

**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the APEC SMEWG**  
**Plenary Session**  
**Taichung, Chinese Taipei**  
**26-28 March 2014**

### **Introduction**

The 38<sup>th</sup> Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) Meeting was held in Taichung, Chinese Taipei, on 26-28 March 2014.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; Papua New Guinea; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States; and Viet Nam. Macao, China was represented as an observer economy. A representative from the APEC Business Advisory Council was present as guest.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Wimonkan Kosumas, Deputy Director, Office of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion, Thailand.

### **Welcoming Remarks**

The Chair and Mr. Johnny Yun-Lung Yeh, Director General, Small and Medium Enterprise Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs, welcomed the delegates to Taichung, Chinese Taipei for the 38<sup>th</sup> SMEWG Meeting.

### **Administrative and Logistic Arrangements**

Chinese Taipei outlined administrative, security and logistical arrangements for the meeting and peripheral activities.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

All member economies endorsed the agenda.

### **Discussion on Recommended Actions in Leaders' Declaration, APEC SME Ministerial Meeting, APEC Ministerial Meeting, APEC Women and the Economy Forum, APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade and APEC Business Advisory Council**

The Chair reported on the process for developing the APEC SMEWG Workplan for 2014, which was informed by the issues and recommendations raised in the Leaders' and various Ministerial statements from 2013, an analysis of KPIs, and a review of the SMEWG Strategic Plan 2013-2016. The analysis of the statements showed that four of the six documents highlighted the need for addressing trade financing and lowering regulatory barriers; the SMEWG has already worked extensively on these areas. Other issues raised by the statements included financial literacy, encouraging public-private partnerships, and promoting SMEs use of information and communication technology (ICT). These issues formed the basis of the emerging issues selected by the Chair.

The Chair mentioned the intention to merge the SMEWG with the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI). The US pointed out the major differences between the roles of the SMEWG and the CTI and noted

the major difference in needs of multinational corporations and those of SMEs especially with regards to regulatory barriers; it stated that these differences in needs should be conveyed to CTI.

The Chair noted that in 2011 APEC released a list of nine barriers to internationalization, five of which should be addressed by the CTI and four by the SMEWG. The US noted that the SMEWG has already acted on those four issues mentioned in the list.

## **SMEWG Work Plan in 2014**

The Chair introduced the 2014 SMEWG Work Plan which was approved at the Steering Committee on ECOTECH - Committee of the Whole (SCE – COW) in February 2014. The Chair emphasized that SMEWG Work Plan was closely related to the theme of APEC 2014, "Shaping the Future through Asia-Pacific Partnership," and the priority area "Promoting Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth." The Chair highlighted the important role of SMEs in achieving innovative development and economic growth in this regard. Three emerging issues were presented to the working group for discussion:

### Financial Literacy and Inclusion

The Chair presented a preliminary study on financial literacy and SMEs in the APEC region and stated the need for tailored financial education programs in the APEC region. Several economies shared their own financial education programs in place for SMEs, and the United States and Singapore stated they have publicly available online toolkits for SMEs seeking more information on financial literacy and volunteered to share the toolkit with the other economies for their reference. Mexico commented on its work on financial education with the Alliance for the Pacific (a grouping of Latin American economies including Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Chile) and said it would share the results of its work at the APEC SMEWG in Nanjing; it also proposed a potential joint workshop on this issue between the Alliance for the Pacific and the SMEWG. The Chair invited member economies to consider developing projects on financial literacy. *After discussion, the SMEWG agreed to take a brief survey inter-sessionally on the status of financial literacy for SMEs in APEC economies.*

### ICTs and SMEs

ABAC Representative Steven Lee shared information on ABAC's Open Innovation Platform (A-OIP), a private sector-led program designed to promote collaboration and facilitate technology development and dissemination in order to accelerate innovative growth among SMMEs. The SMEWG committed to collaborate with **ABAC on the A-OIP and invited member economies to nominate representatives for the steering committee of this new platform, which will hold its first meeting on April 17 and 18.**

### Public-Private Partnerships and SMEs

Chinese Taipei and the United States gave presentations on the high degree of private-sector involvement in their respective projects. The Chair noted the involvement of the Alliance for Artisan Enterprises mentioned by the US and looked forward to working with that group in the future. The PSU presented on the integration of SMEs into global value chains (GVCs) and stated that despite the huge barriers that SMEs face in partaking in GVCs, the benefits are greater. The Chair stressed the importance of the private sector in these projects to ABAC. **The SMEWG agreed that because the group is working on several PPP-related projects, no more action was immediately necessary, although the issue could be revisited in the future.**

### **Ongoing Projects under the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMEWG Strategic Plan (2013-2016)**

The Chair reported on ongoing projects for 2014 and pointed out that there were some gap areas in the SMEWG's KPIs that have not been directly addressed by the group's projects. Member economies were encouraged to formulate projects that address these gap areas so that the SMEWG can fully realize the objectives of the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan.

*The 2014 Work Plan was adopted by the SMEWG (see Appendix 1 for a full version of work plan)*

#### **Report on Recent Developments at SOM 1 and SMEWG Concept Notes**

Ms. Phuong Ha, APEC Secretariat PD for SMEWG, presented on issues discussed and endorsed at SOM and APEC Committees meetings in Ningbo. There was broad support, expressed by member economies at those meetings, for realization of FTAAP and early implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the establishment of the Global Value Chain and promotion of Global Supply Connectivity. Ms. Ha informed that the Strategic Blueprint for Advancing GVC Development and the Blueprint on Connectivity, to which the Working Group could actively and efficiently contribute, were planned to be endorsed at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November 2014. Ms. Ha also described the completed and on-going activities under the sub-theme of Promoting Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth, which had been done by the APEC Economic Committee. Ms. Ha highlighted three issues in 2014 SCE work plan that are most relevant to SMEWG: review of ECOTECH medium-term priorities, improve coordination in cross-cutting issues, and finalize the sub-fora/WG's strategic plans.

Ms. Ha provided a summary on SME projects implemented in 2013, which showed a close alignment with the Leaders' and Ministers' statements as well as the WG's strategic plan 2013 – 2016. She informed the WG of the depleting funding sources for APEC projects, possible changes in project selection and implementation processes to ensure improved efficiency and effectiveness. She advised key dates for project proposal submission for session 1 and concept notes submission for session 2 of 2014.

#### **APEC SME Monitoring Index**

Ms. Bernadine Zhang Yuhua, Policy Analyst at the APEC Policy Support Unit, made a presentation on SMEs in the APEC Region. She explored difficulties in defining SMEs, noting that there is no single agreed-upon definition for SMEs among APEC economies. This makes it inherently difficult to come up with comparable data on SMEs influence on the APEC economy. Ms. Zhang encouraged the SMEWG to come up with a common regional definition of SMEs, which would allow the group to measure SME development. She also addressed the need to have a central clearinghouse for data collection and the need for measuring the informal sector, which receives differing levels of attention from the economies concerned. Finally, she observed the importance of continuing support for SMEs.

The Chair invited Korea and Japan to share how they managed to collect such data at the next meeting. Responding to the Chair, Japan shared information on how it collects data on SMEs making investment abroad through its economic census. Korea also stated how it gathers this data to the group.

*The Chair advised that the WG would submit a formal request to the PSU to undertake further work on the Monitoring Index.*

#### **Exercise to Finalize KPIs**

Following comments received from the SCE on the quality of existing key performance indicators (KPIs) in its 2013-2016 Strategic Plan, the SMEWG resolved to revise its KPIs and make them more measurable

and indicative of the SMEWG's work under the principles of voluntariness and feasibility.

***The following KPI on Priority Area 1 were endorsed by the SMEWG:***

- 1) Enterprise entry rate (% of registered enterprises in year  $n$ )
- 2) Enterprise exit rate (% of enterprises no longer active at year  $n+2$ )
- 3) SME population density (number of SMEs per 1000 people)
- 4) Percentage of women owned/operated SMEs (number of SMEs and/or operated by women divided by the total number of SMEs)

***The following KPI on Priority Area 2 were endorsed by the SMEWG:***

- 1) Number of SMEs accessing financing schemes

***The following KPIs on Priority Area 3 were endorsed by the SMEWG:***

- 1) Number of Days to register a business
- 2) Percentage of SMEs with Overseas Revenue

KPI Tracking Sheet

Chair introduced the Project Tracking Sheet based on the KPIs that the Group finalizes. Through a basic Excel spreadsheet, the results of every project can be easily recorded and aggregated on a master sheet by the APEC Secretariat. ***The sheet was tentatively adopted by the session based on which indicators are finalized.***

## **Best Practices Sharing**

The Chair invited member economies to share best practices and report on new projects related to each priority area.

