



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade  
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

# Outcomes & Outlook

## 2019 - 2020

APEC Secretariat





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Cover photo: **Let's Plant the Future** by Arif Widodo  
Inside cover: **Wind of Change** by Danilo Victoriano

## Message from the Executive Director

The turn of a new decade is a time of change. As it is for individuals, so too for economies and for the Asia-Pacific as a region. We have no choice in the matter, change is a matter of course for us. Our say will be whether or not we make the 2020s an opportunity for collective reflection and improvement.

In some ways that is precisely what we are supposed to do as the Secretariat to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. APEC is an instrument of change as well as of adaptation. In the 1990s, a decade that also began just as the world was becoming almost unrecognizable overnight, APEC built a community of unlikely economies under the common cause of cooperation, liberalization and free trade.

Over the 30 years that APEC meetings have been held—not just Leaders' Meetings but all the hundreds of times we've gathered experts and officials from around the Pacific and beyond—our economies have learned from each other and broached solutions to myriad, seemingly unrelated, challenges such as those relating to protectionism, health scares, terrorism, joblessness, natural disasters and many more.

While our challenges are many and diverse, APEC has stuck to a tried and tested formula of non-binding voluntary action that encourages members to come to the table with ideas and an openness to engage.

As we transition from 2019 to 2020, we find ourselves at a landmark crossing—the deadline for the Bogor Goals. Last year we capped off the decade by identifying the needs of our community and laying the groundwork to address issues to face in the next: slower growth, a damaged environment, disrupted industries, deep changes in our society and alarming inequality.

In 2020, as we move this work forward, we are faced with the exciting task of determining APEC's overarching goal in the coming decades. The last time we did this—25 years ago in Bogor, Indonesia—the world was very different. We have been blessed with a great opportunity. It's time to change the narrative.



**Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Sta. Maria**  
Executive Director  
APEC Secretariat



# About APEC

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. APEC's 21 members aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

APEC ensures that goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders. Members facilitate this trade through faster customs procedures at borders; more favorable business climates behind the border; and aligning regulations and standards across the region.

APEC works to help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy. For example, APEC projects provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad. Recognizing the impact of climate change, APEC members also implement initiatives to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable management of forest and marine resources.

The forum adapts to allow members to deal with important new challenges to the region's economic well-being. For example, some of APEC's shared goals are to ensure disaster resilience, planning for pandemics and addressing the threat of terrorism.

APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; The United States of America; and Viet Nam.







The first APEC Ministers' Meeting, Canberra, 1989

# About APEC

## APEC at 30: Beginnings

APEC was formed in 1989 to, according to former Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke, develop “a capacity for analysis and consultation on economic and social issues, not as an academic exercise but to help inform policy development.” It was also created to be a platform for economies to voice out trade issues among each other by enabling regional consultation on trade and economic matters while not emulating a trading bloc. Its foundation was based on the principles of openness and equality among members, and a commitment to evolve when the times call for it.

APEC began with a ministerial meeting held in November 1989, and was attended by the 12 founding member economies: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; the Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; and the United States. Seven projects were endorsed during a second APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in 1990, covering areas such as trade and investment, technology transfer, telecommunications, marine resource conservation, and human resource and skills development.

Since APEC’s founding, the region has experienced massive changes. The regional economy has grown at an average of 3.7 percent per year. This economic growth has led to rising average incomes, contributing to vast

reductions in poverty and an expanding middle class. Trade has been a key driver of growth, while new technologies have pushed the boundaries of the global economy.

APEC declarations have reflected the region’s focus as well as its changing priorities over the last three decades: the thrust toward globalization and economic liberalization in the 1990s, concerns about human security and terrorism in the 2000s, the drive toward environmental sustainability and inclusion in the 2010s, and addressing the impacts of a digital economy in more recent years.

Thirty years ago, APEC stood on the cusp of a changing world - one that was about to be more globally integrated and connected than ever before. It took a holistic approach to economic policy cooperation that addressed both cross-border and behind-the-border issues, meeting these challenges through regional cooperation, multilateralism and the incubation of new ideas.

The region faces unprecedented challenges in the coming decades, and will need to once again tap into the spirit of 1989—cooperative, holistic and innovative—if it is to step up to the challenges of the next 30 years.



# About APEC

## APEC Milestones

### 2019 • Santiago, Chile

The APEC Chair releases the Host Economy Leader's Statement, which commemorates the 30th year of APEC and echoes the APEC 2019 theme "Connecting People, Building the Future." The chair lays out the year's achievements, notably in putting people at the center of the forum's agenda, as well as issues important to people, such as inclusivity and the environment. The La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth was finalized this year, which acknowledges the urgent need to lift the role of women in the economy. Two significant ocean-related roadmaps were developed, for addressing Marine Debris and Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The chair recognizes that, working together, economies strengthen each other and rules-based international trade. The chair recognizes that the needs of people in the Asia-Pacific are evolving, and encourages inclusive and sustainable solutions for future work.

### 2018 • Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

The APEC Chair releases the Era Kone Statement, reflecting the work of member economies throughout 2018. It states that Leaders reaffirm the importance of trade liberalization and facilitation in achieving sustainable economic growth and in creating jobs, and recognize the contributions in achieving this of the rules-based multilateral trading system. APEC Leaders commit to advancing inclusive growth through innovation, such as the use

of digital technologies. They recognize that digital technologies are changing the way businesses and government operate, and although they come with challenges, they have the potential to provide significant widespread gains. To further APEC's ability to meet these challenges, they endorse the Action Agenda for the Digital Economy which lays out clear commitments to meet the digital future.

### 2017 • Da Nang, Viet Nam

Leaders underline APEC's crucial role in supporting a rules-based, free, open, fair, transparent and inclusive multilateral trading system. APEC commits to strengthening the ability of micro and small enterprises to compete in international markets and endorsed a strategy to create an environment that enables them to go green and sustainable. The forum aims to meet the potential of the internet and digital economy through regulation and policy and seeks to prepare workers—especially those in vulnerable groups—for the changing world of work through human resource development. To ensure food security in and beyond the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the context of climate change and rural-urban development, the forum adopts the Food Security and Climate Change Multi-Year Action Plan 2018-2020. And through the creation of the APEC Vision Group, Leaders show their commitment to a strategic and ambitious post-2020 vision that will position APEC to aim for 21st Century opportunities after the Bogor Goals are met.

### 2016 • Lima, Peru

APEC Leaders reaffirm the member economies' confidence in international trade as a mechanism for achieving positive economic and social change. This is after throwing their support behind an agenda that pursues inclusive growth as the Asia-Pacific region takes strides to achieve a free and open trade area. Specifically, they express support for advancing the regional economic integration and growth agenda; developing human capital; modernizing micro, small, and medium business; and enhancing the regional food systems. In line with these priorities, APEC put forward policy commitments for members toward sustainable economic integration in the region.

### 2015 • Manila, Philippines

APEC Leaders unite behind the opportunity to build inclusive economies in a bid to make economic growth felt broadly by more sectors in society. Acknowledging uneven global growth and the presence of risks and uncertainties in the global economy, the Leaders agree to set forth policy enablers for integration of micro, small and medium enterprises in regional and global markets; for building sustainable and resilient communities; developing human capital; and enhancing the regional economic integration agenda. They also express support for the achievement of quality growth, and endorse a network on services cooperation, recognizing that the services sector represent a significant percentage of businesses in the region.





# About APEC

## 2014 • Beijing, China

APEC Leaders commit to taking a concrete step towards greater regional economic integration by endorsing a roadmap to translate the vision of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) into a reality. As a first step, APEC will carry out a collective strategic study on issues related to the realization of the FTAAP. Members implement the first-ever APEC Connectivity Blueprint to achieve targets for better physical, institutional and people to people linkages across the region by 2025. In order to capture higher value-added growth, policies to promote innovation, human resource development and sustainability are part of the new APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth. Recognizing the importance of promoting diversified energy supplies, APEC economies agree to work toward doubling the share of renewables by 2030 in the region's energy mix, including in power generation.

## 2013 • Bali, Indonesia

APEC Leaders reaffirm their commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system and achieving the successful Doha Round outcome at the World Trade Organization (WTO) 9th Ministerial Conference. APEC Leaders endorse a multi-year plan on infrastructure development and investment. As a first step under this plan, a Public Private Partnership Centre in Indonesia will be established. To encourage people-to-people connectivity, APEC seeks to promote cross-border

cooperation with the target of 1 million intra-APEC university students per year by 2020. APEC holds its first joint Ministerial Meeting on Women and SMEs to promote women entrepreneurship.

## 2012 • Vladivostok, Russia

APEC Leaders endorse an APEC List of Environmental Goods that directly and positively contribute to green growth and sustainable development objectives. APEC seeks to address transparency as a new next generation trade and investment issue, and Leaders endorse the APEC Model Chapter on Transparency for RTAs/FTAs to be used as a guide by APEC economies.

## 2011 • Honolulu, United States

APEC Leaders commit to taking concrete steps toward a seamless regional economy; addressing shared green growth objectives; and advancing regulatory cooperation and convergence. To reach these goals, APEC resolves to reduce, by the end of 2015, applied tariff rates of environmental goods to 5 percent or less, taking into account economies' circumstances, without prejudice to APEC members' positions in the WTO. APEC sets the goal to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035. In addition, APEC commits to take specific steps by 2013 to implement good regulatory practices by ensuring internal coordination of regulatory work; assessing regulatory impacts; and conducting public consultation.

## 2010 • Yokohama, Japan

APEC Leaders provide a roadmap for members to realize an economically-integrated, robust and secure APEC community. This includes the formulation of a comprehensive, long-term growth strategy. APEC completes an assessment of its progress towards the Bogor Goals and finds significant gains in the areas of liberalizing trade in goods, services and investment, as well as trade facilitation. APEC formulates the APEC Strategy for Investment and endorses the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform. APEC holds its first APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security.

