*“Supporting Health across the Life Course”*

**Meeting Summary**

Representatives from 16 of the 21 APEC member economies, including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, USA and Viet Nam, met in Puerto Varas, Chile on August 19th and 20th, 2019 for the second Health Working Group (HWG) meeting of 2019. Held on the margins of the third APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM3), health-related meetings also included the Life Sciences and Innovation Forum (LSIF) Planning Group meeting, the HWG Policy Dialogue – ‘Health across the Life Course’, the LSIF Policy Dialogue – ‘Regulatory Convergence’, the LSIF Executive Board meeting and the 9th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLM9).

As a regional forum dedicated to demonstrating the value of health to economic growth and development, the HWG discussed tangible means of improving individual’s health and well-being in order to strengthen trade, security and development across the Asia-Pacific region. HWG Co-Chair, Ms. Tammy Bell (Canada) and HWG Vice-Chair, Dr. Paula Daza (Chile), jointly moderated the meeting. HWG Co-Chair Mr. Ken Wai (Papua New Guinea) was unable to attend the meeting.

At the meeting, member economies agreed to develop a number of new deliverables, including:

* ‘Dementia Spotlight’: A Compilation of Initiatives to Address Dementia in the Asia-Pacific Region;
* HWG Vision for Mental Health, post-2020;
* HWG Strategic Plan, post-2020; and,
* HWG Vaccination Program of Work.

Following the meeting, the HWG endorsed several key deliverables from the 2019 Work Plan, including:

* APEC HWG Guidelines for Engagement with the Private Sector (*September 5th, 2019*);
* APEC HWG Concept Note Operating Protocols (*September 17th, 2019*);
* APEC HWG Statement on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for the United Nations High-Level Meeting on UHC (*September 22nd, 2019*); and,
* Joint Statement of the 9th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy & HWG and LSIF Joint Activities across the Life Course Statement (*September* *27th,**2019*).

Member economies endorsed Canada (Ms. Tammy Bell) and Malaysia (Dato Dr. Chee Kheong Chong) as HWG Co-Chair’s for the 2020-2021 period.

The next set of APEC health-related meetings is scheduled to be held during SOM1 2020, happening between February 3rd-22nd, 2020 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

**Day One**

*Monday, August 19th, 2019*

1. **OPENING SESSION**
   1. **Introductory Remarks by HWG Co-Chair & Vice-Chair**

The meeting officially began with introductory remarks from HWG Vice-Chair, Dr. Paula Daza and HWG Co-Chair, Ms. Tammy Bell who welcomed delegates to the second HWG meeting of 2019. In their remarks, Dr. Daza and Ms. Bell highlighted the HWG’s unique opportunity to advance key health challenges linked to economic growth at the member economy level and across the Asia-Pacific region. Ms. Bell noted that, as 2020 approaches, HWG member economies have the opportunity to reflect on the HWG’s objectives and activities to help shape how the group moves forward into the next decade.

Following a short roundtable where participants introduced themselves, the HWG Co-Chair and Vice-Chair noted that the HWG officially achieved quorum with representatives from 16 of the 21 APEC member economies in attendance.

**1.2. Adoption of 2019 SOM3 HWG Meeting Agenda**

Member economies adopted the meeting agenda at the start of the meeting without objection.

1. **SOM1 HWG MEETING OUTCOMES** 
   1. **SOM1 2019 First HWG Meeting Outcomes**

Dr. Daza provided an update on the outcomes from the SOM1 2019 HWG meeting that occurred February 28th and March 1st in Santiago, Chile.

The SOM1 HWG meeting brought together representatives from 15 APEC member economies. Participants discussed key health challenges with the purpose of improving the health and well-being of individuals in the Asia-Pacific region as a means to strengthen trade, security, and development across the APEC region.

In line with the 2019 Work Plan, the HWG maintained its focus on implementing substantive policy-oriented discussions to ensure the HWG remains a strategic forum to advance global health priorities. The HWG hosted the group’s second-ever policy discussion ‘Immunization in the Asia-Pacific Region’, that included presentations by representatives from WHO (Dr. Kate O’Brien), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Mr. Gaurav Garg) and PAHO (Mr. John Fitzsimmons). As a follow-up, the HWG agreed to draft an APEC statement on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to the United Nations High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on UHC, which happened September 23rd, 2019 in New York, USA.

The meeting also included discussion of the draft new concept note operating protocols. Although member economies were unable to endorse the new protocols at the SOM1 meeting, they discussed their concerns and the sub-working group agreed to address them intercessionally.