### **Promoting High Growth SMEs (Priority Area 1: Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation):**

Hong Kong, China's Approach in Promoting Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology (Hong Kong, China)

As part of Hong Kong, China (HKC)'s economic restructuring, government of HKC strives to promote innovation and technology widely in the society, with a view to enhancing productivity and competitiveness of all enterprises including SMEs. To this end, a series of programmes has been launched by the government and statutory bodies, providing inter alia funding support for nurturing entrepreneurship in innovation and technology. In addition, incubation and other support programmes have been implemented to assist start-ups in particular those involved in innovation and technology. To further enhance awareness and transparency, HKC has recently launched a one-stop portal - iStartup@HK, pooling stakeholders in the start-up ecosystem together to showcase their inventions and innovations on one hand, and to provide a platform for funding and investment matching on the other.

Chinese Taipei's Approach in Promoting High Growth SMEs (Chinese Taipei)

Chinese Taipei stated that small and medium enterprises have been the backbone of the economy in Chinese Taipei. Researchers have shown that, among the SMEs, those who have exhibited high growth

trend are the most vital contributors to the economic growth. By conducting systematic studies of high growth SMEs, Chinese Taipei is able to identify those critical players in the economy. Therefore, with the help of empirical evidence, the governments can now realign policies addressing the need of the high growth SMEs in Chinese Taipei, and boosting their development.

#### Promoting High Growth SMEs through the Provision of Shared Service Facilities (The Philippines)

The Philippines shared their program of promoting high growth SMEs through the establishment of Shared Services Facilities (SSF), which provides SMEs with the tools, equipment, machineries, skills and knowledge necessary to improve their productivity and competitiveness. A total of 514 SSF has been established to date, servicing more than 5,000 SMEs in the entire Philippines and developing 23 industry clusters. The most number of facilities established were in the processed food sector (154 facilities), coconut/coco coir sector (106) and the gifts décor and housewares sector (49 facilities).

#### One Stop Clinic Program for SME (Korea)

Korea presented its One Stop Clinic Program for SMEs. It likened the growth and development of SMEs to that of people, meaning that it follows through a similar life cycle and has the same need: growth and health. Following this analogy, the One Stop Clinic serves as a clinic for SMEs, through which SME managers can receive a diagnosis and analysis on the health of their companies, and then receive a prescription and treatment. Each diagnosis consists of an analysis based on 12 required modules and additional optional modules for a more in-depth assessment. Pending the result of this assessment, the SME receives “treatment” through 39 programs offered by 15 agencies, including training, consultancy, help in obtaining loans, and more.

#### Development of High-Growth SMEs in China (China)

China shared its practice in facilitating the development of China’s high-growth SMEs. High-growth SMEs play an important role in China's economic and social development. In an effort to accelerate the development of High-Growth SMEs (HGSMES), China has released a series of policies and measures to increase SMEs' access to the global market: 1) supporting and improving the competitiveness of HGSMES through policies and regulations, 2) establishing R&D centers and launching the pilot projects to foster HGSMES’ growth, and 3) protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights concerning HGSMES to enhance the capacity of application and management of IPR in SMEs and strengthen collaboration among industries, universities and research institutes.

#### Promoting Entrepreneurship: The Singapore Experience (Singapore)

Singapore shared its experience in driving a dynamic entrepreneurial environment. Through a public-private sector movement known as the Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE), Singapore has reached out to more than 120,000 aspiring entrepreneurs and increased active start-ups and jobs created by start-ups over the past 10 years. Last year, an Entrepreneurship Review Committee (EnRC) was set up to review the current entrepreneurship landscape. Through EnRC, Singapore hopes to drive more private sector involvement in supporting entrepreneurs, provide greater market access opportunities and improve the overall quality of start-ups.

#### **Promoting Financial Inclusion and Literacy among SMEs (Priority Area 2: Financing)**

##### Credit Guarantee Mechanisms for Promoting SME Financial Inclusion (Chinese Taipei)

Chinese Taipei stated that SMEs, especially those micro ones and young start-up entrepreneurs, often have difficulties in securing loans and other financial services from formal banking sector due to lack of collateral or too small scale. Credit guarantee mechanisms to channel loans from banking sector to SMEs and promote SME financial inclusion were thus launched by the government.

In addition to regular credit guarantee programs for SMEs, Small and Medium Enterprise Credit Guarantee Fund (SMEG) also cooperated with central/local governments to offer some preferential credit guarantee programs in conjunction with the “Counterpart Guarantee.” These programs effectively provided disadvantaged groups and local small/micro firms with working capital and start-up funds.

#### Improving SMEs’ Access to Financing and Management by the General Accounting Standard for SMEs (Japan)

Japan shared its efforts and experience to address SMEs’ access to financing issues by developing and utilizing a new accounting standard for SMEs, named the “General Accounting Standard for SMEs”. Japan pointed out that SMEs’ attributes were different from those of large enterprises and the accounting standard was intended to be developed to meet requirements derived from SMEs’ attributes. The standard was based on SMEs’ accounting practice and compliant with other accounting rules including Japan’s traditional corporate accounting principles and taxation laws, which was intended to promote book-keeping and utilization of the accounting record by SMEs. Japan shared with the meeting with the basic framework of the General Accounting Standard for SMEs as well as its efforts and programs to disseminate the accounting standard among SMEs in Japan.

#### Promoting Financial Inclusion and Literacy among SMEs, Indonesian Case Study (Indonesia)

Financial illiteracy leads to financial exclusion. Since there is lack of knowledge and awareness to use financial product and service, financial literacy becomes important and can only be acquired using financial education. Financial literacy survey conducted in Indonesia, shows that the level of financial education does increase the financial literacy and eventually increase the awareness to use formal financial services and products. Financial education requires a strong commitment among parties (government and private institution) and the most important thing is coordination and collaboration among institution. Financial education for SMEs as borrowers of a financial institution can improve the financial performance for financial institution itself and financial management of SMEs.

#### Financing MSME: Accessibility is The Key (Indonesia)

Indonesia reported on its Bank BRI, a financial institution that specializes in small-scale and microfinance. By the end of 2013, BRI has 9,808 conventional outlets, 104,570 E-Channels and 19.4 million internet/mobile banking users. BRI has commitment to focus on banking services to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This commitment is reflected in the allocation of loan for the MSMEs which is about 70% of its total loan portfolio. In 2013, BRI’s net profit reached IDR 21.16 Trillion or about USD 2 Billion, confirming its position as the most profitable bank in the economy since 2005.

#### **SMEs Access to Government Procurement (Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization)**

##### Public Procurement Opportunities for Women Owned Enterprises (Korea)

There are 1.25 million women-owned enterprises in Korea, 38.8% of the entire population. To promote these SMEs, Korea passed an Act on Women Enterprise Support, which stipulates that public

organizations should purchase at least 5% of goods and services and 3% of construction services from women-led SMEs. Growing awareness of this requirement has led to an increase in purchases from women-owned companies by government organizations, contributing to the growth and competitiveness of these companies and increased employment of women in the formal sector.

### **Promoting SMEs Participation in the Global Value Chain (Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization)**

#### The 8th APEC Small & Medium Enterprises Technology Conference and Fair (SMETC) (China)

The 8<sup>th</sup> APEC SMETC is to be held from June 19 to 22, 2014 in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, China, hosted by Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. Attracting merchants and exhibitors for the 8<sup>th</sup> APEC SMETC is to focus on electronics & high-end equipment, producer services, including industrial design, e-commerce, wisdom logistics and public service platform. With “Technology Innovation Boosts Transformation and Upgrading” as its theme, China attaches great importance to technology conference. APEC SMETC is aimed at strengthening the exchanges and communications of economy & trade, information & technology between APEC SMEs and helping SMEs explore international market and improve their own competition.

#### Thai Automotive Industry in the Global Supply Chain (Thailand)

Thailand gave an overview of the state of SMEs in Thailand, which are a key player in the Thai economy. The automobile industry provides one of the largest segments of Thailand’s export economy, covering Tier 1,2, and 3 manufacturing. Many associations and governmental support systems exist to assist SMEs within the automotive supply chain. Clustering has focused on the central part of Thailand. On emissions standards, Thailand has started to apply UN and EC standards to its emissions policy. As energy usage becomes more costly and restrictive, the automotive industry is set to be affected, and by increasingly stringent safety standards as well. It is vital that Thailand’s automotive industry retain their competitive advantage, especially in the light of ASEAN Economic Integration. It is vital that the industry go green in line with international standards.

#### Upgrade of SMEs and Promotion of Business Partnerships (Japan)

Japan shared its experience of fostering supporting industries with an example of a policy program implemented in the Japan’s economic high growth period in 1960’s. The program named the “SME Modernization Act” was intended to promote modernization of facilities of SMEs especially in supporting industries, which were recognized as a basis of Japan’s industry structure. Then, Japan introduced a business matching program named the “SMEs’ CEO Network Enhancing Project” by SME Support, Japan (SMRJ). The objective of the program is to facilitate cross-border business among SMEs. In the project, SMRJ invites CEOs from foreign companies and holds business matching meetings with Japanese SMEs. Japan offered the meeting participation in the project.

#### Cloud-Based Supply Chain Integration Service (Chinese Taipei)

Chinese Taipei pointed that SMEs in Chinese Taipei have a significant number of domestic industry occupancy rate and employment, but the ratio of SMEs operating revenue no obvious growth and less annual IT budget.