## 2009 • Singapore

APEC resolves to pursue balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth, while Leaders agree to extend their standstill commitment on protectionism until 2010. The first-ever joint meetings of APEC senior trade and finance officials are held to address the economic crisis. APEC launches the Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework and the Ease of Doing Business Action Plan to make doing business in the region 25 percent cheaper, faster and easier by 2015. Member economies also commence work on an APEC Services Action Plan and an Environmental Goods and Services Work Program.





# About APEC

## 2008 • Lima, Peru

APEC Economic Leaders address the global financial crisis in the Lima Statement on the Global Economy, in which they commit to take all necessary economic and financial measures to restore stability and growth, to reject protectionism and to intensify efforts to advance the WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations. APEC focuses on the social dimensions of trade, reducing the gap between developing and developed members and Corporate Social Responsibility. Leaders welcome the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan aimed at improving the investment environment in the region.

## 2007 • Sydney, Australia

For the first time, APEC member economies issue a Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development outlining future action in support of a new international climate change arrangement and announcing a forward program of practical, cooperative actions and initiatives. Leaders also adopt a major report on closer regional economic integration, including structural reform initiatives, and welcome the second APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan which aims to reduce trade transaction costs by a further five percent by 2010.

## 2006 • Ha Noi, Viet Nam

APEC Economic Leaders endorse the Ha Noi Action Plan which identifies specific actions and milestones to implement the Bogor Goals. Leaders conclude that the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan has achieved its target of a five percent reduction in trade transaction costs in the region between 2002 and 2006. APEC takes a strategic approach to reform fora and strengthen the Secretariat.

## 2005 • Busan, Korea

APEC completes the Mid-Term Stock-take of Progress towards the Bogor Goals. The stock-take finds that average tariffs in the APEC region have been reduced to 5.5 percent, down from 16.9 percent when APEC was established in 1989, and that APEC is on schedule to meet the Bogor Goals. It also outlines the Busan Roadmap to the Bogor Goals. The APEC Privacy Framework is launched.

## 2004 • Santiago, Chile

APEC adopts Best Practices for RTAs and FTAs, a reference guide for APEC members undertaking RTA/FTA negotiations. The Leaders' Agenda to Implement Structural Reform (LAISR) is launched. It addresses five priority areas: regulatory reform; corporate governance; public governance; competition policy; and strengthening economic legal infrastructure. Leaders endorse the Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency.

## 2003 • Bangkok, Thailand

Members undertake to implement the APEC Action Plan on SARS and the Health Security Initiative to help the region prevent and respond to health threats. Leaders pledge to strengthen regional efforts to promote sound and efficient financial systems and encourage the development of domestic and regional bond markets.

## 2002 • Los Cabos, Mexico

APEC adopts a Trade Facilitation Action Plan and the Statement to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy. The Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative is launched and a Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards is endorsed.

## 2001 • Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Leaders issue APEC's first Statement on Counter-Terrorism and pledge to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. Leaders also adopt the Shanghai Accord which focuses on: broadening the APEC vision to reflect changes resulting from the digital economy; clarifying the roadmap to reach the Bogor Goals; and strengthening the IAP Peer Review Process and capacity building activities. An e-APEC Strategy identifying the necessary policy environment and specifying appropriate goals and actions to maximize the benefits of the digital economy is also endorsed.

## 2000 • Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

APEC commits to the Action Agenda for the New Economy. Leaders set the goals of tripling internet access throughout the APEC region by 2005, and achieving universal access by 2010.

## 1999 • Auckland, New Zealand

APEC Leaders endorse the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform aimed at addressing the structural and regulatory weaknesses that contributed to the Asian financial crisis. APEC commits to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and 2010 in developing economies. The APEC Business Travel Card scheme is approved and a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Electrical Equipment and a Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC are endorsed.

## 1998 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

APEC Ministers agree on a Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce, including a commitment to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and by 2010 in developing economies.

## 1997 • Vancouver, Canada

APEC endorses a proposal for early voluntary sectoral liberalization in 15 sectors and decides that Individual Action Plans should be updated annually.

## 1996 • Manila, Philippines

The Manila Action Plan for APEC is adopted, outlining the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation measures required to reach the Bogor Goals. The first Collective and Individual Action Plans are compiled, outlining how economies will achieve the free trade goals.

## 1995 • Osaka, Japan

APEC adopts the Osaka Action Agenda which provides a framework for meeting the Bogor Goals through trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation and sectoral activities, underpinned by policy dialogues and economic and technical cooperation. The APEC Business Advisory Council is established to inject a business perspective into APEC deliberations and to give advice on business sector priorities.

## 1994 • Bogor, Indonesia

APEC sets the Bogor Goals of "free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies." The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations conducted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is concluded. APEC is widely considered to have been a significant force in bringing the Uruguay Round to a conclusion.

## 1993 • Blake Island, United States

APEC Economic Leaders meet for the first time and outline APEC's vision of "stability, security and prosperity for our peoples."

## 1989 • Canberra, Australia

APEC begins as an informal Ministerial-level dialogue group with 12 founding members.





First APEC Leaders' Meeting on Blake Island in Seattle, Washington, 1993  
Photo: Barbara Kinney / The US National Archives



# About APEC

## Benefits of APEC

APEC has grown to become a dynamic engine of economic growth and one of the most important regional forums in the Asia-Pacific. Its 21 member economies are home to around 2.9 billion people and represent approximately 60 percent of world GDP and 48 percent of world trade in 2018.

As a result of APEC’s work, growth has soared in the region, with real GDP doubling from approximately just USD 19 trillion in 1989 to USD 46.9 trillion in 2018. Meanwhile, residents of the Asia-Pacific saw their per capita income rise threefold, lifting millions out of poverty and creating a growing middle class in less than three decades.

Bringing the region closer together, reducing trade barriers, and smoothing out differences in regulations have boosted trade which has also led to this dramatic increase in prosperity. Average tariffs fell from 17 percent in 1989 to 5.3 percent in 2018. During that same time period, the APEC region’s total merchandise trade increased seven fold—outpacing the rest of the world with two-thirds of this trade occurring between member economies.

## Economic Data

Member Economy and Year Joined	Population in 2018 (thousands)	GDP in 2018 (US\$m)	GDP per capita in 2017 (US\$)	Imports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial Services in 2018 (US\$m)	Exports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial Services in 2018 (US\$m)
Australia (1989)	24,992.4	1,432,195.2	57,305.3	305,997	325,415
Brunei Darussalam (1989)	429.0	13,567.1	31,627.7	5,702	7,136
Canada (1989)	37,058.9	1,712,510.0	46,210.5	582,389	542,239
Chile (1994)	18,729.2	298,231.1	15,923.4	88,854	85,582
China (1991)	1,392,730.0	13,608,151.9	9,770.8	2,656,317	2,751,783
Hong Kong, China (1991)	7,451.0	362,992.5	48,717.3	707,935	682,373
Indonesia (1989)	267,663.4	1,042,173.3	3,893.6	223,689	207,430
Japan (1989)	126,529.1	4,970,915.6	39,286.7	946,524	925,447
Korea (1989)	51,635.3	1,619,423.7	31,362.8	657,996	700,308
Malaysia (1989)	31,528.6	354,348.4	11,239.0	261,857	287,019
Mexico (1993)	126,190.8	1,223,808.9	9,698.1	513,595	479,066
New Zealand (1989)	4,885.5	205,024.9	41,966.0	57,377	56,406
Papua New Guinea (1993)	8,606.3	23,431.6	2,722.6	4,296	10,421
Peru (1989)	31,989.3	222,237.6	6,947.3	52,967	56,271
The Philippines (1989)	106,651.9	330,910.3	3,102.7	145,788	104,938
Russia (1998)	144,478.1	1,657,553.8	11,288.9	342,046	506,965
Singapore (1989)	5,638.7	364,156.7	64,581.9	557,610	596,665
Chinese Taipei (1991)	23,580.1	589,997.0	25,026.0	342,476	385,822
Thailand (1989)	69,428.5	504,992.8	7,273.6	303,200	336,726
United States (1989)	327,167.4	20,494,100.0	62,641.0	3,148,614	2,474,216
Viet Nam (1998)	95,540.4	244,948.4	2,563.8	253,692	257,602

Source: StatsAPEC / World Trade Organization  
Extracted: January 2020

## The APEC Process

APEC operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. Member economies\* participate on the basis of open dialogue and respect for views of all participants. In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments or treaty obligations. Commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis and capacity

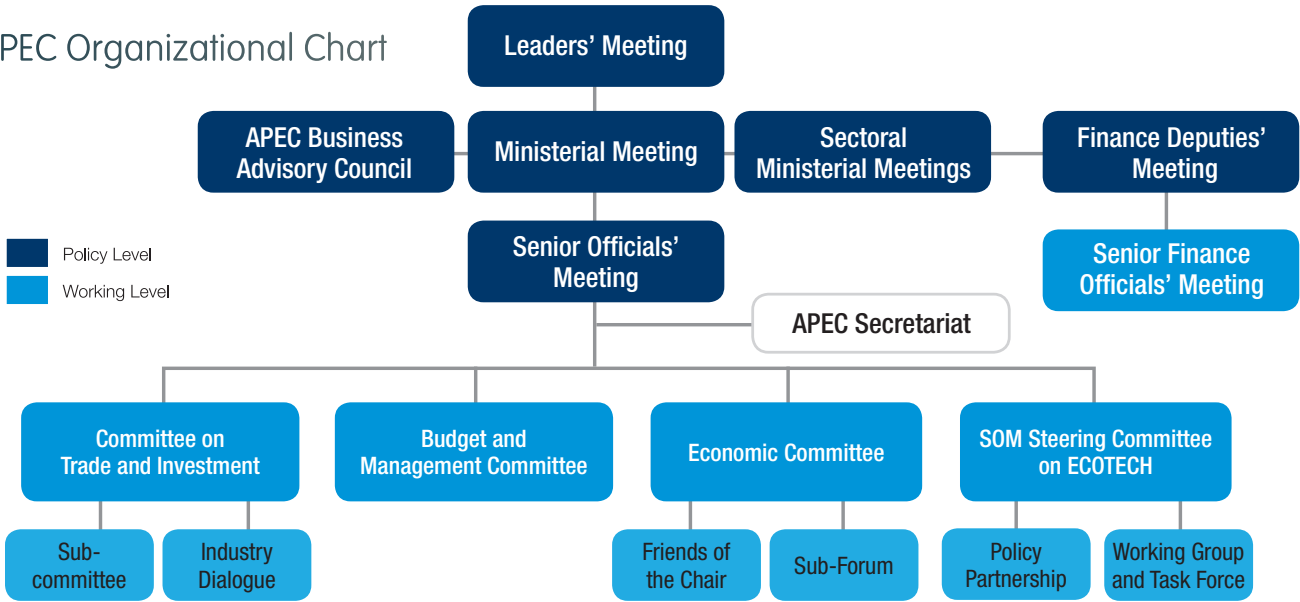
building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.

