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**Digital Economy Steering Group Report to APEC
Senior Officials on the Implementation of the APEC
Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap in 2021**

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: DESG



**Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting
5 November 2021**

DESG Report to the APEC Senior Officials on the Implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) in 2021

Introduction

In 2017, APEC Leaders pledged to work together to realize the potential of the internet and digital economy and welcomed the adoption of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER). The AIDER is a framework that provides guidance on key areas and actions to facilitate technological and policy exchanges among member economies and to promote innovative, inclusive, and sustainable growth, as well as to bridge the digital divide in the APEC region. It lays out 11 Key Focus Areas (KFA) on which APEC economies are encouraged to concentrate their work.

The Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) advises APEC Senior Officials on a comprehensive and regular basis on the implementation of the AIDER, giving full recognition to the AIDER's broad scope. In 2020, DESG adopted the Work Program for the Implementation of the AIDER (Work Program), which translates each AIDER KFA into several more specific Priority Areas. DESG and other relevant APEC fora and sub-fora are requested to identify initiatives or projects that would address the Priority Areas and when completed will achieve the attainment of the relevant KFA.

In 2021, members of DESG and other APEC fora reported completed and ongoing projects, and made suggestions for new initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the AIDER. These inputs are consolidated in the relevant reporting table of the Work Program (Annex A). Based on those inputs, this report summarizes the progress APEC has made in each of the 11 KFAs and identifies areas that require more efforts from member economies.

1. Development of digital infrastructure

AIDER encourages all member economies to promote an enabling and competitive environment with pro-investment policies for the development of digital infrastructure to support the Internet and Digital economy. In 2021, member economies contributed to exploring the development of ICT infrastructure with projects focused on inclusive and comprehensive SME and entrepreneurship policies, capacity building on using remote sensing technologies for monitoring the environment, driving the digital transformation and capacity building for indigenous peoples, and the potential of new technological approaches, such as *Open Architectures and Network Virtualization*, to foster innovation, competition, and greater resiliency in 5G telecommunications networks.

However, further collaboration by APEC members would be needed to identify gaps in digital infrastructure, and to enable initiatives that would facilitate investment to advance it.

2. Promotion of Interoperability

APEC efforts in this area were focused on the technological innovations for resilience in the face of natural disasters, climate extremes, and pandemics (*2021 ACTs Annual Meeting on Natural Disasters, Climate Extremes and Pandemic Spreading*); the transformation of businesses in the digital age (*Transforming Business in the Digital Age*); and digital identity systems (*APEC Digital Economy Webinar: Accelerating the Development of Inter-Operable Digital Identity Systems and Corporate e-KYC Approaches in APEC*). APEC has also undertaken activities in the sphere of interoperability in recent years, such as a PSU study on *Single Window Systems' international interoperability* (published in 2018), which provided recommendations to overcome obstacles for the Single Window implementation and showed the benefits of SWS international interoperability such as enhancing trade facilitation, institutional connectivity as well as regional economic integration efforts.

At the same time, more efforts can be made by APEC members to study systems or design interoperability of emerging technologies, such as Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), e-invoicing etc.

3. Achievement of universal broadband access

AIDER calls out the importance of ensuring affordable and universal access to high-speed broadband. In 2021, TELWG endorsed a project focused on *Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi*, which aims at promoting the installation and accessibility of digital infrastructure and building indigenous peoples' capacity on ICTs to achieve better inclusiveness.

This key focus area remains a frontier where joint efforts, such as capacity-building activities, research, development of guidelines and best practices, etc., could help APEC achieve tangible progress.

4. Development of holistic government policy frameworks for the Internet and Digital Economy

This area remains a focus of attention for member economies. APEC fora such as DESG and CTI recently conducted studies, capacity-building events, and public-private dialogues contributing to the development of holistic government policy frameworks in such spheres as:

- digital trade facilitation (*Survey on E-Commerce Regulations in APEC; Public-Private Dialogues related to trade facilitation issues in support of the Supply Chain Connectivity Action Plan Phase 2 and implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement*);
- the digital business environment for traditional enterprises (*APEC Workshop on Promoting the Doing-Digital-Business Environment to Reactivate Market Entities; Industry Roundtable on Digital Start-ups and MSMEs*);
- stimulating economic upgrading through global value chains (GVCs) (*Workshop on Effective Domestic Policymaking for Stimulating Economic Upgrading through GVCs*);
- application of internal taxes to electronic transmissions (*Supporting discussions in the WTO: Workshop on the application of non-discriminatory internal taxes to electronic transmissions*);
- intellectual property rights protection (*Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Digital Content Trade; Recovering from COVID-*

19: Successful practices among APEC economies on the use of IP as a collective tool to foster and promote economic development and recovery of vulnerable populations and MSMEs);

- women empowerment (*Strengthening Women Empowerment in Industry 4.0 through Digital Entrepreneurship Training; Women and patents in the APEC region: current situation, performance and challenges*);
- digital capacity building in the post-COVID era (*Promoting Digital Capacity Building to Bridge the Digital Divide in the Post-COVID Era*);
- free, open, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment (*PPD on Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information*).

In 2017-2018, TELWG has also undertaken projects focused on multilanguage email addresses for use in e-government, ICT access for people with hearing or speech impairments, and has an ongoing initiative an e-government centers.

5. Promoting coherence and cooperation of regulatory approaches affecting the Internet and Digital Economy

According to the AIDER, member economies should promote mutual understanding and strengthen cooperation in approaches to regulation including international and technical standards, while respecting each economy's choice of policies that are consistent with domestic situations and international legal obligations. In 2021 and recent years, APEC members undertook initiatives to facilitate regulatory coherence in the following areas:

- businesses' digitalization (*Transforming Business in the Digital Age*);
- digital trade facilitation (*Digital Trade Policy Dialogues*);
- customs-to-customs cooperation (*Customs Strategic Framework on Building Connectivity*);
- intellectual property rights protection (*Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Digital Content Trade*);

- personal data breach notification systems (*Hosting an APEC forum to improve cross-border effectiveness of the personal data breach notification*);
- consumer protection in digital trade (*Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade: Challenges and Opportunities; Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade / E-commerce: Towards Building an APEC Regional Consumer Protection Framework*);
- advertising in the digital economy (*Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Advertising Standards in the Digital Economy*).

6. Promoting innovation and adoption of enabling technologies and services

AIDER encourages economies to take advantage of enabling digital technologies and the internet to promote innovation in products, services, processes, organizations, and business models. In 2020-2021, CPLG, CTI, DESG, EC, HRDWG, HWG, LSIF, OFWG, PPSTI, SMEWG, and TPTWG implemented initiatives devoted to innovative technologies in a wide range of areas, such as:

- mobility integration (*APEC TPT-WG IIEG Main Policy theme Virtual Meeting: Facilitating Mobility Integration through Technological Innovation*);
- healthcare ecosystem (*AI Policy Recommendation on Digital Transformation for Healthcare Ecosystem*);
- marine debris monitoring (*Capacity Building on Marine Debris Monitoring by Using Innovative Technologies in APEC Region*);
- manufacturing (*Policy Recommendation on Improving Supply Chain Performance with Digital Manufacturing technology amid Pandemic Crisis*);
- entrepreneurship (*APEC Digital Economy and Innovative Entrepreneurship Online Forum*);
- prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases (*Using Digital Technologies for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 and Economic Recovery; Digital Tools for*

Addressing Infectious Disease in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities; APEC Conference on Digital Healthcare Innovation – COVID-19 Response by Health Information Utilization);

- competition laws and regulations (*Competition Law and Regulation in Digital Markets*);
- digitally-enabled services;
- promoting trade by utilizing digital technology

APEC members also collaborated with stakeholders, including ABAC and the Asia-Pacific Financial Forum (APFF) on such initiatives as the virtual roundtable “*Accelerating MSME Digital Transformation through Finance*” in May 2021.

7. Enhancing trust and security in the use of ICTs

DESG and CTI organized a series of workshops and studies exploring the potential for regional cooperation in the field of consumer protection in digital trade (*Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade: Challenges and Opportunities; Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Promoting Consumer Protection in the Dispute Resolution and Redress Mechanisms in E-commerce*), including a framework for enforcement cooperation (*Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade / E-commerce: Towards Building an APEC Regional Consumer Protection Framework*).

DESG held a policy dialogue in 2020 to identify challenges, opportunities, and capacity-building needs for personal data protection and utilization (*Personal Data Protection and Utilization in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities*).

Apart from these initiatives, a more concentrated effort would need to be undertaken to promote cooperation on other important topics, such as ICT security and promotion of an open, fair and non-discriminatory business environment.

8. Facilitating the free flow of information and data for the development of the Internet and Digital Economy, while respecting applicable domestic laws and regulations

In March 2021, DESG Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS) member economies came together to issue a joint statement on COVID-19. Members recognized the importance of data in addressing the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, members acknowledged that it is also crucial to promote consumer and business trust by striking the balance between the utilization of data and the privacy of personal information, to draw the full potential of digital technologies in addressing the challenges inflicted by COVID-19.

As another recent accomplishment, a 2019 PSU study, and an associated trade policy dialog, on *Fostering an Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environment in APEC for Data-Utilizing Businesses*, identified some middle-ground approaches that would enable governments to achieve public policy objectives in areas of data security and privacy while also promoting the growth of data-utilizing businesses.

9. Improvement of baseline Internet and Digital Economy measurements

Some relevant projects were implemented in 2015-2018, but no recent activities were undertaken. More efforts to develop a common understanding of baseline measurements for the Internet and Digital Economy would help stakeholders in APEC economies make more informed decisions.