By setting up consultation of the standard operation procedures, SME systems will be transparent to enable a tight collaboration throughout networking industrial cluster. Cloud-based supply chain platform

provides cost-effective IT environment to SME which will increase operational efficiency and significantly boost SME competitiveness.

#### Leveraging on the Central Coordinating Agency Role to Facilitate Linkages (Malaysia)

Malaysia shared on how the SME development mechanism in the economy has evolved enabling more concerted effort across Ministries and Agencies, private sector and international parties. With backing of the National SME Development Council (NSDC) chaired by the Prime Minister, SME Corporation Malaysia as the Central Coordination Agency of SME development in Malaysia has been able to coordinate programmes across the key focus areas that collectively contribute to domestic and international business linkages across all sectors with continuous support for the SMEs to maintain quality of deliveries. Malaysia highlighted annual SMIDEX Showcase (4-6 June for 2014) as flagship programme bring the entire SME Ecosystem to strategic venue, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, for the benefit of all stakeholders.

#### **APEC SMEWG Chairmanship 2015-2016 and ToR revision**

Ms. Ha Phuong presented on APEC Rules and TOR of Working Group Chairs/Lead Shepherds. She explained the APEC Guidelines and the SMEWG Terms of Reference (ToRs) on Chair selection. She noted that the Chair should be competent over all aspects of the Group's activities and be capable of presiding over all aspects of Group's Meetings and activities. Under the TORs, the Chair economy would be selected by consensus on volunteer basis and serve for a term of a minimum of two years. It was also noted that the ToRs include provision for a Deputy Chair but this role had not been filled to date.

Several member economies proposed a revised system of succession for the Chairmanship, changing it from voluntary to alphabetical system with a voluntary component.

***The Chair called for voluntary Chairmanship for the term 2015 – 2016, which could be announced by the member economies intersessionally. It is also agreed that APEC Secretariat should assist the Working Group on this matter.***

***The Meeting took note of a broad support to switch to the alphabetical order in the Chair succession and to possibly have a Vice Chair. The Group agreed to further discuss on those issues at the 39th SMEWG Meeting.***

#### **Progress Report on APEC SMEWG Projects of Each Priority Areas under APEC SMEWG Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016**

##### Chinese Taipei: APEC Accelerator Network

Chinese Taipei stated that AAN serves as a platform to build up relationships among accelerators and expand their influence in the development of innovating industries throughout APEC region. Therefore, the AAN Forum, phase 1 of this project, had accelerator focal points of each economy to share best practices of accelerator methodologies. Besides, to facilitate startup fundraising, phase 2 of AAN will take place in form of demo in front of world-top entrepreneurs and VCs. Moreover, to strengthen co-incubation capacities in APEC region, startups are encouraged to have mentorship program by the AAN accelerator before gather in Taipei. Chinese Taipei is sincerely welcome all member economies' nomination of experts and startups to join APEC Challenge event in August.



### Chinese Taipei: Multi-Year Project: Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment

Chinese Taipei presented the progress report of the multi-year project. In response to the High Level Policy Dialogue of 2011, this project is to improve disaster resiliency and to secure supply chain connectivity of SMEs after natural disasters. Started from 2012, Chinese Taipei had conducted a joint study which collaborated with EPWG to investigate the needs of APEC SMEs in responding to natural disaster. Then, had endorsed guidelines on promoting BCPs and held two expert meetings in 2012 & 2013. In 2013, Chinese Taipei held the Train-the-Trainer workshop and collaborated with ADRC to finalize the BCP guidebook. In phase 3, 2014, Chinese Taipei has held the HLPD on Resilient SMEs for Better Global Supply Chains and will keep promote BCP concept in SMEs in 2014. To deepen the outcome of MYP, Chinese Taipei looks forward to collaborating with EPWG further in 2015.

### APEC Train-the-Trainer Training Course for Women SME Service Exporters (Vietnam)

Vietnam's Train-the-Trainer Training Course for Women SME Service Exporters will take place in mid-June 2014 in Ho Chi Minh city, Viet Nam. The Training Course aims to equip women SME service providers with knowledge, skills and techniques to improve enterprises' competitiveness and improve access to the global market; sharing experiences and best practices among women SME providers in exporting services to international markets; networking women SME service exporters; developing recommendations for APEC to further build up women SME service exporters' capacity to participate in the global service chain.

### APEC Public - Private Dialogue on Addressing Impediments of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro Enterprises (MEs) in Accessing Trade Finance (Vietnam)

Vietnam presented its Public-Private Dialogue on Addressing Impediments for SMEs and MEs in Accessing Trade Finance. The objectives of the Dialogue were to exchange information on impediments that SMEs and MEs encounter in accessing trade finance in APEC member economies to better integrate into regional and international markets; develop a set of recommendations, as a reference tool for APEC member economies, especially for SMEWG, to tackle practical as well as potential impediments that SMEs and MEs have been encountering in accessing trade finance in the Asia - Pacific region; and continue and follow-up good cooperation and coordination among trade finance policy-makers, regulators and SMEs/MEs from previous APEC SME Trade Finance Conference, held in March 2013 in Manila, the Philippines. The speakers and participants at the Dialogue include government officials, academics from APEC member economies, including developed and developing ones, representatives from private sectors, SMEs associations in the region, as well as representatives of regional institutions, such as the OECD and ACB.

### China: Seminar of Financing Innovation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

China announced the Seminar of Financing Innovation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to take place between June and Sep., 2014 China. The seminar includes 2 phases. Phase 1 will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, Yiwu, China. The aim is to promote the understanding of financing innovation and to facilitate the exchange and sharing of the experience on financing innovation of SMEs among APEC economies. Phase 2 will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, Nanjing, China. The aim is to focus on how to deal with the difficulties mentioned in the first seminar, including experience sharing and case study. Expected are international policy makers, SMEs and financial institutions from economies to discuss current financing trends, issues and factors that constrain SME financing innovation.

#### Indonesia: Seminar on Cross Border Trade (CBT) in APEC

The seminar on CBT in the APEC Region took place on 4-5 February 2014 in Bali, Indonesia. Recommendations from the seminar include: 1) Building and improving database of information on CBT for SMEs; 2) Simplifying the documentation procedures/requirements and accreditation process, especially for SMEs to export their products throughout the economy; 3) Increasing the role of various business actors such as the private sector and associations through strong coordination to encourage a more significant role of SMEs in CBT. Large companies should assist SMEs in the supply chain, for example, SMEs have limited access to markets and finance as well as inadequate resources; 4) Encouraging SMEs to produce value-added products, through increasing capacity building and technical assistance as well as promoting the value chain financing through good cooperation between government and business associations / business. Economic Cooperation APEC is expected to build a CBT device guides that can be used by SMEs in increasing their role in Trade; and 5) Facilitate business meetings and business matching between SMEs in cross-border areas with neighboring economies.

#### Multi-Year Project : Business Ethics Capacity Building for SMEs in the Medical Devices, Construction and Bio-Pharmaceutical Sectors (United States)

The United States provided an update on the status of the Business Ethics Capacity Building workstream, noting that the foundation of this work is based on public-private partnerships to ensure maximum impact on this work. To date, over 50 industry associations representing more than 10,000 SMEs in all APEC economies have participated in this APEC multi-year project. The United States also provided information on the Business Ethics Forum scheduled for September 1-3 in Nanjing, China.

#### The United States: Facilitating SMEs Integration into Global Value Chains (United States)

The United States hosted a launch workshop to facilitate the integration of SMEs into global supply chains. The workshop focused on obligations and expectations that translate across the supply chains to SME sub-contractors and suppliers. Companies shared information on the types of certifications that are required to ensure the integrity of the products produced within the supply chain. Sectors of interest to SMEs are: agriculture, food processing, electronics, automobiles and handicrafts.

#### Financing APEC SME Innovation Workshop: Identifying Government Policies that Promote Venture Capital Investment in APEC Economies VC (Thailand)

Thailand announced the Financing APEC SME Innovation through Venture Capital workshop to take place on June 19-20, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop aims to improve access to finance for innovative APEC SMEs through Venture Capital investment. The workshop will build understanding of issues and challenges facing APEC economies in growing their domestic and international venture capital presence. Expected are international speakers including venture capitalists and innovative SMEs in technology, healthcare, and digital content and media.

#### Promoting Innovation Seminar: How Smart IPR Policies Can Encourage SMME's Research and Development (Thailand)

Thailand's Promoting Innovation Seminar: How Smart IPR Policies Can Encourage SMME's Research and Development will take place in Bangkok in September 2014. The objectives of the seminar are to foster stakeholder discussion on APEC SMME IPR needs and best practice, and to produce policy recommendations for improving domestic IPR systems in APEC to foster economic growth through SMME innovation. Top international experts and practitioners in the IPR field are expected to attend.

### **The 39th SMEWG Meeting and the 21st SMEMM**

To promote rapid growth and pragmatic cooperation of SMEs in the Asia-Pacific region, China is ready to host the 39<sup>th</sup> SMEWG Meeting. It will be scheduled to take place from September 3 to 4, 2014 and committed to share the achievements and challenges in the field of SMEs. The 21<sup>st</sup> SMEMM will be conducted on September 5, and carry the theme of “Innovation and Sustainability”, with three sub-themes: increasing innovation capabilities of SMEs, improving the environment for SMEs’ innovation and promoting SMEs’ growth through innovation. Both meetings will be held in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China.

