



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2016/SOM2/HRDWG/010**

Agenda Item: 14.1

## **Adoption of the HRDWG Annual Work Plan 2016**

Purpose: Consideration

Submitted by: Acting HRDWG Lead Shepherd

Forum Doc. No.: 2016/SOM1/SCE-COW/022



**Human Resources Development Working  
Group Plenary Meeting  
Arequipa, Peru  
7-10 May 2016**

## **PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR 2016**

Forum: Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG)

Cooperation on human resource development is important to fulfilling APEC's trade and investment goals, leading to economic growth and greater social cohesion and wellbeing in member economies.

The proposed workplan 2016 is guided mainly by:

- the 6<sup>th</sup> APEC HRD Ministerial Joint Statement (2014) and associated HRD Ministerial Action Plan (2015-2018), with its focus on “Promoting quality employment and strengthening people-to-people connectivity through HRD”;
- the 5<sup>th</sup> APEC Education Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement (2012), “Envisioning together for the future and hope”;
- Joint Ministerial Statement 2015 of the 2015 APEC Ministerial Meeting;
- the Joint Statement of the 2015 APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Human Capacity Building;
- the Joint Statement of the 2015 APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology in Higher Education;
- The theme “Quality Growth and Human Development” and priority area of “Developing Human Capital” of the APEC 2016.

Other key influences on the workplan are:

- *the 2015 APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration*, “Building inclusive economies, building a better world: a vision for an Asia-Pacific community”;
- *the 2014 Leaders' Declaration, Annex B – APEC Strategic Blueprint for Promoting Global Value Chains (GVC)*, specifically their encouragement for officials to enhance the resiliency of GVCs through developing new and needed skills as well as providing sufficient vocational training in meeting needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century talent;
- *the 2014 Leaders' Declaration, Annex C – APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth*, specifically their encouragement for officials to “elaborate various academic mobility schemes and mechanisms, including voluntary implementation of the APEC Virtual Academic Mobility Card Initiative”;
- *the 2013 Leaders' Declaration, Annex A – People-to-People connectivity* for advancing work on cross-border education, science, technology and innovation, services, as well as expanding the facilitation of movement of people;
- *the 2012 Leaders' Declaration, Annex D – Promoting Cross-Border Education Cooperation*, specifically their encouragement for Ministers and officials to “further develop, on a voluntary basis, consistent with individual economies' circumstances, cross-border education cooperation and facilitation of exchange in education services within APEC”.

## **1. Proposed Work plan for 2016 in Response to Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, and to ABAC recommendations.**

HRDWG will undertake the following actions:

1.1. Coordinate the 2016 APEC Education Ministerial Meeting, co-chaired by Peru, as host, and Russia to advance work on cross-border education, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, educational innovation, work-integrated learning, qualifications frameworks, among others.

1.2. Continue follow-up actions for developing the achievements and directions of Education Ministers in 2012:

- *Gyeongju Initiative – Education Cooperation Project (ECP)*. As the initiative adopted at the 5th AEMM, ECP will make a report on the APEC Education Cooperation Strategies at the 6th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting (AEMM). It aims to identify future directions to improve regional cooperation in education aligned by understanding the needs and benefits of the cooperation for all APEC member economies and develop educational cooperation strategies and models by presenting the best practices, success factors and guidelines of education cooperation.

1.3. Continue implementation of the APEC HRD Action Plan (2015-2018) on Promoting Quality Employment and Strengthening People-to-People Connectivity through HRD as recognized in the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement of the 6th Human Resources Development Ministerial Meeting (HRDMM6) and its initiatives directed towards vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society, such as persons with disabilities, women and youth, as well as mobile workers, in accordance with domestic circumstances:

- *A workshop on youth employment*. HRDWG will hold a workshop on youth employment, including strategies to improve school-to-work transitions, as part of its annual meeting in May 2016;
- *Workshop concerning people with disability*. HRDWG is to meet alongside the APEC Group of Friends on Disability in May 2015 to discuss project activities, building on the call made by Senior Officials' Tasking Statements in 2015 and 2016 for collaboration between the two groups on the education, training and employment of people with disability;
- *Improvements in outplacement services for mature age workers*. A new project will be explored to share best practices concerning employment assistance for mature age workers at risk of unemployment and in light of ageing populations in the Asia-Pacific;
- *Workshop on best practices in expanding women's education, recruitment and retention*. A workshop will be considered for mid-2016 in collaboration with the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy;
- *Implementing the policy toolkit developed to promote Healthy Women, Healthy Economies*. A workshop is proposed for the third quarter of 2016 as part of collaboration between HRDWG, the Health Working Group and Policy

Partnership on Women and the Economy, to follow-up on the first stage of work completed on this theme in 2015.