10. Enhancing inclusiveness of Internet and Digital Economy

Inclusiveness of the Internet and Digital Economy is a crucial part of the AIDER and an important focus of APEC members' efforts across a wide range of fora: DESG, HRD, IPEG, PPFS, PPWE, SCE, SMEWG, and TEL. Relevant projects and initiatives contributed to advancing digital skills, facilitating the growth of MSMEs, women empowerment, integrating support for the aging population, and alleviating poverty such as *Study on barriers and opportunities in using digital technologies to provide services for older adults in poverty condition in APEC economies*. A number of initiatives and programs have been undertaken in this key area and ensuring the

synchronization and leveraging of the relevant programs will further strengthen its capability and maximize its benefits.

11. Facilitation of E-commerce and Advancing Cooperation on Digital Trade

APEC's broad agenda in the sphere of e-commerce and digital trade facilitation is evident from the wide range of initiatives and projects implemented and planned, covering such topics as:

- single window interoperability;
- capacity-building to support e-commerce negotiations;
- analysis of the impact of the digital economy on GVCs;
- smart agriculture;
- trade facilitation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- participation of MSMEs in cross-border e-commerce (*APEC Cross-Border E-Commerce Training Workshop – Accelerating Digital Transformation toward inclusive growth - the COVID-19 Impact*);
- digitally-enabled services;
- paperless trading.

Members have also acknowledged the importance of increasing the number of economies participating in the Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade and the Pathfinder for a Permanent Customs Duty Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Including Content Transmitted Electronically.

Conclusion

Several APEC fora have been actively contributing to the implementation of the AIDER. Considerable efforts have been made to address such KFAs as “6. Promoting innovation and adoption of enabling technologies and services” and “11. Facilitation of E-commerce and Advancing Cooperation on Digital Trade”. Following the Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, issued on 5 May 2020, a range of initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen APEC’s digital agenda and strategy, including electronic commerce and related services, with fresh perspectives and innovative means to navigate the new economic realities brought about by COVID-19.

At the same time, there are areas in which there are still opportunities for development:

1. Development of digital infrastructure,
3. Achievement of universal broadband access,
7. Enhancing trust and security in the use of ICTs,
8. Facilitating the free flow of information and data for the development of the Internet and Digital Economy while respecting applicable domestic laws and regulations
9. Improvement of baseline Internet and Digital Economy measurements

These areas represent some “low-hanging fruit” where stronger APEC collaboration would bring significant results. To reinforce the focus on these areas, it may be necessary to suggest further actions or establish development plans specifically for them, or to explore the experience of those economies that demonstrate strong development in these areas. The collaboration may have to build on current work programs that have already been established in member economies, to find the initiatives or projects to leverage opportunities in each area.

In addition, APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade agreed in their Joint Statement in 2021 that APEC should accelerate implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, particularly those articles relating to the

accelerated use of digitalisation for border processes. They also agreed to embed digital trade facilitation measures taken by APEC members during COVID-19. In light of this, it will be important that relevant APEC fora give due priority to strengthening digital trade facilitation.

In order to accelerate implementation of the AIDER the DESG will intensify its work (including intersessionally), strengthen its coordination with other APEC fora and sub-fora, and proactively engage with them to identify synergies and cross-cutting objectives for APEC's digital economy activities.

**DESG Work Program for the Implementation of the AIDER
Suggested Initiatives and Projects to Address AIDER Key Focus Areas**

Projects and initiatives that address multiple Key Focus Areas (KFA) are listed once in each KFA they address.
Projects and initiatives that address multiple Priority Areas (PA) have additional PAs listed in their description.

Key Focus Areas	Priority Areas	Suggested Initiatives/Projects & Their Lead Fora to Accomplish Priority Areas	Possible fora for collaboration ¹
1. Development of digital infrastructure	a. Identify digital, including non-telecoms, infrastructure gaps	<p>Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi – aims at promoting the installation and accessibility of digital infrastructure and building indigenous peoples’ capacity on ICTs to achieve better inclusiveness. The project will be conducting online seminars to share the i-Tribe project experience and to exchange ideas with other economies on the current development status of the installation and application of digital infrastructure in APEC indigenous communities to increase the accessibility of ICTs for Indigenous Peoples. (Chinese Taipei – TEL 03 2021S)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 3a, 10a, 10d, 10e.</i></p> <p>APEC Policy Dialogue on SMEs and Entrepreneurship Framework: Let’s be Coherent and Cohesive. Event was held in September 2021. (Malaysia – SME 06 2019A)</p>	SCE, TELWG

¹ TELWG has expressed interest to engage DESG in cross-fora collaboration using its proposal “APEC TEL initiative on Global Challenges and Cooperation Utilizing ICT” as a basis for such collaboration.

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		<i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4e, 4f.</i>	
	b. Enable initiatives that would facilitate investment to advance digital infrastructure		
	c. Explore the development of ICT infrastructure to facilitate the digitalization of economies	<p>Open Architectures and Network Virtualization (United States – TEL 03 2020S)</p> <p>Capacity building on using remote sensing technologies for monitoring the environment among APEC economies. The proposed workshop will allow participants to share their experiences and increase their understanding in evaluating remote sensing technologies and learn new methodologies for environmental monitoring in lieu of in-person checks, considering the current restrictions by COVID-19. (Peru – DESG 01 2021)</p> <p>Report and workshop on Telemedicine in the Asia-Pacific Region: Network Architecture, Capacity and Feasibility. The project aims to discuss how APEC Economies can better leverage ICTs to assist front-line health professionals and patients with limited access to healthcare services. The report will include topics such as technical architecture, capacity, and feasibility in the region. It will also share within APEC successful case studies and implementable</p>	

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		recommendations. (China – TEL 02 2020A , under implementation until 2022)	
2. Promotion of Interoperability	a. Discuss systems or solutions that would enable cross-sectoral digital collaborations (e.g. platform independent e-payment)	<p>Study on Single Window Systems (SWS)' International Interoperability: Key Issues for Its Implementation</p> <p>The study identifies (i) best practices, (ii) obstacles in implementing SWS' international interoperability through economies' experiences. The study provided recommendations to overcome obstacles for the Single Window implementation and showed the benefits of SWS international interoperability such as enhancing trade facilitation, institutional connectivity as well as regional economic integration efforts.</p> <p>Final report at https://www.apec.org/Publications/2018/08/Study-on-Single-Window-Systems-International-Interoperability. (Peru)</p> <p>Transforming Business in the Digital Age (Singapore – DESG, 2021) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 5a.</i></p> <p>APEC Digital Economy Webinar: Accelerating the Development of Inter-Operable Digital Identity Systems and Corporate e-KYC Approaches in APEC – a webinar to bring together experts from industry, public sector, multilateral institutions and academia, including several who are actively involved</p>	EPWG, HWG, PPSTI, SCSC, TELWG, TPTWG

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		<p>in ongoing global and regional efforts, to find solutions to inter-operability. Each of the two panel discussion sessions covers the following: (a) clear definitions of what is meant by digital ID/corporate e-KYC; (b) what are the benefits to APEC member economies; (c) how can they best be developed into inter-operable systems across economies; (d) what is needed from governments and regulators; and (e) what are low-hanging fruits that can be targeted for accomplishment in 2022. (Thailand & ABAC – DESG 02 2021S)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4a, 5a, 7a, 7g.</i></p> <p>2021 ACTs Annual Meeting on Natural Disasters, Climate Extremes and Pandemic Spreading – aims to promote public-private partnerships for science and technological innovation for mitigating climate extremes via sharing, decision-relevant information, science and technology for sharing (Chinese Taipei – EPWG, PPSTI, 2021)</p>	
	<p>b. Study on system or design interoperability for emerging tech (e.g. IoT, 5G)</p>		
<p>3. Achievement of universal broadband access</p>	<p>a. Promote affordable, accessible and high-quality digital connectivity, including in rural areas</p>	<p>Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi – aims at promoting the installation and accessibility of digital infrastructure</p>	<p>TELWG</p>

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		<p>and building indigenous peoples' capacity on ICTs to achieve better inclusiveness. The project will be conducting online seminars to share the i-Tribe project experience and to exchange ideas with other economies on the current development status of the installation and application of digital infrastructure in APEC indigenous communities to increase the accessibility of ICTs for Indigenous Peoples. (Chinese Taipei – TEL 03 2021S)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 1a, 10a, 10d, 10e.</i></p>	
<p>4. Development of holistic government policy frameworks for the Internet and Digital Economy</p>	<p>a. Digital initiatives or strategies that involve Whole-of-Government, the multi-stakeholders, and/or by government agencies that do not typically work with each other (e.g. Finance and eGov)</p>	<p>E-Government Center (Japan – TELWG, ongoing until 2022)</p> <p>Multilanguage e-mail address in e-government (China – TELWG, 2018)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Area 4b.</i></p> <p>APEC Digital Economy Webinar: Accelerating the Development of Inter-Operable Digital Identity Systems and Corporate e-KYC Approaches in APEC – a webinar to bring together experts from industry, public sector, multilateral institutions and academia, including several who are actively involved in ongoing global and regional efforts, to find solutions to inter-operability. Each of the two panel discussion sessions covers the following: (a) clear definitions of what is meant by digital ID/corporate e-KYC; (b) what are the benefits to APEC member</p>	<p>CTI, EC, IEG, SCE, SCSC, SMEWG, TELWG</p>