1. **APEC MANAGEMENT UPDATE**
   1. **Presentation**

Mr. Johnny Lin, APEC HWG program director, provided an update on issues related to the APEC secretariat and management. General information updates included:

* 2019 SCE Fora Report: HWG SCE Fora Report, developed by HWG Co-Chair’s office, is due September 20th, 2019 and will be included as an annex to the APEC Senior Official’s Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation.
* HWG Website: Mr. Lin invited HWG member economies to share website updates with him.
* APEC Post-2020 Vision: The APEC Vision Group (AVG) is developing a new APEC vision following the expiration of the 1994 Bogor Goals in 2020. Mr. Lin encouraged the HWG to align its next strategic plan with the AVG vision and recommendations. Ms. Bell intervened; highlighting the importance of ensuring health is well represented at APEC.

Concerning HWG projects, no HWG concept notes (CNs) were approved by the APEC Budget and Management Committee (BMC) for Project Session 1 (PS1) 2019, likely due to the competitive nature of the APEC Support Fund (ASF) General Fund. For PS2 2019, the HWG submitted fifteen (15) CNs for BMC review. The HWG agreed to the below timeline for PS1 2020:

* January/February 2020: Mr. Lin will call for HWG CN submissions
* March 2020: Mr. Lin will share the PS1 2020 fund balances
* March 10th, 2020: Deadline for CN Submission

Mr. Lin raised the issue of co-sponsorship, and noted that many economies submit co-sponsors after the deadline. For PS1 2020 the deadlines set by the APEC Secretariat will be strictly enforced by the APEC Secretariat and member economies were reminded to discuss co-sponsorship well in advance of the deadline. Mr. Lin highlighted that self-funded APEC projects can be put forward at any time, following approval by the HWG, and must comply with APEC guidelines and practices.

1. **9th APEC HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON HEALTH AND THE ECONOMY** **(HLM9)**
   1. **Presentation of HLM9 Agenda**

The 9th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLM9), is an annual inter-governmental forum at the ministerial level, jointly organized by the APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) and the HWG. The focus of this year’s HLM was aging. Dr. Daza provided an update on the agenda, noting the inclusion of panelists with lived experience and discussed the eight sessions, including:

* The Economic Imperative for Acting on Healthy Aging in APEC
* Adapting Healthy Systems to Support Healthy Aging – Lessons Learned and Future Strategies
* Embracing the Digital Future in Support of Healthy Aging in APEC
* Exploring Regional Solutions to Address Elderly Care Needs in APEC
* Regional Action to Improve Wellness and Disease Management among Aging Populations
* Unlocking Regional Collaboration to Accelerate Progress on Dementia
* APEC Action to Enable Investment and Sustainable Financing in the Health and Health Care of our Aging Populations
* APEC’s Role in the Decade of Healthy Aging 2020-2030

The HWG endorsed the draft agenda as no member economies had comments.

* 1. **Presentation of HLM9 Joint Statement**

The main outcome of HLM9 is a joint statement, on behalf of the HWG and LSIF. Noting HLM9’s objective to leverage APEC’s unique economic perspective to demonstrate how APEC economies can address the needs of an aging population, with the ultimate goal of ensuring sustainable economic growth and development in the Asia-Pacific region, the draft joint statement takes a life course approach to addressing issues related to aging populations.

Ms. Bell noted that, by empowering older persons as active agents of social change and economic growth, member economies can ensure they are adapting to the needs of an aging population in a way that is inclusive and supportive of all members of society, which, in turn, will result in strengthened economic growth and development.

Member economies agreed to the below timeline for the endorsement of the statement:

* Friday, September 6, 2019: Member economy comments due to APEC secretariat
* Wednesday, September 11, 2019: Revised statement shared with APEC member economies
* Friday, September 20, 2019: Seek final approvals to endorse HLM9 joint statement.

Australia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Russian Federation and the USA intervened in the discussion noting their agreement with the current direction of the statement and acknowledged the theme of ‘Healthy Aging’ as being relevant to all APEC member economies.

The ‘Joint Statement of the 9th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy’ and the ‘HWG and LSIF Joint Activities across the Life Course Statement’ were officially endorsed on September 27th, 2019 and can be found on the HWG website.

**4.3. ‘Dementia Spotlight: A Compilation of Initiatives to Address Dementia in the Asia-Pacific Region’ Proposal**

The number of people living with dementia in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to triple between now and 2050. In 2014, the total estimated costs associated with dementia in the Asia-Pacific region was US $185 billion. Unprecedented, coordinated action to prevent dementia and enable those living with dementia to live well is critical for ensuring health and economic well-being in the APEC region.

Session 6 of the HLM9 – ‘Unlocking regional collaboration to accelerate progress on dementia’ focused discussions on dementia in the APEC region, highlighting opportunities for regional collaboration to ensure the optimal well-being of aging populations in APEC economies. Following the Session 6 panel discussion, member economies had the opportunity to spotlight a project or initiative that their economy has implemented to address dementia that highlights the innovative approaches they are taking to promote healthy aging.