1.4. Develop work programs aimed at achieving the goals of the Port Moresby Joint Statement on the 2015 High-Level Policy Dialogue on Human Capacity Building to enhance strategic cooperation in human capital development geared towards identifying and developing 21st century skills that are aligned with global education and training best practices, and that increase people's employability, mobility, productivity, and ability to respond to emerging business demands, in accordance with domestic circumstances:

- *Scope a capacity building strategy for effective program delivery in human resource development and employment;*
- *Generating self-employment and entrepreneurs, including among older workers;*
- *Reach out to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Working Group concerning the human capital needs of SMEs, assist with their modernization and insertion in global value chains;*
- *Developing 21st Century Skilled Workers;*
- *Capacity Building for SMEs.*

1.5. Continue voluntary efforts to advance human resource development competitiveness in the region in accordance with domestic circumstances, to facilitate the mobility of skilled labor and professionals, and to ensure the quality of skills and competencies that meet the supply chain demands of the region:

- *Further development of the APEC Labor Market Portal.* The Portal will be further developed, with a broader range of economy contributions, to enhance its capacity to provide regional labour market information and skills mapping assistance, helping to further align education and training with regional labour market needs;
- *Development of a policy framework to enhance labour mobility in the APEC region.* An APEC framework for action on labour mobility, containing a broad-ranging menu of policy issues, will be developed for consideration during the HRDWG annual meeting in May. This will build on a general research project in 2015 and a specific project highlighting gaps in social protection for global workers;
- *Sharing best practices on seasonal labour mobility.* A new project will be initiated to share best practices concerning seasonal labour mobility with respect to APEC origin and destination economies. The project is aligned with the APEC Connectivity Blueprint;
- *Workshop on the development of the tourism workforce.* HRDWG will participate in a new project led by the Tourism Working Group on the development of a mobile and skilled tourism workforce, with a workshop to be held in mid-2016. The project seeks to address multiple APEC priorities at an industrial level, such as for inclusive growth, alignment of training with labour market needs, and connectivity;

- *Development of an integrated referencing framework for skills recognition and mobility.* HRDWG will explore and further refine the concept of an integrated referencing framework, building on an establishment project in 2015-16, in preparation for a workshop in early 2017. This would be complemented by separate project activity to modify the APEC Labour Market Portal to accommodate the APEC regional occupational standards;
- *Development of occupational standards in the transport and logistics sector.* A second phase of activity will be followed in 2016 to extend the project to a broader range of APEC economies and additional occupation. A ‘train-the-trainer’ pilot will also be undertaken;
- *APEC Occupational Standards Framework draft pilot in the tourism sector.* HRDWG proposes to pilot the draft APEC Occupational Standards Project in the tourism sector in late 2016, to complement a similar initiative in the transport and logistics sector;
- *Further development of the APEC Vocational Training Project in Cooperation with Enterprises.* This project would continue to evolve to promote greater alignment between the development of skills and the needs of business;
- *Explore a new project on occupational health and safety (OHS), with a focus on mining.* HRDWG will explore a new project to aid the pursuit of sustainable development in mining (to promote regional integration, foster investment and increase social responsibility), with a focus on occupational health and safety. Sound OHS is one of the economic and social considerations of mining, and this project is consistent with a call for work in this space by the Senior Officials’ Tasking Statement for 2016;
- *Dual System of Vocational Education and Training to Improve Employability, Productivity and Competitiveness of the APEC Work Force.* Reduce the gap between education offerings and the demand of professionals, through the development of recommendations about the strategies and basic conditions to apply Dual Systems of Vocational Education and Training. These Dual systems alternate the learning process between the education institution and the place of work;
- *Skills Training and Development in Industry-Academia Collaboration Models.* A follow-up Workshop will be implemented to allow participants an opportunity to look deeper into the benefits and challenges faced in the implementation of industry-academia collaboration;
- *Systematic Design of Green Skills Development in TVET.* In order to improve the development of green economy and sustainable development in APEC region, China applied a project titled Systematic Design of Green Skills Development in TVET, which will last until the end of 2016. The project is fulfilling the developmental goals of “The APEC Leaders’ Growth Strategy”, which are “Balanced, Inclusive, Sustainable, Innovative, and Secure Growth”;
- *A Comparative Study of National and Regional Qualification Framework (NQF) for Economic Integration in APEC Region.* The qualification framework is a policy tool that connects and integrates students’ learning attainment in various contexts and hence is the key to student and labor mobility across APEC economies. In response to increasing demand for student and labor mobility, the proposed project intends to study the policy and

