IEG Joint Statement on Supporting the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement”, which acknowledged the potential role of the IFD Agreement in improving the investment and business climate and in making it easier for investors in all sectors of the economy to invest, conduct their day-to-day business, and expand their operations. Furthermore, the Statement also noted the potential role of the IFD Agreement as a tool to promote investment, enhance economic resilience, and help achieve the PV2040, including through the implementation of the APA.

Korea also presented its proposal for a “CTI-DESG Joint Statement Supporting the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions and the WTO JSI on Electronic Commerce”, which acknowledged the accelerating pace of digital transformation across the region and the growing reliance of businesses, consumers, and governments on cross-border digital trade as a foundation of resilient economic growth. The draft Joint Statement also noted the ABAC 2024 recommendations that APEC economies seek agreement on a permanent moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, while recognising that views among economies might differ on the appropriate path forward.

China revised its earlier concept note “Revitalising WTO’s functions by addressing contemporary trade issues: Workshop on trade and environment”, which aims to facilitate discussion on how WTO members are addressing climate change and other environmental challenges through a one-day workshop proposed for 2026. The workshop would focus on the WTO’s work and progress, as well as the future of advancing sustainability through trade, while taking into account the unique challenges faced by small economies and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). APEC members are now reviewing the concept note.

At the MAG, there was ongoing work on the ITA (see para 7). Japan provided an update on its presentation at the WTO ITA Committee regarding its study, 'Impact of the ITA and the Future of ICT Trade,' highlighting the key benefits of the WTO ITA and proposing pathways for the further expansion of the ITA. Japan also noted the favourable reception of the report at the WTO ITA Committee. Additionally, the WTO ITA Committee Chair provided an update on the current discussion at the WTO ITA Committee via a pre-recorded presentation, which included an overview of the ITA’s impact, including its role in eliminating tariffs on ICT products and improving accessibility and affordability of ICT technology. It updated ongoing

discussions within the WTO ITA Committee, including implementation issues, product coverage, non-tariff measures, classification divergence, and the expansion of ITA membership. Several MAG members expressed strong support for the ITA and its expansion.

At the GOS, Korea presented its self-funded project proposal “Workshop on Effective Implementation of the WTO Services Domestic Regulation.” The project would discuss disciplines related to services and domestic regulation, enhance understanding and alignment, and augment commitments and recommendations on this issue. Australia provided a summary of their presentation on the Non-Binding Guidelines on Services that Support the Clean-up of Marine Debris at the WTO Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD). Australia noted that TESSD members were interested to hear about APEC’s efforts, including on incorporating these issues into agreements. Australia noted efforts to continue sharing experiences and best practices, and identifying areas for reform, which would also support the implementation of the ASCR. Additionally, the GOS Convenor encouraged economies to consider opportunities to share APEC’s efforts at the WTO.

At the IEG, Chile shared the recent progress in the negotiation of the WTO IFD, which included efforts towards its incorporation into the WTO framework. Chile also encouraged members to help move the agreement forward.

At the SCCP, members also shared experience and best practices on the implementation of the WTO TFA. The WTO Secretariat also shared its priorities and opportunities for collaboration with SCCP.

At the SCSC, developments at the WTO Committee on TBT and SPS were reported at the plenary meeting by China and Japan, respectively.

Section II: Advancing Economic Integration in the Region

Achieving the Putrajaya Vision 2040

Advancing Economic Integration in the Region continues to be an important part of the CTI and CTI-sub-fora work. Below are some highlights on the work related to Economic Integration in the Region / the FTAAP agenda.

The FTAAP agenda

Peru led the first policy dialogue in accordance with the Ichma Statement on the topic of Trade Facilitation in the context of the Policy Support Unit (PSU)'s Study on Convergences and Divergences of Free Trade Agreements in the APEC Region.⁶ Peru presented its domestic experience and contributions to trade facilitation, drawing on the PSU's study examining Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation chapters across the FTAs of APEC economies, which identified areas of both convergence and divergence. The study found high and moderate convergence in aspects such as transparency, risk management, cooperation, and the use of information technology. However, lower convergence was noted in areas like advance rulings, publication of laws, and special procedures for express shipments. The presentation underscored Peru's alignment of customs and trade facilitation policies with evolving FTA commitments and its contribution to advancing the broader APEC FTAAP agenda goals. It also stressed the importance of convergence among APEC economies to support more seamless and efficient regional trade.

The PSU shared a summary of findings from its "Study on Convergences and Divergences of Free Trade Agreements in the APEC Region", which was published in January 2025. Looking at convergences and divergences among CPTPP, RCEP, AANZFTA, USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC and Pacific Alliance and based on a comparative analysis of the content and scope of 34 chapter/sectoral annexes in these five RTA/FTAs, the PSU found that 32 chapters/sectoral annexes had medium to high levels of convergence. 22 of the 34 chapters/sectoral annexes could be either feasible or feasible with a certain degree of challenge to include in a high-quality and comprehensive regional undertaking, while 12 chapters/sectoral annexes could be challenging to be incorporated. The report encouraged dialogue and communication to advance the FTAAP agenda to contribute to high-standard and comprehensive regional undertakings and derive a better understanding of the diversity of viewpoints. Members took note of the presentation.

Australia led a self-funded project event titled "Workshop on Advancing FTAAP Agenda: APEC Digital Trade Provision Handbook" (CTI 01 2025S), which was held on 30 July 2025. This project would seek to develop a Handbook for APEC economies to utilise in policy making by identifying contemporary and ambitious digital trade provisions and areas where more work is needed. The handbook would explore the purpose of individual provisions, what they seek to achieve and how to write them in such a way that will generate the greatest economic impact. The project would also explore standalone digital trade/economy agreements and their place in the trade architecture, including how they relate to existing trade obligations in FTAs.

Japan introduced "Extensive Study on AI in Trade Agreements in Contribution to the Ichma Statement on A New Look at the FTAAP". This would be a challenging exercise to bring highly

⁶ 2025/SOM1/CTI/012

creative AI provisions for future trade agreements. This study would examine the factors that influence the behaviour, with a focus on female entrepreneurs and MSMEs. The Concept Note was endorsed in September 2025. Another project “In-depth study on Digital trade provisions of FTAs/RTAs” was proposed by Japan, contributing to the implementation of the Ichma Statement. The project will focus on issues to enhance trust and security in the use of ICT, including “Personal information protection” and “Cross-border data flow.”

Hong Kong, China has collaborated with the PSU to conduct a study on “Rules of Origin (ROO) in Modern Trade Agreements – Trends and Challenges”. Covering nine major FTAs in the region, the project examined the types and restrictiveness of product-specific ROOs; measured the restrictiveness of ROO regimes in FTA chapters; analysed the impact of ROO restrictiveness and divergence in MSMEs’ utilisation of FTAs; and provided relevant recommendations. The draft report has been circulated intersessionally.

In order to help build the capacity of APEC members, CTI endorsed the *Fifth Phase of the Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI 5)*. Led by Korea, The 5th CBNI will be implemented from 2026 to 2030, with the objectives of covering (a) the continuation to narrow FTA/RTA negotiation capacity gaps among APEC member economies by providing platforms for sharing current practices and hands-on experiences, as well as by exchanging views on the emerging issues of FTA/RTA negotiations and, (b) strengthening member economies' readiness to participate in high standards and comprehensive undertakings.

At the MAG, the United States led project “*Advancing the FTAAP: Issues Related to Rules of Origin*” (MAG 201 2024). to the workshop was held from 1 to 2 August 2025 and helped participants understand how rules of origin work and cover international work in the WTO and World Customs Organisation (WCO). Participants learned practical tools about how to update their rules of origin to reflect changes to the Harmonized System.

