



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

APEC Senior Officials' Report on

Economic and Technical Cooperation 2017



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Economic Cooperation**

2017 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation

**SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical
Cooperation**

November 2017

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Letter from the SCE Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2017 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation.

The work of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) and its fora in 2017 has been guided by the APEC 2017 theme of "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future" and the ECOTECH medium-term priorities.

The SCE continued to guide the work of its fora. A new, standardized fora assessment system was adopted to foster greater consistency in assessments and a more complete organizational view. Together with the Budget and Management Committee, the SCE streamlined the project funding process and further advanced capacity building priorities. The Committee of the Whole discussions were structured to better identify cross-fora issues and opportunities. Guidelines on promoting cross-fora collaboration were adopted by the SCE and SOM.

This Report highlights some of the many activities of the SCE working groups and task forces. These are viewed through the lenses of the ECOTECH medium term priorities and the *APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth*, including its focus on institution building, social inclusion and environmental impact. I am pleased to highlight that the efforts of SCE fora in 2017 contributed to the development of key APEC deliverables in the areas of disaster risk reduction, health, human resources in a digital age, gender inclusion, small and medium sized enterprises and innovation, and sustainable tourism, among many others.

Indeed, as the benefits of increasing globalization continue to be questioned among some, we should be encouraged to better highlight our achievements which address the nature, reach and sustainability of the growth that we advocate.

In presenting this Report, I wish to acknowledge the commitment, hard work and contributions of APEC members, the SCE fora and our dedicated fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds.

As the work of the SCE is of course not done, I welcome Chile as the incoming SCE Chair, and I look forward to working closely with them.

Sincerely yours,



Ivan POMALEU
Chair, SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH

Executive Summary

In 2017, the SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) held three meetings in the margins of Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) under the chairmanship of His Excellency Ivan Pomaleu, APEC Senior Official of Papua New Guinea. It organized the twelfth annual SCE Committee of the Whole (SCE-COW) meeting and an informal meeting of SCE fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds. The SCE held a joint meeting with the Budget and Management Committee (BMC) and also conducted its business through intersessional discussion.

The SCE continued facilitating collaboration among APEC fora. It considered and endorsed the *APEC Guidelines for Promoting Cross-Fora Collaboration*, an initiative of the SCE Chair. The guidelines, endorsed subsequently at SOM, promote best practices regarding such collaboration APEC-wide. The SCE continued to refine the format of the SCE-COW and related discussions to encourage greater engagement among the representatives of SCE fora.

The SCE reviewed and endorsed a new, standardized system to undertake assessments of SCE fora beginning in 2018. The new system will generate more consistent and comparable results. The SCE also established a Fora Assessment Team for 2018 which may make recommendations based on the information arising from the assessments.

The SCE continued to contribute toward the implementation of the *Policy on APEC's Capacity Building through Economic and Technical Cooperation*. Together with BMC, the SCE approved a streamlined project approval process to take effect in 2018.

The SCE continued to play its central role with respect to the administration of SCE fora. Annual Work Plans were approved by the SCE, as were longer-term Strategic Plans as required. Also as required, fora Terms of Reference were considered and recommended to SOM for endorsement, and responses to Independent Assessment were noted.

Six APEC economies made financial contributions to the APEC Support Fund (ASF).

A discussion of the above and other highlights and priorities are set out in Section 2. Section 3 outlines the projects, both funded by APEC and self-funded by economies, undertaken since the 2016 Report.

Section 4 provides an illustrative list of examples of how various projects and other initiatives of SCE fora addressed each of the ECOTECH medium term priorities. Section 5 is new and highlights how the activities of SCE fora addressed the key accountability areas of the *APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth* endorsed by Leaders in 2015.

Section 6 sets out an illustrative list of key achievement of the SCE fora since the 2016 Report. For instance, the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) developed the Vinh Joint Recommendations on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction which were agreed at the 11th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum in September 2017.

The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) developed the APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age, which was endorsed at a High-Level Meeting in May, together with an Action Plan in connection with the APEC Education Strategy.

The Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) organized the Women and the Economy Forum in September 2017, which included a High-Level Policy Dialogue and Public-

Private Dialogue. Gender Inclusion Guidelines were endorsed and the APEC Dashboard: Increasing STEM Education was implemented.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) work contributed to the development and endorsement of the Strategy on Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs, adoption of the initiative Promoting APEC Innovative Start-Ups and launch of the APEC MSMEs Marketplace, all of which were key outcomes of the SME Ministerial Meeting in September 2017.

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) contributed to identifying priority actions to promote sustainable tourism and related areas as outlined in the statement endorsed at a High-Level Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Tourism held in June.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to the 2017 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM):

- 1. Endorse the 2017 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation;*
- 2. Welcome the achievements of the SCE Working Groups and Task Forces;*
- 3. Welcome the adoption of a new SCE Standardized Fora Assessment System;*
- 4. Welcome the APEC Guidelines for Promoting Cross-Fora Collaboration; and*
- 5. Welcome 2017 contributions to the APEC Support Fund from Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Russia and Chinese Taipei.*

1. Introduction

The SOM Sub-Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) was established in 1998 with the mandate to “assist SOM in improving the management and coordination of ECOTECH activities among APEC fora”. The Sub-Committee was later elevated to the SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ESC) in 2002. As part of the APEC reform process, the ESC became the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) in 2006 with the mandate to strengthen the prioritization and effective implementation of ECOTECH activities by various APEC fora. In 2009, SOM agreed to further strengthen the policy guidance role of the SCE as recommended by the latter’s internal review. In 2014, the SCE adopted capacity building guidelines to guide APEC’s capacity building activities. In an effort to foster more coordinated efforts on capacity building, the SCE approved the *Policy on APEC’s Capacity Building through Economic and Technical Cooperation* in 2015 (hereinafter *APEC Capacity Building Policy*).

In 2017, the SCE was chaired by H.E. Ivan Pomaleu, APEC Senior Official for Papua New Guinea. The SCE Vice Chair was Ms Quynh Mai Pham, Alternate Senior Official for Viet Nam.

The Committee met on three occasions during 2017 and accomplished the following:

- a. reviewed and adopted a new, standardized fora assessment system;
- b. together with the Budget and Management Committee (BMC), approved new approaches to streamline the project funding process and further implement capacity-building goals;
- c. further promoted cross-fora collaboration, including through the review and adoption of new guidelines; and
- d. facilitated the work of SCE sub-fora by providing direction on Work Plans, Strategic Plans and Terms of Reference.

The SCE met jointly with the BMC in Nha Trang, Viet Nam, on 27 February 2017. The SCE and BMC endorsed the proposed new approach to selecting APEC projects for funding and the new scoring sheet for project selection. This was the culmination of the work of the Small Working Group on further implementing the *APEC Capacity Building Policy* and streamlining the project funding approval process.

The annual SCE Committee as a Whole (SCE-COW) was held in Nha Trang on 28 February 2017. It was attended by representatives of all twenty-one APEC member economies and convenors or their representatives from SCE fora. This was preceded by an informal meeting of fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds, chaired by the Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat, together with group discussions based on the 2017 host year priorities. These latter discussions, which sought to explore cross-fora issues and opportunities, witnessed particularly active engagement from participants. The SCE-COW approved the annual work plans of 15 of 17 working groups and task forces. It took note of the Secretariat’s Report on Synergies within the ECOTECH Agenda and accepted its recommendations (2017/SOM1/SCE-COW/015), annexed herewith. The SCE-COW approved the work plan of the contractor engaged to develop a new, standardized fora assessment system.

The first SCE meeting (SCE1) was held on Nha Trang on 1 March 2017. The SCE adopted its own work plan for 2017 (2017/SOM1/SCE/002), annexed herewith, and took note of the Report of the Executive Director on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC’s Overall Vision and

Objectives (2017/SOM1/SCE/008). The SCE recommended that Senior Officials approve the revised Terms of Reference of the Energy Working Group (EWG). The SCE designated Peru as the coordinator of the Trade Facilitation Initiative (TFI) Steering Council. The SCE requested the Secretariat to report back on revising the work plan template to consider the issue of gender.

