



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2016/ISOM/002
Agenda Item: 1.2

APEC 2016 Tasking Statement for 2017

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: Viet Nam



**Informal Senior Officials' Meeting
Ha Noi, Viet Nam
9 December 2016**

| Work Program | Actions Required | Responsibility | Timeline |
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| Customs procedure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work in experience exchange on the implementation of WTO TFA and promotion of customs control over cross-border E-commerce for better connectivity, further integration of regional economy and modernization of MSMEs. • Strengthen trade facilitation through building on existing workstreams, including on simplification of documents and procedures, enhancement of transparency through the APEC Trade Repository and coordination within APEC and its stakeholders. | SCCP | |
| Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Strategy for Modernization of Finance Ministers' Process. • Discuss the global and regional economic and financial outlook and shared views on appropriate policy actions by APEC economies in every FMP meeting. • Strengthen the policy initiatives created in the FMP framework through the constant evaluation of its objectives, functions and progress. • Promote collaboration between the FMP and other economic forums, international organizations and other major APEC committees. • Implement the Strategy for Implementation of the Cebu Action Plan, • Chart individual and APEC-wide progress on the implementation of the Cebu Action Plan (CAP) in 2018 and 2020. • Encourage the implementation of structural reforms that may contribute to the CAP's 10-year goal. • Encourage collaboration between relevant authorities and private sector. • Promote investment in well-designed, sustainable and resilient infrastructure. • Strengthen cooperation with the Global Infrastructure Hub (the Hub) through the Collaboration Action Plan between APEC member economies and the Hub ; linking the APEC PPP Knowledge Portal to the Hub's existing knowledge platform and vice versa as appropriate; and encouraging APEC member economies to early adopt the PPP Knowledge Portal by providing relevant information to the Hub's knowledge platform. • Support and actively collaborate with other relevant initiatives such as the International Infrastructure Support System (IISS); as well as collaborate in 2017 to develop interoperability between the APEC PPP Knowledge Portal and IISS to improve the public sector user experience towards well-prepared projects. • Implement the APEC Network of PPP Centers in 2017 to exchange information, share best practices and help align standards among PPP centers with the appropriate support from the World Bank Group (WBG), the Asian Development | FMP, EWG, EC, LSIF, HWG | 2017 – 2020 |

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| | <p>Bank (ADB), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen the efforts to expand financial inclusion and financial literacy; through the development and enhancement of domestic strategies for financial inclusion considering economies' particular economic and social conditions, as well as the WBG's guidelines. • Promote digital ecosystem for financial services and development of financing mechanisms for MSMEs. • Design and implementation of financial literacy policies building on the OECD/International Network on Financial Education; and, in order to support that effort, develop a report on financial literacy in APEC. • Collaborate in 2017 with the Better Than Cash Alliance to drive inclusive and responsible digital payment ecosystems in APEC member economies. • Promote the data collection on risk components (hazards, exposure and vulnerability) and insurance. • Encourage more economies and international organizations to join the Working Group on Regional Disaster Risk Financing Solutions for APEC Economies. • Work with the Insurance Development Forum (IDF) in 2017 to identify areas of future collaboration. • Deepen the efforts to tackle tax avoidance and evasion through, among others, exchanging information between tax administrators as well as strengthening the integrity of domestic tax systems by adopting the internationally agreed tax transparency standards and signing relevant instruments such as the OECD Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MAAC) and the OECD Competent Authority Agreement on the Exchange of Country by Country Reports. • Help developing economies overcome internal challenges in building capacity and implementing the necessary legal frameworks to implement BEPS measures. • Implement domestic arrangements, in the give signatory economies, before 2018 for the development of the Asia Region Funds Passport (ARFP) and call on more APEC economies to participate in this initiative. • Continue joint work with the Energy Working Group (EWG) on capacity building. • Encourage discussions among interested parties on the state of financial services openness, consistent with the CAP. • Identify areas of possible collaboration with the Economic Committee in 2017. • Dialogue with the Life Science and Innovation Forum and Health Working Group on ways to address the fiscal and economic impacts of ill-health in 2017. | | |