Additionally, the CTI’s FTAAP agenda-related projects that were planned, completed or ongoing include:

- a. Promotion of seamless connectivity involving peer review and capacity building on APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment;
- b. Trade Facilitation by utilizing IT products which will look at the study on the impact of ITA and future of ICT trade;
- c. Trade facilitation involving APEC workshops for capacity building in Self-Declaration of Origin for FTAs/RTAs;
- d. Promoting e-commerce/digital trade rules that support MSMEs trade;
- e. Enhancing innovation through sharing best trade policy practices to enhance synergies between trade and innovation;
- f. Promoting development of an inclusive digital economy in the region;
- g. Supply Chain Resilience through research on helping businesses build and maintain, open secure and resilient supply chains;
- h. Environment related non-tariff measures through a study on non-tariff measures affecting the trade in goods reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- i. Exploring best practices in facilitation of trade in agricultural products;
- j. Inclusion; &
- k. Tariffs

For several years, the CTI has been unable to advance discussions on proposals for FTAAP agenda Work Programs on (a) State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) and (b) Labor-related Provisions in FTAs/RTAs, including information-sharing on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building provisions in FTAs/RTAs. Consensus has not been reached on these proposals.

Other EIR initiatives

CTI continued exchanging information under the annual “*Information Sharing Mechanism*”, moderated by Australia. This year at CTI3, members focused on “*Investment Facilitation*”, which examined WTO-plus aspects of FTAs/RTAs. The UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) provided opening remarks. Australia shared information on the Australia – United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; Japan shared information on its approach to trade and investment agreements for the facilitation and promotion of investment; the Philippines shared information on the Investment Facilitation provisions of RCEP and ASEAN+1 FTAs; Chile shared information on the Chile-Brazil FTA Investment Chapter and the Chile-Switzerland Bilateral Investment Treaty; while Korea gave an overview of the WTO IFD Agreement: Milestones, Provisions and the Way Forward.

APEC economies provided regular updates on economic integration pathways and other initiatives at the CTI. These included developments at:

- a. Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP);
- b. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- c. Pacific Alliance (PA);
- d. Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA); and
- e. Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG) and the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA).

Market Access Group

This year, CTI continued to follow up with the tasking to the MAG on the 2021 AMM Statement related to Environmental Goods (EGs), i.e., to “*develop recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list with a view to providing guidance for further work, and to update the APEC List of Environmental Goods to HS2022 for reference purposes*”. The work on EGs can be found in Section IV on Sustainability.

In addition, the MAG also carried out work, including:

- a. The United States continued to lead the project “*Trade of Remanufactured Consumer Electronic Products in APEC*” (MAG 01 2023S) to progress work on the “*Pathfinder on facilitating trade in remanufactured goods*”.⁷ The workshop enabled the sharing

⁷ https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/annual-ministerial-meetings/2011/2011_amm/annex-d

of best practices and identified gaps and challenges in current trade approaches. An upcoming analytical study will examine benefits, trade challenges, and commitments, aiming to build capacity for more efficient trade to meet growing global demand.

- b. The United States also provided an update on the APEC Pathfinder on facilitating trade in remanufactured goods. Remanufacturing involves restoring used products to like-new condition, contributing to APEC's environmental goals by saving materials, energy, and reducing waste. The Pathfinder now includes 13 APEC members, and the United States encouraged additional economies to join the initiative.
- c. The MAG monitors the use of the APEC Trade Repository ([APEC TR](#)) by users and keeps the information up-to-date. The platform is an online reference tool for trade and tariff information on APEC's 21-member economies, in furtherance of its work towards trade facilitation, transparency, information dissemination and connectivity.
- d. In addition to the project studying the *Impact of Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and Future of ICT Trade* (see Section I, para 7), MAG members exchange views on the benefits of joining the ITA and the expanded ITA.
- e. Chinese Taipei shared a self-funded project proposal "*PPD on Best Practices for Fostering ICT Trade and Enabling Ecosystems in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI)*". The project focuses on the impact of AI-driven innovation on the ICT trade ecosystem, as well as the capacity-building and resources needed to enhance its resilience. The proposal is seeking endorsement of MAG

Services Trade

The GOS continued to champion work on services via the ASCR.

The ASCR Dialogue was held on the margins of SOM2. The dialogue reviewed the progress of ASCR and discussed the future APEC Services Agenda, aiming to develop a successor to ASCR and seek input from stakeholders, including industry representatives and relevant organisations. The Dialogue also explored the role of digitally deliverable services and structural reform in advancing APEC's services agenda and ensuring better alignment across initiatives.

Within the ASCR, the APEC Index for Measuring the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade in the APEC Region (APEC Index) is currently being used. The United States provided an overview of work to further the APEC Index. They highlighted the new APEC Index Toolkit, which guides individuals through case studies to illustrate various features of the APEC Index. The United States is exploring options to use and promote the toolkit. A technical group meeting was held on the margins of SOM3. The United States, as the new Chair of the Technical Group and champion economy for the issue, updated GOS on the developments of the APEC Index. Recent progress of the APEC Index includes Chinese Taipei achieving full coverage of all 22 services sectors after a two-year effort involving over 40 agencies, with results unveiled in Taipei on 1 August and now publicly available on the APEC Index website.

As the ASCR will conclude this year, GOS conducted the ASCR Final Review with support from PSU and has published the Final Review Report.⁸

The GOS also conducted the following workshops in 2025:

- a. EC-GOS Joint Workshop: “Services and Structural Reform” on 2 March 2025 and 7 August 2025;
- b. GOS Workshop: “Services Domestic Regulation Initiative on Technical Standards Development: The Process and Impact” on 5 August 2025;
- c. GOS: Workshop on Recent Approaches to the Domestic Regulation of Services in the APEC region on 6 August 2025;
- d. GOS: Workshop on “Application of the APEC Index to Measure the Regulatory Environment for Services Trade in Regionally Relevant Use-Cases” on 8 August 2025.

On Environmental Services – see Section IV on Sustainability.

Investment

In 2025, IEG’s work was centred on strengthening investment facilitation, improving policy dialogue, and promoting sustainable and inclusive investment to facilitate investment flows and foster sustainable economic growth in the APEC region.

The IEG has focused on two pillars of work:

- a. International Investment Regime – Principles and Best Practices: This pillar addresses emerging investment issues and challenges, particularly from the perspective of International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and other relevant international instruments. It facilitates dialogue on investment governance, dispute resolution mechanisms, and regulatory transparency to enhance predictability and consistency for investors across APEC economies; and
- b. Investment Promotion, Facilitation, and Retention: This pillar encompasses ongoing initiatives such as the upgrade of Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP); Investment Policy Dialogue (IPD); Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) engagement; the WTO’s IFD Agreement; and the FTAAP agenda. Additionally, it focuses on best practices in attracting and retaining high- quality foreign direct investment (FDI), while addressing cross-cutting issues such as global value chains (GVCs), public-private partnerships (PPPs), quality infrastructure development, and digital investment facilitation.

Ongoing work included the deliberations to update the principles under the IFAP to ensure relevance and efficacy in supporting the PV2040 and APA. The Ministers Responsible for

⁸ [https://www.apec.org/publications/2025/10/apec-services-competitiveness-roadmap-\(ascr\)-final-review](https://www.apec.org/publications/2025/10/apec-services-competitiveness-roadmap-(ascr)-final-review)

Trade in May 2025 in Jeju welcomed the upgraded IFAP and encouraged the IEG to develop a Work Program for the implementation of the updated plan. The IEG is also examining the international investment regime, providing a forum for collaboration among industry stakeholders, academia, and policymakers to exchange insights and coordinate efforts aimed at fostering a fair and transparent economic integration in the region.

At SOM3, the IEG held a workshop “*Workshop on Investment Facilitation in the Digital Age*” that benefited from multistakeholder engagement across the public sector, private sector and civil society organisations.

