



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2014/SOM1/HRDWG/EDNET/028**

Agenda item: 3.6

## **APEC Symposium on Best Practices in Performance of International Students Assessment (PISA) Among APEC Economies**

Purpose: Consideration

Submitted by: Malaysia



**Human Resources Development Working Group  
Education Network Meeting  
Ningbo, China  
19-20 February 2014**

## APEC Concept Note

<b>Project title and number:</b>	APEC Symposium on Best Practices in Performance of International Students Assessment (PISA) Among APEC Economies
<b>Source of funds (Select one):</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Operational Account <input type="checkbox"/> TILF Special Account <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APEC Support Fund
<b>Committee / WG / Sub-fora / Task-force:</b>	Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG)
<b>Proposing APEC economy:</b>	Malaysia
<b>Co-sponsoring economies:</b>	<b>(TBC)</b>
<b>Expected start date:</b>	May 2014
<b>Expected completion date:</b>	December 2014
<p><b>Project summary:</b></p> <p><b>Describe the project in under 150 words. Your summary should include the project topic, planned activities, timing and location:</b></p> <p><i>(Summary must be no longer than the box provided. Cover sheet must fit on one page)</i></p>	<p>The aim of this symposium is to enable educators, stakeholders and interested parties in education from the APEC economies to network and share best practices of top-performing economies in Performance of International Students Assessment (PISA). The wide gap in the achievement of PISA 2012 among APEC economies, have prompted serious concerns among policy makers, educationist and other stakeholders over the state of the education system in APEC economies. Thus this symposium will allow member economies learn about the best practices, educational development strategies and educational systems around the world. Network with other APEC economies would help to identify the characteristics of the curriculum, schools, teachers and students that contribute to students' performance in reading, mathematics and science literacy. This will further facilitate economies to come out with recommendations that can be use to guide economies to improve their standing at the international comparison. More importantly the input from the project will provide directions for the improvement of mathematics and science teacher quality in enhancing student learning skills in the 21<sup>st</sup> century at the economy level. The symposium will be held for 4 days in Penang, Malaysia in October 2014. A symposium proceeding which encompasses of good practices will be disseminated to the APEC economies.</p>
<p><b>Total cost of proposal:</b>  <b>USD 134,000</b>  <b>USD 126,000 + 8,000</b> (self funding)</p>	<p><b>Total amount being sought from APEC (USD): 126,000</b> <b>By category:</b>  <i>Travel: 85,000 Labour costs:25,000 Hosting: 15,000</i>  <i>Publication &amp; distribution: 1,000 Other: -</i></p>

### **Project Proponent Information and Declaration:**

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As Project Overseer and on behalf of the above said Organization, I declare that this submission has been prepared in line with the **Guidebook on APEC Projects**. If approved, I agree to develop the project in line with APEC project requirements.

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Name of Project Proponent

Date:

Developing APEC Concept Notes

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## Project Synopsis

1. **Relevance:** Why should APEC undertake this project? What problem or opportunity will the project address and why is it important? [*½ page*]

This symposium is important to provide a platform for the member economies to benchmark their performance in PISA which is a large-scale assessment attempt to measure and compare proficiency in reading, mathematics, and science in a large number of countries including the APEC economies.

The PISA results show distinct groups of high-performers in mathematics among APEC Economies: with Shanghai, China, scoring the best result of 613, followed closely by Singapore (573) and Hong Kong (561), Taiwan (560), South Korea (554), Japan (536) and Vietnam (511). The Australia (504) and New Zealand (500) the USA trailing this group at 481. Thailand, Malaysia, Chile, Mexico, Indonesia and Peru rank bottom third among participating countries in PISA.

This will be an opportunity to policy maker, stakeholders, researchers, teachers in the APEC economies especially PISA top-performing economies to share their experiences and best practices in PISA with the under-performing economies. The input gathered from this project will enable economies to identify the characteristics of the curriculum, schools, teachers and students that contribute to students' performance in reading, mathematics and science literacy and how the students apply the knowledge in familiar settings, both in and outside of school to real life situations and be equipped for full participation in society.

