



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2014/TPTWG39/HOD1/010

Agenda Item: 3

Proposal: APEC Women in Transportation Coordinating Mechanism

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: United States



**Head of Delegation Meeting One
Christchurch, New Zealand
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Proposal to the APEC Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) on the Creation of a
“Women in Transportation” Task Force

The purpose of this paper is to provide economy Heads of Delegation background information in preparation for discussions at TPTWG39 (HOD1 and HOD2) on the proposal to create a coordinating mechanism (Task Force) to further the strategic work of the APEC Women in Transportation initiative.

Proposal Objectives

1. To further the APEC goals of enhanced global competitiveness through economic and technical cooperation, inclusive of workforce capacity building, and cross-cutting gender integration across APEC fora,¹
2. To support the APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) goals of realizing the imperative of women’s economic empowerment and of gender integration across industry fora,
3. To build on the TPTWG’s progress on the Women in Transportation initiative and successful Women in Transportation Forum, which was convened at the 8th APEC Transportation Ministerial (TMM8) in Tokyo, Japan, September 2013,²
4. To actualize Ministerial directives to “develop a framework for collection of data and sharing of resources that will enhance opportunities for women in transportation and enable the measurement of progress over time,”³ and
5. To foster increased TPTWG member economy input and coordination in shaping the Women in Transportation initiative’s long-term, strategic direction and sustainable impact,

It is proposed that a Women in Transportation coordinating mechanism (Task Force) be established within the TPTWG.

How the Task Force Could Function

The object in establishing a Women in Transportation Task Force within the TPTWG is to establish a “network of champions” with representation from each economy to shape, coordinate, plan and execute strategic activities under the TPWG’s ongoing Women in Transportation initiative.

With economy consensus, the task force could function as follows:

¹ Framework for Integration of Women in APEC, http://publications.apec.org/publication-detail.php?pub_id=701.

² APEC Women in Transportation Forum Agenda and Presentations, <http://www.apec-tmm8.org/english/woman.html>.

³ TMM8 Joint Statement, http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Transportation/2013_transport.aspx.

Representation

- a. Under the proposal, the Task Force would be comprised of at least one volunteer from each economy (with capabilities to incorporate additional volunteers, as desired) and outside experts from time-to-time, as required for advisement.
- b. Designated economy volunteers need not possess gender expertise, but rather demonstrate an interest in the subject and a willingness and ability to represent respective economy views in the coordination, planning and execution of the initiative's strategic activities.
- c. Given that designated economy representatives likely will have other responsibilities at the TPTWG meetings, in scheduling meeting times during the TPTWG (four-six hour maximum during the week), every effort will be made to minimize impact on Expert Group meeting schedules.

Leadership

- a. The Task Force would be co-chaired by two-three (ultimately with a chair, immediate past chair and an incoming chair to mirror the PPWE structure for sustainability) volunteer economies, with the aim of sharing leadership opportunities among the economies over the initiative's long-term duration.
- b. Co-chairs would assume primary responsibility for reporting on the Task Force's progress to TPTWG HODs at the outset and conclusion of each TPTWG meeting.

Scope

The task force's initial scope of objectives would be to:

1. Develop and implement a plan for sustained progress in the 2014-2015 cycle
 - a. Identify areas of relevant data measurement and create corresponding mechanisms to track progress over time
 - b. Incorporate economy and industry stakeholder perspectives in information and exchange mediums that would be used to construct an online reference library of best practices and resources
 - c. Chart milestones and, as economy liaisons, assist TPTWG HODs in coordinating economy participation and support of initiative endeavors
2. Identify opportunities for action within the economies (themes for regional workshops, areas for skill building, development of tools and resources, topics for studies and beneficial research the U.S. has identified several possible funding sources to carry out a number of activities over the next several years), as well as relevant APEC meetings and events (e.g., SOM meetings, Women and the Economy Forum, ABAC meetings, etc.)
3. Help to integrate gender issues across TPTWG experts groups (similar to the former TPTWG gender group's role) and to coordinate with APEC working groups, such as the APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE), where Transportation continues to receive accolades as the first industry to holistically take on women's empowerment as an economic imperative
4. Collectively shape long-term strategic planning

Schedule

In order to ensure sustained progress, it is proposed that the Task Force work intersessionally, with regular meetings beginning at TPTWG40 in Hong Kong.

The U.S. is prepared initially to lead this group's work.

Background on the TPTWG Women in Transportation Initiative

In the TMM7 Statement, Ministers noted:

"...that the full potential of women to contribute to the regional economy remains unrealized... particularly...in transportation, a key driver of economic growth.

The transportation field offers women an opportunity to combine policy and law with science, engineering and innovation. We recognize that while some women have achieved prominence in this field, stronger outreach and other measures need to be developed and implemented to ensure that APEC economies take full advantage of the abilities of current and future generations of potential women leaders."

Furthermore, Transportation Ministers welcomed "the establishment of a regular dialogue on Women in Transportation as part of the TPTWG meetings and direct the TPTWG to exchange information regarding initiatives, outreach and measures that are taken within each economy to increase the role of women in transportation; develop a compendium of best practices that member economies can adapt to their particular circumstances as they develop their own initiatives and programs; and integrate these efforts into the larger APEC dialogue and efforts on this issue."⁴

The APEC Women in Transportation initiative builds on the principles of the APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy and draws on the growing body of research that demonstrates a positive correlation between increased empowerment of women at all levels of the workforce and enhanced economic competitiveness, growth and sustainability.

Progress

In fulfilling the initial Ministerial directives, with funding from the United States, the TPTWG conducted a preliminary baseline study of women's participation in the transportation workforce across the APEC region. Findings confirmed that little disaggregated data by economy, gender and mode exists for the transportation workforce.

The United States also contracted with a team of gender experts to conduct field research on best practices in Malaysia, Viet Nam and Mexico to initiate work on a compendium of best practices.

Tokyo Forum

In September 2013 as part of the 8th APEC Transportation Ministerial in Tokyo, Japan, with support from APEC the TPTWG held a robust [APEC Women in Transportation Forum](#) with the participation of all 21 APEC economies. In addition to presenting findings from the baseline study and field research, the Forum featured 17 speakers who shared leading research demonstrating the positive correlation between increased participation of women and economic growth, policies that further greater participation of women in the transportation workforce and industry best practices for expanding educational, recruitment, retention and leadership advancement opportunities for women in transportation.

Follow-on Action

Notably, the TPTWG's work on this initiative is generating substantive action. For example, Viet Nam's Minister of Transport, impressed by the Tokyo Forum outcomes, on October 26, 2014

⁴ TMM7 Joint Statement, http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Transportation/2011_transport.aspx.

convened a National Congress on Women in Transportation with legislators, transportation policy makers and industry to develop a National Action Plan on increasing women's participation in transportation, particularly in leadership capacities. One U.S. attendee at the Tokyo Forum returned to Arizona to organize a state-wide forum on Women in Transportation on April 3, 2014 to bring together nearly 200 policy makers, association leaders and industry representatives to determine actionable steps for engaging more women in transportation careers in the state of Arizona.

Next Steps

Next steps include fulfillment of the TMM8 directives to "develop a framework for collection of data and sharing of resources that will enhance opportunities for women in transportation and enable the measurement of progress over time."