Section III: Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation

Trade Facilitation - Supply Chain Connectivity

The PSU shared their report “*Study on Convergences and Divergences of FTAs in the APEC Region – Findings on Trade Facilitation*”. This study of five key APEC-region FTAs found medium overall convergence on trade facilitation provisions, especially those based on the WTO TFA. While areas like customs automation and electronic systems showed strong alignment, provisions on AEOs varied significantly across agreements. It highlighted supply chain resilience as a critical next step due to recent global disruptions, stressing the need for better transparency, information sharing, regional cooperation, and infrastructure upgrades. The report emphasised advancing these areas to strengthen trade facilitation and build more agile, resilient supply chains in the region.

The 2025 APMEN Public-Private Dialogue on Advancing Trade Facilitation & Supply Chain Connectivity through E-port took place on 20 May 2025 in Shanghai, China. The Dialogue focused on the flow and interaction of cross-border data based on digital technology and e-ports, and had discussion on cross-border digital cooperation.

At the 17th meeting of the *APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2)*⁹, held on the margins of SOM3/2025, the discussions included a review of the APEC economies' policies related to the protection of trader's data.

Korea organised two events in 2025 related to supply chains. Under the project Sustainable Supply Chains in the APEC Region: Challenges, Progress, and Future Tasks (CTI 103 2024A), the project focused on identifying potential environmental risks in supply chains and disseminating best practices for inclusive and sustainable supply chains across the APEC region. Under the second project Capacity Building Workshop on Resilient Supply Chain, Korea organised a workshop on the margins of SOM3/2025, which touched on rules of origin amongst others.

China led a Literature review on cooperation of data flows and cross-border payments to support digitalized supply chains among APEC economies. With the objective of finding ways to address the Chokepoint 3 identified in SCFAP III, the project conducted a literature review of the rules related to cross-border data flow and cross-border payment in 6 regional agreements and 14 bilateral agreements between APEC economies, as well as related domestic regulations of each APEC economy, and sorted out their similarities and differences. The Literature review is currently seeking endorsement of CTI.

WTO TFA implementation – see Section I

⁹ The A2C2 was established as a public private mechanism for stakeholders from APEC economies to formally engage in supply chain work. Its ToR was renewed at CTI1/2024.

Trade Facilitation – Digitalisation

Singapore organised a self-funded project event “Dialogue on Addressing Interoperability and Trust in SCFAP III Chokepoint 1 Through Paperless Trade” (CTI 03 2025S), which was held on 10 August 2025. The session explored the legal and regulatory chokepoints, gathered valuable insights from economies and identified the critical role institutions play.

Indonesia led a project titled “Workshop on Towards Digital Trade Ecosystem in the Asia Pacific Region” (CTI 205 2024A), which was held on 28-29 September 2025. Indonesia reiterated that the workshop was conducted to enhance awareness among decision-makers regarding the importance of advancing the digital trade ecosystem.

Korea and the United States organised a self-funded project proposal, “APEC Digital Trade Policy Dialogue 2025”, which was held on 6 August 2025. Participants examined how secure, predictable and commercially meaningful data flows can support economic growth, while raising issues such as privacy, domestic security and regulatory compatibility.

China-led *Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN)* introduced a self-funded project “Practice of Cross-border Paperless Trade Collaboration through E-port among APMEN Member Entities”. This project would focus on the practice of cross-border paperless trade collaboration among e-ports or other similar public digital technology infrastructures. By understanding the actual business needs and implementing best practices among e-ports or other similar public digital infrastructures, this project will provide optional solutions for cross-border paperless trade solutions, including insights into how e-ports or other similar public digital technology infrastructures can be interoperable at B2B level.

Australia and Singapore introduced the ABAC-initiated APEC Centre of Excellence for Paperless Trade (ACCEPT) proposal. ACCEPT aims to support the implementation of electronic trade documentation through practical capacity building and best practice sharing, and promote regulatory coherence, legal recognition, and cross-border interoperability, amongst other things. Australia shared that the benefits of paperless trade could be realised through such initiatives. The Terms of Reference of ACCEPT was endorsed by the CTI on 20 October 2025.

Global Value Chains

Indonesia led a project on “Best Practices on Trade Facilitation for MSMEs, including Women-Owned MSMEs: Shaping Better Opportunity in the Regional and Global Value Chains” (CTI 206 2024A). The primary objective of this workshop was to share valuable best practices and recommendations aimed at facilitating trade initiatives that foster the advancement of MSMEs, including those owned by women, in the Regional and Global Value Chains. Indonesia invited all CTI colleagues to participate in person at the workshop, which would be held in Jakarta on 6–7 November 2025.

Chile organised a project event “Workshop on trade and investment inter-dependencies in global value chains (GVCs): Analyzing the challenges and differences among SMEs in the APEC region” (CTI 208 2024A), which was held on 7 & 8 August 2025. This event focused

on how the emergence and evolution of global value chains influence global trade patterns and industrial locations, as well as their effects on MSMEs in the region.

Trade Facilitation – Non-tariff Measures

New Zealand led the Trade Facilitation workstream for the 4th round of the Capacity Building Needs Initiative led by Korea. Under the CBNI, New Zealand conducted the “Workshop on Best Practice Principles to Apply the Cross-cutting Principles on Non-tariff Measures” (CTI 09-20245). The workshop discussed best practices that could be employed by member economies when working with NTMs from a range of speakers, including ABAC, the PSU, ASEAN, PECC, experts and member economies. The workshop summary report was endorsed in June 2025.

New Zealand obtained PSU Board approval for the PSU to provide technical support in developing the Best Practice Guidelines to Apply the Cross-cutting Principles on NTMs (NTM Guidelines). New Zealand provided a project-specific contribution to PSU for this work. The NTM Guidelines serve as a reference for economies to apply the APEC Cross-cutting Principles on NTMs when developing and implementing NTMs, and likewise support FTA/RTA negotiations. The NTM Guidelines were endorsed in MAG and in the CTI, and it is planned to be attached as an annex to this year’s AMM statement.

Trade Facilitation - Customs Procedures

The SCCP achieved the following key outcomes in 2025:

- a. SCCP held an APEC Customs Business Dialogue (ACBD) on 29 July 2025, under the theme – “Digital Technology and Supply Chain Management Innovation”. The ACBD brought together over 120 participants from APEC member economies’ customs and private-sector stakeholders and served as a platform to strengthen the interface between customs administrations, private sector stakeholders and international organisations. ACBD demonstrated that customs-business collaboration is central to digital transformation and smarter trade governance.
- b. SCCP also conducted the following projects/workshops:
 - i. SCCP Exhibition of Customs Technologies on 24-27 February 2025;
 - ii. Workshop on Green Customs for MSMEs on 24 February 2025;
 - iii. Workshop on *AEO MRA Performance Measurement & Improvement of Cooperative Actions* on 25 February 2025;
 - iv. Workshop on *Best Practices for Using New Technologies and Innovative Solutions in Cross-Border E-Commerce* on 28 July 2025.
- c. The following member-led initiatives were also proposed:

- i. Korea proposed the adoption of Non-Binding Guidelines for Customs and Cross Border E-Commerce, aimed at fostering global customs cooperation in the rapidly evolving trade landscape of e-commerce and low-value shipments, which was endorsed online prior to the SCCP2 Meeting.
- ii. China has also proposed one initiative for this year, titled “Further Strengthen Smart Customs Cooperation”, which was already endorsed prior to the SCCP1 Meeting.

Connectivity – Quality Infrastructure Development

Japan and PSU updated on the Study “Peer Review and Capacity Building on APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment”. Japan reiterated that the implementation of this initiative consists of two steps: a Peer Review to assess policies and practices, including relevant laws, regulations, and guidelines related to the planning, selection, and implementation processes of infrastructure projects, and to identify capacity-building needs; and capacity-building activities to address the identified needs. The objective of the initiative was to help economies establish effective systems to promote quality infrastructure development and investment, thereby enhancing regional connectivity. The most recent capacity-building activity was conducted in Japan for Papua New Guinea at the end of August.

