



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/SOM2/CTI/IS05
Agenda Item: VIII.a

**Self-Funded Proposal – Advancing Economic
Inclusion through Trade and Investment in Asia
Pacific Region
(Endorsed Intersessionally on 5 April 2021)**

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: China



**Second Committee on Trade and
Investment Meeting
25-27 May 2021**

APEC Self-Funded Project Proposal Coversheet

Submit through APEC Secretariat Program Director. Ensure that the proposal is no longer than 3 pages.

Project Title:	Advancing Economic Inclusion through Trade and Investment in Asia Pacific Region
Project Number (Assigned by Secretariat):	CTI 03 2021S
Committee / WG / Sub-fora / Task-force:	Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)
Proposing APEC economy:	China
Co-sponsoring economies (if any):	Chile; Peru; Malaysia
Date approved by fora:	5 April 2021
Expected start date:	April 2021
Completion date:	May 2022
Project summary: (Describe the project in under <u>150 words</u>. Your summary should include the project topic, goals, planned activities, timing and location. You must provide more details information by answering the questions on the next page)	China proposes to self-fund seminar on advancing economic inclusion through trade and investment in the APEC region, which is consistent with APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion and PUTRAJAYA VISION 2040. It aims to encourage the sharing of practices and explore more operational policies on trade and investment that contribute to economic inclusion among APEC economies. The planned activities include hosting a seminar and providing a summary report with policy recommendations to CTI, compiling a case study report on stocktaking inclusive trade and investment policies and practices in the APEC region, and contributing to more wide-ranging and practical CTI's agenda on inclusion themes.
Total cost of project (USD):	50,000

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As Project Overseer and on behalf of the proposing APEC economy, I will ensure that all Project outputs (Project reports, proceedings, slides, presentations, CDs, etc.), will comply with the APEC Publications, APEC Logo and Copyrights Guidelines before being published. I will also ensure that the project will comply with the Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members (the guidelines are at: <http://www.apec.org/About-Us/About-APEC/Policies-and-Procedures.aspx>). I am aware that I am solely responsible for project fund management in relation to fully self-funded projects. By submitting this APEC Self-Funded Project Proposal Cover Sheet to the APEC Secretariat, you (each Project Overseer or point of contact listed) agree that the APEC Secretariat will collect, use, disclose, and transmit the data contained in the APEC Self-Funded Project Proposal Cover Sheet, which you have provided to the APEC Secretariat, in accordance with the Singapore's Personal Data Protection Act 2012 and our (the APEC Secretariat) data protection policy (<https://www.apec.org/PrivacyPolicy>). The APEC Secretariat will transfer any data provided on this form, which may contain personal data of Project Overseer(s), to APEC member economies overseas via the APEC Secretariat.

Name of Project Overseer

Name of Fora Chair/Lead Shepherd

Date: 5 April 2021

Self-Funded Project Synopsis

1. **Relevance – Benefits to region: What problem does the project seek to address? Does it have sustained benefits for more than one economy?**

The Asia-Pacific has achieved tremendous economic growth over the past three decades. The region has outperformed the rest of the world with an average annual GDP growth rate of 3 percent. Trade in goods and services have achieved a fourfold increase. Nonetheless, the benefits have not been shared fully and equally by all social groups of the region. A significant proportion of the population still lack the capabilities, means and resources to participate in and benefit from the process of globalization and regional economic integration, which may result in the widening of income gaps and greater social inequality. With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the above-mentioned situation has worsened. The pandemic has pushed millions of people back into poverty in our region.

There is concern that the current agenda and discussions of APEC may not adequately address these challenges. Therefore, this project encourages APEC economies to strengthen cooperation in various aspects to advance economic inclusion through trade and investment, and implement collective and individual actions in a diversified and flexible manner.

Relevance – Capacity Building: How will the project build the capacity of APEC members (refer to capacity building goals, objectives and principles at Appendix K of the Guidebook).

Enhancing economic inclusion requires trade and investment activities that all people can participate in and benefit from, both within and across borders. Such activities should not discriminate against established businesses or enterprises. The project might contribute to building the capacity of APEC members in those aspects including but not limited to:

- ✓ Increasing economic participation of all social groups, especially those underrepresented groups including women, indigenous people, MSMEs;
- ✓ Encouraging innovative business models that contribute to economic inclusion and policies that make trade and investment work for all;
- ✓ Improving the equality of social groups to benefit from economic growth;
- ✓ Addressing the impact and pressure that trade and investment may have on people or enterprises;
- ✓ Generating positive social and environmental impacts.

