



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2020/SOM1/CD/004

Agenda Item: 4.A

APEC Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris - Presentation

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: APEC Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris



**24th Chemical Dialogue
Putrajaya, Malaysia
5 February 2020**

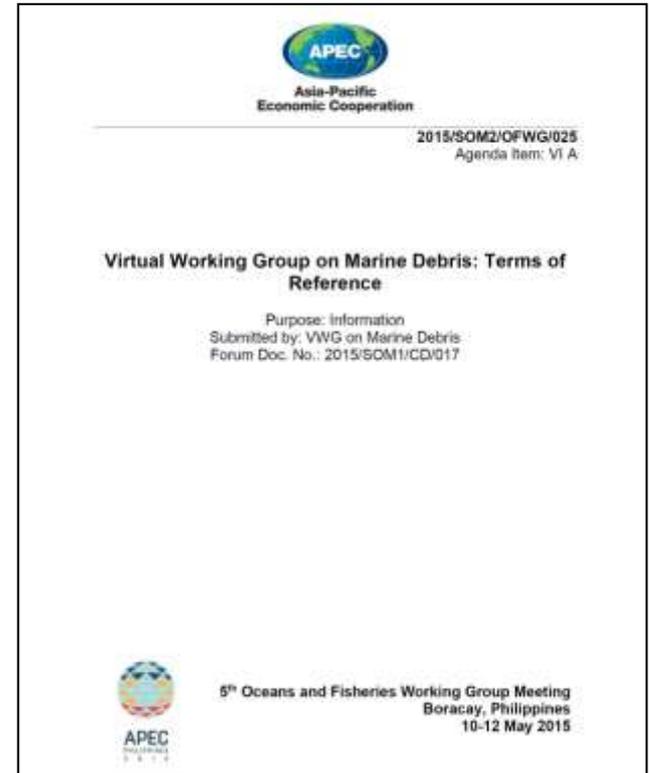


APEC Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris

**24th APEC Chemical Dialogue
February 5, 2020**

VWG on Marine Debris Background

- Formed in 2014 by the APEC Chemical Dialogue and Ocean and Fisheries Working Group
- Co-chaired by the United States (Government) and the Philippines (Industry)
- Group involves public and private sectors and focuses on innovative solutions to land-based waste management
- Estimated that 80 percent of marine debris originates on land with over half the material coming from five rapidly developing Asia-Pacific economies



VWG on Marine Debris: Previous Work

- **2015:** Engaged mayors throughout SE Asia on waste management through the building better cities forum; Stemming the Tide report released.
- **2016:** High-level meeting on overcoming barriers to financing waste management held in Tokyo; Policy and Practice recommendations endorsed.
- **2017:** Next Wave Study released; Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Partnership meetings; High-level meeting in Bali.
- **2018:** APEC marine debris stakeholder meeting: improving data and coordination and developing new partnerships.



Policy and Practice Recommendations

- **Setting waste management targets**
- **Developing waste management performance indicators**
- **Addressing definitional barriers to trade and investment in sustainable materials management solutions**
- **Concentrating the majority of solid waste responsibilities within a single government department or agency**
- **Development of incentive policies**
- **Working with the informal labor force**
- **Establishing strong environmental standards**



Marine Debris 2019 Outcomes

- **Workshop on Building the Infrastructure for the Circular Economy in APEC**
- **APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris**
- **APEC Marine Debris Management and Innovation (MDMI) project sub-fund**
- **Compendium of Policies and Measures to Reduce Marine Debris**



Circular Economy Workshop in Hong Kong

- **Session 1:** Advancing the Circular Economy through Resource Recovery Management (2RM)
- **Session 2:** Current Gaps and Challenges in Developing APEC Economies
- **Session 3:** Financing the Circular Economy Infrastructure
- **Session 4:** Catalyzing Initiatives – From Idea to Action



Circular Economy Workshop in Hong Kong

- Brought together key stakeholders and experts from governments, business, academia, and multilateral institutions.
- Discussed development of bankable projects that can attract private sector investment; and support the transition to a more circular economy.
- Themes included: using new technology to transform waste into valuable commodities, sharing best practices for financial sustainability.