Japan also conducted the project event “Quality Infrastructure Investments (QII) to address environmental challenges of the cities in the APEC region”. The objective of this project was to share best practices on adaptation and mitigation measures for city infrastructure, promoting climate resilience among APEC cities to cope with climate impacts. The project also conducted capacity-building for officials in charge of infrastructure and planning sectors by visiting Japanese cities to adopt adaptation and mitigation measures through the QII.

Connectivity – Business Mobility and the ABTC

The APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) facilitates short-term business travel within the APEC region by streamlining the entry process into APEC economies. It helped facilitate business-to-business interaction to boost economic growth in the region. Following the launch of the Virtual ABTC in November 2020, fully participating members are progressively transitioning cardholders to the virtual ABTC. In this regard, Japan introduced a new project “Enhancement of the interoperability of ABTC platforms” (with Australia as Co-proposer) which aims to enhance the interoperability among the platforms for application, pre-clearance and issuance and for which concept note was pre-endorsed in September.

At the second Business Mobility Group (BMG) meeting in 2025, the BMG heard a presentation from Korea’s PPSTI team on the potential for a specific ‘scientist travel card’. BMG members noted this presentation and engagement requested more information on both the problem the proposed card was aiming to solve and the scope of the proposed card from Korea prior to further engaging on Korea’s proposed APEC Scientist Travel Card initiative. BMG would collate comments from members on this initiative and inform CTI of Korea’s PPSTI proposal, noting both the comments and the various policy issues impacted at both the economic level and the wider APEC level.

Connectivity - Expanding Regulatory Cooperation and Advancing Regulatory Coherence

The SCSC looks to reduce the negative effects that differing standards and conformance arrangements have on trade and investment flows in the Asia-Pacific Region. The Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee (JRAC) on Electrical and Electronic Equipment, the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), and the Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC) on Medical Products report to the SCSC as its subsidiary bodies.

To achieve the goals of the SCSC, the group and its subsidiary bodies conducted their normal committee work and projects throughout 2025. In addition to the two SCSC plenary meetings in 2025, the SCSC held:

- a. The RHSC Plenary Meetings for 2025 (24-25 February 2025 and 31 July – 1 August 2025);
- b. The 11th FSCF Conference (12 May 2025);
- c. The 32nd JRAC on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (30 July 2025);

In addition, several workshops were held throughout the year. Some workshops and conferences that were held in 2025 included:

- a. 18th Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) Conference: GRP for Emerging Technologies
- b. Technical Barriers to Trade: Recent Trends in Regional FTAs
- c. APEC AI Standards Conference: Building a Sustainable AI Ecosystem Tomorrow
- d. Digital Standards: Shaping the Future of Standardization
- e. Strengthening Collaboration on Standardization for Quantum Technologies
- f. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Standardization, Certification, Law, and System-building
- g. Higher Education in Standardization
- h. Engaging Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in International Standards Development
- i. Strengthening Standards and Technical Regulations for Higher Water Quality
- j. Public Policies Promoting Quality Infrastructure for Circular Economy
- k. Food Safety Incident Management: Innovative Technologies
- l. Innovative Approaches to Respond to Emerging Issues for Better Food Safety

The 3rd Survey of the 13th Voluntary Action Plan (VAP) and the 4th survey of the 10th VAP Alignment Work were conducted.

Digitalisation

Under the joint United States-Korea self-funded project “*Digital Trade Policy Dialogue 2025*”, the dialogue was held on 6 August 2025. Since 2016, the CTI has brought together member economies and private sector stakeholders in trade policy dialogues to discuss common issues related to digital trade and e-commerce, explore emerging policy trends, and foster an understanding of opportunities that promote inclusion in the digital economy. Building on themes explored in APEC digital trade/e-commerce discussions held in 2023 and 2024 thus far, with a view to emphasizing how digital trade/e-commerce can further APEC’s efforts on trade, the recent event included panel discussions on topics such as “How Cross-Border Data Flows Impact on the Region’s Digital Trade”, “The Importance of Cross Border Data Flows to SMEs” and “Balancing Data Security and Digital Trade”. Participants examined how secure, predictable and commercially meaningful data flows can support economic growth, while raising issues such as privacy, domestic security and regulatory compatibility.

On the margins of SOM3, Peru organised a two-day workshop under the DESG project, *Technology Innovation Workshop for Environmental Monitoring, Using Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in Productive Activities* (DESG 102 2024A). The topics covered included “Real-time data collection and use”, “legal, ethical and governance consideration”, “satellite and geospatial technologies for agricultural monitoring” and “Digitalization for Sustainability, Traceability, and Environmental Compliance”.

Australia led several digital projects, including:

- a. “A path to paperless trade: Analysing the legal gaps and economic benefit of adopting or maintaining a legal framework that takes into account the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records” (CTI 02 2024S). It was noted that the project was aligned with the presentation by the UNCITRAL.
- b. “Implementing the Principles for the Interoperability of Electronic Invoicing Systems in the APEC Region” (CTI 06 2024S).
- c. A DESG project “Measuring the Economic Relationship between Digitalisation and Digital Trade” (DESG 01 2024S).

The United States led a workshop under the project “Workshop on Leveraging Data and Analytical Tools to Support Trade and Trade Policy Analysis” (CTI 07 2024S) was held on 9 August 2025. This workshop brought together policymakers, technical experts, and international organizations to share experiences and approaches for using data to inform trade policy. The discussions underscored the importance of trade policy grounded in precise, evidence-based analysis, and emphasized the value of how trade impacts differ by region, sector, and population, and how targeted, disaggregated data can help shape more effective policies.

Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)

At the margins of SOM3, DESG held workshops on (a) Exchanges and dialogue on approaches to artificial intelligence (AI) (China); (b) DESG: Privacy of Children & Adolescents on Digital Platforms (Korea); (c) Policy Dialogue on AI in Trade Context (Korea); and (d) Technology Innovation Workshop on AI & Big Data for Environmental Monitoring (Peru).

At the DESG plenary, there were policy dialogues on (a) combating online fraud and scams through innovation and cross-border cooperation, where some economies shared details of their economy-level initiatives, such as electronic signature laws, platforms for reporting suspicious websites and mobile numbers, and the use of AI for identity verification; (b) good regulatory practice (GRP) in digital policy, where some economies highlighted the value of soft governance, regulatory sandboxes, public consultation, and risk management frameworks to build trust and support innovation; and (c) environmental impact of AI and digital infrastructure, where some economies highlighted growing concern about the environmental impact of AI and digital infrastructure, noting the high energy demands of data centres and digital systems.

Led by Singapore, the DESG continued to update its database on E-Commerce Regulations, which is available to the public on the APEC Trade Repository. The work facilitates the transparency of economies' domestic regulations and approaches to e-commerce.

Data Privacy Subgroup

The DESG Data Privacy (DPS) subgroup, a subsidiary body of the DESG, continues to pursue work on the APEC voluntary Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) and Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) Systems, which promote interoperability between different data privacy regulations to facilitate trade and build trust in e-commerce.

At the second DPS meeting, a thematic discussion was held on a current hot topic: "How digital and emerging technologies, including AI, can be used to enhance data protection and privacy".

Innovation - Intellectual Property (IP)

IPEG had a number of events and initiatives this year. They included:

- a. IP Policy and Invention Education Workshop on 27 February 2025;
- b. Enhancing Innovation with More Efficient Patent Systems: Tools, Resources, and Work-sharing Workshop on 28 February 2025;
- c. Enforcement Against Illicit Streaming: Approaches and Strategies on 6 August 2025; and
- d. Workshop on A Practical Guide to Safeguard Trade Secrets for MSMEs in APEC Economies on 7 August 2025.

In IPEG2 plenary session at SOM3, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UNCITRAL) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) joined the discussions on IP developments.