APEC’s structure is based on both a “bottom-up” and “top-down” approach. Four core committees and their respective working groups provide strategic policy recommendations to APEC Leaders and ministers who annually set the vision

for overarching goals and initiatives. The working groups are then tasked with implementing these initiatives through a variety of APEC-funded projects. Members also take individual and collective actions to carry out APEC initiatives in their individual economies with the assistance of APEC capacity building projects.

\*The word “economies” is used to describe APEC members because members engage with one another as economic entities.

## APEC Organizational Chart



Every year one of the 21 member economies hosts the APEC meetings and serves as the APEC Chair. The APEC host economy is responsible for chairing the annual Economic Leaders’ Meeting, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials’ Meetings, the APEC Business Advisory Council and the APEC Study Centres Consortium.





## About APEC

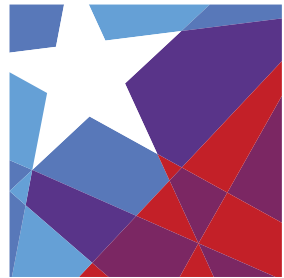
### APEC Stakeholder Participation

APEC recognizes that strong and vibrant economies are not built by governments alone, but by partnerships between governments and key stakeholders, including the business sector, industry, academia, policy and research institutions, and interest groups within the community.

APEC member economies recognize that business drives the economies of the region and therefore involves business at all levels of the APEC process. At the highest level, APEC Economic Leaders communicate through annual meetings with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). ABAC comprises high-level business people from all 21 APEC member economies.

Through the APEC Study Centres Consortium (ASCC), APEC member economies actively engage academic and research institutions in the APEC process. The ASCC assists the APEC process by undertaking independent policy research on APEC-related issues. There are APEC Study Centres in most APEC member economies, comprising some 50 universities, research centers and centers of academic excellence. changes and the digital age. Members therefore refocused support for the APEC Skills Development Capacity Building Alliance and encouraged the continued implementation of the APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age.





APEC  
CHILE 2019

## Connecting People, Building the Future

For decades, APEC has been driving growth and improving living standards in the Asia-Pacific region. Even during times of uncertainty and slowed growth, the forum remains as a guiding presence for its member economies and a platform for addressing regional challenges.

As host for 2019, Chile took to a back-to-basics approach. Under their leadership, APEC looked back to its roots as a consensus-building forum that holds to the spirit of cooperation and collaboration among economies and among the public and private sector.

In 2019 Chile addressed challenges in preparation for the new decade. It has committed to work that has a positive impact on people, such as the preservation of ocean resources and the internationalization of small businesses through the use of digital technologies.







## Outcomes

### Digital Society

The internet and the digital economy impacts all areas of APEC's work, such as infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, trade, human capital and the future of work.

If economies can adopt to the digitization of society at a structural level, these technologies will present countless opportunities. The APEC Economic Policy Report released in 2019 gives essential policy recommendations and analysis regarding structural reform and the digital economy.

### Integration 4.0

Integration 4.0 is the foundation for the 4th industrial revolution, which anticipates a digitalized world. This new approach is set apart from but will complement 20th century tariff-centric reciprocal agreements based on preferential treatment, and calls for new developments in trade policy and regional integration.

To advance this priority, APEC developed an action plan for "Supply Chain Integration 4.0" through single window interoperability, which will run until 2021.

APEC also actively engaged in work and discussions on to develop platforms for the promotion of regional skills mobility, authorized economic operator programs, and international regulatory cooperation. One of the sectors that will benefit from these platforms is small business. Better integration will, for example, facilitate their access to foreign markets and global value chains.

### Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth

One of APEC's most important goals is to achieve equitable economic growth and ensure economic benefits are spread across society. While prosperity and living standards have risen across the board, there is a need to level the

playing field for smaller businesses and underrepresented sectors of society, such as women.

Small and medium-sized businesses contribute significantly to growth and employment, but lag in cross-border trade. In 2019, APEC focused on advancing their access to finance and capacity to engage in international trade through of digital tools and structural reform.

Women make up half the population but are still not afforded equal opportunities in business and the workforce. The La Serena Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth was developed in 2019. It provides concrete direction for policy to drive greater inclusive economic development and participation in favor of women, and is acknowledgement by the forum that much work lies ahead to achieve true economic and social inclusion.

This year was also host to various roundtables and projects including women's economic empowerment through digital entrepreneurship, women-led start-ups, and support for e-commerce entrepreneurs and online training.

### Sustainable Growth

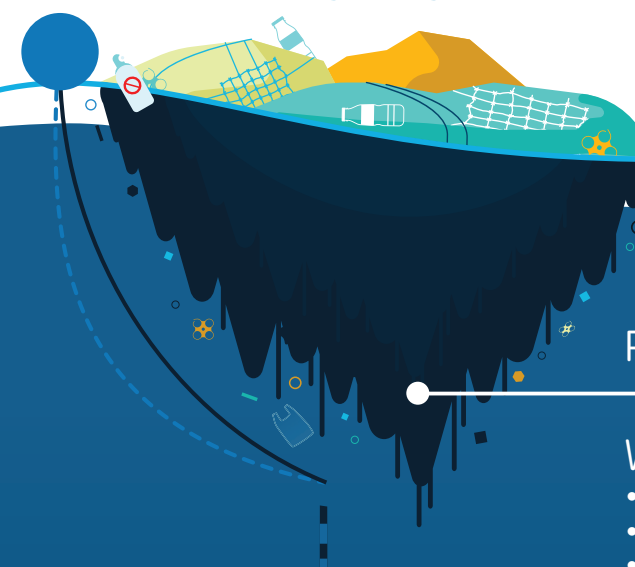
APEC 2019 made great strides to strengthen protections for oceans and marine ecosystems through the development of two novel roadmaps:

The Roadmap on Marine Debris seeks to increase understanding of the impacts and costs of marine debris, and provides approaches to managing and preventing its accumulation, which has been an impediment to growth as well as a danger to ecosystems. APEC also explored incentive schemes for private-sector investment in the trash-management sector, a key step in lessening the amount of garbage that ends up down river and into the sea.

The Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing recognizes the importance of fishing for the economy, food security and sustainable growth. It advances initiatives to prevent and combat illegal fishing to promote ocean conservation and the sustainable use of marine resources.



2019 Highlights



### Preserving the Ocean and its Resources

#### What is marine debris?

- Refuse from towns and villages
- Ocean garbage, especially plastic
- It affects the economy, food security and tourism

#### Roadmap on Marine Debris

Recognizing that further marine debris is a global and multidisciplinary challenge, APEC takes action based on scientific evidence and lessons learned from regional efforts.

**20%** of fish captured is lost to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

**52%** of fisheries catch are sourced from the APEC region.

**Untaxed** and often excessive, IUU fishing exacerbates global food insecurity.

#### Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

APEC recognizes the importance of fishing for food security and sustainable growth. This roadmap advances joint initiatives to prevent IUU fishing to promote conservation and the sustainable use of resources.

Helping Small Business

**97%** of businesses across APEC are small or medium enterprises (SMEs)

**50%** of the workforce are employed by SMEs, which provide livelihoods for many women. But they only account for 35% of direct exports

In 2019 APEC SME officials committed to



Preparing small business for digital transformation



Providing them with access to credit and diverse funding sources

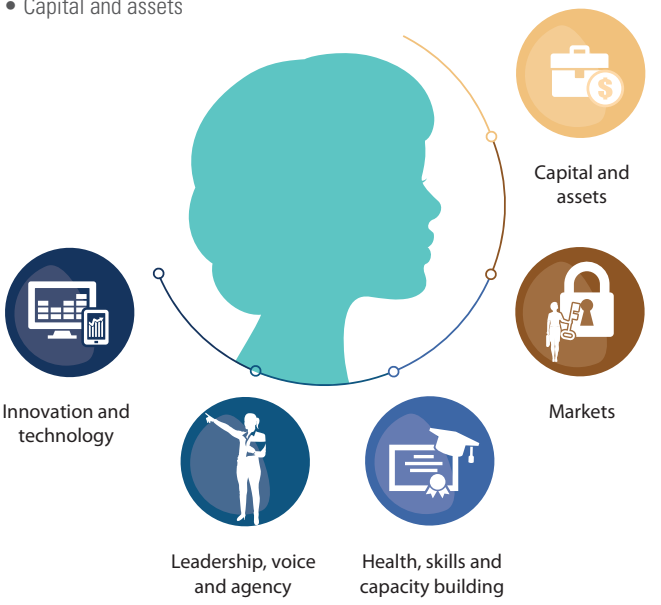


Supporting their participation in international trade

Empowering Women

For decades, APEC's work has focused on the integration of women into the economy by enhancing their access to


- Innovation and technology
- Leadership, voice and agency
- Health, skills and capacity building
- Markets
- Capital and assets



The La Serena Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth

Provides concrete direction for policy actions that will drive greater inclusive economic development and participation in favor of women in the Asia-Pacific. The passage of this initiative represents much progress as well as acknowledgement that much work lies ahead to achieve true economic and social inclusion.

