

Investment Experts' Group
Report for the
CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS

For AMM's information

(a) Key outcomes and achievements in 2025

1. International Investment Regime Principles and Practices
 - Australia, as the champion economy for the APEC Investment Commitment Handbook Project, updated on the next phases of the project. Australia and Peru have finalised the translation of the handbook into Spanish, while Phase IV will look at Indonesia's foreign investment and risk exposure analysis.
 - Leveraging on APEC's function as an incubator of ideas on trade and investment, economies and international organisations shared new developments on different dimensions of FDI and updates on international investment agreements, including investment treaty reform.
2. Investment Promotion, Facilitation and Retention Issues
 - The IEG continues work on the Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP) Principles upgrade and a Work Program to guide the implementation of the IFAP. Japan, which is leading this initiative within IEG with the support of the PSU, aims to introduce new and refined investment facilitation elements such as digitalisation and sustainability to enhance regulatory transparency.
 - Japan, in conjunction with the PSU, shared an update on the project "APEC Companies' Best Practices on Long-Term Foreign Direct Investment within APEC Economies". This project aims to identify key factors that contribute to sustainable, high-impact FDI in APEC economies.
 - Undertaking "Research and Survey on the Dispute Prevention and Mitigation System in APEC Economies", which is led by PSU and Japan. The project aims to analyse mechanisms which are designed to address grievances by foreign investors before they are elevated to a formal dispute resolution mechanism.
3. Recognizing the positive role that plurilateral negotiations can play, Korea championed a [Joint Statement](#) by CTI and IEG, which expressed collective support for the WTO IFD Agreement. The statement called for incorporating the Agreement into the WTO legal framework and promoting broader participation by highlighting its potential benefits. This reaffirms APEC's strong commitment to a more transparent, predictable and business-friendly investment environment.

(b) Work undertaken by fora in pursuit of the [Putrajaya Vision 2040](#), including through the [Aotearoa Plan of Action \(APA\)](#)

1. The IEG reaffirmed its commitment to fostering investment flows, enhancing liberalisation and facilitation of investment, as well as strengthening member economies' capacity building through economic and technical cooperation. This includes:

• Conducting analytical studies on investment best practices across the APEC region; • Updating and tracking progress on the principles outlined in the IFAP; • Fostering dialogues on investment-related matters; • Organising capacity-building initiatives; and • Forging partnerships with various stakeholders and international organisations. 2. In this manner, the IEG actively contributes to the implementation of the Putrajaya Vision 2040 by promoting investment liberalisation, facilitation and sustainability, in line with the APA. Key initiatives include: • IFAP Upgrade: Aligning investment facilitation measures with digitalisation, inclusivity, and sustainability, reinforcing transparency and reducing investment barriers to promote the flow of quality investment; • Investment Policy Dialogue: Advancing discussions on responsible business conduct, long-term FDI sustainability, and investment and digitalization to enhance the liberalization and facilitation of investment in the APEC region; and • Sustainable and Inclusive Investment: Supporting quality infrastructure investments and inclusive and responsible business and investment, ensuring FDI contributes to sustainable economic growth. 3. Member economies that highlighted individual actions to implement the APA include: • The United States shared developments in investment policy under the new administration; and • Chile provided an update on regulatory reform to reduce bureaucratic hurdles in the issuance of sectoral permits.
(c) Work Undertaken by the fora in response to Ministerial, SOM and CTI direction 1. The IEG remains committed to fostering a transparent, predictable, and resilient investment environment. Considering the goal of economic development and prosperity of people throughout the APEC region, the objectives of the IEG are to: • Undertake work related to investment and report its outcomes to the CTI; • Address investment-related issues and enhance the liberalisation and facilitation of investment within the APEC region; • Enhance capacity building in investment through economic and technical cooperation among member economies; and • Support investment promotion endeavours among member economies to facilitate investment flows within the region. 2. In response to the Joint Statement issued by the Ministers Responsible for Trade in May 2025, the IEG has also undertaken to develop a Work Program to guide the implementation of the updated IFAP. Further, and in conjunction with the CTI, the IEG also issued a Statement to support the WTO IFD Agreement.
(d) Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora (if any)

Championed by Japan with the support of the PSU, the development of the Work Program and the Menu of Actions to implement the updated IFAP principles is expected to be finalised by end-2025.
(e) Private sector / Stakeholder engagement and cross-fora collaboration in 2025 (if any) - The IEG organised the following workshops/events during the margins of plenary meetings in 2025: - On 24 February 2025, Japan hosted a workshop on the PSU research project titled “APEC Companies’ Best Practices on Long-Term Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) within APEC Economies.” The workshop encouraged public-private sector interaction and featured presentations from four selected companies, i.e., Ajinomoto Malaysia Berhad, Kaneka Malaysia, Toyota Thailand, Intel Malaysia and Intel Viet Nam. shared insights based on the survey findings and their long-term investment experiences in the APEC region. - On 7 August 2025, Korea hosted a workshop on "Investment in the Digital Age: Trends and Policies in APEC." This workshop presented the current landscape of digital investment, including identifying opportunities and challenges to improve and enhance digital FDI. It also explored how governments can encourage an enabling regulatory environment, and included panellists from Google Korea, IBM Korea, Yanolja, and Nearthlab. - In alignment with developments across investment-related workstreams, the IEG collaborates with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Economic Forum (WEF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and World Trade Organization (WTO). These engagements serve as a platform for policymakers to gain insights and best practices, and to drive positive policy changes within their respective economies.
(f) Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers (if applicable) Nil