



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2014/AMM/020
Agenda Item: 4

Report on APEC Sectoral Ministerial Meetings Held in 2014

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: SOM Chair



**26th APEC Ministerial Meeting
Beijing, China
7-8 November 2014**

Executive Summary

There were 10 APEC Sectoral Ministerial Meetings held during the period from January to October 2014. They were:

- 20th Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade, Qingdao, China, 17-18 May 2014;
- Women and the Economy Forum, Beijing, China, 22-23 May 2014;
- 5th Ministers Responsible for Mining Meeting, Beijing, China, 27-28 June 2014;
- 4th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting, Xiamen, China, 28 August 2014;
- 11th Energy Ministers Meeting, Beijing, China, 2 September 2014;
- 21st Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting, Nanjing, China, 5 September 2014;
- 6th Human Resources Development Ministerial Meeting, Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 6 September 2014;
- 8th Tourism Ministerial Meeting, Macao, China, 13 September 2014;
- 3rd Food Security Ministerial Meeting, Beijing, China, 19 September 2014; and
- 21st Finance Ministers Meeting, Beijing, China 21-22 October 2014.

In line with the 2014 theme, “Shaping the Future through Asia-Pacific Partnership”, Ministers discussed matters related to three priority areas:

- Advancing regional economic integration;
- promoting innovative development, economic reform and growth; and
- Strengthening comprehensive connectivity and infrastructure development

APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade exchanged views on how APEC could support the Multilateral Trading System and combat protectionist measures, and discussed concrete steps taken by member economies to achieve tangible results in the 2014 priority areas.

APEC Ministers Responsible for Mining highlighted the important role of sustainable development in mining and recognized that the mining sector should accelerate its transformation and pursue a development path featuring cooperation, safety, security, efficiency, green technology, and comprehensive development.

APEC Ministers Responsible for Women met to discuss issues of women and green development, women and regional trade and economic cooperation and policy support for women’s economic empowerment in APEC economies.

APEC Ocean-Related Ministers called for the establishment of more integrated, sustainable, inclusive and mutually beneficial partnership through ocean cooperation among APEC members, that implement previous commitments, and focuses efforts on collaborated and concerted actions in the four priority areas highlighted in the meeting.

APEC Energy Ministers discussed the following; energy security, energy trade and investment, energy efficiency and sustainable community, and clean source and cleaner utilization of energy, agreed to set an aspirational goal of doubling the share of renewables in the APEC energy mix from 2010 levels by 2030 and establish the APEC Sustainable Energy Center (APSEC) in China.

APEC Ministers Responsible for Small and Medium Enterprises emphasized the great significance of innovative development to SMEs and made a commitment to encourage increasing the innovation capacities of SMEs, improving the policy environment for innovation and promoting SMEs growth through innovation.

APEC Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Development called for supporting Inclusive and sustainable growth to address the social dimensions of globalization, enhancing human resource quality to meet supply chain demands, facilitating mobility of labour and skills development, and enhancing the participation of women in the economy.

APEC Tourism Ministers discussed the convergence of tourism with relevant industries, promoting smart tourism and low-carbon tourism, and promoting connectivity through tourism cooperation, and agreed on the aspirational target of 800 million international tourists among APEC economies by 2025.

APEC Ministers Responsible for Agriculture and Food agreed to strengthen cooperation and seek common ground to build an open, inclusive, mutually-beneficial and all-win partnership for long-term food security of the Asia-Pacific region, thereby contributing to global food security.

APEC Finance Ministers emphasized the importance of implementing flexible fiscal policies to support growth and job creation; continued investment in infrastructure especially developing the use of public-private partnerships; and taking steps to develop financial services that support the real economy including supporting SME financing and innovative approaches such as supply-chain financing.

Recommendations

It is recommended that AMM takes note of the report.