The second SCE meeting (SCE2) was held in Ha Noi on 15 May 2017. SCE approved the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan of the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), together with the 2017 work plans of Group on Friends of Disability Issues (GOFD) and the Policy Partnership on Women in the Economy (PPWE). The SCE approved Indonesia as the coordinating economy for the Mainstreaming Oceans Issues Steering Council (MOI). Delegations further discussed gender mainstreaming and ensuring integration into annual fora planning. The SCE requested the Secretariat to update the work plan template with annotations regarding gender issues. The SCE took note of Russia's revised paper on bridging the gap in economic development and integration of remote areas for sustainable growth.

The third SCE meeting (SCE3) was held in Ho Chi Minh City on 25 August 2017. SCE members welcomed a draft of the new, standardized fora assessment system, and subsequently approved it intersessionally. The SCE endorsed the establishment of the 2018 assessment team to be comprised of Chile, China, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Chinese Taipei. It also agreed intersessionally that the fora to be assessed in 2018 would be the: Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG), EWG, GOFD and Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG).

Also at SCE3, the SCE endorsed the HRDWG Strategic Plan 2013-2020, and recommended that the revised Terms of Reference for HRDWG and the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG) be approved-in-principle by SOM, subject to appropriate amendments subsequently being inserted to reflect new governance requirements on quorum and sunset clauses. The SCE also noted the Response to an Independent Assessment submitted by the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group (ACTWG). The *APEC Guidelines for Promoting Cross-Fora Collaboration* (2017/SOM3/020), annexed herewith, were endorsed by the SCE and SOM.

The SCE noted Russia's report on outcomes of the SCE-Led Policy Dialogue on Bridging the Gap in Economic Development and Integration of Remote Areas. The SCE endorsed next steps to develop an outline to determine possible ways APEC could further add value to the development and integration of remote areas. The SCE also noted the proposal by China to conduct an assessment of progress towards achieving the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal and encouraged China to further engage economies which had questions.

2. 2017 Highlights and Priorities

2.1 New, Standardized Fora Assessment System

a. Background on a New Fora Assessment System

In 2006, the SCE was mandated to conduct a review of APEC working groups and task forces and make recommendations to Senior Officials on establishing, merging, disbanding and reorienting these bodies. Ministers endorsed the recommendations of the SCE review and instructed the SCE to continue efforts to improve the operation and work of its fora (2006/CSOM/14). A program of independent assessments was then developed to evaluate all SCE working groups and task forces every four years and support periodic review processes.

In 2016, the SCE Chair proposed, and members accepted, to conduct a review of the Independent Assessment program. Delegations shared the view that fora assessments should be undertaken in the view of providing broader organizational perspectives and facilitating possible rationalization. Delegations also noted the lack of understanding of APEC among certain assessors, uneven follow-up on recommendations and inconsistencies between the review of fora Terms of References and their assessment schedules. Following this, the Secretariat presented a discussion paper to SCE2 (2016/SOM2/SCE/003), which addressed a number of issues, including quality, focus, schedules across different review and monitoring processes, post-assessment measures and attendant financial/administrative burdens.

At SCE3 in 2016, the SCE approved the Decisions on Fora Assessment as proposed by the Chair (2016/SOM3/SCE/011), the main elements of which include:

- a. development of a standardized program for assessments in 2017, covering but not limited to i) a set of indicators to assess the performance and governance of the fora; ii) a survey questionnaire template; iii) a possible scope of survey; iv) a list of useful information and data for the assessment; v) the methodology of processing such data; and vi) a reporting template;
- b. the annual assessments starting from 2018 by an Assessment Team comprising the representatives from the preceding, current, and subsequent SCE Chairing economies, as well as any other volunteering economies with the assistance from the Secretariat based on the data and information produced through the standardized program for a group of SCE sub-fora pursuant to their terms of reference and the decisions by SCE;
- c. further follow-up by the Assessment Team on the recommendations; and
- d. an optional Comprehensive Fora Review following a full cycle of assessments on all the SCE fora.

The new fora assessment system is expected to bring greater consistency through a standardized annual program and provide the SCE with a more comprehensive organizational view through engagement of an annual Assessment Team as well as an optional SCE-wide comprehensive assessment. Engaging outside service providers on a multi-year contract to process data and consolidate relevant information may address the concerns over any additional administrative and financial burdens of a new system.

b. Developments in 2017

Following an open procurement process, in late 2016, the SCE approved the selection of a contractor, Sustineo of Australia, to develop the new system. The contractor presented a work plan at SCE1 in 2017, which was approved. At SCE3, members welcomed the contractor's draft report on the new system and provided comments. The contractor subsequently circulated a further revised draft report which was endorsed intersessionally on 10 October 2017.

As directed at SCE at SCE3 in 2016, the Secretariat proposed a list of eight fora to be assessed in 2018, noting that no assessments were undertaken during 2017. Members expressed some reservations about the number of fora to be assessed in the first year under the new system and asked the Secretariat, in coordination with the contractor, to identify a reduced number of fora. Based on a recommendation of the Secretariat, the SCE agreed on 10 October 2017 that the following four fora will be assessed in 2018: Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG), Energy Working Group (EWG), Group on Friends of Disability (GOFD) and the Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG).

The SCE endorsed the establishment of the Assessment Team for 2018 to be comprised of: Chile, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia, being the SCE Chair, previous chair and subsequent chair for 2018, together with the People's Republic of China, New Zealand, Singapore and Chinese Taipei, as volunteer members. SCE3 noted suggestions by economies to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Assessment Team and that Terms of Reference of the Assessment Team be brought for consideration at SCE1 in 2018.

c. Next Steps

Pursuant to the SCE3 2016 Decision, a service provider is to be retained to implement the new system over a minimum period of two years starting in 2018. The Secretariat is to coordinate this process in advance of SCE1 in 2018, with the final selection of the contractor is to be approved intersessionally by the SCE.

2.2 Cross-fora collaboration

a. Recommendations to Improve Cross-Fora Collaboration

Improving cross-fora collaboration has been under discussion in recent years. At SCE2 in 2016, the Secretariat, in response to a request from SCE-COW, submitted a paper which discussed various ideas suggested by SCE members and made specific recommendations. (2016/SOM2/SCE/004). The Secretariat collected further suggestions on the proposed recommendations during the intersessional period following SCE2 and presented a paper with revised recommendations (2016/SOM3/SCE/002), which SCE3 approved.

The approved recommendations were to:

- a. use the annual SCE COW for off-line conversations for any cross-cutting issues;
- b. utilize information technology to share relevant information for cross-fora coordination, including centralized information page and discussion boards under the APEC Collaboration Site as well as a review on the protocol on remote participation;
- c. request the BMC Small Working Group (SWG) to consider giving further priorities to certain cross-fora collaboration projects;
- d. encourage the cross-participation across the SCE fora and beyond SCE; and,
- e. assess the fora on their efforts to collaborate.

The BMC SWG took up the issue of giving a premium to cross-fora projects at its second meeting in 2016. The SOM accepted the recommendation by SCE to review the remote participation protocol and requested the Secretariat to look into this issue. The revised template of the SCE Fora Report expects the fora to report on its cross-fora activities.