### **Endorsement of Meeting Report**

*The Chair asked member economies to submit any changes to the Meeting Report and stated that the Report would be endorsed by April 4, 2014.*

### **Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked member economies for their participation in the 38<sup>th</sup> SMEWG Meeting and closed the meeting.

## **Proposed Workplan for 2014**

Fora: (SME Working Group)

Proposed Work Plan for 2014 in Response to Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, and to ABAC recommendations.

### **Contents:**

1. Strategic Plan 2013-2016 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG)
2. Anticipated Activities and/or Proposed Workplan with outside organizations in response to Leaders' and Ministers' calls for greater engagement
3. Cross-cutting issues
4. Progress on Implementing Fora Strategic Plan
5. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2014

ANNEX 1: Revised KPIs

ANNEX 2: SMEWG Strategic Workplan Roadmap

ANNEX 3: Actions Recommended by Leaders' Statements

# **1. Strategic Plan 2013-2016 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG)**

## **I. Introduction**

First established in February 1995 as the Ad Hoc Policy Level Group on SMEs' (PLGSME), the SMEWG was renamed and granted permanent status in 2000. In promoting SME development and enhancing the effectiveness of APEC works for SMEs, the SMEWG has incorporated predecessor frameworks such as the Framework for SME Activities (1997) as well as the Integrated Plan of Action for SME Development (SPAN in 1998/2002) upon which the SMEWG Strategic Plan 2009-2012 was formulated.

In order to continue the work of the SMEWG Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and in response to the Bogor Goal, the Yokohama Vision, and the 18th Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting (SMEMM), the SMEWG undertook the formulation of a new Strategic Plan for 2013 to 2016. This plan will provide a roadmap to address critical issues and concerns pertaining to the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro enterprises (MEs) in the APEC region.

Preparation of the Strategic Plan involved reviewing important tasks identified by the SMEMM, as well as the 2011 SMEWG Independent Assessment undertaken by an Independent Assessor, as instructed by the SCE. Following the Strategic Planning-Process Guide for Working Groups, the SMEWG organized a Strategic Plan Drafting Committee on the sideline of the SMEWG meetings in Thailand, Brunei and Russia; and as well as inter-sessional exchange of information, inputs and comments from SMEWG delegates to develop the Strategic Plan 2013-2016 for the SMEWG.

### **APEC's vision:**

“APEC is the premier Asia-Pacific economic forum. Our primary goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. We are united in our drive to build a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by championing free and open trade and investment, promoting and accelerating regional economic integration, encouraging economic and technical cooperation, enhancing human security, and facilitating a favorable and sustainable business environment. Our initiatives turn policy goals into concrete results and agreements into tangible benefits.”

## **II. Vision Statement**

The SMEWG shall promote competitive, balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and secure growth of SMEs and MEs in the APEC region. The SMEWG will facilitate SMEs and MEs, individually and collectively, to attain their fullest growth potential and contribute to the achievement of APEC's wider economic prosperity and integration goals.

## **III. Mission Statement**

The SMEWG has a critical and strategic role to provide support and guidance for APEC member economies to achieve SMEWG's mission of:

- Enabling Policy, Business and Regulatory Environments for SMEs and MEs
- Strengthening the Participation and Access to Global Markets for SMEs and MEs
- Fostering the Development of Innovative and Green SMEs and MEs
- Promoting Entrepreneurship and Management Capabilities of SMEs and MEs, Including Youth, Women, and Minority-Owned SMEs and MEs
- Strengthening access to financing for SMEs and MEs

- Enhancing Disaster Resilience to Promote Secure Growth and Establishing Reliable Supply Chains for SMEs and MEs

#### **IV. Critical Success Factors**

Recognizing the multi-faceted nature of SME policies and programs, the capacity of this plan to achieve the Vision and Mission Statements will depend on a number of factors:

- Understanding the range and diversity of SMEs that operate in APEC economies
- Engaging and collaborating with other APEC fora whose work interacts with and complements the SMEWG Strategic Plan priorities and objectives to ensure their awareness of and participation in SMEWG projects
- Engaging and collaborating with the APEC Business Advisory Council and relevant private and public sector organizations to ensure their awareness of and participation in SMEWG projects
- Ensuring seminars and workshops are organized to best practice standards to achieve maximum effect and results
- Encouraging more direct participation of SMEs and MEs in the projects
- Enhancing the collaboration of SME service organizations to optimize SME services and resources
- Paying special attention to youth, women entrepreneurs, and minority-owned SMEs and MEs

## V. Agreed Priorities, Objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

In order to achieve the SMEWG's mission, as based upon the development of the SMEWG Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and in response to the 2011 SMEWG Independent Assessment, the SMEWG will work on the three overarching priority areas with the following outlined objectives to enable better focus for discussion and create direct impact on SMEs.

SMEWG projects will be measured by the key performance indicators (KPIs) for their effectiveness in achieving SMEWG objectives under each priority area. Member economies are encouraged to utilize KPIs to report on the progress of projects on a voluntary basis.

Priority Area	Objectives		Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation	Encourage Entrepreneurship and Business Start-Ups, and Provide Capacity Building Activities for SMEs and MEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide access to management information and guidance</li> <li>· Provide access to business start-up information and guidance</li> <li>· Implement programs to promote entrepreneurship to youth, women and minorities</li> <li>· Share information on new business models</li> <li>· Strengthen the capability of business development service providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Enterprise entry rate (% of registered enterprises in year <i>n</i>)</li> <li>· Enterprise exit rate (% of enterprises no longer active 2 years after establishment).</li> <li>· SME population density (number of SMEs per 1000 people)</li> <li>· Percentage of Women-owned/operated SMEs (number of SMEs owned and/or operated by women divided by the total number of SMEs)</li> </ul>
	Promote Innovation as a Key Competitive Advantage for SMEs and MEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improve SME R&amp;D performance</li> <li>· Foster innovative SMEs</li> <li>· Promote industry-academia collaborations</li> <li>· Encourage commercialization of IPR</li> <li>· Promote Exporting of IP</li> <li>· Encourage SMEs' expenditure on R&amp;D education</li> <li>· Encourage collaborative research among APEC economies</li> </ul>	
	Empower SMEs and MEs to Recognize Green Issues, and Foster Sustainable Growth and Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strengthen understanding and capability of SMEs and MEs to foster sustainable and innovative growth</li> <li>· Provide access to green related information and guidance</li> <li>· Implement programs to promote sustainable growth and energy efficiency</li> </ul>	
	Improve Natural Disaster Resilience and Ensure Business Continuity of SMEs and MEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Strengthen understanding and capability of SMEs and MEs facing natural disasters</li> <li>· Provide access to related information and guidance for SMEs and MEs to ensure business continuity</li> <li>· Implement programs to enhance natural disaster resilience of SMEs and MEs</li> </ul>	
Financing	Increase awareness and availability of wide-ranging sources of financing, from microfinance to venture capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase awareness of different forms of financing to SMEs and MEs</li> <li>· Increase availability of different forms of public institutional financing</li> <li>· Increase availability of private financing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Number of SMEs accessing financing schemes.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase availability of technical assistance funds, such as credit guarantee, to facilitate access to credit</li> <li>· Other forms of Financing not covered above</li> </ul>	

Priority Area	Objectives		Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
	Strengthening SMEs' Access to Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Improve access to financing assistance for SMEs and MEs</li> <li>· Improve access to information about financing for SMEs and MEs</li> <li>· Develop information systems for monitoring the provision of financial information</li> </ul>	
Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization	Establish Open and Transparent Business Environments for SMEs and MEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Streamline registration of business</li> <li>· Establish favorable regulatory environment for SMEs</li> <li>· Promote industrial linkages between SMEs and large firms</li> <li>· Promote government procurement opportunities for SMEs</li> </ul>	· Number of days to register a business.
	Enhance SMEs' and MEs' Capacity to Internationalize, and Assist SMEs and MEs Identify Foreign Business Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase information on market access and opportunities</li> <li>· Increase availability of information on trade and investment</li> <li>· Implement measures/programs to identify and address trade barriers facing SMEs and MEs.</li> <li>· Build SME capabilities to market products and services internationally</li> <li>· Deliver strategies to facilitate SMEs participation in international business.</li> </ul>	· Percentage of SMEs with overseas revenue.

## VI. Prioritized Implementation Schedule

The prioritized implementation schedule is updated in line with SMEWG Work Plan annually.