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20th APEC Ministers' Responsible for Trade Meeting

Date : 17-18 May 2014
Venue : Qingdao, China

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen a rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system as embodied in the WTO and adopted a separate statement to support this commitment. They stood ready to make a significant contribution to efforts to reinvigorate multilateral trade liberalization, building on and implementing the outcomes achieved in Bali. Amongst others, Ministers committed to contribute to the adoption of the Protocol of Amendment to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement by 31 July 2014 and its acceptance by July 2015; and to complete the formulation of a clearly defined work program on the remaining DDA issues by December 2014.
2. Ministers reaffirmed the pledge made by Leaders against protectionism through a standstill and rollback of protectionist and trade-distorting measures and recommended that Leaders extend their standstill commitment through to the end of 2018.
3. Ministers reaffirmed Leaders' strong commitment in Bali in 2013 to strengthen and deepen regional economic integration, and to progressively eliminate barriers to international trade and investment in this region and reiterated their commitment to uphold APEC's role towards achieving the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment by 2020.
4. Ministers reaffirmed Leaders' commitment to an eventual *Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP)* as a major instrument to further APEC's regional economic integration agenda and agreed to strengthen their cooperation with intensified focus on APEC's contribution to the eventual realization of an FTAAP by taking concrete steps forward in 2014 on enhancing transparency among regional RTAs/FTAs; strengthening capacity building activities; formulating a Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of an FTAAP; and enhancing the analytical work of an FTAAP.
5. Ministers welcomed the establishment of an *APEC Information Sharing Mechanism on RTAs/FTAs* and instructed officials to advance work under this mechanism and report progress to MRT and the APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM).
6. Ministers agreed to assess the implemented activities under the *Action Plan Framework on Capacity Building Needs Initiatives (CBNI)* and welcomed the proposal to further develop and implement the *Action Plan Framework of the 2nd CBNI*.
7. Ministers instructed officials to finalise the *Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of an FTAAP* in 2014, and report outcomes regarding APEC's work on strengthening regional economic integration and advancing FTAAP to AMM and AELM.
8. Ministers agreed to take concrete actions to create an enabling environment for Global Value Chain (GVC) development and cooperation while taking into account different economic circumstances of APEC economies. Ministers endorsed the *APEC Strategic Blueprint for Promoting Global Value Chain Development and Cooperation* as a mechanism to strengthen mutual economic cooperation within the global value chain network, and shape a resilient and inclusive future for economic growth through a stronger and closer Asia-Pacific partnership. They instructed officials to put forward new initiatives under the Blueprint for 2015 and beyond.
9. Ministers endorsed the *Strategic Framework on Measurement of APEC TiVA under GVCs*, to compile input-output trade data related to global value chains and trade in value added products and services among APEC economies and instructed officials to intensify efforts in 2014 and beyond.

10. Ministers welcomed the comprehensive Capacity Building Plan to Improve Supply Chain Performance that would guide APEC's work to i) reach Leaders' goal of achieving a ten percent improvement in supply chain performance by 2015; ii) deploy the resources in the Supply Chain Connectivity Sub-Fund; and iii) help developing economies overcome supply-chain obstacles and enhance trade facilitation in the region. They encouraged economies to consider further contributions to the Supply Chain Connectivity Sub-Fund and to include additional targeted, focused capacity building projects in the plan.
11. Ministers welcomed the establishment of the *APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity* (A2C2), which will allow economies to leverage the expertise and resources of the private sector, multilateral institutions, and non-governmental organizations in supply chain connectivity work.
12. Ministers endorsed the *APEC Initiative on Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network (APMEN)*, and encouraged officials to identify APEC model E-ports and related best practices based on economies' nominations, with an aim to establishing an Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network on a voluntary basis in 2014.
13. Noting the unique role of customs in facilitating trade, Ministers endorsed the *APEC Strategic Framework of Mutual Recognition, Mutual Assistance and Mutual Sharing in Customs Procedures* and instructed officials to advance work in the areas of Single Window system, Authorized Economic Operator (AEO), manifest data exchange between land bordering Customs agencies, *Time Release Study* and formulation of the *Guidelines for APEC Customs Transit*.
14. Ministers instructed officials to advance actions to address next generation trade and investment issues as agreed in 2011 and 2012 and welcomed the endorsement of manufacturing related services in supply chains/value chains as a next generation trade and investment issue for work in 2014 and 2015.
15. Ministers welcomed the creation of the Public-Private Partnership on Environmental Goods and Services (PPEGS) and encouraged officials to use this forum as a platform for enhanced dialogue in this sector.
16. Ministers remained committed to strengthening cooperation on environmental protection and green development. They welcomed the proposal to establish an APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain and instructed economies to finalize the proposal in 2014, to further advance cooperation on green supply chain amongst APEC economies and stakeholders.
17. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the priority of "Promoting innovative development, economic reform and growth" and committed to further exploring the linkages among innovative development, economic reform and growth, and fully releasing the impetus of innovation, dividends of reform and potential of growth.
18. Ministers remained committed to providing demand-driven economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) activities to help APEC economies, in particular the developing economies, achieve the Bogor Goals. They agreed to strengthen the prioritization and effective implementation of ECOTECH through APEC fora, which will ensure more focused economic and technical cooperation and bring a more strategic perspective to APEC's capacity building and technical assistance.
19. Ministers endorsed the APEC Strategic Plan on Capacity Building to Promote Trade and Investment Agenda through a strategic, goal-oriented, multi-year approach and instructed officials to exchange and demonstrate successful cases and experiences on developing and implementing high-quality capacity building activities, such as the CBNI and supply chain connectivity.

