



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 3.3

## **Policy Partnership on Women and Economy Proposed Workplan for 2017**

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: PPWE Chair



**Second SOM Steering Committee on Economic  
and Technical Cooperation Meeting  
Ha Noi, Viet Nam  
15 May 2017**

## PPWE Proposed Work plan for 2017

The APEC Women and the Economy Forum will take place in Thua Thien Hue Province, Viet Nam on 26-29 September 2017. By building upon the priorities, discussions, and recommendations from the previous APEC Women and the Economy Fora, it has been decided that the theme for this year's 2017 APEC Women and the Economy Forum is "**Enhancing Women's Inclusion and Economic Empowerment in the Changing World**". This theme aims to support the five (5) priority pillars to advance women's economic empowerment which were introduced during the 2011 and 2012 hosting of APEC WEF, in particular: 1) access to capital and assets; 2) access to markets; 3) skills, capacity building, and health; 4) leadership, voice, and agency; and 5) innovation and technology. It is also aligned to the APEC 2017 Host Economy theme "*Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future*" as it emphasises the importance of advancing women's integration and economic empowerment to better harness the opportunities and take advantage of the changing environment especially in the APEC region.

At present, the 21 APEC member economies employ around 600 million women as part of the labour force, with more than 60% of them working in the formal sector. The United Nations cited that should barriers to women's economic participation be eliminated, it was estimated that up to USD 89 billion annually could be added to the regional economy. In line with this, APEC leaders have continuously recognised women's immense contribution to economic and social development and have maintained its support to further mainstream gender equality and women's economic empowerment across APEC work streams. Considering that women's full potentials have not been fully actualised to make more contributions to the region, APEC economies have agreed to incorporate the issue of leveraging women's potentials and strengthening women's economic empowerment and inclusion in the APEC agenda as well as to make relentless efforts to take actions; implement initiatives to remove the barriers and obstacles encountered by women; and to enhance regional economic integration. This is the goal being realized through the efforts and leadership of APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE). The PPWE is a foremost public-private entity tasked to streamline, elevate, and integrate women's participation in the APEC region for the benefit of all members and to coordinate gender-responsive activities across all APEC working groups and fora.

The global economy with its bright prospects for growth, and the current boom of the information technology (IT) revolution has offered a great variety of business opportunities and profits to the regional economy. This provides various opportunities and advantages for the female workforce as well as women-owned businesses who are engaged in economic activities.

Nevertheless, in this changing world, numerous persistent barriers have hindered women's inclusion particularly in employment, education and training, health care, financial and digital technology integration, among others. If these barriers were removed and the gender gaps were narrowed, gender parity will prevail and equal opportunities will be presented. This significant change alone where women get to have an equal participation in the global economy is projected to exponentially increase the world's GDP by up to USD 28 trillion by 2025, according to the study conducted by McKinsey & UN Women (2015).

The 2017 APEC WEF theme contributes to APEC's joint efforts and reinforces the 2016 APEC Leaders' call on effective economic, financial, and social inclusion of women, and economic empowerment of women as well as their equal access to quality education and economic resources. Particularly, this also addresses the APEC 2017 Host Economy priorities such as: 1) Fostering Sustainable, Innovative and Inclusive Growth and 2) Strengthening MSMEs' Competitiveness and Innovation in the Digital Age.

In line with the 2017 APEC Women and the Economy Forum theme, the following priorities and sub-priorities will support and guide the discussions of all events that fall under APEC WEF:

1. *Promotion of gender equality for sustainable, innovative, and inclusive growth*
  - Narrow gender gaps in access to decent work, assets and skills to enhance women's economic and financial inclusion
  - All women are entitled to health care services
  - Increase proportions of public investment in social services and infrastructure
2. *Enhance the competitiveness and innovation of women-owned MSMEs*
  - Developing women-owned micro enterprises into SMEs;
  - Accentuate the roles and voice of women-owned business associations/organisations in policy formulation and enforcement to enhance women-owned enterprises' inclusion in digital era.

3. *Narrow the gender gap in human resources development*

- Reduce gender gaps in access to education
- Improve professional skills for women workers
- Reinforce solutions for labour markets and access to employment for women workers

To advance these priorities, the 2017 APEC Women and the Economy Forum will highlight recommended policy reforms that promote sustainable, innovative, and inclusive growth and public private partnerships to further assist women-owned MSMEs' access to international markets.

1. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2017.