At SCE1 in 2017, the SCE Chair presented his intention to streamline the existing SCE-COW process to better facilitate cross-fora discussions in order to ensure maximum output from the meetings. The Chair explained that streamlining the SCE meetings was not only necessary to facilitate the discussion of cross-cutting issues, but also to provide the opportunity for meaningful exchanges on issues concerning more than one fora, to discuss existing collaboration, and to explore new areas to collaborate in order to progress the priorities in any given year and in turn the broader objectives of APEC. The Chair proposed that, for future hosting of the meetings, the SCE continue along the path set at SCE-COW in 2017 where special sessions were organized for thematic discussions on the 2017 priorities. He also highlighted that improvements should be made to ensure that the actual SCE-COW meeting is more targeted and relevant to its purposes.

b. SCE-COW 2017

Pursuant to the approved recommendations on cross-fora collaboration from SCE3 2016, a fourth meeting of SCE Fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds was held on 28 February 2017 in Nha Trang, Viet Nam. Chairs and Lead Shepherds or their representatives from fourteen SCE fora participated. This meeting was accompanied by thematic small group discussions addressing the four host year themes: fostering sustainable, innovative and inclusive growth; deepening regional economic integration; strengthening MSNE's competitiveness in the digital age; and enhancing food security and sustainable agriculture in response to climate change. The structuring of the small group discussions was welcomed by many positive comments from fora convenors as this facilitated the identification of cross-cutting issues and opportunities for further collaboration. There was strong interest among fora convenors to build on this approach in connection with future meetings of the SCE-COW and otherwise. The informal meeting and thematic group discussions were followed by a meeting of the SCE-COW proper.

At SCE-COW on 28 February, the APEC Secretariat introduced its report, "SCE Report on Synergies within the ECOTECH Agenda" (2017/SOM1/SCE-COW/015), which included tables of identified cross-fora collaboration activities by fora and 2017 APEC priorities. While the report had previously been submitted to SCE2 meetings, the 2017 report was submitted to SCE-COW in order to facilitate the cross-fora collaboration discussion taking place and better guide the activities of fora throughout the year. On reviewing the Work Plans or draft Work Plans of fifteen SCE fora, the report concluded: that areas of potential cross-fora collaboration have increased over the previous year; that collaboration ideas have become more specific; and that a number of SCE fora have identified collaboration with fora under the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) and the Economic Committee (EC) as well as with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). The SCE approved the recommendations contained in the report.

c. SCE's Cross-Fora Initiatives on Specific Topics

Travel Facilitation Initiative Steering Council – The Trade Facilitation Initiative Steering Council assists the coordination and reporting on the work being undertaken within APEC towards the Travel Facilitation Initiative. The TFI focuses on making travel in the region faster, easier and more secure. The TFI Steering Council reports to the CSOM meeting annually. Three SCE fora – CTWG, Tourism Working Group (TWG) and the Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) – are actively involved, in conjunction with two fora of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) and the Business Mobility Group (BMG). Representatives of the five sub-fora also sit on the virtual Steering Council.

The mandate of the TFI Steering Council was extended until 2017, from the original 2015, by the decision in 2015 in order to match the TFI mandate which expires in 2017. At SCE1 in 2017, Peru was designated as the new coordinator of the TFI, after the United States had earlier indicated that it had concluded its role.

Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues – Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues (MOI) Steering Council was established by SOM in 2014 to support the MOI initiative endorsed at the 2013 Leaders Meeting. The initiative was designed to pursue: 1) strengthening food security and food safety, 2) maintaining healthy oceans and protecting the marine environment, and 3) connecting APEC Economies through the ocean. Eight APEC fora are identified in connection with the initiative, although the involvement of others is not precluded: EWG, Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), HRDWG, Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG), Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS), Sub-Committee on Standard Conformance (SCSC), TWG and TPTWG.

In 2016, the MOI Steering Council mandate was extended two additional years until December 2018. The revised terms of reference includes more detailed procedures to appoint a Coordinator. At SCE3 in 2017, Indonesia advised that a MOI Coordinator from within the Indonesian administration had yet to be identified and that an update will be provided at SCE1 S018.

d. APEC Guidelines for Promoting Cross-Fora Collaboration

Beginning at SCE1 in 2017, the SCE Chair noted his intention to strengthen cross-fora collaboration through the development of guidelines on cross-fora collaboration. These would be a set of minimum standards and requirements for APEC fora to engage on areas of interest and concern to more than one fora and on cross-cutting issues. The guidelines would acknowledge successful practices already in use.

An initial draft of the guidelines were presented at SCE2. Papua New Guinea stressed the growing importance of cross-fora collaboration and the need to develop more deliberate and guided measures for APEC fora, which if applied and monitored consistently, could ensure better collaboration. The guidelines would seek to streamline ongoing good practices and add value to emerging matters, including as they relate to the ongoing review of the APEC project funding process. Economies provided comments at SCE2 and then subsequently in the intersessional period. A revised draft of the guidelines, incorporating such comments, were circulated to SCE sub-fora and to the CTI and EC during the intersessional interval between SCE2 and SCE3.

At SCE3, members expressed broad support and endorsed the *APEC Guidelines for Promoting Cross-Fora Collaboration* (see Annex 2) and further recommended endorsement by Senior Officials. At SOM3 in 2017, the Guidelines were endorsed with the result being their application APEC-wide.

2.3 Follow-up on APEC Capacity Building Policy

The procedural decision to follow up on the *APEC Capacity Building Policy* was adopted by SCE3 in 2016, and subsequently endorsed by SOM. Among other things, the decision established the BMC Small Working Group to explore options to implement certain aspects of the SCE capacity building policy.

At SCE-COW in 2017, the SCE Chair noted that the BMC SCE Joint Meeting held on 27 February 2018 approved the proposed streamlining project proposal process outlined in Paper 1 and 2 (2017/SOM1.BMC-SCE/002 and 2017/SOM1.BMC-SCE/003). The Chair of the BMC SWG

briefed the SCE COW on the key elements of the approved proposal, highlighting the allocation of funds accounts to specific committees and working groups to score concept notes only once for approval, and the development of a new scoring sheet. The Chair also reported that these elements will be incorporated into a new version of the APEC Project Guidebook to be issued later in 2017. The Joint Meeting also agreed that the Project Management Unit of the APEC Secretariat would brief the sub-fora and working groups on the new approach and provide training as appropriate.

2.4 Fora Administration

a. Making Recommendations to SOM on the Terms of Reference of SCE Fora

In accordance with the SCE Terms of Reference, the SCE has the mandate to “review the role and operation of Working Groups and Task Forces with a view to making recommendations to the SOM on establishing, merging, disbanding or reorienting” such working groups and task forces. In 2017, the SCE recommended to SOM to endorse the revised Terms of References of EWG to highlight the current organizational structure of the EWG and its subsidiary bodies. The SCE recommended to SOM to approve-in-principle the revised Terms of References of Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG) and HRDWG, subject to the insertion of language reflecting the new fora governance reforms adopted by SOM relating to quorums and sunset clauses. The TELWG ToR has been revised to reflect new organizational arrangements of the group, including cooperation with the SCE and a review clause. The HRDWG ToR had been revised to reflect the 2016 APEC Education Ministerial Statement, the 2015 and 2016 APEC Economic Leaders’ Declarations and the outcomes of High-Level Policy Dialogues on Science and Technology in Higher Education (2015) and Human Resources Development in the Digital Age (2017).

b. Approving Strategic Plans

The SCE-COW, which was held in Moscow on 16 February 2012, decided to require all ECOTECH fora to develop a strategic plan prior to CSOM 2013. During 2014, SCE assisted fora strategic planning process to ensure such work would be as focused as much as possible on the highest priority areas as determined by Leaders and Ministers, and all sixteen fora (at the time) produced their strategic plans.

In 2017, SCE approved two Strategic Plans: EPWG for 2017-2020, so as to be in line with the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and Action Plan; and HRDWG for 2013-2020. The SCE decided to consider the ACTWG Strategic Plan at SCE1 in 2018 to allow members time to review and comment.

At SOM1 in 2017, the APEC Secretariat reported on the current status of SCE fora Strategic Plans (2017/SOM1/SCE/007). The paper urged fora to submit Strategic Plans to allow SCE sufficient time for review and endorsement.

c. Approving Annual Work Plans

The Terms of Reference of SCE, as reconfirmed in 2016, mandates SCE to “assess and direct realignment of individual work plans of Working Groups and SOM Special Task Groups with the APEC-wide medium-term ECOTECH priorities and annual objectives as outlined in the ECOTECH framework” and stipulates that “to this purpose, all Working Groups and SOM Special Task Groups should submit their strategic and annual work plans to the SCE no later than three weeks prior to SOM I for consideration at the SCE-COW.”