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		<p>economies; (c) how can they best be developed into inter-operable systems across economies; (d) what is needed from governments and regulators; and (e) what are low-hanging fruits that can be targeted for accomplishment in 2022. (Thailand & ABAC – DESG 02 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 2a, 5a, 7a, 7g.</i></p>	
	<p>b. Sharing of initiatives that will aid society to better access technology and be an active player in the digital economy</p>	<p>Survey of initiatives in APEC Economies to promote access to ICTs for people with a hearing and/or speech impairment (Australia – TELWG, 2017)</p> <p>APEC Workshop on Promoting the Doing-Digital-Business Environment to Reactivate Market Entities aims to investigate regulatory frameworks and policy acts of the development of digital economy from the doing-digital-business environment aspect, promote the vitalities of main entities in digital markets in APEC economies and make traditional enterprises, especially the MSMEs, benefit from digital economy. (China – DESG 02 2020S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4f, 11b.</i></p> <p>Workshop on Effective Domestic Policymaking for Stimulating Economic Upgrading through GVCs. The workshop is planned for 2021 and will focus on sharing best practices and policymaking experiences that led to increased gains from domestic value added</p>	

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		<p>production. The workshop will examine the key challenges that impede APEC economies' ability to economically upgrade through GVCs, review existing APEC economies' domestic policies that contribute towards their more effective GVCs participation and higher value added production and compile best practices in APEC region that stimulate economic upgrading through GVC. (Russia – CTI, 2021)</p> <p>Questionnaire, Workshop and Report “Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Digital Content Trade”. Identify and address challenges for IPR in digital content trade and ways to overcome them. Address the challenges for the IPR protection in digital content trade through the respective policy frameworks. (Russia – CTI 02 2019, implemented in 2021)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5c, 11b.</i></p> <p>Sustainable Investment to Enhance Digitally-enabled and Inclusive Recovery: Paradigms and Capacity Building in Precision Health – The workshop aims to support the efforts of APEC economies to understand effective approaches and set up new models for sustainable investments contributing to inclusive recovery in the digital world. The achievements will be reported to APEC IEG to</p>	

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		<p>share with member economies and ensure benefits to the region. (Chinese Taipei – IEG 01 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5a, 10a.</i></p> <p>Building a Digital Ready Society / APEC Digital Inclusion Exchange Forum – aims to enhance the mutual learning and understanding on how digital readiness initiatives can aid society to better access technology as well as equip citizens with the skills that are needed to use that technology – actively, meaningfully and safely (Singapore & Thailand – TEL 02 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10e.</i></p>	
	<p>c. Developing and sharing policies, information, best practices and recommendation on inclusive policy framework for the internet and digital economy for all include Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), women, children, people with disabilities and underrepresented member of society</p>	<p>Industry Roundtable on Digital Start-ups and MSMEs (Thailand – TELWG, 2017)</p> <p>Strengthening Women Empowerment in Industry 4.0 through Digital Entrepreneurship Training. Events were held in November 2020. (Indonesia – SME 12 2019A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4d, 4f, 10a, 10c, 10d.</i></p> <p>APEC Symposium and Workshop on Technology Roadmaps to Promote Industry 4.0 in Developing APEC Economies. Events were held in June 2021. The project objective was to develop and / or strengthen the acceleration of industry 4.0 in APEC</p>	

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		<p>economies through initiatives generated by decision-makers, as a consequence of shared experiences and application of the Technology Roadmaps (TRM) methodology. (Peru – SME 02 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4d, 6a, 10a.</i></p> <p>Supporting Women's Access to Global Markets: Online Course for the APEC Business Community (Australia – SME 04 2020S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4d, 4f, 10a, 10c, 10d.</i></p> <p>What comes after SME Digital Transformation? - Measuring Effectiveness of Public Policy and Identifying Trends for the Post-Digital Era (Chile – SME 08 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4d, 10a.</i></p> <p>Study on barriers and opportunities in using digital technologies to provide services for older adults in poverty condition in APEC economies. The project aims to find-out physical, social, and cultural barriers that limits the usage of digital technologies, and to collect best practices on digital inclusion for poor elderly people. From the study, a set of voluntary recommendations and possible future activities will be identified in order to improve digital inclusion among poor elderly people. (Peru – DESG 02 2021) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10e.</i></p>	

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		<p>Women and patents in the APEC region: current situation, performance and challenges – seeks to study patent application and attainment processes related to women and to provide case studies in order to report the situation, challenges and overall environment of women in APEC as patent inventors, applicants and holders, in order to promote measures that support a greater use of the patent system by current and future generations of female innovators. (Peru – IPEG 02 2021)</p> <p>Recovering from COVID-19: Successful practices among APEC economies on the use of IP as a collective tool to foster and promote economic development and recovery of vulnerable populations and MSMEs. This project will develop a compendium providing guidelines, recommendations and successful cases among APEC economies to promote the design and implementation of policies for the use of IP collective tools to support economic improvement and recovery of vulnerable populations and MSMEs. It will also provide information on how public and private actors can cooperate in the development and sustainability of collective tools. (Peru – IPEG 01 2021)</p>	

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		<p>2021 APEC SME Digital Economy Development Conference (China – SME 02 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4d, 10a.</i></p> <p>APEC Policy Dialogue on SMEs and Entrepreneurship Framework: Let’s be Coherent and Cohesive. Event was held in September 2021. (Malaysia – SME 06 2019A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 1a, 4e, 4f.</i></p>	
	<p>d. Developing government policy framework or recommendation and sharing of information, policies, experiences and best practice on internet and digital economy in various areas such as agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, competition, manpower, and so on, taking into account inclusivity to leave no one behind</p>		
	<p>e. Foster a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment</p>	<p>Survey on E-Commerce Regulations in APEC (Singapore – continue to be implemented at DESG)</p> <p>Continue holding Digital Trade Policy Dialogues. Policy Dialogues on Digital Trade have been held since 2016, discussing issues related to digital trade, explore emerging policy topics, and further deepen an</p>	

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		<p>understanding of the opportunities to increase participation in the digital economy. Discussions also focused on policies and regulatory frameworks to facilitate digital trade, facilitating the commercial development, and adoption of emerging technologies, particularly in the COVID-19 environment. (United States – CTI)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5c, 8b.</i></p> <p>To facilitate trade in goods via e-commerce, hold public-private dialogues related to trade facilitation issues in support of the Supply Chain Connectivity Action Plan Phase 2 and implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (United States – CTI)</p> <p>Supporting discussions in the WTO: Workshop on the application of non-discriminatory internal taxes to electronic transmissions. In the context of ongoing multilateral discussions on the application of customs duties to electronic transmissions, this project will provide a workshop for sharing experiences on how an internal tax (such as VAT or GST) can be applied to electronic transmissions to achieve certain policy goals (such as revenue raising) in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner. (New Zealand – CTI 06 2021S)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Area 11b.</i></p>	

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		<p>PPD on Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information – this PPD aims to be a space where regulators, representatives from private sector and TBT experts will discuss the results of the Self-funded Study (which is part of the initiative 2020/CTI2/IS06 that includes this PPD) and possible best practices to improve the quality of the information submitted in the TBT notifications. (Peru – CTI 01 2021T)</p>	
	<p>f. As we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis, identify opportunities to lock in the progress made and accelerate the digitization of industries by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting businesses to go digital and reducing red tape for businesses to operate. - Strengthening collaboration with key partners (including industry, academia, across APEC community) to accelerate progress. - Ensuring resilience of businesses, including 	<p>Policy Roundtable: Cybersecurity During the COVID-19 Pandemic – a public-private roundtable on cybersecurity risk management best practices to facilitate trade in the APEC region. (United States – DESG 04 2020S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5b, 7a, 7c.</i></p> <p>Promoting Digital Capacity Building to Bridge the Digital Divide in the Post-COVID Era aims to improve the inclusive digital development, and attach great importance to the digitally weaker status of vulnerable groups such as MSMEs, women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities particularly in remote areas in the context of COVID-19. The project is set to focus on and actively explore digital capacity building in the post-COVID era, encourage member economies to carry out exchanges, share experience</p>	

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	against cyber risks, as well as for our broader digital economy	<p>and build consensus in bridging the digital divide through enhancing digital capacity with a view to strengthening the sense of participation, fulfillment and happiness in the development of digital economy. (China – DESG 01 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 6j, 10d.</i></p> <p>2021 APEC Workshop on Business Continuity Planning with Crisis Management for SMEs/MSMEs (Korea – SME 07 2020A)</p>	
5. Promoting coherence and cooperation of regulatory approaches affecting the Internet and Digital Economy	a. Promote discussions on interoperability of technology initiatives, including new and emerging ones, so as to support businesses' digitalization	<p>Transforming Business in the Digital Age (Singapore – DESG, 2021) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 2a.</i></p> <p>Sustainable Investment to Enhance Digitally-enabled and Inclusive Recovery: Paradigms and Capacity Building in Precision Health – The workshop aims to support the efforts of APEC economies to understand effective approaches and set up new models for sustainable investments contributing to inclusive recovery in the digital world. The achievements will be reported to APEC IEG to share with member economies and ensure benefits to the region. (Chinese Taipei – IEG 01 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4b, 10a.</i></p> <p>APEC Digital Economy Webinar: Accelerating the Development of Inter-Operable Digital Identity</p>	EC, GOS, TELWG

