



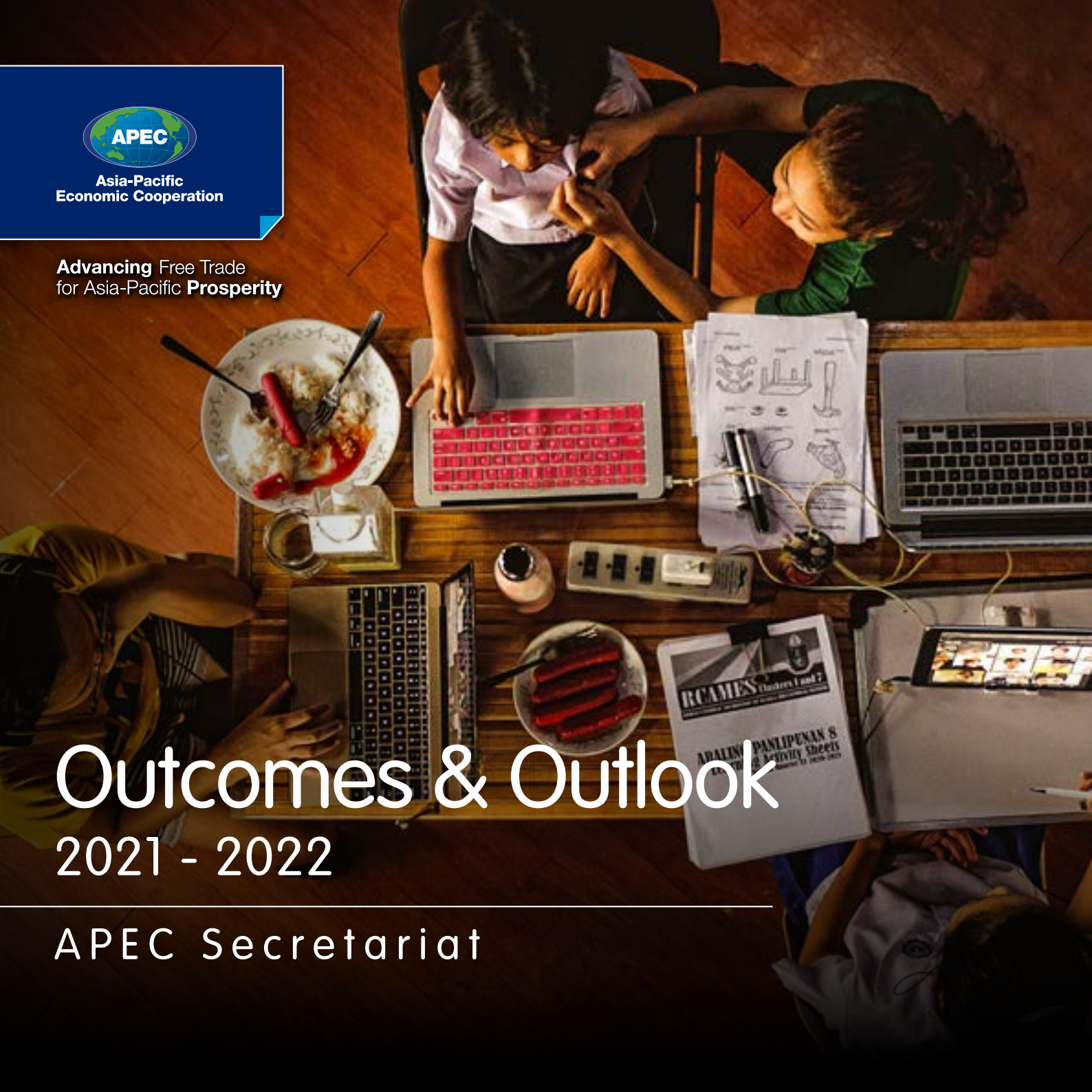
Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

Outcomes & Outlook

2021 - 2022

APEC Secretariat





Contents

- 02 Message from the Executive Director
- 04 About APEC
- 16 Outcomes: APEC New Zealand 2021
- 20 2021 APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration
- 29 Annex: Aotearoa Plan of Action
- 37 Reports and Analysis in 2021
- 39 2021 in Numbers
- 40 Awards and Campaigns
- 44 Outlook: APEC Thailand 2022
- 49 Key Meetings in 2022
- 50 The APEC Secretariat

Message from the Executive Director

In the face of a global health crisis that has caused the worst economic downturn in over seven decades, APEC economies have been steered by steady hands throughout this uncertain period.

Last year, when the pandemic was declared, APEC quickly pivoted to the now all-too-familiar virtual meeting format, making it possible for economic cooperation—made even more essential by the virus outbreak—to continue. It was also in 2020 when APEC leaders agreed on a new vision, for an “open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for all our people and for future generations”—the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

New Zealand, as chair of APEC in 2021, faced the difficult task of creating a 20-year playbook to implement this vision. The result is the Aotearoa Plan of Action, which aims to advance trade and economic growth in the present, while underpinning inclusive and sustainable policies to support future generations.

All the while, the COVID-19 pandemic was still raging on. As a result, New Zealand took the difficult, and somewhat prescient decision, to only host meetings virtually throughout the year.

Despite the limitations, this past year saw APEC bounce back on stronger footing. Leaders decided to build what we’ve learnt over the past 20 months into the plan for APEC’s work on the road to 2040.

Amid fears that protectionism will find this crisis as an excuse to rear its head, our members rejected vaccine nationalism, demonstrating how much of a force for good trade and cooperation can be. After trade ministers met last June, no APEC economy has rolled out export restrictions on vaccines. In fact, many economies even lowered tariffs on vaccines and many formally locked in digital trade facilitation measures to move them across borders more quickly.

The lessons of the pandemic have made us look at other crises in a different light as well, particularly climate change, which was discussed this year more than ever, and is securely featured in the Aotearoa Plan of Action.

We’ve made progress on sustainability policies, with members committing to discussions on fossil fuel subsidies. Governments have taken further steps this year towards making it easier to trade in goods and services that support lower emissions by, for example, agreeing on a list of environmentally related services to build on APEC’s existing list of environmental goods.

This past year, APEC’s digital meeting spaces were hospitable and enjoyable. They paved the way for a sustainable, digitally enabled, and inclusive recovery. This recovery will be seen through by Thailand, as the next chair of APEC.

From a policy perspective, we expect this transition to be seamless, with

the two chairs sharing a range of priority themes, such as digital innovation and environmental protection, evident in how keen they are to introduce the concept of a bio, circular, and green economy into our policy tracts.

Among Thailand’s policy priorities is also the reopening of the Asia-Pacific region—a clear sign that we’re beginning to see the beginning of the post-pandemic era in which the region will regain its dynamism.

The COVID-19 virus itself will not likely be totally eradicated—this much is clear as news of variants are always a possibility. But Thailand will lead the region in navigating a world where COVID-19 has been diminished and we’ll be able to collectively and equitably recover and even prosper. In 2022, we can expect that APEC will explore new shifting paradigms as we work for an opened, connected and balanced region.



Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Sta. Maria
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat





The idea of APEC was firstly publicly broached by former Prime Minister of Australia Bob Hawke during a speech in Seoul, Korea, on 31 January 1989. Ten months later, 12 Asia-Pacific economies met in Canberra to establish APEC. The founding members were Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; the Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; and the United States.

China; Hong Kong, China; and Chinese Taipei joined in 1991. Mexico and Papua New Guinea followed in 1993. Chile acceded in 1994. And in 1998, Peru; Russia; and Viet Nam joined, taking the full membership to 21.

Between 1989 and 1992, APEC met as an informal senior official- and ministerial-level dialogue. In 1993, former US President Bill Clinton established the practice of an annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting to provide greater strategic vision and direction for cooperation in the region.

About APEC

APEC Milestones

2021 • Wellington, New Zealand

Faced with an ongoing pandemic and the biggest downturn in 75 years, APEC economies take extraordinary measures to respond to the economic and health crisis and work towards recovery. Leaders meet twice over the course of APEC's first fully virtual year—first for an extraordinary informal retreat in July, to invigorate efforts to beat back the pandemic, and again in November. With success in facilitating trade in COVID-19 vaccines and related essential medical products and responding to the immediate challenge of climate change, the 2021 agenda also builds on the previous year's launch of the Putrajaya Vision 2040 by setting out a plan for APEC's work through the next two decades. The Aotearoa Plan of Action advances trade and economic growth in the present, while underpinning policy directions to support future generations.

2020 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Amid a global pandemic, APEC leaders meet virtually for the first time, determined to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 and emerge from the crisis through coordinated action and cooperation. They commit to protecting people's lives and recognize the importance of working together to ensure trade and investment continue to flow as well as equitable access to vaccines and other medical countermeasures. In recognition of the pandemic's disproportionate impact on those with untapped economic potential, they announce that they will pursue inclusive economic policies, and

as such, welcome the implementation of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth. They welcome the significant progress made under the Bogor Goals and announce the Putrajaya Vision 2040, for an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community.

2019 • Santiago, Chile

The APEC Chair releases the Host Economy Leader's Statement, which commemorates the 30th year of APEC and echoes the APEC 2019 theme "Connecting People, Building the Future." The chair lays out the year's achievements, notably in putting people at the center of the forum's agenda, as well as issues important to people, such as inclusivity and the environment. The La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth was finalized this year, which acknowledges the urgent need to lift the role of women in the economy. Two significant ocean-related roadmaps were developed, for addressing Marine Debris and Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The chair recognizes that, working together, economies strengthen each other and rules-based international trade. The chair recognizes that the needs of people in the Asia-Pacific are evolving, and encourages inclusive and sustainable solutions for future work.

2018 • Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

The APEC chair releases the Era Kone Statement, reflecting the work of member economies

throughout 2018. It states that leaders reaffirm the importance of trade liberalization and facilitation in achieving sustainable economic growth and in creating jobs, and recognize the contributions in achieving this of the rules-based multilateral trading system. APEC leaders commit to advancing inclusive growth through innovation, such as the use of digital technologies. They recognize that digital technologies are changing the way businesses and government operate, and although they come with challenges, they have the potential to provide significant widespread gains. To further APEC's ability to meet these challenges, they endorse the Action Agenda for the Digital Economy which lays out clear commitments to meet the digital future.

2017 • Da Nang, Viet Nam

Leaders underline APEC's crucial role in supporting a rules-based, free, open, fair, transparent and inclusive multilateral trading system. APEC commits to strengthening the ability of micro and small enterprises to compete in international markets and endorsed a strategy to create an environment that enables them to go green and sustainable. The forum aims to meet the potential of the internet and digital economy through regulation and policy and seeks to prepare workers—especially those in vulnerable groups—for the changing world of work through human resource development. To ensure food security in and beyond the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the context of climate change and rural-urban development, the forum adopts

About APEC

the Food Security and Climate Change Multi-Year Action Plan 2018-2020. And through the creation of the APEC Vision Group, leaders show their commitment to a strategic and ambitious post-2020 vision that will position APEC to aim for 21st Century opportunities after the Bogor Goals are met.

2016 • Lima, Peru

APEC leaders reaffirm the member economies' confidence in international trade as a mechanism for achieving positive economic and social change. This is after throwing their support behind an agenda that pursues inclusive growth as the Asia-Pacific region takes strides to achieve a free and open trade area. Specifically, they express support for advancing the regional economic integration and growth agenda; developing human capital; modernizing micro, small, and medium business; and enhancing the regional food systems. In line with these priorities, APEC put forward policy commitments for members toward sustainable economic integration in the region.

2015 • Manila, Philippines

APEC leaders unite behind the opportunity to build inclusive economies in a bid to make economic growth felt broadly by more sectors in society. Acknowledging uneven global growth and the presence of risks and uncertainties in the global economy, the leaders agree to set forth policy enablers for integration of micro, small and medium enterprises in regional and global markets; for building sustainable and resilient communities; developing human capital; and enhancing the

regional economic integration agenda. They also express support for the achievement of quality growth, and endorse a network on services cooperation, recognizing that the services sector represent a significant percentage of businesses in the region.

2014 • Beijing, China

APEC leaders commit to taking a concrete step towards greater regional economic integration by endorsing a roadmap to translate the vision of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) into a reality. As a first step, APEC will carry out a collective strategic study on issues related to the realization of the FTAAP. Members implement the first-ever APEC Connectivity Blueprint to achieve targets for better physical, institutional and people to people linkages across the region by 2025. In order to capture higher value-added growth, policies to promote innovation, human resource development and sustainability are part of the new APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth. Recognizing the importance of promoting diversified energy supplies, APEC economies agree to work toward doubling the share of renewables by 2030 in the region's energy mix, including in power generation.