Each of the projects or initiatives shared by APEC economies will be collated to create a compilation. The ‘Dementia Spotlight: A Compilation of Initiatives to Address Dementia in the Asia-Pacific Region’, will be developed to share successful policies and programs across the region to encourage collaboration between APEC economies, particularly those facing similar contextual challenges in meeting the needs of aging populations. The ‘Dementia Spotlight’ will be a resource published on the APEC HWG website to provide easy access to information on the best practices and policies of APEC member economies.

The USA intervened expressing support for this initiative, Chile intervened noting the importance of having good policies in place in order to address the needs of individuals with dementia and Canada highlighted support for this initiative and encouraged the inclusion of individuals with lived experience.

The HWG Co-Chair’s Office agreed to follow up with the submission form to be used by member economies to provide input on their dementia related initiatives or projects for the ‘Dementia Spotlight’ following the meeting.

1. **HWG KEY ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES – 2019**
   1. **Review key accomplishments under 2019 HWG Work Plan**

At the SOM1 2019 meeting, the HWG adopted the 2019 HWG work plan and theme ‘Supporting Health across the Life Course’ and in 2019, the HWG’s mandate was actualized through activities focused on:

* Health Promotion and Disease Prevention;
* Enhanced Access to Care and Services; and,
* Strengthening Health Systems for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development.

These activities spanned across a variety of governance, policy and technical deliverables.

HWG Governance Deliverables:

The goal of the HWG’s 2019 governance deliverables was to shape the HWG’s internal processes to support the functioning of the HWG as a strategic forum addressing issues at the nexus of health and the economy. Deliverables included:

* Two HWG meetings, one on the margins of SOM1 (Santiago, Chile) and one on the margins of SOM3 (Puerto Varas, Chile);
* Agreement on process for endorsing concept notes and revised Guidelines for HWG’s consideration and ranking for concept notes;
* Review APEC Guidelines for Engagement with the Private Sector; and,
* Preliminary discussion on post-Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

HWG Policy/Technical Deliverables:

The key focus for the HWG in 2019 was to continue establishing the HWG as a policy-oriented forum, underscoring the importance of health to economic growth, with the ability to act as a catalyst to address priority global health issues within the regional and global health landscape. Policy and technical deliverables included:

* Policy Discussion on ‘Immunization in the Asia-Pacific Region’;
* APEC HWG Statement on UHC for the UNHLM on UHC; and,
* Policy Dialogue on ‘Health across the Life Course: Prevention Measures to support an ageing population within APEC economies’.

HWG Cross-Fora Deliverables:

There is an explicit link between successful economic growth and the health of an economy’s population and, because economic growth is multi-faceted and inter-sectoral, the HWG recognizes the critical importance of collaborating across APEC work streams to address issues at the nexus of health and the economy. Cross-fora deliverables included:

* Continued collaboration with other APEC fora on Mental Health; and,
* High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy with the LSIF and Joint Statement.
  1. **Policy Dialogue on “Health across the Life Course”**

Policy Dialogues are a key aspect of the HWG’s engagement in discussing relevant policy issues affecting HWG member economies. Chile led on the organization of a Policy Dialogue on “*Health Across the Life Course*”, which was held on Sunday, August 18th in Puerto Varas, Chile.

Ms. Sylvia Santander, Head of Disease Prevention and Control Division, Ministry of Health of Chile highlighted that considering older persons as participants in economies was key to discussions, in addition to the importance of inter-sectoral alliances of care.

Peru, Malaysia and the USA all intervened in the discussion noting that this event was informative and useful. The USA expressed an interest in further collaboration on aging-related issues with Chile.

* 1. **HWG Sub-Working Group Updates**

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| --- | --- |
| **Sub-Working Groups** | |
| **High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy with the APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum and Joint Statement** | Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Russia, USA, Viet Nam |
| **APEC Statement on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for the United Nations High Level Meeting on UHC** | Australia, Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China (lead economy), Japan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam |
| **Childhood Obesity** | Canada, Chile (lead economy), Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia, Chinese Taipei, USA |
| **APEC Guidelines for Engagement with the Private Sector** | Australia (lead economy), People’s Republic of China, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, USA |
| **Concept Note Operating Protocols** | Australia, Canada, People’s Republic of China, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, USA |

HWG sub-working groups were established to carry out work on the policy and technical deliverables established in the HWG Work Plan between the SOM1 and SOM3 2019 HWG meetings.

1. **APEC Statement on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for the United Nations High Level Meeting on UHC** *(China)*

Following the second-ever HWG Policy Discussion on Immunization in the Asia-Pacific Region, HWG member economies agreed that there is value in APEC economies coming together to reinforce important health messages, including immunization and, more broadly, UHC. A sub-working group, led by China, was created in order to develop an APEC Statement on UHC for the UNHLM on UHC, which happened September 23rd, 2019 in New York.