reform related to qualification framework in APEC economies, including case studies of best practices of development of competencies standards and qualification frameworks concerning education institutions at various levels and of various types. By synthesizing lessons and experiences of APEC economies, the project will produce a manual on development of qualification framework to contribute to economic integration in the Asia Pacific Region;

- *Chinese Taipei—International Business Consulting Program in Chinese Taipei.* Chinese Taipei has set up this program to promote regional workforce mobility by bringing skilled people, academic resources, and local industries together. It draws on the management expertise in universities and consulting institutes to form a “business academy” to assist promising young people within the APEC region undertake consulting work in real business settings. Participants will engage in providing consulting services to local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) with the guidance of university faculty members and practicing consultants. The program will be conducted annually from late June to early September. A follow-up workshop will be organized to review and reflect on ways to improve the program;
- *APEC Skills Development Capacity Building Alliance;*
- *Case Studies on Mutual Recognition and International Cooperation for Skills and Job Qualifications in the APEC Region;*
- *Research on the success cases of SME workers in developed economies;*
- *Technical consultation on capacity building in TVET: Next year's step;*
- *Enhancing Seasonal Labour Mobility;*
- *Establishment of APEC QR System;*
- *Green skills for green jobs.*

1.6. Encourage collaboration on developing joint personnel training on smart and green supply chain connectivity.

1.7. Implement recommendations of the Joint Statement of the 1st High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology in Higher Education aimed at advancing cross-border education, inter-university collaboration on science and technology, and the international mobility of academics, researchers, and students as drivers of technological advancements, innovation, and economic growth:

- *APEC Virtual Academic Mobility Map.* The project aims to establish practical networks and linkages between educational and scientific organizations from all APEC economies providing the academic and scientific mobility with the focus on demands of young scientists, students, PhDs and increasing the participation of youth and women in R&D and STI activity;
- *Project on mapping researcher mobility in APEC.* This project will build on one of the main findings from a workshop in late 2015 to address an identified lack of data on research collaboration across the Asia-Pacific.

1.8. Cooperate on the development of the APEC Education Strategy as a blueprint for regional education development and reform, by synthesizing the best practices within the region and drawing up lessons of other international organizations and regions, to

advance human capital development, economic integration and social well-being in the Asia-Pacific region.

1.9. Facilitate studies on human capital and continue to explore the areas of mutual interest in higher education through the Annual APEC Conferences on cooperation in Higher Education in Vladivostok.

1.10. Employ utilization of platforms such as the APEC Higher Education Research Center (AHERC) and APEC Education Research Network (AERN) to enhance joint study, information sharing, student and researcher mobility among APEC universities and institutions.

1.11. Continue efforts on enhancing cross-border education cooperation and mobility of students, researchers, and education providers:

- *Update and advance the APEC Work Plan on Promoting Cross-Border Education Cooperation*, including enhancing the link between human capacity building and employment needs through effective mechanisms for cross-border education and collaboration between universities and businesses across APEC;
- *APEC Learning Community for Shared Prosperity (ALCom)*. Since its official approval in 2004, consistently, ALCom has been implementing international cooperative activities originating from the APEC Learning Community Builders (ALCoB). ALCoB consists of APEC member economies' teachers, learners, university students, supporters, education administrators. With its member economies' ALCoB members are involved in various voluntary activities namely, ALCoB Internet Volunteers (AIV), ALCoB Cooperative Project (ACP), International ALCoB Conference and Asia-Pacific Collaborative Education Journal (APCJ);
- *APEC Future Education Consortium: Focusing on APEC Network of ICT Model Schools for Future Education*. The APEC Future Education Consortium aims to sharing a vision of the future education amongst schools, ALCoB and researchers within APEC region, theoretically and in practice implementing this vision in the field of education. This objective is implemented by the APEC Future Education Forum and ALCoB School Network (ASNet) based on autonomous and positive support from participating member economies;
- *APEC e-Learning Training Program*. APEC e-Learning Training Program (AeLT) is a specialized training course for government officials, scholars, and experts to enhance the quality of education by the advanced technologies and cultivate next generation leaders in HRD. The program consists of a blended online and offline e-Learning training curriculum customized for the needs of the trainees and the participating member economies;
- *Development of APEC Guiding Principles for Research Integrity*. This project responds to the identified need for APEC economies to closely examine the issue of research integrity and develop high-level, non-binding principles. The guiding principles will enhance researcher mobility and collaboration, consistent with the APEC Connectivity Blueprint and cross-border education agenda endorsed by APEC Leaders;
- *Transnational Education Data (TNE) Collection project*. This project will collect and disseminate information on TNE occurring in the APEC region, as

