



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

Advancing Free Trade for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2020





**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2020 SENIOR OFFICIALS' REPORT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

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

November 2020

Prepared by

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat
35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Singapore 119616
Tel: (65) 68919 600
Fax: (65) 68919 690
Email: info@apec.org
Website: www.apec.org

© 2020 APEC Secretariat

APEC#220-ES-01.1

ISSN: 0219-8932

Contents

Letter from the SCE Chair	1
Executive Summary	3
1. Introduction.....	5
2. 2020 Highlights and Priorities	7
3. SCE Fora in Action.....	14
4. Recommendations	37
Annexes	
Annex 1: SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2020 Work Program.....	1-1
Annex 2: Report on Synergies within the ECOTECH Agenda	2-1
Annex 3: Report on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives	3-1
Annex 4: La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth Implementation Plan.	4-1
Annex 5: 2020 SCE Projects for Noting	5-1
Annex 6: Abbreviations and Acronyms	6-1

Letter from the SCE Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2020 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation.

Like the rest of the world, the SCE and its sub-fora have had to make adjustments to 2020 plans. We managed to meet in February, but have unfortunately experienced the cancellation of all in-person plenary meetings and project events. The SCE and its sub-fora have still continued the important work of economic and technical cooperation. The SCE and its sub-fora quickly made the switch to virtual meetings which allowed our important work to continue. The work of the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) and its fora in 2020 has been guided by the APEC 2020 theme of “Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress” and the ECOTECH medium-term priorities. In addition to carrying on our ongoing work, the SCE and its sub-fora shifted focus to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through information sharing exercises and the development of new work streams.

The SCE continued to guide the work of its fora. The Committee of the Whole discussions were again structured to better identify cross-fora issues and opportunities, and identify synergies between host economy priorities and fora work streams. A good example of this approach is SCE's efforts to ensure its sub-fora respond to the priority afforded women's economic empowerment as a cross-cutting issue through the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth, beginning in 2019. Continued emphasis on cross-fora collaborations continue to increase collaborative work streams amongst SCE fora and between SCE fora and the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) and the Economic Committee (EC) and their fora.

Consistent with our ambition to have a well-governed, streamlined organization, the SCE has begun a new fora assessment program. The first fora assessed using this standardized system was the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG). 2021 will see the remaining fourteen sub-fora assessed. This will allow the SCE to have an entire suite of fora assessments prior to the expiration of Terms of Reference in 2020 and 2021. In addition to ensuring each fora's Terms of Reference are fit-for-purpose, this process will force some decisions about which fora have served their purpose. In an effort to develop an APEC wide standardized fora assessment system, the SCE worked with the CTI and the EC to develop substantially similar fora assessment programs across APEC.

This Report highlights some of the many activities of the SCE working groups and policy partnerships. These activities are guided by 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 and its sub-fora in 2020 contributed to the development of key APEC deliverables in the areas of reducing marine debris; combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; women in the economy and small and medium enterprises among many others.

We continue to advocate for inclusive growth and sustainability by highlighting our achievements that seek to address the social effects of trade.

In presenting this Report, I wish to acknowledge the commitment, hard work, and contributions of APEC members, the SCE sub-fora and our dedicated fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds. I would also like to thank the APEC Secretariat for hosting SCE and SCE sub-fora meetings.

As my time as SCE Chair comes to an end, I welcome Thailand as the incoming SCE Chair, and I look forward to working closely with them.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Talbot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Mark Talbot
Chair, SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH

Executive Summary

In 2020, the SOM Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) held four meetings. One in-person meeting in the margins of Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) and three others hosted by the APEC Secretariat and conducted via videoconference with Mr. Mark Talbot as Chair. Mr. Talbot is New Zealand's Senior Official for APEC. The SCE Vice Chair was Ms. Asmidar Abdul Rahman from Malaysia. The SCE also organized the 15th annual SCE Committee of the Whole (SCE-COW) meeting and an informal meeting of SCE sub-fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds. In addition, the SCE also conducted business through intersessional discussion.

The SCE continues to play its central role in the administration of SCE sub-fora. SCE approved 15 Annual Work Plans. After the pandemic declaration in March 2020, and the resulting travel restrictions, the SCE requested SCE sub-fora submit Work Plan Addendums outlining any changes to work plans including the addition of COVID-19 related work. All SCE sub-fora submitted revised work plans or work plan addendums. In addition, the SCE also reviewed and endorsed SCE sub-fora longer-term Strategic Plans as required. The SCE undertook assessment of the SMEWG in 2020 and developed plans to assess the remaining 14 SCE sub-fora in 2021.

In addition to SCE's central role in the administration of SCE sub-fora, SCE also oversees and coordinates SCE sub-fora. Some of the notable outcomes this year include:

The Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) supported Malaysia in its hosting of the Women and the Economy Forum in September 2020, which included a High Level Policy Dialogue on Women. The PPWE's key output this year is the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth Implementation Plan.

The Health Working Group (HWG) and Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) co-contributed to the 10th APEC High Level Meeting (HLM10) on Health and the Economy with the theme as "Building a Resilient Asia-Pacific in a COVID-19 World".

The Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) two key outputs this year were the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris Implementation Plan and the Implementation Plan for the APEC Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) contributed to the 26th APEC SME Ministerial Meeting (SME MM) held in October. During SME MM, the SMEWG Chair presented the main outcomes of the work done last year by SMEWG including the Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative: Vision 2025.