Objectives	Actions/Activities	Timeframe
Agreed Objectives in affiliation with priority areas to be listed below	Member economies to fill in projects that will attain related objectives annually, including APEC-funded and self-funded projects	Project Timeline
<b>Priority Area 1: Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</b>		
Encourage Entrepreneurship and Business Start-Ups, and Provide Capacity Building Activities for SMEs and MEs	Chinese Taipei: APEC Accelerator Network Initiative Activity 1: APEC Accelerator Network Forum	Completed (Taichung, 25 Mar 2014) <b>Taipei, 6-7 Aug 2014</b>
	Activity 2: <b>APEC Accelerator Network Summit 2014 and Intel Asia Pacific Challenge &amp; Siemens New Ventures Forum, with APEC</b>	
	Viet Nam: <b>APEC Train-the-Trainer Training Course for Women SME Service Exporters</b>	<b>Ho Chi Minh City, Jun 2014 (tbc)</b>
Promote Innovation as a Key Competitive Advantage for SMEs and MEs	Thailand: <b>Promoting Innovation Seminar: How Smart IPR Policies Can Encourage SMMEs' Research and Development</b>	<b>Bangkok, Sep 2014</b>
	China: <b>8<sup>th</sup> APEC SME Technology Conference and Fair (SMETC)</b>	<b>Yiwu City, Zhejiang Province, 19-22 June 2014</b>



Objectives	Actions/Activities	Timeframe
Empower SMEs and MEs to Recognize Green Issues, and Foster Sustainable Growth and Energy Efficiency		
Improve Natural Disaster Resilience and Ensure Business Continuity of SMEs and MEs	Chinese Taipei: Multi-Year Project on Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment Activity 1: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Train-the-Trainer Workshop: Certificate Program on BCP for SMEs. (hosted by Thailand) Activity 2: High Level Policy Dialogue on Resilient SMEs for Better Global Supply Chains (hosted by Chinese Taipei) <b>Activity 3 and 4: 2 train-the-trainers workshops</b>	2012-2014  Bangkok, 18-21 Feb 2014  Taichung, 24 Mar 2014  <b>2014 (tbc)</b>
<b>Priority Area 2: Finance</b>		
Increase Awareness and Availability of Wide-Ranging Sources of Financing, from Microfinance to Venture Capital	Thailand: <b>Financing APEC SME Innovation Workshop: Identifying Government Policies that Promote Venture Capital Investment in APEC Economies</b>	<b>Bangkok, 18-19 Jun 2014</b>
Strengthen SMEs' Access to Financing	Viet Nam: APEC Public - Private Dialogue on Addressing Impediments of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro Enterprises (MEs) in Accessing Trade Finance	Completed (Ha Noi, 27 – 28 Mar 2014)
	China: <b>The Seminar of Network Financing Innovation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises</b>	<b>Nanjing, 1 Sep 2014</b>
	Indonesia: Seminar on Cross Border Trade (CBT) in APEC	Completed (Bali, 4 – 5 Feb 2014)
<b>Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization</b>		
Transparent Business Environments for SMEs and MEs	The United States: Multi-Year Project : Business Ethics Capacity Building for SMEs in the Medical Devices, Construction and Bio-Pharmaceutical Sectors <b>Activity 1: APEC Construction Stakeholders Awareness Workshop</b>	2012-2014  <b>Manila, 17 June 2014</b>
	The United States: <b>APEC Business Ethics Forum: Activity 1: Building the Ethics Capacity of SMEs</b>	<b>Nanjing, 2 Sep 2014</b>
Enhance SMEs' Capacity to Internationalize, and Assist SMEs to Identify Foreign Business Opportunities	Russia: <b>Research and assessment of prospects for development of an integrated information tool to stimulate involvement of SMEs of the Asian-Pacific region into the global trade system, global production and supply chains</b>	<b>2014</b>
	The United States: Facilitating SME Integration into Global Value Chains	Completed (Taichung, 24 Mar 2014)

## VII. SMEWG Project Development and Ranking

SMEWG project proposals to develop capacity building activities should focus on issues/topics that will enable APEC member economies to achieve the priorities of this Strategic Plan. Project proposals that

have a direct link to the priorities of the SMEWG Strategic Plan 2013-2016 will be given higher ranking by the SMEWG.

#### **VIII. Review of Strategic Plan**

The SMEWG will prepare a progress report on the implementation of this Plan, and against the KPIs, for submission to APEC SME Ministers before the end of 2014. A final review of Strategic Plan 2013-2016 and a Strategic Plan 2017-2020 will be presented to APEC SME Ministers before the end of 2016.

**2. Anticipated Activities and/or Proposed Workplan with outside organizations in response to Leaders' and Ministers' calls for greater engagement**

Objectives	Timeframe	Actions/Activities	Host Economy	External Participants
<b>Priority Area 1: Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</b>				
Encourage Entrepreneurship and Business Start-Ups, and Provide Capacity Building Activities for SMEs and MEs	2014	APEC Accelerator Network Initiative	Chinese Taipei	ABAC, private sector companies
	2014	APEC Train-the-Trainer Training Course for Women SME Service Exporters	Viet Nam	PPWE, SME/women's associations
	2014	Facilitating SME Integration into Global Value Chains	The United States	APEC Committee on Trade and Investment, ABAC, private sector
Promote Innovation as a Key Competitive Advantage for SMEs and MEs	2013-2014	Promoting Innovation Seminar: How Smart IPR Policies Can Encourage SMMEs' Research and Development	Thailand	APEC Committee on Trade and Investment, APEC Intellectual Property Expert Group (IPEG)
Empower SMEs and MEs to Recognize Green Issues, and Foster Sustainable Growth and Energy Efficiency	-	-	-	-
Improve Natural Disaster Resilience and Ensure Business Continuity of SMEs and MEs	2012-2014	Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment	Chinese Taipei	Companies from private sector and international organization regarding natural disaster resilience
<b>Priority Area 2: Finance</b>				
Increase Awareness and Availability of Wide-Ranging Sources of Financing, from Microfinance to Venture Capital	2013-2014	Financing APEC SME Innovation Workshop: Identifying Government Policies that Promote Venture Capital Investment in APEC Economies	Thailand	APEC Committee on Trade and Investment, APEC Business Advisory Council
Strengthen SMEs' Access to Financing	2013-2014	APEC Public - Private Dialogue on Addressing Impediments of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro Enterprises (MEs) in Accessing Trade Finance	Viet Nam	Export credit agencies, SMEs, MEs
	2014	The Seminar of Network Financing Innovation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	China	-

Objectives	Timeframe	Actions/Activities	Host Economy	External Participants
	2013-2014	Seminar on Cross Border Trade (CBT) in APEC	Indonesia	-
<b>Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization</b>				
Transparent Business Environments for SMEs and MEs	2014	APEC Business Ethics Forum: Building the Ethics Capacity of SMEs	The United States	ABAC, APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum, APEC Health Working Group, APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group
Enhance SMEs' Capacity to Internationalize, and Assist SMEs to Identify Foreign Business Opportunities	2013-2014	Research and assessment of prospects for development of an integrated information tool to stimulate involvement of SMEs of the Asian-Pacific region into the global trade system, global production and supply chains	Russia	APEC Committee on Trade and Investment, Ministry for Economic Development of the Russian Federation
	2013-2016	APEC SME Monitoring Index SME Internationalization Index	SMEWG	APEC PSU (tbc)

### **3. Identify cross-cutting issues and explain how they will be coordinated across fora.**

#### **a. SME integration into global supply and value chains:**

Following up on the recommendations of the 2012 SME Ministerial Meeting statement, at the 36<sup>th</sup> SMEWG Meeting the Chair proposed that the SMEWG directly promote the integration of MEs and SMEs into global supply and value chains. Acting on this proposal, Australia and the United States developed a comprehensive blueprint on global supply and value chains with six proposed projects beginning in 2014. Each of these projects would address specific cross-cutting issues dealing with SME integration into these production chains, including intellectual property, financing, and cross-border regulations. The proposed projects would engage closely with relevant APEC fora including SFOM, IPEG, SCSC, CTI, HRDWG, PPWE and others as necessary by project leads. The United States will be the host economy for the first project, “Facilitating SME Integration into Global Value Chains.”

#### **b. APEC SME Monitoring Index**

At the 36<sup>th</sup> SMEWG, the Chair noted the need for a SME Monitoring Index to accurately and reliably gauge the health of SMEs across APEC economies. This need for an index, particularly one that monitors women’s participation in SMEs, was emphasized by the statement of the 2013 High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy. A preliminary survey of monitoring indicators were presented to the SMEWG at the 37<sup>th</sup> SMEWG, during which member economies agreed to establish a reliable index with high quality indicators with special emphasis to index relating to SME internationalization by 2016. The index will be available for use for all APEC fora. At the 38<sup>th</sup> SMEWG, the Chair committed to submitting a request on behalf of the SMEWG to the PSU to investigate possible monitoring indexes for SME’s internationalization.

#### **c. Business Ethics**

The SMEWG will continue building on the multi-year project “Business Ethics Capacity Building for SMEs in the Medical Devices, Construction and Bio-Pharmaceutical Sectors” which began in 2011 and will end in 2014. The project has actively engaged and closely worked with other APEC fora including the APEC Health Working Group, APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum, and the APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group, as well as external stakeholders.

The SMEWG will, in coordination with above-mentioned external stakeholder, implement the first activity of APEC Business Ethics Forum: Building the Ethics Capacity of SMEs at the margins of the SME Ministerial Meeting (Nanjing, September 2014).