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| Regulatory Coherence and Cooperation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the APEC Action Agenda on Advertising Standards and Practices. | Economies, CTI, | |
| Priority 2: Enhancing the Regional Food Market | | | |
| Overall objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to address challenges to food security while preserving natural resources. Reinforce capacity building including by facilitating innovation such as utilizing ICT and relevant technologies. Promote agricultural sustainable development. Call upon all WTO members to engage constructively to negotiate and make all concerted efforts to agree and adopt a permanent solution on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes by the 11th Ministerial Conference of the WTO. Address the outstanding issues identified in the 2016 Second-Term Review of APEC's Progress towards the Bogor Goals in accordance with WTO rules. Participate actively in the implementation of the Piura Declaration on Food Security and its annexes, and to develop the economy action plans in 2017. Develop a sustainable APEC Food System to enhance food supply efficiency, improve access to food and nutrition, and to provide long lasting food security; deepen regional cooperation on food standards and improve efficiency of food trade. Implement the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020 and its commitments. Continue the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Design focused, consensus-based actions to address the issues of food security and climate change and relevant solutions, as well as to enhance agricultural productivity and food markets and reinforce the APEC Food System. Promote investment, quality infrastructure, services and capacity building, including through the sharing of best practices. Strengthen communication and cooperation on food loss and waste reduction strategies, share best practices and make significant efforts to this end. Continue engagement with business and private sector in addressing the challenge of ensuring food security by taking due account and addressing the concerns and priorities of the private sector. Improve the efficiency of the whole value chain. Incorporate inclusiveness and gender equality perspectives/balance into food security policies. Consider preventive approaches to ensuring food safety and quality through PPP. | Economies, PPFS, HLPDAB, ATCWG, OFWG | <p>2017</p> <p>2017 – 2020</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) through a review of its results, process improvement and governance; continue cooperating with other relevant APEC sub fora, and international fora. | | |
| Innovation and Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support science and innovation to increase resilience, mitigation and response to climate change and natural disasters; broaden regional collaboration on reducing disaster risks, improving adaptive capacity in food industries and communities, food emergency situations in order to maintain a stable food supply. Recommend that APEC Senior Finance Officials' Meeting (SFOM) consider exchanging experience on best practices on disaster risk management and risk coping tools for smallholders. Develop an enabling environment to leverage the role of multiple stakeholders in advancing research, development and innovation (RDI) as well as extension programs and the adoption of better technologies to boost productivity and enhance resource efficiency; carry out joint RDI and share laboratories and other facilities, knowledge and information to advance food security. Foster cross-fora collaboration in coordinated innovation, joint research, and exchanges and sharing of know-how; facilitate the application of ICT to better integrate agricultural and aquatic products in the food supply and value chains. Harness scientific innovations that address common challenges for smallholder farmers; share information, practices, experiences, resources and lessons regarding innovation, regulatory frameworks, risk-benefit assessments and science communication. Improve food availability to meet the demand for a safe, nutritious and varied food supply; support research on food supply and nutrition, exchanging best practices and exploring cooperative opportunities among APEC member economies and international organizations; enhance efforts to ensure the availability of safe, nutritious and varied food for vulnerable groups. | PPFS, SFOM, ATCWG, HLPDAB, OFWG, CTI, SCSC, FSCF/PTIN and WRF | |
| Sustainability for a Resilient Food System | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement policies to address the relationship between food security and climate change in ways that respect varying conditions in each economy. Implement the APEC Program on Food Security and Climate Change and develop its action plan led by PPFS. Mitigate impacts of drought, flood and climate-related disasters on food production and food security. Share best practices in water use to ensure water availability and increase water use efficiency, considering multi-sectoral and multi-level perspectives; foster APEC | PPFS, ATCWG, HLPDAB, OFWG, CTI | |