Four APEC economies made financial contributions to the APEC Support Fund's various sub-funds. A discussion of the above and other highlights and priorities are set out in Section 2.

Section 3 gives an overview of all sub-fora governance documents. Each forum also reports on projects, both funded by APEC and self-funded by economies, undertaken in 2020 through Fora in Action tables. The tables include information on which projects and other initiatives of SCE sub-fora

addressed the ECOTECH medium term priorities. Additionally, the Fora in Action tables include the achievements of each SCE sub-fora since the 2019 Report.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to the 2020 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM):

- 1. Note the 2020 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation;*
- 2. Welcome the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth Implementation Plan;*
- 3. Welcome the achievements of the SCE Working Groups and Policy Partnerships; and*
- 4. Welcome 2020 contributions to the APEC Support Funds various sub-funds from Australia; Japan; Korea; and Chinese Taipei.*

1. Introduction

In 2020, the SCE was chaired by Mr Mark Talbot, APEC Senior Official for New Zealand. The SCE Vice Chair was Ms Asmidar Abdul Rahman, for Malaysia.

The Committee met on four occasions during 2020 and accomplished the following:

- a. developed a standardized fora assessment template and timeline for assessment and delivery to the SCE
- b. assessed the SMEWG and renewed the SMEWG's mandate;
- c. discussed ECOTECH policy initiatives and project proposals;
- d. coordinated the work of SCE sub-fora in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- e. facilitated the work of SCE sub-fora by providing direction on Work Plans, Strategic Plans, and Terms of Reference.

The first SCE meeting in 2020 was held on 18 February 2020 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The SCE established and approved the 2020 SCE Work Plan (2020/SOM1/SCE/002) and the 2020-2023 Terms of Reference (2020/SOM1/SCE/003). The SCE decided to delay the medium-term ECOTECH Review until 2021, to better align medium-term ECOTECH priorities with the forthcoming post-2020 vision. The 2020 Assessment Team was formed of current, and incoming SCE Chair economies (Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand) and the volunteer economies Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, and United States. Australia and Canada further volunteered to be the Assessment Team lead economies.

The annual SCE Committee of the Whole (SCE-COW) was held in Putrajaya, on 18 February 2020. It was attended by 20 APEC member economies and 14 SCE sub-fora convenors or their representatives. The SCE approved 10 sub-fora work plans. The SCE noted that only eight of the 15 available work plans contained outcome-related references to women's economic issues and/or mentioned the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth, despite the instructions on the template to include discussion on these items. The SCE reiterated the importance of including outcome-related reference to women's economic issues. The SCE indicated that it would not approve any 2021 work plan that failed to contain outcome-related references to women's economic issues or reference to reporting requirements for the La Serena Roadmap. SCE-COW was preceded by an informal meeting of fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds, together with group discussions based on the 2020 host year's priorities. These earlier discussions, which sought to explore cross-fora issues and opportunities, witnessed particularly active engagement from participants.

Intersessionally, the SCE endorsed five sub-fora 2020 work plans. The SCE also intersessionally endorsed a 2020 Work Plan Addendum Template to facilitate reporting changes to SCE sub-fora work plans in response to COVID-19 pandemic. The SCE also endorsed Malaysia's self-funded project *Multi-year Policy Dialogue on Innovative Waste Management* (SCE 01 2020S).

The APEC Secretariat hosted SCE 2 in a virtual format on 22 July 2020. SCE 2 included the Policy Dialogue on the Circular Economy in furtherance of the 2020 priority: Driving Innovative Sustainability. The SCE was joined by experts from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Unilever,

Malaysia's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries, and Tsinghua University. The SCE discussed the cross-cutting nature of circular economy concepts which span APEC.

Intersessionally, the SCE endorsed the OFWG's *APEC Marine Debris Roadmap Implementation Plan* and the *Implementation Plan for the Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing*. The SCE also endorsed New Zealand's self-funded project *Case Studies on Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth: Valuing Indigenous Economies within APEC* (SCE 02 2020S).

On 23 September 2020, the APEC Secretariat hosted SCE 3 in a virtual format. The SCE endorsed the *Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) Report on Synergies within the Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) Agenda 2020* (2020/SCE3/007) and the *Report of the APEC Secretariat Executive Director on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives 2020* (2020/SCE3/006). The SCE further discussed the standardized fora assessment program and endorsed the *Proposed Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) Standardized Fora Assessment Template 2020* (2020/SCE3/003) and the *Timeline of Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) Sub-Fora Assessments and Reports* (2020/SCE3/002). Understanding that the Terms of Reference of the SMEWG at the end of 2020, the SCE agreed to assess the SMEWG immediately and table the completed assessment at SCE 4.

In October, the SCE oversaw Malaysia's successful self-funded project, Multi-Year Policy Dialogue: Innovative Waste Management. As part of the project, Malaysia hosted a virtual policy dialogue on innovative food waste management on 6 October 2020.

The fourth SCE meeting (SCE4) was hosted by the APEC Secretariat on 4 November 2020. The SCE renewed the mandate of the SMEWG for a further four years. The SCE also endorsed the *SMEWG's Terms of Reference 2021-2024* (2020/SCE4/005) and *Strategic Plan 2021-2024* (2020/SCE4/004). In addition, the SCE endorsed the PPWE's *La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth Implementation Plan* (2020/SCE4/006).