Section IV: Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

One of the three priorities under Korea's Theme as host, "Building a Sustainable Tomorrow", is "Prosperity through Sustainable Trade. As such, there have been a significant number of initiatives, led by both the host economy and members, on "inclusion" and "sustainability"-related topics. This work was built on outcomes from recent years, such as the 2022 *Bangkok Goals* and the 2023 *San Francisco Principles*.

Importantly, in the Ministers Responsible for Trade Joint Statement,¹⁰ Ministers reaffirmed their dedication to the *La Serena Roadmap* for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030), emphasising the value of women's active engagement in trade and economic activities to build a more dynamic Asia-Pacific community. Ministers also recognised the importance of women's economic empowerment, including through access to capital, assets, markets, and leadership positions, in line with relevant APEC initiatives, including APEC principles and recommendations.

Korea presented the Collaborative Framework for Demographic Changes, explaining that structural demographic shifts were a growing challenge to APEC's long-term resilience. The Framework aimed to transform demographic pressures into innovation opportunities and aligned with APEC's existing roadmaps, including the PV2040 and the 2024 Lima Roadmap. The Framework would pursue five goals: building sustainable systems for ageing societies, enhancing human resource mobility, promoting medical and technological innovation, ensuring equitable economic participation for women, and building institutionalised and enduring cooperation. Korea indicated that implementation would begin in 2026, with a mid-term review planned in 2028

Under the Australia-led *APEC Business Activator Pilot for Women-Led SMEs to Access Global Markets* project and to contribute to the *La Serena Roadmap*, this project aims to help women-led businesses grow globally by strengthening the capacity of private sector participants from women-led SMEs to build business competencies and help navigate barriers to both local and global markets. For the 2025 program, Australia received over 635 applications with 26 Women Entrepreneurs selected to participate. The program was designed to equip women-led businesses with the tools and support to expand internationally. A final report is being prepared.

At the 2021 AMM, Ministers instructed officials "*to develop recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list with a view to providing guidance for further work, and to update the APEC List of Environmental Goods to HS2022 for reference purposes. We encourage further discussions on the impact of non-tariff measures on trade in environmental goods and services, and on other regulatory measures that underpin the development of more sustainable supply chains*". In this regard, the CTI had tasked MAG to follow up on the following issues:

- a. *Environmental Goods Work Plan*. A work plan was developed and endorsed by the MAG in 2023 to provide a framework for APEC's environmental goods agenda and to respond to ministerial instruction on this front. This encompasses work on key

¹⁰ <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/sectoral-ministerial-meetings/trade/2025-apec-ministers-responsible-for-trade-joint-statement>

issues such as HS transposition, recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list of environmental goods, and facilitation of further work on non-tariff measures and regulatory issues for environmental goods. The Work Plan was previously extended to August 2025. However, MAG did not reach a consensus on the renewal of the Work Plan, as one economy did not believe that a work plan was necessary to undertake substantive work. Multiple economies expressed strong support for continuing substantive work on environmental goods.

- b. *Technical updates / Transposition exercise of the 2012 APEC List of Environmental Goods* to HS 2022 has been completed, and the results have been published on the APEC website.¹¹
- c. *Developing Recommendations for Potentially Producing a Voluntary, Non-Binding Reference List of Environmental Goods*. Australia proposed advancing the work as a Pathfinder Initiative, given the lack of consensus among all members to move it forward collectively. An interim Pathfinder proposal was tabled at MAG by Australia, with participation from two other economies. Several members expressed interest or indicated they were considering participation positively. The MAG Convenor informed members that the interim Pathfinder could be launched in accordance with the Pathfinder guidelines.

Environmental Services

New Zealand led a self-funded project, “Sustainable Trade Innovations in the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability Workshop” (CTI 04 2025S), which was held on 10 June 2025. The ACCTS included Environmental Goods and Environmental Services sections, which were informed by the APEC Environmental Goods List and the APEC Reference List on Environmental Services. The Workshop Summary Report was recently endorsed and is now available in the project database.

Fisheries Subsidies

See Section I, Para 6.

Green Supply Chains

China led a project titled “Literature Review on Methods of Greenhouse Gas Footprint Measurement to Better Understand Green and Sustainable Supply Chain among APEC Economies”. This project aims to explore the methods of greenhouse gas footprint measurement to address the Chokepoint 4 of *APEC SCFAP III* by doing literature review on greenhouse gas emission calculating methods worldwide, contributing to helping build secure, resilient, sustainable and open green supply chains in the Asia-Pacific region. As mentioned in *APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan* (SCFAP III) 2022-2026, lack of understanding on green supply chain management practices and increasing pressure for supply

¹¹ https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/groups/mag/apec-list-of-environmental-goods-in-hs-2022-for-reference.pdf?sfvrsn=4be29db1_1

chains to be environmentally sustainable present a non-negligible challenge in enhancing the collaboration of all APEC economies to narrow the gap between economies at different stages of digital technology and achieve the common goal of greenhouse gas emission reduction. The Literature review is currently seeking endorsement of CTI.

Addressing Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies

New Zealand has been updating CTI members on this work, including encouraging members to voluntarily self-report.

Section V: Other Initiatives and Projects

Chile introduced its non-paper “CTI Public Private Dialogue on Industry and Trade”. The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance stakeholder participation and reinvigorate private sector interest in APEC’s work, focusing on discussions related to industry and trade areas of interest to member economies. The dialogue also aims to (a) bring the private sector closer to APEC processes and broaden engagement with the business and industrial sectors, serving as a platform for industry-related discussions; (b) expand the range of industry-relevant topics addressed within APEC, including those aligned with core APEC workstreams, the PV2040 and the APA, among others; (c) strengthen collaboration with ABAC and the private sector, including ways to better reflect and implement ABAC recommendations to APEC Leaders; and (d) contribute to capacity building and regional cooperation, in collaboration with the private sector. Chile plans to organise a PPD on the margins of SOM3/2026 through an APEC-funded project.

Peru led the CTI project event “Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications” (CTI 202 2024T), which was held on 2 & 3 August 2025. This follow-up initiative allowed APEC economies to identify and discuss how specific items within SPS notifications from APEC member economies have evolved since the initiative Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of SPS Notifications

Korea provided an update on the Research Report for the CTI Project for “Sustainable Supply Chains in the APEC Region: Challenges, Progress, and Future Tasks.” Leveraging APEC’s ongoing initiatives, the project is specifically designed to promote best practices and provide background analysis for relevant discussions among APEC economies. Emphasising the importance of providing technical assistance, capacity building, and fostering cooperation for economies vulnerable to climate change, it aims to enable proactive climate actions without hindering trade

China introduced its project proposal Multi-Year Project of APEC Online Training Program on Cross-Border E-commerce (2026-2028). The project is designed to provide an online training program on cross-border e-commerce, which will play as an information sharing and capacity building venue for all APEC economies. Its objective is for trade officials, relevant businesses and other stakeholders to stay aware of the latest developments to assist more targeted and sound policy-making, cooperation in international fora and FTAs as well as to build business capacities to expand opportunities. It will carry out six training sessions with various focuses during the period of three years. The proposal is seeking endorsement of CTI.

Section VI: Engagement with the Business Sector, Industry Dialogues as well as other economic stakeholders

Engagement with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

The CTI and its sub-fora collaborated with the business community to ensure that private sector perspectives contribute to APEC's trade and investment outcomes. To this end, throughout 2025, ABAC representatives' participation was actively sought and welcomed in CTI and sub-fora meetings and events. The CTI Chair also participated in the ABAC1 meeting this year.

In 2025, CTI noted ABAC's 'Statement on Open Markets', where ABAC highlighted that the business community is facing unprecedented uncertainty and risk.¹² ABAC shared that the Statement on Open Markets was a call to action to restore an open, rule-based, stable and non-discriminatory environment.