2013 • Bali, Indonesia

APEC leaders reaffirm their commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system and achieving the successful Doha Round outcome at the World Trade Organization (WTO) 9th Ministerial Conference. APEC Leaders endorse a multi-year plan on infrastructure development

and investment. As a first step under this plan, a Public Private Partnership Centre in Indonesia will be established. To encourage people-to-people connectivity, APEC seeks to promote cross-border cooperation with the target of 1 million intra-APEC university students per year by 2020. APEC holds its first joint Ministerial Meeting on Women and SMEs to promote women entrepreneurship.

2012 • Vladivostok, Russia

APEC leaders endorse an APEC List of Environmental Goods that directly and positively contribute to green growth and sustainable development objectives. APEC seeks to address transparency as a new next generation trade and investment issue, and leaders endorse the APEC Model Chapter on Transparency for RTAs/FTAs to be used as a guide by APEC economies.

2011 • Honolulu, United States

APEC leaders commit to taking concrete steps toward a seamless regional economy; addressing shared green growth objectives; and advancing regulatory cooperation and convergence. To reach these goals, APEC resolves to reduce, by the end of 2015, applied tariff rates of environmental goods to 5 percent or less, taking into account economies' circumstances, without prejudice to APEC members' positions in the WTO. APEC sets the goal to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035. In addition, APEC commits to take specific steps by 2013 to implement good regulatory practices by ensuring internal coordination of regulatory work; assessing regulatory impacts; and conducting public consultation.



About APEC

2010 • Yokohama, Japan

APEC leaders provide a roadmap for members to realize an economically-integrated, robust and secure APEC community. This includes the formulation of a comprehensive, long-term growth strategy. APEC completes an assessment of its progress towards the Bogor Goals and finds significant gains in the areas of liberalizing trade in goods, services and investment, as well as trade facilitation. APEC formulates the APEC Strategy for Investment and endorses the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform. APEC holds its first APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security.

2009 • Singapore

APEC resolves to pursue balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth, while leaders agree to extend their standstill commitment on protectionism until 2010. The first-ever joint meetings of APEC senior trade and finance officials are held to address the economic crisis. APEC launches the Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework and the Ease of Doing Business Action Plan to make doing business in the region 25 percent cheaper, faster and easier by 2015. Member economies also commence work on an APEC Services Action Plan and an Environmental Goods and Services Work Program.

2008 • Lima, Peru

APEC economic leaders address the global financial crisis in the Lima Statement on the Global Economy, in which they commit to take all necessary economic and financial measures to

restore stability and growth, to reject protectionism and to intensify efforts to advance the WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations. APEC focuses on the social dimensions of trade, reducing the gap between developing and developed members and Corporate Social Responsibility. Leaders welcome the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan aimed at improving the investment environment in the region.

2007 • Sydney, Australia

For the first time, APEC member economies issue a Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development outlining future action in support of a new international climate change arrangement and announcing a forward program of practical, cooperative actions and initiatives. Leaders also adopt a major report on closer regional economic integration, including structural reform initiatives, and welcome the second APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan which aims to reduce trade transaction costs by a further five percent by 2010.

2006 • Ha Noi, Viet Nam

APEC economic leaders endorse the Ha Noi Action Plan which identifies specific actions and milestones to implement the Bogor Goals. Leaders conclude that the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan has achieved its target of a five percent reduction in trade transaction costs in the region between 2002 and 2006. APEC takes a strategic approach to reform fora and strengthen the Secretariat.

2005 • Busan, Korea

APEC completes the Mid-Term Stock-take of Progress towards the Bogor Goals. The stock-take finds that average tariffs in the APEC region have been reduced to 5.5 percent, down from 16.9 percent when APEC was established in 1989, and that APEC is on schedule to meet the Bogor Goals. It also outlines the Busan Roadmap to the Bogor Goals. The APEC Privacy Framework is launched.

2004 • Santiago, Chile

APEC adopts Best Practices for RTAs and FTAs, a reference guide for APEC members undertaking RTA/FTA negotiations. The Leaders' Agenda to Implement Structural Reform (LAISR) is launched. It addresses five priority areas: regulatory reform; corporate governance; public governance; competition policy; and strengthening economic legal infrastructure. Leaders endorse the Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency.

2003 • Bangkok, Thailand

Members undertake to implement the APEC Action Plan on SARS and the Health Security Initiative to help the region prevent and respond to health threats. Leaders pledge to strengthen regional efforts to promote sound and efficient financial systems and encourage the development of domestic and regional bond markets.

2002 • Los Cabos, Mexico

APEC adopts a Trade Facilitation Action Plan and

the Statement to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy. The Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative is launched and a Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards is endorsed.

2001 • Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Leaders issue APEC's first Statement on Counter-Terrorism and pledge to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. Leaders also adopt the Shanghai Accord which focuses on: broadening the APEC vision to reflect changes resulting from the digital economy; clarifying the roadmap to reach the Bogor Goals; and strengthening the IAP Peer Review Process and capacity building activities. An e-APEC Strategy identifying the necessary policy environment and specifying appropriate goals and actions to maximize the benefits of the digital economy is also endorsed.

2000 • Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

APEC commits to the Action Agenda for the New Economy. Leaders set the goals of tripling internet access throughout the APEC region by 2005, and achieving universal access by 2010.

1999 • Auckland, New Zealand

APEC leaders endorse the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform aimed at addressing the structural and regulatory weaknesses that contributed to the Asian financial

crisis. APEC commits to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and 2010 in developing economies. The APEC Business Travel Card scheme is approved and a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Electrical Equipment and a Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC are endorsed.

1998 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

APEC ministers agree on a Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce, including a commitment to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and by 2010 in developing economies.

1997 • Vancouver, Canada

APEC endorses a proposal for early voluntary sectoral liberalization in 15 sectors and decides that Individual Action Plans should be updated annually.

1996 • Manila, Philippines

The Manila Action Plan for APEC is adopted, outlining the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation measures required to reach the Bogor Goals. The first Collective and Individual Action Plans are compiled, outlining how economies will achieve the free trade goals.

1995 • Osaka, Japan

APEC adopts the Osaka Action Agenda which provides a framework for meeting the Bogor Goals through trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation and sectoral activities, underpinned by policy dialogues and economic

and technical cooperation. The APEC Business Advisory Council is established to inject a business perspective into APEC deliberations and to give advice on business sector priorities.

1994 • Bogor, Indonesia

APEC sets the Bogor Goals of "free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies." The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations conducted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is concluded. APEC is widely considered to have been a significant force in bringing the Uruguay Round to a conclusion.

1993 • Blake Island, United States

APEC economic leaders meet for the first time and outline APEC's vision of "stability, security and prosperity for our peoples."

1989 • Canberra, Australia

APEC begins as an informal ministerial-level dialogue group with 12 founding members.



About APEC

Benefits of APEC

APEC has grown to become a dynamic engine of economic growth and one of the most important regional forums in the Asia-Pacific. Its 21 member economies are home to around 2.9 billion people and represent approximately 62 percent of world GDP and 48 percent of world trade in 2020.

As a result of APEC's work, growth has soared in the region, with real GDP more than doubling from approximately just USD 17.9 trillion in 1989 to USD 49.9 trillion in 2020. Meanwhile, residents of the Asia-Pacific saw their per capita income rise more than threefold, lifting millions out of poverty and creating a growing middle class in about three decades.

Bringing the region closer together, reducing trade barriers and smoothing out differences in regulations have boosted trade which has also led to this dramatic increase in prosperity. Average tariffs fell from 17 percent in 1989 to 5.2 percent in 2020. During that same period, the APEC region's total merchandise trade increased seven-fold—outpacing the rest of the world with more than two-thirds of this trade occurring between member economies.

However, members have recognized more and more that this prosperity must benefit all people in the region. As a result, Leaders have called for policies which set economies down the path of becoming increasingly more inclusive and sustainable.

Economic Data

Member Economy and Year Joined	Population in 2020 (thousands)	GDP in 2020 (US\$m)	GDP per capita in 2020 (US\$)	Imports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial in 2020 (US\$m)	Exports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial Services in 2020 (US\$m)
Australia (1989)	25,687.0	1,330,900.9	51,812.2	248,334	298,455
Brunei Darussalam (1989)	437.5	12,016.1	27,466.3	6,519	6,941
Canada (1989)	38,005.2	1,644,037.3	43,258.2	504,340	475,033
Chile (1994)	19,116.2	252,940.0	13,231.7	70,542	79,803
China (1991)	1,402,112.0	14,722,730.7	10,500.4	2,434,745	2,868,305
Hong Kong, China (1991)	7,481.8	346,585.9	46,323.9	620,690	612,504
Indonesia (1989)	273,523.6	1,058,423.8	3,869.6	166,075	177,564
Japan (1989)	125,836.0	4,975,415.2	39,538.9	818,171	797,670
Korea (1989)	51,780.6	1,630,525.0	31,489.1	569,220	598,643
Malaysia (1989)	32,366.0	336,664.4	10,401.8	222,916	255,907
Mexico (1993)	128,932.8	1,076,163.3	8,346.7	418,291	434,473
New Zealand (1989)	5,084.3	210,886.3	41,477.9	48,252	50,499
Papua New Guinea (1993)	8,947.0	23,591.5	2,636.8	3,962	9,407
Peru (1989)	32,971.8	202,014.4	6,126.9	43,448	45,649
The Philippines (1989)	109,581.1	361,489.4	3,298.8	108,400	95,158
Russia (1998)	144,104.1	1,483,497.8	10,126.7	303,815	378,934
Singapore (1989)	5,685.8	339,998.5	59,797.8	502,310	549,795
Chinese Taipei (1991)	23,582.2	669,034.0	28,371.0	325,359	388,185
Thailand (1989)	69,800.0	501,795.0	7,189.0	253,555	262,889
United States (1989)	329,484.1	20,936,600.0	63,543.6	2,843,275	2,115,611
Viet Nam (1998)	97,338.6	271,158.4	2,785.7	279,667	301,402
APEC	2,931,857.8	52,386,467.9	17,859.8	10,791,886	10,802,827
World	7,752,840.5	84,577,963.0	10,909.3	22,424,410	22,532,742

Source: StatsAPEC and World Trade Organization
Extracted: January 2022

The APEC Process

APEC operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. Member economies* participate on the basis of open dialogue and respect for views of all participants. In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments or treaty obligations. Commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis and capacity

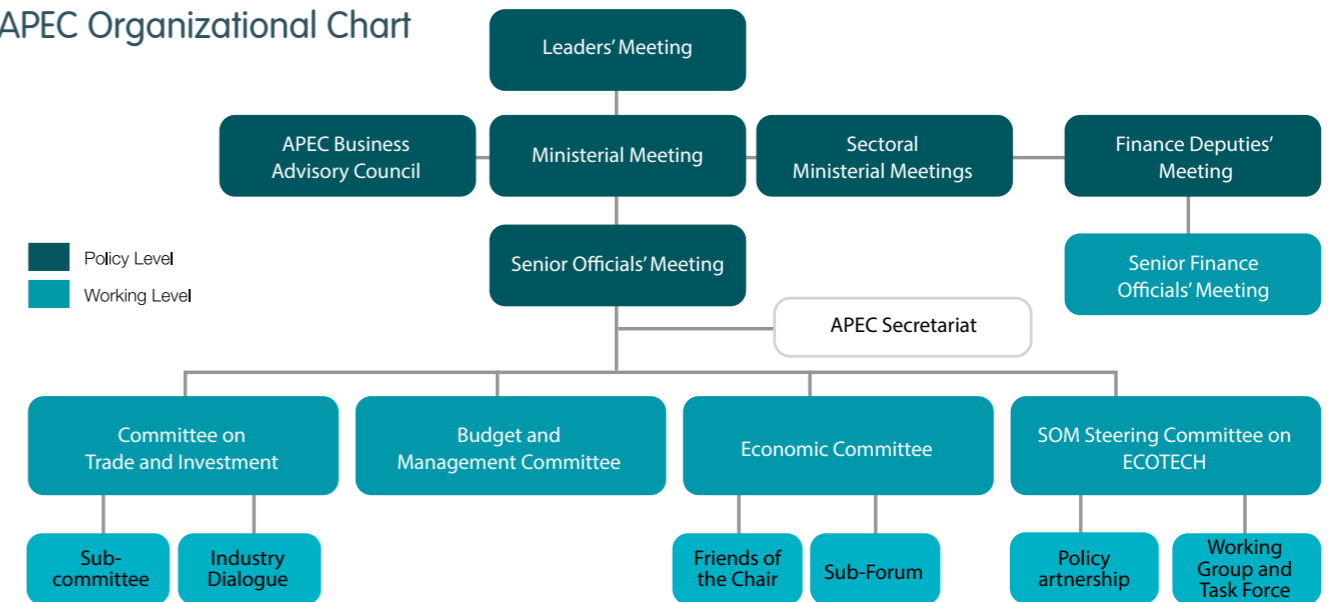
**The word "economies" is used to describe APEC members because members engage with one another as economic entities.*

building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.

