



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

2017 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation

As APEC promotes free trade to foster economic growth, members engage in economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) to ensure this growth is sustainable and that everyone in the Asia-Pacific has the opportunity to participate and share in its benefits.

APEC's ECOTECH agenda is managed by the SCE, which stands for the Senior Officials' (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation.

Priorities for Cooperation

Over the course of the year, the work of the SCE aimed to address these eight interconnected areas.

1. Developing Human Capital through Capacity Building

APEC encourages improving access to education, skills and employment for certain groups which have not fully enjoyed the fruits of economic growth in the region. One such group is women. The SCE has led activities that aim for quality employment opportunities for women. It implements projects to encourage women to run businesses and take positions of leadership.

2. Developing and Strengthening the Dynamism of SMEs

The SCE and its fora encourage innovation and dynamism among the region's entrepreneurs by introducing small business ventures to online technology and ecommerce, and opening them up to future trends such as the potential of renewable energy and going green.

3. Harnessing Technologies for the Future and Supporting Innovation

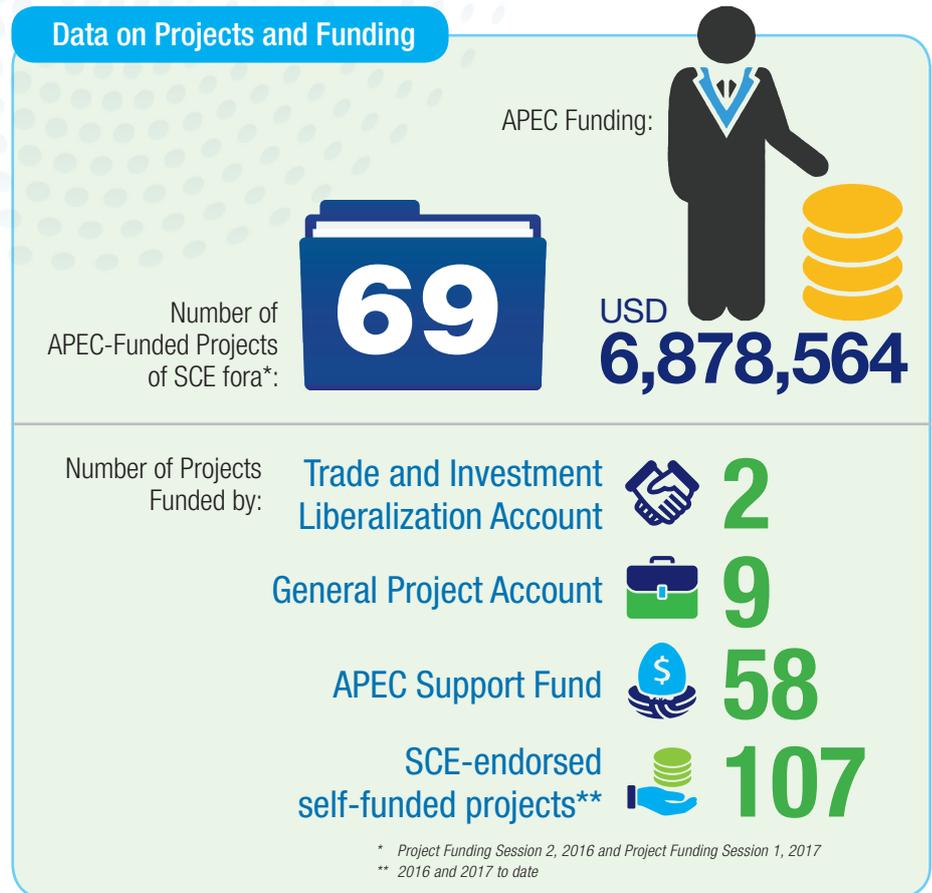
APEC members keep each other abreast of new technologies that can help ensure clean energy through solar power and food security through resilient agro-food systems.

4. Inclusive Growth

Inclusivity is a priority that cuts across almost all initiatives, from advancing employment for persons with disabilities to promoting universal health coverage, and numerous projects that support women's access to the economy.

5. Regional Economic Integration

The SCE and its fora help foster trade and investment through facilitating market access for women-led MSMEs, work on global navigation satellite supply systems, and encouraging traveler-friendly airports.



6. Structural Reform

The SCE aims to strengthen institutions by fighting corruption through social engagement, whistle blower programs and better cooperation between law enforcement across borders. It organizes programs to help economies better regulate and prepare for the internet economy and the free flow of data across borders.

7. Safeguarding the Quality of Life through Sustainable Growth

The SCE and its fora support sustainable environmental growth through programs that help economies crack down on illegal

logging while promoting the legal trade of timber. They share best practices and policy recommendations for shutting down mines, waste management and reducing garbage in the sea.

8. Human Security

The SCE and its fora engage in health-related programs to help economies manage universal medical coverage and prevent diseases like HPVs and cervical cancer. They also prepare small businesses in industries such as tourism for worst-case scenarios: possible terrorist strikes and other disasters.

Organizational Achievements

As an organizing committee, the SCE administers the fora and working groups responsible for economic and technical cooperation among APEC members.

A Standardized Assessment System

In 2017 the SCE developed, reviewed and endorsed a new system for assessing its fora. Upon its implementation in 2018, the new system will bring more consistency to the process through a standard

annual program and provide SCE members with a more complete organizational picture.