At the UNHLM on UHC, China highlighted the important role UHC plays in promoting human health and well-being, sustainable economic growth, inclusive social development and poverty reduction and that UHC is one of the health targets of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. For every $1 USD invested in Primary Health Care (PHC) services, a critical component of UHC, there is an average return on economic benefit of approximately $9-$20 USD. Member economies were able to submit comments on the statement to China by August 25th, with the goal of finalizing the statement by August 31st. China’s Vice-Minister of the National Health Commission, His Excellency Hesheng Wang, will present the statement on behalf of the HWG at the September 23rd, 2019 UNHLM on UHC in New York, USA.

1. **Childhood Obesity** *(Chile)*

Chile, through a self-funded APEC project, hosted a workshop on prevention and promotion policies for childhood obesity on the margins of the SOM3 set of health-related meetings in Santiago, Chile. A planned output is a report that systematizes the experience of HWG members who participated in the workshop, (Canada, Indonesia, Peru, Russia, Australia, USA) specifically the epidemiology of childhood obesity and cost-effective public policies implemented.

Chile indicated their plan is to have a further discussion on childhood obesity on the margins of the SOM1 2020 HWG meeting in Malaysia, and a final discussion at SOM3 2020.

Canada inquired about the specific deliverables of this sub-working group and emphasized their support for continued work on this issue at APEC.

1. **APEC Guidelines for Engagement with the Private Sector***(Australia)*

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

Australia, who led the initial working group for the development of the guidelines in 2015 and 2016, led a new working group for a review of the guidelines between SOM3 2018 and SOM3 2019. The sub-working group presented the proposed updates at the SOM1 2019 HWG meeting, which included minor changes, issues for discussion, and management procedures.

Following a discussion over the lunch break, the Guidelines were officially endorsed by the HWG.

1. **Concept Note Operating Protocols** *(USA)*

As a result of the changes in the 12th Edition of the Guidebook on APEC Projects, released by the APEC Secretariat in October 2017, the HWG decided to re-examine how it reviews and endorses concept note proposals. The USA led the sub-working group responsible for developing the new concept note operating protocols. The proposed approach was presented to member economies at the SOM1 2019 HWG meeting and included three new steps:

1. Agreement in principle to establish/increase thresholds to at least three co-sponsors of any concept note requesting funding;
2. The establishment of an internal vetting process; and,
3. Provision to review the concept notes electronically.

The protocols were not adopted at the SOM1 2019 HWG meeting and the sub-working group was requested to reconvene outside of the meeting and present a revised proposal to the HWG at the SOM3 2019 meeting. The USA presented the revisions, which included:

1. Checklist Assessment: For a concept note to advance, it must meet all the criteria included in the checklist. This means if a CN does not meet one or more criteria (i.e.: a ‘no’ response) it will not advance, but can be re-submitted in the next round.
2. Results Sharing: All ‘Re-Submit’ checklists will be automatically provided to the proposing economy by the APEC secretariat. All checklists with comments will also be provided to the proposing economy (i.e.: even if a CN receives all ‘Yes’ but there are comments to strengthen this CN, it will be shared).
3. Checklist Item #5: A concept note no longer *must* support cross-fora collaboration (i.e.: in Checklist Item #5), however a paragraph was added to the preamble *encouraging* economies to collaborate across APEC fora.

Member economies were invited to review the updates, and the protocols were notionally endorsed (pending endorsement from the five economies not present at the meeting) on Day Two of the HWG meeting. The protocols were officially endorsed by the HWG on September 17th, 2019.

China, Australia, Canada and Indonesia all intervened in the discussion to thank the USA for leading the revision of the protocols and emphasizing that this process will increase the quality of HWG CN’s and agreed that the protocols should be a living document that can be revised.

1. **NEXT STEPS: MENTAL HEALTH** 
   1. **Status Update – APEC Mental Health Work**

Canada gave a presentation ‘Status Update & Next Steps: Mental Health’ to HWG member economies at the SOM1 2019 HWG meeting, in light of the APEC Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific (the APEC Roadmap) drawing to a conclusion in 2020. At the SOM1 meeting, HWG member economies agreed to have the APEC Digital Hub, the coordinating centre for APEC’s work in mental health, do a stock taking exercise of the APEC Roadmap’s key achievements and provide recommendations for the period post-2020. Ms. Bell introduced the discussion by encouraging member economies to think about what their vision for mental health work at APEC is following the conclusion of the APEC Roadmap in 2020.