well as in-country policy environments towards TNE. It responds to the outcomes of the Group on Services' workshop on Enhancing cross-border higher education institution mobility in the APEC region, which was held in early 2015. Improved data will aid mobility;

- *Textbook Development for Energy Efficiency, Energy Security and Energy Resiliency*. Textbook Development for Energy Efficiency, Energy Security and Energy Resiliency: A Cross-border Education Cooperation through Lesson Study;
- *Collaborative research on Maritime*;
- *Professional training on Maritime*;
- *Priorities of the modern transport education in the context of internationalization (cross-fora project)*.

#### 1.12. Continue efforts on enhancing cooperation in Higher Education:

- *Gaps and Best practices in Higher Education Quality Assurance*. The project will focus on national information systems, private investment in higher education and higher Education-employment integration;
- *Center of Higher Education Internationalization (Initiative)*. The initiative objective is to consolidate all APEC proposals and ongoing projects regarding academic mobility, mutual recognition of diplomas and degrees, internationalization of curricula, teaching of foreign languages, scholarships, and public-private partnerships, with the goal of enhancing the quality of University and Technical Education within APEC;
- *Research on Mutual Recognition of Credits among Universities in the APEC Region*. Research on Mutual Recognition of Credits among Universities in the APEC Region is a project aims at facilitating student mobility and establishing a sustainable cooperative model in APC Region. This project will explore practical cooperative scheme and standard of mutual recognition of university credits in combination of unique APEC regional background, so as to increase student's mobility within APEC region.

#### 1.13. Promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in the education of its human resources to cultivate talents for innovation and strengthen innovation capacities of MSMEs:

- *The Open Environment for Math Education in APEC Schools – Phase 2*. The project continues the last year initiative Open Environment for Worldwide Mathematical Education. The project implementation will help to raise the quality of math education and to pull together school teaching in different APEC economies, increasing the attractiveness of the mathematical education for students including young women and developing the students' mobility as well as non-discriminative global youth labor.

#### 1.14. Work toward promotion and assurance of the transparency, quality and accessibility of the general education and lifelong learning:

- *Study on the Territorial Planning for Educational Infrastructure*. The project objective is to analyze the current conditions of the Asian-Pacific territory and elaborate guidelines to take into consideration when investing in education



infrastructure to overcome access barriers and encourage officials to test these strategies in their home economies;

- *Youth Sustainable Water Resources Education and Hub Development in APEC Region*. Chinese Taipei will set up a website to promote vocational education and training (VET) project within the APEC region and to have the issues better understood by the general public, hold a workshop in the last quarter of 2016, and conduct a short training program early 2017.

1.15. Strengthen efforts that put science, technology, and innovation as well as higher education at the forefront of economic policy-making and strategic planning through the entire collaboration with APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) as well as Chief Science Advisors and Equivalents Meeting (CSAE) among others.

1.16. Develop the HRDWG Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, which will take into account the Leaders’ and Ministers’ instructions, the Tasking Statement for 2016, as well as the findings of the Independent Assessment.

1.17. Revise the HRDWG ToR.

1.18. Hold the 38th HRDWG Meeting and Joint HRDWG-PPSTI Meeting in a margin of SOM2 (May 2016).

## **2. Anticipated Activities and/or Proposed Work Plan with outside organizations in response to Leaders’ and Ministers’ calls for greater engagement with:**

- A) Business Sector: HRDWG will continue to consult with the APEC Business Advisory Council, especially its Connectivity Working Group, on progress concerning skills recognition and labour mobility, including considering the ABAC ‘Earn’ Learn, Return’ model to achieve practical progress at a sectoral level; strategies to promote inclusive growth and meet business’ workforce needs; and enabling trade and investment in HRD as an industry
- B) Other organizations/stakeholders, including the international financial institutions (IFIs) and other international organizations.