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		<p>Systems and Corporate e-KYC Approaches in APEC – a webinar to bring together experts from industry, public sector, multilateral institutions and academia, including several who are actively involved in ongoing global and regional efforts, to find solutions to inter-operability. Each of the two panel discussion sessions covers the following: (a) clear definitions of what is meant by digital ID/corporate e-KYC; (b) what are the benefits to APEC member economies; (c) how can they best be developed into inter-operable systems across economies; (d) what is needed from governments and regulators; and (e) what are low-hanging fruits that can be targeted for accomplishment in 2022. (Thailand & ABAC – DESG 02 2021S)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 2a, 4a, 7a, 7g.</i></p>	
	<p>b. Identify and promote the use of globally relevant standards that could be adopted to assure businesses of continuity and reliability when conducting business</p>	<p>APEC Digital Symposium – a public-private symposium that exchanged information and experiences on policies that contribute to the growth of the digital economy with a focus on digital privacy, digital trade standards, and emerging technologies. (Australia – CTI 08 2019S)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 6a, 8b.</i></p> <p>APEC GVCs Blueprint 2020-2025: Realizing the Role of the Digital Economy within GVCs – a workshop & report to enhance the understanding of developing economies regarding changes in GVCs in</p>	

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		<p>industrial sectors brought about by digital technologies. (Chile & Korea – CTI 06 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 10a, 11a.</i></p> <p>Policy Roundtable: Cybersecurity During the COVID-19 Pandemic – a public-private roundtable on cybersecurity risk management best practices to facilitate trade in the APEC region. (United States – DESG 04 2020S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4f, 7a, 7c.</i></p>	
	<p>c. Promote international regulatory coherence for new business models</p>	<p>Continue holding Digital Trade Policy Dialogues. Policy Dialogues on Digital Trade have been held since 2016, discussing issues related to digital trade, explore emerging policy topics, and further deepen an understanding of the opportunities to increase participation in the digital economy. Discussions also focused on policies and regulatory frameworks to facilitate digital trade, facilitating the commercial development, and adoption of emerging technologies, particularly in the COVID-19 environment. (United States – CTI) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4e, 8b.</i></p> <p>Customs Strategic Framework on Building Connectivity: 3M plus 3S Initiative. The aim is to build Smart Borders, enable Smart Logistics, and promote Smart Trade (3S), through a stronger cooperation in “Mutual Recognition of Control,</p>	

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		<p>Mutual Assistance of Enforcement, and Mutual Sharing of Information” (3M), so as to promote trade facilitation and security in a systematic approach for better connectivity within the APEC region. Endorsed framework http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2019/SCCP/SCCP2/19_sccp2_024.pdf (Chile & China – CTI)</p> <p>Questionnaire, Workshop and Report “Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Digital Content Trade”. Identify and address challenges for IPR in digital content trade and ways to overcome them. Address the challenges for the IPR protection in digital content trade through the respective policy frameworks. (Russia – CTI 02 2019, implemented in 2021) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4b, 11b.</i></p>	
	<p>d. Promote stronger cross-border cooperation and sharing of best practices efforts on online consumer protection</p>	<p>Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade: Challenges and Opportunities – a workshop & report to seek ways to promote regional cooperation in the field of consumer protection in digital trade, including creating a framework for enforcement cooperation. (Korea – ECSG 03 2018A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 7f, 11a.</i></p> <p>Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Advertising Standards in the Digital Economy – in the PPD, speakers and participants exchanged experiences on</p>	

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		<p>advertising in the digital economy and addressed the challenges of digital marketing for a fair competition, focusing on developing advertising standards for electronic commerce, considering digital platforms, data and competition policy. (Peru – CTI 05 2019T).</p> <p>Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Promoting Consumer Protection in the Dispute Resolution and Redress Mechanisms in E-commerce – this PPD seeks to provide an overview and discussion of some of the main current barriers and challenges to overcome in order to foster consumers’ confidence on e-commerce and exchange experiences on the regulatory framework in this area among APEC economies. The report was published on the APEC website. (Peru – CTI 09 2019T).</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 7f, 11a.</i></p> <p>Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade / E-commerce: Towards Building an APEC Regional Consumer Protection Framework – a workshop & report to seek ways to build an APEC regional framework for consumer protection, as a follow-up of the 2018 workshop. (Korea – CTI 09 2020A)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 7f, 11a.</i></p> <p>Hosting an APEC forum to improve cross-border effectiveness of the personal data breach</p>	

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		<p>notification system – a forum & report to enhance understanding of the current status of different personal data breach notification systems of member economies to propose cooperation in data protection while respecting applicable domestic laws and regulations (Korea – DESG 01 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 7g.</i></p> <p>APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Product Safety in Digital Trade – a survey and a workshop that aim to enhance the understanding of challenges that product safety regulators face and to exchange experiences in regulatory updating and reform. (Chinese Taipei – SCSC 10 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 11e.</i></p>	
6. Promoting innovation and adoption of enabling technologies and services	a. Share information, policies and initiatives to promote greater adoption of emerging technologies by businesses, individuals, governments and society to embrace digital transformation	<p>APEC Digital Symposium – a public-private symposium that exchanged information and experiences on policies that contribute to the growth of the digital economy with a focus on digital privacy, digital trade standards, and emerging technologies. (Australia – CTI 08 2019S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5b, 8b.</i></p> <p>Smart Silver Innovation – aims to utilize ICT applications and emerging technologies to solve issues related to an aging society. (Japan – TEL 01 2019S, under implementation until 2023)</p>	HRDWG, HWG, OFWG, PPSTI, SCE, SMEWG, TELWG, TPTWG

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		<p>Implementing Telehealth Solutions in the APEC Region: Implementation Mechanisms. This project will address knowledge gaps and further increase APEC members' understanding of the policy and regulatory landscape and innovative practices that guide the effective delivery of telehealth services across the APEC region. (United States – LSIF 01 2021S)</p> <p>2021 APEC TPT-WG IIEG Main Policy theme Virtual Meeting: Facilitating Mobility Integration through Technological Innovation – an APEC forum to improve mobility through technological innovation and to enhance understanding of mobility status in different economies as well as share Mobility as a Service (MaaS) experiences. (Chinese Taipei – TPTWG, 2021)</p> <p>Public Private Dialogue (PPD) on Digitally Enabled Services: Challenges and Opportunities – aims to equip participants with better understanding of digitally enabled services, exchange views and experiences between public and private sector representatives and develop policy recommendations to assist especially MSMEs in the service sectors to harness digital technologies (Chinese Taipei – GOS 02 2021A)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Area 11b ,11c.</i></p>	

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		<p>Promoting Trade by Utilizing Digital Technology – aims to enhance awareness of potentialities that advanced technology has created in facilitating trade promotion and reshaping business models to achieve digital transformation with the private sector to share practical experiences. (Chinese Taipei – CTI 07 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10a.</i></p> <p>APEC Research and Technology 2021 Seminar on “STI cooperation for the Sustainable and resilient system after COVID-19”. The seminar, hosted during PPSTI-18 on August 25, 2021, discussed the importance of emerging and digital technologies in building resilience in STI systems.</p> <p>Regulatory challenges to promote the development of the Digital Economy: a consumer empowerment perspective. A self-funded workshop & report regarding regulatory measures to promote the development and use of digital tools aimed to empower users to make better contracting decisions and to facilitate the execution of service related procedures. (Peru – TEL 01 2021S).</p> <p>APEC Symposium and Workshop on Technology Roadmaps to Promote Industry 4.0 in Developing APEC Economies. Events were held in June 2021.</p>	

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		<p>The project objective was to develop and / or strengthen the acceleration of industry 4.0 in APEC economies through initiatives generated by decision-makers, as a consequence of shared experiences and application of the Technology Roadmaps (TRM) methodology. (Peru – SME 02 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4d, 10a.</i></p> <p>APEC Online-to-Offline (O2O) Initiative – Unleash the Potential of SMEs through Digital Transformation for a Shared Future (Malaysia – SME 01 2017A)</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence in APEC 2020 – a report by ABAC USA that gave an overview of the state of AI in APEC economies and the enabling initiatives that will further drive adoption. (ABAC) https://ncapec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ABAC-AI-Report.pdf</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence In APEC: Progress, Preparedness and Priorities 2021 – Building on the 2020 study, this report evaluates each APEC economy on its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities as they relate to AI (ABAC). Completion date late 2021.</p>	

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	<p>b. Hold discussions on policies to encourage and facilitate innovation through digital means and adoption of emerging technologies, including in MSMEs and non-traditionally digital businesses</p>	<p>APEC GVCs Blueprint 2020-2025: Realizing the Role of the Digital Economy within GVCs – a workshop & report to enhance the understanding of developing economies regarding changes in GVCs in industrial sectors brought about by digital technologies. (Chile & Korea – CTI 06 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5b, 10a.</i></p> <p>AI Policy Recommendation on Digital Transformation for Healthcare Ecosystem – a hybrid webinar & online consultation event aim to provide a new service model by applying digital transformation technology in healthcare system and share the know-how of AI technology (AI Box) as the policy-making reference for facilitating the development of the digital health infrastructure. (Chinese Taipei – PPSTI 01 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 6a, 6d, 6e, 6h.</i></p> <p>Workshop for SMEs in APEC: Embracing 4.0 Industrial Revolution in Boosting Economic Performance of Export-Oriented SMEs (Indonesia – SME 01 2019) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 6a, 11c, 11f.</i></p> <p>APEC Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges for Retail SMEs in the Internet and Digital Economy (Viet Nam – SME 02 2019A)</p>	

