

## SCE Report on Synergies within the ECOTECH Agenda 2021

### Background

1. The SCE has tasked “the Secretariat to undertake a strategic assessment of synergies within the ECOTECH agenda after SOM1 and provide recommendations to SCE2 about gaps that may require SCE attention or direction” (point 7 of *SCE Report on Improving ECOTECH in APEC* (2013/SOM3/030)).
2. The first report by the APEC Secretariat (2014/SOM2/SCE/004) was submitted to the SCE2 in 2014. The second report was presented to the SCE2 in 2015.
3. The 2021 report has been rationalised somewhat from previous versions. The fora work plans are not attached. One is invited to review the 2021 Work Plans of the SCE sub-fora on the SCE ACS page. In addition, the template has been refined in recent years to request sub-fora to specify which other sub-fora or organisations it plans to collaborate with, and how. Similar reporting is sought in the template for annual Fora Reports submitted later in the APEC year.

### Review of the annual work plans of the SCE fora

4. The APEC Secretariat analysed thirteen (13) sub-fora work plans: ACTWG, ATCWG, EGILAT, EPWG, EWG, HRDWG, HWG, OFWG, PPSTI, PPWE, SMEWG, TELWG, and TWG submitted as of 29 April 2021. The Secretariat analysis came to the following broad conclusions:
  - SCE sub-fora identified over 130 areas of potential cross-fora collaboration.
  - Potential collaboration is being identified with other SCE sub-fora as well as with the sub-fora of the Economic Committee, the Committee on Trade and Investment, and the Finance Ministers Process/Senior Finance Officials’ Meeting.
  - Collaboration is not confined to the same or the more obvious partners but rather is diverse, and often differs from project to project.
  - The most active sub-fora in terms of collaboration are PPWE and SMEWG. The sub-fora with the fewest self-reported collaborations are ACTWG and EGILAT.
  - A number of SCE sub-fora identify potential collaboration with external partners, including international and regional organisations such as the United Nations, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, INTERPOL, International Energy Agency, ILO, WHO and OECD, or non-governmental organisations such as the International Air Transport Association and Transparency International, to name but a few.
  - Only two work plans have explicitly identified potential collaborations with ABAC. There likely is scope for more frequent collaboration with ABAC as well as ASEAN and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, given their respective roles within the broader APEC process.

### Discussion on how to promote cross-fora collaboration

5. At SCE3 in 2016, SCE members adopted eight recommendations to promote cross-fora collaboration (see 2016/SOM3/SCE/002).

6. The SCE Chair and the Secretariat together with the SCE fora have been implementing these recommendations since SCE3 of 2016. In 2021, a thematic discussion focused on key fora deliverables and cross-fora opportunities was at the heart of the SCE-COW agenda. The CTI, EC, BMC, ABAC, and SFOM Chairs were invited to attend the 2021 SCE-COW. The Secretariat maintains all key documents of the SCE fora (ie Terms of References, Strategic Plans, annual Work Plans and annual Fora Reports) on the APEC Collaboration System (ACS). The virtual format of APEC in 2021 has increased participation by SCE sub-fora conveners, with attendance by all conveners for the first time since 2017.
7. The completion of the Putrajaya Vision Implementation Plan may offer an opportunity for the SCE to examine the eight recommendations to promote cross-fora collaborations and consider if additional recommendations are necessary.