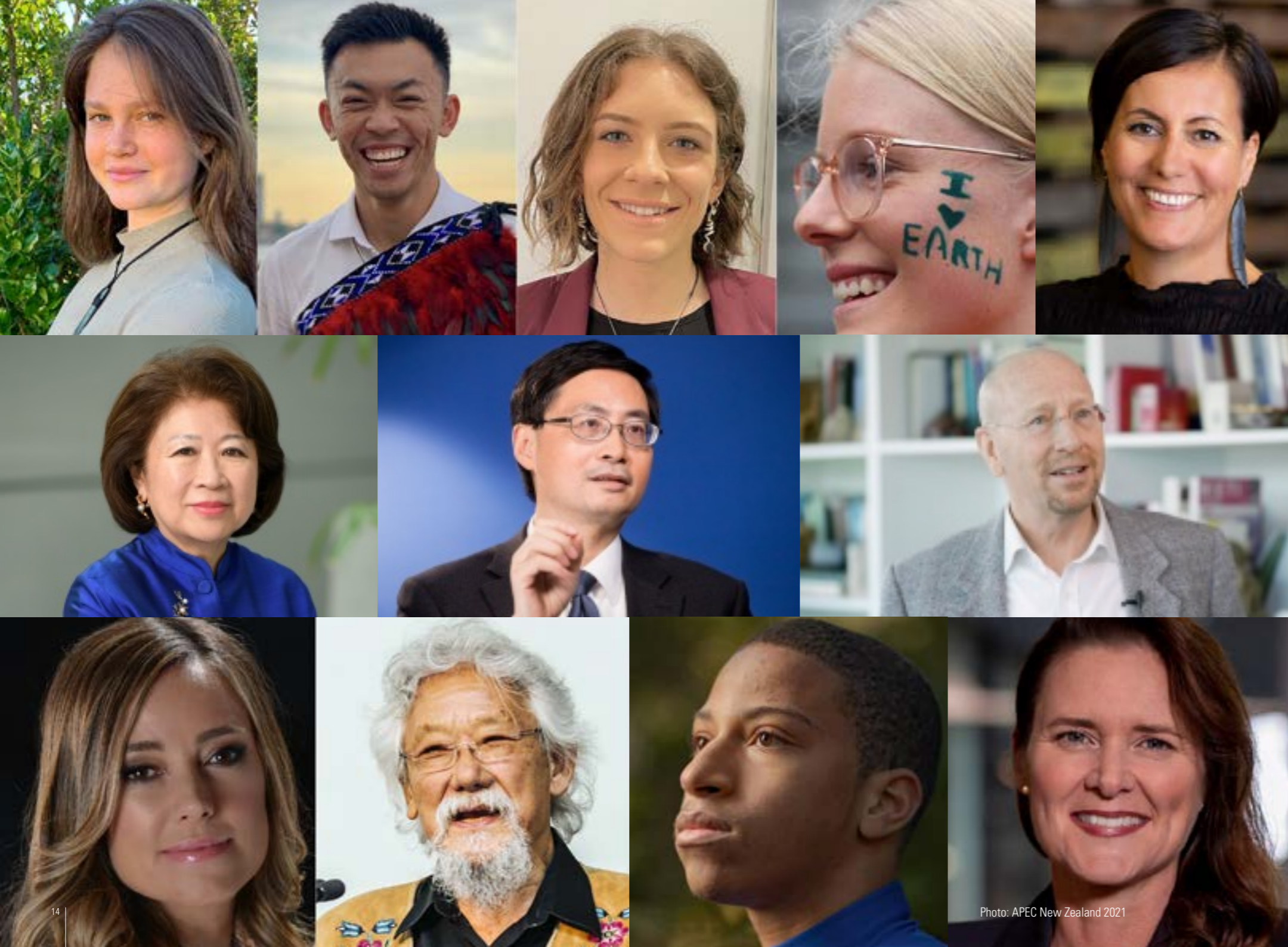
APEC's structure is based on both a "bottom-up" and "top-down" approach. Four core committees and their respective working groups provide strategic policy recommendations to APEC leaders and ministers who annually set the vision

for overarching goals and initiatives. The working groups are then tasked with implementing these initiatives through a variety of APEC-funded projects. Members also take individual and collective actions to carry out APEC initiatives in their individual economies with the assistance of APEC capacity building projects.

APEC Organizational Chart



Every year, a member economy hosts the APEC meetings. The APEC host economy is responsible for chairing the annual Economic Leaders' Meeting, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials' Meetings, the APEC Business Advisory Council and the APEC Study Centres Consortium.



About APEC

APEC Stakeholder Participation

APEC recognises that strong and vibrant economies are not dependent on governments working alone but instead rely on partnerships between governments and key stakeholders, including the business sector, industry, academia, policy and research institutions, and interest groups within the community.

APEC members recognize that business drives the economies of the region and therefore involve representatives of the private sector at all levels of the APEC process. At the highest level, APEC economic leaders communicate through annual meetings with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). ABAC comprises high-level businesspeople from all 21 APEC member economies.

Under the pandemic, APEC has deepened relationships with multilateral and regional organizations, stakeholders and relevant industry partners by advocating for a region-wide commitment to overcoming the crisis. Following the extraordinary Informal Leaders' Retreat held in July 2021, APEC promoted policy tracks essential to COVID-19 response—such as ensuring open supply chains; support for the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines; and ensuring economic opportunity is widely available.

Through the APEC Study Centres Consortium (ASCC), APEC member economies actively engage academic and research institutions in the APEC process. The ASCC assists the APEC process by undertaking independent policy research on APEC-related issues. There are APEC Study Centres in most APEC member economies, comprising some 50 universities, research centres and centres of academic excellence.



If there is one thing we know for certain right now, it is that no one can overcome this global pandemic alone. I'm confident that as we look towards a post pandemic future, APEC has shown the world the power of free, fair and open trade. A sustainable, inclusive, and shared future is one that works for all our peoples.



- Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand

Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē.
Join, Work, Grow. Together.

Outcomes



In 2021, APEC had two key goals to accomplish during a challenging year: first, to respond to the human and economic cost of the COVID-19 virus; and second, to lay out a 20-year plan to implement APEC's new Putrajaya Vision 2040, set by leaders the previous year.

Under New Zealand's chairing, APEC's 21 economies joined, worked and grew together to accomplish these goals—during the forum's first fully digital year, in which more than 4,000 participants met online in over 340 virtual engagements—realizing the foundations of an inclusive and sustainable recovery and influencing the region's policy direction for the post-pandemic era.



The fight against COVID-19

There is no doubt the pandemic continued to take a human and economic toll in 2021. Around 100,000 people across the APEC region were infected each day, 80 million jobs were lost, and more than one million people lost their lives. Amid all of this, the region became vulnerable to a creeping protectionism that hindered the distribution of vaccines and other essential goods.

However, APEC focused on driving a coordinated economic response to the biggest downturn in 75 years, breaking tradition to respond to extraordinary events.

- Acknowledging the historic severity of the situation, the APEC forum changed how it has held council for over 30 years by scheduling an Informal Leaders' Retreat, virtually, last July. Leaders sent a powerful message on the need to get vaccine rollout underway and for members to cooperate in setting the stage for recovery.
- Economies committed to refrain from imposing unnecessary export restrictions and took steps to lower tariffs on vaccines and related products. Members ramped up trade facilitation efforts to move vaccines and essential goods across borders. All 21 APEC members, including major vaccine producers, agreed to support the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) waiver.
- Economies strengthened border agency cooperation and coordination. APEC customs officials developed a set of best practice guidelines, resulting in accelerated green lanes for COVID-related products needed to fight the pandemic. Many economies have reported faster cross-border movement of these goods, from weeks and months to days.

Outcomes

The Aotearoa Plan of Action: A Plan to Implement the Putrajaya Vision 2040

The world is changing fast, and APEC will need to keep pace. The Aotearoa Plan of Action, underpinned by the Putrajaya Vision secured the previous year in Malaysia, is APEC's guide for adapting to new challenges that will emerge over the next 20 years. Through it, economies have agreed to cooperate on digital technology and innovation, environmental sustainability, including climate change, as well as inclusion, particularly of women and indigenous peoples.

- The plan sets individual actions for economies to work on through domestic policy, such as to develop tools to help businesses operate across borders easily and cost effectively.
- It posits collective actions, such as considering climate change when making all decisions.
- Its elements are measurable so progress can be monitored and tracked.
- It is flexible to make sure that APEC stays relevant and responsive.

Focusing on Inclusion

- APEC has paid particular attention to the economic empowerment of groups with untapped economic potential.
- New Zealand called on APEC to recognize the importance of representation of Indigenous Peoples across the region, who have previously not been part of the discussions. Of the approximately 370 to 476 million Indigenous Peoples all over the world, an estimated 70% to 80% call the Asia-Pacific region home, many of whom were severely affected by COVID-19.
- APEC conducted studies to better understand the value of Indigenous economies to the region and to assess the economic impact of the pandemic on them.
- In 2021, the forum continued to enhance participation of youth by convening a fully virtual APEC Voices of the Future Summit, as well as

adjusting the implementation of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth to account for the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women.

Sustainability, Climate and the Environment

- The Putrajaya Vision 2040 has squarely put climate change on APEC's agenda for now and into the future.
- APEC economies have agreed to a halt in increasing fossil fuel subsidy use, which already costs the world hundreds of billions of dollars in tax revenue.
- Members have recommitted to doubling renewable energy use by 2030.
- In support of green growth in the region, APEC has released a list of environmental and environmentally related services and has updated its list of environmental goods for reduced tariffs. It remains the only international organization to have agreed on either.
- APEC released the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, which identifies actions and targets that APEC economies will pursue together to achieve the goal of sufficient, safe, nutritious, accessible and affordable food for all.
- This year, APEC recognized its achievement of the aspirational goal to increase forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares.

A Digitally Enabled Recovery

- The health and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic call for an accessible, open, interoperable, reliable and secure environment for the use of information and communication technologies.
- Economies have made progress in embedding the paperless trading facilitation measures they adopted during COVID-19 as the legal equivalent of paper documents.
- APEC has committed to continue work towards the digitalization of border processes and single window interoperability, and to accelerate the full implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

2021 APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration

We, the Economic Leaders of APEC met on 12 November 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to take lives and impact livelihoods. The evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and its variants will create ongoing uncertainty and an uneven economic recovery across the Asia-Pacific region. Responding to this deepest of challenges has been a top priority in 2021. In this regard, we are taking steps to ensure growth rebounds quickly and to boost the global economic recovery.

This year APEC economies have reaffirmed their commitment to join together; to respond to the immediate crisis generated by the pandemic through urgent work; and to strengthen our cooperation so that our region can return to growth in a way that is more innovative, inclusive and sustainable.



Leaders' Declaration

Responding to COVID-19

In July, we met to discuss APEC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognised the inequities in widespread access to COVID-19 vaccines, and therefore, we continue to strongly support equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics, and other related essential medical products. Because nobody is safe until everyone is safe, we are determined to ensure extensive immunisation of our people against COVID-19 as a global public good. It remains a priority that we expand vaccine manufacture and supply.

In this context, we have demonstrated that trade and investment is a critical enabler for addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring our economies recover stronger. APEC members will continue work to:

- Support global efforts to share vaccines equitably and expand vaccine manufacture and supply, including through the voluntary transfer of vaccine production technologies on mutually agreed terms.
- Facilitate trade in COVID-19 vaccines and related essential medical products, including by embedding digitalised trade facilitation measures and implementing best practices in customs procedures.
- Build understanding and transparency of the types of border measures taken in response to the pandemic and encourage the elimination of unnecessary export restrictions and other non-tariff barriers.
- Voluntarily reduce the cost of COVID-19 vaccines and related essential COVID-19 medical goods.

- Ensure that the TRIPS Agreement supports efforts to research, develop, invest in, manufacture, and distribute, more COVID-19 vaccines.
- Seek a pragmatic, effective, and forward-looking multilateral response to COVID-19 at the 12th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference at the end of this month.