Intersessionally, the SCE approved the publication of APEC Case Studies on Inclusive Policies. This Korea initiated Policy Support Unit Project examined case studies provided by the Key Contributing Economies of Canada; Chile; China; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Russia; and Chinese Taipei.

2. 2020 Highlights and Priorities

2.1 Host Economy Priorities

During the year, the SCE and its sub-fora furthered 2020 priorities of Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology as well as Driving Innovative Sustainability.

a. Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology

Human Resource Development Working Group (HRDWG) discussed how the digital economy can allow inclusive economic participation even during a pandemic through discussions on the Future of Work. In addition, member economies discussed how to plan for future of work needs taking into consideration the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Member economies were invited to share best practices and to initiate the development of the APEC Action Strategies on Future of Work Post-COVID-19. The discussion took into account the issues and strategies identified in the existing APEC initiatives including the APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age (2017) and APEC Economic Policy Report on Structural Reform and Human Capital Development (2017). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an urgent need to review these initiatives and to share best practices in the areas of resilient work environment, skill development, social protection and relevant educational program in the digital age.

Following from the endorsement of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth by APEC Ministers in 2019, the PPWE developed the La Serena Roadmap Implementation Plan in 2020. The Implementation Plan will provide direction to APEC fora and sub-fora in determining current and new work streams that may contribute to fulfilling the Roadmap's key action areas and meeting its targets. It also establishes a process for monitoring, reporting and reviewing progress that will be overseen by Senior Officials. The PPWE will engage with other APEC fora and sub-fora to support collective efforts toward implementing the Roadmap.

SMEWG held the APEC Young Entrepreneurs Kick-Off with the objective of imparting relevant skills and knowledge to young entrepreneurs to unleash their potential, build up their entrepreneurship skills and knowledge in growing the business; and share ideas and experience between participants and mentors from the pool of successful entrepreneurs.

b. Driving Innovative Sustainability

In an effort to further the innovative sustainability discussion, the SCE held a policy dialogue on circular economy concepts as part of SCE 2. The SCE was joined by experts from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation; Unilever, Singapore; Malaysia's Ministry of Agriculture Research and Development Institute; and Tsinghua University. The conversation centered on the cross-cutting nature of circular economy concepts and resource efficiency. In addition to discussing the reduction in plastic use and waste, the SCE also discussed repurposing agricultural waste by turning it into organic fertilizer for new crops. The SCE also discussed e-waste programs that allow for recycling and repurposing of e-waste such as batteries.

The Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) highlighted the potential of innovative technologies during a policy dialogue addressing food security including digital farming and precision agriculture, vertical farming, traceability using decentralized ledger technology, alternative proteins, waste management, and E-commerce.

Understanding that stable energy supply is essential to achieve sustainable development of all economies and regions the Energy Working Group (EWG) developed the APEC Energy Resiliency

Principle. The principle covers a whole framework and a comprehensive set of factors and initiatives that contribute to improving energy resiliency to disasters. APEC member economies may select and implement the initiatives relevant to each economy's situation. EWG also promoted inclusive and sustainable development in the energy sector by introducing relevant initiatives to enhance energy access towards sustainable economic recovery. The EWG held a policy dialogue at EWG 58 and 59 that centered on the priority of driving innovative sustainability, namely Renewable Energy Transition for Sustainable Growth. EWG members discussed the policy paper "Renewable Energy Transition for Sustainable Growth" provided by the Asia Pacific Sustainable Energy Center with collaboration with Malaysia and Expert Group on New and Renewable Energy Technology and exchanged their views. The paper highlighted that to realise energy transition and shaping green economic growth, it is important to improve business environments and promote business activities, including organising knowledge sharing and relevant capacity development programs, fostering public-private partnerships for dissemination of innovative technologies, and development of relevant products services and renewable projects.

The APEC Experts' Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) conducted work seeking to understand the challenges faced by private sector entities throughout the timber supply chain in trading in legally harvested forest products. In addition, the EGILAT explored measures that have, or could be, adopted to overcome these challenges and identified the existing resources or materials that are available to help private sector entities trade in legally harvested forest products.

Following the endorsement of the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris by Ministers in 2019, the OFWG developed the *APEC Marine Debris Roadmap Implementation Plan* (2020/SCE3/013). The Marine Debris Implementation Plan was developed to provide more specific action, direction and prioritization for the OFWG and APEC more broadly. The OFWG also developed the *Implementation Plan for the Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing* (2020/SCE3/014). The IUU Implementation Plan identifies possible work streams to guide the work of implementation of the Roadmap and advance concerted actions to be achieved by 2025.

The Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation (PPSTI) conducted *Promoting Innovation City Development in APEC Region and Cooperation to Contribute to Regional integration 4.0 and Sustainable Growth*, which examined the concept of innovative cities.

2.2 COVID-19 Response

Several SCE sub-fora commenced new work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority where informal information sharing exercises that allowed APEC members to share information on lessons learned.

The Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) initiated voluntary information sharing on COVID-19 measures, particularly measures related to emergency preparedness among EPWG economies in April 2020. The initiative encourages sharing and learning about COVID-19 response based on each economy's experience. This information can be found on the APEC website.

The EWG has started to study COVID-19 effects on energy situation, policy and targets in a holistic approach from three aspects (security of supply and demand, safety of infrastructures, welfare of peoples and communities).

