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Economic Cooperation**

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Outcomes of the APEC 2016 Sectoral Ministerial and High Level Meetings

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28th APEC Ministerial Meeting
Lima, Peru
17-18 November 2016

Executive Summary

There were six APEC Sectoral Ministerial Meetings, four High Level Dialogues held during the period from January to October 2016. They were:

1. Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Arequipa, Peru, 17 – 18 May 2016;
2. 9th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting, Lima, Peru, 28 – 29 May 2016;
3. 23rd Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting, Lima, Peru, 9 September 2016;
4. 4th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security, Piura, Peru, 26 – 27 September 2016;
5. 6th Education Ministerial Meeting, Lima, Peru, 5 – 6 October 2016;
6. 23rd Finance Ministers Meeting, Lima, Peru, 14 – 15 October 2016;
7. High Level Urbanization Forum, Ningbo, China, 2 – 3 June 2016;
8. APEC Women and the Economy Forum, Lima, Peru, 27 – 30 June 2016;
9. 6th High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy, Lima, Peru, 21 – 22 August 2016; and
10. 10th Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum, Iquitos, Peru, 8 – 9 October 2016.

In line with the theme of APEC 2016, “Quality Growth and Human Development,” Ministers discussed matters related to the four priority areas:

- i. Advancing Regional Economic Integration and Quality Growth
- ii. Enhancing the Regional Food Market
- iii. Towards the Modernization of MSMEs in the Asia-Pacific
- iv. Developing Human Capital

APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade instructed the completion of the Collective Strategic Study on Issues related to the Realization of the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) and its recommendations, urged to fulfil commitment to reduced applied tariffs on the APEC Environmental Goods List, instructed as well the development of the Second Stage of the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan, endorsed the APEC Chemical Dialogues Best Practice Principles Checklist and encouraged the continued implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint and the further promotion of good regulatory practice.

APEC Tourism Ministers emphasized the importance of travel and tourism as a vehicle for job creation, economic growth, poverty reduction, sustainable development and peace. The Ministers committed to foster an environment that allows tourism-related MSMEs to participate in global value chains to encourage sustainable and inclusive growth.

APEC Ministers Responsible for Small and Medium Enterprises instructed the development of an APEC Strategy for Green and Sustainable MSMEs in 2017. The Ministers emphasized the importance of SME modernization and encouraged the development of initiatives on MSMEs globalization, APEC MSMEs Marketplace, innovation, digital competitiveness, e-commerce, policy environment as well as urged APEC Economies to promote business ethics for SMEs.

APEC Ministers Responsible for Food Security highlighted their commitment to improve food availability, to meet the demand for a safe, nutritious and varied food supply in the region by improving efficiency of the whole food value chain. Ministers agreed on that the development of food production, infrastructure, investment, and trade are key elements in promoting sustainable regional food security. APEC is also embarking on new initiatives to increase resilience and effective response to challenges to food security including the Strategic Framework for “Multi-year Program on Food Security and Climate Change” and “Rural-Urban Development to Strengthen Food Security and Quality Growth”

APEC Education Ministers endorsed the Joint Statement which recalls that the Asia-Pacific region has made considerable progress in providing access to education and training for all, however, ensuring inclusion and quality remains a challenge. Also, recognized the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 4 and Goal 8.6, and other related targets. With this in mind, the theme of human capital development will, consistent with economies’ domestic policies, be

addressed by working together to enhance competencies, accelerate innovation and increase employability. Likewise, Ministers endorsed the APEC Education Strategy to be used as a framework to guide future projects and collaborative initiatives for the benefit of the region.

APEC Finance Ministers agreed on the Strategy for Modernization of Finance Ministers' Process, the Strategy for Implementation of Cebu Action Plan, and the Collaboration Action Plan between APEC Member Economies and the Global Infrastructural Hub. Finance Ministers also highlighted the importance of implementing structural reforms to address weaknesses in the economies and unleash new sources of potential growth, and expressed their commitment to promote investment in well-designed, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, to expand financial inclusion and financial literacy, and to develop advanced techniques and instruments to effectively address and reduce the costs of disaster risks.

The High Level Urbanization Forum issued the Ningbo Initiative as the key outcome. At the Forum, high level participants exchanged ideas on current development opportunities, challenges and key areas of cooperation on urbanization in the region as well as connectivity of Asia Pacific cities, sustainable urban development and innovation during urbanization process.

The High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy endorsed the APEC 2016 Forum Statement which reaffirms the need to eliminate barriers to women's economic integration in the global market to work towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women, as well as building a better APEC region and a more inclusive world.

The High Level Policy Dialogue on Health and the Economy highlighted the importance of the implementation of the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 and promoted the efficient and high-performing health system and the further collaboration on the fiscal and economic impacts of ill-health.

The Senior Disaster Management Officials' Forum welcomed the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan as guidance for implementation of the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (DRRF) as well as intended to be the mechanism that will encourage individual economies to develop specific, measurable, and time contributions in building disaster-resilient economies supporting inclusive and sustainable development in the face of the "new normal".

Recommendations

It is recommended that the AMM take note of the report.

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Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade

Date : 17 – 18 May 2016
Venue : Arequipa, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers committed to achieve the Bogor Goals and took note of the progress report on the second-term review.
2. Ministers reaffirmed commitment to advance the process towards the eventual realization of the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) as a major instrument to further APEC's regional economic integration agenda towards and beyond the Bogor Goals. Ministers commended the implementation progress of the Beijing Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of the FTAAP and reaffirmed that APEC is expected to make an important and meaningful contribution as incubator of the FTAAP. They welcomed the progress of the Collective Strategic Study on Issues Related to the Realization of the FTAAP, and instructed officials to finalize the Study and its Recommendations to present to Ministers and Leaders this year for endorsement.
3. Ministers welcomed progress in implementing the Regional Economic Integration (REI) Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI).
4. Ministers strongly urged all economies to fulfil commitment to reduce applied tariffs on the APEC Environmental Goods List to five percent or less. They welcomed the progress in implementing the Environmental Services Action Plan (ESAP) and looked forward to the results of the environmental services regulatory measures survey and further studies envisaged under the ESAP.
5. Ministers reaffirmed commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while recognizing the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services. They welcomed ongoing initiatives to share best practices and facilitate capacity building toward this goal.
6. On *Trade Facilitation*, Ministers welcomed the progress of the final assessment of the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAP) and instructed officials to develop its second stage. They encouraged officials to continue the work on Global Data Standards (GDS), the APEC Alliance on Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) and the Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN). Trade Ministers thus endorsed the APMEN's 2016 Work Plan. Ministers recognized the work to identify Best Practices on Critical Issues in the Asia-Pacific region for the Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), and supported the complete and effective implementation of this Agreement. They encouraged the implementation of the APEC Customs 3M Strategic Framework and the promotion of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) mutual recognition across the region. Ministers also welcomed the Initiative on Single Window Systems' International Interoperability and encouraged economies to begin discussions on establishing pilot projects on voluntary basis.
7. Ministers encouraged officials to further promote good regulatory practice in accordance with the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (RAASR 2016-2020).
8. Ministers encouraged the continued implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint and welcomed efforts to enhance the Yearly Review Framework of the Blueprint as well as other initiatives on quality infrastructure.
9. Ministers welcomed the progress on the Work Plan for Advancing Digital Trade for Inclusive Growth as a Potential Next Generation Trade and Investment Issues (NGeTI), and looked forward to the PSU's research on Digital Trade. Ministers instructed officials to continue working on this area and looked forward to the implementation of the Manufacturing Related Services Action Plan (MSAP).
10. Ministers welcomed the progress in developing an APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap and instructed officials to further accelerate this work, underscoring the importance of cross-fora collaboration and continued stakeholder engagement in this process. They reaffirmed the intention to seek better ways to produce services-related statistics and increase the number of APEC economies with indices for measuring the regulatory environment in services, taking into account existing indices maintained by other institutions.
11. On *Industry Dialogues*, Ministers endorsed the APEC Chemical Dialogue's Best Practice Principles Checklist. They welcomed the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 Roadmap, the work on integrating

SMEs into automotive global value chains (GVCs) as well as the future establishment of the APEC Training Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Sciences. Ministers encouraged economies to accelerate the development of electric vehicles in the Asia-Pacific.

12. Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the APEC Action Agenda on Advertising Standards and Practices. They welcomed the work to strengthen standards and conformance infrastructure, support innovation and a quality culture, exchange experiences in standards and conformance education, promote the role of science-based standards and regulations to improve food safety and ensure predictability and transparency in agriculture and food trade in the APEC region. Ministers congratulated the development of the APEC wine certificate.
13. Ministers agreed to foster cooperation in intellectual property (IP) rights protection and enforcement, and raise SMEs awareness of IP commercialization. They encouraged the completion of the APEC Best Practices in Trade Secrets Protection and Enforcement on the basis of consensus at the earliest possible time.
14. Ministers welcomed the Reporting Mechanism for the Implementation of the APEC Boracay Action Agenda (the BAA) to Globalize MSMEs and supported the creation of the APEC MSME Marketplace. They called for continued and coordinated work within APEC and across relevant sub-fora.
15. Ministers encouraged officials to explore further work on non-tariff measures.
16. On *Global Value Chains* (GVCs), Ministers supported the implementation of the APEC Strategic Blueprint for Promoting GVCs Development and Cooperation, including the Code of Conduct of the Trade in Value-Added (TiVA) Website and the Suggested Classification of Data Measurement of APEC TiVA. Ministers endorsed the Report on Enabling Developing Economies to Better Participate in GVCs Phase I and encouraged officials to continue the Phase II of the Report. They also welcomed the progress of the initiative on Promoting SMEs' Integration into GVCs in Major Industries, and welcomed the new initiative on SMEs' Integration into GVCs in Services Industries. Ministers also encouraged cooperation with relevant international organizations and partner institutions in promoting GVCs' development and cooperation. They welcomed the progress to enhance cross-border value chain resilience as well as the compilation of related good practices and look forward to the continued implementation of Supply Chain Resilience Initiative.
17. Ministers instructed officials to advance the implementation of the APEC Initiative on Cooperation to Promote Internet Economy, and encouraged new initiatives to promote the internet and digital Economy. They reiterated the need to support capacity building activities, and noted the proposal of some economies on a permanent moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmission of content.
18. Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the APEC supporting industry initiative, and instructed officials to take steps to develop a policy guideline in 2016 - 2017.
19. Ministers encouraged the implementation of APEC principles for codes of ethics in target sectors as well as the launch of multi-stakeholder ethical collaborations to strengthen the business environment for SMEs.
20. Ministers welcomed voluntary initiatives to advance human resource development competitiveness in the region.
21. Ministers welcomed the APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Policy Toolkit, and other initiatives aimed at spreading best practices of women-owned SMEs.
22. Ministers strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and encouraged economies to fully implement the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy.
23. Ministers agreed that APEC should encourage the capability development for participation in the international food markets, and looked forward to the implementation of the APEC Food Security Road Map towards 2020.
24. Ministers reaffirmed the significance of economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) in advancing trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. Thus, they remained committed to the Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA) and the Osaka Action Agenda, and acknowledged the importance of arrangements underway to implement the Capacity Building Policy through ECOTECH.
25. Ministers highlighted the importance of urbanization in fostering quality growth and human development, and welcomed the work of economic and technical cooperation on this area.

26. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the constructive interaction and contribution of ABAC. They encouraged the APEC Study Centers Consortium, regional and international organizations to collaborate to uphold quality growth and attain prosperity for all.
27. Ministers instructed officials to continue to promote cross-fora activities to leverage on APEC's contribution to regional economic integration.

Please follow the link to access the [2016 Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement](#).