#### **d. Continued engagement with ABAC**

In 2013, the SMEWG reiterated its continued interest in engaging deeply with ABAC on events and policy development in 2014 to support SMEs. ABAC representatives at the 37<sup>th</sup> SMEWG Meeting presented their plan to support policy development for SMEs in three areas: promoting creation of new businesses and new business models through innovation; facilitating the use of ICT technologies to empower SME access to the international markets; and promoting sustainability of businesses, and in particular, in SME’s access to finance. ABAC will play an important supporting role in several SMEWG projects in 2014 including the “APEC Accelerator Network,” “Facilitating SME Integration into Global Value Chains,” “Financing APEC SME Innovation Workshop,” and the “APEC Business Ethics Forum.” In addition, the SMEWG will coordinate more closely with ABAC through the attendance of the ABAC 1 Meeting and increased participation of ABAC at APEC fora, as well as support for SMEWG initiatives to increase SME resilience through business continuity plans. SMEWG also supports ABAC activities, among which is the APEC-Open Innovative Platform (A-OIP) to strengthen ICT capacity of SMEs.

#### 4. Progress on Developing/Implementing the Fora Strategic Plan

##### A. SMEWG Progress on Projects and Activities in 2013

In 2013, the SMEWG completed 15 activities/events in 12 projects.

At the 36<sup>th</sup> SMEWG, the Chair discussed nine key issues of work that different Leaders' Statements had recommended the SMEWG address. Through work at the 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> SMEWG Meetings and inter-sessional work by member economies, the SMEWG has addressed the outstanding issues through APEC-approved proposals.

The chart below lists the SMEWG's priority areas and objectives, as well as the identified priorities of the Leaders' Statements and the projects that have addressed those issues in 2013.

Objective	Leaders' Statements Identified Priorities	Projects and Activities Completed in 2013
<b>Priority Area 1: Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</b>		
Encourage entrepreneurship and business start-ups, and provide capacity building activities for SMEs and MEs	Women's participation in SMEs and MEs	Facilitation of women's business with the use of OVOP method in APEC region (Japan) Seminar on the Dynamics of SME – Informality and Women Entrepreneurship (Indonesia)
	Youth participation in SMEs and MEs	APEC Startup Accelerator Initiative –APEC Startup Accelerator Leadership Summit 2013 (Chinese Taipei)
	Start-up development and provision of research tools	
	-	APEC International Symposium and Workshop on Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs through the Innovative Cooperative Business Model (Peru)
Promote Innovation as a Key Competitive Advantage for SMEs and MEs	Intellectual property rights protection	Promoting Innovation Seminar: How Smart IPR Policies Can Encourage SMMEs' Research and Development (Thailand)
Empower SMEs and MEs to Recognize Green Issues, and Foster Sustainable Growth and Energy Efficiency	Green and Innovative SMEs	APEC Green Technology Initiative – Establish Green Technology Innovation Network to Support SME Development (Indonesia)
		APEC Green Business Forum (Korea)
		APEC Carbon-Labeling Workshop (Korea)
Improve Natural Disaster Resilience and Ensure Business Continuity of SMEs and MEs	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Focal Point and Expert Meeting APEC Symposium and Train-the Trainer Workshop on Promoting SME Business Continuity Plans

Objective	Leaders' Statements Identified Priorities	Projects and Activities Completed in 2013
		<i>Part of the Multi-year Project on Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment (Chinese Taipei)</i>
<b>Priority Area 2: Financing</b>		
Increase awareness and availability of wide-ranging sources of financing, from microfinance to venture capital	Angel and venture capital	Financing APEC SME Innovation Workshop: Identifying Government Policies that Promote Venture Capital Investment in APEC Economies (Thailand)
Strengthen SMEs' Access to Financing	Increase SMMEs access to financing	APEC SME Trade Finance Conference (USA)
<b>Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization</b>		
Establish Open and Transparent Business Environments for SMEs and MEs	Corruption as barrier for SMMEs	Business Ethics Compliance Train-the-Trainer Workshop  Workshop on Stakeholder Awareness for the Healthcare sector  <i>Part of the multi-year Business Ethics Capacity Building for SMEs in the Medical Devices, Construction and Bio-Pharmaceutical Sectors (USA)</i>
Enhance SMEs' and MEs' Capacity to Internationalize, and Assist SMEs and MEs Identify Foreign Business Opportunities	Improving global supply chains	Facilitating SME Integration into Global Value Chains (USA)
	Removing trade and investment barriers	APEC SME Workshop on Reducing High Transportation and related Costs (Chinese Taipei)
	Internationalization and export-readiness of SMEs	Directory of Initiatives Available in APEC Economies to Assist SMEs' Access Global Markets (Australia) APEC Start-up Conference II: Business to Global Market (Peru)

## **B. Review of KPIs**

Following an assessment by an independent consultant, APEC sub-fora were asked by APEC Leaders at the SCE 3 Meeting to make their strategic plans more clear and their key performance indicators (KPIs) more measurable. Through inter-sessional work, the SMEWG has revised the SMEWG Strategic Plan 2013-2016 to produce higher quality and more measurable KPIs. The full list of KPIs broken down by Priority Area is included in Appendix 1.

## **C. APEC SME Roadmap**

The SMEWG has implemented more than 20 projects since embarking on the 2013-2016 Strategic Workplan, addressing a wide range of topics relevant to promoting SME growth and internationalization. However, not all aspects of the Workplan have been addressed. The following issues have not been touched on through APEC SMEWG projects (a more detailed list is available in Annex 2). This list can be used to guide further project development in the SMEWG in 2014 and beyond.

### **Priority Area 1: Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

- Provide access to management information and guidance
- Improve SME R&D performance
- Promote industry-academia collaborations
- Encourage SMEs' expenditure on R&D education
- Encourage collaborative research among APEC economies
- Provide access to related information and guidance for SMEs and MEs to ensure business continuity

### **Priority Area 2: Finance**

- Increase availability of different forms of public institutional financing
- Increase availability of technical assistance funds, such as credit guarantee, to facilitate access to credit
- Increase availability of other forms of financing not covered above

### **Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization**

- Streamline registration of business
- Establish favorable regulatory environment for SMEs
- Promote industrial linkages between SMEs and large firms
- Promote government procurement opportunities for SMEs

## **5. SMEWG Fora Initiatives for 2014**

### **A. Addressing Leaders' Statements and Outstanding Issues**

In preparing the 2014 SMEWG Workplan, the SMEWG received instructions and recommendations for action from a host of APEC Leaders and Fora, including:

- 2013 APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting Joint Ministerial Statement
- 2013 APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting Joint Ministerial Statement
- 2013 High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy Statement
- 2013 Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Women
- ABAC Letter to Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade
- Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade
- The 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration

An analysis of these instructions and recommendations (a full list is attached in Annex 3) reveals several areas that the SMEWG should address, namely:

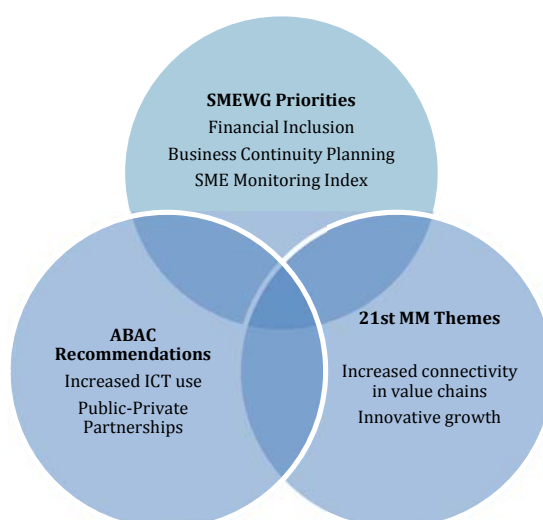


- **Financial inclusion and literacy:** enhancing the ability of SMEs and poor people to engage with the financial system through financial literacy programs and expand the number of financial options available to poor people and SMEs. The SMEWG agreed in 38<sup>th</sup> SMEWG Meeting in Taichung, Chinese Taipei to take a brief survey inter-sessionally on the status of financial literacy for SMEs in APEC economies.
- **ICT and SMEs:** Building the capacity of SMEs to effectively use information communications technology (ICT) so that they can: exchange information more quickly and effectively; expand and trade internationally more easily; offer their products and services more readily. The SMEWG committed in 38<sup>th</sup> SMEWG Meeting in Taichung, Chinese Taipei to collaborate with ABAC on the A-OIP and invited member economies to nominate representatives for the steering committee of this new platform, which will hold its first meeting on April 17 and 19 2014.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Enhance competitiveness of SMEs through Private-Public Partnerships through start-up accelerators and business incubators and linkages to the private sector.
- **Trade Finance And Regulatory Barriers:** taking appropriate measures to create and support policies, regulations and programs to benefit SMEs by facilitating and supporting trade finance instruments, reviewing the Basel III rules on risk weighting, decreasing regulatory barriers to trade finance and investment, and implementing appropriate regulations to assist SMEs.

