

**SUMMARY REPORT OF**

**SECOND 2018 APEC HEALTH WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**Theme: “Strengthening Health Systems through Multi-sectoral Partnerships”**

**INTRODUCTION**

Representatives 17 of the 21 APEC Member Economies, including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, The United States and Viet Nam met in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on August 15, 2018 for the second Health Working Group meeting of 2018. The Co-Chairs, Mr. Ken Wai from Papua New Guinea and Ms. Sarah Lawley from Canada, jointly moderated the meeting. The meeting participants also included representatives from the APEC Secretariat.

**SESOND 2018 APEC HEALTH WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)**

**AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION**

* 1. Welcome Message by PNG Secretary for Health, Mr. Pascoe Kase

HWG Co-Chair, Mr. Ken Wai introduced the PNG Health Secretary, Mr. Pascoe Kase. Mr. Kase, on behalf of the host economy welcomed the delegates attending the second 2018 APEC Health Working Group (HWG) meeting.

Mr. Kase acknowledged the importance of the HWG meeting and commended the efforts of the members to advance health for the development and prosperity of the economies. He emphasized that PNG’s APEC 2018 theme, “Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future”, underscores the significance of promoting economic cooperation and advancing inclusive growth in order to attain productivity and enhance the quality of life of populations across the region. He acknowledged the efforts of the previous host economies for placing heath on government policy agendas and for setting the stage for PNG to put forward this year’s theme and priorities. He reiterated that Primary Health Care (PHC) is the foundation of an effective and resilient health system and it provides comprehensive, accessible, community-based care that meets the health needs of people throughout their life. This year’s theme also reaffirms the international commitment to the Alma Ata Declaration which calls for all Governments to increase technical and financial support to strengthen health systems.

* 1. Remarks by HWG Co-Chair, Ms. Sarah Lawley (Canada)

HWG Co-Chair, Ms. Sarah Lawley thanked participants for coming to Port Moresby to attend the second 2018 APEC HWG meeting. She thanked the host economy, PNG and Mr. Kase for taking time to welcome the delegates. She reiterated that the HWG meetings have the opportunity to engage in a meaningful way on health to facilitate strong economic growth and development across the Asia Pacific region. The APEC HWG is a unique venue to discuss and advance health-related issues that are inextricably linked to the economic growth of all of economies in a consensus-based manner. She expressed appreciation for the excellent inter-sessional work that has been going on since the first 2018 APEC HWG meeting and looking forward to hearing the updates on the progress.

She confirmed the presence of representatives from 17 the member economies, which attained the required quorum.

* 1. Remarks by HWG Co-Chair, Mr. Ken Wai (PNG)

HWG CO-Chair, Mr. Ken Wai welcomed the delegates of the Second 2018 Health Working Group Meeting and APEC SOM3 meetings to Papua New Guinea. He thanked all the participants, observers, resource persons and invited guests for coming to attend the second HWG meeting and APEC SOM3 meetings.

He expressed that the member economies held an excellent first 2018 Health Working Group meeting in March, during which several important agenda items were discussed, including the 2017 HWG Progress Report; themes, priorities and activities for 2018; and the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 implementation.

* 1. Adoption of 2018 Second HWG Agenda

Mr. Ken Wai, HWG Co-Chair moderated this session. The proposed agenda was adopted unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: REVIEW APEC CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND WORK PLAN FOR 2018**

2.1 2018 1st HWG Meeting outcomes

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair, presented the outcomes of the first 2018 HWG Meeting held in March 2018. She noted that the first 2018 HWG meeting brought together government representatives from 14 economies including Australia, Canada, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, USA and Viet Nam. The group updated the HWG Terms of Reference to include quorum, a sunset clause and to reflect the possibility of the HWG having co-chairs.

The HWG discussed a variety of new strategies for the consideration and ranking of concept notes. While no method was explicitly determined, it was agreed that it be approved in principal to strengthen the operating procedure for endorsing concept notes and that a very clear process should be in place prior to the next SOM. The USA, in cooperation with Australia, Canada, People’s Republic of China, Russia, Singapore and Chinese Taipei convened inter-sessional discussions to determine a proposed concept note process. The outcome of the discussion was one of the agenda item during the meeting.

