

**37th APEC Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG)
Education Network (EDNET) Meeting
February 10-11, 2020 Putrajaya, Malaysia**

Executive Summary

Highlights

The 37th APEC HRDWG Education Network Meeting (hereinafter referred to as the EDNET) was held in Putrajaya on 10-11 February 2020.

11 member economies (Australia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Peru; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and the United States) attended physically and 2 member economies (Chile and China) as well as EDNET Coordinator participated remotely. Representatives from UNICEF Malaysia and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN) also attended the meeting. The EDNET meeting focused on Knowledge Sharing Platform on Case Studies Based on Objectives and Priority Actions of APEC Education Strategy; reports on recently completed, ongoing and proposed projects; Progress Report on Implementing APEC Education Strategy and its Action Plan; cross fora collaboration and HRDWG Terms of Reference Addendum on Main Responsibilities of EDNET Coordinator.

The meeting was chaired by Dato' Kamel Mohamad, Deputy Secretary General of Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia.

Key Outcomes

Reflection on the Outcomes of APEC 2019

1. Chile presented on the **Outcomes of APEC 2019** and recommended continued collaboration with stakeholders on topics related to gender, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and skills for the future.

2020 Priorities and its link to EDNET

2. Malaysia presented on **Malaysia's 2020 Priorities and its link to EDNET** wherein Malaysia highlighted its main deliverables for APEC 2020 in relation to HRDWG and EDNET on the education strategies for Future of Works in the Digital Age and subsequently proposed development of policy briefs to focus on digital wellbeing for a more sustainable society, shifting learning content and experience for future workforce and building capacity through cross border education towards inclusive growth across APEC.

Knowledge Sharing Platform on Case Studies Based on Objectives and Priority Actions of APEC Education Strategy

3. Malaysia presented on **Digital Learning Platform: Partnership in Teaching and Learning** to which Australia, Singapore and the Philippines provided comments; Australia and New Zealand co-presented on **Qualifications Frameworks**; and New Zealand presented on **Vocational Education Reform** in this session.

Reports on Recently Completed, Ongoing and Proposed Projects

4. The delegates presented: 2 completed projects by Australia and Korea; 11 ongoing projects undertaken by Japan/Thailand/Chile (1); Japan/Malaysia/Thailand (1); Australia (1); Malaysia/Singapore (1); Korea (3); China (1); and Chinese Taipei (3); as well as 4 newly proposed projects by Malaysia; New Zealand; Korea; and Chinese Taipei.

Progress Report on Implementing APEC Education Strategy and its Action Plan

5. The EDNET Coordinator briefed delegates on **Draft Concept Note on Progress Report of Implementing APEC Education Strategy and its Action Plan**. Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Peru made comments and provided inputs. The EDNET Coordinator would circulate the concept note among the delegates via email. Discussions will be continued at the Informal Consultation Session on 7th AEMM.

Discussion on Baseline Report on Current Education Status in Asia Pacific Region

6. The EDNET Coordinator briefed on the process of developing the baseline report and has received updated chapters from 6 member economies (China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore). Australia and the Philippines commented that their respective chapters would be submitted in due time.

Cross-Fora Presentation and Collaboration

7. UNICEF Malaysia presented on their initiatives, especially in collaboration with the MOE Malaysia in ensuring quality and inclusive education for all children in Malaysia. UNICEF Malaysia also drew a parallel between the fundamental principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030, SDG Goal 4 in particular and the main priority areas of APEC in the area of education and proposed possible areas of collaborations between UNICEF and APEC economies in addressing issues related to inclusive and equitable education for all children.

8. SEAMEO SEN presented on their mandate as a centre for excellence for special needs in the Southeast Asia region and offers collaboration opportunities with economies with regards to special needs education.

Discussion on HRDWG Terms of Reference Addendum on Main Responsibilities of EDNET Coordinator

9. The EDNET Coordinator briefed on the **Proposed Addendum on the Main Responsibilities of EDNET Coordinator** which aimed to provide the basis on the responsibilities and duties of the Coordinator. Economies suggested some amendments to the addendum and requested for more time to review it intersessionally before submitting it to the HRDWG for endorsement.

Presentation of draft EDNET Meeting Summary Report

10. The delegates reviewed and endorsed the **EDNET Meeting Summary Report**.

Concluding Session

11. The meeting was concluded with closing remarks by the Co-Chair and EDNET Coordinator.

Summary

Day 1 commenced with opening remarks from the Malaysia Co-Chair, Dato' Kamel Mohamad, Deputy Secretary General of Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia who welcomed APEC delegates to the 37th APEC Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) Education Network (EDNET) Meeting. The Co-Chair outlined the main items in the agenda and hoped the meeting would yield fruitful and productive outcomes.

This was followed by welcome remarks by Dr. Wang Yan, EDNET Coordinator who congratulated Malaysia for kicking off APEC year of Malaysia in 2020 in education with the convening of HRDWG EDNET meeting and thanked all other APEC economies for their participation and support. She also emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnership in a rapidly changing world for now and future.

The Co-Chair called for a round of self-introduction by participants.

This was followed by the adoption of the agenda per **Annex 1**.