Fifteen work plans of the following fora were submitted and approved by SCE-COW in 2017: ACTWG, ATCWG, CTWG, EGILAT, EPWG, EWG, HRDWG, HWG, MTF, OFWG, PPSTI,

SMEWG, TELWG, TPTWG and TWG. At SCE2, the work plans of GOFD and PPWE were presented and approved at SCE.

At SCE1 in 2017, the Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat a report, *Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives* (2017/SOM1/SCE/008) which noted that fora work plans were generally in line with overall APEC goals although there was still room for improvement, in particular on identifying tools to implement fora objectives and the issue of gender. The report also drew attention to the fact that some fora were unable to meet quorum requirements.

d. Independent Assessments

In accordance with Recommendation 12 of the Fora Review endorsed by SOM and the Ministers in 2006 and the Implementation Plan by the APEC Secretariat submitted to SCE2 in 2007, SCE had been conducting independent assessments in the intervening years. On account of the Decisions made by SCE on Independent Assessment, no fora assessments were conducted in 2017. Rather, the period was used to develop a new standardized program which will facilitate assessments beginning in 2018.

At SCE1, the SCE took note of TELWG's response to an Independent Assessment. At SCE3 in 2017, the SCE noted the response of ACTWG to its Independent Assessment, which highlighted the ACTWG as a forum which nurtures good governance, economic development and prosperity and facilitates collaboration to fight corruption and promote transparency. The Independent Assessment made a number of recommendations seeking improvement from the forum.

e. Other Matters

In 2016, the SCE revised the SCE Fora Report Template (2016/SOM1/SCE/005) to remove repetition and redundancy while enabling fora to easily highlight the major outcomes. A new approved timeframe requires the SCE fora to submit their reports soon after SOM3 each APEC year in order to facilitate ensure to cover many activities taking place in the margins of SOM3. In 2017, all Fora Reports were submitted to SCE using the revised template during the intersession period following SCE3.

At SCE2, the APEC Secretariat reported on its review of the fora work plan template in response to the SCE1 discussion on exploring ways to incorporate gender considerations into the template. The Secretariat expressed the view that it was undesirable to be revising to revise the template frequently but suggested that certain annotations could be added to the template to guide fora in their reporting from the perspective of gender. The SCE approved the Secretariat's approach and requested that the template be updated with additional annotations regarding gender. These annotations were approved intersessionally and circulated to SCE fora.

2.5 APEC Support Fund

In 2004, Ministers endorsed the Australian proposal to set up the APEC Support Fund (ASF) to serve as a flexible funding mechanism to complement the existing General Project Account (GPA) (previously known as Operational Account) and Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation Fund (TILF). The ASF aims to meet the capacity building needs for developing economy members in APEC's agreed high priority sectors for economic and technical cooperation. Since its inception, the fund has received contributions from many economies including: Australia; Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; New Zealand; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; and the United States. This has significantly boosted resources available to build capacity in the region for economic and technical cooperation activities.

Voluntary contributions by APEC members to the ASF in 2017 (as at 31 August 2017) were made or committed by six economies: Australia; Canada; China; Japan; Russia; and Chinese Taipei.

Australia provided a contribution to the ASF General Fund of USD 374,500, under the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the APEC Secretariat.

Canada contributed USD 749,252 to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sub-fund in 2017, as part of the MOU signed with the Secretariat.

China, as part of its five-year commitment to contribute to the ASF, contributed USD 1.8 million in total to the ASF General Fund as well as three sub-funds – Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific and Global Value Chains (FTAAP & GVCs) Sub-fund; Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth (IERG) Sub-fund; and Connectivity Sub-fund.

Japan made a voluntary contribution amounting to USD 962,552 to the Energy Efficiency Sub-Fund.

Russia has committed to contribute USD 1.0 million to the ASF General Fund, which is part of the USD 3.0 million provided over three years between 2015 and 2017 under the MOU signed with the Secretariat.

Chinese Taipei contributed USD 500,000 to the proposed ASF Sub-Fund on Women and the Economy (the formal establishment of which is subject to BMC approval) and USD 50,000 to the Human Security Sub-Fund.

3. APEC Projects by SCE Fora

a. The Projects approved during Session 2 of 2016 and Session 1 of 2017, and Self-Funded Projects of 2016 and 2017

During Project Approval Session 2 of 2016 and Project Approval Session 1 of 2017, a total of 69 projects of SCE fora were approved for funding, and Project Overseers began their implementation. APEC committed to fund these projects with a value of USD 6,878,564, which was broadly in line with the preceding reporting period. Of the 69 projects, two projects received funding from the Trade and Investment Liberalization (TILF) Account, nine projects were funded by the General Project Account (GPA) and 42 projects by the APEC (ASF) Support Fund. In addition, SCE Fora endorsed 107 self-funded projects in 2016 and 2017. The total value of all SCE projects, including self-funded projects, stands at USD 22,137,902, comprising both APEC funds and funding provided by the proposing economies.

As 17 projects from the CTI and 6 projects from EC received funding from the ASF during the same period, a total of 92 projects were approved for funding under ASF, which is an increase from 59 during the preceding reporting period. The ASF Sub-Fund on Connectivity, the ASF Sub-Fund on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth (IERG) and the ASF Sub-Fund on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) came on stream during 2016, explaining in part the rise in ASF funded projects. As well, funding under the ASF Sub-Fund Energy Efficiency distributed over more projects than in the preceding reporting period.

Table 1 below shows the breakdown of the number of the projects by the SCE forum and funding account over the reporting period of Project Approval Session 2 of 2016 and Project Approval Session 1 of 2017.

Table 1 SCE Fora Projects by Funding Source
Project Approval Session 2 of 2016 and Project Approval Session 1 of 2017

Forum	ASF	GPA	TILF	Total
ATCWG	1			1
ACTWG		2		2
EGILAT	2			2
PPSTI	5			5
CTWG		1		1
EPWG	1	1		2
EWG	28			28
GoFD				0
HWG	3			3
HRDWG	2		1	3
MTF	1			1
OFWG	1	2		3
PPWE	1	1		2
SMEWG	11	2		13
TELWG	1			1
TWG				0
TPTWG	1		1	2
Total	58	9	2	69

Table 2 sets out the aggregate dollar value of the projects by fora and funding account over the reporting period. For each account, the table distinguishes between the Total Project Value, which includes APEC funding and self-funded amounts, and the amount of APEC funding alone. Figures are in US Dollars.

**Table 2 SCE Fora Projects by Funding Source and Value (in USD)
Project Approval Session 2 of 2016 and Project Approval Session 1 of 2017**

FORUM	ASF		GPA		TILF		SUMMARY	
	Total	APEC Funding	Total	APEC Funding	Total	APEC Funding	Total	APEC Funding
ATCWG	169,000	143,000					169,000	143,000
ACTWG			347,990	185,000			347,990	185,000
EGILAT	263,800	253,800					263,800	253,800
PPSTI	976,685	566,976					976,685	566,976
CTWG			164,216	139,216			164,216	139,216
EPWG	171,566	146,566	154,732	154,732			326,298	301,298
EWG	3,522,676	2,365,619					3,522,676	2,365,619
GoFD							-	-
HWG	473,654	302,654					473,654	302,654
HRDWG	499,240	206,380			153,329	124,429	652,569	330,809
MTF	150,000	120,000					150,000	120,000
OFWG	164,544	149,544	249,984	226,184			414,528	375,728
PPWE	100,180	84,811	138,582	138,582			238,762	223,393
SMEWG	3,055,063	1,177,305	295,639	150,646			3,350,702	1,327,951
TELWG	83,000	58,100					83,000	58,100
TWG							-	-
TPTWG	168,435	57,335			127,685	127,685	296,120	185,020
TOTAL	9,797,843	5,632,090	1,351,143	994,360	281,014	252,114	11,430,000	6,878,564

Table 3 sets out the self-funded projects endorsed by SCE fora by number and aggregate value. The table covers the period of 2016 and 2017 to date. Project Approval Sessions are not relevant with respect to self-funded projects. Self-funded projects endorsed by SCE fora rose to 107 in total compared with 88 in the previous reporting period.