JOINT ABAC-APFF-APIF-HKGCC CONFERENCE
BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN APEC
9 September 2019
Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (HKGCC)
Chamber Theatre, 22/F United Centre, 95 Queenway, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Executive Summary

The conference "Building the Infrastructure for the Circular Economy in APEC" brought together key stakeholders and experts from government, business, academia and multilateral institutions to support the development of a pipeline of bankable projects that can attract private sector investment and support the transition to a more circular and resource efficient economy. Key themes identified during the conference included:

- The need to change the narrative from "waste management" to "resource recovery management";
- Infrastructure should be developed that can support a combination of various options including reducing, reusing, recycling (physical and chemical), energy recovery, treatment and disposal that leads to a more sustainable use of resources and materials;
- To support a more circular economy we must design for longevity, reuse, and recycling recognizing that some raw material will almost always be needed; manufacturing should be performed with clean energy and sustainable materials; items should be used as long as possible and remanufactured when possible; waste should then be recycled either chemically or physically back into feedback which then completes the loop;
- New technologies to transform waste into valuable commodities are being developed; these include technologies to recycle previously unrecyclable plastics and mobile resource recovery units that can process 3 tons per day and convert that into enough fuel and syngas that capital expenditures can be recouped within 2 years;
- For integrated waste management you need supporting policy and strategy; legislation; enforcement; government coordination; and incentives for the private sector;
- Land planning and feedback are some of the biggest risks for waste management projects; a clear understanding of the quantity and quality of the material to be processed is needed;
- There are a number of efforts within APEC including work to support the development of waste management projects under the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris and new projects on sustainable materials management policy;
- The right environmental policy must be in place including laws that define waste;
- Contractual engagement and community approval is required for new projects;
- In order to expand the region's long-term investor base regulations and standards should reflect the long-term nature of investors and investors should be allowed to invest in assets with long-term growth opportunities, such as infrastructure investment. Investors and investors should be encouraged to make decisions that will be beneficial in the long run, not just beneficial at the moment;
- The current situation in the Philippines and Viet Nam was shared included efforts to help develop waste management infrastructure;
- A number of good practices and examples were shared including those on foreign currency and availability payments, payment guarantees, bid evaluation, minimum revenue guarantees, political risk insurance, and technical risk insurance;

APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris

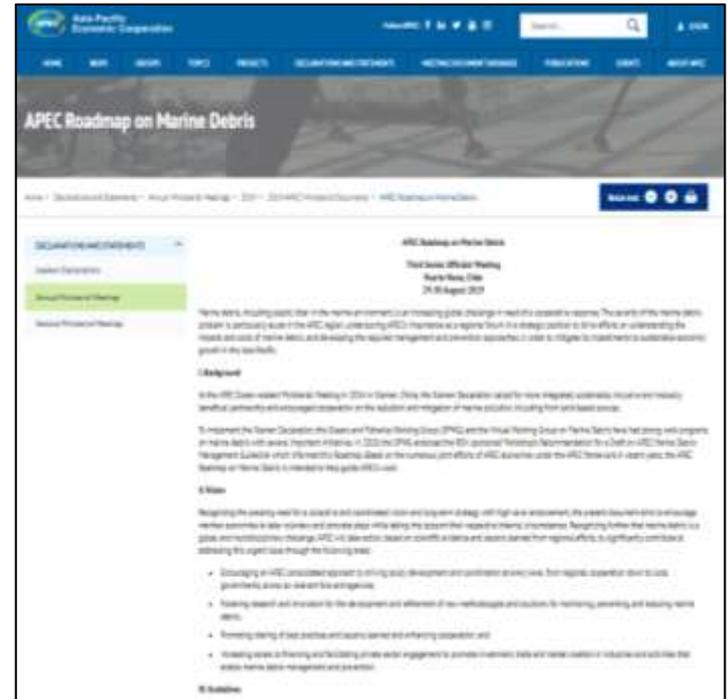
- Endorsed at the Concluding Senior Officials Meeting in Singapore on December 7, 2019.
- Noted by President Piñera as one of the three primary outcomes for Chile's 2019 host year in his Chair's Statement.
- Establishes a common vision and outlines key priorities including:
 - policy development and coordination;
 - capacity building;
 - research and innovation; and
 - financing and private sector engagement.



APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris

The Roadmap encourages economies to to:

- Build upon the *APEC Policy and Practice Recommendation for Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems and Reducing Marine Debris*;
- **Promote sustainable waste management**, and reduction and prevention of leakage of waste from land- and sea-based sources, at all levels of government;
- **Consider cross-fora collaboration** on harmonization of macro and micro plastics monitoring methodologies;
- **Encourage research on environmentally sustainable waste disposal and management.**



APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris

The Roadmap encourage economies to:

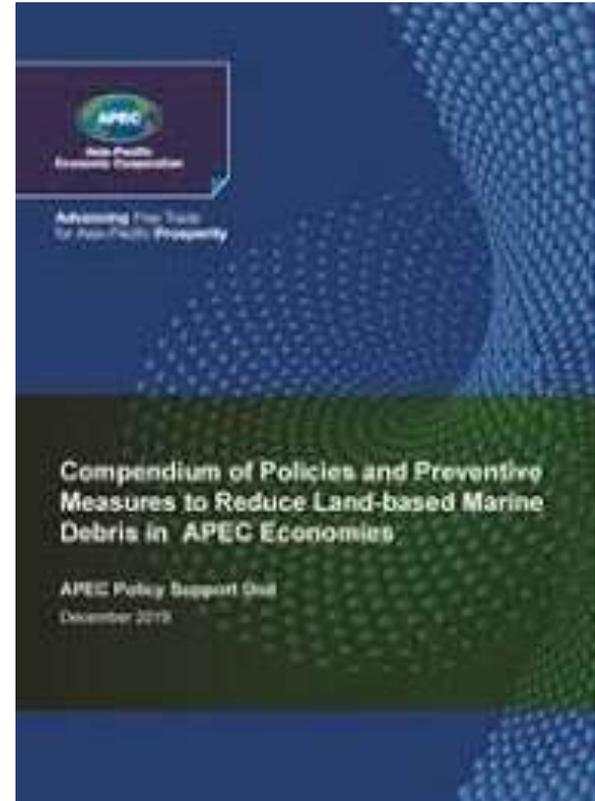
- Encourage and facilitate **Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)** to increase investments, productive partnership arrangements and outputs;
- Consider applying **circular economy or sustainable materials management approaches** to strengthen end-markets for plastic wastes and drive sustainable waste management;
- Explore **opportunities for de-risking innovations and technologies** to enhance access to international financing.



Compendium of Policies & Measures

The Compendium of Policies and Measures to Reduce Land-Based Marine Debris in APEC Economies identified the following gaps:

- The need for stricter enforcement of laws and regulations;
- The need for additional engagement and constructive feedback from stakeholders;
- Marine debris monitoring still depends on manual systems in many economies



APEC Sustainable Materials Policy Program

- Project within the Committee on Trade and Investment
- Objective is to build the capacity of APEC economies to develop domestic policies that promote waste management and recycling (WMR) infrastructure, addressing barriers to trade and increasing markets for sustainable materials.



APEC Sustainable Materials Policy Program

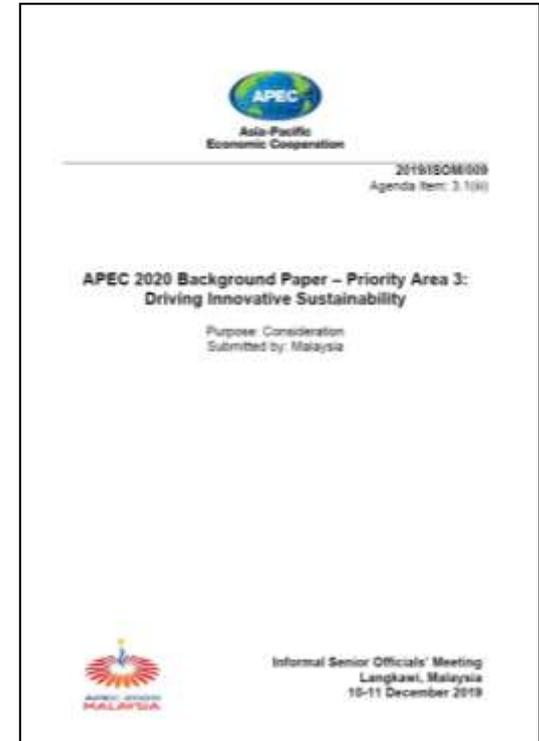
Program will focus on four key policy areas:

- **Supporting environmental regulation** and the identification of sound environmental practices and technology;
- **Enabling legal definitions** of waste and recyclable materials;
- **Materials quality and health and safety standards** to enable safe and functional secondary materials markets;
- **Enabling policies for recycling infrastructure investments**, e.g. well articulated investment rules including those for public private partnerships.