Meanwhile, CTI noted ABAC Letter and to Ministers Responsible for Trade this year, where ABAC called upon APEC to update and expand the Pathway Agreements and achieve tangible "early harvest" under the FTAAP agenda.

Engagement with the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)

In 2025, the CTI continued to have good engagement with the PECC. Other than providing invaluable insights at our plenary meetings, the PECC contributed a Policy Brief titled "Good Regulatory Practice for Services in APEC" under their Signature Project on "Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific: Pathways to Prosperity." This Policy Brief made the following recommendations: (1) prioritise the implementation of service domestic regulation principles through the WTO Agreement and APEC initiatives; (2) analyse how FTAs' regulatory chapters align with APEC and WTO standards; and (3) explore the impact of AI on regulatory practices and regional integration.

Automotive Dialogue (AD)

The AD is a forum where APEC officials and senior auto industry representatives work together to map out strategies for increasing the integration and development of the automotive sector within the region. It is a public-private forum in which regulators and producers collaborate to reduce regulatory barriers and to promote trade in vehicles, parts, technologies and related products throughout the APEC region.

Key Outcomes and Achievements in 2025

In 2025, the AD:

- a. Held a one-day workshop "Driving Innovation - Technologies for Human Centred Movement", featuring sessions on inclusive mobility, sustainable mobility, and enhancing the mobility experience, on the margins of SOM3;

¹² 2025/SOM3/CTI/003

- b. Discussed at AD41, amongst others, (a) Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Mobility Value-chains and Supply Networks; (b) EVs and Electrification Ecosystem: EVs and Battery Technologies, and Charging Infrastructure; (c) Future Mobility Landscape in Technology and Policy Aspects: Autonomous Driving, Connectivity, AI, etc; and (d) Global Cooperation in Certification, Standardization, and Regulatory Harmonization to Evolve Mobility Industry.
- c. At AD42, topics discussed included (a) Strategy for Advancing the Electrification: EV and Battery Ecosystem; (b) Facilitation of Trade and Investment in the Automotive Sector; (c) Autonomous Driving/AI and Robotics: Future Technologies and Social Impacts; and (d) Enhancing Inclusiveness and Sustainability in the Mobility Sector.

See Appendix 2 - Automotive Dialogue Report

Chemical Dialogue (CD)

The Chemical Dialogue (CD) serves as a forum for regulatory and trade officials and industry representatives to find solutions to challenges facing the chemical industry in the Asia-Pacific region. It reflects APEC members' recognition of the importance of both engaging with the private sector and building public-private dialogue and sustained cooperation for the benefit of both sectors. The CD focuses on chemical-sector trade liberalization and facilitation by improving trade and regulatory policies and practices. It seeks workable programs which ensure that both governments and businesses can implement regulatory, safety and environmental goals.

Major Outcomes for 2025

In 2025, the CD:

- a. Organised three APEC workshops:
 - i. “Workshop on the Latest Plastic Recycling Technologies and their Policy Applications” on the margins of SOM3;
 - ii. “Building Supply Chain Resilience in the APEC Chemical Sector” on the margins of SOM3;
 - iii. “Capacity Building on Effective Management of Confidential Business Information (CBI) During Inwards Customs Clearance” on the margins of SOM1.
- b. Continued work to promote more consistent international implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

(“GHS”).¹³ The CD revised the GHS comparison report and convergence recommendations to consider recent developments and will develop additional capacity-building efforts to help APEC economies address GHS divergences.

- c. Continued work on promoting regulatory cooperation and convergence, including through continuing to encourage cross-fora collaboration with the OECD’s MAD Program, to encourage more APEC economies to participate in such a program, and to identify resources needed by APEC economies to adhere.
- d. Continued its virtual Working Group on Marine Debris (VWGMD), which was created to tackle the challenge of marine debris in the Asia-Pacific, including work to examine and overcome barriers to investment in waste management infrastructure that would support a more circular economy; developing a survey to explore extended producer responsibility priorities in the region; and supporting the VWGMD blog series and website

See Appendix 4 - Chemical Dialogue Report

Engagement with Non-members

Under the APA’s mandate to “promote engagement with a broader range of economic stakeholders”, the CTI in 2025 continued to engage with non-members to enrich discussions at the CTI. These included the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)’s Digital Standards Initiative (DSI) and the World Economic Forum (WEF), which participated in CTI plenary meetings.

Many other regional/multilateral organisations participated in CTI and CTI-sub-fora events. Some of these include:

- Asia-Pacific Services Coalition (APSC)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- International Trademark Association (INTA)
- Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- World Health Organisation
- World Intellectual Property Organization
- World Trade Organisation
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization: UNIDO

¹³ The GHS is an UN-developed system that was designed to promote a globally harmonized approach for all chemical labelling.

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
- United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Section VII: CTI Governance

CTI-related

Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network (APMEN)

The objective of APMEN is to promote supply chain connectivity and trade facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region. APMEN aims to comply with international and domestic laws related to data security, and endeavours to establish an information-sharing network and cooperation platform with public and private stakeholders to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Identify ways that APMEN member cooperation can make contributions to the APEC Connectivity Blueprint under the pillar of institutional connectivity and WTO/TFA implementation;
- b. Share information and experiences with other APMEN members on ways to promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct;
- c. Share best practices among APMEN members in support of making progress on priorities specified under the APEC PV2040 and APA.

Two nominations for membership of Shenzhen South E-Port Co. Ltd, China and Tradelink Electronic Commerce Limited, Hong Kong, China were endorsed at CTI3 in 2025. Currently, APMEN has 25 members from 13 APEC economies.

The 2025 APMEN Public-Private Dialogue on Advancing Trade Facilitation & Supply Chain Connectivity through E-port took place on 20 May 2025 in Shanghai, China. The Dialogue focused on the flow and interaction of cross-border data based on digital technology and e-ports, and carried out discussion on cross-border digital cooperation, conducted in three sessions including: Digital Technology & Supply Chain Sustainability, Data Rules & Supply Chain Data Flow, as well as Data Cooperation & Supply Chain Connectivity.

APEC Alliance on Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2)

First established in 2014, the objectives of A2C2 function as an action-oriented “force multiplier” group of supply chain experts. A2C2 participants will create synergies and add value to ongoing economy-level capacity-building projects as well as regional efforts currently underway.

The 17th A2C2 meeting took place on 2 August 2025 on the margins of the SOM3 in 2025 in Incheon, Korea. At the meeting, the SCCP Convenor gave a readout on the Summary of APEC’s SCCP Second Plenary 2025. There were panel discussions and sharing on Proprietary/Confidential Business, highlighting APEC economy policies and regulations applicable to business information submitted by traders to customs and other border agencies in connection with import, export, and transit, and Opportunities to Aggregate APEC’s Supply Chain Efforts.

APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain (GSCNet)

The CTI is the overseeing body of the APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain (GSCNet).¹⁴ The objectives of the GSCNET are to (a) raise awareness and understanding on trade and investment-related policies that support the development of green supply chains; (b) share information, experience and practices on Green Supply Chain, as they relate to the cross-border movement of goods and services, and promote public-private cooperation on these issues; (c) encourage enterprises in the region to utilize Green Supply Chain management tools, to facilitate the cross-border movement of goods and services; and (d) establish and maintain a communication and cooperation platform for knowledge sharing on Green Supply Chain management practice among APEC economies, improve the environmental performance of regional supply chains and contribute to the implementation of SCFAP III.

Under sub-foras - Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC)

The RHSC is a subsidiary body of the SCSC, reporting to the SCSC and where relevant to the CTI. Its term follows that of the SCSC (i.e., until 31 December 2025).

The RHSC's goal is to promote regulatory convergence and cooperation for medical products with the objectives of:

- a. Facilitating regulatory convergence and cooperation among medical product regulatory authorities;
- b. Building human capacity in regulatory science among medical product regulatory staff; and
- c. Promoting convergence and reliance among regulatory policymakers in APEC.