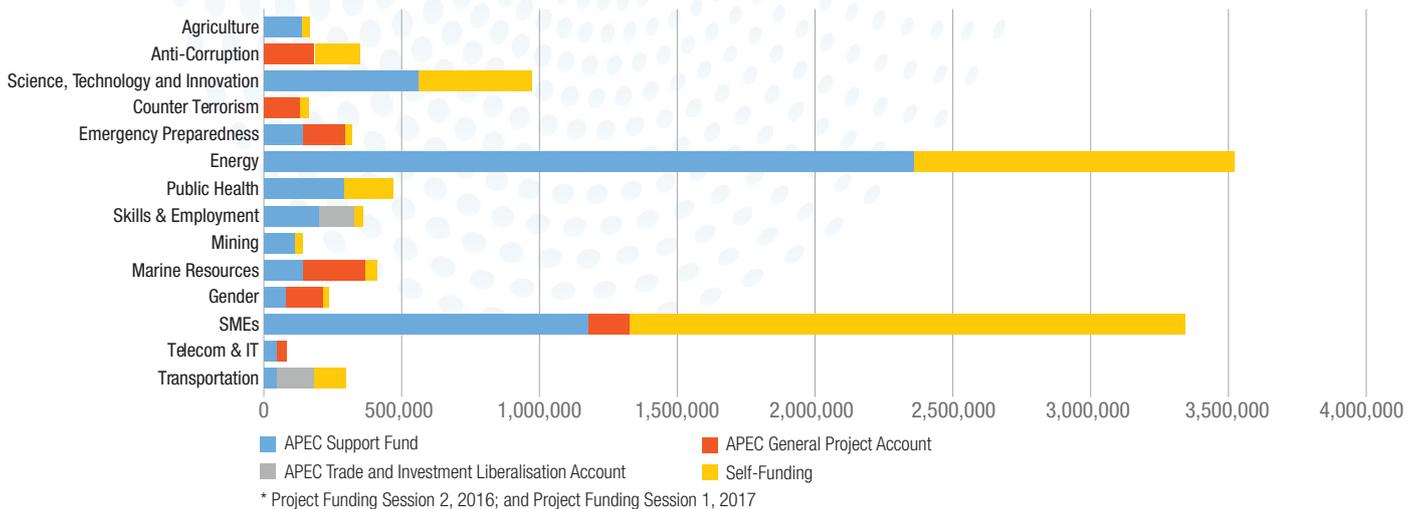
Facilitating Cross-Fora Collaboration

The SCE Chair spearheaded the development of guidelines for APEC cross-fora collaboration, which were subsequently endorsed by the Senior Officials' Meeting. The committee is also continuing to refine the format of its discussions to encourage greater engagement among the fora representatives.

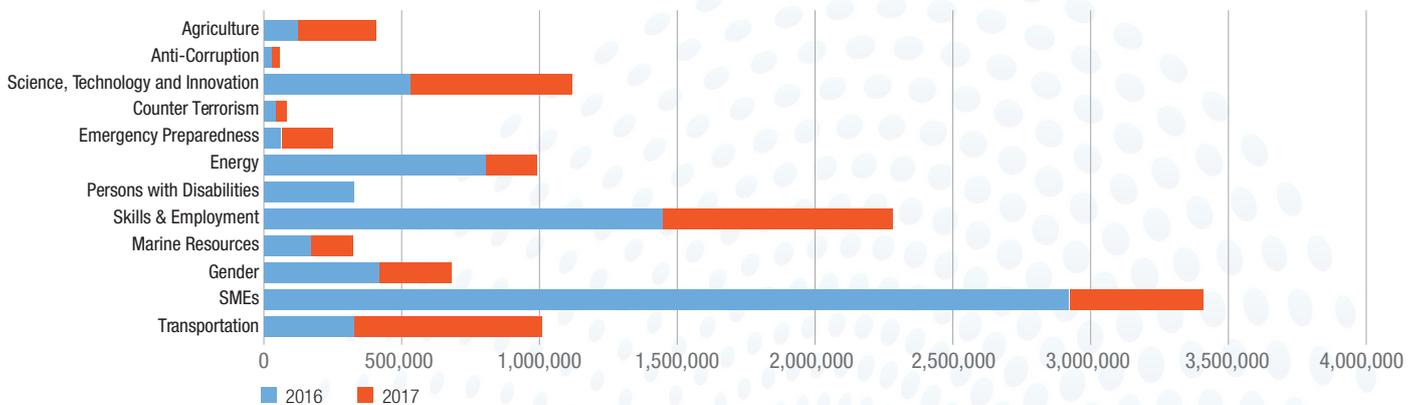
Streamlining Project Funding Approval

The SCE and the Budget Management Committee adopted a new scoring sheet for project selection as part of a new approach to selecting APEC projects for funding—a culmination of the work of implementing the APEC Capacity Building Policy and efforts to streamline the project funding approval process.

SCE Projects: Funding Sources (USD) & Distribution*



Distribution of SCE-Endorsed Self-Funded Projects (USD) 2016 vs 2017



Considering Gender

Highlights of the SCE's work this year on supporting women's access to the economy:

- Endorsing guidelines for gender inclusion in APEC policies and activities
- Advancing a multifaceted initiative to bolster women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- Supporting women-led SMEs access to global markets by implementing gender responsive trade
- Exploring improved market access for women-led MSMEs through e-commerce



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APEC Secretariat • 35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119616
Telephone Number: (65) 6891 9600 • Facsimile Number: (65) 6891 9690
email: info@apec.org • website: www.apec.org
Facebook: APECnews • Twitter: @apec • Instagram: @apec