For Example: 18 APEC economies penalize the dismissal of pregnant women but only 8 have laws mandating equal pay for work of equal value





# APEC CHILE 2019 HOST ECONOMY LEADER'S STATEMENT

## "Connecting People, Building the Future"

- 1 In the absence of our meeting, and due to unforeseen circumstances that have required Chile's government to fully dedicate itself to addressing the social demands of the Chilean people, this statement presents my reflections on APEC 2019, which included significant initiatives, deliverables and hundreds of meetings, workshops, and events that took place throughout Chile. This statement complements the outcomes from the sectoral ministerial meetings on Trade, Food Security, SMEs, Women and the Economy, and Finance; as well as the High-Level Dialogues on Mining and Health.
- 2 This year we celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of APEC. We are a diverse group of economies that cooperate on a voluntary, non-binding and consensus basis. This allows us to build trust, deepen mutual understanding and incubate new ideas. APEC has taken considerable strides towards its central goal of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific, agreed in 1994 in Bogor, Indonesia. Our efforts aim to ensure that the region's growth is balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure. Working together, we strengthen our economies and rules-based international trade.
- 3 We can be proud of APEC's achievements, while recognizing that the needs of our people are evolving. New prospects are emerging, including through digital technologies and the society of knowledge and information. At the same time, we must respond more effectively to global challenges as diverse as inequality, climate change, terrorism, and our ageing populations. Chile believes that multilateral and regional fora, such as APEC, can provide inclusive and sustainable solutions and create new opportunities for our people.
- 4 Important progress in 2019 was made across all of APEC's committees and working groups. Under the theme "Connecting people, Building the Future", APEC was determined to put people at the center of APEC's work. For this reason, in 2019 Chile's priorities were: Digital Society; Integration 4.0; Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth; and Sustainable Growth.



Photo: APEC Chile 2019





5 Chile thanks all APEC economies for working to finalize the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth. This acknowledges the urgent need to comprehensively prioritize and promote the role of women in the economy, as part of our broader focus on economic inclusion. We encourage APEC to implement this roadmap by actively promoting initiatives that address existing barriers; improve access to capital, markets and leadership positions; and support women's education, while putting emphasis on data collection and analysis.

6 Chile also appreciates the consensus reached on the new APEC Roadmaps for addressing Marine Debris and Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. These are proof of our commitment to the long-term protection of our ecosystems and biodiversity, and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Asia-Pacific. The actions we take in coming years will be critical for our region's food security and the prosperity of future generations.

7 Approximately half of the world's internet users are located in the Asia-Pacific. The digital economy can promote trade, investment, connectivity, and inclusive economic growth for the benefit of all our people. We are confident that the establishment of the Digital Economy Steering Group will ensure that APEC remains a platform for collaborating on appropriate frameworks that can help the Asia-Pacific embrace these opportunities and manage the risks, ensuring the region continues to be the world's economic engine.

8 This year, APEC has continued to address structural and regulatory obstacles that limit business opportunities at and behind the border. By working together to increase transparency, create an enabling environment for business and combat corruption, APEC supports competitive, non-discriminatory and open markets for our businesses.

9 Chile also led efforts to advance outcomes in trade facilitation and global value chains, as well as smart trade, borders and logistics. APEC's work should continue to prioritize enabling MSMEs and start-ups to globalize, take advantage of new digital technologies, and access financing.

10 International trade is important for productivity, innovation, job creation, and development. In 2019 our Ministers recognized the contributions that the WTO has made to this end and urged officials to identify practical and concrete ways that APEC can support Geneva-based work. Chile calls on APEC economies to work together and with other WTO members to pursue necessary reform of the organization, starting with the urgent issue of recommending the process of appointing Appellate Body members.

11 The Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) continues to be an important aspirational goal and APEC should comprehensively pursue FTAAP work that supports trade in the twenty-first century. FTAAP serves as the framework for a considerable amount of APEC's capacity building work that enhances our collective ability to participate in high quality and comprehensive trade areas.

12 APEC is richer for the feedback we receive from all sectors of society, including from ABAC. Greater efforts must be made to engage MSMEs, academia and civil society, so that our work remains purposeful and relevant for our people, especially younger generations.

13 We have made significant progress, but there is much more we can do collectively. At our meeting next year, we will commit to a new vision beyond 2020. This vision will build on the unfinished work of Bogor and maintain our high level of ambition for inclusive and sustainable regional economic cooperation. To this end, we appreciate the final report "People and Prosperity: an APEC Vision to 2040" developed by the APEC Vision Group.

14 We look forward to our meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2020.





# Outcomes

## The La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030)

Ensuring the greater integration and empowerment of women in the Asia Pacific region

La Serena, Chile • October 2019

### I. Introduction

For over two decades, APEC has been working to advance women’s economic integration in the region. In 2011, APEC Leaders welcomed the San Francisco Declaration on Women and the Economy that encouraged economies to take concrete actions to realize the full potential of women. APEC’s work has focused on the integration and empowerment of women, by enhancing their access to capital and assets; markets; skills and capacity building; leadership opportunities, voice and agency; and access to innovation and technology.

However, women of diverse backgrounds continue to face multiple disproportionate barriers to economic empowerment compared to men, for example, when accessing credit and capital, participating in formal labor markets, and in entry, retention and advancement in the workforce.

In view of this, in 2019, “Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth” was identified as a priority by Chile to give new momentum to our efforts.

Through this Roadmap, we seek to provide concrete direction and catalyze policy actions across APEC that will drive greater inclusive economic development and participation of women in the Asia-Pacific region.

### II. The Roadmap

This Roadmap builds on APEC’s previous extensive work, including information sharing and capacity building. We encourage stronger cross-fora collaboration and partnerships with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and other stakeholders.

In order to identify and address the systemic barriers that limit the economic empowerment of women of all backgrounds and maximize their economic potential, we encourage the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of sex-disaggregated data.

Recognizing that everyone has a role to play, this Roadmap will contribute to inclusive growth, help ensure access to decent work,



narrow the gap in economic development, and advance development in rural and remote areas, raising living standards and reducing poverty. This will contribute to achieving gender equality and the economic empowerment of women and girls, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

III. Key Action Areas

This Roadmap seeks to encourage action in the following cross-cutting key areas, without prejudice to additional Key Action Areas that could support our overall efforts:

- A Empowering women through access to capital and markets
  - Promote and facilitate cooperation in the public and private sector to help ensure that women, including women of diverse backgrounds, and women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), can access capital and assets, in both local and international markets.
  - Enhance women-owned and women-led MSMEs’ ability to participate in global value chains.
  - Provide capacity building activities and opportunities for networking, mentoring, and digital skills-building, among other core skills, to increase women’s business competencies and encourage their participation in the digital economy and innovation.
  - Exchange experiences and best practices that can effectively increase the participation of women in local, regional, and global markets.
- B Strengthening women’s labor force participation
  - Take measures, such as structural reforms, to create an enabling environment for women to participate in the economy, including by reducing barriers and enhancing protections in policies, laws, regulations and practices.

- Promote the recruitment, hiring, retention, and advancement of women in all sectors, especially in higher-wage, high-growth sectors.
- Advance inclusive policies and flexible working conditions, opportunities, and choices that enable women to remain and keep advancing in the workforce, as well as support the objectives of work-life balance and co-responsibility for both women and men.
- Promote the transition of women from the informal to the formal economy, and the development of strategies to recognize and measure unpaid work.
- Support policies to close the gender pay gap and improve women’s access to non-discriminatory, high quality employment and decent work in both rural and urban areas.
- Address health-related barriers specific to women in the workforce, business, and entrepreneurship, such as improving workplace protections, health and safety, as well as increasing health access and awareness.
- Actively encourage initiatives and strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and discrimination in the workplace.

- C Improving access of women to leadership positions in all levels of decision making
  - Increase women’s representation at all levels of leadership and decision-making in the private and public sectors by promoting role models, capacity building, and mentorship opportunities, among others.
  - Promote and enable an environment that actively supports gender equality and women’s empowerment and diversity as part of management strategies.
  - Collect, update and publish data on the ratio of women’s representation across multiple levels of leadership positions in the public and private sectors.

- D Support women’s education, training and skills development and access in a changing world of work
  - Counter gender stereotypes in education, training and skills development.
  - Provide basic education as well as support for lifelong learning through education, training, upskilling and reskilling to boost women’s economic empowerment.
  - Address barriers to strengthen women and girls’ access to and retention in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers.
  - Promote women and girls’ access to information and communication technologies, learning opportunities and digital skills building and training, especially for indigenous women, women in poverty, women with disabilities, and women in remote and rural areas.
  - Strengthen the sharing and use of data and best practices, to bridge the digital gender divide.
  - Encourage initiatives and strategies to prevent violence, abuse and harassment against women and girls, including online bullying and technology-facilitated abuse and harassment.

- E Advancing women’s economic empowerment through data collection and analysis
  - Strengthen statistical capacity and cooperation between public and private sectors to better produce, collect, analyze and disseminate sex-disaggregated statistics.
  - Collect, update and publish sex-disaggregated data, as appropriate, to measure changes related to gender equality for all groups of women over time.
  - Promote the use of sex-disaggregated data in the development and enhancement of policies and programs.

IV. Targets

We will strive to ensure that the APEC region makes progress across all above Key Action Areas and by 2030 we will endeavor to:

- Have in place laws, policies, and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in employment access, opportunities and conditions.
- Have in place non-discrimination laws, policies and regulations that provide equal access to capital and credit for both sexes.
- Increase the region’s gender balance among STEM graduates in tertiary education, and in positions in research and R&D.
- Increase the region’s gender balance in leadership positions, closing the gap for women.
- The APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard can assist the region in assessing progress in this area. We recognize that the contribution of each economy to the region’s achievements will depend on its particular social, economic, political and legal circumstances. We look forward to enhancing our future work, building on these efforts through concrete actions.