9th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting

Date : 28 – 29 May 2016
Venue : Lima, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. APEC Tourism Ministers met under the theme of "Connecting Asia-Pacific Tourism through Travel Facilitation", to emphasize air connectivity and travel facilitation as key catalysts to further enhance economic development through travel and tourism in the APEC region. They believed that encouraging strategies to support a more connected Asia-Pacific region that fosters efficient and secure travel could greatly help achieve the target of 800 million international tourists among APEC economies by 2025 as agreed to in the Macao Declaration and supported by the Leaders in 2014.
2. Ministers recognized travel facilitation and air connectivity are key factors for economic and regional development as well as for destination competitiveness and catalysts for quality growth of the tourism sector. As the world's largest air passenger market, the movement of travellers across the Asia-Pacific region for both business and tourism is key to promoting economic growth, trade, and regional economic integration.
3. Ministers sought the consideration of APEC's Leaders to include, in their Declaration, a statement on the importance of travel and tourism as a vehicle for job creation, economic growth, sustainable development, and peace. Overall, according to World Travel and Tourism Council, in 2015 travel and tourism commanded USD 1.2 trillion of the region's GDP, supported 48 million jobs directly (3.2%) and contributed 5.5% of the region's exports. Furthermore, according to the APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU), every 10% increase in tourist arrivals is associated with a 1.2% increase in exports and 0.8% increase in imports (in the destination economy).
4. Ministers recognized the effectiveness of tourism contribution to sustainable development and poverty reduction in the APEC region. Through policies to facilitate travel and improve air connectivity in the APEC region, tourism growth can achieve significant levels that will boost trade, investments, and job creation. At the same time, tourism growth can also stimulate the expansion of MSMEs to gain global market access, skills trainings and career paths, and financial resources.
5. Ministers welcomed the APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative's (TFI) progress in enhancing people-to-people connectivity and noted its relevance to APEC's strategic priorities. Travel facilitation is a central issue for tourism policy to support increasing tourism demand while satisfying visitors' expectations at points of entry and exit within the region. In this regard, Ministers acknowledged the importance of moving forward with efforts to develop smart traveller programmes and visa facilitation agreements.
6. Ministers strongly believe that strengthening tourism cooperation on air connectivity among the APEC economies – based on the goal of market access liberalization – is a central topic for the development of the region; furthermore, it is also important to take into consideration the development of air connectivity within the member economies. Increased international and domestic connectivity can help regionally distribute the social and economic benefits of tourism.
7. Ministers encouraged the Tourism Working Group (TWG) to pursue work that supports sustainable tourism development in the region, considering that tourism is a fundamental sector for achieving inclusive growth when it makes responsible use of environmental resources, respecting the authenticity of host communities and equitably distributing socio-economic benefits within the destinations.
8. Ministers committed to fostering a competitive environment for tourism-related MSMEs that are linked to Global Value Chains. And acknowledged that MSMEs promote tourism innovation and contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth in the APEC region when provided with global market access.
9. Ministers acknowledged that tourism is specifically featured in three of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely Goals 8, 12 and 14 on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, sustainable consumption and production, and the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources, respectively. As the United Nations General Assembly adopted 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, Ministers pledged to advocate for joint actions within the framework of APEC to support the celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and to foster domestic and regional tourism policies that support the SDGs.
10. Ministers encouraged the TWG to engage in joint activities and increase its cooperation with the Transportation Working Group, the Business Mobility Group, the Telecommunications and Information

Working Group, the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures, the Counter-Terrorism Working Group, the Group on Services, the Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation, the Human Resources Development Working Group, the SME Working Group, and the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group, and other relevant APEC fora. Tourism is a cross-cutting sector that can positively impact other sectors. Ministers enumerated mechanisms to help develop concrete results out of this collaborative work: (i) jointly launch cross-cutting initiatives, events or projects related to the APEC TWG Strategic Plan 2015-2019 (ATSP) priorities; (ii) TWG representatives to participate in meetings of the APEC working groups mentioned above as well as invite representatives of such fora to participate in TWG meetings; and (iii) identify a work plan with common priorities among these fora, particularly related to air connectivity and travel facilitation.

11. Ministers welcomed the Report of the TWG Lead Shepherd on the TWG activities since the Tourism Ministerial Meeting (TMM) in 2014 and the TWG's efforts to consistently produce concrete deliverables based on the its Strategic Plan 2015-2019. Ministers commended the TWG's engagement of APEC members in fostering a competitive environment for tourism to make it grow as the backbone of economic and social development.
12. Ministers encouraged member economies and TWG guests to actively engage in the discussion and activities of the Working Group by sharing best practices and policy recommendations to foster a tourism knowledge network that allows Ministers and High-Level Authorities to continue positioning tourism as a key driver for inclusive and quality growth. Ministers encouraged the TWG to work closely with academic and research institutions to enhance the outcomes and sustainability of TWG Projects and disseminate results.

Please follow the link to access [the Lima Declaration on Connecting Asia-Pacific Tourism through Travel Facilitation](#).