The networks of the HRDWG held special COVID-19 related meetings. The Education Network (ED-NET) developed a survey for members that collected information on impact of COVID-19 on education in member economies. The survey covered challenges and obstacles encountered in education when fighting against COVID-19, effective solutions to the challenge, and recommendations for future of education, covering four sections such as preschool, basic education, higher education, and vocational & technical education and training. The ED-NET then met to discuss the education response to COVID-19. The Labour and Social Protection Network (LSPN) also held a special session on COVID-19.

The PPSTI members agreed to endeavor to share their experiences, lessons learned, and best practices under STI areas to support capacity building and innovation, encourage further collaboration in STI, and better inform policy recommendations for improving health systems and resilience planning in the APEC region.

The PPWE held a dedicated session in which economies exchanged views on their respective governments' women-focused responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Economies compared information on the impacts of the pandemic and economic downturn on women's economic empowerment, and they identified specific policy responses initiated or under development. The PPWE also held a public-private policy dialogue in which business representatives shared information on private sector initiatives to increase women's economic participation in their industries during economic recovery.

The SMEWG started an informal and voluntary information-sharing exercise on measures implemented by APEC economies to foster SMEs resilience during the current COVID-19 crisis.

The Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG) endorsed "*APEC TEL Initiative on Global Challenges and Cooperation Utilizing ICT - COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond*". This document outlines possible areas for initiatives that would address current COVID-19 and other prospective global challenges (in the future), especially by utilizing ICT and emerging digital technology. In addition, this document can serve to provide some focus and direction for TELWG's future work and also as the basis to engage in cross-fora collaboration in relation to combatting COVID-19.

2.3 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 2020, the SCE discussed how to manage the expiration of all SCE sub-fora Terms of Reference in 2020 and 2021. The SCE is currently assessing all sub-fora using a standardized template that will allow the SCE to make recommendations on merging, disbanding, or reorienting sub-fora. Please see Table 1 for an overview of fora administration.

b. Approving Strategic Plans

In 2020, the SCE approved one Strategic Plan: Tourism Working Group 2021-2024.

c. Approving Annual Work Plans

The Terms of Reference of SCE, as reconfirmed in 2020, mandates SCE to “assess and direct realignment of individual work plans of Working Groups and SOM Policy Partnerships 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 Policy Partnerships should submit their strategic and annual work plans to the SCE no later than three weeks prior to SOM 1 for consideration at the SCE-Committee of the Whole.” Fifteen work plans were submitted and approved by SCE in 2020 (as reflected in Table 1).

At SCE3 in 2020, the Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat presented a report, *Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC’s Overall Vision and Objectives* (2020/SCE3/003) which noted that most SCE sub-fora focused their activities to respond to the mandates given to them by the Leaders and Ministers. Many sub-fora, such as Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group, Counter Terrorism Working Group; Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade; Emergency Preparedness Working Group; Energy Working Group; Human Resources Development Working Group; Health Working Group; Oceans and Fisheries Working Group; Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy; Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group; and Tourism Working Group, specifically cite recent instructions of Ministers. A number of these also refer to 2020 APEC priorities. Most notably, all work plans also make linkages between their specific activities and the relevant ECOTECH Medium Term Priorities, which is facilitated by continued use of a template.

2.4 Revised, Standardized 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 developments of a standardized program for assessments, the establishment of 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; further follow-up by the Assessment Team on the recommendations; and an optional Comprehensive Fora Review following a full cycle of assessments on all the SCE fora.

In 2018, a standardized template for fora assessment was endorsed by SCE (2018/SOM1/SCE/0024). This template was then used to assess four SCE sub-fora in 2018 (as per Table 1). Upon receipt of the four fora assessments, the Assessment Team determined that the information contained in the reports was not sufficient to allow them to make any recommendations to SCE.

At SCE1 in 2019, there was discussion regarding the current standardized fora assessment program. Several economies expressed concern regarding the expense of the current program, the length of the reports produced, and the overall usefulness of the resulting reports. A decision was taken to pause the program while the Assessment Team discussed alternative methods of fora assessment.

In 2020 the Assessment Team proposed a new standardized report template. This new standardized report template was endorsed at SCE 3. The first sub-fora assessed using the template was the SMEWG with results tabled at SCE4.

2.5 Cross-Fora Collaboration

Increasing cross-fora collaboration has been under discussion in recent years. A 15th meeting of SCE Fora Chairs and Lead Shepherds (SCE-Committee of the Whole) was held on 18 February 2020 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. Chairs and Lead Shepherds or their representatives from 14 of the 15 SCE fora participated. The presence of Chairs, Lead Shepherds or their representatives increased their interactions with each other and Senior Officials, leading to useful practical suggestions for collaborating with other APEC fora. Also at SCE 3 2020, the APEC Secretariat introduced its report, “*SCE Report on Synergies within the ECOTECH Agenda*” (2020/SCE/007). To further underscore the importance of cross-fora collaboration, fora are required to report on their cross-fora collaborations in annual fora reports. In addition, the standardized fora assessment program also measures data and indicators relating to cross-fora collaboration. In 2020, SCE and its sub-fora have 100+ projects in implementation. Of those projects, over 30% of them include some manner of cross-fora collaboration. In addition, many sub-fora hold joint meetings with other SCE sub-fora as well as with EC and CTI and its sub-fora.

2.6 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. 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.