HRDWG will seek advice from key international organizations on a thematic basis, including:

- Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) in the sphere of human capacity, skills and education;
- the Asian Development Bank, OECD, Southeast Asian Minister of Education Organization (SEAMEO), UNESCO, UNICEF and World Bank on education and skills mismatch issues
- the ASEAN Secretariat and International Labour Organization (ILO) on supply chains and labour mobility
- the ILO and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on inclusive growth and human capacity building

This engagement would identify specific projects which international organizations could pursue with APEC member economies.

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

As a cross-cutting Working Group, HRDWG recognizes that human resources development is a priority across many APEC fora with potential benefits in project effectiveness and efficiency accrue from cross-fora cooperation.

**Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation:** In order to advance on the work carried out by the 2015 APEC High – level policy dialogue on science and technology in higher education, a joint meeting between the HRDWG and the PPSTI will be held in the framework of the 38 HRDWG Meeting next May 2016 in Arequipa, Peru.

**Economic Committee:** To continue meeting the objectives of the Action Plan of the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform (ANSSR), related to the modernization of skills & abilities of the existing labour force to respond to the Industry needs, the project “Dual System of Vocational Education and Training to Improve Employability, Productivity and Competitiveness of the APEC Work Force” will collaborate close with the APEC Economic Committee.

**Business Mobility Group:** HRDWG will continue to engage with BMG as it progresses work on labour mobility.

**SME Working Group:** HRDWG will explore the potential for collaboration on supply chain issues, to address one of the priority themes in the APEC HRD Ministerial Action Plan (2015-2018)

**Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy:** HRDWG will design and deliver several project concepts in 2016 in cooperation with the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy.

**Health Working Group:** HRDWG will propose a second stage of activity on the ‘Healthy women, healthy economies’ project in collaboration with the Health Working Group and Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy.

**Tourism Working Group:** HRDWG will actively participate in the project led by the Tourism Working Group on the development of the tourism workforce. Key activities in the HRDWG project on occupational standards in the tourism sector have been timed so that they will be available to inform the workshop for the Tourism Working Group project.

**Mining Taskforce:** HRDWG will explore a new project in consultation with the Mining Taskforce to aid the pursuit of sustainable development in mining (in order to promote regional integration, foster investment and increase social responsibility), with a focus on occupational health and safety.

**Group on Services:** Cross-border education cooperation was identified as a priority for APEC in the 2012 APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration and has been a cross-cutting issue for the HRDWG and the Group on Services. Stakeholders that participated in relevant Group on Services projects will be engaged in planned HRDWG activities.

**Emergency Preparedness Working Group:** Coordinate activities at the working level and joint projects, including project “Study on the Territorial Planning for Educational Infrastructure”.

**MOI Initiative:** Coordinate activities at the working level and joint projects including projects “Collaborative research on Maritime” and “Professional training on Maritime”.

**Transportation Working Group:** Coordinate activities at the working level and joint projects including the project: “Priorities of the modern transport education in the context of internationalization”.

#### 4. Capacity Building activities planned for 2016

1. Implementing initiatives to enhance joint study and data collection, information sharing and student and researchers mobility among APEC universities and institutions.
2. Promoting cross-border education in the region:
  - *Youth Sustainable Water Resources Education and Hub Development in APEC Region.* A workshop, divided into indoor and outdoor activity segments, will be conducted in early September or October 2016. Courses in the workshop will include water and related ecosystems; drinking and water supply: quantity and quality; management and protection strategies for specific uses of water; sediments, reservoirs and flood management, and so forth. Experts and engineers will share their experiences; participants will discuss industry, government and citizenship issues.
3. Providing models and frameworks for education practitioners to be competent in promoting international education cooperation and exchange, exploring feasible education projects and implement joint projects and activities effectively in line with directions of APEC leaders (Gyeongju Initiative – Education Cooperation Project (ECP)).
4. Progressing various academic mobility schemes and mechanisms, including voluntary implementation of the APEC Virtual Academic Mobility Map.
5. Officials and business representatives will be invited to participate in workshops on a case-by-case basis, especially where advice is necessary from business on the alignment of human resource development with the needs of the labour market, including 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, employability issues, labour mobility and effective job strategies:
  - *Skills Training and Development in Industry-Academia Collaboration Models.* A website has been set up containing information regarding the various types of industry-academia collaboration models being implemented in Chinese Taipei. Member economies that participated in the 2015 Workshop will be invited to contribute to the collection if they are also already implementing similar modes of collaboration between academia and industry; they will be invited to share this information in a follow-up Workshop on this topic;
  - *International Business Consulting Program in Chinese Taipei.* The program will conduct consulting project, follow-up workshop, cultural trips and language classes from late June to early September.
6. A number of capacity building projects are proposed on specific policy themes and service delivery issues which will be of particular benefit to developing economies and to service delivery organizations, including in the private sector. This includes ‘train-the-trainer’ activities. They will be encouraged to participate in project workshops through the network of government officials across APEC economies.
7. Enhancing institutional collaboration and partnerships:
  - APEC Learning Community for Shared Prosperity (ALCom). With around 5,900 ALCoB members this project can support existing and potential members in