Meetings	Expected outcomes
PPWE's first Meeting (May, 9-10 2017), Hanoi, Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PPWE Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018 will be updated as of May 2017.</li> <li>- Updated report on progress of gender mainstreaming into APEC's fora and working groups.</li> <li>- Recommendations and comments of PPWE for a non-paper on APEC Women and the Economy Sub-Fund.</li> <li>- Outline of the Guidelines on gender mainstreaming into APEC fora.</li> <li>- Agreement on the Independent Assessment Recommendations- Prepare the draft responses to the SCE.</li> <li>- Draft Statement of the WEF 2017 will be circulated and discussed by PPWE.</li> </ul>
PPWE's second Meeting (September 2017), Hue City, Viet Nam (September 27-28, 2017) TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PPWE Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018 will be updated as of September 2017.</li> <li>- Draft Guidelines on gender mainstreaming into APEC fora will be finalized</li> <li>- Establishment of the APEC Women and the Economy Sub-Fund endorsed by PPWE and BMC.</li> <li>- 2017 Women and the Economy Dashboard will be published by the APEC Policy Support Unit.</li> <li>- Draft Statement of the WEF 2017 will be finalized and approved by PPWE members.</li> <li>- The regular APEC Information Sharing Mechanism of PPWE will be added to PPWE's TOR.</li> <li>- PPWE's report on the implementation of the Independent Assessment recommendations- Report to SCE.</li> </ul>
Public-Private Dialogue on Women and the Economy (PPDWE) (September 2017) Hue City, Viet Nam (September, 26 2017) TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreed actions and recommendations for submission to Ministers.</li> <li>- Strengthened partnership, coordination between public sector, private sector and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy (HLPD) – Ministerial Level Meeting (September 2017) Hue City, Viet Nam (September, 29, 2017) TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adopted WEF's Statement for submission to APEC Leaders.</li> <li>- Adopted Guidelines on gender mainstreaming into APEC fora by Ministers.</li> </ul>
PPWE Management Council Meeting (September 2017) Hue City, Viet Nam (September, 29, 2017) TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree to the next steps for PPWE.</li> <li>- The APEC host economy for the subsequent year will present their hosting plan.</li> </ul>

2. Itemized Work Plans for 2017

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SO M/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
PPWE 01 2016 Individual Action Plan for the Enhancement of the Ratio of Women's Representation in Leadership (Mid-term Review Study and Public-Private Dialogue)	Conduct a study to find out good practices on the policies as well as actions taken for promoting women's representation in leadership; Holding a Public-Private Dialogue (PPD); Utilizing the outcomes of the study as well as PPD as a reference, to support continuous development and implementation of economy-specific Individual Action Plans	To improve women's participation into leadership and decision-making process within each economy.  In response to 2014 and 2015 APEC Leader's Declaration, 2015, 2016 and 2017 APEC Ministerial Meeting Statement and APEC 2014, 2015 and 2016 WEF Statements that reaffirmed the importance of promoting women's representation in leadership, and the APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to economic and social development and promoting women's career development	Human Capital Development SME's Inclusive Growth	In collaboration with HRDWG

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SO M/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
		<p>Contributes to the PPWE Strategic Plan 2015-2018 by promoting the pillar on Leadership, Voice and Agency”</p> <p>Supportive to the main theme of 2017 APEC Women and the Economy Forum.</p>		
<p>PPWE 02 2016 Women as Prime Movers of Inclusive Business</p>	<p>Conduct a survey to compile success stories and best practices of interested member economies who are involved and actively promoting women’s participation in inclusive businesses. These success stories and best practices will be included in the final publication on <i>Women as Prime Movers of Inclusive Business</i> which shall present the current situation, issues and challenges, and policy recommendations to support the women’s role in IBs in APEC.</p> <p>A Concluding Workshop will be held to present the pre-final research in order to gather further inputs and comments, prior the finalisation of the document. This shall be held prior the PPWE 2 Meeting in September 2017.</p> <p>The publication aims to support the information dissemination and awareness building efforts of APEC by encouraging companies to go into inclusive business, and most especially, by supporting women’s participation in economic activities.</p>	<p>In response to APEC Women and the Economy 2015 Fora theme “<i>Women as Prime Movers of Inclusive Growth</i>”, and aligned to the APEC WEF 2016 and 2017 theme and sub-themes; and</p> <p>Supportive to the implementation of the APEC PPWE Strategic Plan for 2015-2018, the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).</p>	<p>Human Capital Development SMEs Inclusive Growth</p>	<p>In coordination with IEG</p>