Voluntary contributions by APEC members to the ASF and its sub-funds in 2020 (as of 4 November 2020) were made or committed by four economies: Australia; Japan; Korea; and Chinese Taipei.

Australia provided USD 398,524 to the ASF General Fund, after redirection of the uncommitted balance of the ASF Mining Sub-Fund after cessation of the ASF Mining Sub-Fund (subject to SOMs approval) and USD 204,750 to the ASF Marine Debris Management and Innovation Sub-fund.

Japan provided USD 1,057,283 to the ASF Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Measures Sub-fund.

Korea provided a contribution of USD 700,000 to the ASF Digital Innovation Sub-fund.

Chinese Taipei provided a contribution of USD 1,450,000 split amongst the ASF Digital Innovation Sub-fund, the ASF Human Security Sub-fund, and the ASF Marine Debris Management and Innovation Sub-fund.

Table 1: SCE Fora Dashboard

Forum	Terms of Reference	Annual Work Plan	Strategic Plan	Annual Fora Report	Fora Assessment
ACTWG	2018-2021	2020	2019-2022	2019	2021
ATCWG	2018-2021	2020	2015-2019	2020	2020
CTWG	2018-2021	2020	2018-2022	2019	2021
EGILAT	2018-2021	2020	2018-2022	2020	2020
EPWG	2018-2021	2020	2017-2020	2019	2020
EWG	2018-2021	2020	2019-2023	2019	2021
HRDWG	2018-2021	2020	2017-2020	2019	2021
HWG	2018-2021	2020	2016-2020	2019	2021
OFWG	2018-2021	2020	2016-2018	2018	2021
PPSTI	2018-2021	2020	2016-2025	2019	2020
PPWE	2018-2021	2020	2019-2021	2019	2021
SMEWG	2017-2020	2020	2017-2020	2019	2020
TELWG	2018-2021	2020	2016-2020	2019	2021
TPTWG	2018-2021	2020	2018-2020	2019	2021
TWG	2018-2021	2020	2020-2024	2019	2021

3. SCE Fora in Action

The work of SCE is evident in the number and scope of its 15 fora and the projects overseen by those fora.

For a more thorough examination of the work done by each fora, including most recent plenary meeting statistics, gender makeup of meetings, alignment with ECOTECH Priorities, and efforts to implement quality growth, please refer to the Fora in Action tables that follow. Each working group has a table on the following pages.

The table below containing the number of APEC-funded approved projects by fora.

Table 2: SCE Fora Projects by Funding Source

Forum	ASF	GPA	TILF	Total
Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group	1	1		2
Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group		1		1
Counter Terrorism Working Group				-
Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade				-
Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation	5	2		7
Emergency Preparedness Working Group	2			2
Energy Working Group	15			15
Health Working Group	8			8
Human Resources Development Working Group	7	2		9
Oceans and Fisheries Working Group	9	1		10
Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy	6	1		7
Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group	9	1		10
Telecommunications and Information Working Group	2			2
Tourism Working Group	1	1		2
Transportation Working Group	7			7
Total*	72	10	-	82

* Project Approval Session 1 & 2 of 2020

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					APEC Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2018			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
25 Sep	25	30	18	Y	7	3	4	538,365
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					Sustainable Growth; Technologies and Innovation; Inclusive Growth			
Response to COVID-19					Input into the COVID-19 Policy Brief			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					PPFS, OFWG, PPWE, EWG, SMEWG, ABAC			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology Driving Innovative Sustainability 			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	September 2019
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

Project No.	Project Title
ATC 01 2020	APEC Workshop on the R&D and Promotion of Smart Agriculture
ATC 01 2020S	APEC-GRA Joint Workshop on enhancing Livestock GHG Inventory Methodology
ATC 02 2020S	APEC- GRA Virtual Farm Study Tour

¹ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group (ACTWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2016			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ²	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
13-14 February	26	21	16	Y	0	1	3	181,000
23 October	33	29	19	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusive Growth, addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender• Developing human capital through capacity building -Regional economic integration• Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth• Regional Economic Integration			
Response to COVID-19					N/A			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					PPWE, EGILAT, SCCP			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology• Driving innovative sustainability			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	1 ³
Publications	1
Last Website Update	October 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	Social media, photos

Project No.	Project Title
ACT 01 2019	"Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment to Fight Corruption" (Malaysia)
ACT 03 2020S	"Capacity Building Workshop on Exposing the Unseen Hands: Tackling Concealment of Beneficial Ownership" (Malaysia)

² Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

³ ["The importance of Women Participation in the Fight against Corruption"](#) – Latheefa Koya ACTWG Chair 2020 (Malaysia)

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2018			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁴	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
10 Feb	8	26	11	N	1	0	1	45,000 USD
22 Oct	Not provided	Not provided	12	N				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					Human Security			
Response to COVID-19					N/A			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					TWG, TPTWG, BMG			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Optimizing Human Potential Towards a Future of Shared Prosperity			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	June 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

Project No.	Project Title
CTWG 01 2020S	Workshop on Aviation Security
CTWG 02 2020S	The 11th Secure Trade in APEC Region Conference (STAR XI)