23rd Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting

Date : 9 September 2016

Venue : Lima, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers centered their discussion on “SMEs as engines of quality growth and prosperity” in line with the APEC 2016 theme and priorities, reaffirmed the importance of SMEs in economic activities and their role as sources of innovation and employment, and recognized SMEs are best placed to materialize a structural reform and to advance sustainability.
2. Ministers emphasized the importance of SMEs modernization and the progress so far, confirmed APEC support to the internationalization efforts of SMEs and encouraged public-private partnership.
3. Ministers highlighted the continuing prominence of SMEs issues in APEC agenda in recent years and support its continuity, including mainstreaming SMEs issues in APEC’s agenda and strengthening cross-fora collaboration.
4. Ministers highlighted several discussions this year that will impact the future of regional economic integration, such as the finalization of the Collective Strategic Study on issues related to the Realization of the FTAAP and the development of the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR); noted the high interest in the assessment on the achievement of the Bogor Goals and the SOM Dialogue on APEC Towards 2020 and Beyond and looked forward to the conduct of similar dialogues in the following years.
5. Ministers encouraged officials to continue with relevant initiatives and activities regarding promoting SMEs innovation, including technical exchanges, intellectual property rights, industrial clusters development, disaster resilience, and financing support for advancing sustainability through innovation; acknowledged the importance of addressing challenges faced by SMEs in conducting overseas business development in order to promote SMEs’ participation in the global value chains (GVCs).
6. Ministers acknowledged the lack of readiness, capability, and resilience to engage in e-commerce continues to be some of the most critical factors for SMEs to achieve commercial success and to internationalize effectively, and committed to continue exploring ways to reduce this gap through continued partnership with global players to support SMEs’ E-commerce capacity building.
7. Ministers instructed APEC SME Working Group (SMEWG) and ABAC should work together to further develop existing ABAC micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) related initiatives; reaffirmed the importance of creating a common e-commerce policy framework that will encourage greater e-commerce adoption by SMEs and promote Cross Border E-Commerce Training (CBET) in more APEC economies.
8. Ministers recognized greening MSMEs for sustainable development in APEC initiative to highlight the great potential that MSMEs have in achieving sustainable development, and instructed the SMEWG to lead a process to develop an “APEC Strategy for Green and Sustainable MSMEs” with a view that it be adopted in November 2017, in close coordination with all APEC relevant Committees and sub-fora.
9. Ministers appreciated the progress made by APEC in implementing the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs, and encouraged economies to continue the development of initiatives that will benefit MSMEs in the region and contribute to their capacity to internationalize.
10. Ministers welcomed and acknowledged the progress and outcomes achieved by various SMEWG projects in areas of ethics, technology and innovation, e-commerce, digital and internet economy, SMEs internationalization, women-led SMEs, business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) markets, etc. These activities provided professional platforms for technology and innovative exchange and trade promotion; furthered awareness of opportunities and challenges of modernizing SMEs and what digital and internet economy can offer to SMEs; contributed to the internationalization of SMEs, the participation of SMEs in global supply and value chains, and the women-led SMEs’ access to the international market.
11. Ministers urged APEC economies to implement frameworks similar to the recently-concluded Consensus Framework for Multi-Stakeholder Ethical Collaboration as endorsed under the APEC Nanjing Declaration and continue the full adoption of APEC Principles for codes of ethics. They supported improved capacity-building at ministries relevant to infrastructure, the examination of

specific ways to streamline government processes – including increased use of automation – to improve transparency, the development of an APEC common baseline for ethics self-certification programs, and the establishment of a public-private implementation team to advise Ministers on additional steps to improve the efficient and transparent delivery of vital infrastructure.

12. Ministers welcomed the SMEWG's endorsement of the Implementation Plan of the APEC MSME Marketplace and looked forward to its launch in 2017.
13. Ministers called for economies to harness the opportunity provided by the new ASF sub-fund on MSMEs for the benefits of MSMEs in the region.
14. Ministers appreciated the contribution on issues relevant to SMEs made by the meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT), the APEC High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy and the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy Forum.
15. Ministers commended the finalization of the APEC SMEWG Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and looked forward the active participation of economies in its implementation; appreciated the independent assessor, PSU, ABAC and other stakeholders for their continuing contributions and inputs to the work of the SMEWG and to SME issues in APEC; and commended Mr. John Andersen, Chair of the SMEWG, for his work during his tenure of the last two years.

For [the 23rd SME Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement](#), please follow the link.

4th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security

Date : 26 – 27 September 2016
Venue : Piura, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers discussed challenges and opportunities for Food Security in the region. While they are committed to improving food availability, they noted that production growth alone will not be sufficient; APEC needs to improve the efficiency of the whole value chain. Food security policies need to incorporate inclusiveness and gender equality to be more effective. Ministers believed that APEC can contribute to addressing many of these challenges.
2. Ministers reaffirmed commitment to the multilateral trading system under the framework of the WTO and supported the outcomes, including on agriculture contained in the “Nairobi Package”.
3. Ministers recognized the importance of stable transparent policy settings, science-based regulations and practices to achieve well-functioning food markets, and enabling policy environment for greater market connectivity. They encouraged economies to streamline customs and other procedures to disseminate timely and accurate information on food export and import requirements. They welcomed progress in projects that focused on the use of global data standards to enhance supply chain connectivity, integrity and security and to reduce the costs of food trade. Ministers encouraged economies to address trade barriers, including non-tariff ones, for sectors related to agriculture.
4. Ministers took note of ABAC’s research initiative to facilitate trade and identify barriers that may inhibit trade, raise costs and reduce the availability food choices. Ministers instructed PPFs to continue exchanging views to take concrete steps for facilitation of trade in food.
5. Ministers supported business models that promote smallholders’ associativity and market access. They will exchange expertise on development of food business linkages and building entrepreneurial capacity for smallholders.
6. Ministers supported international food related standards setting bodies and acknowledged recommendations by the FAO and the WHO to build up a more effective food safety system. Ministers committed to developing common ground for promoting science-based food safety systems that meet the objectives of protecting human, animal and plant life or health whilst their application is as least trade restrictive as possible, consistent with WTO rights and obligations under agreements.
7. Ministers acknowledged the private sector’s capability to enhance and assure food quality demands or requirements through production, manufacture and distribution in line with voluntary standards such as those of the International Standards Organization (ISO).
8. Ministers valued initiatives and capacity building activities to enhance food safety and quality control systems, develop regulatory roadmaps for export certificates and pesticide maximum residue limits, encourage industry-regulator dialogue, and enhance food standards connectivity. Ministers also encouraged economies to consider preventive approaches through collaborative public-private partnership.
9. Ministers would foster APEC cooperation for the sustainable use and the integrated management of water resources, as well as promote sustainable forest management and improve forest governance.
10. Ministers called on economies to foster an integrated approach to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, provide sustainable practices and management systems, promote resilient and inclusive communities and secure economic returns and livelihoods.
11. Ministers encouraged APEC economies to implement relevant fisheries conservation and management. They determined to reinforce cooperation to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and reiterated their call to consider ratification and implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).
12. Ministers encouraged member economies to support science and innovation to increase resilience, mitigation and response to climate change and natural disasters. They called on economies to increase capabilities and cooperation on climate change adaptation and mitigation, implementation of climate-friendly and resilient food systems. Ministers supported the Framework for Multiyear APEC Program on Food Security and Climate Change and looked forward to its action plan in 2017. They also recommended APEC Senior Finance Officials to consider exchanging experience on best practices on disaster risk management and risk coping tools for smallholders.