Much of the Asia-Pacific's growth has been stimulated by the ability of people to move across borders for business, tourism, and education. As a result of restrictions on the cross-border movement of people due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unrealised economic activity losses have been substantial. As we each look at reopening without undermining efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we support APEC playing a greater role in promoting information exchange and coordination measures related to cross-border movement of people, including in relation to air and maritime crew, and COVID-19 testing and vaccination certificates. We will work towards tangible outcomes in 2022.

We are strengthening our health systems to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future health threats. We recognise the importance of maintaining ongoing essential health services, improving digital solutions, pursuing increased health equity and our goal to achieve universal health coverage. We support deeper regional and international collaboration on COVID-19, in a way that puts people at the centre of our response through coordinated, multi-sectoral approaches and consultation.



Leaders' Declaration

The Road to Recovery

While an immediate response to the health challenges posed by the crisis remains essential, we are also now cooperating on policy responses to the significant economic, social and environmental challenges we will face in coming years. We have the opportunity to ensure an economic recovery that includes all our people, supports a more sustainable planet, and ensures that the Asia-Pacific remains the world's most dynamic and interconnected regional economy.

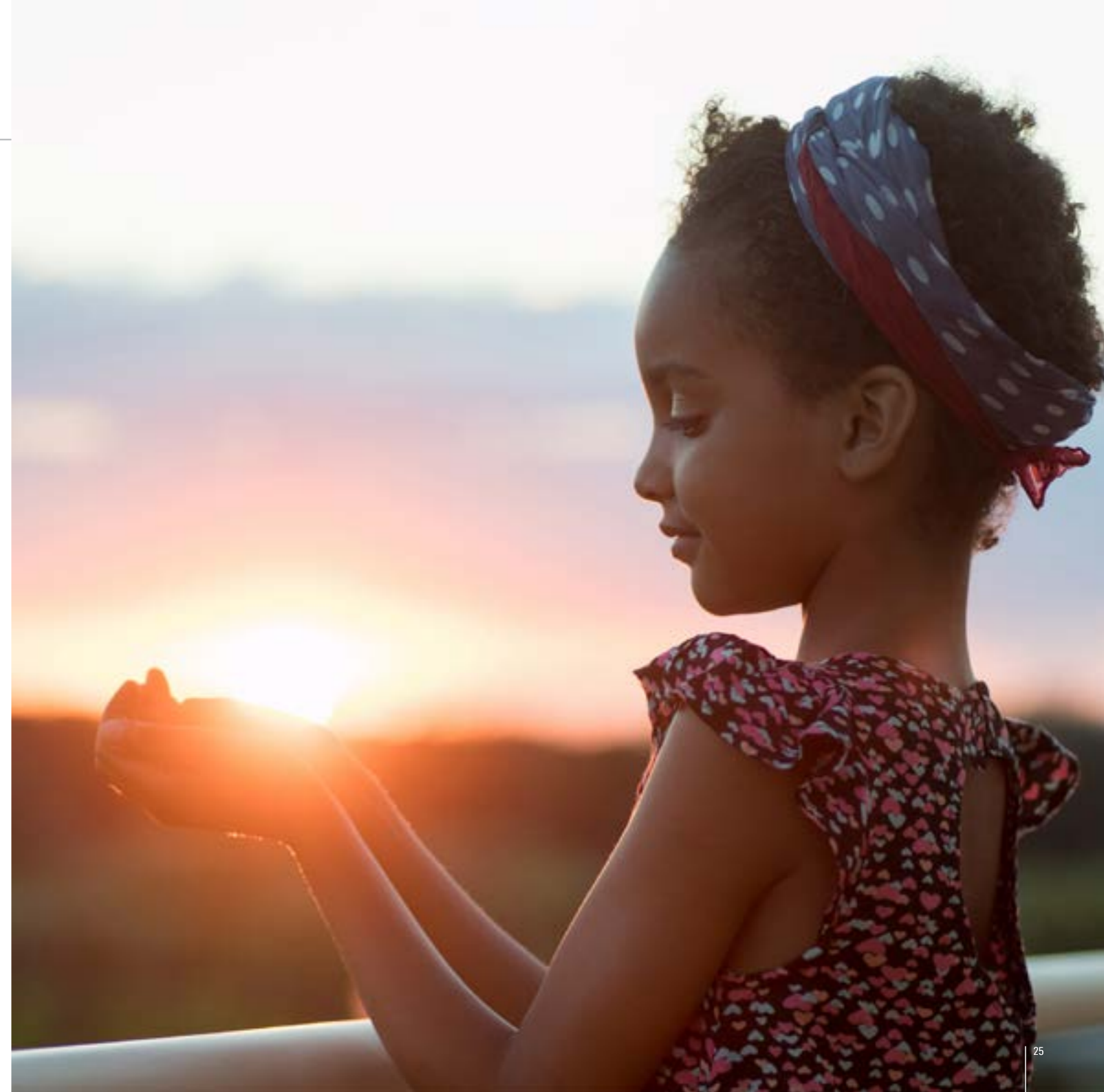
Our macroeconomic policies have played a key role in responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, preserving jobs and livelihoods, funding necessary public services and supporting those most affected by the pandemic. With the COVID-19 crisis far from over, we are determined to use all available macroeconomic tools to address the adverse consequences of COVID-19 and sustain economic recovery, while preserving long-term fiscal sustainability. Our economic recovery will be built on a stable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient macroeconomic environment that supports innovation, dynamism and improved productivity. In this respect, we welcome the work of APEC Finance Ministers and in particular, the New Strategy for the Implementation of the Cebu Action Plan, which contributes to achieving our goal of a more financially integrated, transparent, resilient, and connected APEC.

We welcome the historic agreement on a more stable and fairer international tax architecture reached in October. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to promoting tax certainty and tackling tax avoidance and evasion in the APEC region.

Structural reform will also be a critical tool for promoting economic recovery. We welcome the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR), which provides for collaboration on growth-focused reforms designed to be inclusive, resilient, sustainable and innovation-friendly.

The pandemic has highlighted how structural reform of services sectors can be a powerful enabler of economic growth and inclusion. We note the uneven progress in increasing services competitiveness in the region and in delivering a more open and predictable environment for access to services markets. We commit to accelerate work in response to the mid-term review with the aim of fully implementing the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR) by 2025.

We have witnessed a remarkable acceleration in digital adoption and transformation across our economies. To sustain this enormous growth potential, we will accelerate the implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER), further develop digital infrastructure, encourage the development and application of new technologies, and work towards a digital business environment that is open, fair and inclusive, including by narrowing the digital divide. We will also strive to implement structural reforms and increase information sharing regarding our respective domestic policies and practices in support of digital connectivity and inclusion. We acknowledge the key importance of interoperability of digital systems and tools across the region. We will also cooperate on facilitating the flow of data, and strengthen consumer and business trust in digital transactions.



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Trade should be a pillar for the development and future prosperity of all our people. At this time of extraordinary disruption, the rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, can play an important role in economic recovery. We will engage constructively to ensure MC12 is a success and delivers concrete outcomes.

We will cooperate to enhance further the role of the WTO in establishing rules that support a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment. This approach is at the core of our long-standing commitment to the WTO.

We are committed to working together to shape a responsive, relevant and revitalised WTO, in particular through the necessary reform of the WTO, with a view to improving all its functions. Seized of the opportunity presented by MC12, our economies will work together with the wider WTO membership to advance efforts to ensure the organization is delivering for our economies

to the foreground, with a significant number of initiatives currently underway across APEC. We support the full and accelerated implementation of this roadmap. APEC has also paid particular attention to the economic empowerment of other groups with untapped economic potential. This year this has included Indigenous Peoples and those in rural and remote areas, among others. We will continue to deepen our cooperation in these areas, where relevant, to ensure their access to economic opportunities, including to improve access to global markets, and encourage the transition of economic actors from the informal to the formal economy.

We have provided unprecedented levels of support to all our businesses, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to help them navigate the crisis. We will continue supporting MSME digital empowerment by tackling systemic barriers to entrepreneurship and reinforcing capacity building. We will also deepen our efforts to respond to the impact of the pandemic on labour market participation and the future of work.

Digital connectivity and innovation are critical across our efforts towards an inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery. We need to continue to narrow the digital divide by promoting digital skills, encouraging the adoption of innovative working methods, expanding access to digital tools and infrastructure, and ensuring our MSMEs and start-ups are able to harness new and emerging technologies and digital eco-systems.

We welcome the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030. This will guide APEC's work towards our goal of sufficient, safe, nutritious, accessible and affordable food for all. We support efforts to reduce food waste and loss. We will also continue to take concrete measures to implement the APEC Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.



Looking Forward

Last year we adopted the Putrajaya Vision 2040, which will guide our work for the next twenty years. We endorse the Aotearoa Plan of Action, which will be key to implementing this Vision. This will inject new momentum into APEC, at a time when our region faces significant challenges. It demonstrates the confidence we have in sharing our individual approaches, working together collectively where we can, and being willing and open to ideas addressing new challenges.

The Aotearoa Plan of Action is designed to be a living document. We will monitor our progress and update it every five years. All of this in pursuit of our Vision: an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations.

We welcome the outcomes of the 2021 APEC Ministerial Meeting as well as the 2021 sectoral Ministerial Meetings for Trade, Structural Reform, Food Security, Health, Women and the Economy, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Finance.

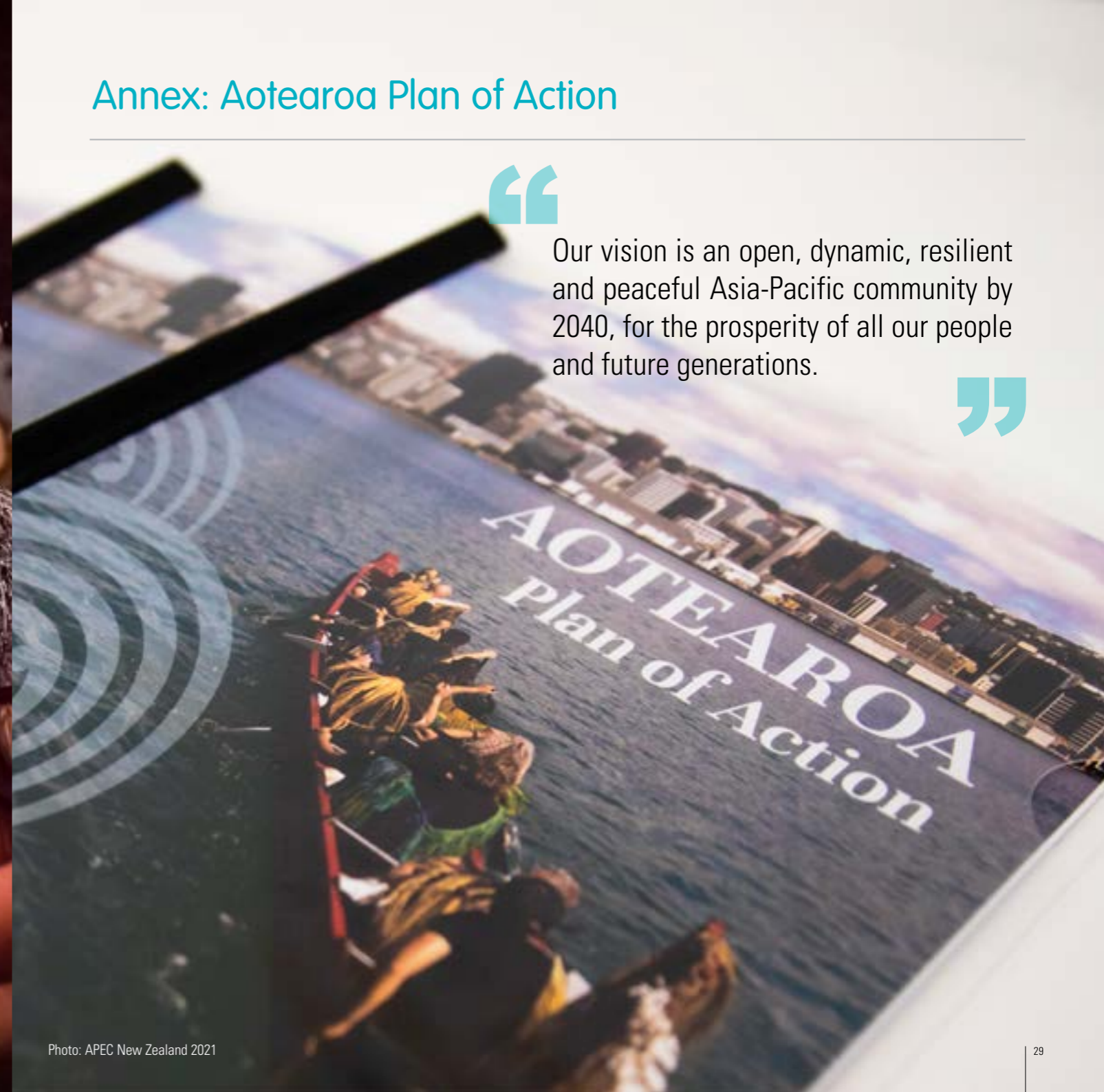
We thank New Zealand for hosting APEC in 2021 and we look forward to APEC in 2022, which will be hosted by Thailand.

Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē
Join, Work, Grow. Together

Annex: Aotearoa Plan of Action



Our vision is an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations.



Annex: Aotearoa Plan of Action

A plan for implementing the Putrajaya Vision 2040

In implementing the Putrajaya Vision 2040, economies will build on APEC's founding documents, including the 1994 Bogor Goals and the 1995 Osaka Action Agenda. APEC economies remain committed to APEC's mission and its voluntary, non-binding, consensus-building principles, and APEC economies will advance the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 with a spirit of equal partnership, shared responsibility, mutual respect, common interest, and common benefit.

This Aotearoa Plan of Action sets out individual and collective actions towards achieving our Vision, along with how we will evaluate our progress. Economies will review and adapt the Aotearoa Plan of Action over time to ensure it remains comprehensive, balanced and relevant across all elements of our Vision. It is intended to be a living document. This Aotearoa Plan of Action does not preclude other APEC work to implement the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Three Economic Drivers

Objective: “To ensure that the Asia-Pacific remains the world’s most dynamic and interconnected regional economy, we acknowledge the importance of, and will continue to work together to deliver, a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment.”

- Evaluation of progress: APEC's trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable.
- Individual Actions: Economies will take actions to liberalise trade and investment in a manner that is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Progress liberalisation of trade in goods by reducing unnecessary barriers, strengthening trade facilitation, and fostering regulatory reform;
 - Progress services liberalisation, facilitation and cooperation, including by implementing the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap;
 - Promote the flow of quality investment through steps such as work on investment facilitation and liberalisation;
 - Promote adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property, including by providing capacity building,

particularly to spur economic development and innovation; and
- Increase trade predictability and openness

Objective: “We reaffirm our support for agreed upon rules of the WTO in delivering a well-functioning multilateral trading system and promoting the stability and predictability of international trade flows”

- Evaluation of progress: Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members' effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments.
- Individual Actions: Economies will implement their WTO commitments. Where appropriate, economies will also seek to accelerate their implementation, go beyond them, and work on ways to further promote the stability and predictability of trade flows.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Support APEC's role as an incubator of ideas by advancing new approaches that help deliver a well-functioning multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core;
 - Support progress of negotiations at the WTO to deliver a trade and investment environment that is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable;
 - Support implementation of WTO disciplines arising from

negotiations, including in prospective areas such as harmful fisheries subsidies, and agriculture negotiations;

- Encourage, as appropriate, WTO members' discussions towards necessary reform of the WTO across all its functions; and
- Advance capacity building programmes to support the implementation of and adherence to WTO rules, including transparency and notification obligations.

Objective: “We will further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings.”

- Evaluation of progress: Economic integration occurs in the region by advancing the unfinished business of the Bogor Goals in a manner that is market-driven and through the development of high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings.
- Individual Actions: Economies will continue to support ongoing efforts to conclude, ratify, implement and upgrade high standard and comprehensive trade agreements as appropriate.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Complete the unfinished business of the Bogor Goals and further deepen economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven;
 - Effectively advance efforts on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda, consistent with the Lima Declaration;
 - Strengthen APEC's key role as an incubator of ideas on trade and investment issues in the region;
 - Advance capacity building programmes and cooperate on best practice for the development of and participation in high standard regional undertakings; and
 - Carry out discussions on, and studies into, areas of convergence and divergence across all chapters of trade agreements in the region that contribute to high standard and comprehensive undertakings.

Objective: “We will promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct.”

- Evaluation of progress: To promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity.
- Individual Actions: Economies will develop tools and adopt policies that foster seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Implement APEC's Connectivity Blueprint, including by strengthening connectivity and resilient supply chains within APEC, and by cooperating to equip businesses to better understand their supply chains;
 - Promote trade and investment facilitation for all, including by:
 - fully implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and seeking to build on it where appropriate;
 - working towards digitalising border processes facilitated by application of internationally recognised standards, strengthening customs cooperation and increasing port cooperation; and
 - the adoption and improvement of effective standards and conformance systems, encompassing standardisation, accreditation, metrology, conformity assessment and market surveillance;
 - Address key infrastructure gaps and enhance connectivity by creating transparent regulatory environments, promoting dialogue, and sharing best practices that enable quality infrastructure development and investment, which remains accessible, sustainable and affordable with respect to life-cycle costs;
 - Improve digital connectivity in the region;
 - Promote and cooperate on measures that facilitate the safe cross-border movement of people, particularly in the context of changing pandemic related health and travel measures, so as to strengthen tourism, aviation and similarly affected sectors;
 - Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation to promote responsible business conduct, particularly with the private sector; and
 - Promote capacity building to improve

Annex: Aotearoa Plan of Action

Innovation and Digitalisation:

Objective: “We will pursue structural reforms and sound economic policies to promote innovation as well as improve productivity and dynamism.”

Macro-economic policies:

- Evaluation of progress: Growth in the region is based on a stable, sustainable and resilient macro-economic environment for all.
- Individual Actions: Economies will seek continued improvement in the resilience and sustainability of their macro-economic policies, particularly fiscal and monetary policies.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Promote macro-economic policies, including sound fiscal and monetary policies that are calibrated to combat the negative macro-economic impact of global pandemics such as COVID-19, support recovery, and contribute to future growth through:
 - i. sharing information and best practice;
 - ii. promoting good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation; and
 - iii. building capacity to support implementation of commitments, including through the Cebu Action Plan;
 - Improve fiscal sustainability and transparency to support long-term resilient development and future financing needs; and
 - Collaborate across relevant APEC fora on such issues related to macro-economic policies, including services and the digital economy.

Structural reform:

- Evaluation of progress: The region sustains positive productivity growth, fostered by continuous growth in innovation.
- Individual Actions: Economies will focus their reform efforts on those areas of the economy that have the greatest potential to drive increases in productivity and innovation.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Advance future APEC initiatives on structural reform under the four pillars of the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR),

including through:

- i. sharing information and best practice;
 - ii. promoting good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation; and
 - iii. building capacity to support implementation of EAASR commitments; and
- Collaborate across relevant APEC fora on issues related to structural reform, including services and the digital economy.

Objective: “To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”

- Evaluation of progress: APEC’s digital and innovation environment is market-driven and increasingly connected globally, including through the promotion of interoperability, allowing all APEC people and businesses to achieve increased participation in, and benefit from, innovation and the digital economy.
- Individual Actions: Economies will strengthen efforts to foster an enabling environment, including by promoting regulatory and non-regulatory approaches that are coherent, interoperable, non-discriminatory, and that foster competition as well as promote innovation.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Identify ways to support resilience and recovery by utilising science, technology and innovation systems, including through capacity building;
 - Adopt new and emerging technologies to stimulate growth, connectivity and digital transformation;
 - Share best practice, and promote approaches for a digital economy that fosters competition and promotes innovation;
 - Address challenges and barriers to achieving an enabling, inclusive, open, fair and non-discriminatory digital and innovation environment;
 - Collaborate to develop an innovative digital business environment, including through frameworks and understandings on best practice that encourage the development, application, uptake and

management of new technologies;

- Deepen APEC’s multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration on digital issues, especially with business;
- Promote measures, interoperable approaches, and the use of digital technologies to facilitate trade and investment;
- Promote ecosystems that support MSMEs, including those in the creative industry, to take advantage of the digital economy; and
- Support the identification and integration of new and emerging sustainable transportation and mobility technologies and services.

Objective: “We will strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”

- Evaluation of progress: The region improves digital connectivity among economies, businesses and people including by enhancing trust and security in the use of ICTs, accessibility and affordability of digital infrastructure in the region, broadening participation in the digital economy, and cooperating on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.
- Individual Actions: Economies will strengthen their digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, work on facilitating the flow of data, and strengthen consumer and business trust in digital transactions.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Accelerate APEC work and capacity building on the digital economy, including by prompt and effective implementation of APEC’s Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap;
 - Cooperate on measures to address the digital divide, including facilitating access to digital infrastructure and supporting development of digital skills and digital literacy;
 - Cooperate to accelerate digital transformation, including by supporting the digitalisation of industries such as services, manufacturing and agriculture;
 - Promote e-commerce / digital trade, including by supporting the

development and implementation of international and regional norms and standards for the digital economy, compatibility of standards, regulations and systems, and supporting discussion and sharing best practice on rules and regulations in e-commerce / digital trade;

- Cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions;
- Cooperate on the provision of consumer protection in the digital environment;
- Promote cost-effective mechanisms that support cross-border business-to-business engagement, including through electronic transactions and dispute resolution including under the APEC Collaborative Framework for Online Dispute Resolution of Cross Border Business-to-Business Disputes; and
- Stimulate practical application of digital technologies for inclusive and sustainable growth in such areas as trade, finance, public services and healthcare.

Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth:

Objective: “To ensure that the Asia-Pacific region is resilient to shocks, crises, pandemics and other emergencies, we will foster quality growth that brings palpable benefits and greater health and wellbeing to all, including MSMEs, women and others with untapped economic potential.”

- Evaluation of progress: APEC’s growth is high quality and inclusive, bringing palpable benefits and greater health and wellbeing to MSMEs, women and others with untapped economic potential.
- Individual Actions: Economies will adopt and strengthen regulatory approaches, sound public sector governance, and take other measures that support economic inclusion, greater health, wellbeing and resilience for all.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Build on APEC’s Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social

Annex: Aotearoa Plan of Action

Inclusion to enhance economic inclusion for all, including by:

- i. Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade and investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life for all members of society;
 - ii. Advancing gender equality and the economic empowerment of women, particularly through accelerating the full implementation of the actions in the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth and building on them;
 - iii. Promoting start-ups and advancing MSMEs' access to finance, global markets, and global value chains as well as assisting in building their capacity to effectively participate in the wider economy;
 - iv. Building on APEC's work on supporting MSMEs' and women's economic empowerment, and cooperate to further develop APEC's work on other groups with untapped economic potential, such as indigenous peoples as appropriate, people with disabilities, and those from remote and rural communities;
 - v. Promoting economic and technical cooperation to enhance capacity building and inclusive economic participation; and
 - vi. Sharing experiences and best practice to promote inclusiveness and quality of life, including through: promoting structural reform to remove barriers to economic participation; encouraging the transition of economic actors from the informal to the formal economy; and data analysis.
- Enable quality and equitable health access and outcomes for all with a view to achieving universal health coverage, including by strengthening health systems, by cooperating on:
 - i. preventing, detecting, responding to, and recovering from, pandemics;
 - ii. accelerating equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable vaccines for all;
 - iii. supporting the safe, secure and efficient operation of resilient health related supply chains; and
 - iv. the use of digital technologies that foster health system innovation, such as telemedicine and digital health;
 - Ensure lasting food security, food safety and improved nutrition

for all, as well as reducing food waste and loss in the region by promoting agricultural and food trade, agricultural sustainability and innovation, and implementing the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030; and

- Enhance cooperation to foster secure growth, including by implementing the APEC Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption, Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency, and the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy.

Objective: “We will intensify inclusive human resource development as well as economic and technical cooperation to better equip our people with the skills and knowledge for the future.”

- Evaluation of progress: All our people are well equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to adapt and thrive now and in the future.
- Individual Actions: Economies will implement policies to ensure equity and inclusion in education and human resource development, including life-long skills development and social protection measures, to provide for widespread participation in the digital economy, inclusive labour markets, and to support swift recovery from economic shocks.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Innovate and exchange expertise on skills and human resource development, and cooperate on sharing lessons and best practice in these areas;
 - Cooperate to improve the collection and analysis of skills and labour market data sets, including to better assess and bridge skills gaps and mismatches between skills and employment;
 - Strengthen economic and technical cooperation to intensify capacity building in inclusive human resource development;
 - Cooperate on the development of skills and literacy for all to accelerate the digital transformation of the region's economy, including by implementing APEC's Education Strategy and the APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age; and
 - Build on existing APEC work on mutual recognition of qualifications to deepen and widen its coverage.