The HWG hosted the group’s first policy discussion on the Tuberculosis (TB) in the Asia-Pacific Region, including presentations by representatives from PNG, the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office and a statement on behalf of the United Nations Special Envoy on TB. As a follow-up, the group agreed to draft a regional statement to the UNHLM on TB. PNG, in cooperation with Australia, Canada, China, Japan, The Philippines, Russia, The USA and the LSIF convened inter-sessional discussions to draft a regional statement on TB for the upcoming UNHLM on TB. The outcome of the discussion was one of the agenda item during the meeting.

During the first 2018 HWG meeting, the group agreed to form 7 sub-working groups to convene inter-sessional discussions for implementation of the activities. Ms. Lawley expressed appreciation to all the member economies who led the sub-working groups as well as those who participated in the inter-sessional works to implement the planned activities.

2.2 Review of progress on 2018 HWG Work Plan

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair, presented the progress on 2018 HWG Work Plan. Building on the APEC 2018 theme “Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities: Embracing the Digital Future”, with emphasis on the second policy priority “Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Growth”, and leveraging the HWG’s unique perspective as a regional health forum dedicated to demonstrating the value of health to economic growth and development and to building of the return on investment on health innovation for 2018, the focus of the activities are on two key areas: (1) Renewal through enhanced governance and policy and technical exchanges, and (2) Strengthening engagement with other APEC fora and key global health partners.

She noted that the economies have completed several of the deliverables for 2018, and also several others being planned to be completed during APEC SOM3 meetings. Some of our governance deliverables included:

* Two HWG meetings, including todays, both of which received quorum (Completed)
* Revised HWG ToR (Completed)
* New process for endorsing concept notes (To be discussed during this meeting)
* Implementing performance indicators for HAP 2020 (Australia to present during the meeting)
* Reviewing guidelines for engagement with the private sector (To be discussed during this meeting)

On the policy and technical side several key deliverables included:

* Policy discussion on TB in the Asia Pacific Region (Completed)
* APEC End TB Collaboration Framework (To be discussed during this meeting)
* Information sharing session on APEC’s activities on cervical cancer (To be discussed during this meeting)
* Policy dialogue on AMR and TB (Happening during SOM3 meetings)
* Policy dialogue on Mental Health (Completed)
* HLM 8 – LSIF & HWG Joint Statement (To be discussed during this meeting)

These activities are in addition to the ongoing HWG projects. She expressed appreciation to the HWG members for continued work and engagement in ensuring the completion of the deliverables.

2.3 Presentation of HLM 8 Agenda

Mr. Ken Wai, HWG Co-chair presented the agenda of the 8th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy. The 8th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy is scheduled on 16th and 17th of August 2018 at the International Convention Center in Port Moresby. He requested all the participants to attend the exciting forum.

During the 1st HWG Meeting in March, the proposed theme “Investing in Primary Health Care through Innovative Partnerships”, was adopted. However, an expanded theme, “Transforming Primary Health Care through Investment, Innovation and Collaboration”, was proposed. Under this broader theme, APEC member economies reaffirmed their commitment to Secure, Inclusive, Sustainable, Innovative and Balanced Growth, which have been emphasized under various strategic documents such as the 2010 APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth endorsed in 2015 and the 2010 APEC Leaders Growth Strategy.

Against a backdrop where there are numerous stakeholders and partners involved in the delivery of primary healthcare services, the theme also provided the opportunity to examine how to foster collaboration towards improving health financing mechanisms, supporting innovation in research and development, gathering data and information to enable evidence-based decision making and program planning, and sharing of effective models and best practices in primary health care.

This theme complemented and advanced the ongoing discussions and priorities of previous HLMs on: building sustainable and high-performing health systems to support Universal Health Coverage; optimising innovative approaches in health financing; and, engaging in multi-sectoral partnerships and collaboration. The theme also reaffirms the APEC commitment to the values and principles of the Alma-Ata Declaration. There was a total of six sessions discussing topics on:

1. Putting People at the Centre of Health Care through Primary Health Care;
2. Measuring the Return on Investment in Primary Health Care;
3. Harnessing the Full Potential of Innovative and Digital Technologies in Primary Health Care;
4. Modernizing the Role of Health Professionals in Primary Health Care;
5. Innovative Finance to Expand Access to Healthcare; and
6. Working towards High-Performing People-Centered Primary Health Care.