⁴ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Experts’ Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF)			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2019			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁵	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
6 – 7 February	21	33	14	Y	-	-	-	-
25 August 2020 (virtual)	26	28	16	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth			
Response to COVID-19					Hold information sharing session on implications of COVID-19 for illegal logging and associated trade as part of EGILAT18 Meeting.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTWG proposed to organize a Cross-Fora Policy Dialogue of ACTWG, SCCP, and EGILAT on 4 August 2020 in Malaysia, but the event was cancelled due to COVID-19.• OFWG Chair briefed EGILAT members on APEC’s IUU Roadmap at EGILAT17 Meeting. EGILAT appreciated the presentation and noted the common issues shared by the two working groups.			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Driving Innovative Sustainability			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	August 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

Project No.	Project Title
EGILAT 01 2019A	Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region

⁵ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF)			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2019			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁶	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
21 July 2020	21	29	17	Y	4	2	-	297,568
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					Human Security			
Response to COVID-19					EPWG initiated voluntary information sharing on COVID-19 measures, particularly measures related to emergency preparedness. The initiative encourages sharing and learning about COVID-19 response based on each economy's experience. The document has been uploaded on APEC EPWG Website.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					HWG representative highlighted ongoing initiative in HWG which include best practices in mitigating COVID-19 at EPWG16 Virtual Meeting. EPWG members supported the cross-fora collaboration with HWG.			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Driving Innovative Sustainability			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing Risks and Coping with Climate Change Along Coastal Areas: Workshop on Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change and the Role of Public-Private Collaboration Plant Back Better Toolkit
Last Website Update	July 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

⁶ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Energy Working Group (EWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2018			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ⁷	Self- Funded	Total Value (US\$) ⁸
	Women	Men	Economies					
26-27 Aug	27	53	19	Y	15	15	4	2,072,602
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					<p>EWG contributed ECOTECH Priorities such as Sustainable Growth, Regional economic integration, developing human capital.</p> <p>For example, EWG continues to increase its focus on responding to natural and man-made resiliency challenges for energy infrastructure and networks that will contribute improving regional economic integration.</p> <p>Many capacity building activities to improve the analytical, technical, operational and policy capacity of APEC economies have been continued through Projects.</p>			
Response to COVID-19					<p>EWG has started to study COVID-19 effects on energy situation, policy and targets in a holistic approach from three aspects (security of supply and demand, safety of infrastructures, welfare of peoples and communities).</p>			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<p>EPWG, PPSTI (EWG Lead Shepard participated PPSTI meeting), PPWE (EWG 18 2018A Publication), TPTWG</p>			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<p>EWG hold its policy dialogue centered on the topic of Renewable Energy Transition for Sustainable Growth, one of the priority of issue driving innovative sustainability proposed by Malaysia as APEC 2020 host economy.</p>			

⁷ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

⁸ APEC Funding Amount 1,465,613. Figures of Self-funded Projects are excluded.

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications ⁹	23
Last Website Update	August 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

Project No.	Project Title
EWG 01 2018A	APEC Low-Carbon Model Town (LCMT) Project Dissemination Phase 2
EWG 05 2018A	Aligning Conformity Assessment Efforts for Energy Efficiency Regulations of Motors in the APEC and ASEAN Regions
EWG 10 2018A	Low Emissions Development Strategies: Supporting the transition to energy efficient, electric transport systems
EWG 15 2018A	Technological challenges and opportunities to supply flexibility to electric systems
EWG 16 2018A	Distributed energy resources regulation and rate design
EWG 17 2018A	Lessons learned from promotion mechanisms focused on boosting energy solutions in remote areas
EWG 12 2018S	Research on Forms of Low-carbon Energy System and Best Practices for APEC Sustainable Cities
EWG 03 2019S	ESCI Promotion Program in China and Relevant Training
EWG 07 2019S	The Fifth Asia-Pacific Energy Sustainable Development Forum

⁹ Published from Sep 2019 to Aug 2020.

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2017			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁰	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
9-11 Feb	Women	Men	Economies					
	58	50	19	Y	15	9 (1 was withdrawn)	5	995960
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					Sustainable Growth			
Response to COVID-19					a. A special session of LSPN (Labor of Social Protection Network) was held on 30 Sep. b. APEC Webinar on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Future of Work: Increasing APEC Community Resilience c. A report on <i>The Impact of COVID-19 on Education in Asia Pacific Region</i> is going to be produced. d. EDNET Meeting on Education Response to COVID-19 is to be held in early November.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					PPWE, PPSTI, TPTWG, HWG			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	October 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	HRDWG Lead Shepherd gave an interview on managing skills mismatch in Digital Age.

¹⁰ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Project No.	Project Title
HRD 01 2019A	APEC Cross-Border Human Capacity Building for Globalized Scientific Literacy for Future Citizenship: Phase 2_Longitudinal Exchange and Community Formation of STEM+ Education for School Girls, Women, and Teacher Professional Development
HRD 05 2019	Informatics and Data Science Education Reform for Digital, Inclusive and Sustainable Society (InMside II)
HRD 01 2020S	Optimizing Human Potential through New Approaches to Skills Citizens in Digital Age : Women's Economic Empowering, New Media Digital Upskilling (WEDU) Workshop
HRD 04 2020S	APEC Webinar on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Future of Work: Increasing APEC Community Resilience
HRD 05 2020S	The 9th APEC Conference on Cooperation in Higher Education in Asia-Pacific Region

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Health Working Group (HWG)							
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes							
Related Ministerial Meetings					High Level Meeting on Health and Economy							
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2019							
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020							
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹¹	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)				
	Women	Men	Economies									
7-8 Feb	60%	40%	15	Y								
21 Sep	48%	52%	20	Y								
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)									Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender			
Response to COVID-19									HWG Statement on COVID-19 endorsed in March High Level Meeting on Health and Economy Joint Statement endorsed in September			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					LSIF, TWG, EPWG							
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Inclusive growth							