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		<p>APEC SME Cyber Security Forum (Korea – SME 05 2020S)</p> <p>2020 APEC SMEs Smart Factory Forum (Korea – SME 06 2020S)</p> <p>Workshop to Learn on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Experiences of the APEC Economies – to raise awareness and promote the adoption and uses of AI in order to optimize the processes and operations of the public and private sector, in particular SMEs (Peru – TELWG 01 2020A)</p>	
	<p>c. Identify new technological trends, e.g. AI, 5G, blockchain and their applications in relation to the AIDER</p>	<p>Capacity Building on Marine Debris Monitoring by Using Innovative Technologies in APEC Region – aims to share the information on adopting innovative technologies for more efficient monitoring methods, such as using Artificial Intelligence to identify marine debris and building Marine Debris Dynamic Map, etc. (Chinese Taipei – OFWG 09 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 6k.</i></p> <p>Facilitating Innovation and Diversity in Next Generation (5G) Networks Ecosystems – aims to identify ways to promote a vibrant and diverse 5G ecosystem as well as innovative 5G use cases in various industries such as automobile, digital</p>	

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		<p>manufacturing, smart agriculture, smart cities, etc. (Korea, 2019 - TEL 01 2019A, 2021)</p> <p>Using urine and AI technology for COVID-19 management. This project aims to build capacity in the use of AI modelling and AI assisted data analysis to differentiate severe from non-severe cases of COVID-19. (China – LSIF 01 2021A)</p>	
	<p>d. Share information and policies that enable traditional businesses to utilize digital platforms as part of their business resilience or continuity plan</p>	<p>Policy Recommendation on Improving Supply Chain Performance with Digital Manufacturing technology amid Pandemic Crisis – a hybrid webinar and policy recommendation report aim to share the best practice on utilizing additive manufacturing technology to enhance supply chain connectivity, and to overcome the middle income trap and accelerate the economic recovery in the region (Chinese Taipei – PPSTI, 2020)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 6a, 6b, 6e.</i></p>	
	<p>e. Developing an ecosystem that supports MSMEs, including those in the creative industry, to take advantage of the digital economy, including through discussion on policies and initiatives</p>	<p>APEC Digital Economy and Innovative Entrepreneurship Online Forum – a forum that encourages the sharing and discussion of best practices, project implementation, knowledge, business trends and regional start-up ideas and experiences, this project aims to encourage digital innovation and female entrepreneurship, strengthening the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem that provides a supportive environment for young</p>	

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		<p>entrepreneurs within the APEC region (Chinese Taipei – HRDWG, 2020) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 6a, 6b, 6i.</i></p> <p>APEC workshop on catalysing the growth of inclusive and sustainable start-up ecosystems. This project seeks to bring together international experts on start-up ecosystems, policy makers, investors and intermediaries to consider how innovation can be nurtured to kick-start inclusive and sustainable growth that can be enjoyed throughout the region. New Zealand will host a virtual 3-hour workshop on 29 September 2021 to explore how policy interventions can support the development of start-up ecosystems, including digital start-ups and those start-ups engaging in the digital economy. (New Zealand – EC 02 2021S)</p>	
	f. Global collaboration of MSMEs through digital platforms		
	g. Promote the use of digital technologies to prevent and control global pandemics	<p>Using Digital Technologies for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 and Economic Recovery. The study shared good practices of using digital technologies in the prevention and control of COVID-19, analyzed the positive role of these technologies in these efforts as well as in improving digital governance capacity in pandemic response and promoting digital economic development, and put forward recommendations in applying digital</p>	

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		<p>technologies and solutions to fight against the pandemic based on the specific situations and priorities of each economy. (China – DESG 01 2020S)</p> <p>Digital Tools for Addressing Infectious Disease in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities – a platform for industry, academia, and government in APEC economies to exchange experiences and lessons learned from developing digital tools to combat infectious diseases and complement conventional surveillance (Chinese Taipei – HWG 01 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 6a.</i></p> <p>APEC Conference on Digital Healthcare Innovation – COVID-19 Response by Health Information Utilization – aims to demonstrate how to promote and effectively use interoperable digital data and facilitate digital technology adoption connecting to a variety of innovative healthcare services and applications, as well as how it can be digital approaches for epidemic response during COVID-19 pandemic (Chinese Taipei – HWG 08 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 6h.</i></p>	
	h. Promote policies that facilitate research and development as well		

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	as investment in innovative digital technologies		
	i. Exchange best practice approaches to regulatory cooperation which supports the Digital Economy, including regulatory sandboxes	<p>Competition Law and Regulation in Digital Markets – Increase understanding of how competition law and regulation can maximise the digital economy’s contribution to economic recovery, and support cross-border cooperation on the enforcement of competition and regulatory law in digital markets. (New Zealand – CPLG 01 2020A)</p> <p>FinTech Regulatory Sandboxes Capacity Building – The project’s key objective was to identify principles and outcomes of different sandboxes functioning, as well as the level of financial market satisfaction from the opportunities these regimes offer. The results of questionnaires were summarized in a report published on the APEC website. (Russia – EC 01 2020S).</p>	
	j. Promote socioeconomic inclusion & expansion of economic opportunities through better digital connectivity and access to technology for all	<p>Promoting Digital Capacity Building to Bridge the Digital Divide in the Post-COVID Era aims to improve the inclusive digital development, and attach great importance to the digitally weaker status of vulnerable groups such as MSMEs, women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities particularly in remote areas in the context of COVID-19. The project is set to focus on and actively explore digital capacity building in the post-COVID era, encourage member economies to carry out exchanges, share experience</p>	

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		<p>and build consensus in bridging the digital divide through enhancing digital capacity with a view to strengthening the sense of participation, fulfillment and happiness in the development of digital economy. (China – DESG 01 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4f, 10d.</i></p>	
7. Enhancing trust and security in the use of ICTs	a. Enable a seamless digital market through regulatory cooperation and collective efforts to build trust in existing and emerging digital technologies	<p>IoT Security Workshop – aims to raise awareness on IoT Security, share the updates of policy and potential for regulation for IoT development and security, do the lessons learned from IoT related incidents, and share best practices on the solutions for the IoT security. (China – TEL 01 2018S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 7e.</i></p> <p>Policy Roundtable: Cybersecurity During the COVID-19 Pandemic – a public-private roundtable on cybersecurity risk management best practices to facilitate trade in the APEC region. (United States – DESG 04 2020S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4f, 5b, 7c.</i></p>	TELWG

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		<p>APEC Digital Economy Webinar: Accelerating the Development of Inter-Operable Digital Identity Systems and Corporate e-KYC Approaches in APEC – a webinar to bring together experts from industry, public sector, multilateral institutions and academia, including several who are actively involved in ongoing global and regional efforts, to find solutions to inter-operability. Each of the two panel discussion sessions covers the following: (a) clear definitions of what is meant by digital ID/corporate e-KYC; (b) what are the benefits to APEC member economies; (c) how can they best be developed into inter-operable systems across economies; (d) what is needed from governments and regulators; and (e) what are low-hanging fruits that can be targeted for accomplishment in 2022. (Thailand & ABAC – DESG 02 2021S)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 2a, 4a, 5a, 7g.</i></p>	
	b. Cybersecurity considerations in non-traditionally digital businesses – including those leveraging Internet platform		
	c. Exchange of updates and encourage adherence to cybersecurity norm		

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	d. Progress update on existing digital security guidance, including the Framework for Securing the Digital Economy		
	e. Share practices, regulations and standards on ICT security and promote stronger cooperation and collaboration on cybersecurity through exchange of best practices	<p>APEC Workshop on Cybersecurity Incident Management Awareness. The workshop aims to provide a forum to raise awareness among the regulators and policy makers, as well as discuss and share the lessons learned by Malaysia and the APNIC in monitoring and responding to attacks, including the potential solutions to addressing the root cause of attacks. (Malaysia – TEL 07 2017S)</p> <p>APEC Workshop on Internet Infrastructure Security. The workshop aims to learn from internet experts and leading ICT economies the practical measures and approaches of effective internet infrastructure security that ensures a secure cyber environment for growing the digital economy in APEC economies. (Papua New Guinea – TEL 02 2018S)</p>	
	f. Promote consumer protection in digital trade/e-commerce	<p>Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade: Challenges and Opportunities – a workshop & report to seek ways to promote regional cooperation in the field of consumer protection in digital trade, including creating a framework for enforcement cooperation. (Korea – ECSG 03 2018A)</p>	

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		<p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5d, 11a.</i></p> <p>Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade / E-commerce: Towards Building an APEC Regional Consumer Protection Framework – a workshop & report to seek ways to build an APEC regional framework for consumer protection, as a follow-up of the 2018 workshop. (Korea – CTI 09 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5d, 11a.</i></p> <p>Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Promoting Consumer Protection in the Dispute Resolution and Redress Mechanisms in E-commerce – this PPD seeks to provide an overview and discussion of some of the main current barriers and challenges to overcome in order to foster consumers’ confidence on e-commerce and exchange experiences on the regulatory framework in this area among APEC economies. The report was published on the APEC website. (Peru – CTI 09 2019T). <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5d, 11a.</i></p>	
	g. Establish environment for safe use of personal data for participation in the digital economy	<p>Personal Data Protection and Utilization in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities – a policy dialogue & report to support policy makers and experts to: 1) better understand approaches for personal data protection; 2) identify challenges and opportunities from policy and technical aspects; and 3) identify further capacity building needs</p>	

