



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2011/SOM1/HRDWG/069**

Agenda Item: EDNET 8.1

## **Language-Learning Priority Area Introduction**

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: EDNET Coordinator



**33<sup>rd</sup> Human Resources Development  
Working Group Meeting  
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7-11 March 2011**

# APEC Education Network

## Language-Learning Priority Area Introduction



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*Because we now live in a global economy,  
being able to speak others' languages and  
communicate in culturally sensitive ways is  
essential to trade and to other forms of  
international exchange.*

**-APEC Education Ministers, 2008**



"International Trade Leads." DanMarketing. Web. 8 Feb 2011.  
-http://www.danmarketing.net/



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## Recommended Activities

Standards and Assessments	Teacher Quality and Instruction
Conduct a suitability study of how existing standards and assessments can best be used as an APEC language model.	Encourage the use of the lesson-study method for strengthening foreign language teaching skills through on-line demonstrations and videos.
Policies and Research	Resources and Tools
Conduct a survey of Member Economies' policies regarding multilingualism and multiculturalism.	Contribute to and publicize a Consumer Checklist for evaluating language-learning programs.
	Inventory APEC Members' teacher and student exchange programs.
	Publicize APEC E-Learning programs.



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## Standards and Assessments

Recommended activities	Projects and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a suitability study of how existing standards and assessments can best be used as an APEC language model.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>APEC Seminar on Learning Standards for English and Other Languages (2007)</i></b></p> <p>This Seminar found that the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) could provide a reference point for APEC language standards.</p>
	Room for Improvement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the 2007 Seminar there has been no in depth work in this area.</li> </ul>



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## Teacher Quality and Instruction

### Recommended Activities

Encourage the use of the lesson-study method for strengthening foreign language teaching skills through on-line demonstrations and videos



### Projects and Activities

#### ***Study of Best Practices in Teaching and Learning Languages in APEC Economies: Lesson-Study Applications***

This project prepared a DVD Workshop on Lesson-Study and also conducted a lesson study workshop at the APEC-SEAMO RELC International Seminar of 2010. Through this work teachers and policy makers were able to realize the efficiency of the Lesson-Study model for promoting in-service teachers' professional development.



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## Policies and Research

### Recommended Activities

Conduct a survey of Member Economies' policies regarding multilingualism and multiculturalism.

### Projects and Activities



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## Resources and Tools

### Recommended Activities

- Contribute to and publicize a Consumer Checklist for evaluating language-learning programs.
- Inventory APEC Members' teacher and student exchange programs.
- Publicize APEC E-learning programs.

### Projects and Activities

#### ***Strategic Plan for English and Other Languages***

Information and materials to help with language-learning and teaching were produced and inventoried on the APEC Wiki.

#### Key Topics and Resources

##### Language Learning Topics:

- **Language content standards:** example standards with descriptions from 16 APEC economies



Image from APEC's recent seminar on language standards.

**Language Assessment:** descriptions and analyses of language assessments used in APEC economies

- **Language Curriculum and Instruction:** samples of official curriculum documents from various APEC members and information on various instructional methods and teacher quality, as well as information on articulating language ability
- **Language Policy:** examples of policy documents from APEC economies and information on the best age to begin instruction in a new language and the time required for students to learn a language

##### Language Learning Resources:

- **Exchange or cross-border programs:** examples of Exchange Programs Sponsored by APEC Members
- **E-language learning:** samples of e-language learning programs relevant to APEC Members
- **Business language for a Global Economy:** resources devoted to the changing role of language in multi-cultural 21st Century business.
- **Consumer Checklist:** lists of evaluation criteria to determine if a language school or training program has reliable claims regarding building and enhancing learners' language skills including the **APEC Checklist for English Language Programs** for those interested in choosing an effective English language learning program and the **APEC Chinese Language Checklist**, which addresses the learning needs of those focusing on Business Chinese, Chinese for Travel and Tourism, primary and secondary school Chinese and teacher training and scholarships.
- **Resources and materials** focusing on cross-cultural competencies, including business English that were developed for International Education Week 2010.



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