V. Roadmap Implementation

We assign Senior Officials with overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluating progress under the Roadmap. We instruct the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy to develop the Roadmap Implementation Plan in 2020, with a view to establishing processes for monitoring, reviewing and reporting progress. We encourage close collaboration with all APEC Fora, ABAC and other relevant stakeholders.





Photo: APEC Chile 2019

# Outcomes

## APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris

Third Senior Officials' Meeting • Puerto Varas, Chile • 29-30 August 2019

Marine debris, including plastic litter in the marine environment, is an increasing global challenge in need of a cooperative response. The severity of the marine debris problem is particularly acute in the APEC region, underscoring APEC's importance as a regional forum in a strategic position to drive efforts on understanding the impacts and costs of marine debris, and developing the required management and prevention approaches, in order to mitigate its impediments to sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific.

### I. Introduction

At the APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting in 2014 in Xiamen, China, the Xiamen Declaration called for more integrated, sustainable, inclusive and mutually beneficial partnership and encouraged cooperation on the reduction and mitigation of marine pollution, including from land-based sources.

To implement the Xiamen Declaration, the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) and the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris have had strong work programs on marine debris with several important initiatives. In 2018, the OFWG endorsed the ROK sponsored 'Workshop's Recommendation for a Draft on APEC Marine Debris Management Guideline' which informed this Roadmap. Based on the numerous joint efforts of APEC economies under the APEC framework in recent years, the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris is intended to help guide APEC's work.

### II. Vision

Recognizing the pressing need for a collective and coordinated vision and long-term strategy with high-level endorsement, the present document aims to encourage member economies to take voluntary and concrete steps while taking into account their respective internal circumstances. Recognizing further that marine debris is a global and multidisciplinary challenge, APEC will take action, based on scientific evidence and lessons learned from regional efforts, to significantly contribute to addressing this urgent issue through the following areas:

- Encouraging an APEC consolidated approach by driving policy development and coordination at every level, from regional cooperation down to local governments, across all relevant fora and agencies;
- Fostering research and innovation for the development and refinement of new methodologies and solutions for monitoring, preventing, and reducing marine debris;
- Promoting sharing of best practices and lessons learned and enhancing cooperation; and
- Increasing access to financing and facilitating private sector engagement to promote investment, trade and market creation in industries and activities that enable marine debris management and prevention.



# Outcomes

## III. Guideline

Taking into account that APEC economies have diverse policy objectives and priorities as well as domestic laws and regulations, the policy and programmatic development and coordination among APEC economies should be based on the APEC principles of consensus, non-binding, voluntary participation, cooperation, and flexibility.

### 1 Policy Development and Coordination

- Identify and share effective measures taking into account existing global, regional and domestic action plans and frameworks on marine debris; and promote mutually beneficial collaboration with other relevant international, regional and sub-regional fora or organizations.
- Establish mechanisms for cross-fora dialogue among relevant APEC Working Groups to encourage a coordinated and holistic approach to combating and managing marine debris.
- Strengthen coordination with relevant private sector, and civil society organizations.
- Encourage economies to build upon and apply the 'APEC Policy and Practice Recommendation for Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems and Reducing Marine Debris' to address financing gaps for waste management infrastructure.
- Encourage APEC economies to promote domestic inter-agency policy coordination mechanisms on marine debris and waste management.
- Promote sustainable waste management , and reduction and prevention of leakage of waste from land- and sea-based sources, at all levels of government and expand on successful experiences and models.
- Encourage the use of available scientific information for the development of policies.

### 2 Capacity Building

- Consider cross-fora collaboration on harmonization of macro and micro plastics monitoring methodologies and the best available technologies (BAT) to reduce the release of plastic waste.
- Promote complementarity between member economies' initiatives within the APEC framework and other similar initiatives in the APEC region.
- Encourage consumer awareness activities and education.

### 3 Research and Innovation

- Promote research development and implementation of innovative solutions to marine debris such as environmentally sustainable alternative materials and start-up incubators.
- Promote research to identify policy drivers of marine debris and promote development and implementation of innovative solutions.
- Support research and promote knowledge sharing - to assess marine debris impacts on coastal ecosystems (e.g., mangroves, sea grass, coral) and the marine environment.
- Encourage research on environmentally sustainable waste disposal and management.
- Support research on land- and sea-based sources, pathways, life cycles and impacts of marine debris, including potential impacts on human health.

### 4 Financing and Private Sector Engagement

- Encourage and facilitate Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to increase investments, productive partnership arrangements and outputs.
- Consider the possibility of APEC sub funds to support sustainable management of the marine environment including marine debris.
- Consider applying circular economy or sustainable materials management approaches to strengthen end-markets for plastic wastes and drive sustainable waste management.
- Explore opportunities for de-risking innovations and technologies to enhance access to international financing.

## IV. Implementation

This Roadmap should be seen as a living document. Additional APEC-wide actions could be considered for agreement by consensus to achieve the objectives of this Roadmap. As the relevant fora, the OFWG annual work plan should include activities to implement the Roadmap, and annual economy reports to the OFWG should include information on domestic or regional marine debris activities. The OFWG shall report on actions and progress under the Roadmap to the Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation. Senior Officials will share best practices and recommendations with APEC member economies broadly, as appropriate.



Photo: APEC Chile 2019





## Outcomes

### APEC Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

Third Senior Officials' Meeting • Puerto Varas, Chile • 29-30 August 2019

#### I. Background

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a global and regional threat to sustainable fisheries, fishing communities, marine ecosystems and societies. IUU fishing diminishes ocean resources and remains a persistent threat to sustainable development. Our cooperation through APEC, in accordance with its mandates, is aligned with efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which establishes in its 14th Sustainable Development Goal, inter alia, the objective of ending IUU fishing. The Asia Pacific region accounts for nearly 52% of global marine fisheries catch (FAO SOFIA 2018), and fisheries provide significant benefits to the APEC region in terms of food security, economic value and cultural value. Since the 2005 Bali Plan of Action, Ministers have continued to encourage APEC Economies to cooperate to address IUU fishing in the region. At their 2019 Meeting, Ministers Responsible for Trade noted the increasingly adverse impact of IUU Fishing on fish stocks, the marine environment, food security, and livelihoods, encouraged additional work to address these challenges and reiterated their support for the work underway in the World Trade Organization for comprehensive and effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies.

#### II. Vision

Given the importance of fishing for the economy, food security and sustainable growth of the Asia Pacific region, it is critical for APEC Economies to work cooperatively within the context of this regional economic forum on initiatives to prevent and combat IUU fishing, as part of a joint effort to promote ocean conservation and the sustainable use of marine resources. Combatting IUU fishing can support the achievement of sustainable fisheries and fishing communities and global maritime safety interests. A successful strategy in preventing and combating IUU fishing should be founded on cooperation. Various strategies have been developed and implemented to prevent and combat IUU fishing in recent years, but most of them focused on the harvesting and transport phases. As APEC Economies represent some of the main markets for high value fishery products, market based measures and strategies are also needed to strengthen the prevention and combating of IUU fishing with consideration on capacity building.



## III. OBJECTIVES

To help address IUU fishing in the Asia Pacific region, while recognizing that APEC supports the development of free and open trade in fisheries products of legal origin, OFWG proposes an APEC roadmap on IUU fishing to be implemented, based broadly on two objectives:

- Building technical capacities in APEC Economies where appropriate to prevent and combat IUU fishing activities; and
- Strengthening institutional capacities and compliance with domestic and international conservation and management measures to address IUU fishing within APEC through enhanced cooperation between member Economies, including capacity building, technical assistance and, where applicable, enhancement of monitoring, control and surveillance and traceability measures.

## IV. ROADMAP ACTION AREAS

To prevent and combat IUU fishing, APEC Economies are encouraged to strengthen their relevant domestic policies and legal frameworks, by pursuing the following lines of action to achieve the Roadmap's objectives:

- 1 Implementation of Port State Measures (PSM): Reaffirming their important role in combatting IUU fishing, encourage APEC Economies to carry out robust and effective PSM based on the principles of implementing the Port State Measure Agreement. In addition, advocate for the adoption of PSM in regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to which they are Members,

as well as other measures that detect and prevent IUU fish and fish products from entering through ports to global supply chain. These measures should apply to foreign flagged fishing vessels seeking entry to the APEC Economies ports or while they are in their ports, and should include procedures to verify that such vessels have not engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities.

- 2 Exchange of information regarding traceability and monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities: Cooperate to enhance information sharing of tools to prevent and combat IUU fishing, including those tools for improving the traceability of fish throughout the supply chain through implementing catch documentation or trade certification schemes. Additionally, Economies should consider participating in specific monitoring, control and surveillance networks for sharing and exchanging information, as well as enforcement strategies, to prevent and combat IUU fishing, taking into account the related confidentiality requirements.
- 3 Increase the coordination of APEC Economies: Develop and implement cooperative activities among agencies within APEC economies responsible for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities and the traceability of fishery products. This cooperation should consider activities to enhance capacity building, training and use of available advanced technologies to support effective implementation of measures to combat IUU fishing. To facilitate this coordination, APEC economies should establish domestic contact points.
- 4 Promote collaboration with relevant regional and international fisheries bodies to identify where APEC can contribute:

Collaborate with relevant regional and international fisheries bodies, as appropriate, to exchange experiences and best practices, as well as to benefit from their work on combatting IUU fishing, particularly relevant RFMOs and the FAO. This includes the identification of any economic or market related measure where APEC could contribute.