In addition, member economies have also noted other issues that the SMEWG has not directly or recently addressed, including:

- **Business Continuity Planning:** assisting SMEs develop BCPs in order to be better prepared in case of disruptions.

The following chart is based on these priorities identified, as well as those highlighted by China as the host economy for the 21<sup>st</sup> SME Ministerial Meeting and ABAC Recommendations for the SMEWG.



## B. SMEWG Objectives for 2014

Based on the priorities mentioned in 5A, the SMEWG will work with other fora to address the following issues which combine aspects of all the priorities identified in the chart above:

### **Financial inclusion and literacy:**

As noted by the Leaders' Statements, despite the availability of loans and other financing options for MEs and SMEs throughout the APEC region, many entrepreneurs and small business owners lack the financial literacy needed to navigate the potentially complex of obtaining financing for their businesses. The APEC Finance Ministers' Process (FMP) has implemented several initiatives dealing with financial inclusion and literacy and regularly holds a meeting on APEC Financial Institutions Dealing with SMEs. In 2014, the SMEWG will work with the FMP to develop an initiative that complements FMP's work and provides SMEs in the APEC region with greater access to finance through financial literacy programs. The SMEWG will also carry out a survey on SME literacy in the Asia – Pacific region.

### **Shaping the Future Through Asia-Pacific Partnership**

“Shaping the Future Through Asia-Pacific Partnership” is the theme of the 21<sup>st</sup> SME Ministerial Meeting which will be held in September 2014 in Nanjing, China. Underlying this theme is the need for greater economic integration and interconnectivity. The SMEWG will continue to focus on ways to promote the regionalization and internationalization of SMEs in the APEC region throughout 2014 by exploring ways of promoting the internationalization of SMEs through ICT tools, as noted by the Leaders' Statements, and by addressing trade finance and other regulatory barriers (the SMEWG has worked on such efforts in the past). In addition, the SMEWG will discuss methods of advancing the creation of a SME Monitoring Index which will serve as a tool for monitoring the health and trends of SMEs throughout the region.

### **Public-Private Partnerships and SMEs**

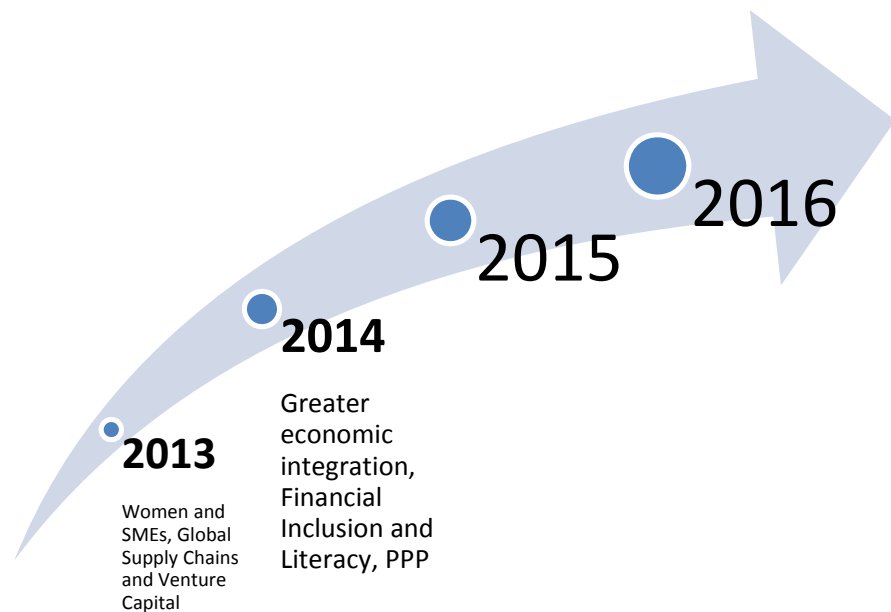
The SMEWG in 2014 will seek greater involvement in creating public-private partnerships that benefit SMEs. Establishing strong linkages between government organizations and private companies can provide benefits to SMEs through initiatives like business incubators and start-up accelerators, as implemented by Chinese Taipei in 2013. Through close collaboration with ABAC, the SMEWG will continue to support these initiatives and form new partnerships that focus on building the resilience of SMEs through business continuity plans. This can be done in conjunction with independent entities like the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

### **C. Strategic Roadmap for SMEWG**

At SMEWG Meetings in 2014, the fora will discuss ways of creating a coherent plan of action for the remaining years of the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan to ensure that SMEWG objectives and KPIs are met. A list of fora work towards achieving KPIs is located in Annex 2.

## **6. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2014**

- **Priority Area 1: Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship and Innovation**
  - Creation of an effective startup accelerator network among APEC member economies, allowing innovative SMEs to benefit through a business incubation and acceleration process.
  - Training of trainers for women SME service exporters.
  - Knowledge sharing and implementation of effective intellectual property laws to spur SME innovation.



- **Priority Area 2: Financing**
  - Strengthen SMEs ability to access forms of financing like venture capital and trade finance.
  - Improve the financing environment of SMEs through knowledge sharing on cross-border trade and networking financing.
  
- **Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization**
  - Continue building a transparent business environment for SMEs through ethics trainings and compliance with ethics principles.
  - Produce a report on the prospects for an integrated information tool to stimulate involvement of SMEs in the APEC region.
  - Create an enabling environment for SMEs to integrate into global value chains.
  - Further develop APEC SME Monitoring Index on SMEs Internationalization.
  
- **Cross-Cutting Collaboration**
  - Continue close engagement with ABAC in projects and through meetings between ABAC representatives and SMEWG member economies.
  - Engage APEC fora on cross-cutting SMEWG projects to increase the project's effectiveness and impact and encourage further collaboration across fora.

**ANNEX 1: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Description (2013 - 2016)</b>
<b>Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</b>	1. Encourage Entrepreneurship and Business start-ups, and Provide Capacity Building Activities for SMEs and MEs	1.1. Enterprise entry rate 1.2. Enterprise exit rate 1.3. SME population density 1.4. Percentage of Women-owned/operated SMEs	1.1. % of registered enterprise in a year 1.2. % of enterprises no longer active 2 years after establishment 1.3. number of SMEs per 1000 people 1.4. number of SMEs owned and/or operated by women divided by the total number of SMEs
	2. Promote Innovation as a Key Competitive Advantage for SMEs and MEs		
	3. Empower SMEs and MEs to Recognize Green Issues, and Foster Sustainable Growth and Energy Efficiency		
	4. Improve Natural Disaster Resilience and Ensure Business Continuity of SMEs and MEs		
<b>Financing</b>	1. Increase awareness and availability of wide-ranging sources of financing, from microfinance to venture capital.	1.1 Number of SMEs accessing financing schemes.	
	2. Increase implementation of best practices in the area of financing for SMEs		

	3. Increase exchange of resources in the area of financial initiatives for SMEs		
	4. Increase SMEs access to financing		
	5. Availability of financial initiative report		
<b>Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization</b>	1. Establish Open and Transparent Business Environments for SMEs and MEs	1.1. Number of days to register a business	
	2. Enhance SMEs' and MEs' Capacity to Internationalize, and Assist SMEs and MEs Identify Foreign Business Opportunities	2.1. Percentage of SMEs with overseas revenue	

**ANNEX 2: SMEWG Strategic Plan Roadmap**

*Pink squares indicate KPIs that have not been addressed in 2013 and 2014 Prioritized Implementation Schedules.*

Objective		Projects Implemented (Projects may repeat on different KPIs)			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Priority Area 1: Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</b>					
Encourage Entrepreneurship and Business Start-Ups, and Provide Capacity Building Activities for SMEs and MEs	Provide access to management information and guidance				
	Provide access to business start-up information and guidance	Chinese Taipei: APEC Startup Accelerator Initiative – Startup Leadership Summit	Chinese Taipei: APEC Accelerator Network		
	Implement programs to promote entrepreneurship to youth, women and minorities	Indonesia: Seminar on the Dynamics of SMEs: Informality and Women Entrepreneurship (initiated 2012)	Viet Nam: APEC Train-the-Trainer Training Course for Women SME Service Exporters		
		Japan: Facilitation of women's business with the use of OVOP method in the APEC region			
	Share information on new business models	Peru: APEC International Symposium and Workshop on Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs through the Innovative Cooperative Business Model (initiated 2012)			

Objective		Projects Implemented (Projects may repeat on different KPIs)			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
	Strengthen the capability of business development service providers		Viet Nam: APEC Train-the-Trainer Training Course for Women SME Service Exporters		
Promote Innovation as a Key Competitive Advantage for SMEs and MEs	Improve SME R&D performance				
	Foster innovative SMEs	Chinese Taipei: APEC Startup Accelerator Initiative – Startup Leadership Summit	Chinese Taipei: APEC Accelerator Network		
			China: The 8th APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Technology Conference and Fair (APEC SMETC)		
	Promote industry-academia collaborations				
	Encourage commercialization of IPR		Thailand: Promoting Innovation Seminar: How Smart IPR Policies Can Encourage SMMEs’ Research and Development		
Promote Exporting of IP		Thailand: Promoting Innovation Seminar: How Smart IPR Policies Can Encourage SMMEs’ Research and Development			