He informed the forum that HWG has invited guests coming from across the APEC region, and looking forward to the knowledge and expertise they will bring to the table.

The Theme and Agenda were officially adopted.

**AGENDA ITEM 3:** **APEC MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Johnny Lin, Project Director, APEC Secretariat presented the APEC management update. He informed the meeting that Dr. Allan Bollard will be completing 6 years (two 3-year term) in 2018 as the Executive Director. The new Executive Director will be nominated and the details will be submitted to SOM3 and to leaders’ Summit in November 2018.

He requested member economies to submit any updates to the APEC Secretariat to be posted on the APEC HWG website.

Due to changes in the templates for the Concept note submission after the HWG meetings in 2017, 4 proposals (PNG, Vietnam, Mexico and Russia) are still undergoing Quality Assessment process with the Project Management Unit. Out of the 7 concept notes endorsed during the first HWG meeting SOM1, only one is approved and 6 are pending. The committee meeting is scheduled on 17 August 2018.

He informed the meeting that the concept note template is expected to change in 2019, which will be finalised in November 2018. Therefore, member economies are requested to submit the proposal in the new template, after November 2018 as per the provided timeline.

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair enquired if member economies would like to discuss the improvement of the content on the website. The representative from the USA expressed that the HWG need to show prominence through electronic communication tool such as social media, website etc.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

4.1 Nomination of new vice-chair

Mr. Ken Wai, HWG Co-Chair thanked and congratulated Associate Professor Tran Thi Giang Huong from Viet Nam for successfully completing her 2-year term as the HWG Vice-Chair.

As per Clause 5 of the Terms of Reference for the APEC Health Working Group, *chairing responsibilities may be undertaken by a designated representative from one economy or responsibilities may be shared jointly by designated representatives from two economies (as Co-chairs). The Chair(s) are supported by a Vice Chair from another economy different from the Chair(s)*. The Vice Chair will hold a two year term, which will be staggered with the Chair(s)’ term to ensure continuity of leadership for the Health Working Group.

Mr. Wai informed the forum that HWG received only nomination, i.e from Chile. He thanked Chile for offering to act as vice-chair for the next 2 years. Mr. Francisco Adriazola Santibañez introduced Ms. Paula Daza from Chile who could not be in Port Moresby during this meeting.

The member economies unanimously endorsed the nomination of Ms. Paula Daza of Chile as the new Vice-Chair for the next 2 years.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: REVISED CONCEPT NOTE OPERATING PROTOCOLS**

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair moderated the session on the revised operating protocols for concept note.

During the first 2018 HWG meeting in March, the Co-Chairs proposed three options for how the HWG could proceed with its review and endorsement of concept notes:

* Automatic endorsement of all concept notes received;
* Higher threshold for co-sponsors; or
* Internal vetting process.

After discussion, the consensus to the proposed way forward was:

* Agreement in principle to establish/increase thresholds and to put an internal vetting process;
* Limiting number of co-sponsorship that can be granted by Member Economies;
* Provision to review the concept notes electronically; and,
* A core group of Member Economies to put together the process.

A sub-working group was initiated to put together the new process for concept note operating protocols. Member economies included: Australia, Canada, People ’s Republic of China, The Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and The USA (Ms. Erika Elvander acted as the lead economy for the sub-working group).

5.1 Presentation (The USA)

Ms. Erika Elvander presented the proposed method for vetting concept notes. As per the discussion with other sub-working group members three changes were proposed:

1. **Higher Threshold for Co-Sponsors**: The current threshold is two co-sponsors. It will be proposed that this is raised to three to ensure concept notes are more competitive.
2. **Internal Vetting Process**: It will be proposed that HWG economies rate concept notes based on the below criteria:
3. The concept note clearly addresses one or more of the objectives of the Health Working Group and aligns with the HWG Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020. Further, the concept note supports at least one of the five key factors in the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 Roadmap:
   * Government commitment to health;
   * Platforms for policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement;
   * Prevention, control and awareness;
   * Innovation; and
   * Inter-sectoral and cross-border collaboration.
4. The concept note demonstrates strong quality and is evidence based/informed. The concept note demonstrates strong quality and is evidence based/informed.
5. The concept note is relevant and of sustained benefit to more than one economy in the region, preferably to a mix of developed and developing and/or large and small member economies.
6. The concept note has clear links to APEC’s broader work in enhancing human security, trade and investment and/or economic growth and supports cross fora collaboration.
7. The concept note complements and demonstrates the added value APEC brings with other international health bodies.
8. Summary comments
9. Final score – economy decision to support/not support
10. **Review Concept Notes Electronically:** It has been agreed by sub-working group members that it would be more efficient to review concept notes electronically. The proposed approach to do so can be found below:
11. The economy submits the concept note to the APEC Secretariat (with co-sponsors) by X date (at least 1 month before HWG meeting). Economies may also submit CNs and seek further sponsorship even if they do not meet the sponsorship threshold but they must adhere to strict submission deadline to ensure proper review by economies.
12. The APEC Secretariat immediately distributes the concept note to member economies and request for review within 2 weeks.
13. Economies may seek clarification from project officers during those 2 weeks and also inform of their co-sponsorship.
14. POs to finalise CNs and final CNs to be circulated at least a few days before the meeting.

It was discussed during sub-working group meetings that there be a possibility of limiting the number of concept notes an economy could sponsor. This was largely not supported by sub-working group member economies.

5.2 Comments and Discussion

The representative from People’s Republic of China suggested attaching HWG Strategic Plan and HAP 2020 with the proposals.

The representative from Chile proposed to include indicators for each criterion.

Ms. Lawley, HWG Co-Chair suggested to develop a user-friendly Operating protocol and provided the following options for consideration by the HWG:

1. Discuss during the day and endorse, to be used with immediate effect
2. Discuss and finalise through Electronic consultation; and decision to be made in next HWG

The representative from Japan congratulated the sub-working group and supported the first option to endorse during day through side-meetings and implement from the next cycle of concept note.

The representative from PNG expressed their appreciation to the sub-working group and supported Japan’s proposal.

The representative from China clarified the current practice of endorsing the concept notes within the HWG. She mentioned that in 2014 HWG started with scoring for transparency, therefore, concept for the 1st HWG is presented to the 2nd HWG in the previous year for scoring. However, the scoring is discontinued and it is only the vetting process (during the meeting). Therefore, she proposed that it is possible do the vetting through electronic communication.

Based on the discussions, it was agreed to convene electronic consultation to finalise the Concept Note operating protocol and submit the concept notes in the new revised templates as per the timeline.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: KEY OUTCOMES FOR HWG**

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair moderated the session highlighting some of the key policy deliverables for the HWG and other APEC fora. She invited the representative from Australia to present the implementation of Priorities and Indicator for HAP 2020.

6.1 Implementation of Priorities and Indicators for HAP 2020 (Australia)

The representative from Australia presented the progress on the implementation of priorities and indicators for 2020.

The HAP 2020 Initiative was formulated by the HWG and LSIF and was endorsed by Ministers at the 26th APEC Ministerial Meeting in 2014. The aim of HAP2020 is to promote people’s health and well-being through their whole life-course by means of whole-of-government, whole-of-society and whole-of-region approach to promote the health security, growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region. HAP2020 is supported by the HAP2020 Roadmap which builds on the focus areas and actions, as well as introduces Critical Success Factors.

LSIF proposal for the development of an Alliance, made up of representatives from interested governments, industry experts, health sciences, health economics and health policy experts, relevant professional organizations, and community leaders, was submitted at the 2016 SOM3 HWG meeting to help implement the five actions and appropriate critical success factors in the HAP2020 Roadmap.

In February 2017, the HWG agreed to not move forward with an alliance, however, a small working group was formed to develop an action plan for implementation of the HAP2020 Roadmap. Australia agreed to lead this working group and in August 2017, Australia presented priorities and indicators for HAP2020 to the HWG.

In January 2018, Australia revised the indicators be much more flexible so that economies could select their own indicators and select only one target per priority area.

She informed the forum that only 10 member economies have submitted their indicators during the time of the presentation.