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		<p>of individual economy and APEC as a whole (Korea – ECSG 02 2019A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 8d.</i></p> <p>Hosting an APEC forum to improve cross-border effectiveness of the personal data breach notification system – a forum & report to enhance understanding of the current status of different personal data breach notification systems of member economies to propose cooperation in data protection while respecting applicable domestic laws and regulations (Korea – DESG 01 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 5d.</i></p>	
8. Facilitating the free flow of information and data for the development of the Internet and Digital Economy, while respecting applicable domestic laws and regulations	<p>a. Encourage discussion towards wider implementation and adoption of APEC CBPR by interested economies and companies</p> <p>b. Explore international collaborations and promote interoperability, including between APEC CBPR and other regional mechanisms</p>	<p>Review of APEC Cross Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) System – aims to encourage wider implementation and adoption of the CBPR system through reviewing and identifying the issues and challenges of the CBPR system. (Japan & PSU – DESG, ongoing until 2022)</p> <p>Continue holding Digital Trade Policy Dialogues. Policy Dialogues on Digital Trade have been held since 2016, discussing issues related to digital trade, explore emerging policy topics, and further deepen an understanding of the opportunities to increase participation in the digital economy. Discussions also focused on policies and regulatory frameworks to facilitate digital trade, facilitating the commercial</p>	CTI

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		<p>development, and adoption of emerging technologies, particularly in the COVID-19 environment. (United States – CTI) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4e, 5c.</i></p> <p>Increase the number of economies participating in the Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade (United States – CTI) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 8b.</i></p> <p>Increase number of economies participating in the Pathfinder for a Permanent Customs Duty Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Including Content Transmitted Electronically (United States – CTI) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 8b.</i></p> <p>APEC Digital Symposium – a public-private symposium that exchanged information and experiences on policies that contribute to the growth of the digital economy with a focus on digital privacy, digital trade standards, and emerging technologies. (Australia – CTI 08 2019S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5b, 6a.</i></p>	
	c. Raising business' awareness on the protection of personal data, and enhancing privacy protections		

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	<p>d. Securing privacy and promoting the flow and utilization of data</p>	<p>PSU study & Trade Policy Dialogue on “Fostering an Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environment in APEC for Data-Utilizing Businesses” is aimed for raising awareness and deepening understanding of leading data-utilizing business models through analysis of the policy environment and business practices. The study can be found here: https://www.apec.org/Publications/2019/07/Fostering-an-Enabling-Policy-and-Regulatory-Environment-in-APEC-for-Data-Utilizing-Businesses (Japan & PSU)</p> <p>Personal Data Protection and Utilization in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities – a policy dialogue & report to support policy makers and experts to: 1) better understand approaches for personal data protection; 2) identify challenges and opportunities from policy and technical aspects; and 3) identify further capacity building needs of individual economy and APEC as a whole (Korea – ECSG 02 2019A)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Area 7g.</i></p> <p>DESG Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS) March 2021 statement on COVID-19: https://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2021/0315_DPS</p>	

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		<p>Study: Policies and Regulatory Frameworks on Modern Digital Economy Issues – Open Government Data: This project will highlight a modern digital economy issue: facilitating access to open government data (OGD). Regulators in certain economies have incorporated OGD into trade agreements/partnerships to expand access to information and make it easily retrievable in a machine-readable format, particularly across international borders.</p> <p>Research Paper: How APEC can address restrictions on cross-border data flows 2020. This project found that despite the elevation of digital issues within APEC, cross-border data flows are increasingly being restricted within the APEC region. (ABAC Digital Working Group) https://www2.abaconline.org/assets/ABAC_Data_Flow_Paper_Meltzer_Final_1.pdf</p>	
9. Improvement of baseline Internet and Digital Economy measurements	a. Further discussion on approaches to measure the impact and success of digital economy, including considerations for a measurement system that would be interoperable globally or regionally	<p>Best Practices on Collection, Validation and Publication of ICTs Statistical Information – the key objective of this workshop was to exchange best practices regarding the collection, validation, and publication of ICTs statistical information, between the public authorities responsible of such duties in each economy in the APEC region (Mexico – TEL 08 2017S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 9c, 9g.</i></p>	EC, PPSTI, TELWG

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		<p>Digital Economy: Strategies and Measurements (Singapore – TELWG, 2018) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 9c, 9g.</i></p>	
	<p>b. Promote the update of statistical systems in response to a rapidly evolving digital era and encourage comparability, considering the availability of metrics in all APEC economies</p>		
	<p>c. Promote a comprehensive, high-quality data infrastructure and collection tools for measuring the use and impacts of digital technologies</p>	<p>Indicators of information society development in APEC region (Russia – TELWG, 2015) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 9g.</i></p>	
	<p>d. Harness the potential of big data for developing indicators to measure digital economy</p>		
	<p>e. Set priorities for internationally comparable measurement through greater global cooperation</p>		
	<p>f. Monitor the development of APEC region’s digital economy</p>		

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	<p>through developing APEC-wide indicator</p> <p>g. Identify and share initiatives and best practices to improve measurement of the digital economy to develop a stronger evidence base for policy analysis and making</p>		
10. Enhancing inclusiveness of Internet and Digital Economy	a. Development of human resource and digital skills to support the growth of the digital economy, digital transformation and digital entrepreneurship	<p>FTAAP Capacity Building Workshop on E-commerce Elements in FTAs/RTAs – a workshop & report to strengthen the negotiations capacity of government officials who are directly involved in FTAs/RTAs negotiations on e-commerce issues as well as related policymakers. (Korea – CTI 06 2019T) <i>Also addresses Priority Area IIa.</i></p> <p>ICT Skills Framework Project – aims to develop and promote a Common ICT Skills Recognition Framework within APEC economies. The project addresses the problem of current barriers to the mobility of ICT professionals throughout the Asia-Pacific region by developing a common understanding of ICT skills. (Papua New Guinea – TEL 02 2019S, under implementation until 2021)</p> <p>FTAAP Capacity Building Workshop on E-Commerce Elements in FTAs/RTAs (Phase II) –</p>	FMP, HRDWG, HWG, IPEG, PPWE, SCE, SMEWG, TELWG

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		<p>a workshop & report to strengthen the negotiations capacity of government officials who are directly involved in FTAs/RTAs negotiations on e-commerce issues as well as related policymakers, reflecting the updated situation and new issues after the 2019 workshop. (Korea – CTI 02 2020T) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 11a.</i></p> <p>APEC GVCs Blueprint 2020-2025: Realizing the Role of the Digital Economy within GVCs – a workshop & report to enhance the understanding of developing economies regarding changes in GVCs in industrial sectors brought about by digital technologies. (Chile & Korea – CTI 06 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5b, 11a.</i></p> <p>Flexible Work Arrangements – APEC Best Regulatory Practices. The project aimed at both summarizing the new economic challenges stemming from transformation of work arrangements and distinguishing best regulatory practices of the APEC economies’ adaptation to them. The report, accumulating the responses to a questionnaire as well as open-source analysis, was published on APEC website. (Russia – EC 06 2020S).</p> <p>ASD-CBA Project: Promoting APEC Innovative Caregiving through Digital Upskilling – includes a</p>	

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		<p>research work examining tech-enabled caregiving skills, new forms of caregiving work, new ways of caregiving workplace learning and training, and then a workshop to gather and share APEC best practices among economies. Finally, a training package will be developed and disseminated to all economies for future reference. (Chinese Taipei – HRD 09 2020A)</p> <p>APEC Cross-Sector Innovation Ecosystem Conference: Strengthening Networks of SMEs Co-Innovation for Better Future – aims to strengthen networking of the “cross-sector”, and pave the way to the development model which promotes innovation and inclusive growth. The core beneficiaries are participants from industry, government, research institutions, women entrepreneurs, and civil society of the member economies. (Chinese Taipei – SME 01 2020S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10b, 10c.</i></p> <p>APEC Cross-Domain Innovation Ecosystem Initiative: Facilitate the Inclusive Growth of SMEs Through the Digital Platform Across the APEC Region – aims to promote digitalization as the vital driving force of cross-domain innovation and strengthen SMEs in the GVCs to gain more competitiveness. The core beneficiaries are start-ups and SMEs, COVID-19 hit SMES, women</p>	

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		<p>entrepreneurs, and policy-makers. (the Philippines & Chinese Taipei – SME 09 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 10b, 10c.</i></p> <p>Promoting Trade by Utilizing Digital Technology – aims to enhance awareness of potentialities that advanced technology has created in facilitating trade promotion and reshaping business models to achieve digital transformation with the private sector to share practical experiences. (Chinese Taipei – CTI 07 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 6a.</i></p> <p>Digitalization and Emerging Employment Patterns: Challenges and Responses – aims to explore emerging employment patterns in the APEC region following the progress of digitalization, and further analyzes the impact of emerging employment patterns on the regional labor market and on social protection measures together with policy responses from regional economies. (Chinese Taipei – HRD 05 2021S)</p> <p>ASD-CBA Project: Empowering the Health Workforce through Digital Upskilling – includes a workshop to be held in virtual/hybrid format in Q2 of 2022. The workshop will focus on the exchange of best practices, useful experiences, digital skills training and</p>	