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| | <p>cooperation for the sustainable use and integrated management of water resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share experiences on water governance for development and sustainability as well as on sustainable use and integrated management; encourage public-private partnerships to foster investment to improve water supply to populations and producers. • Adopt policies and expand technical and economic cooperation to improve governance, foster efficient use of natural resources, ensure ecosystem integrity and enhance resilience. • Build on knowledge and experience to foster an integrated approach to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, provide sustainable practices and management systems, promote resilient and inclusive communities and secure economic returns and livelihoods, especially for family farming and fishing communities. • Expand farming and fisheries opportunities and revitalize rural and fisheries communities for sustainable development of food security. • Implement science-based measures to sustainably manage fish habitats and coastal and marine ecosystems, including through promoting innovative waste management solutions to prevent marine debris. • Cooperate to rebuild stocks, halt overfishing, and prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, including by enhanced detection of IUU products to prevent their entry into trade. • Further the coordination and collaboration among APEC experts in fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture under APEC's food security agenda. • Consider ratification and implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). • Promote sustainable forest management and improve forest governance. • Increase capabilities on climate change adaptation and mitigation. • Organize workshops on sustainable agricultural development and related topics in the next three years; exchange technologies and experience as well as mutual learning; dialogue in exploring new approaches that promote sustainable agriculture. | | |
| Rural – Urban Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards a comprehensive approach towards rural-urban development, focusing on linking rural and peri-urban communities to urban center. • Explore new integrated approaches to promoting food security and economic growth that mutually benefit urban and rural areas, including implementing the Strategic Framework on Rural-Urban Development to Strengthen Food Security and Quality Growth in APEC. | Economies, FotC on Urbanization, PPFS, HLPDAB, ATCWG, OFWG | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower smallholders and MSMEs in agriculture and food systems and value chains through enabling policy and regulatory environments, extension programs, improved laws and regulations conducive to food system growth, human capital development, access to finance, investment in physical infrastructure and stimulating PPP. • Empower young adults and women to overcome barriers that inhibit their ability to participate in the food system. • Promote welfare of communities and employment creation; take care that this protection and employment opportunities reach workers along the food system and may involve complementary activities, such as rural tourism and handicrafts production, especially for smallholders, women and youth. • Promote farmland maintenance by smallholders and local communities in a non-trade distorting way. • Contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources in rural agricultural systems, including outstanding landscapes and remarkable local knowledge and experience, with special emphasis on land and water management. | | |
| Trade and Market Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support business models that promote capacity building and market access to strengthen smallholders' competitiveness in the food value chain. • Support the MTS under the framework of the WTO, including the "Nairobi Package"; encourage APEC members to implement these outcomes. • Examine the results of the ABAC's research to facilitate trade and identify factors acting as barriers once available; continue exchanging views on this matter in 2017 to take concrete consensual steps for facilitation of trade in food • Address relevant measures including non-tariff measures and non-tariff barriers for sectors related to agriculture. • Support business models that promote smallholders' associativity and market access; exchange expertise on successful development of food business linkages and building entrepreneurial capacity for smallholders, family farmers, smallscale fishers and food MSMEs; • Support international food related standards setting bodies like the Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). • Seek and develop common ground for promoting strong science-based food safety systems that meet the legitimate objectives of protecting human, animal and plant life or health whilst their application is as least trade restrictive as possible, consistent with WTO rights and obligations under agreements. | PPFS, CTI | |

