



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2020/EPWG1/003
Agenda Item: II.C

Health Working Group 2020: Responding to COVID-19

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: HWG Chair



**16th Emergency Preparedness Working Group
Virtual Meeting
21 July 2020**



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Health Working Group 2020: Responding to COVID-19

Emergency Preparedness Working Group
Virtual Meeting on COVID-19
22 July 2020, 9.00 am (Malaysia /UTC+8)
Putrajaya, Malaysia

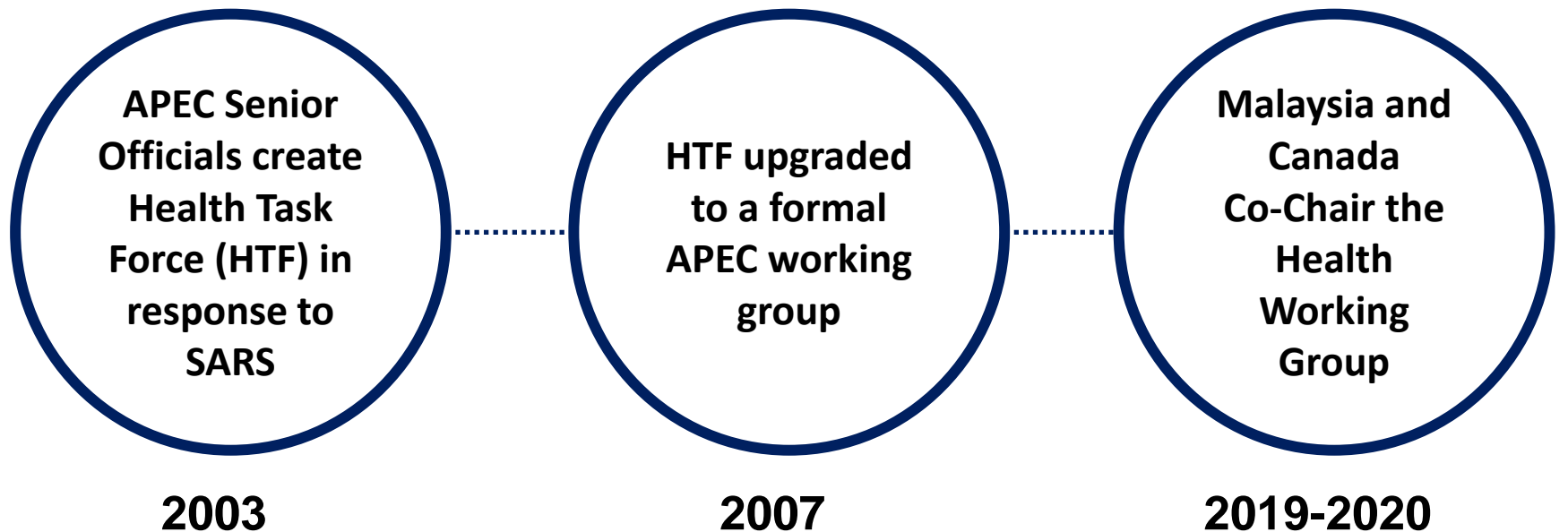


Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

Health Working Group (HWG)

OUR MANDATE:

To work together to improve people's health and well-being, aiming to promote trade, security, inclusive growth and development in the APEC region.



COVID-19 Pandemic

Health Working Group (HWG)

Key HWG Actions to Date

Special Discussion: Surveillance Strategies and Management of 2019-nCoV *(SOM1 HWG Meeting)*

- Knowledge exchange on respective domestic responses to COVID-19.

APEC Infectious Disease Update *(SOM1 HWG Meeting)*

- Discussion on key infectious disease trends in the region, including COVID-19 and increasing vaccine-preventable diseases such as polio.
- Following valuable exchange of information at SOM1 meeting in February 2020, member economies agreed this would be a standing agenda item.

HWG Statement on COVID-19 *(released 23 March 2020)*

- Member economies agreed to develop [a HWG Statement on COVID-19](#) highlighting the economic and health impacts of the virus in the region.

Health Working Group (HWG)

Ongoing Initiatives

Best Practices in Mitigating COVID-19:

- Beginning April 2020, the APEC Secretariat has facilitated the sharing of member economies' best practices in responding to COVID-19, including information on epidemiology, contact tracing, supply chains, etc.

APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health:

- Convened Disaster Resilience and Trauma Working Group to address the significant mental health implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and:
 - Identify the mental health needs specific to high-risk groups in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the APEC region;
 - Identify best practices related to using digital mental health technologies to provide mental health support to high-risk populations; and
 - Support the planning and implementation of digital mental health initiatives with an emphasis on access by high-risk populations.



Health Working Group (HWG)

Ongoing Initiatives

COVID-19 Related Projects

- Digital Tools for Addressing Infectious Disease in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities (Chinese Taipei)
- Empowering Telehealth Solutions Across APEC (United States – self-funded)

APEC Health Working Group Virtual Meeting (*September 2020 – TBC*)

- Malaysia to host the HWG meeting and the Life Sciences Innovation Forum, virtually.

10th High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLM10) (*September 2020 – TBC*)

- Malaysia to host HLM10, a joint ministerial meeting held by the HWG and the Life Sciences Innovation Forum, virtually.

Health Working Group (HWG)

Potential Initiatives (pending endorsement)

Digital Health Innovation:

- Potential report on APEC Best Practices in Digital Health Innovation in Response to COVID-19, to share expertise both within the APEC region and more globally.

Focus on Regional Economic Impacts:

- Analyze the economic impacts of public health measures undertaken in response to the pandemic, as agreed upon in the HWG Statement on COVID-19.