To access the Joint Ministerial Statement, in its entirety, go to:

http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Trade/2014_trade.aspx

Women and the Economy Forum

Date : 22-23 May 2014
Venue : Beijing China

Main Outcomes

1. The Ministers focused on issues of women and green development, women and regional trade and economic cooperation and policy support for women's economic empowerment in APEC economies. They welcomed member economy action plans to drive action and assist with best practice sharing in advancing women's economic participation and empowerment as critical components in achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the region.
2. The Ministers recognized that all APEC fora and economies benefit from integrating gender responsive programs and policies into all economic, commercial, business, and development activities and by taking concrete actions and reforms to advance gender equality.
3. The Ministers encouraged APEC economies to use available resources to develop common data metrics, in accordance with the context of each economy, to measure the progress and effectiveness of implementing actions on women's economic participation to formulate evidence-based policies and implementable and measurable action objectives, where relevant.
4. The Ministers affirmed that women have a critical role as change agents and contributors to green development and resilience. They encouraged women's access to capital, access to markets, skills and capacity building, and innovation and technology with a view towards turning green practices into profitable business opportunities and entry into the new market. The Ministers encouraged best practices to promote women's participation in STEM education and careers and create job-based skills training that contribute to resilience, sustainability, and green development innovations.
5. The Ministers encouraged opportunities for women, especially indigenous women, in decision-making roles to enable full participation in the discourse on economic development, social progress and environmental protection and management, including the design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures in response to climate change, the restoration and reconstruction from natural disasters. Women affected by natural disasters, particularly indigenous and rural women, should be encouraged to contribute to response and reconstruction through entrepreneurship and innovation.
6. The Ministers expressed commitment to regional economic integration, including advancing progress toward achieving the Bogor Goals and enhancing APEC's contribution toward eventual realization of Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), focusing efforts to eliminate barriers to international trade and investment, strengthen all-around, multi-level comprehensive connectivity, and to build a closer and new type of regional partnership for development.
7. The Ministers recognized that significant gender disparities remain as women continue to be concentrated in sectors and jobs with lower than average productivity, are overrepresented in small businesses and in the informal economy, and continue to be underrepresented in public and private sector leadership positions and on boards. The Ministers called to improve employment conditions, access and quality of jobs including in the informal economy and promote family-friendly policies and workplace practices to ensure that both women and men are able to maximize their productivity, and have access to social protection benefits.
8. The Ministers encouraged enhancing capacities of women entrepreneurs to sell goods and services in new markets and expand sales in existing markets, including by encouraging them to export, participate in local and global supply chains and take advantage of government procurement programs, where feasible, and support the development of e-commerce, use of ICT for self-employment, and engagement in regional trade cooperation. The Ministers supported the launching of an Asia-Pacific regional women's entrepreneurship network of networks to assist

women entrepreneurs in all APEC economies in better connecting to each other, and expanding their channels and opportunities to engage in regional trade and economic cooperation.

9. The Ministers noted that policy support for the empowerment of women is key to lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in APEC region. Economies need to identify and eradicate all social and cultural barriers that restrict women's full and equal participation in the economy, and review and improve legal and regulatory frameworks, remove discriminatory laws, regulations and practices, and promote those that facilitate access to decent employment and equal opportunities, as well as establish or strengthen mechanisms that allow for convergence and interagency communication to facilitate gender integration and networks for the economic empowerment of women.
10. The Ministers encouraged collaborative, joint activities in areas of mutual interest, particularly female labor force participation, with ASEAN, G20 and other key stakeholders, and urged all APEC fora and working groups to continue cross-sectoral collaboration to advance gender integration and gender equality.
11. The Ministers fully supported this year's Women and Economy Forum (WEF) which included the thematic Public-Private Dialogue on Women and the Economy, Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy meeting, Seminar of Women in the Business Community and Women Business and Smart Technology Forum, and noted the increased meetings for PPWE and WEF next year.