**6.2. Presentation – Beyond the APEC Mental Health Roadmap 2020: Recommendations from the Digital Hub & Workplace White Paper/Tool** *(Dr. Raymond Lam & Dr. Jill Murphy, APEC Digital Hub)*

The APEC Digital Hub held a Round Table meeting from June 26th-28th, 2019 in Singapore for its network of partners to summarize progress to-date under the APEC Roadmap to prepare a Report of recommendations and preliminary pilot program reviews. The Report was submitted to the HWG during the SOM3 meeting. Dr. Raymond Lam and Dr. Jill Murphy, of the APEC Digital Hub, presented on ‘Beyond the APEC Mental Health Roadmap 2020’, noting that APEC was the first economic organization to recognize mental health as part of health in relation to economic development, highlighting the economic impact of mental ill-health in all sectors.

Looking ahead to 2020, Dr. Lam and Dr. Murphy highlighted three key outcomes of the Round Table meeting, related to extending the Roadmap, including:

* 1. Using a value-based approach;
  2. Focusing efforts to ensure maximum impact; and,
  3. Structuring the hub to address emerging and high-priority regional challenges.

Dr. Lam and Dr. Murphy recommended extending the APEC Roadmap beyond 2020, with refinements based on broad consultation with APEC and Digital Hub partners, including:

* Renewing the mandate of the APEC Digital Hub as the coordinating centre for mental health initiatives in the APEC region;
* Remaining faithful to the Road map goals, yet flexible in response to emerging priorities in the APEC region;
* Prioritizing private sector partnerships focused on specific projects to promote innovation and sustainability;
* Forging stronger cross-fora collaborations beyond the HWG and LSIF;
* Developing and implementing a more expansive communications strategy for the Digital Hub;
* Taking an activity-focused approach that emphasizes spread, dissemination and uptake by member economies; and,
* Ensuring resources are in place to support progress on the post-2020 Roadmap and to support the sustainability of the Digital Hub.

There is an unprecedented opportunity to enhance recognition of the importance and impact of strengthened and strategic investment in mental health to support economic growth, and APEC has the opportunity to play a critical leadership role in this work.

During the discussion period, Canada, the Philippines and Indonesia all intervened to express support for APEC’s future work in addressing critical issues at the nexus of mental ill health and the economy.

Dr. Lam and Dr. Murphy further provided an update on the ‘White Paper on Workplace Mental Health and Safety’, which established the public and economic impact of workplace mental health and safety. The final draft will be submitted to APEC in November 2019.

**7. DISCUSSION ON POST-HWG STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020**

**7.1. Presentation**

The HWG Strategic Plan 2016-20 (the Plan) updates the 2013-15 Strategic Plan and allows the HWG to set medium term strategic objectives. The Plan aligns with the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 Initiative and integrates recommendations from the 2014 Report for Independent Assessment of the HWG.

Ms. Bell noted that the Plan will sunset in 2020, and invited member economies to express interest in supporting the development of the HWG’s vision for the HWG Strategic Plan, post-2020.

The HWG agreed to develop a sub-working group to develop the HWG’s new Strategic Plan for the period post-2020. Participating member economies include Australia, Canada (lead), Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and Thailand.

**8. PROGRESS REPORT ON APPROVED AND ON-GOING HWG PROJECTS**

This portion of the meeting allowed member economies to present progress reports on their approved and ongoing HWG projects.

**8.1: Workshop on Nutrition Care for Aging Population to Prevent Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases** *(Viet Nam)*

Viet Nam will hold a two-day workshop in October 2020 in Hanoi to review the current situation of nutrition problems and share experiences on nutrition care for aging populations among APEC economies to establish nutrition policies adapted to healthy aging.

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

Peru held this workshop on July 16-19, 2019 in Lima, Peru, with the goal of sharing experiences and lessons learnt in order to strengthen the implementation and management of community mental health services networks.

**8.3: APEC Conference of medical information sharing for enhancing medical and disease management** *(Chinese Taipei)*

This conference was held on August 8-9, 2019 in Taipei, Chinese Taipei. The conference worked to facilitate the sharing of experiences and information to discuss the challenges of managing non-communicable diseases in order to develop recommendations for establishing health information systems.

**8.4: APEC Conference on smart healthcare for Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and its risk factors prevention and control** *(Chinese Taipei)*

This conference was held in Taipei, Chinese Taipei on April 30-May 1, 2019. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences and information on NCDs and served as a venue for participants to discuss the establishment of a platform to facilitate an exchange of information related to NCD prevention and control.

**8.5: Workshop on building the new-leadership of infectious disease prevention and control among APEC economies (Phase II)** *(China)*

Globalization and an information explosion indicate that we urgently need to improve the ability to deal with big data, new biometric technologyand monitoring systems in order to address infectious diseases. This workshop will be held in Beijing, China in November 2019 and will aim to put forward guidelines related to infectious disease and control.

