**Special EDNET Session: Reviewing the Achievements of 2021 & Planning for the Year of 2022**

**14 October 2021**

**Draft Summary Report**

The Special EDNET Session for Reviewing the Achievements of 2021 & Planning for the Year of 2022 (hereinafter referred to as the Meeting) was held virtually on 14 October 2021. The Meeting was co-chaired by EDNET Coordinator, Dr. Wang Yan and Mr. Daniel Tasker, New Zealand EDNET Co-Chair for 2021.

Delegates from 10 member economies, including Australia; China; Japan; Malaysia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; the Philippines; Singapore; Thailand and the United States attended the Meeting.

**Reviewing the Achievements of 2021**

1. New Zealand presented on achievements of APEC education cooperation in 2021, including four EDNET meetings, one Policy Discussion, three APEC-funded projects, five self-funded projects and two conferences. A notable achievement is the brochure—Developing Education 4.0 Across APEC Economies—which is produced from the outcomes of the Policy Discussion around online education at the Annual Meeting during SOM2. The brochure is going through the final stage of endorsement with HRDWG, and it will provide an example of best practice for other economies to develop additional policy briefs in the future. Other joint initiatives in 2021 include: the Synthesis Report on Education Responses to COVID-19, the Concept Note on Knowledge Platform of Best Practices, and the Progress Report on the Implementation of APEC Education Strategy.

Thailand congratulated New Zealand on the success of hosting the virtual APEC 2021 and informed EDNET members of their intention to continue their efforts to prioritise education as a key engine to shape APEC’s growth and prosperity and enhance cooperation among EDNET.

Australia recognized the value of policy discussions outside the SOM meetings and looked forward to working with economies to further discuss the outcomes of the Guiding Principles for Research Integrity project promoting responsible research practices which will be published on the official EDNET website shortly.

China thanked New Zealand for their dedicated efforts to education cooperation of APEC and will continue to work with New Zealand and other member economies to push forward education cooperation for the shared goal of inclusive and quality education for all.

**Planning for the Year of 2022**

1. Thailand presented their plan for APEC 2022, highlighting resilience, digital and sustainable recovery as well as people’s wellbeing. With vaccination rates rising, Thailand has eased some restrictive measures and adopted new safety measures; hopefully delegates from member economies can go to Thailand to attend physical meetings next year. Thailand is setting up a steering committee to host HRDWG and its network meetings. The education-related activities will focus on the voice of the youth on desired futures and TVET development.

New Zealand, Australia, China, the Philippines and the United States expressed high hopes for Thailand to host on-site meetings and looked forward to cooperation with Thailand next year. However, Australia and New Zealand noted they will need to look at local travel settings closer to the on-site meetings before committing to physical attendance. New Zealand will be happy to share experiences of their host year with Thailand. Australia is considering new project ideas and looks forward to talking with Thailand about their 2022 agenda. China will work closely with Thailand and other economies for the success of EDNET events and education cooperation in 2022.

Regarding Thailand’s proposal to host a Youth Voice Forum, the EDNET Coordinator suggested using emerging technologies to collect the voices from the youth of APEC member economies by short articles, essays, or video clips, and present them at the forum. The Philippines briefly introduced programs and activities concerning the youth in the Southeast Asia region, and looked forward to further cooperation with Thailand in this regard. The EDNET Coordinator suggested that Thailand produce an outcome document such as policy brief as an output of the forum which could be submitted to UNESCO to complement UNESCO’s Futures of Education initiative.

**Implementation of APEC Education Strategy**

1. The EDNET Coordinator presented on the Progress Report on the Implementation of APEC Education Strategy (2016-2020). The report reviews 49 education-related APEC projects and analyzes to what extent they have realized the objectives of the Strategy, benchmarked against the targets and indicators specified in the Action Plan. Several conclusions were drawn from the analysis:
* Technology is the hallmark of education cooperation in APEC.
* “Government-industry-academia collaboration for R& D and Innovation” should be reinforced.
* More resources should be directed towards “cross-border education, academic mobility and individual pathways within and across education levels”.
* The priority action area of “smoothing the transition from education to work” should be strengthened.

Australia thanked the EDNET Coordinator for preparing the report which provided a useful picture of the projects completed over the last five years. Australia suggested that the Guiding Principles for Research Integrity project should be included under the priority of “Promoting government-industry-academia collaboration for R&D and Innovation”. Australia will provide more comments by email following the meeting.

1. The EDNET Coordinator introduced the organisation and purpose of establishing a Steering Committee of APEC Education 2030. New Zealand acknowledged the potential value of the Committee in providing strategic continuity to EDNET’s work. Australia supported the initiative and noted the importance of targeted membership. The Philippines supported Australia’s comment and suggested that the concept note of the initiative should pay attention to clarity of direction and include a terms of reference (TOR).

**Other Matters**

1. The EDNET Coordinator presented on the draft concept note on the Knowledge Platform on Education Policies and Practices, including the relevance, objective, alignment, methodology and beneficiaries of the initiative, and suggested utilising the EDNET website to host the platform for the time being. New Zealand agreed that utilsing the existing EDNET website could be a pragmatic interim solution. The United States thanked the EDNET Coordinator for continuing the important discussion and supported New Zealand’s comment. Malaysia welcomed the development of the platform and its administration by APEC Secretariat, as well as the voluntary information sharing mechanism.

**Concluding Session**

1. The meeting was concluded with closing remarks by New Zealand Co-Chair, Thailand and the EDNET Coordinator. New Zealand Co-Chair thanked all member economies for their willingness to join the virtual meetings and their inputs that contributed to an active and productive APEC year. New Zealand Co-Chair thanked the EDNET Coordinator for her good leadership, fantastic service and hard work to support education cooperation in the APEC region.

Thailand acknowledged the leadership and contribution of the EDNET Coordinator that led to the achievements of EDNET, and thanked all member economies for their support and looked forward to meeting them in Thailand in 2022.

The EDNET Coordinator acknowledged the hard work of, as well as encouragement and support from member economies, and expressed hope to continuing to work with them to achieve the shared goal of inclusive and quality education for all.