



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2016/SOM2/MTF/003

Agenda Item: 3

Welcome to APEC - Starter Kit for MTF

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: APEC Secretariat



**10th Mining Task Force Meeting
Arequipa, Peru
9-10 May 2016**

Welcome to APEC

A very warm welcome to APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)!

APEC is a unique organisation with characteristics that may make your experience at APEC events and meetings different from other international or regional meetings you might be used to. Below are some of the key features of APEC and some background to help you understand why we operate the way we do.

- APEC was founded in 1989 (see [APEC's History](#) and [1989 Ministerial Declaration](#))
- APEC's goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region; its agenda has 3 pillars: trade and investment liberalisation, business facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation (see more about [APEC's purpose and achievements](#))
- APEC is an economic organisation with 21 Member Economies; APEC is not a political organisation (see [Seoul APEC Declaration](#))
- In addition, APEC has 3 official observers – the [Pacific Economic Cooperation Council \(PECC\)](#), the [Association of South East Asian Nations \(ASEAN\) Secretariat](#), and the [Pacific Islands Forum \(PIF\) Secretariat](#)
- APEC has a formal structure, headed by meetings of APEC's Economic Leaders (see [APEC's Structure](#))
- Day to day management of most of APEC is overseen by Senior Officials from the 21 Economies, who collectively meet regularly as 'SOM' – the Senior Officials Meeting (see [current list of Senior Officials](#)), though there are some other parts of the broader system not under SOM's direction
- APEC's Host Economy changes every year – in 2016 it is Peru (see [Peru 2016](#))
- APEC has a Secretariat based in Singapore which headed by an Executive Director (see [APEC Secretariat](#)), and a Policy Support Unit (see [APEC Policy Support Unit](#)); the Secretariat supports the operation of the organisation and the Policy Support Unit provides economic research
- APEC operates on the [principles](#) of [volunteerism](#) and [consensus](#); non-binding decisions are taken by consensus and there are no votes or majority decisions; outcomes themselves have no legal force and are implemented voluntarily; APEC is neither a negotiating body nor a rules-making organisation
- APEC also operates on the basis of a number of policies and guidelines, including on issues such as hosting and chairing meetings, 'non-member' (guest) participation, documentation, publications and more (see APEC's [Policies and Guidelines](#)); each forum within APEC may also have its own terms of reference that further governs its work (please do consult such governing documents)
- APEC conducts a significant number of projects each year (see background on APEC [Projects](#))
- APEC has an [Information Management Portal](#) (AIMP), which includes a [Meeting Document Database](#) (MDDB), [Project Database](#) (PDB), and [Collaboration System](#) (ACS). Parts of the AIMP require a user login, available to member economy delegates – please email aimp@apcc.org to request one.
- [MTF page on the APEC website](#) | [MTF ACS Page](#)
- For more information about APEC, please see the [APEC Website](#), our [Facebook](#) page, our [YouTube](#) video collection, and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).
- If you are unsure about any of the guidelines that apply to the event you are attending, or have any other questions, please do approach the relevant [APEC Secretariat representative](#) for clarification.