**8.6: TB workshop on tuberculosis molecular epidemiology: to face the challenge of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) transmission in the context of globalization** *(China)*

This workshop was held on June 27-28, 2019 in Fujian Province, China. At the workshop, participants revised current polices and measures of DR-TB epidemiology and systems to deal with DR-TB in order to begin developing a framework for action in line with the APEC End TB Collaboration Framework.

**8.7: Regional Workshop on Lung Cancer Prevention and Control** *(China)*

This workshop will be held on October 22-23,2019, in Beijing, China. The main objective of the workshop is to discuss the possibility of establishing a lung cancer prevention and control network within the Asia-Pacific region.

**8.8**: **International Conference «Promoting Human Security in APEC. Capacity-Building of APEC Economies through Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases by Implementing Innovative Healthcare Technologies»** (*Russia*)

The international conference will be held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia in October 2019 and will help to join efforts of APEC economies in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by implementing innovative health care technologies.

**8.9**: **Workshop on the healthcare accreditation in the APEC region, Phase I** (*China*)

This workshop was held on June 22, 2019 in Beijing, China with the objective of building a platform of collaboration for member economies to share experience on healthcare accreditation and to discuss the need for a regional healthcare accreditation program.

Policy recommendations stemming from the workshop included:

* Paying more attention to patient safety and learning systems, such as the adverse events system, which is essential for the improvement of healthcare quality; and,
* Suggestion to establish a working mechanism to share the framework and system of healthcare accreditation and medical quality in the APEC region.

**8.10**: **Workshop on Promoting Universal Health Coverage of International Migration in the APEC Region: Challenges and the Strategy** (*China*)

This workshop will be held in China in October 2019. Anticipated participants include policy makers, think tanks, and scholars from the APEC economies. The workshop will formulate a policy brief with specific recommendations on improving UHC for international migration, to be circulated at SOM3 2020.

**9. CLOSING REMARKS**

HWG Co-Chair, Ms. Tammy Bell and HWG Vice-Chair, Dr. Paula Daza, briefly summarized the day’s proceedings before closing the meeting. Member economies were reminded to consider the revisions to the HWG Concept Note Operating Protocols and their participation in the proposed HWG sub-working groups.

**END OF DAY ONE**

**Day Two**

*Tuesday, August 20th, 2019*

**1. RECAP OF DAY ONE**

**1.1. Summary Remarks by HWG Co-Chair & Vice-Chair**

Mr. Francisco Adriazola Santibañez (Chile) took the place of Dr. Paula Daza, who was unable to attend Day Two of the HWG meeting. Following welcome remarks, Ms. Bell provided a brief overview of the discussions that occurred on Day One of the HWG meeting, and reminded participants to consider which sub-working group they would be interested in participating in.

1. **UPDATE ON THE LSIF** 
   1. **Presentation** *(Mr. Michael Schmitz, Advisor, Life Sciences and Innovation Forum)*

The LSIF is a tri-partite APEC group, including government, industry and academic representatives, dedicated to advancing innovative life sciences to advance human health in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Michael Schmitz, Advisor to the Chair of the LSIF, presented on the work of the LSIF, including opportunities for further cross-fora collaboration with the HWG. The LSIF Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC), which is leading APEC efforts towards medical products convergence by 2020 by focusing on training APEC regulators through centres of excellences, was highlighted as a key success coming from the LSIF and member economies were encouraged to participate in the development of a vision for regulatory convergence post-2020. Mr. Schmitz highlighted the importance of innovative healthcare financing as a top priority for the LSIF.

1. **INCREASING PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS & PREVENTION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

The overarching goal of this multi-year, self-funded APEC project, led by the US, is to improve pandemic and epidemic preparedness and prevention in the Asia-Pacific region by increasing members’ understanding of the economic impacts of new and resurgent vaccine preventable diseases and the value of implementing effective vaccine-based public health responses to address the issue.

Phase one of the project will aim to capture and assess information on the overall disease burden and the economic impacts of new and resurgent infectious disease pandemics and epidemics. The analysis will be undertaken with the aim of identifying critical information gaps and improving the evidence base to inform policy responses to improve health outcomes in the APEC region. Phase two will examine effective supply-side strategies to strengthen vaccine based public health responses to address new and resurgent disease epidemics and pandemics. These strategies will seek to improve the overall safety, reliability and accessibility of vaccines. This work is strongly aligned with high-level priorities set by APEC Leaders in 2018 and 2014 and the strategic directions of the Health Working Group.

**3.1. Presentation: Increasing Pandemic Preparedness & Prevention in the Asia-Pacific Region** *(USA)*

The USA, represented by Ms. Beatriz Ayala-Ostrom, presented a gap analysis of the economic costs of vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs); phase one of the project ‘Increasing Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention in the Asia-Pacific Region’. The objective of the gap analysis was to capture and assess available information on the overall disease burden and the economic impacts of new and resurgent infectious disease epidemics with the aim of identifying critical information gaps in the APEC region. Although the economic impacts of VPDs are high and carry a high disease burden, APEC can act as a convener addressing pandemic preparedness and prevention in the region.