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| Infrastructure, Investment and Services for Food Security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote an enabling environment for investment in transport, connectivity, logistics and other enabling services to improve farming and the linkage of retailing markets, especially in rural and secondary cities and within the APEC region. • Encourage PPP to foster investment in quality infrastructure, technologies and services for integrated water resources management. • Develop and implement an action plan for facilitation on investment and infrastructure for food security. • Discuss policies as well as implement innovative technologies and proper infrastructure to reduce post-harvest food loss and waste across the food value chain, including better storage and cold chain facilities. • Put in place robust policy settings and foster infrastructure development to minimize food loss and waste and to seek sustainable food production and trade, including through the use of effective cold chain and other technologies, PPP and cross-border cooperation; continue to advance the implementation of the APEC Action Plan for Reducing Food Loss and Waste; strengthen communication and cooperation on food loss and waste reduction strategies, share best practices and call on all stakeholders to make significant efforts to reduce food waste, improve its management and educate consumers to avoid waste. | PPFS, FMP, APEC Cold Chain Forum | |
| Priority 3: Towards the Modernization of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) | | | |
| On-going initiatives and general work streams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue implementing the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs; continue coordinated work within APEC and across relevant sub-fora. • Continue developing the APEC MSME Marketplace, the Implementation Plan of the APEC MSME Marketplace towards its launch in 2017. • Foster enabling environments and policies, innovation, reinforce access to financial means, ICT infrastructure and capacity building, enhance the participation of SMEs in electronic commerce, and Online-to-Offline (O2O) business model. • Encourage the implementation of the APEC principles for codes of ethics in target sectors as well as the launch of multi-stakeholder ethical collaborations. • Utilize the ethical business frameworks bringing together diverse stakeholders in a new model to eliminate unethical business practices across healthcare systems; enhance work with third party intermediaries. • Continue promoting business ethics for the engineering and construction sector. • Implement frameworks similar to the recently-concluded Consensus Framework for Multi-Stakeholder Ethical Collaboration as endorsed under the APEC Nanjing Declaration and continue the full adoption of APEC Principles for codes of ethics; | Economies, CTI, SMEWG, ABAC | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improved capacity-building at ministries relevant to infrastructure, the examination of specific ways to streamline government processes – including increased use of automation – to improve transparency, the development of an APEC common baseline for ethics self-certification programs, and the establishment of a public-private implementation team to advise Ministers on additional steps to improve the efficient and transparent delivery of vital infrastructure. Guaranteeing access to financial means and capacity building; Work with ABAC to further develop existing ABAC's MSME related initiatives, particularly, the mapping of Incubators and Accelerators across APEC economies, Cross Border E-Commerce Training (CBET), best practices of sustainable partnerships between big and small businesses and the current efforts in enhancing women's economic opportunities. | | |
| Increasing the innovation capacities of MSMEs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing their participation in the digital economy, e-commerce and O2O business model and through electronic commerce, reducing the technological gap. Inducing a shift into a more sustainable, eco-friendly and green production. Support MSMEs' internationalization including through the means of ICT. Continue with relevant initiatives and activities, where appropriate, including technical exchanges, intellectual property rights, development of industrial clusters, disaster resilience and financing support, for advancing sustainability through innovation. Continue exploring ways to reduce the lack of readiness, capability, and resilience to engage in e-commerce through continued partnership with global E-commerce players to support SMEs' E-commerce capacity building. Increasing management of intellectual property rights. | SMEWG, CTI, ECSG, TEL, | |
| Green MSMEs for sustainable development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an APEC Strategy for Green and Sustainable MSMEs with a view that it be adopted in November 2017. Encourage the PPP approach as a means to create an enabling environment where MSMEs can take part in green activities in a cost-effective manner, and to enhance green awareness and necessary skills of MSMEs to develop accessible green technologies. | SMEWG | 2017 |