13. Ministers committed to developing an enabling environment to leverage the role of multiple stakeholders in advancing research, development and innovation (RDI) as well as the adoption of better technologies to boost productivity and enhance resource efficiency.
14. Ministers valued the work undertaken by ATCWG, HLPDAB, OFWG, CTI, SCSC, FSCF/PTIN and WRF within APEC, and encouraged these sub-fora to foster coordinated innovation and joint research, exchanges of know-how and ICT application.
15. Ministers acknowledged agricultural biotechnology should be applied in accordance with domestic laws and regulations. They committed to harnessing scientific innovations that address common challenges for smallholder farmers.
16. Ministers committed to adopt a comprehensive policy approach on rural-urban development towards food security and welcomed the APEC Strategic Framework on Rural-Urban Development to Strengthen Food Security and Quality Growth and looked forward to its action plan in 2017.
17. Ministers would pursue empowering smallholders and MSMEs in agriculture and food systems through enabling policy and regulatory environments, improved laws and regulations, human capital development, access to finance, and investment. They acknowledged that connecting smallholders to markets has the potential to reduce poverty, raise incomes, improve food security and expand livelihood options.
18. Ministers continued supporting APEC work to promote welfare of communities and employment creation, and ensure that these opportunities reach workers along the food system and complementary activities, in particular the smallholders, women, and youth.
19. Ministers agreed that they should promote farmland maintenance by smallholders and local communities, in a non-trade distorting way. They acknowledged the role of smallholders and family farming in protecting and enhancing agri-food heritage and locally adapted farming practices.
20. Ministers would contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources, including outstanding landscapes and remarkable local knowledge and experience. In this regard, they took note of FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiative.
21. Ministers committed to promote an enabling environment for investment in infrastructure and services to improve farming and the market linkage. They acknowledged the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
22. Ministers called on economies to continue implementing the APEC Action Plan for Reducing Food Loss and Waste. They welcomed the launch of a web-based APEC Cold Chain Forum, and called on the PPFS to develop and implement an action plan for facilitation on investment and infrastructure for food security in the coming years.
23. Ministers committed to strengthen the PPFS through a review of its results, process improvement and governance, and instructed the PPFS to continue cooperating with other relevant APEC sub fora, and international fora.
24. Ministers urged economies to encourage and enable the participation of private sector and take due account of the latter's concerns and priorities in establishing and deepening the APEC food system.
25. Ministers thanked Peru for their hospitality and welcomed Viet Nam to host the next Food Security Ministers Meeting in 2017; and looked forward to the next APEC FSMM5 in 2018.

Please follow the link to access [the Piura Declaration on Food Security](#).

6th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting

Date : 5 – 6 October 2016
Venue : Lima, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. APEC Education Ministers met in Lima, Peru under the theme “An Inclusive and Quality Education”, which recalls that the Asia-Pacific region has made considerable progress in providing access to education and training for all.
2. Ministers endorsed APEC’s mission “to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region”, and recognized the significance of achieving a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by championing free and open trade and investment and promoting regional economic integration.
3. Ministers recognized the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 4 and Goal 8.6, and other related targets. With this in mind, the theme of human capital development will, consistent with economies’ domestic policies, be addressed by working together to enhance competencies, accelerate innovation and increase employability.
4. Ministers acknowledged that more progress is needed to ensure that access to quality education is equitable for all, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnic or cultural background, socio-economic status, or disability.
5. Ministers endorsed the APEC Education Strategy to be used as a framework to guide future projects and collaborative initiatives for the benefit of the region.
6. Ministers recognized the significant role of education in enhancing economic development and general wellbeing. They submitted the outcomes of the 6th AEMM to the APEC Economic Leaders for their consideration.
7. Ministers acknowledged the progress made by the APEC Human Resource Development Working Group (HRDWG) and its networks, namely the Education Network (EDNET), the Capacity Building Network (CBN) and the Labor and Social Protection Network (LSPN) in developing human capital in the APEC region since the 5th AEMM.
10. Ministers recognized the crucial role of education and training in fostering economic and social change. They welcomed the enthusiasm and effort from all member economies in the promotion of projects and initiatives, within the HRDWG and its networks. They agreed to support education and training cooperation through educational research and policy analyses over the next four years.
11. Ministers recognized the importance of access to high quality education and training that allows their citizens to develop their full potential. Acknowledging that education is a lifelong process, economies should aim to build quality and inclusive educational pathways from early childhood education onwards to deliver the competencies needed to actively participate in economies and societies. Ministers also encouraged members to continue to promote cross-border education cooperation more broadly and improve people to people connectivity to support globally relevant education systems.
12. Ministers acknowledged Peru’s willingness to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of higher education, including academic mobility, teaching of foreign languages, public-private partnerships and other topics.
13. Ministers recognized that technological and innovative advancements in education are opening new opportunities for the design and delivery of education and training to overcome barriers to access and mobility. APEC economies will pursue opportunities to work together in identifying and responding to the impacts of technological change which is transforming the way in which societies live, work, communicate, develop and pursue ideas.
14. Ministers encouraged APEC member economies to work together to adapt the scope and style of pedagogical practices, including those that will encourage increased participation in STEM studies. They recognized that a scientifically and technologically literate population is essential to developing, adopting and adapting new technologies in increasingly complex economies and societies.
15. Ministers recognized that education and training sectors need to adapt to rapid changes in the economy and that is a challenge. APEC economies will work together to strengthen partnerships

between governments, educational and TVET¹ institutions and the private sector to better facilitate the transition from education to work, and lift participation in lifelong learning, and encourage the development of global competencies and entrepreneurship skills.

16. Ministers continued to support economies to work together to better understand the opportunities and challenges in facilitating the transition from education to work. Strengthening of partnerships to better understand the needs of the labor market, together with sector reforms that support the development of the 21st century skills and improve labor market information and career guidance systems will help to develop modern interdisciplinary approaches to education that support interaction across fields and competencies. This will better position APEC member economies to adapt to future changes in labor market needs. Ministers were committed to strengthening efforts to tackle youth unemployment under the APEC Framework for Youth Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship.
17. Ministers affirmed that a globalized world requires advanced and strong systems to develop workforces with global competencies. Increased international cooperation is needed to promote globalization that genuinely responds to the requirements and challenges of today's economy. Therefore they need to develop international cooperation programs and strategic partnerships that provide for the acquisition and transfer of knowledge by all populations through education and training. This will provide economies with the capacity to increase their competitiveness and improve youth employability.
18. Likewise, Ministers recognized the importance of maximizing the impact of education policy and committed to working together to share information on the impacts and outcomes of education and training policies.