- 5 Strengthen Public Private Engagement: Strengthen public private engagement and promote collaboration through the exchange of information and the development of studies on the causes, operation and impact of IUU fishing, as appropriate.
- 6 Capacity building: Enhance the capacity of APEC developing Economies in combatting IUU fishing through technical assistance and training on catch certificate and traceability; the use and application of regulatory instruments; methodologies and operational fisheries enforcement procedures; technologies to combat IUU fishing and fishing related activities.

## V IMPLEMENTATION

Reviews of the Roadmap will be undertaken during each first annual OFWG meeting, including sharing information on related activities by Economies and at regional levels, as well as discussing and addressing related challenges. At the first OFWG meeting in 2025, each Economy will report on the implementation of the Roadmap. The Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation has the overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the progress under the Roadmap. Senior Officials will report periodically to Ministers on progress and seek further guidance as appropriate. APEC economies will continue efforts to promote sharing of knowledge and success stories, lessons learned from various management approaches, best practices and creative solutions to prevent and combat IUU fishing.







## Outcomes

### Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting Joint Statement 2019

- 1 We, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade, met in Viña del Mar, Chile from 17-18 May 2019 to discuss key regional and global trade issues, and to advance our work for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific.
- 2 We appreciate the participation of the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Chair of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS).
- 3 This year we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade. That first meeting arose from members' collective desire to enhance economic cooperation, leading to our agreement on the Bogor Goals for free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region, which continue to guide our work. Since then, we have focused on giving momentum to trade and investment liberalization.
- 4 In 2019, as we celebrate APEC's thirtieth anniversary, we take pride in what our economies have achieved together through non-binding,

voluntary, collaborative and consensus-based cooperation. We reaffirm these principles, which continue to underpin our work, with a view to achieving a peaceful, dynamic and prosperous Asia-Pacific region, for the benefit of all. We welcome the APEC 2019 theme "Connecting People; Building the Future".

### Priorities for 2019

- 5 During our meeting, we discussed the following priorities identified by Chile for APEC in 2019, acknowledging the progress underway in each of these areas, and tasking officials to work towards robust outcomes, to ensure strong deliverables by Leaders' Week in November.

### Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth

- 6 Increasing participation in the economy by all is critical for economic growth and is at the core of APEC's work. We are committed to further advance economic, financial and social inclusion, including efforts to foster rural development and raise living standards. Our efforts will contribute to narrowing the gap in economic development, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



# Outcomes

- 7
- In 2019, women continue to face multiple barriers, such as discriminatory laws and norms, and insufficient access to formal labor markets, education, skills development, financing and digital technologies. This results in income gaps, constraints on mobility, and limited access to economic opportunities. Building on the important work that has been achieved in APEC to date, we welcome the development of a roadmap for women and inclusive growth, which will catalyze efforts across APEC, to increase women’s economic development and empowerment in all areas. We encourage officials to ensure that the roadmap is comprehensive and action-oriented, with ambitious and focused targets.
- 8
- We strongly support the ongoing work across APEC towards the internationalization of Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. This work should continue to focus on reducing barriers and trade costs through capacity building, supporting innovation, and improving access to new markets, information, digital tools and financing. We commit to redouble our efforts to ensure competitive services markets, given their importance for MSMEs.

## Digital Society

- 9
- New technologies can be engines of innovation and prosperity. It is critical that the APEC region embraces the opportunities and address the challenges of the digital economy. We need to work together to create an enabling and non-discriminatory environment that fosters innovation and allows businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive. To do so we encourage economies to identify and reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers, bridge gaps and improve access to the digital economy, including through capacity building. We note the importance of facilitating the free flow of information and data, while recognizing applicable domestic laws and regulations. We welcome our business community’s call for APEC to take urgent action to fully harness the potential of the digital economy.

- 10
- We call on officials to start working on a comprehensive work program for the implementation of all elements of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap and look forward to the APEC Economic Policy Report 2019 “Structural Reform and Digital Economy”, so that APEC can report on progress to Leaders by the end of the year.

## Integration 4.0

- 11
- The rapidly changing business climate, driven by the development and application of new technologies, has led to a fourth industrial revolution. In this context, we reaffirm the importance of predictable and transparent, non-discriminatory frameworks for trade and investment. We support the focus this year on trade facilitation, global value chains, as well as smart trade, borders and logistics. We encourage further efforts, especially to ensure that MSMEs benefit from these initiatives.
- 12
- We encourage work under the APEC Connectivity Blueprint in order to enhance physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity in the APEC region. We stress the importance of improving connectivity through quality infrastructure development based upon relevant APEC work. We recognize the work to advance subregional, rural and remote areas connectivity.
- 13
- It is important that we improve our understanding of global value chains, including through capacity building activities, allowing us to better design and implement policies that support an enabling environment for trade and investment, especially for MSMEs.

## Sustainable Growth

- 14
- We recognize that the viability of global trade depends on the protection of ecosystems and the sustainable development of natural resources supporting our economies and societies, and we are committed to strengthening our cooperation in this regard.
- 15
- The Pacific Ocean unites us, and we note the increasingly adverse impact of marine debris, the unsustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing on fish stocks, the marine environment, food security, and livelihoods. We encourage additional work to address these challenges and look forward to further discussion on these critical issues during Leader’s week in November. We reiterate our support for the work underway in the WTO for comprehensive and effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies, as agreed during MC11.

## Deepening APEC’s Regional Economic Integration Agenda

- 16
- We are committed to attaining the Bogor Goals of achieving free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific through collective and individual efforts. We welcome the progress that has been made and recognize that more work remains to be done. Accordingly, our Leaders have repeatedly urged us to take concrete actions in support of addressing unfinished business by the deadline of 2020.
- 17
- We encourage initiatives that support a final push towards the Bogor Goals and urge officials to identify additional areas of work. In this regard, we welcome the special focus on services proposed this year and we reiterate our commitment to additional actions to increase our economies’ competitiveness in the services sector by 2025.

- 18
- We strongly urge economies to reduce tariffs under APEC’s list of Environmental Goods as soon as possible. APEC economies that currently participate in the Information Technology Agreement expansion agree to work together to achieve broader participation.
- 19
- We noted the important task ahead of defining an ambitious post-2020 vision, building on APEC’s cornerstone of free and open trade and investment. We take note and appreciate the work of the APEC Vision Group and look forward to the completion of its report in November 2019 as a significant contribution to this process.
- 20
- In 2004 in Chile, ABAC proposed a study on the feasibility of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). Since then, the concept of FTAAP as a long-term contribution to APEC’s regional integration agenda has been progressing through work programs within APEC and trade agreements among APEC economies. In this connection, we urge members to work constructively to pursue further work, including in all areas identified by economies, to advance the Lima Declaration. Recognizing APEC’s role as an incubator of ideas, we highlight the importance of capacity building initiatives and information sharing mechanisms, which will also enhance APEC economies’ ability to participate in high quality, comprehensive free trade agreements in the future.