To access the Joint Ministerial Statement, in its entirety, go to:

http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Women/2014_women.aspx

5th Ministers Responsible for Mining Meeting

Theme: Closer Mining Cooperation for Transformation and Growth

Date : 27-28 June 2014
Venue : Beijing, China

Main Outcomes

Ministers highlighted that sustainable development in mining plays an important role in the development and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific region is an engine of global economic growth as well as a significant producer and consumer of minerals, metals and related products. The development, processing, utilization, investment and trade of minerals, metals and related products can play an important role in promoting economic and social development, creating jobs, reducing poverty, improving infrastructure and closing regional development gaps.

They recognized that to adapt to the trend of the transformation and development of the world economy, the mining sector, as an important basic industry, should accelerate its transformation and upgrading and pursue a modernized development path featuring cooperation, safety, security, efficiency, green technology, and comprehensive development in order to constantly improve the social, environmental, and economic benefits

1. Closer Cooperation of the Mining Sector in the Asia-Pacific Region

Ministers were pleased to see fruitful cooperation among economies in mineral prospecting, development, processing, investment, trade, management, science and technology, services and environmental protection. They proposed that, guided by the Bogor Goals and the 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, they will actively participate in the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan and encourage adoption of effective measures to promote an enabling environment for mining investment and trade facilitation in minerals, metals and related products. Encouraged APEC economies to improve their mining investment environments, administration and services for the mining sector, as well as their basic geological surveys and geological information services.

Ministers recognized the important role of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in promoting trade of minerals, metals and related products. They supported cooperation and information-sharing on mining issues, including with the private sector through ABAC.

2. Innovation-driven Growth

Ministers recognized that innovation drives the green, safe, harmonious and efficient development of the mining sector, and that innovation adds value to the mining related activities with urban mining as an example. They supported creating an enabling environment for scientific and technological innovation, formulating and implementing policies favorable to innovation, and to building a platform more favorable to innovation and transfer of technology.

They also emphasized the importance of cooperation in enhancing scientific and technological innovation capacity.

3. Social Responsibility and Common Development

The Ministers recalled and supported the initiative of the 16th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting to promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). They recognized that advocating and promoting CSR by mining businesses is an essential component towards realizing sustainable development and, promoting inclusive and harmonious development of the mining sector.

They recognized the need to create an enabling environment for businesses to fulfill their social responsibilities through CSR activities and through dialogue with stakeholders. Called for businesses to take proactive actions, incorporate social responsibility into their business strategies, show respect for local cultures and customs, and contribute to local economic development, job creation, and

improvement of people's livelihood, infrastructure development and stronger environmental protection. They also called for economies to support rule-of-law and create a sound social environment for mining businesses to grow.

They expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by relevant economies to develop green mining standards and in the progress they have made in advancing sustainable development and combating illegal mining.

Other Proposals:

Ministers agreed to enhance the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Mining mechanism, through high-level dialogues, exchanges and policy consultations, in support of the objectives of the Joint Statement.

Ministers expressed satisfaction with and thanks to the Mining Task Force (MTF) for its practical and substantial work. Agreed, also that the Mining Task Force should formulate and implement an action plan based on the Joint Statement.

To access the Joint Ministerial Declaration in its entirety, go to:

http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Mining/2014_mining.aspx

4th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting

Theme: *Towards New Partnership through Ocean Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region*