Please follow the link to access [the 6th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement](#).

¹ Technical and Vocational Education and Training

23rd APEC Finance Ministers Meeting

Date : 14 – 15 October 2016
Venue : Lima, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers shared the view that the APEC region is facing several complex challenges that weaken growth and the recovery of the economies, and recognized that to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region, will require using all available policy tools (monetary, fiscal and structural), individually and collectively.
2. Ministers reaffirmed commitments to address weaknesses in the economies and unleash new sources of potential growth, including through new structural reform actions and fulfilling existing reform commitments. Ministers encouraged all APEC economies to be ambitious in the implementation of the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform.
3. Ministers agreed to the Strategy for Modernization of Finance Ministers' Process and the Strategy for Implementation of the Cebu Action Plan. Ministers would chart APEC-wide progress on the implementation of the Cebu Action Plan (CAP) in 2018 and 2020.
4. Ministers commended ABAC for its contributions for the implementation of the CAP, including the activities undertaken in the Asia-Pacific Financial Forum (APFF) and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Financial Inclusion, and encouraged collaboration with the private sector in advancing the CAP in 2017.
5. Ministers would strengthen cooperation with the Global Infrastructure Hub (the Hub) through the Collaboration Action Plan between APEC Member Economies and the Hub (Annex C). They agreed to link the PPP Knowledge Portal to the Hub's existing knowledge platform to avoid duplication and encouraged APEC member economies to provide relevant information to the Hub's knowledge platform.
6. Ministers encouraged economies to collaborate in 2017 with the Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation to develop interoperability between the APEC PPP Knowledge Portal and International Infrastructure Support System (IISS) to improve the public sector user experience towards well-prepared projects.
7. Ministers encouraged the implementation of the APEC Network of PPP Centers in 2017 with the appropriate support from the World Bank Group (WBG), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Partnership.
8. Ministers encouraged each economy to develop and enhance domestic strategies for financial inclusion, considering their economic and social conditions, as well as the WBG's guidelines.
9. Ministers would focus their work on the promotion of a digital ecosystem for financial services, the development of financing mechanisms for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the design and implementation of financial literacy policies building on the expertise and standards developed by the OECD/International Network on Financial Education. Ministers looked forward for the development of a report on financial literacy in APEC.
10. Ministers would collaborate in 2017 with the Better Than Cash Alliance to drive inclusive and responsible digital payment ecosystems in APEC member economies.
11. Ministers welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Regional Disaster Risk Financing Solutions for APEC Economies, and encouraged economies and international organizations to join this initiative.
12. Ministers looked forward to the results of the WBG's studies about standard best practice methodologies for collection of public assets exposure and catastrophe risk insurance databases by the end of 2017.
13. Ministers welcomed the creation of the Insurance Development Forum (IDF), and would work with it in 2017 to identify areas of future collaboration.
14. Ministers encouraged economies to strengthen the integrity of their tax systems by adopting the internationally agreed tax transparency standards and signing relevant instruments such as the OECD

Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MAAC) and the OECD Competent Authority Agreement on the Exchange of Country by Country Reports.

15. Ministers welcomed the establishment of the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS), and called for the continued support of international organizations and developed economies to help developing economies overcome challenges in capacity building and legal frameworks implementation.
16. Ministers welcomed the progress of the Asia Region Funds Passport (ARFP) with the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation by five participating APEC economies. They encouraged these economies to implement domestic arrangements before 2018, and called on more APEC economies to participate in this initiative.
17. Ministers supported future joint work with the Energy Working Group on capacity building to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption while still providing essential energy services
18. Ministers were supportive of the work on the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap and encouraged discussions among interested parties on the state of financial services openness, consistent with the CAP.
19. Ministers invited the Senior Finance Officials to identify areas in which possible collaboration with the APEC Economic Committee could take place in 2017.
20. Ministers welcomed continued dialogue with the APEC Life Science and Innovation Forum and Health Working Group on ways to address the fiscal and economic impacts of ill-health in 2017.

Please follow the link to access [the Joint Finance Ministerial Statement](#).

APEC High Level Urbanisation Forum

Date : 2 – 3 June 2016
Venue : Ningbo, China

Main Outcomes

1. The Forum is the first large-scale high-level event under the APEC framework centering on urbanization. Under the theme Urbanization and Inclusive Growth, ministerial officials and senior government representatives from APEC member economies, city mayors, entrepreneurs, scholars, and representatives from the media and international organizations conducted broad and in-depth discussions on topics related to urbanization cooperation in the Asia Pacific region.
2. The Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of China and the Ambassador of Peru to China delivered a keynote speech on behalf of the Forum host and the 2016 APEC Host Economy respectively. The Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of China highlighted that urbanization as an important engine for modernization has become the frontier of cooperation among APEC member economies.
3. The Forum, proposed by President Xi Jinping, created a communication platform for regional urbanization cooperation among the APEC member economies in different stages of urbanization. All APEC member economies are expected to take this opportunity and establish an open, inclusive and mutually beneficial partnership in urbanization.
4. The Forum built a platform for multilateral cooperation and would give a boost to urbanization drive in the region. Peru recognized urbanization as a crucial tool for promoting urban and economic development, improving people's life, and achieving connectivity through cooperative partnership.
5. At the APEC Ministerial Roundtable, vice-ministerial officials and senior representatives of APEC member economies exchanged ideas on related issues, such as the current development, opportunities, challenges and key areas of cooperation of urbanization in this region. It was noted that the Asia Pacific region has the fastest growing urban population and the largest number of megacities in the world, and that APEC member economies differ in development stages. This offers an excellent opportunity for collaboration.
6. Japan outlined that it has achieved economic growth and urbanization by setting up specialized agencies and a policy system, and is currently helping developing economies realize low-carbon and sustainable development through international cooperation.
7. Republic of Korea remarked that it will adopt internet and other high-tech solutions in urban development to address environmental protection, residential housing and traffic congestion towards a sustainable development.
8. Viet Nam introduced its City Development Strategies, which outlines a blueprint for urban system, i.e., cities need to take into account the coordinated development of the entire region, the efficacy and limitation of city resources, as well as past experience and local characteristics.
9. Chile noted that urban development requires not only transportation infrastructure, but also digital infrastructure to govern cities more effectively. Russia; Singapore; Canada; Papua New Guinea and Hong Kong, China also introduced their experience of urbanization.
10. The delegates also had thematic dialogues over connectivity of Asia Pacific cities, sustainable urban development, and innovation during the urbanization process. Experience was shared and cooperation opportunities were explored in boosting urban infrastructure and public service facilities, building smart cities and green cities, urban regeneration and renewal, financing during urbanization and development of small- and medium-sized cities.
11. Member economies issued the APEC High-Level Urbanization Forum 2016 Ningbo Initiative as the key deliverable. In the Ningbo Initiative, member economies affirmed the importance of promoting the sound, sustainable and people-oriented urbanization among the Asia-Pacific economies, and commended the steady and positive progress in implementing the APEC Cooperation Initiative for Jointly Establishing an Asia-Pacific Urbanization Partnership which was endorsed by the APEC Economic Leaders in Beijing in November 2014.
12. Member economies also reaffirmed their commitment to expressed common resolve to further conduct dialogues and cooperation in eight key areas, including boosting inclusiveness and dynamic development of cities, improving urban infrastructure, building smart cities and green cities,