Objective: “We will promote economic policies, cooperation and growth, which will support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet.”

- Evaluation of progress: APEC's growth and prosperity is achieved on an increasingly environmentally sustainable basis.
- Individual Actions: Economies, will implement policies consistent with their international obligations to advance environmentally sustainable and resilient growth, including by contributing to meeting APEC goals.
- Collective Actions: Economies will:
 - Cooperate in relevant APEC fora to develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through:
 - i. structural reform;
 - ii. trade, including APEC's work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services;
 - iii. public finance, including tax policy and rationalising and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while recognising the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services;
 - iv. sustainable infrastructure and transport;
 - v. promoting sustainable growth across sectors and the development of cost effective low and zero emissions technologies, sustainable finance and, if appropriate, carbon pricing mechanisms; and
 - vi. ensuring energy security, access, reliability and resilience through energy transition.
 - Seek to deliver existing Leaders' commitments on energy issues: particularly to accelerate progress towards the 2030 target of doubling the share of renewable energy in the APEC energy mix, including in power generation, from 2010 levels by 2030; and to deliver a plan to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45%, from 2005 levels, by 2035;
 - Work towards the sustainable resource management of agriculture, forestry and marine resources and fisheries, including

- by implementing the APEC Roadmaps on Marine Debris, and Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, and commitments to combat illegal logging and associated trade;
- Further implement the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework;
- Advance APEC's circular economy work; and
- Advance work on sustainable tourism.

Continuous improvement of APEC as an institution

Objective: “To maintain APEC's unique position as the premier forum for regional economic cooperation as well as a modern, efficient and effective incubator of ideas, we will embrace continuous improvement of APEC as an institution through good governance and stakeholder engagements.”

Consistent with our objectives to embrace continuous improvement of APEC as an institution, and to address key challenges related to good governance and stakeholder engagements, APEC will:

- Improve its governance and organisational structure, with a view to efficiently and effectively delivering upon all elements of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040;
- Ensure the sustainability of the staffing and resourcing of the APEC Secretariat and Policy Support Unit (PSU), while ensuring that the institution remains financially prudent;
- Explore ways to discuss the possibility of expanding APEC members and observers;
- Deepen engagement with ABAC and the private sector, as well as PECC, PIF, ASEAN, and other international and regional organisations;
- Promote engagement with a broader range of economic stakeholders, such as NGOs and civil society, to reflect the breadth of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040;
- Review and update APEC's relationship with the APEC Study Centre Consortium;
- Continuously improve the communication of APEC's work to the broader

Annex: Aotearoa Plan of Action

public; and

- Consider how to better make use of digital technologies for participation in APEC.

Review and Renewal

Objective: “We will achieve the vision by 2040, with an appropriate implementation plan and review of its progress.”

Highlighting Individual Actions

By the end of 2023, each economy will have voluntarily showcased a number of their individual actions based on the options in this Aotearoa Plan of Action. Individual economies are encouraged to keep their progress on actions up-to-date and inform APEC, via the appropriate Committee, of progress every second year. APEC fora may hold discussions on these as necessary. At the time of their progress reports, economies may also add new actions and remove existing actions as appropriate.

Evaluating progress

With assistance from the PSU, APEC economies will evaluate progress towards achieving the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040. Committees will work with the PSU to identify relevant indicators that will support this evaluation. Progress will be reported by Committees every two years through existing reporting processes. Senior Officials will also report progress on areas for continuous improvement to the APEC Ministers’ Meeting every two years.

Five-year review of collective actions

To ensure the Aotearoa Plan of Action is a “living document” and remains relevant, APEC will review the collective actions and continuous improvement actions every five years, in 2026, 2031 and 2036. Collective actions will be measured in terms of APEC’s progress as a whole. Existing collective actions may be renewed, revised or removed. New collective actions may be added. The collective actions for the following five-year period will be recommended to the APEC Ministerial Meeting for approval.

Mid-term review of progress and individual actions

In conjunction with the 2031 review of Collective Actions, APEC will also review the individual actions, and how we evaluate our progress towards achieving all elements of the Vision.

Fora and sub-fora terms of reference

APEC fora and sub-fora will make provision for implementing the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through this Aotearoa Plan of Action, in their terms of reference, work plans and strategic plans.

Reports and Analysis in 2021

The APEC Regional Trends Analysis (ARTA)

The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) biannual flagship report is published with two chapters: one on economic trends, and one on a topic of interest to PSU’s analysts that are relevant to the region.

May 2021

- Bolstering Supply Chains, Rebuilding Global Trade
COVID-19 has affected the functioning of global supply chains that provide us with access to food, medicines, technology, and other necessities.
- Making Recovery Inclusive
The APEC region is expected to grow but the recovery is going to be uneven, with unequal impacts vulnerable segments of society.

November 2021

- APEC’s Climate Change Challenge
APEC is severely affected by climate change, but it also disproportionately contributes to it.
- Toward a Resilient Recovery: Policies Matter
Economic and trade trends show the rebound of the APEC region’s economy as it learns to live with COVID-19.

The APEC Women and The Economy Dashboard, 2021

The APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard is an initiative that seeks to provide a snapshot of the status of women in APEC, by looking at a set of indicators in recent years, which allows measurement of the progress of women’s participation in economic-related activities and women’s inclusion in several aspects of life. This report covers data available during the period 2008–2020.

APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR) Mid-term Review, 2021
A report on progress regarding the APEC Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan 2017–2020, which addresses major chokepoints in supply chains.

A Review of the APEC List of Environmental Goods (PSU Policy Brief No. 41), 2021

The trade of products in the APEC List of Environmental Goods has grown significantly, worldwide and within the APEC region, since its endorsement in 2012. The addition of new products is worth exploring.

2021 in Reports and Analysis

Promoting Trade in Vaccines and Related Supplies and Equipment (PSU Policy Brief No. 40), 2021

A study of the importance of the trade in vaccines and their related supplies and equipment, as well as issues affecting the COVID-19 vaccine trade.

The Compendium of Resources for the Facilitation of the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region, 2021

Identifies and organizes a range of resources that can provide information on risk profiles, legal information, resources, and tools to facilitate the trade of legal forest products.

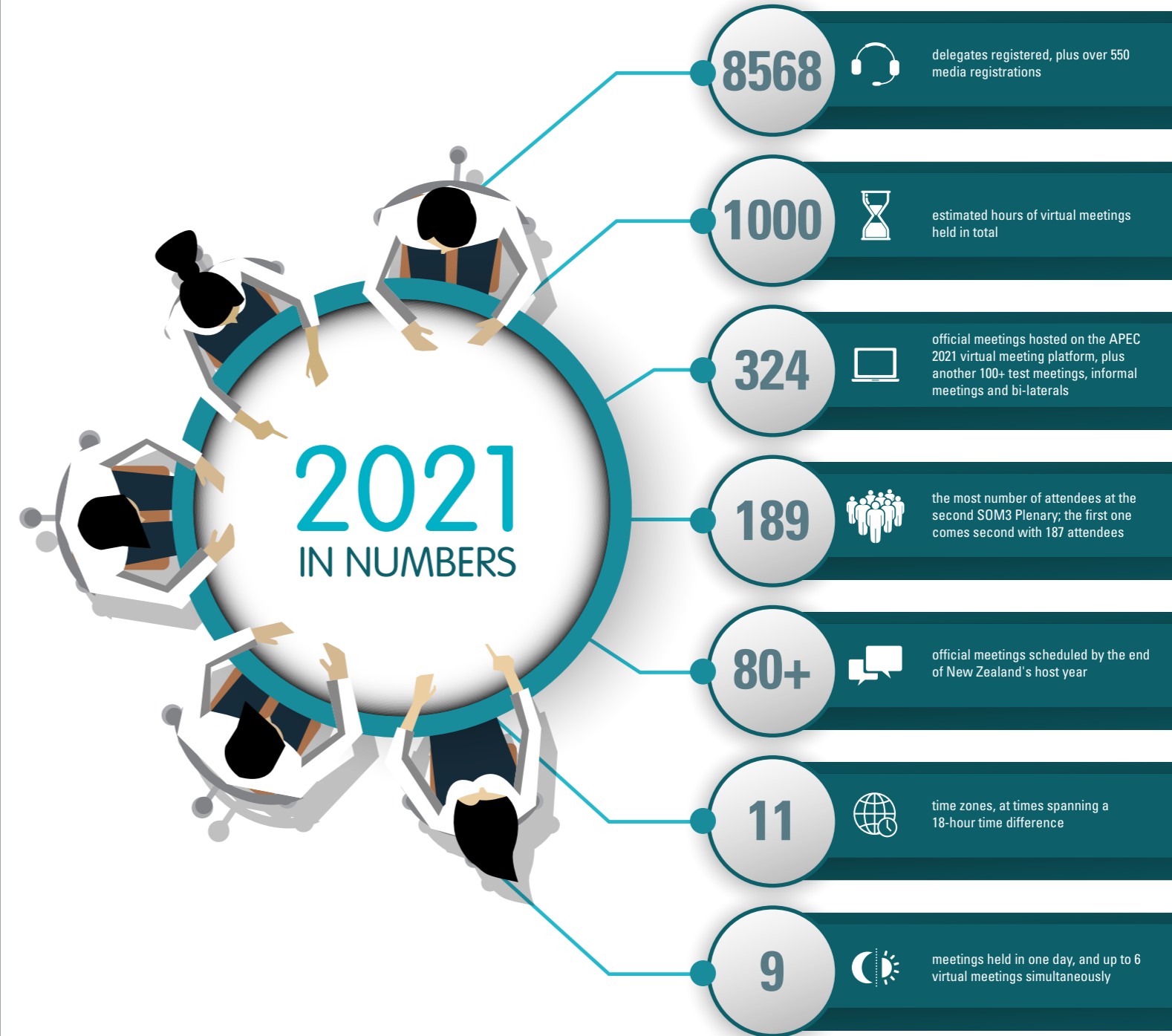
Passports, Tickets and Face Masks: COVID-19 and Cross-Border Mobility in the APEC Region

The COVID-19 pandemic led to border closures and restrictions as economies sought to contain the virus. This study presents some recommendations to enable safe reopening of borders and outlines a role for APEC.

APEC Economic Policy Report 2021: Structural Reform and the Future of Work, 2021

The economic structures that generated prosperity have also led to growing inequality and environmental damage. As world grapples with these issues the COVID-19 pandemic added a layer of urgency

Final Review of the APEC Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan 2017-2020 (SCFAP-II), 2021



Awards and Campaigns



APEC Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education

The APEC Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education (ASPIRE) is an annual award recognizing young scientists who have demonstrated a commitment to both excellence in scientific research.

Dr Jessica Bogard, a dietitian and public health nutritionist from Australia, won this year with her research focusing on boosting the potential of underutilized local and indigenous food to reduce malnutrition. “One in every five deaths around the world can be prevented simply by consuming a healthier diet. That is around 11 million lives lost every year,” she said.

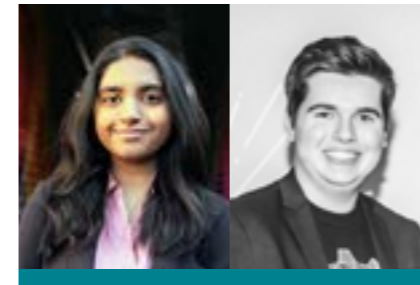


APEC BEST Award: Women in Green Biotech

The APEC Business Efficiency and Success Target (BEST) Award aims to support to the development of women entrepreneurs and provide participants with a chance to network and internationalize their businesses.”

Mijin Gwon from Korea won the 2021 grand prize with her green biotechnology company, Ag-Uni, which develops precision agriculture solutions that help formulate farming systems to produce high quality products. “Agriculture is no longer just about food. It supports livelihoods and economic growth and touches many different aspects of our life including health, beauty and many others,” said Gwon.

Meanwhile, Kendall Flutey from New Zealand was awarded Best Top Manager for her financial education platform, Banqer, which provides an online tool for schools to teach financial literacy to students.



APEC App Challenge: OneQR Check-In

In its fifth year, the APEC App Challenge asked software developers and designers from APEC economies to build new tools to help the revival of the tourism sector and promote a safe and trustworthy travel environment. Bryce Cronin and Saira Ambrose, who are from Australia, developed the OneQR Check-In app to help travelers scan and complete their safety check-ins quicker no matter the destination in the region. The app works by showing travelers what QR check-in app they need to use or install when they travel to a different location. “We believe that the safety check-in process should be quick, easy and simple,” Cronin said.