# Outcomes

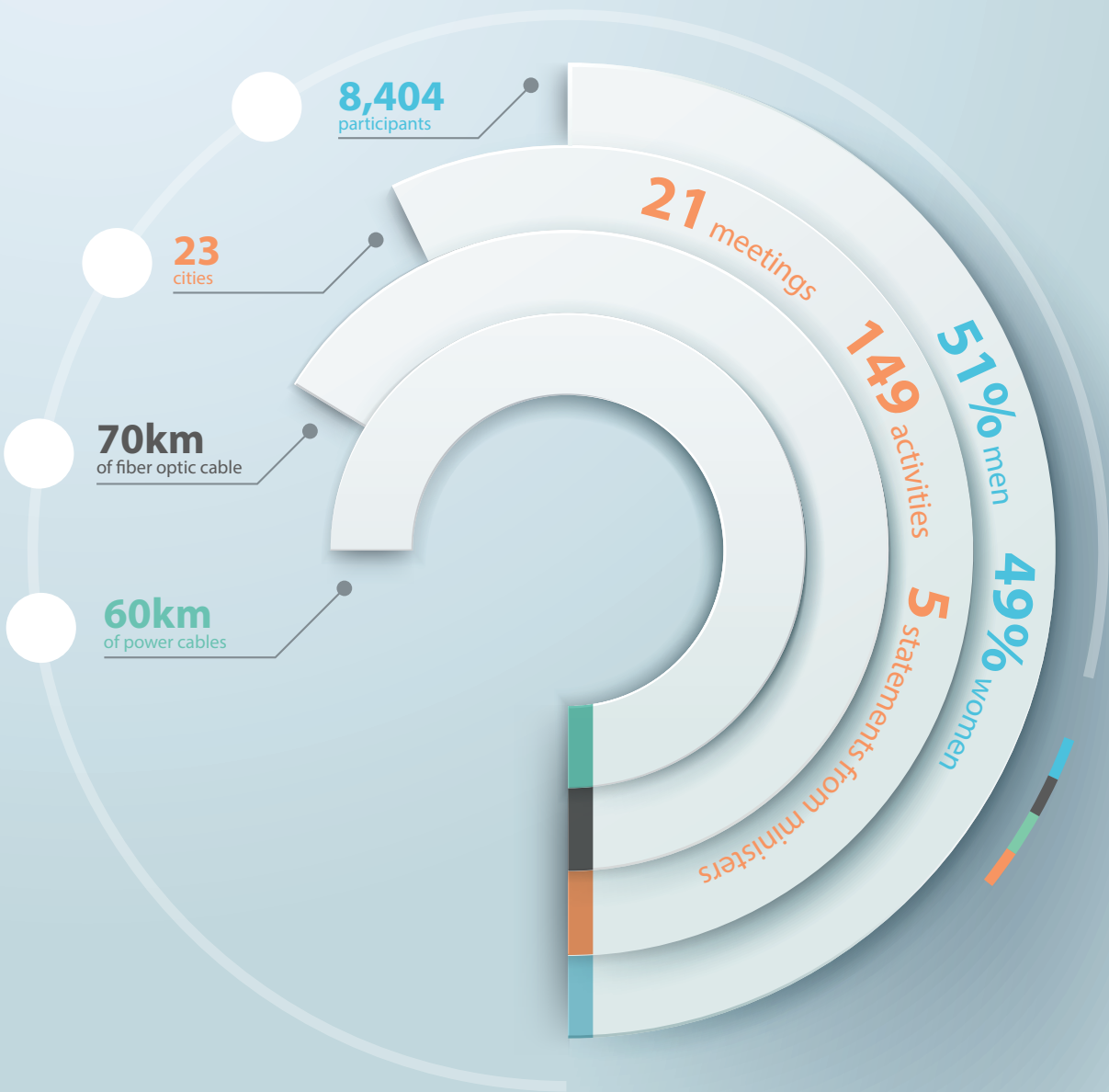
## Advancing APEC's support for the WTO

- 21 During our meeting, we noted a report from the WTO Director-General Mr. Roberto Azevêdo on current developments in international trade and the WTO.
- 22 International trade is important for productivity, innovation, job creation, and development. APEC Economies recognize the contributions that the WTO has made to this end. We affirm the importance of transparent and non-discriminatory, agreed upon rules in the WTO, which can enhance market predictability, enable business confidence, and allow trade to flow. Recognizing the WTO's role in this regard, we agree that action is necessary to improve its functioning.
- 23 We task our officials to accelerate practical and concrete areas of work that can advance APEC's support for the WTO's work, including in areas such as capacity building initiatives for transparency and notifications, and the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. In this regard we acknowledge APEC's work on domestic regulation of services, investment facilitation and MSMEs. We acknowledge progress on negotiations in Geneva on electronic commerce and we encourage initiatives in APEC that can contribute to this work.
- 24 We recognize our business community's call for APEC to continue supporting the multilateral trading system. We encourage continued constructive engagement on WTO issues, including in the lead-up to the twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference in Nur-Sultan.

## Final points

- 25 Taking note of the recent terrorist attacks, including the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, we recognize the need to take into account broader efforts by government, the private sector and other segments of society, to address terrorist content online.
- 26 We reaffirmed the importance of strengthening and revitalizing APEC's engagement with the private sector, including with ABAC. We encourage ABAC to engage with relevant stakeholders, including MSMEs, to ensure it can continue to represent the broader business community.
- 27 We took the opportunity to welcome the new Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat, Tan Sri Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria and we wish her success in her role.
- 28 We acknowledge the Chair H.E. Roberto Ampuero E., Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, and we thank the cities of Viña del Mar and Valparaíso for their hospitality.

## APEC Chile 2019 in Numbers





# Outcomes

## Finding Excellence Everywhere:

Opening APEC to the people through challenges, awards, and prizes



### ASPIRE Prize

The APEC Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education (“ASPIRE”) prize is an annual award which recognizes young scientists who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in scientific research and cooperation with scientists from APEC member economies. It is sponsored by Wiley and Elsevier.

From Hong Kong, China, Dr. Yun Hau Ng won last year’s ASPIRE Prize through an innovation of his involving the use of sunlight to split water into clean hydrogen and generate renewable energy. His remarkable work exemplifies the year’s theme of “natural laboratories,” and earned him a USD25,000 prize.



### BEST Award

The APEC BEST (Business Efficiency and Success Target) Award is the first contest for women entrepreneurs across the APEC region. It takes into account that gender differences have an impact on women’s employment in real sectors of every economy and in the organizational structures of enterprises where a priority is given to men.

The award provides an opportunity to internationalize women-run businesses, attract international partners and potential investors. It also helps in building a network among women-entrepreneurs, consultants, mentors and investors across the region. Overall winner last year was Ekaterina Postoeva, Founder and CEO of LLC Morojko, Russia.



### Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Prize

The Healthy Women Healthy Economies Prize seeks research that uses sex-disaggregated data to help decision-makers develop more evidence-based policies related to women’s health. The award was launched in 2019 to raise awareness and promote women’s health.

The first-ever winner, Dr Veronica Ramirez of the Philippines, authored a comprehensive study on the health needs of Filipino migrant workers.



### APEC App Challenge

The APEC App Challenge asks software developers and designers from across the region to build, over a 24-hour period, new mobile and web tools that help solve challenges related to APEC priorities for any given year. APEC 2019’s App Challenge tasked developers to enable investors to search for investment opportunities and facilitate women entrepreneurs to build networks while also emphasizing the impact of investing in communities across APEC.

Twenty-two participants from nine economies took part in the competition. The winners came from China: Hailong Han and Tingqiao Zhou created FundShe, an app that connects women entrepreneurs with investors and mentors. The APEC App Challenge was held on the eve of the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meetings.



### APEC Digital Prosperity Award

Launched in 2017 and supported by the APEC Secretariat, The Asia Foundation and Google, the APEC Digital Prosperity Award recognizes initiatives that have the most potential to broaden prosperity and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific. In 2019, the apps focused on empowering women and small businesses, which account for some 95 percent of the region’s businesses—of which only 5 percent are directly involved in trade.

Last year’s winners are a duo of innovative programmers from Malaysia—Faezrah Rizalman and Jeanette Goon, collectively called Bayu Harvest. They designed an app to help small-scale women farmers sell their product on an e-commerce platform designed specifically for them.



### APEC Photo Contest

Every year APEC holds a contest for photographers from the 21 member economies. The competition seeks images that reflect the host’s theme and priorities.

“The 2019 APEC Photo Contest is more than just a competition. It offers an opportunity to participate in the APEC community and for the economies to understand how the public perceives the year’s priorities. The photos are valuable feedback for all of us,” – Rebecca Sta Maria, APEC Secretariat Executive Director.





## Outlook

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## Optimizing Human Potential towards a Future of Shared Prosperity

As Malaysia kicks off APEC for the 2020s, it will be continuing an important trend in the forum's work from the last decade: bringing the focus of multilateral work back on people.

APEC 2020 is about resetting APEC's agenda and steering the forum back to its fundamental objective of achieving sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region that is truly inclusive.

The theme, "Optimizing Human Potential towards a Future of Shared Prosperity" aims to inspire work leading to economic growth that leaves no one behind and to the equitable participation of all sectors in the economy.



# Outlook

## Improving the Narrative of Trade and Investment

Regional economic integration has been the driving force of APEC for the past 30 years. Members' early consultations on trade and economic matters lead to the adoption in 1994 of the long-term plan for free and open trade and investment in the region by 2020, the Bogor Goals, which has opened up the region's economies to growth.

This year is an opportunity to not only take stock of current progress through a review of the Bogor Goals, but also to expand APEC's area of focus in response to up and coming challenges.

It is pertinent now more than ever for APEC to restore the confidence of people in multilateralism, in part by improving the narrative of trade and investment. This means rethinking our economic tools—such as our use of GDP as the default measurement of the economy—and being aware of the needs and wants of our constituents, who call for more inclusiveness and responsibility from businesses and officials to improve the well-being of society.





# Outlook

## Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology

Big data, social media, ecommerce, artificial intelligence, block chain, cloud computing—digital technologies, if used well, can be enablers for achieving balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth. They can be stepping stones for small businesses to global trade, and tools for the underrepresented to innovate and level the playing field.

But new technology also comes with disadvantages. Its effects are especially evident in the labor force through shortages of digitally skilled workers.

Governments play a crucial role in leveraging opportunities while preparing for the negative effects of disruption that come with the digital economy. This 2020, APEC will focus on enabling a larger segment of society—particularly women, youth, start-ups and the aging population—to adapt to the industries of the future.

## Driving Innovative Sustainability

Economic activity at a mass scale has improved the lives of billions of people over the decades, but has put pressures on the biosphere, and a strain on raw materials, food resources, land and oceans. The sustainable management of resources is not only essential to minimizing the negative impacts of human industry on the environment, it will also to create economic value. This is achieved by leveraging on innovative practices that can complement existing practices, through the application of science and technology, as well shifting to a more responsible resource management.

Sustainability will become an integral part of the agenda during APEC 2020. Malaysia will focus on the circular economy with a special emphasis on innovative waste management in the areas of food security and energy.

# Key Meetings in 2020

Meeting	Date
First Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	3 – 22 February
Second Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	8 – 19 April
Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting	20 – 21 April
APEC Tourism Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings	12 – 16 April
APEC Finance Senior Officials' Meeting	23 – 25 June
Third Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	1 – 15 August
High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy	5 – 6 August
High Level Policy Dialogue of Food Security	8 – 9 August
Structural Reform Ministerial Meeting	17 – 18 August
SME Week	21 – 24 September
Women and the Economy Forum	6 – 9 October
Finance Ministers' Meeting	26 – 28 October
Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting	6 – 7 November
APEC Ministerial Meeting	8 – 9 November
APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting	12 November

Note: Dates are subject to change, for the latest information please go to: <http://www.apec.org/Events-Calendar.aspx>



# The APEC Secretariat

The APEC Secretariat is based in Singapore and operates as the core support mechanism for the APEC process. Staffed by a team of diplomats, specialists and administrative experts, it provides coordination; technical and advisory support; information management; communications and public outreach services; and administers the APEC annual budget. Additionally, the APEC Secretariat performs a central project management role, assisting APEC member economies and APEC fora with overseeing 116 APEC-funded projects in 2019.

The Secretariat also houses the Policy Support Unit, which is the research and analysis arm of APEC.

The APEC Secretariat’s 2020 Effective Action Plan aims to achieve operational efficiency in serving the fora and members through four key functions:

- Supporting an effective APEC
- Improving stakeholder engagement
- Ensuring an accountable, effective and efficient Secretariat
- Enhancing effectiveness of project management

## Aligning APEC Activities with APEC Goals and Priorities

One of the key mandates of the Secretariat is to assist APEC Senior Officials and fora in realizing Leaders’ and Ministers’ instructions. The APEC Secretariat Executive Director attended Senior Officials Meetings and sectoral ministerial-level/high-level meetings in 2019 to support the respective chairs; report on cross-cutting areas and streamlining of APEC work; and update on the work implemented across the APEC fora.