cultivating teaching and learning skills, expanding global networking and improving global competent skills like language and cultural understanding by participating in various voluntary activities, including cooperative projects, international conferences, and workshops in cross-border settings;

- APEC Future Education Consortium: Focusing on APEC Network of ICT Model Schools for Future Education. With theoretical discussion and practical outputs about the ideal model of future education, participating member economies can have perspectives about the vision of ideal future education, carry out applicable ways of innovative skills of teaching and learning and improve educational environment based on the network among experts, ALCoB, schools and so forth. The participating member economies consistently support relevant cooperative;
- APEC e-Learning Training Program (AeLT). APEC e-Learning Training Program invites education policy makers, experts and scholars recommended by APEC member economies and supports them to go through on and offline training programs and proceed with joint research and policy designing. The participating trainees can understand the latest trend and technologies of education development, improve ICT skills, enhance insight and perspectives about education policy using the advanced technologies and expand their own networks with other member economies' participants.

## **5. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2016.**

- An APEC Education Ministerial Meeting will be held in 2016. The main deliverables for the 6th AEMM will include Joint Ministerial Statement, APEC Education Strategy and Baseline Report on Current Status of Education in Asia-Pacific Region, etc.;
- APEC Education Cooperation Strategies, that will be presented at the 6th AEMM and provide directions for building a mutually beneficial system of APEC educational cooperation for the maximum benefit of all APEC economies in order to enhance practical and sustainable educational cooperation (Gyeongju Initiative – Education Cooperation Project (ECP));
- HRDWG will enhance knowledge of best practices in a variety of policy areas under the APEC Education and HRD ministerial agendas, according to the projects outlined above. These will take the form of various reports, guides, toolkits and case studies;
- Agreement will be sought to a framework for action on labour mobility to provide further guidance on the implementation of the Connectivity Blueprint in this space;
- Agreement will be sought to proceed with further exploration and nuancing of the skills Integrated Referencing Framework concept by 2017-18, with a view to endorsement by APEC HRD Ministers in 2018;
- Approval of the Work Plan for 2016 and Strategic Plan 2016-2020 by HRDWG;
- Approval of the revised HRDWG ToR;
- Encouraging APEC member economies to submit concept notes for possible APEC funded or self-funded projects and activities in relation to human resources development;
- Reporting to APEC Senior Officials and Ministers the progress HRDWG has made on implementing the initiatives and projects;

- HRDWG will enhance cooperation externally with other international organizations and internally with other fora/groups in APEC organization such as ABAC (APEC Business Advisory Council), EC (Economic Committee), EPWG (Emergency Preparedness Working Group), SMEWG (Small-medium sized enterprises) and PPWE (Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy), CTI (Committee on Trade and Investment), ATCWG (Agricultural Technical Cooperation), MOI (Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues) Steering Council, PPSTI (Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation) and the Group of Friends (GOF) on Disability Issues;
- Active engagement of non-APEC international organizations.

## **Planning Meeting for the 6th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting Summary Report**

The planning meeting for the 6th AEMM was held in Beijing, China from January 25 to 26, 2016.

Delegates from Australia; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Republic of Korea; New Zealand; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand participated in the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Sergey Ivanets, HRDWG Lead Shepherd and Dr. Wang Yan, EDNET Coordinator.

Ms. Romy Tincopa, Program Director from APEC Secretariat also attended the meeting.