The forum agreed on the following:

* Member economies to send all data by 31 August 2018
* Australia to populate all the baseline data
* Next reporting cycle will be in 2020/2021

6.2 Review Guidelines for Engagement with the private sector (Australia)

The representative from Australia presented the progress on the review of the Guidelines for Engagement with the private sector.

As the HWG is comprised of representatives from member economies who set domestic health and regulatory policy and are involved in significant procurement of goods and services in the health sector, it is important that any engagement with the private sector is conducted in a transparent and competitively neutral manner that manages risks (real or perceived) of conflict of interest.

The HWG’s Guidelines for engagement between the Health Working Group and the private sector guide this engagement and build on APEC’s broader collaboration with the private sector to enhance cooperation in the field of human health. The Guidelines facilitate greater engagement with the private sector and, importantly, provide a mechanism to actively manage real (or perceived) conflicts of interest, guarantee competitive neutrality and assure that all engagement with the private sector is managed in an open and transparent manner.

In view of Australia’s participation in other live policy/reform agendas (such as the TB statement, HAP2020, the concept paper working group), the representative from Australia invited other member economies to engage in a review sub-working group.

The representatives from the USA, Chile, Russian Federation, the Philippines, China, Thailand and Singapore expressed their interest to participate in the discussion.

The forum agreed that Australia will lead the sub-working group in coordination with the above interested member economies and convene inter-sessional discussion following 2018 SOM3 meetings and present to the first 2019 HWG meeting in February 2019.

6.3 Drafting of the Statement on TB for UNHLM (PNG)

The representative from PNG presented the draft statement on TB for UNHLM. The Policy Discussion on Tuberculosis in the Asia-Pacific Region, which occurred at the first HWG meetings in February 2018, was the first Policy Discussion to occur at a Health Working Group meeting. The goal of the policy discussion was to engage economies on relevant, salient issues that affect the region to help nurture collaboration and an exchange of knowledge across the working group.

At the Policy Discussion, it was decided that the Health Working Group has an opportunity to add APEC’s voice and perspective to global discussions on this issue. As such, a sub-working group was developed to commence the process of drafting a regional statement on TB for the UNHLM on TB occurring in September 2018.

As the lead for the sub-working group, PNG took a lead on the initial drafting of the statement.

The forum agreed the following:

* PNG to share the statement electronically with immediate effect,
* Member economies to provide the 1st round of comments 21 Aug 2018
* PNG to incorporate the changes and share the revised version by 24 August
* Member economies to provide consensus by 28 August 2018
* PNG finalise the statement by 31 August 2018
* Member economies seek internal approval for PNG to present it to the UNHLM in September 2018

6.4 End TB Collaboration Framework (People’s Republic of China)

People’s Republic of China presented the progress on the End TB Collaboration Framework. At the 2017 Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Action on TB and MDR-TB in the APEC region that occurred in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, participants called for APEC economies to develop an APEC End TB collaboration framework in 2018 to address urgent cross-economy issues, including MDR-TB response capacity, TB and migration, research, and be linked to the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 and AMR initiatives.

As per the 2018 HWG Work Plan, the mandate of this collaboration framework is based on the goal to enhance preparedness and response to public health emergencies and disasters including the prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

People’s Republic of China led this sub-working group, with support from the Philippines, Viet Nam and the LSIF.

The representative from Vietnam reiterated that the TB cases are very high in the region, therefore it is crucial to identify the root causes and assess the cost-effectiveness of care & treatment. The intervention would require strong political commitment to strengthen legislation and convene policy dialogues, generate innovation & development by sharing best practices for effective initiatives, sharing information across the economies etc. He informed the forum that Viet Nam will be hosting a conference to share the best practices in the region.

The representative from Russia proposed for one-on-one discussion on the collaboration framework during the day.

The representative from the Philippines suggested for cross-fora collaboration with LSIF and HRDWG as this involves multi-sectoral agencies in the region.

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair suggested to keep this document a green document, which can be updated when necessary.

The representative from Japan expressed their appreciation to the People’s Republic of China for the focused presentation, and supported the Philippines’s proposal .