Gaps identified in the literature reviewed included:

* No information to document successful vaccine programs for pandemic diseases generated visible short or medium term savings and a link to productivity gains due to disease prevention available;
* No published evidence-based economic impact assessments available for most APEC economies;
* Limited indicators to measure economic costs in the few assessments that attempt to quantify them;
* Internal governance and health system delivery structures do not feature in terms of the roles they play in pandemic response and containment;
* How additional costs relating to pandemics are borne by individuals, particularly when those exposed might suffer themselves economic losses directly as a result of the pandemic;
* Supply related aspects such as vaccine programs, infrastructure, information systems, capacity of the health workforce to deliver vaccines and health expenditure/financing are acknowledged as key barriers to vaccine delivery but the literature do not specifically document it; and,
* International transport and delivery issues together with cold chain capacity gaps are documented somewhat in the literature, but more work needs to be done to access APEC economies specific information.

During the discussion period, Canada expressed support for this body of work. Indonesia noted the importance of national immunization plans and the need to develop strategic, cohesive policies. Korea noted their experience in strengthening international cooperation following the 2015 MERS crisis.

**3.2. Next Steps: Vaccination**

Given the economic implications of re-emerging VPDs in the Asia-Pacific region, the increasing challenges of dealing with misinformation and its impacts on vaccine confidence, and the prioritization of vaccination and vaccine hesitancy on the global health agenda, it is clear that vaccination will remain a priority issue for APEC in the foreseeable future. Additionally, with the success of the Policy Discussion on Immunization at SOM1 in March 2019, member economies’ interest in putting forward the APEC Statement on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for the United Nations High Level Meeting on UHC, and the United States’ proposal to continue their work on vaccine supply chains, the HWG is primed to make vaccination a strategic area of work. This discussion allowed for reflection on the significant work done so far by the HWG and highlight the strategic value of continuing work on this area.

During the discussion, HWG member economies agreed to develop an HWG sub-working group on vaccination. The goal of the sub-working group will be to develop a proposed package of work to address issues related to vaccination in the Asia-Pacific region. Sub-working group member economies include Australia, Canada (co-lead), People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, LSIF, Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei and USA (co-lead).

**ADDITION: Concept Note Operating Protocols**

Following the Day One discussion of the HWG Concept Note Operating Protocols, an agenda item was added to allow member economies to comment on the updates made to the protocols following Day One of the HWG meeting. During Day One of the HWG meeting, under Agenda Item 5.3.d, the USA presented revisions to the HWG Concept Note Operating Protocols. Member economies were invited to review the proposed updates before Day Two of the HWG meeting, and the protocols were notionally endorsed (pending endorsement from the five economies not present at the meeting) on Day Two of the HWG meeting. The protocols were officially endorsed by the HWG on September 17th, 2019.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW CONCEPT NOTES**

This portion of the meeting afforded project overseers of new HWG Concept Notes to present on their projects.

**4.1: Establishment of a Tropical Health Workforce Development Hub** *(Australia)*

This project proposed the development of a virtual Health Workforce Development Hub, which will facilitate APEC economies to share knowledge and expertise to develop innovative and targeted solutions to build health workforce and health system capacity and support economic growth in developing economies.

**4.2: Symposium about Early Hearing Damage Prevention in Young People** *(Chile)*

The aim of this project is to develop strategic actions and recommendations to prevent and monitor early hearing damage in young people. The project will result in the publication of a report with results of strategic actions to prevent hearing damage from exposure to recreational noise, and the best practices to promote early prevention.

**4.3: Workshop on the Healthcare Accreditation in the APEC Region** *(China)*

The project will invite 90 experts to attend “Workshop on the Healthcare Accreditation in the APEC Region” where they will discuss regional consensus on healthcare accreditation, establish a cooperation mechanism and cooperation platform for medical quality management evaluation, and promote the establishment of a mutually recognized medical quality management evaluation system in the region.

**4.4: Regional Workshop on Malaria Prevention and Control** *(China)*

The project will hold a training workshop in China focusing on the prevention and control of Malaria and the issue of antimalarial drug resistance through strengthening disease surveillance capabilities, sharing best practices, and raising awareness of health and financial costs of antimalarial drug resistance in the region.

**4.5: Using E-health platform to Improve the Equity of Maternal Health Management in Remote Areas** *(China)*

The project will carry out research on new models of E-health to improve maternal health care equity in remote areas, conduct pilot studies in 1-2 economies, and hold a workshop to share best practices. The overall goal of this project is to improve maternal health levels and equity.