### **Opening Ceremony**

Prof. Tian Huisheng, President of the National Institute of Education Sciences of the People's Republic of China, addressed the delegates in the opening ceremony, highlighting the role of education for economic growth and the significance of research to efficiency and quality of education systems. He welcomed the delegates and invited them to participate in the coordination meeting on the APEC Education Research Network.

Dr. Sergey Ivanets expressed appreciation to the EDNET Coordinator and China for hosting the planning meeting, and reaffirmed the importance of the 6th AEMM.

Ms. Chen Yinghui, Deputy-Director of the Department of International Exchange and Cooperation of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, reaffirmed China's commitment to APEC education cooperation by sharing the projects and initiatives China has led and expressed willingness to expand and deepen China's cooperation with other APEC economies.

### **Session 1: Taking the AEMM Forward**

President Park Dong Sun, president of IACE, Republic of Korea that served as host economy of the 5th AEMM, made a report on the theme, priorities and results from the 5th AEMM, including the Education Ministers' direction to produce ECP report to the 6th AEMM.

Ms. Romy Tincopa, Program Director from the APEC Secretariat briefed the delegates on the actions and projects undertaken since the 5th AEMM, including the APEC-funded and self-funded projects by the HRDWG and cross-fora initiatives by APEC member economies.

Undersecretary Mario Deriquito of the Department of Education of the Philippines briefed the delegates on the statement concerning priorities, deliverables, and methods for success in preparation for the 6th AEMM adopted by the 31st EDNET meeting hosted by the Philippines in Boracay last May 15-16, 2015. The said statement included a list of proposed priority areas, proposed deliverables (Ministers' Joint Statement, Action Plan, Education Strategy for 2016-2020, and creation of synergy with other APEC fora and multilateral organizations), recommended methods to produce the deliverables, foundation research documents for development of the deliverables including the Education Cooperation Project (ECP), a report on actions and projects undertaken since the 5th AEMM, and a baseline report on current education status in the region; and the need to develop an APEC Education Strategy.

The delegates welcomed and agreed on the Concept Note on the Baseline Report on Current Education Status in the Asia Pacific Region presented by the EDNET Coordinator:

- ✧ The report will be developed by synthesizing chapters contributed by APEC member economies consisting of six parts: overview, education system chart, education administrative system, national curriculum standards, recent policy reforms, and key indicators and statistics (optional).
- ✧ Each economy will provide a report using an agreed specified format which allows for certain adjustments depending on each the economy's preference.

- ◇ The APEC economies will contribute the first draft of the economy chapter before the next preparatory conference scheduled in May 2016 in Peru for review and revision.
- ◇ The economy chapter could be either drafted or retrieved from content of existing publications or reports.

The delegates welcomed the concept note on logic model proposed by the EDNET coordinator:

- ◇ taking into account the theme of the APEC 2016 as well as need for economic, social and education development in Asia-Pacific Region the proposed theme for the 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM is "Education for Quality Growth" with the subtitle: Competencies, Employability and Innovation.
- ◇ drawing upon the lessons of previous AEMMs, it is proposed to conduct policy research and empirical analysis to ensure that the strategy promotes action from the Joint Ministerial Statement.

## **Session 2: Theme and Priorities of the 6th AEMM**

The delegates welcomed Peru's Presentation on theme and priorities of APEC 2016 and proposed priority areas for the 6th AEMM, deliverables including the Joint Ministerial Statement, Baseline Report on Current Education Status in Asia Pacific Region, APEC Education Strategy 2016-2020, as well as timeline of a series of activities leading to the 6th AEMM to be held from October 4-6, 2016 including the preparatory conference back to back with the EDNET annual meeting and HRDWG annual meeting scheduled in May 2016.

Russia presented a proposal on the 6th AEMM theme "Human Capital Development: Talent Management for Inclusive Growth in APEC" incorporating higher education, vocational education, Science, Technology and Innovation in education including with the focus on the students' capability to implement theory in practice, and self-directed learning, and engagement of the private sector with education providing business engagement to the education process and international competitions. According to the areas mentioned above, two projects have been presented for implementation this year: "The Open Environment for Math Education in APEC Schools – Phase 2" and "Virtual Academic Mobility Map".

Australia shared projects and initiatives that Australia has led in the past four years: APEC Enhancing cross-border higher education institution mobility in the APEC region Workshop (2014), APEC University Associations Cross-Border Education Cooperation Workshop (2014), Researcher Mobility Workshop (2015), Women in Research Fellowships (2015-2019). Australia also sought for support for two new initiatives, one on research integrity, the other on mapping research mobility. Australia proposed priority areas for 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM: supporting cross-border education cooperation, improving the quality and outcomes of education and training and increasing access to and participation in education and training (including through the use of ICT).

