**Special EDNET Session for Reviewing the Achievements of 2022 and Planning for the Year of 2023**

**Summary Note**

The Special EDNET Session for Reviewing the Achievements of 2022 and Planning for the Year of 2023 was held from 8:00 am to 10:00 AM Bangkok Time on 27 September 2022. A total of 40 delegates from 15 economies – Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; the United States – participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Wang Yan, the EDNET Coordinator and Ms. Duriya Amatavivat, Thailand Co-Chair for EDNET in 2022.

**1. Opening Remarks**

The EDNET Coordinator thanked everyone for joining the special session, an event first proposed and hosted by New Zealand in 2021 for the purpose of reviewing achievements and planning for next year’s work. A special occasion celebrated in autumn, this meeting offers the opportunity to enjoy the harvest and preparing for the seeds to sow for next year’s cooperation.

Thailand Co-Chair thanked everyone for joining the session and hoped that the EDNET colleagues could meet face to face next year to discuss further cooperation in terms of education, building on the expanded connections and partnerships of the EDNET with various international organizations this year. Thailand thanked all EDNET members, in particular, the EDNET Coordinator, for their cooperation and assistance, and hoped for more collaborations and projects in the following year.

**2. Presentation of the Achievements of 2022**

Thailand Co-Chair presented on the achievements of education cooperation in 2022, highlighting four major activities: the 47th APEC HRDWG Meeting, the 39th APEC EDNET Meeting, APEC Youth Forum on Green and Eco-Friendly Awareness, and APEC Education Conference “The Collaborative Direction for Education, Employment, and Decent Work in the VUCA World”. Representatives of UNESCO, ILO, OECD, UNIDO, ASEAN, SEAMEO, ADB, APRU, and Thailand Productivity Institution participated in the discussion on current situations of the education sector, capacity strengthening for the development of vocational and digital skills, the realization of the benefit of big data and innovation that support skills development.

Notably, key topics of Quality Education for Sustainable Growth were identified, and policy directions were shared by senior officials from APEC member economies at the EDNET Meeting. The 47th HRDWG Meeting and the relevant meetings and activities hosted by the Ministry of Education of Thailand presents the critical role Thailand plays in advancing human resource development in the Asia-Pacific Region. Thailand will work in partnership with APEC member economies to build strong education systems, support sustainable economic growth and social wellbeing, and reaffirm the commitment in advancing education cooperation to achieve the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Video messages from the Education Ministers of Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand were played at the meeting.

The EDNET Coordinator expressed appreciation to Thailand for consolidating the video clips and hoped that the Ministers’ vision would illuminate the road to 2030 education cooperation and development. She also encouraged other member economies to submit their video clips as soon as possible so as to have them included into the final collection. As agreed, a collection of the scripts will be published as one of the key outcomes of the year of Thailand, and the video clips will be uploaded onto the website of APEC. Thailand welcomed submission of video clips by the end of October so that Thailand could finish everything before the Summit in November.

China thanked Thailand for the wonderful summary of the past year’s work which demonstrated Thailand’s great efforts and achievements on the cooperation platform of APEC. China remarked on the impressive activities, in particular, the Forum on Green and Eco-Friendly Awareness and the VUCA Conference, all successfully held in spite of challenges. China was glad to be part of the initiative of the APEC Education Ministers’ Vision, which offered good directions and suggestions for future cooperation. China concluded by thanking Thailand for presidency and the EDNET Coordinator for her wonderful work.

The EDNET Coordinator briefed on the education projects and initiatives led by other economies this year, including three projects by Australia, one by Chile, three by China, one by Japan and Thailand, five by Korea, two by Russia, one by Chinese Taipei, and one by the United States.

**3. Updating Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy**

The EDNET Coordinator briefed on the updated Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy which had incorporated suggestions and inputs from Australia, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and the United States through online consultation as well as the Online Workshop on Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy held on 24 August 2022. The document was approved by EDNET members and circulated among HRDWG members for endorsement by 4 October. The Philippines has forwarded their inputs to the document to the APEC Secretariat and the EDNET Coordinator.

Australia valued the opportunity to contribute the inputs to the updates of the Action Plan through the Ad Hoc Advisory Team, and thanked the EDNET Coordinator and other members for the efforts to update the Action Plan. The updates have improved its relevance and added reference to today’s challenges, including the pandemic recovery and other economic shocks. The Action Plan will play an important role in shaping APEC’s policy focus as APEC members continue to recover from the pandemic and work towards a sustainable future for our education systems.

