



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2020/SOM1/PSU/BM35/005

Agenda Item: 3

Policy Support Unit Project Updates

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: Policy Support Unit, APEC Secretariat



**35th Policy Support Unit Board Meeting
Putrajaya, Malaysia
17 February 2020**



Agenda Item 3: PSU Project Updates

(Information as of 3 February 2020;
updated on 17 February 2020)

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Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

Agenda 3: Project Updates & Updated Work Program

3.1. Updates on Current Projects

1) Trends & Developments in Provisions & Outcomes of RTA/FTAs Implemented in 2018 by APEC Economies

- Report covers 3 chapters (intellectual property, investment, and rules of origin) in 4 FTAs (China - Georgia FTA; CPTPP; Hong Kong, China - Macao, China FTA, and The Philippines - EFTA FTA)
- Circulated 4th draft to CTI for review on **12 February**; to publish report if no further comments

2) APEC's Bogor Goals: Final Assessment

- Assessment includes information directly submitted by economies & from external sources
- Timeline:
 - 9 February: Deadline for economies to submit information (note: some have requested for an extension until end-February)
 - Before SOM2: Circulate 1st draft, includes only information from external sources
 - Between SOM2 and SOM3: Circulate 2nd draft, also includes information submitted by economies
- To provide status of assessment, timeline & brief comments on preliminary findings at SOM1

3) Compendium of Resources for the Facilitation of the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region

- Project request by EGILAT approved by PSU Board on 24 January
- Provided an update of project in EGILAT Workshop (4-5 February) & EGILAT meeting (6 February)
- To report progress at the next EGILAT meeting in August

4) Overview of the SME Sector in the APEC Region: Key Issues on Market Access and Internationalization

- To date, 3 economies responded to the survey circulated to SMEWG
- To submit draft final report to SMEWG in March, and to finalize it in May

5) APEC Connectivity Blueprint: Mid-term Review

- Framework for mid-term review endorsed by SOM in October 2019
- To submit draft survey (questionnaire) & case study template for discussion at FotC on Connectivity Meeting (18 February) and for endorsement at SOM1
- To submit preliminary report for SOM2 and draft final report for SOM3

6) APEC Case Studies on Inclusive Policies

- Study commenced in September with invitation to contribute case studies circulated to SCE in October 2019
- Case studies due 15 February from 7 Key Contributing Economies (Canada; Chile; China; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; and Chinese Taipei)
- To provide an update at SCE1

7) Assessment of APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth

- Following endorsement of assessment plan & survey questionnaires, circulated survey questionnaires to SOM & APEC fora chairs in September 2019 with responses due 15 March
- To provide an update on progress during SOM2

8) Assessment of Capacity Building Needs on Trade Related Aspects of E-commerce

- Submitted inception/progress report & presented updates in CTI1
- Study comprises of 2 complementary components: (1) database of relevant laws and regulations, and (2) case studies
- For (1), identified the focus areas, prepared preliminary database template & provided a sample analysis
- For (2), invited economies to nominate potential case studies & volunteer to arrange interviews with relevant stakeholders

9) RAASR 2016-2020: Final Review

- Final review comprises of 2 parts: (1) review of APEC-wide progress using agreed external indicators; and (2) review of progress by individual economies using template submissions.
- For (1), collected & analyzed latest available data, and shared preliminary insights in EC1
- For (2), circulated review template for economies' completion by 29 February; 1 response received so far
- To complete final report for EC2 and 2020 Structural Reform Ministers' Meeting (SRMM) in August

10) Technical Support to RAASR Action Team in Preparation of Input Papers for 2020 SRMM

- PSU's support to RAASR Action Team: includes providing comments on TOR for recruitment of consultants; scoring proposal submissions; reviewing draft input papers by consultants; and potentially participating in policy dialogue and SRMM preparatory meeting
- RAASR Action Team: responsible for further refinement & revisions of draft input papers, together with development of recommendations

3.2. PSU Work Program as at 1 February 2020

See document “PSU Work Program as at 1 February 2020”
(Doc No. 006)

3.3. Other Updates

Recently Completed Work:

1. Statistics Portal (statistics.apec.org)
 - Second update completed in December 2019
2. Policy Briefs
 - Do Public Capital Investments have an Impact on Economic Growth? (No. 29, January 2020)
Link: <https://www.apec.org/Publications/2020/01/Do-Public-Capital-Investments-Have-an-Impact-on-Economic-Growth>
 - Circular Economy: Don't let Waste go to Waste (No. 30, January 2020)
Link: <https://www.apec.org/Publications/2020/01/Circular-Economy---Dont-Let-Waste-Go-to-Waste>

3.3. Other Updates

Upcoming Tentative Projects:

1. [EC] 2020 APEC Economic Policy Report – Structural Reform and Women’s Empowerment (*TOR endorsed by EC on 16 February; now for the Board’s approval by 19 February*)
2. [CTI] Peer Review & Capacity Building on APEC Infrastructure Development & Investment (on 4th reviewed economy)
3. [PPWE] Projects contributing to aim of Women and the Economy Sub-fund, and in support of 2020 Women and the Economy Forum (*projects to be identified*)
4. Others to be updated

Outreach:

1. Singapore APEC Study Centre Seminar: To co-organize & present APEC Regional Trends Analysis (27 February, Singapore) *[postponed]*

2. Speaking invitations:
 - To share experiences of using Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) in PSU's work at a STRI Workshop organized by Canada and OECD Secretariat (10-11 March, Paris)
 - To present SME-related work at an OECD-ERIA Workshop on SMEs, Productivity and the Digital Economy in ASEAN and East Asia (19-20 March, Bali) *[postponed]*
 - To present trade in services statistics at a Workshop on APEC Best Practices on Developing Services-related Statistics in Mode 3 (30-31 March, Bali)
 - To speak at a Public-Private Dialogue on Understanding Non-Tariff Measures on Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Sectors to Enhance Trade to Improve Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation in the Asia Pacific Region (1-2 April, Bali)
 - To be a panelist at ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook 2020 Launch and Conference organized by ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (7 April, Singapore)