The symposium will further facilitate economies to come out with resolutions to improve the economy standing at the international comparison. More importantly the input from the project will provide directions through constructive actions and strategies for the improvement of mathematics and science teacher quality in enhancing student learning skills in the 21<sup>st</sup> century at the economy level.

2. **Objectives:** Describe the 2-3 key objectives of the project. (e.g. to create a framework for...; help participants to...; share experiences in...; enhance understanding of...; etc.) [*¼ to ½ page*]

The proposed project aims to:

- learn best practices, identifying critical success factors and enhance understanding of Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) across APEC economies;
- share knowledge for the improvement of mathematics and science teacher quality in enhancing student learning skills in 21<sup>st</sup> century; and
- compile the success factors of PISA within APEC economies.

3. **Alignment:** Describe how the project will help achieve APEC's key priorities and meets your forum's work-plan or medium-term plan. [*less than ½ page*]

This project is vital for APEC's efforts to support quality education across the APEC region. It will assist member economies in building a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific region by sharing best practices and knowledge for enhancing human capacity development, and facilitating a favorable and sustainable education environment. In addition this project is align with:

- (1) **The Leaders' Declaration 2013** in **promoting cross border education** that creates opportunities for our people, on a voluntary basis consistent with individual economies' circumstances, access to education and training services, strengthen regional ties;
- (2) **The Ministerial Statement 2013** on **Advancing the Promotion of Cross-border Education**

**Cooperation** which instruct officials to implement and develop and deliver strong outcomes on cross-border education cooperation, on a voluntary basis and consistent with individual economies' circumstances especially in the area of technical assistance to improve cross-border education data collection, experience and information sharing of policies on qualification frameworks systems, quality assurance frameworks and recognition.

4. **Methodology: How do you plan to implement the project? In this section, address:**

- **Timeline:** Project timelines and dates for key activities and deliverables
- **Stakeholders:** Beneficiaries and stakeholders (APEC & non-APEC) and how they will be engaged
- **Previous projects/activities:** If and how this proposal builds on the findings or lessons learned from previous projects/activities, while avoiding duplication
- **Communication:** How you plan to communicate the results or benefits of this project to others

**Timeline: July 2014- December 2014**

Month	Stages	Activities	Deliverables
July	Preparation	The establishment of a project coordination team and project networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify speakers</li> <li>• Symposium papers</li> <li>• Logistic preparations</li> </ul>
October	Execution	Symposium Day 1	• Arrival/Keynote Address
		Symposium Day 2	• Paper Presentations
		Symposium Day 3	• Round Table/ Plenary session
		Symposium Day 4	• Symposium Resolutions/ Closing
December	Reporting	Drafting proceedings	• Publish /Distribute proceedings

**Stakeholders:**

Top performing PISA specialists from APEC economies will be identified and invited to the symposium as presenters to share their best practices and success factors. This project will benefit the education policy makers, education providers, educationist and students as a whole. This project will contribute to APEC goals of sustainable, inclusive and innovative growth by enhancing institutional and people to people connectivity.

**Previous projects/activities:**

This project sets to compliment the following projects:

- APEC lesson study projects in mathematics, science and emergency preparedness education(13-14 February 2014, Tokyo, Japan)
- Education Cooperation Project Symposium (14-15 November 2013, Seoul, Korea)
- The Review and Issues on Mathematics and Science Education for Globalisation, Innovation and Cooperation (15 November 2013, Seoul, Korea)

**Communications:**

The outcome of the symposium will be shared through paper presentations, round table discussion, parallel sessions and will be disseminated to participants through publish reports and the APEC website. In addition to that, the outcome will be tabled at the Human Resource Development Working Group Meeting.