APEC Digital Prosperity Award: The APEC Traveller App

The APEC Digital Prosperity Award recognizes innovative digital products that can increase prosperity and inclusive growth and is a joint initiative of APEC New Zealand and the APEC Secretariat, with support from The Asia Foundation and Google. This year, under the theme to “get people ready to move again,” the Award recognized a team from Malaysia led by Faisal Ariff, a former fund manager turned start-up founder, and includes Nik Emir Rizan Sulaiman, Amjad Alhaneesh and Sherman Peter. They produced the APEC Traveller App, which could make it possible for travelers to confirm their COVID vaccination status at APEC economy border crossings and immigration checkpoints by using a QR code.



APEC Voices of the Future 2021

The Asia-Pacific region has nearly one billion young people that stand in the face of an uncertain future. The effects of the pandemic have disproportionately impacted the global youth, disrupting their education and employment opportunities. New Zealand’s hosting of APEC Voices of the Future 2021 presented them the opportunity to hear and learn from experts and peers around the region, while also putting their unique perspective in front of APEC leaders.

They produced the APEC Youth Declaration 2021, in which youth voices pushed leaders to:

- Build resilience and ensure equal access to vital medical resources
- Improve access to education via technology
- Push ahead with sustainability and develop connectivity, and
- Ensure the wellbeing of our environment, society, and future generations

The APEC Photo Contest



First Prize: Online Learning by Froiland Rivera, the Philippines.



Second Prize: A Small Act is A Huge Help by Roxanne Paraiso, the Philippines.



Third Prize: Working Together: Traditional Fish Trawling by Ikhsan, Indonesia.



Popular Choice Award:
A Pandemic: Education and innovation by Robert Marrel Dela Vega, the Philippines.



Influencer Award*: Shipping Container by Zulkarnain, Indonesia.

Photo enthusiasts in the APEC region delivered their creative interpretations of APEC 2021's theme and priorities. Through their lenses they revealed stories of optimism and resilience as people in APEC economies continue to live and thrive amid the pandemic.

The winning photo by Froiland Rivera and the Popular Choice Award winner, Robert Marrel Dela Vega, highlighted innovation and digitalization as a tool for recovery by capturing remote learning as lessons went virtual due to school closures.

*The Influencer Award is given to the photo entry submitted to APEC's Instagram account by tagging the photo to at(@)APEC by using the hashtag #APECPhotoContest and one of the priorities' hashtags.



OPEN. CONNECT. BALANCE.

The Asia-Pacific region is facing challenges on all fronts, ranging from the unprecedented and devastating socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 to the entrenched inequalities and imbalances between people, economies, and the world around us—which have been laid bare and exacerbated by the pandemic. The situation is in no small part a result of past practices and ways of life that prioritize profit maximization and economic growth at all costs.

In 2022, Thailand’s chairing will lead APEC member economies towards being open to all opportunities, connected in all dimensions, and balanced in all aspects. Thailand intends to focus on charting a post-COVID-19 future for the Asia-Pacific region. As economies move forward from the health and economic crisis, the forum will need to promote long-term growth that is resilient, inclusive, balanced and sustainable.

To this end, APEC will adopt a future growth model that creates a paradigm shift and addresses the inherent inequalities and imbalances that render our economies vulnerable.



Looking ahead, APEC needs to be ever more connected in the longer term, harnessing digitalization and innovation to further facilitate cross-border movements within APEC to ensure a healthy flow of goods, services, businesspeople and the public at large.

- Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Thailand



Photo: APEC Thailand 2022

Outlook

Open to all Opportunities Facilitating Trade & Investment

The pandemic has hindered the flow of essential goods and services, forced economies to impose tariff and non-tariff barriers, and disrupted supply chains, in particular of products essential in curbing the virus.

To revitalize recovery, APEC must leverage its traditional strengths and create an environment conducive for inclusive and sustainable growth by facilitating open trade and investment, improving the business environment and advancing regional economic integration, leveraging digitalization and innovation.

In 2022, economies will ensure the safety, efficiency, and resilience of trade; remove barriers to trade and investment; and strengthen supply chains. Furthermore, Thailand will initiate a refreshed conversation on the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) agenda through a post-COVID-19 lens, among other initiatives:

- Supporting a rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core
- Ensuring the flow of essential goods and services, including COVID-19 vaccines and related medical products
- Enabling an ecosystem for the digital economy and accelerating the implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap
- Ensuring sustainable and inclusive finance for women, the youth, small business owners, those who work in the informal sector and those with untapped potential
- Promoting structural reform for green recovery
- Promoting economic policies that contribute to addressing environmental challenges



Outlook

Connect in all Dimensions Reconnecting the region

Two years into the pandemic, the connectivity disruption remains one of the pressing unresolved issues in APEC. Restrictions have significant impacts on cross-border movements, economic activities and the well-being of our people, particularly vulnerable groups.

In 2022, APEC will foster in the safe and seamless resumption of cross-border travel, and broaden business mobility by

- Continuing work on safe passage, working towards a unified travel protocol, enhancing interoperability, and moving towards the mutual recognition of vaccine certificates
- Strengthening public health security, and resilience
- Rebuilding inclusive, sustainable and regenerative tourism
- Advancing the implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint

Balance in all Aspects Promoting inclusive & sustainable growth

The pandemic has exposed and worsened inherent inequalities and imbalances that make our economies vulnerable to shocks. The region continues to face serious environmental challenges such as climate change, natural disasters and biodiversity loss.

To achieve more balance, inclusivity and sustainability, as well as to build resilience and enhance preparedness against future shocks, APEC must integrate sustainability objectives in tandem with economic goals.

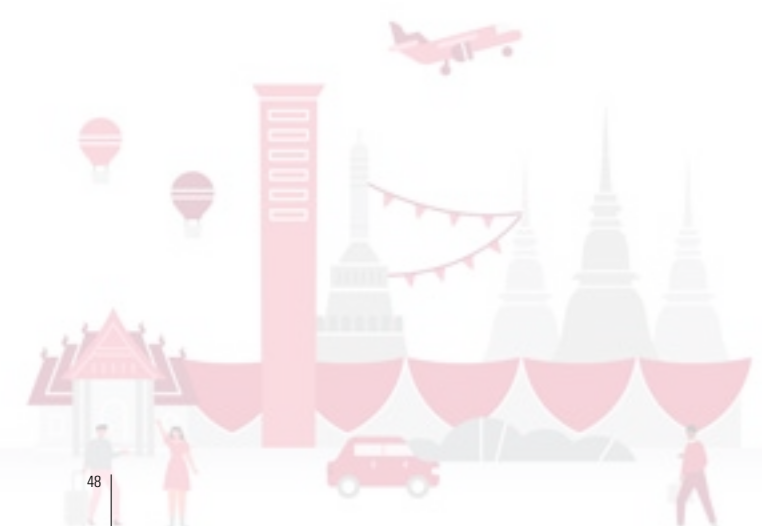
In 2022, APEC will initiate the region's adaption of innovative models, such as the bio-circular-green (BCG) economy model, to transform the whole of society to become more balanced and sustainable, and to transition APEC towards inclusive, balanced and sustainable growth, using the recently adopted the Aotearoa Plan of Action as a solid foundation. We will also

- Promote gender equality and women economic empowerment, through the La Serena Roadmap
- Support small businesses and start-ups, and their transition to green practices
- Engage youth and promote inter-generational exchange
- Reduce energy intensity and transition to clean and renewable energy
- Enhance cooperation on forestry and facilitate trade of legally harvested forest products
- Address marine debris and promote sustainable fisheries
- Develop an implementation plan for the Food Security Roadmap to ensure food safety for all

Key Meetings in 2022

Meeting	Date
First Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	14-25 February
Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting	16-17 March
Second Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	9-20 May
Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting	21-22 May
Senior Finance Officials' Meeting	23-24 June
APEC Study Centers Consortium Conference	July
Third Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	7-21 August
High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy	During SOM 3
5th APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry	August
Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum	During SOM 3
11th APEC Tourism Ministers Meeting and the 60th APEC Tourism Working Group Meeting	7-13 August
Ministerial Meeting on Food Security	TBC
SME Ministerial Meeting and APEC SME Week	5-10 September
Women and the Economy Forum and High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy	September
53rd Transportation Working Group	September
Finance Ministers' Meeting	19-21 October
APEC Economic Leaders' Week	October and/or November

Note: Dates are subject to change, for the latest information please go to: <http://www.apec.org/Events-Calendar.aspx>



The APEC Secretariat

Based in Singapore, the APEC Secretariat operates as the core support mechanism for APEC fora and processes. Staffed by a team of diplomats seconded by APEC member economies, specialists and administrative experts, it provides coordination; technical and advisory support; information management and institutional knowledge; specialization in communications and public outreach; and administers the APEC annual budget. Additionally, the APEC Secretariat performs a central project management role, assisting member economies and fora with overseeing APEC-funded projects each year.

The Secretariat also houses the Policy Support Unit, which is the research and analysis arm of APEC.

The APEC Secretariat's 2022 Effective Action Plan aims to achieve operational efficiency in serving the fora and members through four key functions:

- Supporting an effective APEC
- Activating stakeholder engagement
- Ensuring an accountable, effective and efficient Secretariat
- Enhancing project management effectiveness

Supporting the APEC Work Program

A key mandate of the APEC Secretariat is to assist APEC senior officials, member economies and fora in realizing leaders' and ministers' instructions.

With the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 (APV2040) endorsed in 2020 and its corresponding Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) endorsed in 2021, the APEC Secretariat will monitor progress and facilitate reporting from APEC members on collective and individual actions starting in 2022. In 2021, the APEC Secretariat undertook the mapping of APEC's structure against the APV2040 to align its work as well as identify gaps that need to be addressed.

The Secretariat supports the APEC structure, which consists of

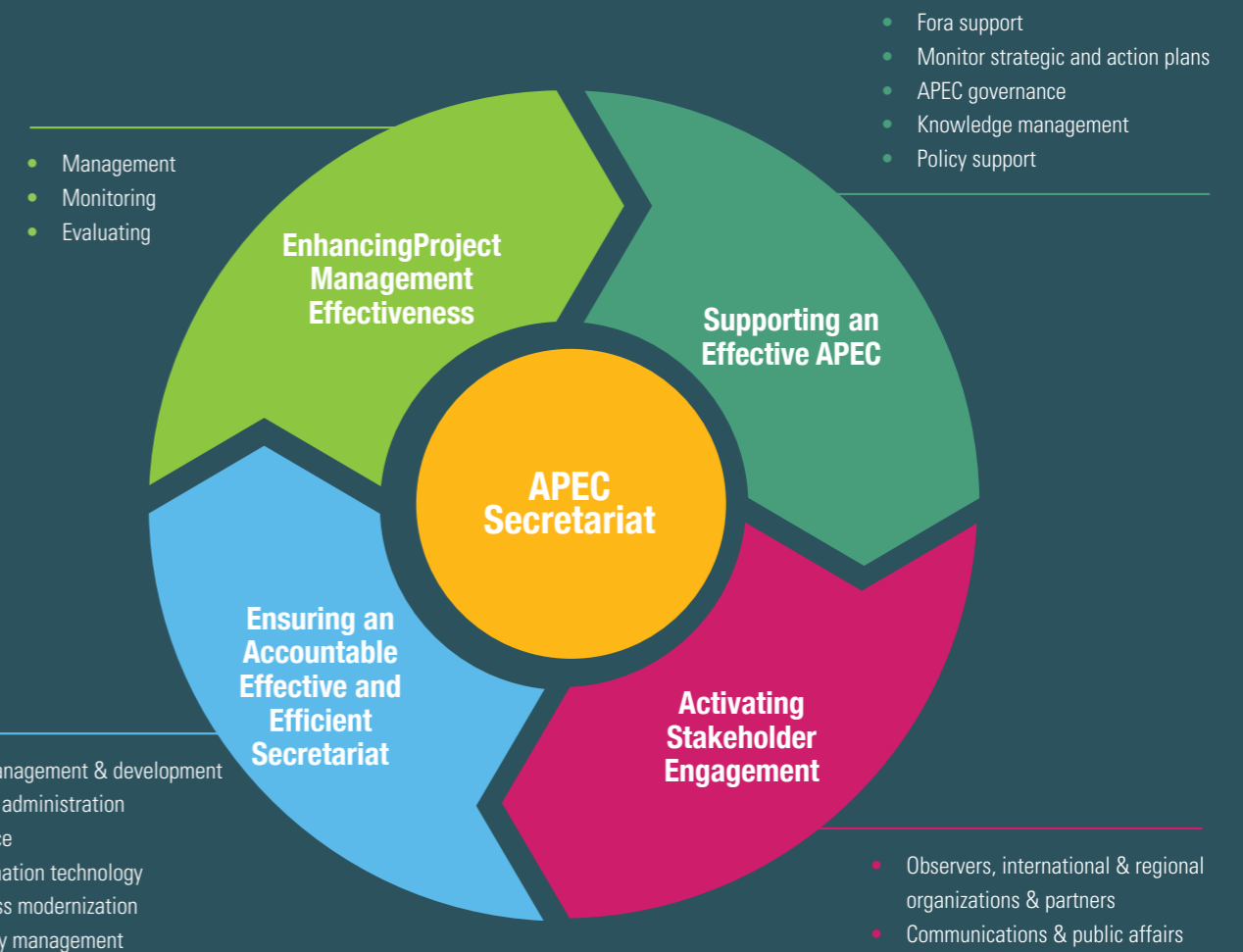
- three senior official-level fora
- four core fora, i.e., the four committees¹
- 64 sub-fora / working groups and subsidiary bodies
- the APEC Finance Ministers' Process

It also supports all APEC fora in developing strategic and work plans that follow overarching directions given by APEC leaders, ministers and senior officials, and in alignment with the APV2040. It also supports APEC fora chairs with substantial work, including the preparation of annual APEC committee reports; planning and administering APEC meetings; and facilitating intersessional work across APEC fora.