The RHSC plenary met on 24-25 February 2025 in Gyeongju, Korea, and 31 July - 1 August 2025 in Incheon, Korea. During the meetings updates were provided on the PWAs and Centers of Excellences (COEs) under the PWAs: global supply chain integrity, advanced therapeutics and biotherapeutics, multi-regional clinical trials (MRCT) and good clinical practice inspections (GCP), medical device, pharmacovigilance, good registration management, electronic data standards, and pharmaceutical quality. During the February meeting, the RHSC endorsed revised roadmaps for three priority work areas (PWAs) (advanced therapeutics and biotherapeutics, medical devices, and pharmaceutical quality), the RHSC continued its work on the key performance indicators and decided to pilot policy discussions during the SOM3 RHSC plenary. Intercessionally, the group worked to update their TOR, and it is going through the process for endorsement. During the 31 July-1 August plenary, the chair focused on providing strategic direction and emphasized the importance of participation, requesting that representatives coordinate and invite their economies regulators and encourage other APEC regulators to attend future meetings. The U.S. reiterated its plans to champion the pharmaceutical quality PWA. The MRCT & GCP roadmap was revised to include additional International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) guidelines. The RHSC also endorsed its first set of key performance indicators, and heard feedback on the second phase, which the U.S. intends to put forward

¹⁴ 2023/SOM3/CTI/024

intersessionally. The RHSC chair discussed plans to draft a concept paper directing the next four years of the RHSC. The RHSC also held inaugural policy dialogues which focused on ICH E17 implementation, rare disease therapies and orphan medical products and building regulatory trust.

CTI sub-fora updates 2025

The ToR of all 10 CTI sub-fora will expire at the end of 2025. In this regard, the CTI has completed the respective fora review and assessment exercise from late 2024 to 2025, and Senior Officials have endorsed the renewals of nine sub-fora, based on CTI's recommendation. CD did not reach a consensus for its renewal, and it will retire by 31 December 2025. The nine sub-fora have been working on renewing their respective ToRs.

The ToR for the following sub-fora were renewed as of 21 October 2025:

- a. Automotive Dialogue (AD)
- b. Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)¹⁵
- c. Investment Experts' Group (IEG)¹⁶
- d. Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)
- e. Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)

SCSC reported that its subsidiary, Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (JRAC), did not achieve quorum for two consecutive meetings (11 and 10 for 2024 and 2025, respectively). In accordance with JRAC ToR, JRAC would be referred to the SOM for a decision on its existence. A JRAC report was submitted to support SOM's deliberation

Selection Process for the next CTI Chair

The APEC Secretariat confirmed and announced Mr Julio José Chan Sánchez of Peru as the new CTI Chair for the period 2026 – 2027. CTI members have endorsed Mr Julio Chan's nomination intersessionally.

Pathfinder Initiatives

Economy leads for CTI Pathfinder initiatives provided an update to members on recent activities under their Pathfinder (see *Appendix 12 – 2025 CTI Pathfinder Initiatives*). Five Pathfinders continue to be implemented in the CTI and its sub-fora:

¹⁵ 2025/SOM3/CTI/038

¹⁶ 2025/SOM3/CTI/037

Under CTI:

- a. Pathfinder on the APEC Technology Choice Principles;
- b. Pathfinder on Permanent Customs Duty Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Including Content Transmitted Electronically; and
- c. Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade;

Under CTI sub-fora

- a. Pathfinder on Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Conformity Assessment on Electrical and Electronic Equipment Mutual Recognition Arrangement (EE MRA) (SCSC/SCSC-JRAC); and
- b. Pathfinder on facilitating trade in remanufactured goods (MAG-CTI)

After SOM3/2025, a decision was made to retire the “Pathfinder to Enhance Supply Chain Connectivity by Establishing a Baseline De Minimis Value”.

Section VIII: Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

Highlighting Individual Actions

Four economies including Chile; Hong Kong, China; New Zealand and Thailand have shared their individual actions in 2025. The CTI Chair encouraged economies to continue to showcase their APA individual actions in 2026.

Evaluating Progress under the APA

The subsequent evaluation will be done in 2026.

Table 1

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

A2C2	APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity
ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council
ABTC	APEC Business Travel Card
AD	Automotive Dialogue
AELM	APEC Economic Leaders Meeting
AIDER	APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap
APA	Aotearoa Plan of Action
APMEN	Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network
AMM	APEC Ministerial Meeting
ASCR	APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap
BCG	Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy
BMC	Budget Management Committee
BMG	Business Mobility Group
CD	Chemical Dialogue
CSOM	Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting
CTI	Committee on Trade and Investment
DEPA	Digital Economy Partnership Agreement
DESG	Digital Economy Steering Group
DPS	Data Privacy Subgroup
EC	Economic Committee
EIR	Economic Integration in the Region
FMP	Finance Ministers' Process
FSA	WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement
FSCF	Food Safety Cooperation Forum
FoTC	Friends of the Chair
FTAAP	Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific
GOS	Group on Services
GSCNet	APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain
GVCs	Global Value Chains
ICT	Information and Communications Technology

IEG	Investment Experts' Group
IPEG	Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)
ITA	Information Technology Agreement
JRAC	Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee (JRAC) on Electrical and Electronic Equipment
MAG	Market Access Group
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement
MRT	Ministers Responsible for Trade
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NTBs/NTMs	Non-Tariff Barriers/ Non-Tariff Measures
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PMU	Project Management Unit, APEC Secretariat
PSU	Policy Support Unit, APEC Secretariat
PV2040	Putrajaya Vision 2040
RHSC	Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee
SCCP	Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
SCE	Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation
SCSC	Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)
SOM	Senior Officials' Meeting (also to mean Senior Officials)
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TFA	WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
ToR	Terms of Reference
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Table 2

Projects by CTI and sub-fora endorsed in 2025*(a) Concept Notes Recommended for BMC's In-Principle Approval at Project Session 1, 2025*

	Group / Title	Proposing Economy/ies	Value (USD)
1.	CN_CTI_101_2025: In-depth Study on Digital Trade Provisions of FTAs/RTAs	Japan	189,000
2.	CN_DESG_101_2025: Capacity-Building Workshop on Digital Economy for Environmental Sustainability and Circular Economy in APEC	Peru	155,000
3.	CN_IEG_101_2025: Workshop on sharing of best practices and approaches to impact investing and the role of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) within the APEC region	Papua New Guinea	120,000
4.	CN_IPEG_101_2025: Workshop on IP Strategies to foster women-led innovative MSMEs' internationalization within APEC economies	Chile	100,000
5.	CN_SCSC_101_2025: Digital Standards: Shaping the Future of Standardisation	United States	120,000
6.	CN_SCSC_103_2025: Standardizing Senior-Friendly Food Design: A Pathway to Innovation and Healthy Aging in APEC	China	80,000
7.	CN_SCSC_105_2025: Empowering Plastics Recycling Industry: Quality Infrastructure and Standardization Pathways for Circular Economy in APEC	Indonesia	99,000
8.	CN_SCSC_106_2025: Survey and Workshop on Standard Coordination and Innovation Mechanism for Cross-Border e-Commerce Consumer Dispute Resolution in the APEC Region	China	100,000
9.	CN_SCSC_107_2025: Standards and best practices sharing on carbon reduction and capture and carbon emission management in urban wastewater treatment	China	100,000
10.	CN_SCSC_108_2025: Reaction to COVID-19: Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Energy Efficiency of Lighting Products in Residential in the APEC region (First Follow-Up Workshop)	Indonesia	83,100
11.	CN_SCSC_109_2025: 18th Conference on Good Regulatory Practice (GRP18)	Korea	140,000