China proposed the following priority areas under the three subthemes: Employability: suggesting priority areas of "collaboration between universities, academia and industry" and "education of entrepreneurship"; Innovation, suggesting priority areas of "ICT" and "inter-institutions cooperation for education and research"; Competencies: suggesting priority areas of "quality of teaching and learning" and "collaboration among relative stakeholders".

Republic of Korea proposed two priority areas including education cooperation and innovation by ICT.

Japan proposed to share the results from the G7 meeting, Kurashiki Education Ministers' Meeting, hopefully to contribute to the 6th AEMM.

Peru shared the Preliminary Draft Agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM and delegates agreed to continue revising the draft agenda.

In accordance with the 5<sup>th</sup> AEMM, it was agreed to consider the outcomes of the ECP report in the process of preparing the agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM.

Chinese Taipei suggested to involve industry in all the discussions.

China suggested to structure the agenda of the 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM according to the proposed three subthemes namely competencies, employability and innovation.

### **Session 3: Deliverables of the AEMM**

Republic of Korea presented on the ECP progress report containing the views of the draft review committee members, including strategies and models, according to the ministerial joint statement in the 5<sup>th</sup> AEMM.

EDNET Coordinator presented on the concept note of the APEC Education Strategy and all the APEC economies will be invited to nominate researchers and policy makers to join the taskforce for the APEC Education Strategy.

- ✧ Russia proposed to involve officials in the process of formulating the APEC Education Strategy.
- ✧ Peru suggested to change the objective of "redefine the role of education in economic growth and integration" to "achieve common understanding of the role of education in economic growth" and to match the priority areas of the Strategy with the priority areas of the 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM.
- ✧ Australia suggested to utilize existing research papers trusted by governments in addition to involving researchers and officials and suggested utilizing relevant findings through scrutinizing existing EDNET projects and including initiatives by ECP to inform the APEC Education Strategy.
- ✧ China suggested that governments from APEC members should be highly involved in the process of developing the APEC Education Strategy through preparatory meetings and other events to the 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM.
- ✧ Thailand requested to incorporate global agenda including indicators and goals specified in United Nations' SDG goals on education that all the UN members have committed to achieve for the purpose of holistic synergy.
- ✧ Chinese Taipei proposed to take a future-oriented perspective by drawing on other strategies such as UNESCO Education 2030 and EU Horizon 2020.
- ✧ The Philippines suggested that information be gathered on strategic publications related to APEC Education Strategy of all the APEC economies and proposed to draw some elements from the ECP report as well as the baseline report being prepared by EDNET to inform the APEC Education Strategy.
- ✧ Ms. Romy Tincopa, Program Director from the APEC Secretariat highlighted the importance of conducting online inter-sessional consultation of all economies and apart from researchers and policy makers nominated by each economy, EDNET coordinator could invite independent researchers to join the workshop and the formulation of the APEC Education Strategy.

The delegates agreed with all of the above suggestions.

The delegates discussed the possible side events for the 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM, including a Model AEMM by University Students, a video clip of interviews of students on their perspectives about education, and an exhibition on scholarships, fellowships and internships or alternative events as proposed by Australia, China, Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei and EDNET Coordinator. The concept notes will be developed and circulated later if agreement is reached.

Australia offered to host an additional preparatory workshop in March or April to provide support to preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> AEMM including drafting of the strategy document and if economies are in agreement, Australia would provide further information about possible dates and arrangement by mid-February in accordance with Peru's calendar of APEC 2016. Australia confirmed that due to



budget constraints, travel costs for participating economies would need to be met by participants.

If there is a need, China would offer to host the expert workshop for APEC Education Strategy.

### **Closing Ceremony**

Peru appreciated China and the EDNET Coordinator for organizing the planning meeting and would continue to work with member economies towards the success of the 6th AEMM.

Russia also expressed appreciation to China and EDNET coordinator for efforts made in preparatory meeting.

EDNET Coordinator acknowledged appreciation to all the delegates for their valuable contribution, would work with Peru and Russia as well as HRDWG Lead Shepherd to make the AEMM a successful event. Gratitude was also extended to Ms. Guo Xiaoying and NIES staff for their hard work in logistics.