Date : 28 August 2014
Venue : Xiamen, China

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers endorsed the Xiamen Declaration, which calls for the establishment of a more integrated, sustainable, inclusive and mutually beneficial partnership through ocean cooperation among APEC member economies.
2. The Xiamen Declaration records commitments under a preamble and four priority areas: (i) coastal and marine ecosystem conservation and disaster resilience; (ii) the role of the ocean on food security and food-related trade; (iii) marine science, technology and innovation; and (iv) blue economy.
3. *Under the preamble*, Ministers noted that APEC members accounted for over 80% of global aquaculture production, more than 65% of the harvesting and processing of the world's capture fisheries, and that the ocean was a conduit for over 90% of world trade – connecting people, markets and livelihoods.
4. Ministers also confirmed that “for the purposes of APEC, the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group views Blue Economy as an approach to advance sustainable management and conservation of ocean and coastal resources and ecosystems and sustainable development, in order to foster economic growth”.
5. Ministers further recognised the importance of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report.
6. *Under coastal and marine ecosystem conservation and disaster resilience*, Ministers recorded their intent to scale up ecosystem-based management approaches and programmes, and to encourage regional efforts that contribute to global goals, including to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, including through effectively managed marine protection areas and other area-based conservation measures, by 2020.
7. Ministers encouraged cooperation on the reduction and mitigation of marine pollution, recognised the importance of strengthening the resilience of local coastal communities and businesses to disasters, and encouraged collaboration within APEC on the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification and habitat change, as well as disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness.
8. *Under the role of the ocean on food security and food-related trade*, Ministers encouraged APEC members to facilitate trade in fish and fish products, and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening partnerships on a bilateral and multilateral basis to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
9. Ministers encouraged close coordination in APEC on food security efforts, including fisheries, also encouraged support for small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and further encouraged APEC members to improve the transparency and reporting of existing fisheries subsidies programmes through the WTO without prejudice to the current WTO negotiations.
10. *Under marine science, technology and innovation*, Ministers supported further steps to facilitate the conduct of joint marine scientific research, and cooperation in marine disaster risk reduction and resilience.
11. Ministers encouraged coordination within APEC on environmentally-friendly marine technologies, including marine renewable energy, and further encouraged both the exploration of possible means to facilitate the mobility of marine researchers and students in the region and efforts to

raise public awareness of ocean-related issues. In addition, Ministers asked officials to explore possible ways to strengthen ECOTECH in APEC ocean-related cooperation.

12. *Under blue economy*, Ministers recognised the potential of blue economy initiatives in APEC and called for increased regional cooperation. Ministers valued the involvement of the private sector in the development of this cooperation, and took note of the fact that the development of blue economy cooperation also required an enhanced understanding of the ocean and increased technological capability to develop and utilise marine resources.
13. Ministers also encouraged members to mainstream ocean-related issues in their domestic processes, as appropriate, in line with the guidance from APEC Leaders to pursue cross-sectoral work under the APEC initiative on Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues.
14. Lastly, Ministers noted the valuable contributions being made by APEC ocean-related centres in China (Sustainable Development), Indonesia (Information) and Korea (Environment), and thanked China for its hard work and kind hospitality.

To access the Joint Ministerial Declaration in its entirety, go to:

http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Ocean-related/2014_ocean.aspx

11th Energy Ministers Meeting

Theme: Joining Hands toward Sustainable Energy Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

Date : 2 September 2014
Venue : Beijing, China

Main Outcomes

1. The Ministers agreed to continue enhancing the principles of the Energy Security Initiative (ESI), signed by APEC Leaders in 2001, and fully recognize the need to champion an Asia-Pacific concept of energy security featuring openness, inclusiveness, cooperation and sustainability, and encourage economies to work together toward energy security goals.
2. The Ministers committed to strengthening cooperation in the exploration, development and integrated utilization of oil and natural gas from conventional and non-conventional resources, to promoting diversified energy supplies, to market-based competition and pricing mechanisms and to gradually raising the emergency response capability of oil and gas supply.
3. The Ministers also encouraged member economies to create favourable conditions for trade and investment to support the LNG market in the region, including by relaxing destination clauses. The Ministers further instructed the EWG to launch the APEC LNG Trade Facilitation Initiative.
4. The Ministers committed to seek to eliminate trade protection and restrictive measure in the renewable energy sector, while encouraging innovation, competition and cooperation.
5. The Ministers instructed the EWG to identify significant barriers to energy trade and investment and to explore the feasibility of establishing a database of energy trade and investment-related projects.
6. The Ministers reaffirmed the aspirational goal of reducing APEC's aggregate energy intensity by 45% from 2005 levels by 2035, as set out in 2011 APEC Leaders' Declaration and the commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption.
7. The Ministers expressed their aspiration to double the share of renewables in the APEC energy mix, including in power generation, from 2010 levels by 2030 and instructed the EWG to develop a road map for this goal.
8. The Ministers endorsed the establishment of the APEC Sustainable Energy Center (APSEC) in China in 2014 and instructed the APSEC to quickly move into operation.
9. The Ministers also reiterated their support of the continuation of Low Carbon Model Town Projects, Energy Smart Community Initiative Knowledge-Sharing Platform, clean and efficient use of fossil fuel such as highly efficient coal-fired power plants and Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage, engagement of women in green development, and safe and efficient development of nuclear power.