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	1
Publications	3
Last Website Update	Oct 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	3

Project No.	Project Title
HWG 04 2019S	Increasing Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention in the Asia-Pacific Region

¹¹ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2018			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹²	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
7-8 Feb	53	50	16	Y	12	11	1	1,567,558 USD
20 Oct	51	49	16	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					- Free and Open Trade and Investment; - Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment; - Food Security; - Climate Change; - Natural disaster/Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Resilience;			
Response to COVID-19					N/A			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					PPFS, PPSTI, CD, ACTWG, TWG, VWG			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Driving innovative sustainability			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update of 2009 APEC Report on Economic Costs of Marine Debris to APEC Economies (March 2020) - Capacity Building to Promote Trade of Products that Replace those with Mercury to Reduce Marine Pollution (June 2020) - Capacity Building on Global Marine Debris Monitoring and Modeling: Supports Protection of the Marine Environment (June 2020) - Guideline of Products with Added Mercury (June 2020)
Last Website Update	June 2020
Media/ Outreach Opportunities	N/A

Project No.	Project Title
OFWG 01 2019A	Capacity Building on Global Marine Debris Monitoring and Modeling: Support Protection of The Marine Environment
OFWG 01 2020S	Promoting Investment and Innovation to Combat Marine Litter and Build a Circular Economy in APEC

¹² Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Policy Partnership for Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2019			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹³	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
13-14 Feb	32	20	17	Y	18	7	1	1,240,050
27-28 Aug	59	43	19	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					•Developing human capital through capacity building •Harnessing technologies for the future and supporting innovation •Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender •Human security			
Response to COVID-19					•PPSTI COVID-19 Statement •APEC COVID-19 Matrix			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					ABAC, PPWE, CD, HRDWG, EWG			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					•Digital Technology and Economy •Driving Innovative Sustainability			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	Oct 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	CPAU featured the ASPIRE winner 2020 on APEC website and on APEC Facebook

Project No.	Project Title
PPSTI 02 2019A	Promoting Innovation City Development in APEC Region and Cooperation to Contribute to Regional Integration 4.0 and Sustainable Growth (Seminar was held in July, 2020)
PPSTI 06 2019A	Green Synergy Solutions in APEC Region (Event will be held in Dec, 2020)
PPSTI 08 2019	The Innovation in Public Transportation (INPUT) Competition (INPUT launched on Sep, 2020)

¹³ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					N/A			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2016			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁴	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
21/08/2020	80%	20%	16	Y	8	7	2	755,000
21/09/2020	81%	19%	19	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					Human Capital Development SME Dynamism Technology and Innovation Inclusive Growth			
Response to COVID-19					21/08/2020 Dedicated Session in which economies exchanged views on their gender focused responses to Covid-19			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					ACTWG, EC, HRDWG and SMEWG			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	03/2020 Action Strategies Toolkit: Increasing the Participation of Women in Non-Traditional Sectors
Last Website Update	August 2019
Media/Outreach Opportunities	01/10/2020 Press Release in connection with Women and the Economy Forum Statement 02/10/2020 Press Release in connection with Healthy Women, Healthy Economy Research Prize 09/03/2020 Press Release in connection with International Women's Day

¹⁴ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Project No.	Project Title
PPWE 03 2019A	Harnessing Fintech Skills for Women-led MSMEs for Promoting Inclusive Growth
PPWE 01 2018S	APEC Business Efficiency and Success Target (BEST) Award 2020
PPWE 01 2019S	“Healthy Women, Healthy Economies” Research Prize
PPWE 05 2019S	Public Private Dialogue “Women Engagement in E-Commerce: Barriers and Opportunities”
PPWE 01 2020S	Gender Data: Online Training Course
PPWE 02 2020S	APEC Webinar: Reaching Women’s Potential in Cross-Border E-Commerce

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					SME Ministerial Meeting (23 October)			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2020			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁵	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
21-22 October	Women 55	Men 41	Economies 20	Y	14	10	5	APEC funding: 1'236,459
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					SMEs/Inclusive Growth/ Regional Economic Integration/ Technologies and Innovation / Human Capital Development			
Response to COVID-19					Voluntary information-sharing exercise measures implemented by APEC economies to foster SMEs resilience during the current COVID-19 crisis			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					ACTWG (through the project SME 03 2019A)			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	1
Publications	11
Last Website Update	October 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

¹⁵ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Project No.	Project Title
SME 03 2019A	APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum: Realizing the Nanjing Declaration
SME 04 2019A	APEC Young Entrepreneurs Kick-Off
SME 05 2019A	2020 APEC SME Cyber Security Forum
SME 12 2019A	APEC Workshop: Strengthening Women Empowerment in Industry 4.0 through Digital Entrepreneurship Training
SME 01 2020S	APEC Cross-Sector Innovation Ecosystem Conference: Strengthening Networks of SMEs Co-Innovation for Better Future
SME 03 2020S	Supporting Women's Access to Global Markets: Interview Series
SME 13 2019A	APEC Women-led Start-Up Accelerator Initiative
SME 15 2019A	2020 APEC SMEs Smart Factory Forum