<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary of Specific Plans</b>	<b>Mandate</b> (Leaders/Ministers/SO M/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	<b>ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities</b>	<b>Cross-fora collaboration</b> (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<p>PPWE 03 2016 Towards the Construction of Public-Private Strategies to Reduce the Cost of Gender-based violence in APEC Economies</p>	<p>A study that identifies and organizes successful experiences carried out in the APEC economies by public and private sectors to prevent gender-based violence, providing evidence for businesses so they can act preventing it, and the costs such violence could generate. A Workshop on the methodologies used in the APEC economies to measure and assess the economic costs on GBV. A Workshop on successful experiences preventing gender-based violence and reducing generating costs</p>	<p>Supportive to the APEC PPWE Strategic Plan 2015-2018.</p> <p>Aligned to 2016 APEC Women and the Economy Statement. In response to the main theme of the 2016 APEC WE Forum” and subtheme “Costs of gender-based violence in the context of economic development”.</p> <p>Supportive to the main theme of 2017 APEC Women and the Economy Forum. APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women’s vital contribution to economic and social development and addressing health-related barriers to women’s economic participation.</p>	<p>Human Capital Development Inclusive Growth Regional Economic Integration</p>	<p>In coordinate with HRDWG and HWG</p>

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HRD 05 2016A – Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Leadership Conference: Enhancing Women’s Economic Participation by Improving Women’s Health  <i>*cross-fora collaboration</i>	Women’s empowerment and the promotion of gender equality are key to achieving sustainable economic development in APEC. Basic foundational needs – including health – must be met for women to enter, remain and rise in the workforce. The Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Policy Toolkit was launched in 2015 to help governments, companies, and NGOs improve female labor force participation through better health. In 2016 an implementation workshop was held to equip governments and private sector with the tools to implement HWHE. In 2017, a one-day workshop on the margins of the HRDWG and PPWE will provide a forum for reporting back and discussing implementation to date with key experts in the field. The purpose of the workshop is measuring progress and sharing implementation experiences. Economies and businesses will be invited to share progress and challenges to date, including any data collected on the impact of HWHE pilots and programs. Insights and lessons learned will be valuable for economies and businesses striving to reform and expand existing programs and policies.	Aligned with PPWE Strategic Plan 2015-2018 and the 2015-2016 Women and the Economic Forum Statement.  APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women’s vital contribution to economic and social development and addressing health-related barriers to women’s economic participation.	Human Capital Development Inclusive Growth Regional Economic Integration	HRDWG in collaboration with HWG and PPWE
<b><u>Proposals:</u></b>				
The Second APEC BEST AWARD (contest for women-entrepreneurs across the APEC region) (Russia)	Interested economies will invite women entrepreneurs from SMEs to join the contest. A panel will be selected to give scores based on candidates’ presentations. The award will be under the form of APEC’s certificates.	Supportive to the APEC PPWE Strategic Plan 2015-2018.  Supportive to the main theme of 2017 APEC Women and the Economy Forum.	SMEs	

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		APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to economic and social development and supporting women's entrepreneurship.		
Women's Economic Empowerment in ICT: Capacity Building for APEC Women Entrepreneur in the Age of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (proposal by Korea)	Will collect success stories of women's entrepreneurs in operating their businesses through IT application. Will hold a Workshop to share and post the information on website; generate opportunities for APEC's women entrepreneurs to self-network	Supportive to the main theme of 2017 APEC Women and the Economy Forum. Supportive to the APEC PPWE Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to economic and social development and supporting women's entrepreneurship.	Human Capital Development SME's	MSME
APEC Gendered Innovation for Technology and Science (GIFTS): Promoting Women in	The proposal seeks to advance women on developing STEM-related skills for the changing world of work, as well as to highlight the importance and contribution of unlocking women's potential in STEM fields for economic growth.	Responding to 2017 APEC Priority: "Fostering Sustainable, Innovative and	Human Capital Development	HRDWG

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STEM for Sustainable Growth (Proposal by Chinese Taipei)	<p>Will conduct the following activities:</p> <p>Echoing the global call to action on promoting girls' and women's participation in STEM;</p> <p>Holding a Women in STEM Camp to strengthen the regional network and provide STEM-related skills training for the future jobs; and</p> <p>Identifying best practices to serve as role models to facilitate the retention of women in STEM field careers.</p>	Inclusive Growth" and 2016 APEC Leaders' Declaration APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to economic and social development and strengthening women and girls' access to STEM education and careers.		
APEC Gendered Innovation for Technology and Science (GIFTS) for Women in the Creative industry  Proposal by Chinese Taipei)	<p>The proposal aims at how cultural dimensions could combine with STEM/ICT, as well as help women entrepreneurs to upgrade skills and quality for creating sustainable enterprises. It focuses on innovative approaches to address issues that impact women entrepreneurs' opportunities to participate in and contribute to the creative industry.</p> <p>The proposal provides: (1) a workshop to demonstrate good practices/ideas from around APEC member economies; and (2) recommendations to assist stakeholders in building gender-sensitive policies that promote economic benefits, cultural diversity, and encourage women entrepreneurs to enter international markets for profit and development</p>	Responding to APEC's theme for 2017 with the priority "promoting sustainable, innovative and inclusive growth	Human Capital Development	PPSTI
Promoting Women in Decision-Making Positions in the Public and Private Sectors	The proposal addresses the importance of empowering women in decision-making positions in both the public and private sectors which will also contribute to the economic development and inclusive growth of APEC Economies	APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to	Human Capital Development	