encouraging urban regeneration and renewal, pushing forward urban innovation, promoting good city governance and cooperation in urban development.

Please follow the link to access the [Ningbo Initiative](#).

APEC Women and the Economy Forum

Date : 27 – 30 June 2016
Venue : Lima, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. The 2016 APEC Women and the Economy Forum was held under the theme Breaking Barriers to Economic Integration of Women in the Global Market. Ministers recognized that there is still existing gender inequality across the Asia- Pacific region that prevents the full participation of women in global value chains.
2. Ministers also tackled five sub-themes: (i) Economy Care Systems: Recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work for inclusive growth; (ii) Costs of gender-based violence in the context of economic development; (iii) Mechanisms for the internationalization of MSMEs led by women; (iv) Financial and economic literacy and inclusion for access to capital; and (v) Digital literacy for economic inclusion.
3. Ministers acknowledged that across all economies and cultures, women and girls carry out the majority of unpaid care including caring for children, the elderly and people with disabilities as well as domestic work such as cleaning and cooking. As a consequence, women often work fewer hours in paid and formal employment compared to men. In this regard, Ministers encouraged the creation and expansion of public and private services and investments in APEC economies to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women and girls
4. Ministers also acknowledged that gender-based violence is highly prevalent in the home, workplace and public spaces and adversely affects human, social and economic development, not only because it is a violation of women and girls human rights, but also because of its high economic costs in terms of expenditure for the provision of services, loss of income, decreased productivity of victims and survivors, and the negative impacts on families. Gender-based Violence also has a negative impact on future human capital due to its inter-generational consequences.
5. Ministers recognized that a better working environment and healthy motivated employees have positive economic effects, as they increase productivity and profits. In this sense, the adoption of strategies on gender- based violence prevention in the workplace have positive economic and non-economic effects for companies, such as increased productivity resulting in increased corporate earnings and benefits.
6. Ministers recognized that women entrepreneurs face a range of financial and non-financial challenges when realizing their growth potential, affecting women-owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) throughout the business life cycle and particularly during the startup stages. They remained committed to providing peer and expert insight on how women-led MSMEs can overcome obstacles in exporting their goods and/or services; to exchanging experiences and sharing best practices in the adoption of policies that can effectively increase the participation of women in global trade.
7. Ministers welcomed the implementation of the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs which includes actions to strengthen focus on MSMEs led by women by (i) fostering the use of gender-disaggregated data in measuring the economic and social impacts on MSMEs; (ii) promoting an understanding of the divergent constraints faced by male and female-led MSMEs; and (iii) encouraging exchange of best practices on women-friendly interfaces with customs and other border authorities.
8. Ministers recognized that women entrepreneurs and women in general, face challenges relating to economic and financial inclusion and face unequal treatment when evaluated as loan candidates, which limit their ability compared to their male peers, to access financial system and services.
9. Ministers took into consideration that gender disparities in access to financial education and services can have negative effects not only on women entrepreneurs, but on the overall Asia Pacific-regional economy.
10. Ministers acknowledged that empowering rural and indigenous women is key to well-being of families and communities and also to economic productivity given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce. Rural and indigenous women are valuable agents for achieving economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development.

11. Ministers recognized the benefits of ICT and related services on empowering women by creating an environment to participate in community-based activities, increasing business and employment opportunities and establishing business-enabling networks that address women's needs. They encouraged efforts towards building the digital capacities of girls and women through active participation in ICT education and training programs, especially those aimed at women entrepreneurs, which include investing in targeted digital literacy, confidence, and skills development for women through mentoring and networking.
12. Ministers further recognized the need to strengthen women and girls' access to and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. They welcomed the Women in STEM initiative, established in an effort to address capacity building priorities identified under the Women and the Economy Dashboard.
13. Ministers commended efforts by APEC sub-fora to integrate gender in their work, and called on all APEC sub-fora to continue integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in their work planning and annual reports.
14. Ministers recognized the updated Guide on Gender Criteria and the APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard as useful tools to ensure integration of gender perspectives across APEC.
15. Ministers reaffirmed the need to eliminate barriers to women's economic integration in the global market to work towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women, as well as building a better APEC region and a more inclusive world.
16. Ministers called for further actions from APEC economies to increase gender diversity on executive boards and in senior management of companies which positively affects corporate sustainability and growth.
17. Ministers recognized the importance of incorporating an intercultural approach on policies to encourage the participation of women in the economy and their full empowerment.

Please follow the link to access [the APEC Women and the Economy 2016 Forum Statement](#).