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					TELMIN – 2015			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2017			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁶	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
TEL61 Plenary Meeting (14-15 Oct 2020)	34	39	17	Y	9	2	7	226,000
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					Through implementing the TEL Strategic Action Plan 2016-2020, TELWG activities contributed to ECOTECH Priorities such as developing human capital through capacity building, harnessing technologies for the future and supporting innovation, inclusive growth, regional economic integration and human security.			
Response to COVID-19					The “APEC TEL Initiative on Global Challenges and Cooperation Utilizing ICT- COVID-19 pandemic and beyond” paper endorsed by TELWG outlines possible areas for initiatives that would address current COVID-19 and other prospective global challenges (in the future), especially by utilizing ICT and emerging digital technology. In addition, this proposal can serve to provide some focus and direction for TELWG’s future work in relation to COVID-19.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “APEC TEL Initiative on Global Challenges and Cooperation Utilizing ICT- COVID-19 pandemic and beyond” (HWG, EPWG and DESG) Smart Silver Innovation Project (HWG) 			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					In implementing activities under activities TEL Strategic Action Plan 2016-2020 related to: 1) Develop and support ICT innovation; 2) Promote a secure, resilient and trusted ICT environment; 3) Promote regional economic integration; 4) Enhance the Digital Economy and the Internet Economy and; 5) Strengthen cooperation, TELWG contributed to APEC 2020’s overall theme of “Optimising Human Potential towards a Future of Shared Prosperity” and endeavour to contribute to the three priorities, with a particular focus on the “Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology” in realizing human-centered innovation and inclusive growth in the region.			

¹⁶ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	N/A
Publications	1
Last Website Update	April 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	N/A

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Transportation Working Group (TPTWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					No			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2013			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁷	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
24 June 2020	19	31	18	Y	15	7	2	1,376,000
3 Aug 2020	33	61	19	Y				
13 Aug 2020	28	22	16	Y				
18 Aug 2020	33	50	17	Y				
21 Aug 2020	24	50	19	Y				
17 Sept 2020	29	71	16	Y				
24 Sept 2020	39	82	17	Y				
29 Sept 2020	25	30	19	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional economic integrationSafeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growthHuman security			
Response to COVID-19					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure resilient intermodal transport/logistics connectivity, especially for medical and food supply chains.Promote common standards and procedures, including those developed by international organizations such as ICAO and IMO, to facilitate the essential movement of people and goods.			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinating with Automotive Dialogue on the Dialogue’s initiative to develop “APEC Autonomous Vehicles Principles and Guidelines.”Supporting PPWE’s Initiative on La Serena Roadmap			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology			

¹⁷ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	NA
Publications	NA
Last Website Update	June 2020
Media/Outreach Opportunities	NA

Project No.	Project Title
TPT 03 2019A	APEC SEN Onboard Training to Foster Competent Young Future Maritime Global Leaders (Korea)
TPT 04 2019A	Combating Human Trafficking by Addressing Illicit Uses of Transportation (US)
TPT 07 2019A	Identifying Uses of App-Based Transportation Mobility Technologies for Inclusive Smart Cities (US)

Name of SCE Sub-Fora					Tourism Working Group (TWG)			
SCE-COW Participation in 2020					Yes			
Related Ministerial Meetings					TMM11 not held in 2020			
Year of Last Fora Assessment					2014			
2020 Meetings					APEC Projects in 2020			
Date	Attendance			Quorum (Y/N)	Concept Notes	APEC Funded ¹⁸	Self-Funded	Total Value (US\$)
	Women	Men	Economies					
15 May	29	22	19	Y	2	2	1	160,000
22 September	44	33	20	Y				
Alignment with ECOTECH Priorities (eg. Sustainable Growth)					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing human capital through capacity buildingDeveloping and strengthening the dynamism of SMEsHarnessing technologies for the future and supporting innovationInclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender			
Response to COVID-19					TWG Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 15 May 2020			
Cross-Fora Collaborations					Attendance of HWG and EPWG representatives in 15 May meeting			
Alignment with Host Economy Priorities					<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improving the narrative of trade and investment;Inclusive economic participation through digital economy and technology; and.Driving innovative sustainability.			

Communications (2020)	
Feature Stories/Blogs	What Now for Travel and Tourism in the Asia-Pacific? Reforms Needed to Future-Proof Tourism Industry
Publications	N/A
Last Website Update	October 2019
Media/Outreach Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prospect Analysis for Sustainable Development of Tourism in Remote Areas of APEC Economies – Phase I APEC Economic Study on the Impact of Cruise Tourism: Fostering MSMEs' Growth and Creating Sustainable Communities Leveraging the Digital Economy to Promote an Inclusive Tourism Industry: Workshop Summary Report

¹⁸ Concept Notes that have received in-principle BMC funding in 2020 Project Session #1 and #2

Project No.	Project Title
TWG 01 2020S	APEC MICE Forum: In Crisis There is Hope and Opportunity 24 August 2020

4. Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to the 2020 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM):

1. *Note the 2020 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation;*
2. *Welcome the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth Implementation Plan*
3. *Welcome the achievements of the SCE Working Groups and Policy Partnerships; and*
4. *Welcome 2020 contributions to the APEC Support Fund's various sub-funds from Australia; Japan; Korea; and Chinese Taipei.*

Prepared by
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat
35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119616
Telephone: (65) 6891 9600 Facsimile: (65) 6891 9690
Email: info@apec.org Website: www.apec.org