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(Proposal by Malaysia)	The Workshop planned aims to bring together Senior Women Decision makers from the public sector, private sector, corporate entities, academicians as well as successful entrepreneurs from selected economies to address the gaps in implementation of policy to increase the participation of Women in decision making positions	economic and social development and promoting women's career development.		
Diversity Management for Women's Empowerment (Proposal by Japan)	The proposal aims to enhance women's empowerment through facilitating mutual-understanding and awareness for diversity management by following two activities. To stock take actions relating to diversity management and women's empowerment, and to share them as good practices among APEC To organize a leaders' forum for learning good practices, discussing obstacles and identifying key challenges for facilitating diversity management and women's empowerment.	APEC 2016 WEF Statement	Human Capital Development	ABAC
Capacity Development in Gender Mainstreaming in APEC Fora (Proposal by Viet Nam)	The proposal will to develop capacity of gender mainstreaming and promote women's economic participations through development of a guideline on gender mainstreaming in APEC Fora. The proposal includes a number of activities for reviewing capacity of implementation on gender mainstreaming, and finalizing the document before 2017 WEF 's approval.	APEC 2016 WEF Statement; APEC 2016 Leaders Declaration committing to strengthen our efforts to support the mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment across APEC's work.	Human Capital Development	
Women's Entrepreneurship in APEC (WE-APEC) (proposal by United States)	The U.S. plans to implement a 1-2 day capacity building workshop on the margins of the WEF. The workshop will allow governments, women's business networks/associations and the private sector to share best practices from WE-APEC and allow member economies to discuss ways to expand the initiative to benefit additional entrepreneurs	APEC 2016 WEF Statement; APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to	Human Capital Development	

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		economic and social development and supporting women's entrepreneurship.		
Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) (United States)	The U.S. is implementing a 1-2 day capacity building workshop on the margins of the PPSTI and PPWE to continue to build out the strong network of actors in Women in STEM and support the framework for dialogue, learning, and action. The event will look to engage representatives from government ministries including those that focus on formal education and lifelong learning, science and technology, and/or women's issues, as well as private sector and civil society organizations that are active in recruitment, retention and advancement in STEM careers.	APEC 2016 WEF Statement; APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to economic and social development and strengthening women and girls' access to STEM education and careers.	Human Capital Development	PPSTI, ABAC, EWG
Empowering Women as Managers of the Renewable Energy Sector (Session 2 proposal by the United States)	The United States intends to submit a proposal for a 12-month training, mentorship, and networking program which aims to increase the skills, knowledge, and self-confidence of mid-level career women working in the energy sector in APEC economies and enable the development of an alumni network to encourage professional exchange and peer-to-peer mentoring. The project will be in collaboration with the Energy Working Group, and supports efforts to increase women's participation in STEM fields.	APEC 2015 Energy Ministerial Statement; APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to economic and social development and strengthening women and girls' access to STEM education and careers.	Human Capital Development	EWG
Women in	The U.S. plans to implement a 1-2 day capacity building workshop on the	APEC 2016 WEF	Human Capital	TPTWG

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Transportation (WiT) (cross-fora collaboration led by United States)	margins of the WEF. The United States proposes to implement the 2017 Women in Transportation (WiT) Forum, which will serve as an opportunity to discuss the status of implementation of the APEC WiT initiative, and highlight ongoing pilots taking place across APEC economies, leaning from the experiences, challenges, and successes in advancing women's employment in transportation with data collection.	Statement; APEC 2015 Transportation Ministerial Statement; APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on recognising the women's vital contribution to economic and social development and strengthening women and girls' access to STEM education and careers.	Development	

Non-capacity building activities are:

- Drafting the Guidelines for Gender Mainstreaming
- Implementing the Independent Assessment Recommendations
- Publication of the Women and the Economy Dashboard by the PSU
- Developing the regular APEC Information Sharing Mechanism of PPWE