To access the Joint Ministerial Declaration in its entirety, go to:
http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Energy/2014_energy.aspx

21st APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Ministers Meeting

Theme: Innovation and Sustainability

Date : 5 September 2014

Venue : Nanjing, China

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers approved the Nanjing Declaration on Promoting SME Innovative Development, encouraging economies to take measures to increase innovation capabilities for SMEs, improve the policy environment for SME innovation, and promote SME growth through innovation. Ministers urged member economies to take further measures to facilitate innovative financing for SMEs, lower barriers to market access, and reduce the regulatory barriers facing SMEs.
2. Ministers acknowledged the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue Joint Statement on Resilient SMEs for Better Global Supply Chains, which calls for the establishment of SME Business Continuity Plans to secure global supply chains and facilitate trade and investment. Ministers recognized the APEC Accelerator Network (AAN) for Early-Stage Investment as a cross-border incubation platform for innovative start-ups and High Growth SMEs (HGSMEs), which aims to create a conducive start-up ecosystem in the APEC region.
3. Ministers reiterated the importance of strengthening ethical business practices for APEC SMEs in the supply chain and congratulated the successful conclusion of the Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative. Ministers welcomed the first APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum and encouraged the annual convening of this Forum. Ministers endorsed the “Nanjing Declaration to Promote Ethical Business Environments in the Medical Device and Biopharmaceutical Sectors (2014-2020)” and supported the further implementation of the APEC Principles for the Construction and Engineering Sectors.
4. Ministers reiterated the importance of IT in improving SME innovative development, and supported the development of e-commerce platforms and SME interconnection to facilitate SME market access and internationalization.
5. Ministers encouraged capacity building programs regarding the application of big data and open data to facilitate sustainable trade and business operation, disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, business continuity plans, resilient global supply chain, infrastructure protection, tourism, and travel safety to support SME activities.
6. Ministers encouraged technological exchange and cooperation among SMEs, research collaboration among institutions and universities, and requested SMEWG to develop a database of SME coaches who are retired business leaders and entrepreneurs.
7. Ministers appreciated the SMEWG’s focus on emerging topics such as the SME Internationalisation Monitoring Index, financial literacy, SME integration into the Global Value Chains (GVC), and innovative SME growth. Ministers recognized standards and conformance as one of the priorities of the SMEWG from 2015.
8. Ministers encouraged the organization of the APEC SME Business Forum and similar fora on the side-line of future Ministerial Meetings.
9. Ministers recognized the wide inclusion of the private sector, APEC fora, particularly the Committee on Trade and Investment and its sub-fora and the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), ABAC, and other organizations, such as the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), as appropriate, in SMEWG activities.
10. Ministers agreed that the 22nd APEC Ministerial Meeting on SMEs and related activities will be held from 21-25 September 2015 in Iloilo City, the Philippines.

To access the Joint Ministerial Statement, in its entirety, go to:

http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2014_sme.aspx

To access to the Nanjing Declaration on Promoting SME Innovative Development, go to:

http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Small-and-Medium-Enterprise/2014_sme_nanjing_declaration.aspx

6th Human Resources Development Ministerial Meeting

Theme: Promoting Quality Employment and Strengthening People-to-People Connectivity through Human Resources Development

Date : 6 September 2014
Venue : Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Main Outcomes

1. The Ministers called for maximizing the opportunities afforded by globalization by supporting inclusive and sustainable growth to address the social dimensions of globalization, including equality and needs of vulnerable groups; enhancing human resource quality to meet supply chain demands through capacity building and institutional and people-to-people connectivity; facilitating mobility of labor and skills; and enhancing the participation of women in the economy.
2. The Ministers committed to improving workforces' capabilities, strengthening social protection and addressing inequality in APEC member economies through the exchange of information on active labour market measures, good practices and policy tools that help deliver social protection more effectively to citizens, especially vulnerable groups.
3. The Ministers recognized that some APEC member economies face a shortage of skilled labor and aging populations that could be addressed by strengthening human resource development and broadening access to education, training and skills of all citizens, including persons with disabilities. A higher skilled workforce will stimulate labour mobility and help promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region.
4. The Ministers supported the promotion of safe and secure workplaces that protect lives and livelihoods and support higher productivity and sustainable economic growth. The Ministers committed to reducing the number of workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses.
5. The Ministers acknowledged that the informal economy is sizeable in some APEC economies, with workers constituting vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities, youth, children engaged in labor, and women. APEC member economies were called to consider measures, where applicable and appropriate, to support the transition of workers from the informal to the formal economy and encourage the extension of social protection systems to cover informal workers, within each member economy's capacity and existing laws and regulations.
6. The Ministers recognized that migrant workers, despite their economic contributions, often lack adequate legal and social protection, which could be addressed by the protection of migrant workers' rights through a balance of responsibilities across economies.
7. The Ministers emphasized the significance of exchanging skills and knowledge and building institutional capacity for supporting the integration of economies into the global supply chain. To meet enterprise and industry requirements in member economies, comprehensive policy frameworks must focus on enhancing physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity.
8. The Ministers acknowledged the initiatives of APEC economies to establish APEC Human Resources Development Centers and welcomed the proposal for establishing such a center in Vietnam.
9. The Ministers encouraged the next APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Human Capacity Building, led by the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, to discuss and pursue policies, strategies and actions to promote effective management of labour mobility, including developing a workforce with adaptive skills, strengthening qualifications systems, providing better access to quality education and training, and identification of skills in emerging fields.

