



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

**2016/ISOM/009
Agenda Item: 3.2**

Funding Criteria for APEC-Funded Projects in 2017

**Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: Viet Nam**



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

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR ALL APEC-FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2017

In assessing APEC-funded projects in 2017, priority should be given - pursuant to instructions from Leaders and Ministers – to funding capacity-building activities, with special emphasis on developing economies, in accordance with the following rankings. These criteria will be used for ranking all of APEC's funded projects in 2017.

Rank 1: Projects that demonstrate a direct link to promoting regional economic integration via free and open trade and investment

This includes projects related to:

- Supporting the multilateral trading system and the implementation of Bogor Goals
- Trade and Investment facilitation and liberalization, including infrastructure development and PPPs
- Regional Economic Integration initiatives, including the Beijing Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of the FTAAP and Lima Declaration on FTAAP, RTAs/FTAs information sharing mechanism
- Strengthening innovation capacities and competitiveness of MSMEs and MSMEs insertion in GVCs
- Food security, including food production, processing, supply chain and trade and safety, sustainable agriculture, sustainability of these activities and rural development, innovative rural areas, technical cooperation and new technologies, as well as implementation of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020, the Food Security Business Plan, and the Piura Declaration on APEC Food Security
- Human development, including implementation of the Strategic Plan on Capacity Building to Promote the Trade and Investment Agenda, cooperation on education, skills development, science and technology and capacity building, alignment of education and training to the regional labor market needs and youth employment
- Next Generation Trade and Investment Issues
- Services trade, including the implementation of the APEC Services Cooperation Framework and APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap
- Activities outlined in the Global Value Chains (GVCs) Blueprint
- Supply Chain Connectivity
- Connectivity, including the implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint on enhancing physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity
- Information technology and digital economy, including e-commerce, ICT infrastructure and digital trade; Internet Economy, including the implementation of APEC Initiative of Cooperation to Promote Internet Economy
- Initiatives related to NgeTI
- Structural Reform, including overcoming the MIT and the implementation of the RAASR
- Ease of Doing Business
- Emergency preparedness and disaster management, including activities relating to the efficient movement of capital, goods, services and people as well as the implementation of the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

Rank 2: Projects that directly support the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth

This includes projects related to the implementation of the APEC's Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth:

Balanced Growth

- Macro-economic policy coordination and information sharing
- Financial markets (including financial regulatory systems and capital market development), financial inclusion and ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability
- Financial integration, fiscal transparency and financial resiliency and implementation of the Cebu Action Plan

Inclusive Growth

- Women and the Economy (if not otherwise related to a Rank 1 Priority Issue).
- Inclusion of people in situation of disability in the economy
- Issues related to reducing economic disparities among APEC economies and to help members to participate in the regional trade and investment liberalization opportunities
- Activities/issues related to addressing the social dimension of globalization, including health and gender, aging population and vulnerable groups

Sustainable Growth

- Energy efficiency, energy security and energy resiliency including the development of low carbon technology and alternative energy sources
- Urbanization to growth, including smart city and live-friendly cooperation
- Conservation, sustainable management, and rehabilitation of natural resources, including water, land, forest, among others; combatting illegal logging and associated trade
- Travel facilitation for enhancing mobility, green tourism
- Activities/issues related to safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth
- Ocean-related issues for economic growth; including Blue Economy; fisheries; as well as aquaculture and the implementation of the Plan of Action on Food Security and Blue Economy; conservation and sustainable development of marine and coastal resources, including reduction of marine debris.
- Building sustainable and resilient communities
- Sustainable development in mining

Secure Growth

- Counter terrorism
- Strengthening growth security through disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience against natural calamities.
- Health and health systems, including the implementation of Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020
- Anti-corruption, good governance and transparency, including anti-money laundering activities

Innovative Growth

- Innovation policy and research cooperation, including harnessing new technologies for the future
- Science and technology and ICT approaches in disaster preparedness, risk reduction, response and post-disaster recovery and cooperation in search and rescue
- Protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, including trade secrets

- o Standards, conformity assessment, technical regulations, regulatory cooperation, and regulatory coherence, including good regulatory services

Rank 3: Projects that are **linked to other priorities** identified by Leaders and Ministers but are less closely linked to regional economic integration via free and open trade and investment

This includes projects related to:

- o Youth cooperation
- o Other related-issues/activities that cannot be directly linked to Rank 1 and Rank 2 projects

NOTES

Cross-cutting issues: All projects should apply the **Policy on APEC's Capacity Building through ECOTECH, in particular its Operational Principles**, and maximize: regional economic integration; developing human capital; building linkage between APEC economies; gender equality; engagement of other APEC fora, ABAC, the private sector and other multilateral organizations; multi-year capacity building opportunities; and the spectrum of capacity building models and activities, although the extent to which projects incorporate these methodologies will not affect their priority ranking.

Prioritization within a rank: In the event that there are more project proposals than available funding for initiatives within a particular rank, projects will be prioritized in accordance to the degree to which they contribute to its rank's objective (and therefore to the APEC's further objective of the furtherance of the goal of economic integration via free and open trade and investment).