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		<p>training resources among APEC economies for health workers and stakeholders seeking to solve problems, learn new skills and get support. A best practice collection integrating workshop summary will be available to all economies for future reference. (Chinese Taipei – HRD 06 2021A)</p> <p>Sustainable Investment to Enhance Digitally-enabled and Inclusive Recovery: Paradigms and Capacity Building in Precision Health – The workshop aims to support the efforts of APEC economies to understand effective approaches and set up new models for sustainable investments contributing to inclusive recovery in the digital world. The achievements will be reported to APEC IEG to share with member economies and ensure benefits to the region. (Chinese Taipei – IEG 01 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4b, 5a.</i></p> <p>APEC Symposium and Workshop on Technology Roadmaps to Promote Industry 4.0 in Developing APEC Economies. Events were held in June 2021. The project objective was to develop and / or strengthen the acceleration of industry 4.0 in APEC economies through initiatives generated by decision-makers, as a consequence of shared experiences and application of the Technology Roadmaps (TRM) methodology. (Peru – SME 02 2020A)</p>	

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		<p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4d, 6a.</i></p> <p>Supporting Women's Access to Global Markets: Online Course for the APEC Business Community (Australia – SME 04 2020S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4d, 4f, 10c, 10d.</i></p> <p>What comes after SME Digital Transformation? - Measuring Effectiveness of Public Policy and Identifying Trends for the Post-Digital Era (Chile – SME 08 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4d.</i></p> <p>2021 APEC SME Digital Economy Development Conference (China – SME 02 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4d.</i></p> <p>APEC SMEs New Paradigm – Revitalize Sustainable Business through Digital Resilience – aims to disseminate the best practices of SME resilience preservation and digital technology utilization, and develop a business continuity plan with digital elements. (Chinese Taipei – SMEWG, 2021) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 10b, 10c.</i></p> <p>Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-</p>	

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		<p>Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi – aims at promoting the installation and accessibility of digital infrastructure and building indigenous peoples’ capacity on ICTs to achieve better inclusiveness. The project will be conducting online seminars to share the i-Tribe project experience and to exchange ideas with other economies on the current development status of the installation and application of digital infrastructure in APEC indigenous communities to increase the accessibility of ICTs for Indigenous Peoples. (Chinese Taipei – TEL 03 2021S)</p> <p><i>Also addresses Priority Areas 1a, 3a, 10d, 10e.</i></p>	
	<p>b. Facilitate and encourage innovations in the field of Digital Literacy to empower individuals and businesses to find, create and share information, while enjoying greater online wellbeing and e-safety</p>		
	<p>c. Encourage the growth of women-owned MSMEs by developing tools on business management, soft-skill development, marketing strategies, also production and marketing guidelines through digital media</p>	<p>Women’s Economic Empowering, New Media Digital Upskilling – aims at identifying new media skills for responding to the labor market needs, as well as developing the training package that will cultivate talented women, with attention is paid to vulnerable populations for realizing potential and exploring a</p>	

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		<p>wider range of career pathway (Chinese Taipei – HRD 03 2019A)</p> <p>Strengthening Women Empowerment in Industry 4.0 through Digital Entrepreneurship Training. Events were held in November 2020. (Indonesia – SME 12 2019A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4d, 4f, 10a, 10d.</i></p> <p>Workshop for Policy Makers in APEC: Strengthening Women’s Empowerment and Leadership through Digital Economy in Boosting Economic Growth (Indonesia – PPWE, 2020)</p> <p>Supporting Women's Access to Global Markets: Online Course for the APEC Business Community (Australia – SME 04 2020S)</p> <p>Women-Owned SME Exporters: Overcoming Obstacles and Succeeding Internationally (Canada – SME 04 2021S)</p>	
	<p>d. Encourage greater participation in the digital economy by women, MSMEs, and underrepresented members of society, including people living in rural areas and people with disabilities</p>	<p>APEC Forum on Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship – a forum that encourages the sharing and discussion of best practices, project implementation, knowledge, business trends and regional start-up ideas and experiences, this project aims to encourage digital innovation and female entrepreneurship, strengthening the regional</p>	

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		<p>entrepreneurial ecosystem that provides a supportive environment for young entrepreneurs within the APEC region. (Chinese Taipei – HRD 12 2018S, HRD 04 2019A, on-going in 2021) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10c.</i></p> <p>APEC Workshop on Fostering Inclusive Digital Economy: Sharing Best Practices in Advancing Women Participation in Digital Startups (Indonesia – ECSG 01 2019A)</p> <p>Potential for Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the Field of IPR – aims to provide a platform, through hosting an international workshop, where APEC participants can discuss the potential use of ADR to strengthen abilities concerning IPR protection and legal disputes settlement of women, young people, start-ups, and MSMEs. It’s expected that the efforts can be beneficial to sustain the momentum of inclusive economic participation brought by the digital economy and technology. (Chinese Taipei – IPEG 01 2020T)</p> <p>Roadmap on Digital Financial Inclusion – provides a menu of options APEC economies can flexibly draw upon and sequence, according to their domestic circumstances, to advance digital financial inclusion domestically and in the APEC region. The Roadmap,</p>	

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		<p>which will be implemented on a voluntary basis, supports priorities identified by APEC Finance Ministers and builds on work already conducted by the forum. (FMP, endorsed in 2020)</p> <p>Workshop on E-Commerce Opportunities for Indigenous and Ethnic Minorities: Bringing Innovation, Expanding Markets and Unleashing Potential – Enhance the capability and participation of indigenous and ethnic minorities’ agribusiness in e-commerce as a means of developing robust and commercially viable agribusinesses. (New Zealand – PPFS 02 2020A)</p> <p>Promoting Digital Capacity Building to Bridge the Digital Divide in the Post-COVID Era aims to improve the inclusive digital development, and attach great importance to the digitally weaker status of vulnerable groups such as MSMEs, women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities particularly in remote areas in the context of COVID-19. The project is set to focus on and actively explore digital capacity building in the post-COVID era, encourage member economies to carry out exchanges, share experience and build consensus in bridging the digital divide through enhancing digital capacity with a view to strengthening the sense of participation, fulfillment</p>	

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		<p>and happiness in the development of digital economy. (China – DESG 01 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4c, 4f, 6j.</i></p> <p>Capacity Building on Digital Financial Inclusion – proposes to conduct a webinar that will bring together monetary authorities, financial institutions, fintech companies, academy and consumer groups to discuss opportunities and challenges in maximizing the full potential of digital financial inclusion. An output will be a paper on strategies on digital financial inclusion. (The Philippines – FMP, endorsed in 2021, to be implemented in 2022)</p> <p>APEC Forum on Entrepreneurship for the Future of Work – aims to increase digital-related capacity for this changing workforce, preparing and cultivating women and youth in the APEC region to be ready for the post-pandemic job market by building their own businesses that will stand strong even during the pandemic. The main objectives of this project are to serve as a regional incubation hub and to initiate a digitalized and collaborative network to empower women and young entrepreneurs. This will be accomplished by showcasing best practices and proposing innovative business solutions in digital fields that will accelerate the inclusive and sustainable</p>	

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		<p>recovery and digital inclusion. (Chinese Taipei – HRD 05 2021A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10c.</i></p> <p>APEC Conference on Urbanization, Population Aging and Technology Innovation – aims to organize a conference with interactive sessions to exchange on healthy cities, age-friendly cities, integrated care for chronic disease policies with technology innovation in the ageing population, and sustainable environment. (Chinese Taipei – HWG 01 2019A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10b.</i></p> <p>Inclusive Digital Society: Alleviating Poverty and Improving Living Standards through Increased Economic Growth. The project aims to share and disseminate good practices, articulating a common vision and developing recommendations to support APEC economies in enhancing inclusion of vulnerable groups to leverage the Internet and Digital Economy to support poverty alleviation and improve living standards. This project proposes to organize a workshop to capture valuable case studies, good practices, policies and recommendations on cooperation for inclusive digital society in 2021 in China to produce a report and promote synergy and collaboration on inclusive digital economic development. (China & Papua New Guinea – SCE, endorsed in 2019)</p>	
	<p>e. Better inclusion of disadvantaged groups to leverage the Internet and Digital Economy to improve their living standards and unleash their potential through effective use of ICTs.</p>		

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		<p>Study on barriers and opportunities in using digital technologies to provide services for older adults in poverty condition in APEC economies. The project aims to find-out physical, social, and cultural barriers that limits the usage of digital technologies, and to collect best practices on digital inclusion for poor elderly people. From the study, a set of voluntary recommendations and possible future activities will be identified in order to improve digital inclusion among poor elderly people. (Peru – DESG 02 2021) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 4c.</i></p> <p>Building a Digital Ready Society / APEC Digital Inclusion Exchange Forum – aims to enhance the mutual learning and understanding on how digital readiness initiatives can aid society to better access technology as well as equip citizens with the skills that are needed to use that technology – actively, meaningfully and safely (Singapore & Thailand – TEL 02 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 4b.</i></p>	
11. Facilitation of E-commerce and advancing cooperation on Digital Trade	a. Promote transparency in e-commerce regulations, including those that apply to cross-border business transactions	<p>Supply Chain Integration 4.0 Through Single Window Interoperability – Action Plan (2019-2021) In Phase 1 (2019), Chile and Peru undertook a self-funded project “Promoting the interoperability of single window in APEC: Technology solutions to</p>	ATCWG, CTI, GOS, MAG, SMEWG, SCSC