The EDNET Coordinator noted that after endorsement, the updated Action Plan will facilitate the development of the report on the implementation of the APEC Education Strategy and its Action Plan.

**4. Planning for the Year of 2023**

The United States briefed on the preparatory work for next year. The United States have been working diligently and urgently to prepare for a successful host year, with a broad range of discussion and outcomes focused on building resilience across various sectors of APEC economies. The United States will build on the progress from Thailand’s host year and other ongoing APEC work streams, and align the priorities with the three drivers of growth outlined in the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the Aotearoa Plan of Action – trade and investment, innovation and digitalization, and strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth. Under the first driver, APEC can take forward work on supply chain resilience, digital trade, connectivity including infrastructure and expand opportunities for SMEs. Under the second driver, work may focus on climate change and environmental sustainability, food security, good regulatory practices, health, anti-corruption, digitalization in fostering an enabling environment. Under the third driver, APEC can align work on inclusive growth for the groups with untapped economic potential, including women, SMEs, and other under-served and under-represented communities.

In terms of educational deliverables, the United States plans to host an education officials’ dialogue on schools as community hubs and welcomes discussion on community-driven strategies that support student learning and development as economies continue to address the impact of the pandemic on education systems. The sites and dates will be announced at the appropriate time. The United States is planning a typical calendar of APEC meetings and looks forward to sharing specific dates and locations for the next EDNET meeting as soon as those details are confirmed.

Australia thanked Thailand for hosting APEC this year and looked forward to the United States host year and engaging with other EDNET members in all dialogues across EDNET, particularly the one on schools as community hubs. Australia looked froward to sharing the domestic school agenda of its new government and the opportunity to learn from each other and exchange information, as well as policy discussions during next year’s meetings.

The Philippines suggested including the discussion on learning recovery plans among APEC economies into one of the EDNET meetings next year.

Chile echoed the Philippines’ suggestion on recovery which linked very nicely with the idea of school as community. The inputs from the UN Transforming Education Summit this September and the OECD Education and Skills Ministerial Meeting at the end of this year will be enriching for the agenda of APEC next year. Chile thanked Thailand for their hard work in hosting a successful year with the help of the EDNET Coordinator and looked forward to more new ideas generated from cooperation with other international organizations.

**5. Discussion on the work of EDNET**

The EDNET Coordinator briefed on the remaining tasks to be accomplished before concluding the year of Thailand, including:

* Updating the Baseline Report on Current Education Status in the Asia-Pacific Region. Deadline set at the end of October. The Report will help EDNET members to understand each other’s education system, how it works, as well as the recent developments.
* A written report about education cooperation for 2022, on the basis of this meeting, incorporating the reports, major outcomes, results and deliverables from education related projects, which have been specified in the HRDWG work plan. The EDNET Coordinator reminded member economies to share the results and outcomes of their projects and initiatives so that they could be included into the final report for this year.
* APEC Education Ministers’ Vision. The EDNET Coordinator encouraged member economies who had not submitted the video to join, and welcomed member economies that had a change of administration (e.g., a new minister in office) to submit another video clip. The EDNET Coordinator will consult the member economy if minor edits were to be made when producing the collection of the scripts.

The United States thanked Thailand for a wonderful host year, Australia and the Philippines for their feedback, and the leadership of the EDNET Coordinator. The United States welcomed suggestions and thoughts from member economies.

Australia echoed the United States and thanked the EDNET Coordinator for her leadership.

**6. Closing Remarks**

Thailand echoed Australia and the United States and expressed appreciation for the leadership and support of the EDNET Coordinator, without which the achievements presented at the meeting could not have been made, and thanked member economies for support to Thailand’s activities and projects.

Thailand supported the proposal of the Philippines and suggested the United States to combine the EDNET activities with new initiatives such as green education, digital learning, new skills to life and our young generation, etc.

Thailand Co-Chair, Ms. Duriya Amatavivat, will finish her term at the end of September 2022, but she will continue to work with the SEAMEO center, and she looks forward to working with EDNET members again in the future.

The United States thanked Thailand for the feedback and suggestions, and looked forward to welcoming everyone to the United States.

The EDNET Coordinator expressed appreciation to the Thailand Co-Chair and her team for the great achievements over the past year, in particular, the Education Ministers’ Vision, and thanked China for their support. The EDNET Coordinator looked forward to continuing to work with all member economies until the final success of the year of Thailand.