The APEC Secretariat Project Management Unit has reported that for the period of August 2016 to February 2017, 98% of completed projects and 88% of in-progress projects incorporated aspects of capacity building, in line with the *APEC Capacity Building Policy*. This result is similar to the last reporting period. Examples include the design of technical and vocation training programs that incorporate green skills development, student participation in hands-on data collection, and numerous information-sharing workshops and dialogues.

Gender-disaggregated data for project participants and experts was provided in 100% of completion reports, with around 51% of completion reports making further reference to gender in the narrative

text. This is a thirteen percent improvement compared to the previous reporting period. The three most common ways of addressing gender were: discussion of the attendance of female speakers and participants in the narrative; inclusion of gender related questions in the workshop evaluation survey; and the use of a gendered approach to program design.

**Table 3 SCE Fora Self-Funded Projects by Number and Value (in USD)
2016 and 2017 to Date**

Forum	2016		2017		Total	
	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number
ATCWG	105231	1	159259	3	264490	4
ACTWG	25200	4	0	1	25200	5
EGILAT						
PPSTI	500000	2	595000	4	1095000	6
CTWG	32500	4			32500	4
EPWG	185075	2	180000	3	365075	5
EWG	792232	5	174000	3	966232	8
GoFD	300000	2			300000	2
HWG	0	1			0	1
HRDWG	1431055	19	836640	11	2267695	30
MTF						
OFWG	150000	2	150000	2	300000	4
PPWE	395000	3	262000	4	657000	7
SMEWG	2916710	9	492000	4	3408710	13
TELWG	0	3	0	6	0	9
TWG						
TPTWG	296000	2	730000	7	1026000	9
Total	7129003	59	3578899	48	10707902	107

b. Outcome of Project Approval Session 2 of 2017

Project Approval Session 2 of 2017 approved 59 concept notes of the 123 submitted, representing a success rate of 48%. Project Funding Session 1 of 2017 saw 46 of 137 concept notes approved, representing a success rate of 34%.

c. Funding criteria for all APEC projects

All applications for APEC project funding are assessed against a set of funding criteria designed to ensure alignment with the instructions of APEC Leaders and Ministers and providing a common basis for making funding decisions. The 2017 Funding Criteria is annexed herewith.

Project approval reforms taking effect in 2018 will mean that applications for APEC funding will be judged against the specific criteria of each fund or sub-fund.

4. Implementation of the Medium-term ECOTECH Priorities by SCE Fora

The SCE fora reported on their activities in connection with the eight ECOTECH medium-term priorities which were established by the SCE and SOM in 2014. These priorities, comprising four cross-cutting and four workstream areas, guide the activities of APEC fora and economies.

Cross-cutting

- *Developing Human Capital through Capacity Building*
- *Developing and Strengthening the Dynamism of SMEs*
- *Harnessing Technologies for the Future and Supporting Innovation*
- *Inclusive Growth – Addressing the Social Dimension of Globalization, Health, Gender*

Workstream

- *Regional Economic Integration*
- *Structural Reform*
- *Safeguarding the Quality of Life through Sustainable Growth*
- *Human Security*

The 2017 Report illustrates that, over the course of the past year, the SCE fora have undertaken numerous initiatives that have addressed and implemented the medium-term priorities. Highlights are set out below. The lists purports to be illustrative only, and in no way comprehensive. Certain initiatives address more than one priority and may or may not be listed under more than one priority. Again, the intention is to be illustrative only. Further detail can be found in the 2017 Fora Reports appended herewith.

4.1 Developing Human Capital through Capacity Building

The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) undertook a number of initiatives that contributed to human capital development. A workshop was held in Ha Noi in May on linking education and start-ups for women athletes. This was followed by a women's sports summit in Taipei in October. A self-funded project included a conference on diploma and qualification recognition. Other workshops addressed: equal employment opportunity policies and practices; global competencies and economic integration; labour mobility; improving quality employment opportunities for women; and education reform and development. An advisory group meeting on data analytics raising employment (DARE) was held in Ha Noi, leading to the preparation of a resource document. Other initiatives include the development of: a digital platform to exchange studies and research on soft-skills development; APEC Guiding Principles of Research Integrity; a final report of cross-border higher education data collection survey; textbooks on energy efficiency, energy security and energy resilience. A High-Level Policy Dialogue on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age was held in Ha Noi in May, and the APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age was adopted.

The Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) held workshops addressing the linkage between vocation education and labour markets and international technology transfer professionals.

The Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) organized the Women and the Economy Forum in October, which included a High-Level Policy Dialogue and Public-Private. PPWE endorsed Gender Inclusion Guidelines. The APEC Dashboard: Increasing STEM Education was also implemented.

PPWE also delivered a number of workshop and seminars in 2017, including on women in the creative industries, women's representation in leadership; women entrepreneurs in the 4th Industrial Revolution; women as prime movers of inclusive business; gender inclusion guidelines; STEM education in Peru; and women's health. The APEC BEST Awards were given. A report was finalized on successful cases of women-owned SMEs in foreign trade.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) held workshops on facilitating market access for women-led MSMEs through e-commerce and supporting women-led SMEs access to global markets by implementing gender responsive trade.

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) conducted a workshop on tourism workforce and labour and skills development, certification and mobility which produced recommendations and a cross fora roadmap.

4.2 Developing and Strengthening the Dynamism of SMEs

The Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) held two symposiums that contributed to developing and strengthening the dynamism of SMEs: one on promoting MSME modernization toward 4.0 industries in Hangzhou; and another on symbiotic green markers in Chinese Taipei.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) work contributed to the development and endorsement of the Strategy on Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs, adoption of the initiative Promoting APEC Innovative Start-Ups and launch off the APEC MSMEs Marketplace, all of which were key outcomes of the SME Ministerial Meeting in September.

SMEWG also led a number of other important initiatives that contributed to developing and strengthening the dynamism of SMEs, including on: Boracay Action Agenda Stocktake; a compendium on methodologies for SME internationalization, together with the Committee on Trade and Investment; APEC Online-Offline (O2O) Initiative; business ethics forum; renewable energy potentials: capability development for market-oriented innovation management in SMEs; facilitating market access for women-led MSMEs through e-commerce and supporting women-led SMEs access to global markets by implementing gender responsive trade; SME digital transformation; promoting innovative start-ups; an SME forum on business matching; SME clouds and innovation and entrepreneurship; digital economy and e-commerce; promoting stakeholders building capacity in clusters and local promotion instruments; finance literacy; and upgrading finance for SMEs.

The Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) held a workshop on best practices in policies, regulations and flexibility for resilience of global value chains.

4.3 Harnessing Technologies for the Future and Supporting Innovation

The Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) held three workshops in 2017 which addressed harnessing technologies and innovation. The workshops also supported the goals of regional economic integration and sustainable growth. In Taipei, an expert consultation was held on food loss and waste reduction. This was followed by a capacity building workshop on the

same topic in Can Tho, Viet Nam. These efforts are working toward a high-level policy dialogue on the topic of food loss and waste in 2018. In June, a conference was held on urbanization and agricultural modernization.

The Energy Working Group (EWG) undertook initiatives relating to the following: Nearly (Net) Zero Energy Building; clean coal technologies; solar photovoltaic agriculture; photovoltaic systems for installation on islands; solar-powered emergency shelter solutions; green energy smart farms; wind energy; innovative solar technologies; energy storage technologies; green financing mechanisms for sustainable urbanization and quality infrastructure, and energy smart communities.

The Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) contributed actively to harnessing technologies and supporting innovation: in Ha Noi in May it held the APEC Research and Technology (ART) symposium on climate change and science, technology and innovation; the APEC Climate Symposium was held during Food Security Week, which addressed building resilient agro-food systems for sustainable food security using climate information; a workshop on solar cells and LED measurement standards was held in March; a symposium was held in Shanghai continuing work on the Internet of Vehicles; and a symposium was held on international technology transfer professionals. The PPSTI also awarded the 2017 Science Prize for Innovation, research and Education (ASPIRE) to a Chinese scientist for work on “New Material Technologies”.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) led innovation-related initiatives on the following: promoting innovative start-ups; APEC Online-Offline (O2O) Initiative; capability development for market-oriented innovation management in SME, and SME digital transformation.

The Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG) held workshops on: promoting the next generation broadcasting; secure public Wifi usage, enhancing online connectivity; the Mexican telecom regulatory framework; and the use of ITC to protect the rights of telecoms service users and small cells deployment. Industry and regulatory roundtable on free flow of data, ICT solutions for ageing society, and emerging regulations on the internet economy. A report on IPv6 deployment strategies was endorsed.

The Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) held the 22nd Meeting of the APEC Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Implementation Team and a workshop to promote GNSS and its support for supply chain growth.

4.4 Inclusive Growth

The Group on Friends of Disability (GOFD) held a workshop in September in Nanning on promoting persons with disabilities in economic activities. GOFD work has also begun on developing an assistive devices e-commerce “shopping mall” platform, with pilots in the Philippines and Malaysia. A report on advancing employment for persons with disabilities have been completed.

The Health Working Group (HWG) held workshops: in Beijing, addressing the monitoring on universal health coverage progress; and in Ha Noi, on sharing experiences on adapting to aging populations.

The Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) and the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) held a workshop in Ha Noi in May addressing women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

PPWE undertook many activities to advance the cross-cutting priority of inclusive growth. In September, the Women and the Economy Forum together with a High-Level Policy Dialogue were held. PPWE also delivered a number of workshops and seminars, including those addressing: women in the creative industries; women's representation in leadership; women entrepreneurs in the 4th Industrial Revolution; women as prime movers of inclusive business; APEC Gender Inclusion Guidelines; STEM Education in Peru; Healthy Women, Healthy Economies. The APEC BEST Awards were given. A report on successful cases of women-owned SMEs in foreign trade. The APEC Dashboard: Increasing STEM Education was implemented.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) held workshops on facilitating market access for women-led MSMEs through e-commerce and supporting women-led SMEs access to global markets by implementing gender responsive trade

4.5 Regional Economic Integration

The Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) held workshops on food loss and waste, in June and August, which addressed regional economic integration, in addition to the priorities of technologies and innovation and sustainable growth.

The Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG), in March in Bangkok, held a workshop on improving quality employment opportunities for women.

The Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) completed its project related to successful cases of women-owned SMEs in foreign trade.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) held workshops on facilitating market access for women-led MSMEs through e-commerce and supporting women-led SMEs access to global markets by implementing gender responsive trade.

The Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) undertook a number of initiatives in support of regional economic integration: information sharing on road and rail safety developments; developing performance indicators for the Maritime Experts Group; a report on performance based navigation in two developing economies; work on global navigation satellite supply systems in support of supply chains; workshops on safety of dangerous goods at ports, restructuring of the shipping and port industry, heavy vehicle safety in the transport supply chain policies, regulations and flexibility for resilience of global value chains.

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) conducted a workshop on traveller-friendly airports, which generated best practices and a self-assessment tool. TWG held another workshop on tourism workforce and labour and skills development, certification and mobility which produced recommendations and a cross fora roadmap.

4.6 Structural Reform

The Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG) held a number of workshops in 2017 which addressed key issues of human security: a workshop in Nha Trang addressed the promotion of social engagement in fighting corruption, in including in the private sector; a workshop in Taipei focused on 'whistleblower' protection in both the public and private sectors, and draft guiding recommendations on whistleblower protection were prepared; a workshop was held in Ho Chi Minh City that aimed to encourage better cooperation among law enforcement

agencies for effective asset recovery; and a pathfinder dialogue was held in Ho Chi Minh City which addressed corruption and illicit trade, particularly with respect to wildlife trafficking and illegal logging. The ACTWG held a coordinating meeting with International Organizations which discussed capacity building needs of economies in respect of the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Anti-Corruption and other regional and international obligations.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) adopted the Initiative on Promoting APEC Innovative Start-Ups.

The Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG) held the following activities which addressed the ECOTECH structural reform work stream priorities: industry and regulatory roundtable on free flow of data, ICT solutions for ageing society, and emerging regulations on the internet economy; and workshops on the Mexican telecom regulatory framework conducted and on enhancing online connectivity.

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) held workshops on the developing traveler-friendly airports and a tourism workforce through labour and skills development, certification and mobility.

The Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) held a workshop on policies, regulations and flexibility for resilience of global value chains.

4.7 Safeguarding the Quality of Life through Sustainable Growth

The Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade Working Group (EGILAT) pursued a number of initiatives in 2017 which addressed safeguarding quality of life through sustainable growth: it continued compiling information for the EGILAT Timber Legality Guidance Template; it completed and shared a list of law enforcement points of contact relating to illegal logging; a public-private dialogue with SMEs was held in Nha Trang on promoting legal trade in harvested wood products and strengthening supply chain connectivity; and a workshop was held in Ho Chi Minh City to exchange customs best practices on the identification of illegal timber and wood products. A meeting of ministers responsible for forestry will be held on October in Seoul.

The Energy Working Group (EWG) completed fourteen, and commenced twenty-three, energy-related projects in the areas of: the water-energy nexus; low-carbon policies; low-carbon model towns; net zero energy building; energy efficiency; ISO 50001 outcomes; renewable energy utilisation; lighting best practices; clean coal; energy resilience in off-grid areas; solar photovoltaic agricultural development; ethanol as a renewable fuel; wind energy development; biomass; fossil fuel subsidy reform; promotion of trade and investment in renewable and clean energy; solar-powered emergency shelter solutions; green energy smart farm; energy intensity reduction goals; solar technologies to promote green building; energy storage research; improved efficiency of distribution transformers; off-grid electrification for remote regions; high-efficiency outdoor lighting; green financing mechanisms for sustainable urbanization; low emission development strategies; commercial building energy performance; coalbed methane recovery technologies; bio-pellet from ecological-hazard plants; evaluations; biodiesel blends; clean-energy investment with life-cycle impact assessments; green-energy finance; APEC energy vision post-2020; life-cycle analysis of solar photovoltaic systems; and refrigerator and freezer energy efficiency. EWG published 34 reports on the APEC website and conducted four peer reviews.

The Mining Task Force (MTF) developed an action plan as instructed by Ministers Responsible for Mining in 2014 with the aim of listing practical and substantive work to be developed by the MTF in order to contribute to regional economic integration and sustainable and innovative growth. The MTF held a successful workshop regarding a mine closure and reclamation checklist

for governments in May, and further signed a statement of intent to cooperate with the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development on promoting, disseminating and implementing the checklist.

The Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) pursued a number of projects which have contributed toward safeguarding quality of life through sustainable growth: the Policy and Practice Recommendations on Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems and Reducing Marine Litter were developed and subsequently endorsed by APEC Ministers; a capacity-building workshop was held in Yeosu, Korea, in June which further highlighted the importance of marine debris prevention and facilitated the sharing of information, knowledge and best practices in the region; a capacity-building workshop was held in Tokyo in June which encouraged the sharing of best practices and knowledge regarding the latest marine scientific research and observation in connection with marine policy-making in APEC region; and OFWG has taken key steps toward updating the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report, which will contribute to the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the oceans, seas and marine resources.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) held workshops on green, sustainable and innovative MSMEs and on renewable energy potentials for SMEs.

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) contributed to identifying priority actions to promote sustainable tourism and related areas as outlined in the statement endorsed at a High-Level Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Tourism held in June.

4.8 Human Security

The Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG) held a number of workshops in 2017 which addressed key issues of human security: a workshop in Nha Trang addressed the promotion of social engagement in fighting corruption, including in the private sector; a workshop in Taipei focused on ‘whistleblower’ protection in both the public and private sectors, and draft guiding recommendations on whistleblower protection were prepared; a workshop was held in Ho Chi Minh City that aimed to encourage better cooperation among law enforcement agencies for effective asset recovery; and a pathfinder dialogue was held in Ho Chi Minh City which addressed corruption and illicit trade, particularly with respect to wildlife trafficking and illegal logging. The ACTWG held a coordinating meeting with International Organizations which discussed capacity building needs of economies in respect of the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Anti-Corruption and other regional and international obligations.

The Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) held a workshop in Bali on strengthening tourism business resilience against the impact of terrorist attacks which generated policy recommendations. A self-funded CTWG initiative provided security officials of Viet Nam with training in connection with hosting APEC 2017.

The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) held a number of events in 2017 which addressed aspects of human security and harnessing technologies and innovation: a training workshop was held in Nagoya which addressed public-private partnership-based business connectivity; a training workshop was held in Nagoya providing for an exchange of best practices; a workshop on enhancing disaster resilience through effective infrastructure investment build back; and a Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum was held in Vinh City, Viet Nam, at which Joint Recommendations on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction were agreed.

The Health Working Group (HWG) together with the Life Sciences Innovation Forum held a workshop on HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control. HWG held workshop on monitoring universal health coverage progress and on adapting to aging population.

The Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) held its 2017 Typhoon Symposium in May.

5. Implementing the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth by SCE Fora

APEC Leaders adopted the *APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth* (2015/AMM/026) in 2015 to build on the *APEC Growth Strategy* by strengthening and sustaining quality growth as expressed by the key accountability areas of institution building, social cohesion, and environmental impact. These areas are also intended to give further traction to the five growth attributes of the *APEC Growth Strategy* – balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure growth – and help it to align better with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Pursuant to the instructions by the Leaders, the *Implementation and Monitoring of the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth* (2015/AMM/026) was endorsed by Senior Officials in 2016. The following is the first stocktaking report by the SCE and its fora in connection with these monitoring requirements. The report will be submitted to the Policy Support Unit (PSU) of the APEC Secretariat for consideration regarding appropriate methodology and metrics in 2019, and toward PSU's final report on the implementation of the strategy in 2020.

The *APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth* and the APEC 2017 theme of “Promoting Sustainable, Innovative and Inclusive Growth” are closely aligned, and each economy continued its implementation of the strategy through flexible methods and policies applying to specific action items suggested under the five growth attributes.

The following provides an illustrative and not exhaustive list of SCE initiatives in 2017 which addresses the three key accountability areas of the strategy.

a. Institution Building

- Workshop on Promoting Social Engagement in Fighting Corruption in Partnership with the UNODC (ACTWG)
- Workshop on Enhancing Whistle-Blower Protection in Corruption Cases (ACTWG)
- Capacity Building Workshop on Food Losses and Waste Reduction for a Sustainable APEC Food System (ATCWG)
- APEC Workshop on Strengthening Tourism Business Resilience against the Impact of Terrorist Attack (CTWG)
- Initiative to Promote Innovative Start-Ups (SMEWG)
- APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum: Facilitating Multistakeholder Ethical Collaboration for SMEs (SMEWG)
- Industry Roundtable on ICT Solutions for Ageing Society (TELWG)
- Industry Roundtable on Emerging Regulations on the Internet Economy (TELWG)
- Workshop on Use of ICT to Protect the Rights of Telecommunication Service Users (TELWG)
- Information Sharing on Road and Rail Safety Developments that include contributing to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 (TPTWG)
- 22nd Meeting of the APEC Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Implementation Team (GIT) (TPTWG)
- APEC Port Services Workshop on the Safety of Dangerous Goods at Ports (TPTWG)

b. Social Cohesion

- Workshop on Promoting Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Economic Activities (GOFD)
- Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities (GOFD)
- High Level Policy Dialogue on HRD in the Digital Age (HRDWG)
- APEC Workshop on Global Competencies and Economic Integration (HRDWG)
- Workshop on Improving Quality Employment Opportunities for Women (HRDWG)
- Workshop on Sharing Experiences on adapting to Aging Population (HWG)
- Women and STEM workshop (PPSTI)
- Workshop on Vocational Education Linkage with Labour Market (PPSTI)
- Women and the Economy Forum and High-Level Policy Dialogue (PPWE)
- APEC Seminar on Women as Prime Movers of Inclusive Business (PPWE)
- APEC BEST Awards 2017 (PPWE)
- Strategy on Green, Sustainable and Innovative Start-ups (SMEWG)
- Initiative on Promoting Innovative Start-Ups (SMEWG)
- Boracay Action Agenda Stocktake (SMEWG)
- Supporting Women-Led SMEs Access to Global Markets by Implementing Gender Responsive Trade (SMEWG)
- SME Digital Transformation Workshop (SMEWG)
- High Level Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Tourism (TWG)
- Workshop on Developing Sustainable Tourism in the Context of Climate Change (TWG)

c. Environmental Impact

- Expert Consultation on Food Losses and Waste Reduction (ATCWG)
- Conference on Urbanization and Agricultural Modernization Development in the Asia-Pacific Region (ATCWG)
- APEC Public-Private Dialogue with SMEs on Promoting Legal Trade in Harvested Wood Products and Strengthening Supply Chain Connectivity Towards Sustainable Growth (EGILAT)
- APEC Workshop on Customs Best Practices to Identify Illegal Timber and Wood Products (EGILAT)
- 11th Senior Disaster Management Officials Meeting (EPWG)
- Seminar on Tsunami Threat Assessment for Tsunami Warning Centres of APEC Economies (EPWG)
- Peer review of Low-Carbon Energy Policies (EWG)
- Workshop on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (EWG)
- Third Best Practice Award for Energy Smart Communities Initiative (EWG)
- Workshop on Mine Closure and Reclamation Checklists for Governments (MTF)
- Action Plan on Mining 2017-2018 (MTF)
- Policy and Practice Recommendations on Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems and Reducing Marine Litter (OFWG)
- Capacity-Building Workshop on Marine Debris Prevention (OFWG)
- Updating the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report (OFWG)
- Strategy on Green, Sustainable and Innovative Start-Ups (SMEWG)
- APEC Workshop on Renewable Energy Potential for SMEs (SMEWG)

6. Key Achievements of SCE Fora

Fora	Key Achievement in 2017
ACTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Promoting Social Engagement in Fighting Corruption in Partnership with the UNODC • Workshop on Enhancing Whistle-blower Protection in Corruption Cases • Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation among Law Enforcement and Anti-Corruption Agencies for Effective Asset Recovery • APEC Pathfinder Dialogue IV on Combatting Corruption and Illicit Trade • Coordinating Meeting with International Organizations • Training Workshop on Asset Recovery
ATCWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert Consultation on Food Losses and Waste Reduction • Conference on Urbanization and Agricultural Modernization Development in the Asia-Pacific Region • Capacity Building Workshop on Food Losses and Waste Reduction for a Sustainable APEC Food System.
CTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APEC Workshop on Strengthening Tourism Business Resilience against the Impact of Terrorist Attack • Training Workshop for APEC Host Security Officers
EGILAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress compiling the EGILAT Timber Legality Guidance Template • Progress compiling the Lists of Law Enforcement Points of Contact • APEC Public-Private Dialogue with SMEs on Promoting Legal Trade in Harvested Wood Products and Strengthening Supply Chain Connectivity Towards Sustainable Growth • APEC Workshop on Customs Best Practices to Identify Illegal Timber and Wood Products
EPWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th Senior Disaster Management Officials Meeting (SDMOF) • Joint Recommendations on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction • APEC Workshop on Enhancing Disaster Resilience through Effective Infrastructure Investment Build Back Better of Infrastructure Supporting Industries • Seminar on Tsunami Threat Assessment for Tsunami Warning Centres of APEC Economies • Training Workshop on Regional and Local Best Practices of Post-Disaster Recovery: Building Sustainability and Resilience through Scientific Approaches • APEC Summit on Resilience and Capacity Building Training Workshop on Promoting Business Connectivity
EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review of Low-Carbon Energy Policies, Viet Nam • Policy review of Low-Carbon Development Projects, Mandaue • Workshop on APEC Nearly (Net) Zero Energy Building • Peer review on energy efficiency, Thailand