2. **Objectives: State the key objectives of the project.**

- ✓ To promote a better understanding of the importance of economic inclusion and suggest policies that can make trade and investment work for all the people;
- ✓ To identify current trade and investment initiatives that support economic inclusion, and to explore, if necessary, more collective actions by APEC economies to further promote economic inclusion;
- ✓ To encourage the sharing of practices on trade and investment that contribute to economic inclusion among APEC economies;
- ✓ To explore how to incorporate economic inclusion into CTI's agenda with emphasizing cross-fora coordination and avoiding duplication;
- ✓ To promote the economic recovery during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. **Alignment – APEC: Describe specific APEC priorities, goals, strategies and/ or statements that the project supports, and explain how the project will contribute to their achievement.**

In 2017, APEC Leaders adopted the APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion, with the vision of building a more inclusive APEC community by 2030. The Action Agenda instructs economies to develop a holistic set of policies and measures to promote the multiple dimensions of inclusion. It encourages APEC Committees and groups to incorporate economic, financial and social inclusion in their work plans or strategic plans where relevant. In this sense, the project will be one of the specific actions to implement the leader's instructions.

Our APEC PUTRAJAYA VISION 2040 advocates strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth in Asia-pacific region. It declares that, to ensure that the Asia-Pacific region is resilient to shocks, crises, pandemics and other emergencies, the APEC economies will foster quality growth that brings palpable benefits and greater health and wellbeing to all, including MSMEs, women and

others with untapped economic potential. Therefore, this project is a pragmatic measure to fulfill our commitment in the PUTRAJAYA VISION 2040.

Alignment – Forum: How does the project align with your forum’s work plan/ strategic plan?

APEC economies have initiated discussions and initiatives in CTI on various inclusive issues such as inclusive business, inclusive trade, women and the economy among others. The CTI responded to the 2017 Action Agenda by holding a policy discussion on advancing economic inclusion in 2018. The inclusive issue has been a fixed item in CTI agenda since 2020.

4. Methodology: How do you plan to implement the project? Briefly address the following:

- **Work plan: Project timelines, dates of key activities and deliverable outputs.**

Timeline	Activities and outputs
March-April 2021	Endorsement of Self-funded Project Proposal
April 2021	To draft agenda and nominate speakers for the Seminar on Advancing Economic Inclusion through Trade and Investment by APEC member economies
May-July 2021	To host the hybrid Seminar and draft a summary report with policy recommendations
May-December 2021	To compile cases on inclusive trade and investment policies and practices in the APEC region
SOM2, 2022	To submit the summary report of the Seminar and Case study report to CTI for endorsement

- **Beneficiaries: Selection criteria for participants, beneficiary profiles (e.g. participants, end users, policy makers, researchers/ analysts, gender) and how they will be engaged.**

The project will be of benefit to all APEC economies. It builds on current knowledge within and outside the Asia-Pacific, and facilitates the sharing of practices and lessons learnt on policies to advance economic inclusion through trade and investment. Economies will be invited to recommend keynote speakers and panelists to attend the seminar and introduce their economy’s practices, effective domestic regulations and research findings. Apart from CTI delegates, the seminar will be open to all APEC officials, academics, and business people. By over-viewing a broad range of cases, the case study report will contribute in sharing operational information which can provide guidance and reference for all APEC member economies.

- **Evaluation: Indicators developed to measure progress, project outcomes and impacts/ successes. Where possible provide indicators which could assess impacts on women.**

- ✓ The number of participating APEC economies, including the number of developing economies;
- ✓ A summary report on the seminar, including policy recommendations;
- ✓ A survey to participants to determine quality and relevancy of the seminar;
- ✓ Case Study of APEC member economies for sharing valuable insights and practices;
- ✓ The extent to which APEC economies utilize the information and practices shared in the Case Study report towards adjusting their policies of trade and investment;
- ✓ The number of proposals and projects brought into CTI’s future agenda on this issue; and
- ✓ Participation rates, including gender specific aggregated data.

- **Linkages: Information on other APEC and non-APEC stakeholders and how they will be engaged. If and how this proposal builds on (but does not duplicate) the work of other projects. How will this activity promote cross fora collaboration?**

The concept of inclusion underpins the high-level agendas of a number of international organizations and forums. For example, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all people. On the Osaka Summit held in June 2019, G20 leaders endorsed the document of Update on the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Besides CTI’s agenda, this project is closely linked with APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC region. This Project would therefore add to the existing activities implemented by APEC economies under the Action Agenda.