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		<p>identify the best technology solution for single window interoperability in the APEC region”. Phase 1 had the following outputs:</p> <p>(Study) https://www.apec.org/Publications/2018/08/Study-on-Single-Window-Systems-International-Interoperability</p> <p>(Compendium) https://www.apec.org/Publications/2019/11/Compendium-of-Best-Practice-Technology-Solutions-for-Single-Window-Interoperability</p> <p>Phase II seeks to facilitate ecommerce, including through the use of electronic means such as paperless customs clearance, electronic transaction documents and digital authentication. It will promote single windows interoperability among APEC economies taking into account advances in the development of domestic single windows and current examples of interoperability in the APEC region and beyond. (Chile, China & Peru)</p> <p>FTAAP Capacity Building Workshop on E-commerce Elements in FTAs/RTAs – a workshop & report to strengthen the negotiations capacity of government officials who are directly involved in FTAs/RTAs negotiations on e-commerce issues as well as related policymakers. (Korea – CTI 06 2019T) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10a.</i></p>	

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		<p>FTAAP Capacity Building Workshop on E-Commerce Elements in FTAs/RTAs (Phase II) – a workshop & report to strengthen the negotiations capacity of government officials who are directly involved in FTAs/RTAs negotiations on e-commerce issues as well as related policymakers, reflecting the updated situation and new issues after the 2019 workshop. (Korea – CTI 02 2020T) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 10a.</i></p> <p>Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Promoting Consumer Protection in the Dispute Resolution and Redress Mechanisms in E-commerce – this PPD seeks to provide an overview and discussion of some of the main current barriers and challenges to overcome in order to foster consumers’ confidence on e-commerce and exchange experiences on the regulatory framework in this area among APEC economies. The report was published on the APEC website. (Peru – CTI 09 2019T). <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5d, 7f.</i></p> <p>APEC GVCs Blueprint 2020-2025: Realizing the Role of the Digital Economy within GVCs – a workshop & report to enhance the understanding of developing economies regarding changes in GVCs in</p>	

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		<p>industrial sectors brought about by digital technologies. (Chile & Korea – CTI 06 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5b, 10a.</i></p> <p>Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade: Challenges and Opportunities – a workshop & report to seek ways to promote regional cooperation in the field of consumer protection in digital trade, including creating a framework for enforcement cooperation. (Korea – ECSG 03 2018A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5d, 7f.</i></p> <p>Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade / E-commerce: Towards Building an APEC Regional Consumer Protection Framework – a workshop & report to seek ways to build an APEC regional framework for consumer protection, as a follow-up of the 2018 workshop. (Korea – CTI 09 2020A) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 5d, 7f.</i></p> <p>Study: “Assessment of capacity building needs on trade related aspects of e-commerce” supports WTO negotiation on trade related aspects of electronic commerce including implementation of review of the laws and regulations on e-commerce and interviews with member economies. Study seeks to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the technical aspects related to cross-border e-commerce.</p>	

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		<p>It reviewed existing regulatory frameworks related to cross-border e-commerce in respective APEC economies. Final study can be found here: https://www.apec.org/Publications/2020/12/Assessment-of-Capacity-Building-Needs-to-Support-WTO-Negotiation (Japan)</p> <p>Symposium on APEC Supporting the WTO Negotiations on Trade Related Aspects of E-commerce. This symposium is set to support the WTO Negotiations on Trade Related Aspects of E-commerce. Without prejudging economies' positions in the negotiations, this symposium seeks to make exploratory and introductory efforts to deepen discussions and enhance mutual understanding on topics of interest, so as to a) contribute positively and actively to the WTO e-commerce negotiations and b) further expand discussions and identify trade-related e-commerce rules that could be considered by APEC economies. A reflection on a possible role played by WTO e-commerce negotiations facing at the unprecedented impact on global trade caused by COVID-19 will also be addressed. A Virtual Preparatory Meeting was held on 2 Feb 2021. (China)</p> <p>“Work Plan on Digital Trade and E-Commerce” aims for the eventual realization of FTAAP. Digital trade / e-commerce elements are indispensable as key</p>	

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		<p>elements attaining high-quality and comprehensive FTAAP. This includes mainly taking stock of digital trade elements in FTAs, and also assessing digital trade initiative in international fora. (Japan)</p> <p>Continue trade policy dialogues on digital trade to increase understanding of the issues. (United States)</p>	
	<p>b. Strengthen cooperation and share experiences on promoting e-commerce/digital trade and their related services in the region</p>	<p>APEC Workshop on the R&D and Promotion of Smart Agriculture – a platform for both public and private sectors of APEC economies to share experience and expertise on developing and promoting smart agricultural systems, as well as to advance agricultural production and the effectiveness of smart agriculture in the APEC region (Chinese Taipei – ATC 01 2020)</p> <p>Utilising Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation under the current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Best Practices Sharing Workshops (Japan – CTI 07 2020T)</p> <p>APEC Workshop on Promoting the Doing-Digital-Business Environment to Reactivate Market Entities aims to investigate regulatory frameworks and policy acts of the development of digital economy from the doing-digital-business environment aspect, promote the vitalities of main entities in digital</p>	

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		<p>markets in APEC economies and make traditional enterprises, especially the MSMEs, benefit from digital economy. (China – DESG 02 2020S) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4b, 4f.</i></p> <p>Questionnaire, Workshop and Report “Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Digital Content Trade”. Identify and address challenges for IPR in digital content trade and ways to overcome them. Address the challenges for the IPR protection in digital content trade through the respective policy frameworks. (Russia – CTI 02 2019, implemented in 2021) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 4b, 5c.</i></p> <p>Supporting discussions in the WTO: Workshop on the application of non-discriminatory internal taxes to electronic transmissions. In the context of ongoing multilateral discussions on the application of customs duties to electronic transmissions, this project will provide a workshop for sharing experiences on how an internal tax (such as VAT or GST) can be applied to electronic transmissions to achieve certain policy goals (such as revenue raising) in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner. (New Zealand – CTI 06 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 4e.</i></p>	

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		<p>Public Private Dialogue (PPD) on Digitally Enabled Services: Challenges and Opportunities – aims to equip participants with better understanding of digitally enabled services, exchange views and experiences between public and private sector representatives and develop policy recommendations to assist especially MSMEs in the service sectors to harness digital technologies (Chinese Taipei – GOS 02 2021A) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 6a, 11c.</i></p> <p>Increase the number of economies participating in the Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade (United States – CTI) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 8b.</i></p> <p>Increase number of economies participating in the Pathfinder for a Permanent Customs Duty Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Including Content Transmitted Electronically (United States – CTI) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 8b.</i></p>	
	c. Increase the growth and participation of MSMEs to the region by promoting cross-border e-commerce	<p>Workshop for SMEs in APEC: Embracing 4.0 Industrial Revolution in Boosting Economic Performance of Export-Oriented SMEs (Indonesia – SME 01 2019) <i>Also addresses Priority Areas 6a, 6b, 11f.</i></p>	

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		<p>Promoting the Participation of MSMEs in the Regional Market to Bridge the Digital Divide in APEC Economies (Viet Nam – ECSG 02 2018)</p> <p>Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Support Women Entrepreneurs in E-Commerce (United States – SME 07 2021S)</p>	
	<p>d. To implement APEC Cross-border e-commerce facilitation Framework</p>		
	<p>e. Promote transparency through exchanges of information, initiatives, and best practices that facilitates the development of e-Commerce regulations</p>	<p>Best Practice Guidelines for Paperless Trading – Develop a non-exhaustive set of best practice guidelines to assist APEC economies in updating their customs procedures and legislative framework so that all traders, especially MSMEs, can engage with the APEC customs authorities electronically. (New Zealand – SCCP 02 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area IIc.</i></p> <p>APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Product Safety in Digital Trade – a survey and a workshop that aim to enhance the understanding of challenges that product safety regulators face and to exchange experiences in regulatory updating and reform. (Chinese Taipei – SCSC 10 2021S) <i>Also addresses Priority Area 5d.</i></p>	

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	f. Develop an ecosystem that enables MSMEs, including those in the creative industry, to take advantage of e-commerce and the digital economy	Stocktake of APEC Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Technologies – aims to seek which of the APEC ODR providers possess technological solutions that may better solve the task of building trust of businesses to e-commerce, providing sufficient instruments to solve complaints, contradictions, and disputes online. It will help distinguish key patterns and features of most effective ODR technologies and make APEC aware of them to build future e-commerce strategies. (Russia – EC 02 2020S).	
All KFAs	a. Strengthen APEC’s digital agenda and strategy, including electronic commerce and related services, with fresh perspectives and innovative means to navigate the new economic realities brought about by COVID-19 ²	<p>Workshop for SMEs in APEC: Embracing 4.0 Industrial Revolution in Boosting Economic Performance of Export-Oriented SMEs (Indonesia – SME 01 2019)</p> <p>Strengthening Women Empowerment in Industry 4.0 through Digital Entrepreneurship Training. Events were held in November 2020. (Indonesia – SME 12 2019A)</p> <p>FTAAP Capacity Building Workshop on E-Commerce Elements in FTAs/RTAs (Phase II) – a workshop & report to contribute to accelerate the economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 by stimulating international cooperation on facilitating e-commerce (Korea – CTI 02 2020T)</p>	CTI, EC, EPWG, HWG, PPSTI, SCCP, SMEWG, TELWG

² Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Trade/2020_trade)

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		<p>APEC GVCs Blueprint 2020-2025: Realizing the Role of the Digital Economy within GVCs – a workshop & report that shares the best practices to utilize digital economy in GVCs in coping with COVID-19. (Chile & Korea – CTI 06 2020A)</p> <p>2021 APEC Resilience Week (2021 APECRW) – Building SMART Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) over COVID-19 – aims to review DRR policies and fully discuss the issues and best practices for resilient and sustainable recovery over COVID-19”. (Chinese Taipei – EPWG, PPSTI, 2021)</p>	