Fora	Key Achievement in 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Roadmap to Promote Transfer and Dissemination of Clean Coal Technologies • Workshop on Low-carbon Model Town Solar Photovoltaic Agricultural Development • Workshop on Long Term Planning for further Dissemination of Renewable Energy Safety • Long Term Reliability Study of PV Systems for Installation on Islands • Developing Solar-Powered Emergency Shelter Solutions Workshop • Workshop on Best Practices for Developing the Green Energy Smart Farm • Seminar on Case Studies on Best Practices of Wind Energy Development • Survey of Potential Gaps in Funding and Knowledge for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Work • Low Carbon Model Town Feasibility study Russia • Workshop on Cost-Effective Renewable Energy-Supple Solutions based on Innovative Solar Technologies • Workshop on Research on Energy Storage Technologies to Build Sustainable Energy Systems • Workshop on Reducing Losses in Power Distribution through Improved Efficiency of Distribution of Transformers • Workshop on Promoting Green Financing Mechanisms for Sustainable Urbanization and Quality Infrastructure • Peer Review of Energy Efficiency, Mexico • Workshop on Filling the Gap to Reach the Goal of Doubling Renewable Energy • Workshop on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform • Forum on incubator for Enhancing Commercial Buildings Energy Performance • Third Best Practice Award for Energy Smart Communities Initiative (ESCI)
GOFD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Promoting Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Economic Activities • Assisted Devices +Internet Cross-Border E-Commerce Platform • Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities
HRDWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Level Policy Dialogue on HRD in the Digital Age • Adoption of Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age • Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy • Workshop on Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy and APEC Education Strategy Dialogue: Competences, Innovation and Employability • Conference on Diploma and Qualification Recognition for People to People Connectivity • Workshop on Fostering Inclusive Growth in APEC economies-Equal Employment Opportunity Policies and Practices • Skills Training in Industry-Academia Collaboration in career and Technical Education • APEC Data Analytics Competences (Project DARE)

Fora	Key Achievement in 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APEC Workshop on Global Competencies and Economic Integration • Workshop on the Development of an APEC Labour Mobility Framework • Workshop on Improving Quality Employment Opportunities for Women • Seminars for Basic Education Reform and Development • APEC Women in Research Fellowships • APEC Learning Community for Shared Prosperity • Workshop on Research on Mutual Recognition of Credits among Universities • APEC e-Learning Training Program
HWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop event on Accelerating Action on HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control – Implementing Policy Recommendations • Workshop on Monitoring Universal Health Coverage Progress in the APEC Region • Workshop on Sharing Experiences on adapting to Aging Population
MTF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-Private Dialogue with ABAC • Actin Plan for Mining 2017-2018 • Workshop on Mine Closure and Reclamation Checklists for Governments • Joint Statement of Intent for Cooperation between the APEC Mining Task Force and the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development on a Mine Closure Checklist for Governments
OFWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Practice Recommendations on Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems and Reducing Marine Litter were developed, which Ministers endorsed • Capacity-building Workshop on Marine Debris Prevention • Capacity-building Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation toward Science-Based Management • Steps toward updating the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report
PPSTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPIRE Prize 2017 award on theme relating to New Material Technologies • APEC Typhoon Symposium • APEC Research and Technology (ART) program on Climate STI Platform • APEC Climate Symposium on Building Resilient Agro-Food Systems using Climate Information • Training Workshop on Solar Cells and LED Measurement Standards • Women and STEM Workshop • Workshop on Vocational Education Linkage with Labour Markets • Symposium and Exhibition on Internet of Vehicles (IOV–Phase 3) • Workshops and Seminars related to International Technology Transfer Professionals • Symposium on Promoting MSEM Modernization toward Industry 4.0 • Workshop on Human Resources and Symbiotic Green Markers
PPWE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and the Economy Forum, including High-Level Policy Dialogue and Public Private Dialogue • Endorsement of Gender Inclusion Guidelines

Fora	Key Achievement in 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the APEC Dashboard: Increasing STEM Education • APEC GIFTS for Women in the Creative Industries Workshop • Public-Private Dialogue on Individual Action Plans for the Enhancement of the Ratio of Women's Representation in Leadership • Workshop on APEC Women Entrepreneurs in the 4th Industrial Revolution • APEC Seminar on Women as Prime Movers of Inclusive Business • International Consultation Workshop on APEC Gender Inclusion Guidelines • Increasing STEM Education in Peru • Healthy Women, Healthy Economies • APEC BEST Awards 2017 • Project on Successful Cases of Women-owned SMEs in Foreign Trade • APEC Top Management Forum on Diversity Management for Women's Empowerment
SMEWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SME Ministerial Meeting • Initiative on Promoting APEC Innovative Start-Ups • Strategy on Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs • Launch of APEC MSMEs Marketplace • Boracay Action Agenda Stocktake • APEC Online-Offline (O2O) Initiative events • APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum: Facilitating Multi-stakeholder Ethical Collaborations for SMEs • APEC Workshop on Renewable Energy Potentials for SMEs • Capability Development for Market-Oriented Innovation Management in SMEs • Workshop on Promoting Innovation for Start-Ups • Workshop on Facilitating Market Access for Women-led MSMEs through e-Commerce • Supporting Women-Led SMEs Access to Global Markets by Implementing Gender Responsive Trade • Upgrading MSME's Access to Financing in Digital Age • Digital Economy Workshop • Report of the Results of Finance Literacy Survey • SME Digital Transformation Workshop
TELWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Promoting the Next Generation Broadcasting (4K/8K) • Industry and Regulatory Roundtable on Free flow of Data • Industry Roundtable on ICT Solutions for Ageing Society conducted • Workshop on Promoting Secure Public Wi-Fi Usage based on Malaysian Experience • Industry Roundtable on Emerging Regulations on the Internet Economy • Workshop on Enhancing Online Connectivity for Unleashing the Potential of Digital Economy • Regulatory Workshop on Overview of Mexican Telecom Regulatory

Fora	Key Achievement in 2017
	<p>Framework conducted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Use of ICT to Protect the Rights of Telecommunication Service Users • Workshop on Small Cells Deployment in APEC Economies • Report on IPv6 Deployment Strategies • Published Report on the results of the project Facilitating innovative economic development of “Internet + Service Industry” • Report on IPv6 Deployment Strategies endorsed
TPTWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing on road and rail safety developments that include contributing to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 • Developed seven APEC performance indicators for Maritime Experts Group • Report on project to increase Performance Based Navigation (PBN) in two targeted developing economies. • 22nd Meeting of the APEC Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Implementation Team (GIT) • GIT Workshop to promote GNSS and its support for supply chain growth and ITS • APEC Port Services Workshop on the Safety of Dangerous Goods at Ports • APEC Port Services Workshop on Restructuring of the Shipping and Port Industry: Trends and Challenges • Workshop on Framework of Heavy Vehicle Safety in Transport Supply Chain for APEC Developing Economies • Workshops on Best Practices in Policies, Regulations and Flexibility for Resilience of Global Value Chain
TWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Level Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Tourism • Workshop on Developing Sustainable Tourism in the Context of Climate Change • 3rd Annual State of APEC Tourism Report • Developing Traveller-Friendly Airports in the APEC Region: Best Practices and Self-Assessment Tool • Developing the Tourism Workforce of the Future through Labour and Skills Development, Certification and Mobility in the APEC Region: Best Practices Recommendations and Cross Fora Roadmap • APEC Workshop on Volun-Tourism Best Practices: Promoting Inclusive Community-Based Sustainable Tourism Initiatives • APEC Occupational Standards Framework: Pilot in the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Industry

7. Recommendations

Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to the 2017 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM):

1. *Endorse the 2017 Senior Officials Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation;*
2. *Welcome the achievements of the SCE Working Groups and Task Forces;*
3. *Welcome the adoption of a new SCE Standardized Fora Assessment System;*
4. *Welcome the APEC Guidelines for Promoting Cross-Fora Collaboration; and*
5. *Welcome 2017 contributions to the APEC Support Fund from Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Russia and Chinese Taipei.*