Objective		Projects Implemented (Projects may repeat on different KPIs)			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
	Encourage SMEs' expenditure on R&D education				
	Encourage collaborative research among APEC economies		Research and Assessment of Prospects for Development of an Integrated Information Tool to Stimulate Involvement of SMEs of the Asian-Pacific Region into the Global Trade System, Global Production and Supply Chains		
Empower SMEs and MEs to Recognize Green Issues, and Foster Sustainable Growth and Energy Efficiency	Strengthen understanding and capability of SMEs and MEs to foster sustainable and innovative growth	Korea: APEC Green Business Forum - Preparing SMEs for International Green Supply Chains			
		Korea: APEC Carbon Labeling Workshop			
		Indonesia: APEC Green Technology Initiative – Establish Green Technology Innovation Network to Support SME Development			
	Provide access to green related information and guidance	Korea: APEC Green Business Forum - Preparing SMEs for International Green Supply Chain			



Objective		Projects Implemented (Projects may repeat on different KPIs)			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
		Korea: APEC Carbon Labeling Workshop (initiated 2012)			
	Implement programs to promote sustainable growth and energy efficiency	Korea: APEC Carbon Labeling Workshop (initiated 2012)			
Improve Natural Disaster Resilience and Ensure Business Continuity of SMEs and MEs	Strengthen understanding and capability of SMEs and MEs facing natural disasters	Chinese Taipei: Multi-Year Project: Improving Natural Disaster Resilience of APEC SMEs to Facilitate Trade and Investment			
	Implement programs to enhance natural disaster resilience of SMEs and MEs				
	Provide access to related information and guidance for SMEs and MEs to ensure business continuity				
<b>Priority Area 2: Finance</b>					
Increase awareness and availability of wide-ranging sources of financing, from	Increase awareness of different forms of financing to SMEs and MEs		Thailand: Financing APEC SME Innovation Workshop: Identifying Government Policies that Promote Venture Capital Investment in APEC Economies		

Objective		Projects Implemented (Projects may repeat on different KPIs)			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
microfinance to venture capital	Increase availability of different forms of public institutional financing				
	Increase availability of private financing		Thailand: Financing APEC SME Innovation Workshop: Identifying Government Policies that Promote Venture Capital Investment in APEC Economies		
	Increase availability of technical assistance funds, such as credit guarantee, to facilitate access to credit				
	Other forms of financing not covered above				
Strengthening SMEs' Access to Financing	Improve access to financing assistance for SMEs and MEs	The United States: APEC SME Trade Finance Conference (initiated 2012)	Viet Nam: APEC Public - Private Dialogue on Addressing Impediments of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro Enterprises (MEs) in Accessing Trade Finance		
			China: The Seminar of Network Financing Innovation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises		

Objective		Projects Implemented (Projects may repeat on different KPIs)			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
			Indonesia: Seminar on Cross Border Trade (CBT) in APEC		
	Improve access to information about financing for SMEs and MEs				
	Develop information systems for monitoring the provision of financial information				
<b>Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization</b>					
Establish Open and Transparent Business Environments for SMEs and MEs	Streamline registration of business				
	Establish favorable regulatory environment for SMEs				
	Promote industrial linkages between SMEs and large firms				
	Promote government procurement opportunities for SMEs				
	Transparent business environments	The United States: Multi-Year Project : Business Ethics Capacity Building for SMEs in the Medical Devices, Construction and Bio-Pharmaceutical Sectors			

Objective		Projects Implemented (Projects may repeat on different KPIs)				
		2013	2014	2015	2016	
			The United States: APEC Business Ethics Forum: Building the Ethics Capacity for SMEs			
Enhance SMEs' and MEs' Capacity to Internationalize, and Assist SMEs and MEs Identify Foreign Business Opportunities	Increase information on market access and opportunities	Australia: Directory of initiatives available in APEC Economies to Assist SMEs' access to Global Markets	Russia: Research and assessment of prospects for development of an integrated information tool to stimulate involvement of SMEs of the Asian-Pacific region into the global trade system, global production and supply chains			
	Increase availability of information on trade and investment	Indonesia: SME Seminar on Cross Border Trade	Russia: Research and assessment of prospects for development of an integrated information tool to stimulate involvement of SMEs of the Asian-Pacific region into the global trade system, global production and supply chains			
	Implement measures and programs to identify and address trade barriers facing SMEs and MEs	Indonesia: SME Seminar on Cross Border Trade				
		Chinese Taipei: APEC SME Workshop on Reducing High Transportation and related Costs (initiated 2012)				

Objective	Projects Implemented (Projects may repeat on different KPIs)			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Build SME capabilities to market products and services internationally	Peru: APEC Start-Up Conference II: Business to global market (initiated 2012)	The United States: Facilitating SME Integration into Global Value Chains		
	Korea: APEC Green Business Forum - Preparing SMEs for International Green Supply Chain			
Deliver strategies to facilitate SMEs participation in international business		The United States: Facilitating SME Integration into Global Value Chains		

**ANNEX 3: Actions Recommended by Leaders' Statements**

Objective	Theme	Recommended Action	Leaders' Statements Calling for Action
<b>Priority Area 1: Building Management Capability, Entrepreneurship and Innovation</b>			
Encourage Entrepreneurship and Business Start-Ups, and Provide Capacity Building Activities for SMEs and MEs	Financial Inclusion And Literacy	Enhance the ability of SMEs and poor people to engage with the financial system through financial literacy programs and expand the number of financial options available to poor people and SMEs.	2013 APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting Joint Ministerial Statement  The 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration
	Strengthen Capacity Of Women-Owned SMEs	Strengthen the capacities of women-owned and operated SMEs through measures including: increased collaboration between SMEWG and PPWE; business management, IPR and other skills training for women; development of gender-responsive entrepreneurship policies; ICT support; and equal opportunities for education and employment for women.	2013 High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy Statement  2013 Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Women  The 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration
	ICT and SMEs	Build the capacity of SMEs to effectively use information communications technology (ICT) so that they can: exchange information more quickly and effectively; expand and trade internationally more easily; offer their products and services more readily.	ABAC Letter to Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade  The 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration  2013 High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy Statement

Objective	Theme	Recommended Action	Leaders' Statements Calling for Action
	Public-Private Partnerships	Enhance competitiveness of SMEs through Private-Public Partnerships through start-up accelerators and business incubators and linkages to the private sector.	2013 APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting Joint Ministerial Statement  2013 Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Women
	Summits, International Forums and Start Up Accelerators	Encourage the holding of start-up accelerators, international SME summits, and business incubators to provide support to innovative SMEs.	2013 APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting Joint Ministerial Statement  ABAC Letter to Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade
	Global Supply/Value Chains	Facilitate the entry of SMEs into global supply/value chains and meet the APEC-wide 2015 supply chain performance target.	Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade
Promote Innovation as a Key Competitive Advantage for SMEs and MEs	Intellectual Property Rights	Improve the ability of SMEs, particularly women innovators, to understand and use IPR.	2013 Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Women
Empower SMEs and MEs to Recognize Green Issues, and Foster Sustainable Growth and Energy Efficiency			
Improve Natural Disaster			

Objective	Theme	Recommended Action	Leaders' Statements Calling for Action
Resilience and Ensure Business Continuity of SMEs and MEs			
<b>Priority Area 2: Finance</b>			
Increase Awareness and Availability of Wide-Ranging Sources of Financing, from Microfinance to Venture Capital	Venture Capital, Seed Capital, Microfinance and non-traditional financing	Increase the ability of SMEs to access non-traditional forms of funding including angel, venture and seed capital and microfinance by promoting policies and programs to that incentivize these investments.	<p>2013 Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Women</p> <p>ABAC Letter to Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade</p> <p>2013 APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting Joint Ministerial Statement</p>
Strengthen SMEs' Access to Financing	Trade Finance And Regulatory Barriers	Take appropriate measures to create and support policies, regulations and programs to benefit SMEs by facilitating and supporting trade finance instruments, reviewing the Basel III rules on risk weighting, decreasing regulatory barriers to trade finance and investment, and implementing appropriate regulations to assist SMEs.	<p>2013 APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting Joint Ministerial Statement</p> <p>Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade</p> <p>ABAC Letter to APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade</p> <p>The 21st APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration</p>
<b>Priority Area 3: Business Environment, Market Access and Internationalization</b>			



<b>Objective</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Recommended Action</b>	<b>Leaders' Statements Calling for Action</b>
Transparent Business Environments for SMEs and MEs	Business Ethics	Support the enforcement of APEC ethics principles through effective anti-corruption regulations and legislation and work with industry groups to teach business ethics.	ABAC Letter to Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade
Enhance SMEs' Capacity to Internationalize, and Assist SMEs to Identify Foreign Business Opportunities	Monitoring Index	Collect data on SME performance, including on women-owned SMEs, in order to provide data to inform policy and program development.	2013 High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy Statement