10. The Ministers highlighted the need to improve the evidence base that supports the effectiveness of labour market policies and acknowledged the importance of skills mapping across the region and the value of broader participation and further development of the APEC labour market portal.
11. The Ministers committed to advance women's economic empowerment as a priority for APEC economies. They supported initiatives to address impediments to women's full participation in the economy such as workplace gender discrimination, unequal pay, and gender gaps in employment practices and limited access to training, which adversely impact women, their families, their communities, and the overall economy, and encouraged developing and sharing best practices in addressing work-family balance and establishing paid family leave programs.
12. The Ministers endorsed the Human Resources Development (HRD) Action Plan (2015-2018) "Promoting Quality Employment and Strengthening People-to-People Connectivity through HRD" that called for a continuous monitoring and periodic assessment of the effectiveness of APEC member participation in HRD.
13. The Ministers acknowledged and encouraged cooperation with the work of the ILO, the ASEAN Secretariat and ABAC on labor and skills training. They also identified desired cross-fora collaboration between HRD Working Group and APEC's Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG), Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE), Health Working Group (HWG), APEC Policy Support Unit, and the APEC Study Centers.
14. The Ministers visited the host's Education and Training Exhibition held at the side-lines of the 6th HRDMM supported by APEC economies, universities and technical vocational education training centers in the APEC region.

To access the Joint Ministerial Statement, in its entirety, go to:

http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Human-Resources-Development/2014_hrdmm.aspx

8th Tourism Ministerial Meeting

Theme: *Building a New Future for Asia-Pacific Tourism Cooperation and Development*

Date : 13 September 2014
Venue : Macao, China

Main Outcomes

1. The Ministers agreed to set the aspirational target of 800 million international tourists among APEC economies by 2025, and forward this aspiration for Leader's consideration;
2. The Ministers underlined the need for convergence of tourism with other relevant industries, such as: study tours, health tourism, rural tourism, sport tourism, marine and cruise tourism and other niche tourism;
3. The Ministers agreed on the need for promoting smart tourism in the APEC region. The ministers urged the TWG to conduct a comprehensive survey and assessment of the current state of smart tourism in all APEC member economies, collect successful experiences and outstanding issues, and on that basis, identify priority areas of cooperation.
4. The Ministers called for cooperation in low-carbon tourism development, while implementing their respective tourism policies, with a view to meeting the APEC Growth Strategy 2010;
5. The Ministers agreed to further promote the three (physical, soft, and people-to-people) aspects of connectivity through tourism cooperation. Reference is made to efforts under the Travel Facilitation Initiative (TFI). The Ministers encouraged APEC member economies to share their best practices in which tourism pushes forward connectivity, and to disseminate successful experiences in the Asia-Pacific region;
6. Ministers endorsed in principle the APEC Tourism Strategic Plan 2015-2019 to be further developed by TWG. The draft strategic plan contains four pillars: a) Promote better understanding and recognition of tourism as an engine for economic growth and prosperity in the APEC region; b) Ensure sustainable and inclusive growth in the travel and tourism sector, by encouraging socially, culturally and responsible tourism; c) Promote labor, skills development and certification through increased cooperation, in order to develop the tourism workforce of the region; and d) Promote competitiveness and regional economic integration through policy alignment and structural reform.