Opportunities in 2020

- Malaysia has proposed “Driving Innovative Sustainability” as one of its three priorities for the year;
- Under that priority innovative waste management through circular economy is one of the sub-themes.
- Several activities have been proposed including:
 - Policy dialogue on innovative waste management (August 2020);
 - Policy dialogue on the usage of science, technology and innovation in circular economy (PPSTI August 2020);
 - Stocktake on waste management methodologies;
 - Recommendations on innovative waste management and circular economy.



Marine Debris Website

The Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris (VWGMD) has launched a new website

The screenshot shows the homepage of the APEC Marine Debris website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the APEC logo and the text "Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation". To the right of the header, there are social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram, followed by a search bar and a "LOGIN" button. Below the header is a navigation menu with the following items: HOME, NEWS, GROUPS, TOPICS, PROJECTS, DECLARATIONS AND STATEMENTS, MEETING DOCUMENT DATABASE, PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS, and ABOUT APEC. The main content area features a large image of waves with the text "Addressing the Marine Debris Challenge in APEC: Promoting Innovative Solutions to Land-Based Waste Management". To the right of the image, there is a "TOPICS" section with a "Topic Links >" link. Below this, there are two text boxes: "APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris" and "Compendium of Policies and Preventive Measures to Reduce Landbased Marine Debris in APEC Economies". At the bottom right, there is a "QUICK LINKS" section with a link to "APEC Business Travel Card" and a small image of a person walking on a beach.

APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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APEC Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris

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Addressing the Marine Debris Challenge in APEC: Promoting Innovative Solutions to Land-Based Waste Management

TOPICS [Topic Links >](#)

APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris

Compendium of Policies and Preventive Measures to Reduce Landbased Marine Debris in APEC Economies

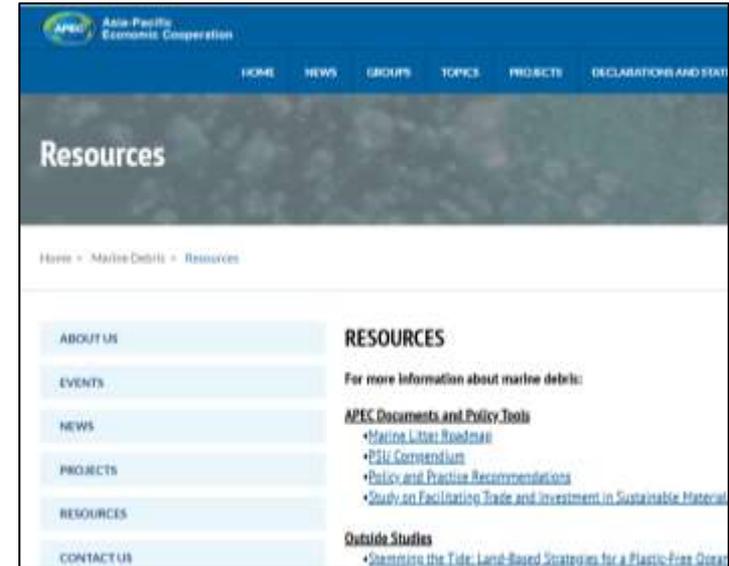
QUICK LINKS

APEC Business Travel Card

Marine Debris Website

The VWGMD website includes the following information:

- **About Us** – Overview of the VWGMD and major milestones
- **Events** – Past and future events related to VWGMD
- **News** – APEC news related to marine debris actions/projects/events
- **Projects** – Information regarding ongoing marine debris projects
- **Resources** – APEC documents/tools, outside studies, government initiatives



www.apec.org/marinedebris



Questions?