The APEC Secretariat supports the APEC fora in developing strategic and work plans that follow overarching directions given by Leaders, Ministers and Senior Officials. Additionally, the Secretariat provides institutional knowledge; procedural advice; and assist the chairs/convenors with substantial fora-related work, including conducting meetings and activities throughout the APEC year.

In 2019, the APEC Secretariat provided fora support to seven Senior Official-level groups, which included the APEC Vision Group; the Finance Ministers Process; four committees; and a total of 64 sub-committees and subsidiary bodies. Additionally, it supported the implementation of seven ministerial and high-level meetings, approximately 254 official meetings and 116 APEC-funded projects.

Highlights:

- The APEC Secretariat provided support for the establishment of the Digital Economy Steering Group and the finalization of its terms of reference.
- The Committee on Trade and Investment streamlined reporting requirements of its 11 sub-fora, resulting in more efficient and relevant reporting.
- In pursuit of APEC’s inclusivity agenda, the Group of Friends on Disability was incorporated into the Human Resource Development Working Group for the work to be coordinated more effectively into APEC.

## Host Economy Support

The APEC Secretariat provided support to the current and future APEC host economies on various fronts. The highlight for 2019 was the hosting of the Concluding Senior Officials’ Meeting at the APEC Secretariat in Singapore at short notice. Other key support include:

- Providing institutional knowledge, procedural advice, key guidelines and advice on best practices.
- Collaborating with the US-Support for Economic Growth in Asia (US-SEGA) on host capacity building programs.
- Maintaining the APEC Collaboration System (ACS) to assist in fora communications and submission of pre-meeting documents.
- Providing drafting support for the “Report on Outcomes of APEC Chile 2019”.
- Working with the Host Economy Representative in various areas, including logistical, administrative, substantive matters.

## The APEC Secretariat’s 2020 Effective Action Plan



In 2020, the Secretariat focuses on supporting the host economy, Malaysia, to implement programs supporting its theme and priorities.

## Work with Economies to Improve the Quality of APEC Projects

Under the 2020 Effective Action Plan, the Secretariat’s Project Management Unit (PMU) is responsible for enhancing project management effectiveness. It supports this key function by continually improving the quality, effectiveness, and impact of APEC projects through project management, monitoring and evaluation systems.

In 2019, the Project Management Unit oversaw the approval and design of 116 APEC-funded projects across two project sessions. The approval of 64 projects in the second session of 2019 was the highest ever approval outcome for any single project session, reflecting the continuation of an upward trend in project approval rates.

The Project Management Unit delivered three key evaluation reports in 2019:

- A longer-term evaluation of all 84 projects completed in 2018
- An evaluation of the APEC multi-year project pilot
- A periodical evaluation of all project monitoring and completion reports. PMU delivered 30 project quality-training sessions during 2019, including 11 formal training events and 19 shorter-format sessions delivered across a range of APEC plenary meetings



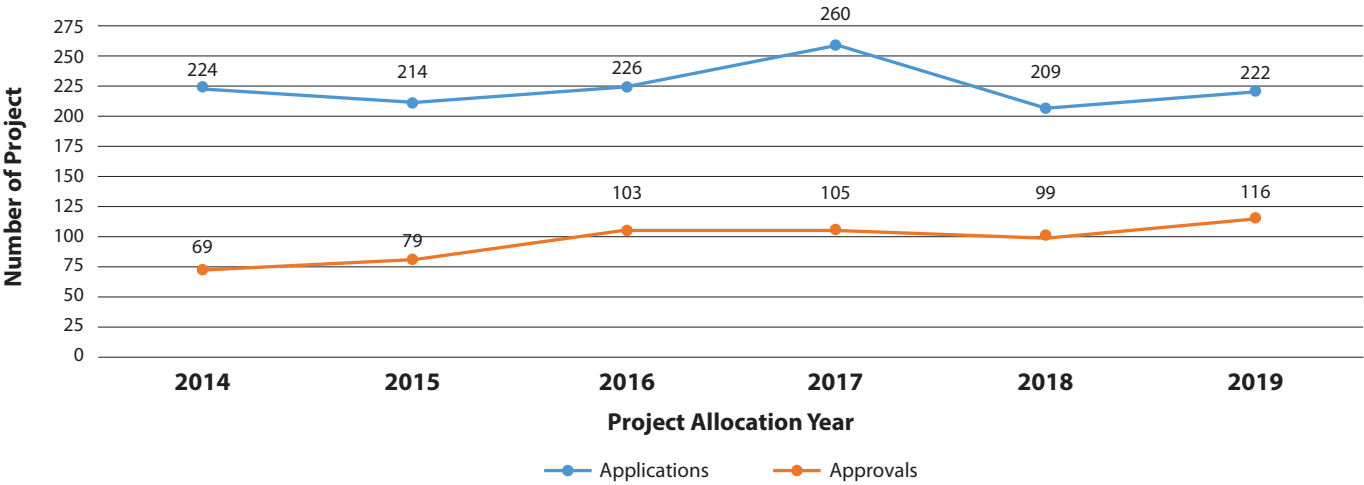


Asia-Pacific  
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# The APEC Secretariat

## Project Applications vs Project Approvals



## Providing Research and Policy Capability

Providing robust research and analysis in support of APEC’s agenda remains core to the Policy Support Unit. Its repertoire of work consists of assessment, policy research and analysis, and technical support.

The Policy Support Unit published 21 products in 2019 consisting of:

- 5 assessment reports
- 8 research reports
- 8 periodic publications

On assessment, it assessed the following key APEC initiatives:

- How easy it is to do business in the region (“APEC’s Ease of Doing Business”)
- If chokepoints in the supply chain have been addressed (“APEC Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan”)

- Whether the environment facilitates investment (“Investment Facilitation Action Plan”)
- Progress towards the Bogor Goals (“APEC’s Bogor Goals”)
- Progress in enhancing women’s economic participation (“APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard”)

Close to half of the Policy Support Unit’s research involved on topics related to the digital economy. It was the main author of 2019 APEC Economic Policy Report (on Structural Reform and the Digital Economy), a flagship report of the Economic Committee.

Other topics were on the use of data by firms and how data-related policies and regulations are affecting their use of data and hence business models, and on the use of financial technologies for financial inclusion and consumer protection.

Periodic publications – the APEC Regional Trends Analysis (ARTA) and APEC in Charts – remained popular. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of APEC, the first installment of ARTA, which was published twice in 2019, examined APEC’s founding principles and changes over the decades. To show the evolution of APEC over 30 years, APEC in Charts featured graphs with data from 1989 onwards in a number of economic, trade, investment and policy-related indicators.

The Policy Support Unit’s products are available at the APEC website. The PSU also maintains APEC’s statistics portal at [statistics.apec.org](https://statistics.apec.org).

## Communicating APEC’s Messages to Stakeholders

The Secretariat’s Communications and Public Affairs Unit is tasked to secure high-impact coverage to meaningfully communicate the host economy’s priorities and generate greater stakeholder understanding of APEC.

In 2019, the Communications and Public Affairs Unit:

- Conducted a study on message resonance and delivery, which assessed how APEC is perceived by both informed and less informed stakeholders and makes suggestions on what messages we should be communicating as we prepare for the region’s future post-2020
- Arranged media interviews and briefings with key global and regional media were arranged for the Executive Director and other spokespersons
- Arranged the publication of opinion articles in key domestic and regional papers on both sides of the Pacific
- Launched a new blog platform on [apec.org](https://apec.org)
- Showcased projects, case studies and real practical outcomes for the region via the APEC App Challenge, APEC Photo Contest and the APEC Digital Prosperity Award
- Facilitated the participation the Executive Director’s involvement in 20 outreach activities across the region
- Bolstered APEC’s online community and continued to engage its audience with a variety of content on social media.

The Communications and Public Affairs Unit maintains APEC’s website and social media platforms. It also generates content written to foster a better understanding of APEC and designed to increase website rankings on Google search.

In 2019, APEC’s online community reached 1.2 million people across all platforms with close to 400,000 points of engagement of APEC-related posts including traffic to the website.

Out of 127 APEC reports published in the APEC website in 2019, 78 percent were project/fora reports and 20 percent were related to communications outreach and policy support.

In 2019, the website user count rose by about 5 percent and referral traffic rose by more than 10 percent, compared with the same period in 2018. Launched webpage to showcase priorities for APEC Chile 2019. Social media traffic to the website increased by about 10 percent.

The Communications and Public Affairs Unit conducted communications capacity building workshops for current incoming APEC hosts. These were held in Chile, Malaysia and New Zealand to provide training and support in strategic messaging, news management and analysis, host ground operations, social media, branding, image, reputation, organizational development and crisis management.





The APEC Secretariat holds ISO 9001 Quality Management Certification. This recognizes the continuous efforts made by the APEC Secretariat to provide high quality administrative and support activities. The APEC Secretariat is the first international trade-related secretariat to attain ISO certification.

## On the Web

The APEC Secretariat manages [www.apec.org](http://www.apec.org), which contains information about APEC developments, issues and work programs, an event calendar and links to other key APEC websites. You can also follow us on social media:

- Facebook: @APECnews
- Twitter: @APEC, @Rebecca\_APEC
- Instagram: @APEC
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asia-pacific-economic-cooperation-apec-secretariat>

Simply fill out your details on the APEC website to receive the latest news, publications and feature articles: <https://www.apec.org/Press/Subscribe-News>

## Publications

- APEC Regional Trends Analysis
- APEC in Charts 2019
- 2019 APEC Economic Policy Report
- 2019 CTI Report to Ministers
- Fact sheet: 2019 APEC Economic Policy Report
- Fact sheet: 2019 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation
- APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2019

## Access to Publications

APEC publications can be downloaded free of charge. Visit the APEC Secretariat Publications Database at <http://publications.apec.org/> to download.



Photo: *No cash, no problem* by Klien Eco





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