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http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Tourism/2014_tourism.aspx

3rd Food Security Ministerial Meeting

Theme: Enhance Regional Cooperation, Promote Food Security

Date : 19 September 2014

Venue : Beijing, China

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers acknowledged progresses made on the Implementation of the Niigata Action Plan on Food Security and the Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security and agreeing to strengthen food security in APEC.
2. Ministers adopted the Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security, agreeing to strengthen food security on the following issues:
 - I. Boost agricultural productivity and food production and availability based on sustainable development, innovation, science and technology and an enabling economic environment
 - Facilitating agricultural production-oriented technical research and innovation;
 - Enabling agriculture to be more adaptive to climate change and resilient to disasters;
 - Promoting sound development of agricultural biotechnology;
 - Facilitating adoption, utilization, extension and transfer of agricultural technologies;
 - Accelerating transformation and upgrading of the agricultural industry and promoting sustainable agricultural development.
 - II. Improve post-harvest management to reduce food loss
 - Improving management of food supply chain;
 - Enhancing the management of food safety and of food quality;
 - Reducing post-harvest loss and waste in food.
 - III. Strengthen regional cooperation to promote food security
 - Strengthening research and development cooperation to promote sustainable agricultural development;
 - Strengthening cooperation in seed development;
 - Strengthening prevention and control of trans-boundary animal and plant diseases;
 - Protecting and developing significant agricultural heritage and Strengthening exchange and cooperation on management of food supply chains boosting modern agricultural and rural development;
 - Enhancing policy coordination and cooperation on food security;
 - Liberalizing and facilitating agricultural trade and investment;
 - Strengthening internal exchange and cooperation among APEC economies.

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21st Finance Ministers' Meeting

Date : 21-22 October 2014
Venue : Beijing, China

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers' highlighted the importance of the APEC Finance Ministers' Process (FMP) as a platform for regional economies to share experiences, exchange views, build consensus, and deepen cooperation. They committed to making use of the platform more actively to strengthening policy cooperation between the APEC FMP and other multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as the G20.
2. Ministers' recognized that achieving sustainable growth required both short-term and longer-term policies and committed to continue implementing fiscal policies flexibly to support economic growth and job creation, while ensuring fiscal sustainability.
3. The meeting noted the crucial role played by investment in boosting demand and lifting growth, particularly infrastructure investment. The need for policy reforms to attract long-term financing and leverage private resource flows, including through public-private partnership (PPP), was noted and encouraged.
4. Ministers noted the substantial work accomplished in infrastructure PPP financing under the APEC FMP in 2014 to implement the APEC Multi-Year Plan on Infrastructure Development and Investment (MYPIDI), endorsed by the APEC leaders in 2013. A compilation of PPP case studies had been prepared with support from member economies and international organizations to showcase experiences and lessons learnt from their implementation of PPP projects. Ministers endorsed an Implementation Roadmap to Develop Successful Infrastructure PPP Projects in the APEC region developed based on the case studies as a reference to help economies design and implement infrastructure PPP projects. The Implementation Roadmap and the case study compilation will be submitted to the APEC Leaders as concrete contributions of the Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM) to the APEC Blueprint on Connectivity and the Leaders meeting.
5. Ministers encouraged interested economies to set up PPP centers, and called for extensive experience sharing, communication and networking among new and existing PPP centers. They welcomed the establishment of a PPP Center within the Ministry of Finance of China. Ministers welcomed the progress made by the APEC PPP Experts Advisory Panel including formally launching its activities and endorsing its terms of reference and encouraged it to continue its support to the existing and newly established PPP centers in the region.
6. In noting that the APEC region is subject to natural disasters ministers reaffirmed the importance of continuing to improve approaches to disaster risk financing to build resilient economies, including ensuring sound fiscal management of disaster risks and supporting effective risk transfer instruments in insurance and capital markets.
7. Recognizing the barriers that SMEs face ministers agreed to make further efforts to address the financing difficulties of SMEs by improving the legal and regulatory environment, further developing capital markets, and promoting innovative financial instruments such as supply chain financing. They also committed to step up financial education to strengthen capacity building for SMEs to help them better understand the financial markets and to operate effectively in regional and global markets.
8. Ministers supported China's initiative to upgrade the Asia Pacific Finance and Development Centre to the Asia Pacific Finance and Development Institute (AFDI) to meet the emerging demand of regional knowledge sharing in financial areas.

9. Ministers thanked ABAC for their initiatives and encouraged relevant authorities to collaborate with the Asia Pacific Financial Forum in developing capital markets, SME finance and long-term investments.

To access the Joint Ministerial Statement, in its entirety, go to:

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