Date : 21 – 22 August 2016
Venue : Lima, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. Ministers welcomed the opportunity for APEC economies to collaborate closely and effectively with each other and with the private sector, academia, civil society including patient groups and other organizations. They recognized that neither the implementation of the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 (HAP2020) nor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be effectively achieved without this collaboration. Ministers also recognized the importance of multi-sectoral action to implement the HAP2020 Roadmap and welcomed the formation of a small group by the APEC Life Science and Innovation Forum (LSIF) and the Health Working Group (HWG) to explore innovative approaches to further implementation of the Roadmap.
2. Ministers emphasized the importance of enhancing the fiscal space for health by developing strategies to streamline health systems by ensuring proper resource allocation; prioritizing health in domestic budgets; making high impact investments; aligning regulatory standards and procedures; and promoting public-private partnerships.
3. Ministers noted that high-quality data is a valuable resource for building high performing health systems. There are opportunities for APEC economies to work together to develop and share high-quality data, taking into account domestic privacy laws and information sharing frameworks, to build the evidence base for effective health interventions, improve decision making, and measure progress.
4. Ministers encouraged APEC economies to document and share the outcomes of partnerships in health systems strengthening. Ministers observed that data can also improve the scaling of innovative partnerships in the APEC region and that the evidence base for such partnerships at the economy-level could be improved. Public-private partnerships can also help build capacity to capture and analyze data across the continuum of care. It was noted that successful partnerships have the distinct synergistic benefits of bringing together the policy power of the public sector and the market-knowledge of the private sector to address common goals and have often resulted in a history of producing valuable research that drives innovation.
5. Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the 2011 APEC Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Action Plan and the urgent need to enhance and accelerate implementation of domestic NCD prevention and control strategies.
6. Ministers examined the need for innovative financing mechanisms predicated on the return on targeted, high-impact investments in health systems strengthening. Ministers discussed specific approaches to achieving improved health financing including support for enforcement of current tax systems to prevent avoidance and evasion, avoiding regression in social health insurance, and promoting partnership with the private sector. Ministers discussed ways of improving the efficiency and economic sustainability of health expenditures and commended APEC economies for their efforts to carry forward the mandate agreed in 2015 by APEC Economic Leaders for further work on the fiscal and economic impacts of ill-health. Ministers also welcomed future collaboration with APEC Senior Finance Officials in 2017.
7. As APEC economies continue to develop holistic approaches to strengthen their health systems, investments in research and development and life sciences innovation capacity are important considerations. Ministers recognized the importance of policy, regulatory, and legal frameworks in incentivizing the discovery and development of new medicines and technologies.
8. Health Ministers recommend that APEC Ministers and Economic Leaders:
 - Note the importance of implementation of the HAP2020 Roadmap and the wide range of health initiatives underway in the HWG, LSIF, ABAC, and other APEC fora in support of the HAP2020 Roadmap.
 - Welcome the establishment of a small group to explore innovative approaches to further implement the HAP2020 Roadmap, consistent with existing mechanisms and activities underway in this space.
 - Welcome efforts to build more efficient and high-performing health systems by reducing waste, improving the quality of care, ensuring proper workforce planning, aiming for sufficient resources

for health in domestic budgets, making high impact investments, and promoting public-private-academic partnerships. Call on APEC economies to continue to work together to develop and share high-quality data in order to build the evidence base for policy development, effective health interventions, improved decision making, and impact measurement.

- Recognize the role of policy, regulatory, and legal frameworks in providing incentives for the discovery and development of new medicines and technologies; and support the cooperation among universities, public research institutions, and the private sector on life science innovations.
- Welcome future collaboration with Senior Finance Officials on the fiscal and economic impacts of ill-health. Call on APEC Health and Finance Senior Officials and key stakeholders to convene a formal cross-fora dialogue during 2017.

Please follow the link to access the [Joint Statement of the 6th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy](#).

APEC Senior Disaster Management Officials' Forum

Date : 8 – 9 October 2016
Venue : Iquitos, Peru

Main Outcomes

1. The SDMOF agreed that the Asia-Pacific region is still exposed to an ever increasing number of disasters that pose risk to the regional economy and the wellbeing of the people. In that regard, the Forum recalled that in 2015 APEC Economic Leaders declared the phenomenon as the “new normal” – the increasing frequency, magnitude and scope of natural disasters, and the resultant disruption on the increasingly integrated and interlinked production and supply chains.
2. The SDMOF welcomed the work done by APEC fora to develop the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan as instructed by the APE Economic Leaders in 2015. This Action Plan should be the guidance for implementation of the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (DRRF) adopted by the APEC Economic Leaders in 2015. This Action Plan is also intended to be the mechanism that will encourage individual economies to develop specific, measurable, and timed contributions in building disaster-resilient economies supporting inclusive and sustainable development in the face of the “new normal”.
3. The Action Plan is composed of: (i) pillars of DRRF, namely Prevention and Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Rehabilitation and Build Back Better; (ii) specific areas for collaboration; (iii) illustrative corresponding activities; (iv) possible partners; (v) timelines for accomplishment; and (vi) indicators for evaluation. This Action Plan is a living document that should be updated as needed.
4. The SDMOF further called upon APEC fora to strengthen cross-fora collaboration in particular to implement the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan, as this document cuts across all areas of the APEC agenda such as, but not limited to, science and technology, information and telecommunication, energy, financing for disaster risk management, trade and investment, health, gender, food security, human resources development, and SMEs.
5. The SDMOF also discussed specific issue related to emergency food security as the theme of the 10th SDMOF and agreed that those “new normal” disasters threaten food security of the most vulnerable populations. The SDMOF thus recognized the importance of ensuring the preparedness of APEC economies to take actions focussing on systems and mechanisms that provide emergency food security for vulnerable or affected populations and committed to undertake consultations within respective governments to explore scope for addressing food needs of the most vulnerable in emergencies through one, if not all, of the following areas: enhance social protection systems; enhance supply chain management with a focus on addressing food security needs; explore disaster insurance mechanisms for improved food security in disasters; and explore private public partnerships for addressing emergency food needs.

Please follow the link to access the [Outcomes of the 10th Senior Disaster Management Officials' Forum](#).