Reflection on the outcomes of APEC 2019

In this session, Chile presented the **Outcomes of APEC 2019**. Chile highlighted its areas of priorities - digital society, integration 4.0, women, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and inclusive and sustainable growth. Chile also expressed support for Malaysia's focus on Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology as it is timely and represents the current global developments affecting education and employment.

In order for APEC to continue as a significant intergovernmental forum, Chile recommended working in collaboration with all stakeholders on topics related to gender, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and skills for the future besides strengthening cooperation and engagement with private sectors as well as key regional and international organizations.

Malaysia's 2020 Priorities and its link to EDNET

In session 4, Malaysia presented on **Malaysia's 2020 priorities and its link to EDNET**. Malaysia highlighted the importance of humanizing APEC in 2020 to create understanding on how trade and investment touch human lives. Malaysia reiterated that for APEC 2020, the focus will be on accelerating wealth creation through trade and investment, and at the same time acknowledging that education has always been a key driver for economic and social growth.

Malaysia's APEC 2020 theme "Optimizing Human Potential towards a Future of Shared Prosperity" reaffirms APEC's spirit of regional cooperation and consultation. Focus on human capital growth and prosperity in the context of **Priority Area 2: Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology** makes education the key driver in preparing the workforce of the future. The APEC Education Strategy, the published APEC Report on Education and Economic Development (REED) and 6th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) all highlighted the importance of concerted actions to respond to challenges and requirements of the global economy and the future workforce in the digital age.

Malaysia highlighted its main deliverables for APEC 2020 in relation to HRDWG and EDNET on the education strategies for Future of Works in the Digital Age and subsequently proposed development of policy briefs to focus on digital wellbeing for a more sustainable society, shifting learning content and experience for future workforce and building capacity through cross border education towards inclusive growth across APEC.

Knowledge Sharing Platform on Case Studies Based on Objectives and Priority Actions of APEC Education Strategy

- Malaysia presented on **Digital Learning Platform: Partnership in Teaching and Learning** which detailed out the implementation of its learning platform that offers multiple applications and services from key partners, namely, Apple, Google and Microsoft. Delegates from Australia, Singapore and the Philippines sought clarifications and provided comments.
- Australia and New Zealand co-presented on qualifications recognition including the Australian and New Zealand qualifications frameworks, the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework, qualifications recognition and employment as well as key challenges and the way forward. Malaysia Co-Chair provided comments and inputs.
- New Zealand presented on vocational education reform which focuses on the efforts to integrate different vocational education systems, upholding and enhancing the Māori-Crown partnerships and minimizing transition and uncertainties for stakeholders and the government.

Reports on Recently Completed, Ongoing and Proposed Projects

The delegates presented a total of 17 projects – 2 completed, 11 ongoing and 4 newly proposed projects.

- Australia presented completed project **APEC Women in Research Fellowship** which achieved its goal in supporting cross border education and providing training opportunities for high achieving female researchers from developing economies.
- Korea presented 1 completed project on **APEC Future Education Consortium (AFEC)** and 3 ongoing projects **APEC Learning Community Builders for Shared Prosperity (ALCom)**, **APEC e-Learning Training Program (AeLT)** and **APEC Community for Education Innovation (CEDI)**.
- Japan/Thailand/Chile presented ongoing project **Inclusive Mathematics for Sustainability in a Digital Economy (InMside)** focusing on high school level.
- Japan/Thailand/Malaysia presented ongoing project **Informatics and Data Science Education Reform for Digital, Inclusive and Sustainable Society (InMside II)** focusing on junior high school level.
- Australia presented an ongoing project **APEC Online Education Workshop Series**.

- Singapore/Malaysia presented an ongoing project **Actualization of Integrated STEM Degree Programmes** with the objectives to promote gender inclusivity and to co-construct a model for integrated STEM degree programmes.
- China presented on the ongoing project **Expand Cooperation among APEC Economies throughout Language Education II: Innovative Modes of APEC Cooperation for APEC Bilateral and Multilateral Education** involving a forum on talent cultivation in language education to be held in Malaysia in 2020.
- Chinese Taipei presented 3 ongoing projects – **Regional Industry-Academia Collaboration for Talent Development and Inclusive Growth: Skill Training, Internship and Jobs and Women**, **APEC Forum on Digital Innovation & Youth Entrepreneurship** and **Cross-Border Human Capacity Building for Globalized Scientific Literacy for Future Citizenship**.
- Malaysia presented **#mydigitalmaker APEC Tech Talent Development Programme**, a project that is still under consideration of APEC Secretariat after succeeding in getting co-sponsorship in 2019. Malaysia invited all economies to participate in the project to be held in October 2020. Korea, Singapore and the Philippines commented on the project.
- New Zealand presented a newly proposed project **Wellbeing in the Digital Age: Phase I**. China would co-sponsor the project upon finishing administrative procedures while Australia and the United States expressed support for the project. Malaysia and EDNET Coordinator commented on it.
- Korea presented a newly proposed project **APEC School Leadership Project**. The Philippines expressed support for this project.
- Chinese Taipei presented a newly proposed project **Strengthening Sports Talents Cultivation in the Digital Economy** which aims to promote talent cultivation with sports technology by improving employment for sports talents through Public-Private Partnership.

Progress Report on Implementing APEC Education Strategy and its Action Plan

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The Co-Chair wrapped up the first day session.

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