The forum endorsed to convene inter-sessional discussion through electronic communication and to finalise the framework.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: KEY OUTCOMES FOR HWG & CROSS-FORA COLLABORATION**

Mr. Ken Wai, HWG Co-Chair moderated the session on key outcomes for HWG and cross-fora collaboration activities. He invited Viet Nam to present the outcomes of the the 2017 Policy Dialogues.

7.1. Outcomes of 2017 Policy Dialogues (Viet Nam)

The representative from Viet Nam presented the outcome of the 2017 Policy Dialogues on Accelerating Action on TB and MDR-TB and Promoting Healthy Aging and NCDs Control for HAP.

1. *Policy Dialogue “Accelerating action on TB and MDR-TB at the APEC Region”* (22 Aug 2017, HCM City, Viet Nam): 150 participants from APEC economies, national and international organizations, research institutes, private sector and community-based organizations. The participants agreed the following**:**
   * **The TB epidemic carries a heavy toll for APEC economies**, with an estimated 245,000 deaths and 2.8 million people falling ill due to TB in 2015 alone, and grave repercussions for the highly vulnerable populations most affected, correspondingly resulting to catastrophic cost to the already impoverished groups;
   * **Multidrug resistant - TB is a serious health security risk**, the biggest airborne AMR threat. It is already at severe levels in some parts of the APEC Region;
   * **The APEC Region has shown important progress in controlling the TB epidemic** but the response needs to be transformed and accelerated, urgently applying innovations, in keeping with WHO End TB Strategy and Global Plan End TB 2016-2020, with more attention on best practices in the Region, and focus on supporting increased multi-sectorial accountability, across and beyond government;
   * **The APEC Region should be able to reach SDGs and WHO target** of ending the TB epidemic by 2030, building on national universal health coverage and development efforts, research & innovation, as well as strengthened cross-border collaboration and multi-sectorial collaboration.

The participants called for APEC economies to:

* **Invest** in multi-sectorial collaboration, efficient and accessible health services, human resources, commodities, and social development  across sectors within and outside government, and across economies in the APEC Region;
* **Develop** an APEC End TB collaboration framework in 2018 to address urgent cross-economy issues, include MDR-TB response capacity, TB and migration, research, linked to the HAP 2020 and AMR initiatives, such as of the G20 recommendation;
* **Showcase** how ongoing APEC initiatives can improve the TB response, such as regulatory harmonization for life sciences innovation, emergency preparedness,  and UHC financing;
* **Ensure** strong high-level participation in the 2017 WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB, the UNGA High-Level Meeting on TB in 2018, including heads of state, and in building an effective multi-sectoral accountability framework to end TB and MDR-TB.

1. *Policy Dialogue on Promoting Healthy Aging and NCDs Control for a Healthy Asia Pacific* (22 Aug 2017, HCM City, Viet Nam): 100 participants from APEC economies, UNFPA, WHO, Academies, Universities, Research Institutes, social organizations, hospitals, healthcare facilities for older persons. The participants called for the following actions:
   * **Reorient health systems and develop long-term care system** which emphasize on the Home/Community Based Care for Older Persons, NCDs prevention, management at primary healthcare and the overall framework of Universal Health Coverage;
   * **Invest in finance and human resources**, strength public-private partners and multi-sectorial collaboration are important in NCDs prevention and control for healthy aging.
   * **Strengthen cooperation** among APEC economies, between APEC and DPs, including develop human resources for care workers toward a HAP and SDGs by 2030

The member economies noted the outcome of the 2 Policy Dialogues.

7.2. HWG Mental Health Policy Dialogue (Canada)

The representative from Canada presented the outcome of the HWG Mental Health Policy Dialogue. Thirty four participants attended the meeting organized by the sub-working group of Canada, Papua New Guinea, Peru and the Philippines. Featured participation from non-APEC fora including: The World Bank, provided the first key note address; The World Health Organization, moderated the first session; and citiesRISE, provided the second key note address.

Interactive discussions centred on two thematic areas:

* Mental Health Promotion and Illness Prevention; and
* Access to Care for Mental Health and Human Development

During discussions on each thematic area, participants were asked to consider current approaches and best practices, key challenges to taking action and how can APEC be leveraged to advance action.