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| Integrating SMEs into GVCs and to achieve internationalization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote MSMEs' active participation in GVCs through measures to address challenges faced by MSMEs in conducting overseas business development. • Further reduce the costs associated with NTMs; continue the development of initiatives that will benefit MSMEs in the region and contribute to their internationalization. • Support the internationalization efforts of SMEs and encourage PPP • Develop a Compendium on Methodologies for SMEs Internationalization. • Take steps to report to Ministers the research outcomes of the APEC Supporting Industry Initiative and to develop a policy guideline in 2017. | SMEWG, CTI | 2017 – 2019 2017 |
| Priority 4: Human Capital Development | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the APEC Education Strategy, including by setting annual goals in the 2017 HRDWG work plan, to improve education • Promote capacity building activities for increased digital literacy. • Update the APEC Baseline Report on Current Education Status in the Asia Pacific region as necessary. • Mainstream human development through APEC fora, explore possible cross fora collaboration on human capital development, so as to include MSMEs, women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities; • Develop 21st century skills in students, including STEM and technical skills focusing on women and disadvantaged groups. • Tackle youth unemployment under the APEC Framework for Youth Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship • Continue the collaboration among HRDWG, PPSTI and the EC to further develop human capital in the region, contribute to the structural reform agenda, and deepen participation in labor markets. • Support education and training cooperation through educational research and policy analyses. • Continue to work towards an inclusive and quality education agenda; build pathways from early childhood education onwards to deliver the competencies needed to actively participate in economies and societies. • Improve understanding of the complex policy space to take advantages of new opportunities in mobility and cooperation. • Promote cross-border education cooperation more broadly and improve people to people connectivity to support globally relevant education systems. • Identify and respond to the impacts of technological change. | Economies, HRDWG and its sub-fora, PPSTI, PPWE, EC | 2017 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt the scope and style of pedagogical practices, including those that will encourage increased participation in STEM studies. • Further enhance research, development and innovation through efforts to increase government-industry-academia collaboration. • Strengthen partnerships between governments, educational and TVET institutions and the private sector to better facilitate the transition from education to work, and lift participation in lifelong learning, and encourage the development of global competencies and entrepreneurship skills. • Better understand the opportunities and challenges in facilitating the transition from education to work. | | |
| Other Program Work | | | |
| Tourism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop trusted traveler programs and utilize advanced information systems such as advance passenger information and passenger name record (API/PNR) in order to ensure safe, secure and efficient travel. • Promote better understanding and recognition of tourism as an engine for economic growth and prosperity. • Ensure sustainable and inclusive growth in the travel and tourism sector by encouraging socially and culturally responsible tourism. • Promote labor, skills development and certification through increased cooperation in order to develop the tourism workforce. • Promote competitiveness and regional economic integration through policy alignment and structural reform. • Increase the APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative (TFI)'s contributions to making travel easier, faster and more secure. • Develop an implementation strategy to connect air transport hubs in the Asia-Pacific and to increase tourism flows by engaging the private sector. • Pursue work that supports sustainable tourism development in the region. • Fostering a competitive environment for tourism related MSMEs that are linked to GVCs. • Work closely with academic and research institutions to enhance the outcomes and sustainability of TWG's Projects and disseminate its results among researchers and generations to come • Advocate for joint actions to support the celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. • Foster domestic and regional tourism policies that support the SDGs. | TWG, BMC, CTWG, SCCP, TPTWG | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in joint activities and increase cross-fora collaboration in APEC; and identify a work plan with common priorities among these fora, particularly related to air connectivity and travel facilitation. • Further disseminate TWG's work among local public and private institutions. • Actively engage in the discussion and activities of the working group by sharing best practices and policy recommendations. • Proactively collaborate in formulating, engaging, and applying current and new projects based on the priorities of the TWG's Strategic Plan (ATSP). | | |
| Women and the economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a systematic approach as well as pursue concrete policies and innovative measures to further enhance women's economic empowerment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide wider access and more resources for more women to engage in economic activities; - Provide equal opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, training and education, social protection, innovation, access to international markets, leadership and decision-making at all levels. - Eliminate barriers to women's economic integration in the global market - Enhance digital literacy of women; - Recognize and redistribute unpaid care work; - Eliminate gender-based violence; - Advocate for mutual respect and shared responsibilities between men and women. - Set measurable and aspirational voluntary goals which economies could work toward by the end of 2020. • Encourage adolescent girls' participation in STEM fields. • Continue the implementation of the APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Policy Toolkit. • More extensively collaborate and mainstream gender equality and women's economic empowerment across APEC working groups and fora. • Conduct case studies to collect and share good practices in which promotion of gender diversity in corporate leadership contributed to corporate growth; enhance women's participation in the economy, including the ratio of women's representation in leadership positions. | Economies, PPWE, HRDWG, Other APEC sub-fora | |
| Disability Issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy meaningful, active and collaborative participation in the shared prosperity and advancement of the region. • Advance equal opportunity of persons with disabilities for employment, leadership, | Economies, GOFD | |