**4.6: APEC Conference for the Surveillance, Prevention, Treatment, Laboratory Diagnosis and Vaccine Development of Enteroviruses** *(Chinese Taipei)*

This project will work to minimize the health and economic impact of enteroviruses by providing APEC economies with a platform to share and discuss experiences of combatting enteroviruses.

**4.7: APEC Conference on Urbanization, Population Aging and Technology Innovation** *(Chinese Taipei)*

This project will organize a 2-day conference in 2020 in Taipei that will include interactive sessions to exchange on healthy cities, age-friendly cities, integrated care for chronic disease policies with technology innovation in the ageing population, and sustainable environment and site visits to smart cities, hospitals and communities where age-friendly and environment-friendly designs are adopted.

**4.8: Workshop on “Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: Current Situation and Solution”** *(Viet Nam)*

This project will organize a workshop to review the current situation of GDM issues and share experiences and best practices on GDM screening, diagnosis and management among APEC economies.

**4.9: Development of multi-disciplinary integrated models for the first trimester screening in pregnancies in APEC region** (*Viet* *Nam*)

This project will build the standardized first trimester screening program in pregnancies in association with multi-disciplinary specialties for early diagnosing birth defects including chromosomal and genetic abnormalities and managing pregnancy-induced disorders from 11 to 14 weeks of gestation.

**4.10: Integrated healthcare for people to deliver appropriated care according population health’s needs: towards universal health coverage in primary healthcare** *(Chile)*

This project aims to address the need to scale up by reinforcing PHC’s workforce skills and researching competences in regards of integrated people-centred and multi-morbidity model of care to serve as a technical and documented experience for other APEC economies that are looking for delivering strategies for UHC. The project will train Chilean PHC’s workforce and assess the impact of this new model of care (health outcomes, patient’s experience and avoidable hospitalizations), between March 2020 and October 2021 with cooperation and participation of APEC economics.

**4.11: Addressing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: a framework to estimate the economic impact of FASD in APEC economies** *(Chile)*

FASD is a significant public health issue with implications reaching the health, social and economic sectors. This project will include a two-day workshop, in 2021, to bring together researchers, policy makers and stakeholders to exchange information on best practices in addressing FASD in APEC economies, develop a framework to estimate the economic costs of FASD and put forward recommendations to address the health, social, and economic challenges resulting from this disorder.

**4.12: Forum: Articulating Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM) with Domestic Health Care Systems of APEC Economies** *(Peru)*

T&CM is often an underestimated part of health care. As such, this project proposes a forum to be held in Lima in late 2019 to strengthen APEC economies through the T&CM articulation with health care delivery.

1. **SELECTION OF HWG CHAIR(S), 2020-2021**  
   **5.1. Endorsement of new HWG Chair(s), 2020-2021**

Canada and Papua New Guinea’s 2018-2019 term as HWG Co-Chair’s will expire at the end of 2019.

Canada and Malaysia submitted a joint nomination for the upcoming 2020-2021 term as HWG Co-Chairs, which was endorsed by the HWG.

Australia, USA, China, Singapore and the LSIF intervened to welcome the new HWG Co-Chair’s and thanked Canada and Papua New Guinea for their work over the past two years.

1. **INVITATION TO APEC 2020**

**6.1. Presentation** *(Malaysia)*

Malaysia will be the host of APEC in 2020. Hon. Dr. Chaw Min Chen, Secretary General, Ministry of Health, Malaysia, gave a short presentation and invitation to next year’s APEC events.

Mr. Chen indicated that the SOM1 and SOM3 2020 meetings are tentatively scheduled for

* + SOM1, 3-22 March, 2020: Putrajaya, Malaysia
  + SOM3, 7-20 August 2020: Penang, Malaysia

The dates have since changed and SOM1 will be held from 3-22 February 2020 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Potential APEC 2020 Priority Areas include:

* + Regional Economic Integration, including women and youth empowerment;
  + Inclusive Economic Growth Through Digital Economy and Technology; and,
  + Driving Innovative Sustainability.

1. **DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION** 
   1. **Presentation** *(Mr. Johnny Lin, APEC Secretariat)*

Mr. Johnny Lin, APEC HWG program director, gave a short presentation on the HWG documents where member economies were able to identify if the documents they submitted could be moved from restricted to open access.

**8. CLOSING REMARKS & FEEDBACK**

**8.1. Forward Looking Plan & Next Steps**

Ms. Bell reminded member economies to consider their participation in the HWG sub-working groups and noted that the APEC Secretariat would be circulating the HWG Concept Note Protocols to the member economies not present for final endorsement.

**8.2. Closing Remarks**

Ms. Bell briefly summarized the discussions over the past day and a half before adjourning the meeting.

**END OF DAY TWO**