The Key Take-aways (No wealth, without mental health) are:

* Stigma, knowledge and mental health literacy a critical challenge across economies and at all levels
* Evidence based interventions available, need for scale up and to share these among economies
* Data important to build case for investment, more is needed but methods to collect, standardize are complex
* Greater integration required across the health system both vertically and horizontally
* Political will is the foundation for success and advancement; need for sensitization and common messaging
* Multisectoral engagement and collaboration key enablers; APEC Digital Hub a good way to facilitate regional collaboration across economies

The next steps are:

In **2018:**

* Language in outcome document for the HLM on Health and the Economy and consideration of language in Leaders statement
* APEC Digital Hub White Paper on Workplace Mental Health

In **2019**:

* Setting the stage for 2020 - LSIF and HWG discussions on Mental Health Roadmap achievements and what comes next?
* Strengthening collaborations with other APEC for a
* Exploring how to leverage our work and collective voice in other international fora, i.e. UN HLM on UHC, renewal of the WHO Action Plan on Mental Health

The member economies noted the outcome of the Policy Dialogue.

7.3. HWG Commemoration of the 40 years Alma-Ata Declaration (PNG)

The representative from PNG presented the HWG Commemoration of the 40years Alma- Ata Declaration which was scheduled on 16 August 2018, during the 8th High-level Meeting on Health and Economy.

The objectives of the commemoration are:

* Analyse the progress in the implementation of PHC four decades after the Alma-Ata Declaration.
* Identify key areas and strategies that require greater global/regional investments and pragmatic interventions to improve health service delivery in member economies and Asia-Pacific; and
* Develop a statement of action that articulates renewal of commitment to the original principles of Alma-Ata Declaration

PNG drafted the Recommitment Statement, which will be shared with the member economies for comments. The forum agreed to the following:

* Work on a timeline to finalise the Recommitment Statement;
* PNG to share the statement electronically with immediate effect;
* Member economies to review and provide comments as per the timeline;
* PNG to incorporate the changes and share the revised version with the member economies; and
* Member economies seek internal approval for PNG to present it during the 2nd Global Conference on Primary Health Care in October 2018 in commemoration of the 40th year of the Alma Ata Declaration.

7.4. LSIF/HWG on Investing in multi-sectoral action on AMR and TB (LSIF, PNG)

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair moderated the remaining four agenda items under key outcomes for HWG & Cross-Fora Collaboration.

The representative from LSIF presented the progress on the Roundtable on investing in multi-sectoral action on AMR and TB. The Roundtable discussion is scheduled on 17 August 2018, following the APEC High-level meeting.

The forum noted the progress and there were no further comments.

7.5. LSIF/HWG Policy Dialogue on Transparency and Stakeholder Consultation in Health & LSIF sectors (LSIF/USA)

The representative from the USA presented the progress on LSIF/HWG Policy Dialogue on Transparency and Stakeholder Consultation in Health & LSIF Sectors.

The forum noted the progress and there were no further comments.

7.6. HWHE workshop (USA)

The representative from the USA presented the progress on APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Workshop: Expanding the Community, Broadening Impact.

The forum noted the progress and there were no further comments.

7.7. LSIF Information sharing session on Cervical Cancer (USA)

The representative from the USA presented the progress on LSIF Information sharing session on Cervical Cancer.

The forum noted the progress and there were no further comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Introduction of New HWG Concept Notes for 2019: Part 1**

Mr. Ken Wai, HWG Co-Chair moderated the session on introduction of new HWG Concept Notes. He informed the forum that HWG received 11 new concept notes. Each of these was presented to the HWG for endorsement.

8.1 Australia - Establishment of a Tropical Health Workforce Development Hub

8.2 People’s Republic of China - Workshop on healthcare accreditation in APEC region, Phase 1 (Self-funded)

8.3 People’s Republic of China - Workshop on the healthcare accreditation in the APEC region, Phase 2

8.4 People’s Republic of China - Female Medical Workers’ Career Risk Management and Capacity Building

8.5 People’s Republic of China - Building the New-leadership of infectious disease prevention and control among APEC economies (Self-funded)

8.6 Japan - Tackling health disparities and improving healthy life expectancy in the APEC economies

8.7 Peru - Study of the over-demand of health care in hospitals, during a possible large-scale earthquake in the Asia Pacific Economies

8.8 Chinese Taipei - APEC Conference for the Surveillance, Prevention, Treatment, Laboratory Diagnosis and Vaccine Development of Enteroviruses

8.9 The USA - APEC Traditional Medicine and Cancer Network

8.10 Viet Nam - Workshop on Addressing environmental health and sustainable development in informal solid waste recycling villages/ Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises (MSMEs) among APEC economies

8.11 Viet Nam - Workshop on Soil-transmitted helminthiases (STHs) control and prevention and school health promoting among APEC economies

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Progress reports on Approved and On-Going HWG projects**

Mr Ken Wai, HWG Co-Chair moderated the session on On-going HWG projects. The respective Member Economies made presentations.