As directed by senior officials, the Secretariat facilitated efforts to improve APEC governance, including the streamlining of processes. As part of the APEC fora sunset review undertaken in 2021, the Secretariat supported fora chairs in facilitating the review and renewal processes of sub-fora's terms of references.

The APEC Secretariat Executive Director attends the APEC senior officials' meetings, sectoral ministerial meetings, high-level policy dialogues and the APEC economic leaders' meetings. In 2021, she participated and contributed to regional conversations and dialogues of key interests to APEC, including those on COVID-19 recovery and the resumption of cross-border travel; the WTO; trade agreements; as well as sustainability in relation to trade. She also contributed to discussions on delivering the APV2040 through a proposed restructuring of APEC and the strengthened coordination of APEC's work in technical and economic cooperation. She delivered remarks as a keynote speaker and engaged Secretariat staff to rally the youth at the APEC Voices of the Future (VOTF) summit of 2021, in support APEC's continued engagement with youth.

The Secretariat regularly provides updates to APEC senior officials, member economies and all APEC fora on the progress of work implemented across APEC, and highlights cross-cutting work areas to strengthen cross-fora collaboration.



The APEC Secretariat's 2022 Effective Action Plan

The Secretariat is ISO 9001 certified. This recognizes the continuous efforts to provide high quality administrative and support activities.

^[1] The four committees are: the Committee on Trade and Investment; SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation; Economic Committee; and Budget and Management Committee.

The APEC Secretariat

The Secretariat continues to benefit from the Australian Government Effectiveness Grant for Project Management. In 2021, the Secretariat strengthened the capacity of its Project Management Unit with the hiring of a Project Quality Executive through the grant.

Supporting the APEC Host Economy

Each year, the APEC Secretariat provides support to the current and incoming APEC host economies in various areas, including logistical, administrative and substantive matters. The Secretariat also provides institutional knowledge and advice on key guidelines, procedures and best practices. The APEC Collaboration System, maintained by the Secretariat, serves as a private workspace for members and fora to collaborate, communicate and share information securely.

To prepare host economies for their year, the Secretariat collaborates with the US – Support for Economic Growth in Asia (US-SEGA) on host economy capacity building programs.

In 2021, APEC host economy New Zealand managed a successful virtual year under the theme “Join. Work. Grow. Together.” The APEC Secretariat supported New Zealand in administering eight ministerial meetings and high-level policy dialogues, and approximately 192 APEC fora meetings, all in virtual format. The APEC Secretariat also supported New Zealand in the following areas for 2021:

- Assisting the Office of the Senior Officials’ Meeting Chair and the Ad Hoc Group on Sunset Reviews, chaired by New Zealand, to follow through on the APEC sub-fora renewal process. This was part of APEC’s ongoing efforts to ensure an effective organizational structure, which is relevant and fit for purpose.
- The organization of the inaugural and subsequent APEC Roundtable on Safe Passage. This initiative would continue in 2022 as part of Thailand’s agenda as APEC host economy.

- The continued monitoring and tracking of the progress of the APEC work program and initiatives, including through assisting New Zealand in preparing the 2021 APEC Tasking Statement, aligned with the Putrajaya Vision and the Aotearoa Plan of Action.
- Promotion of New Zealand’s priorities as APEC host for 2021 through media and stakeholder outreach and engagements.

The APEC Secretariat will support Thailand, the 2022 APEC host economy, to implement programs and initiatives in line with its theme “Open. Connect. Balance.” and its priorities for the year.

Work with Economies to Improve the Quality of APEC Projects

The Secretariat’s Project Management Unit (PMU) is responsible for administering the APEC project cycle, including the project selection, assessment, implementation and evaluation processes. The PMU also supports the continuous improvement of these processes to strengthen the quality, impact and effectiveness of APEC projects, in partnership with economy stakeholders.

In 2021, the Project Management Unit oversaw the approval and design of 110 APEC-funded projects across two project sessions. Project Session 2, 2021, saw an unprecedented level of funding available, at over USD12.7 million, largely the result of the creation of two new APEC Support Fund (ASF) sub-funds.

The Project Management Unit also delivered its two key annual evaluation processes for APEC-funded projects

- The Longer-Term Evaluation of APEC Projects (LTEAP) of the 64 projects that finished in 2020
- The evaluation report of all monitoring and completion reports for APEC-funded projects





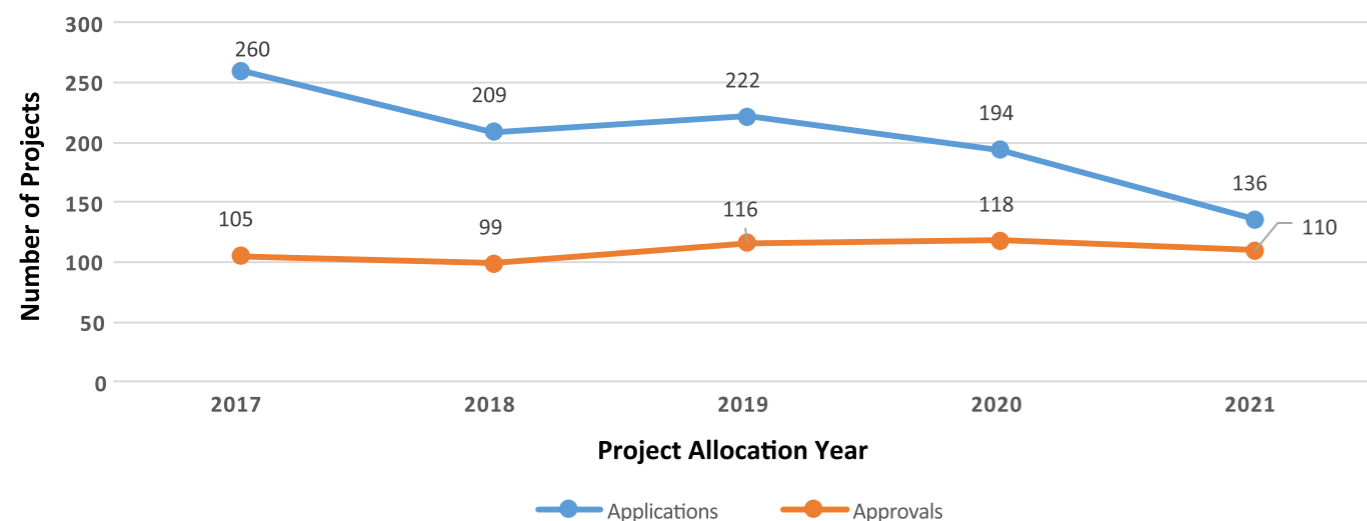
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The APEC Secretariat

In 2021, the PMU delivered three training sessions on project quality in the margins of the Senior Officials' Meeting and delivered two training workshops for Malaysia and the Philippines. The PMU also added to the

training resources and materials available on the APEC website, including four short videos, and four recorded presentations on discrete elements of project planning, implementation and evaluation.

APEC Project Applications and Approvals in 2021



Providing Research and Policy Capability

The Policy Support Unit (PSU) provides robust research and analysis in support of APEC's agenda. Eighteen products were published in 2021, consisting of assessment reports on APEC initiatives, research reports and periodic publications. Technical advice was also provided in monitoring the Aotearoa Plan of Action, a plan for implementing the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Highlights:

- The PSU tracked APEC's progress in these three initiatives:
 - Improving supply chain reliability ("APEC Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan")
 - Enhancing service sector competitiveness ("APEC Services

- Competitiveness Roadmap")
- 3. Advancing women's empowerment ("APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard")
- The PSU conducted research on topics addressing the regional response to and recovery from COVID-19—facilitating the provision of COVID-19 vaccines and related products, enabling the safe reopening of borders, bolstering supply chains, and promoting greater digital connectivity. To keep abreast of how the pandemic had affected the region, the PSU released two updates providing the latest economic outlook on top of the regular biannual APEC Regional Trends Analysis reports. The annual "APEC in Charts" booklet offered glimpses into how the pandemic had impacted the region's economic, trade and investment environment.
- Other published products examined topics that are close to people's hearts—the future of work and climate change—both of which affect

the well-being of people and society. Trade continues to be a key focus, with studies completed on tariffs and trade in vaccines, environmental goods and forest products.

The products are available on the APEC website. The PSU also maintains APEC's statistics portal, now sporting a new look, at statistics.apec.org.

Communicating APEC's Messages to Stakeholders

In partnership with the host economy, the Communications and Public Affairs Unit (CPAU) aimed to demonstrate APEC's continued relevance and position as an enabler of digital diplomacy during a year of limited travel and events-based outreach.

To do this, CPAU's initiatives and line up of products were geared towards increasing understanding of APEC, its role in the region, and the value of hosting, as well as illustrating how APEC led a collaborative regional response to the economic impact of COVID-19.

Highlights:

- CPAU has contributed to advancing APEC's goals through high-impact outreach opportunities, campaigns and specific initiatives, namely by:
 - Leading strategic messaging for the APEC Secretariat and fora, with regional media and stakeholders as audience, through the development of editorial content, remote interviews, briefings, news conferences articles in news publications, social media assets and proactive commentary

- Assisting the Executive Director in messaging preparation as she participated in over 52 webinars, interviews, symposia and other online discussions
- Producing and co-organizing youth- and innovation-centered outreach initiatives such as the APEC Photo Contest, the APEC App Challenge, and the APEC Digital Prosperity Award
- Engaging with APEC Voices of the Future; the ASEAN Secretariat; the Asia Foundation; Google; the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council; the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; the UN Conference on Trade and Development; the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; the World Economic Forum; the World Trade Organization; the World Bank Group; private trade federations; and APEC member economies, among others
- CPAU launched a perception survey about multilateralism, information and COVID-19 policy this year, with the intent to help APEC
 - Align its positioning and brand with the forum's post-2020 agenda
 - Craft themes, priorities and messages that resonate with APEC stakeholders during the COVID era and beyond
 - Understand specific challenges and opportunities of messaging on key APEC issues for the region.
- CPAU published 76% of the 165 APEC reports that were reviewed in 2021, such as
 - The three flagship reports of the committees on trade and investment; the economy; and technical cooperation
 - The PSU economic policy and regional trends analyses
 - APEC fora reports focused on trade and investment (19%), small and medium enterprises (10%) and human resource and development (8%) in 2021.



The APEC Secretariat holds ISO 9001 Quality Management Certification. This recognizes the continuous efforts made by the APEC Secretariat to provide high quality administrative and support activities. The APEC Secretariat is the first international trade-related secretariat to attain ISO certification.

On the Web

The APEC Secretariat manages www.apec.org, which contains information about APEC developments, issues and work programs, an events calendar and links to other key APEC websites. You can also follow us on social media:

- Facebook: @APECnews
- Twitter: @APEC, @Rebecca_APEC
- Instagram: @APEC
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asia-pacific-economic-cooperation-apec-secretariat>

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Publications

- APEC Regional Trends Analysis
- APEC in Charts 2021
- 2021 APEC Economic Policy Report
- 2021 CTI Report to Ministers
- Fact sheet: 2021 APEC Economic Policy Report
- Fact sheet: 2021 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation
- APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2021

Access to Publications

APEC publications can be downloaded free of charge. Visit the APEC Secretariat Publications Database at [to download](#).



Photo: A Small Act is A Huge Help by Roxanne Paraiso



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