	Group / Title	Proposing Economy/ies	Value (USD)
12.	CN_SCSC_110_2025: Evaluation of the Maximum Residue Levels standard for farmer's dairy milk in supporting trade and public health in the APEC region	Indonesia	100,000

(b) Concept Notes Recommended for BMC's In-Principle Approval at Project Session 2, 2025

	Group / Title	Proposing Economy/ies	Value (US\$)
1.	CN_AD_202_2025: Bridging the Gap in EV Quality Infrastructure: APEC's Strategies for fostering Sustainable Transportation	Indonesia	125,000
2.	CN_AD_203_2025: Strengthening the Competitiveness of Local SMEs in Global Electromobility Value Chains within the APEC Framework	Peru	67,600
3.	CN_BMG_201_2025: Enhancement of the interoperability of ABTC platforms	Japan	150,000
4.	CN_CTI_201_2025: APEC Workshop on Promoting Sustainable Manufacturing and Consumption	Viet Nam	120,000
5.	CN_CTI_202_2025: APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Industry and Trade: Enhancing Trade Facilitation in the Digital Age	Chile	163,000
6.	CN_CTI_203_2025: Extensive Study on AI in Trade Agreements in contribution to the Ichma Statement on A New Look at the FTAAP	Japan	196,000
7.	CN_DESG_201_2025: APEC Digital Identity Equivalency Mapping	New Zealand	100,000
8.	CN_DESG_202_2025: Public-private dialogue on capacity building for AI-driven supply chain management	Korea	141,500
9.	CN_DESG_203_2025: Discovering Cross-Border Government Credential Interoperability: Privacy- Enhanced Multi-Economy Workshop Initiative	Chinese Taipei	140,000
10.	CN_GOS_201_2025: Services and Structural Reform	Australia	150,000
11.	CN_GOS_202_2025: Toward Data-Driven and Evidence-Based Policy in APEC Region: Best Practices for Assessing and Evaluating the Impact of FTAs on Services Trade	Indonesia	100,000

	Group / Title	Proposing Economy/ies	Value (US\$)
12.	CN_SCCP_201_2025: Best Practices in Airports in the APEC Region to Enhance the Coordination of Control Agencies in the Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Goods	Peru	155,000
13.	CN_SCCP_202_2025: The Impact of AEO Certification on SME Trade Resilience - An APEC Framework for Supply Chain Stability	China	50,000
14.	CN_SCCP_203_2025: Impact of the Electronic Bill of Lading on the Expedited Clearance of Goods: Implications for Foreign Trade Operators	Peru	181,000
15.	CN_SCSC_201_2025: Workshop on exploring the role of Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) in APEC connectivity activities	China	141,188
16.	CN_SCSC_204_2025: 16th SCSC Conference: Standards and Conformance Facilitating the Electrification Transition and Sustainable Development of Road Transportation	China	150,000
17.	CN_SCSC_207_2025: Bridging National and Voluntary Sustainability Standards: the development of common criteria for voluntary sustainability standards to improve certificate acceptance for coffee product	Indonesia	100,000
18.	CN_SCSC_209_2025: Building Resilient Communities: Advancing Standards for the Built Environment	United States	141,500
19.	CN_SCSC_210_2025: Workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Management	Viet Nam	92,000
20.	CN_SCSC_211_2025: Workshop on Driving Business toward ESG and the SDGs	Viet Nam	92,000
21.	CN_SCSC_213_2025: Enabling Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs') adoption of standards and conformance (S&C)	Singapore	230,000

Table 3

Self-funded projects endorsed in 2025

	APEC Forum	Project Title	Project No.	Proposing Economy(ies)
1.	CTI	Advancing FTAAP Agenda: APEC Digital Trade Provision Handbook	CTI_01_2025S	Australia
2.	CTI	APEC Business Activator Program for Women-Led SMEs to Access Global Markets	CTI_02_2025S	Australia
3.	CTI	Addressing Interoperability and Trust in SCFAP III Chokepoint 1 Through Paperless Trade	CTI_03_2025S	Singapore
4.	CTI	Sustainable Trade Innovations in the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS)	CTI_04_2025S	New Zealand
5.	CTI	APEC Digital Trade Policy Dialogue 2025	CTI_05_2025S	United States
6.	DESG	Supporting SMEs to Utilise Traceability Technologies for More Sustainable Trade	DESG_01_2025S	Australia
7.	DESG	New Concepts and Approaches of AI Literacy Enhancement Actions for the Public	DESG_02_2025S	China
8.	DESG	Workshop on Estimating and Measuring Digital Trade	DESG_203_2025S	New Zealand
9.	GOS	Workshop on Recent Approaches to the Domestic Regulation of Services in the APEC Region	GOS_01_2025S	Korea
10.	GOS	Services Domestic Regulation Initiative on Technical Standards Development: The Process and Impact	GOS_02_2025S	United States
11.	IEG	Investment Facilitation in the Digital Age	IEG_01_2025S	Korea
12.	IPEG	IP Finance Workshop	IPEG_01_2025S	Korea
13.	IPEG	Workshop on Copyright Protection and Enforcement Against Illicit Streaming	IPEG_02_2025S	United States
14.	SCSC	Workshop on the Role of Standards in Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth	SCSC_01_2025S	China
15.	SCSC	2025 APEC Conference on the Analytical Techniques for Cosmetics	SCSC_02_2025S	Chinese Taipei

16.	SCSC	Strengthening Collaboration on Standardisation for Quantum Technologies	SCSC_03_2025S	Australia
17.	SCSC	Workshop on Innovative Approaches to Respond to Emerging Issues for Better Food Safety	SCSC_04_2025S	Korea
18.	SCSC	Research and Discussion of Standards and Regulatory Frameworks of Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) in Food and Agricultural Products of APEC Member Economies	SCSC_05_2025S	China
19.	SCSC	APEC FSCF Workshop and Documents on Risk Communication of Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) - Part III	SCSC_06_2025S	United States
20.	SCSC	APEC AI Standards Conference: Building a Sustainable AI Ecosystem Tomorrow	SCSC_07_2025S	Korea

Table 4

Initiatives launched by CTI members in 2025

	Initiative	Lead economy
1	“Extensive Study on AI in Trade Agreements in Contribution to the Ichma Statement on A New Look at the FTAAP”.	Japan
2	APEC Centre of Excellence for Paperless Trade (ACCEPT).	Australia and Singapore

Table 5

CTI-level events in 2025

	Title of Event	Date of event
1	Workshop “Best Practice Guidelines to Apply the APEC Cross Cutting Principles on NTMs”	3 March 2025
2	Forum on “Sustainable Supply Chains in the APEC Region: Challenges, Progress, and Future Tasks”	9 May 2025
3	2025 APMEN Public-Private Dialogue on Advancing Trade Facilitation & Supply Chain Connectivity through E-port (20 May)	20 May 2025
4	Workshop on Advancing FTAAP Agenda: APEC Digital Trade Provision Handbook (30 July)	30 July 2025
5	17th meeting of the APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) (2 August);	2 August 2025
6	Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications (2 and 3 August);	2 August 2025
7	Trade Policy Dialogue on Digital Trade (6 August)	6 August 2025
8	Workshop on trade and investment inter-dependencies in global value chains (GVCs): Analyzing the challenges and differences among SMEs in the APEC region (7 and 8 August)	7 August 2025
9	APEC Workshop on Leveraging Data and Analytical Tools to Support Trade and Trade Policy Analysis (9 August)	9 August 2025
10	Dialogue on Addressing Interoperability and Trust in SCFAP III Chokepoint 1 Through Paperless Trade (10 August)	10 August 2025

11	CBNI 4: Capacity Building Workshop on Resilient Supply Chains (13 August)	13 August 2025
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Note: Materials for the above events can be found in the Meeting Document Database
<https://mddb.apec.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Produced for
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat
35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119616
Telephone: (65) 6891 9600 Facsimile: (65) 6891 9690
Email: info@apec.org Website: www.apec.org

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