9.1 **Chinese Taipei:** APEC Conference on Severe Dengue Prevention and Strategies for Reducing Disease Burden. The objectives of the project are as follows:

* To share dengue control experiences with APEC economies;
* To introduce the latest development in surveillance systems, environmental management and vector control, drugs and vaccine development for dengue treatment and prevention; and
* To establish the channel for international interaction and foster an effective and long-term cooperation relationship.

Mr Ken Wai expressed his appreciation for the initiative of Chinese Taipei.

APEC Secretariat requested the representative from Chinese Taipei to prepare the Project completion report as per the template, seek endorsement of the HWG through inter-sessional discussions and submit to the Secretariat.

9.2 **Singapore**: A-Traction (Asian Tuberculosis Research and Clinical Trials Integrated Organizational Network).

The overall aim is develop a ‘network to foster and coordinate TB clinical research in Asia’. The benefits to A-TRACTION members are as follow: (1) clinical research expertise building; (2) human capital development; (3) clinical trials infrastructure building; (4) flow of funds for TB research into economies; and, (5) TB burden reduction in the long run.

Mr. Ken Wai expressed his appreciation for the initiative of Singapore.

APEC Secretariat informed that they are awaiting endorsement on the change in budget and the extension of the implementation timeline.

9.3 **Chinese Taipei**: APEC Conference on Strategies against the Evolving Threats from Antimicrobial Resistance: From Awareness to Concrete Action. The objectives of the Project are:

* To share strategic actions on AMR control with APEC economies and stakeholders;
* To strengthen collaboration in AMR and antimicrobial consumption surveillance among APEC economies; and
* To enhance APEC economies’ capacity in AMR prevention, detection, and response by introducing the latest development in AMR diagnostic tools and treatment.

Mr. Ken Wai expressed his appreciation for the initiative of Chinese Taipei.

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair moderated the session on approved projects. The respective Member Economies made presentations.

9.4. **Mexico** - Capacity Building for Community Based Long-Term Care Supported by High Tech-Low Cost Resources.

9.5 **Peru -** Improving Networks of Community Mental Health Services in the Asia Pacific Economies (Peru).

9.6 **Papua New Guinea** - Economic Impact of the Rise of Multi-Drug Resistant-TB (MDR-TB) on APEC Economies and Strategies in Resourcing and Responding

9.7 **Viet Nam** - Workshop on Nutrition Care for Aging Population to prevent non-communicable chronic diseases

Ms. Lawley expressed her appreciation for all the presenters

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Discussion of Outcome Statement for HLM on Health and Economy**

Ms. Sarah Lawley, HWG Co-Chair moderated this session.

The representative from PNG presented the Draft Outcome Statement of the 8th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy.

The forum agreed the following:

* PNG to share the Outcome Statement electronically with immediate effect;
* Member economies to review and provide comments; and
* PNG to incorporate the changes and share the revised version with the member economies for endorsement

**AGENDA ITEM 11: Presentation and Invitation to APEC 2019 by Chile**

Mr. Ken Wai, HWG Co-chair moderated this session.

The representative from Chile extended the invitation to APEC 2019 in Chile. The Theme for APEC 2019 is: Connecting people, building the future – “Inclusive, Comprehensive and Sustainable Growth with people at the Centre”. The dates of meetings are from 23 February to 16 November 2019.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: Closing Remarks**

The co-chairs ended the session with acknowledgement of contributions by all Member Economies, resource speakers, facilitators and partner organizations. It was recognized that the discussions made in this meeting will definitely contribute to the progress of the HWG’s work leading to the High-Level Meeting.