



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 8

Progress Report of Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: China



**Third Senior Officials' Meeting
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
29-30 August 2017**

Progress Report of Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy

(as of August 21, 2017)

I. Background

Through joint efforts of the APEC member economies, as well as the OECD, World Bank and IDB, the APEC Education Strategy was developed and endorsed by the 6th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting as a framework to guide future projects and collaborative initiatives for the benefit of the region. The 6th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting also mandates its implementation through EDNET and other HRDWG networks in collaboration with APEC fora and multi-lateral organizations.

Furthermore, as noted in 2016 Leaders' Declaration, APEC Leaders encouraged member economies to collaborate on improving education in the Asia-Pacific region under the principles established in the APEC Education Strategy. This strategy outlines a path for achieving a strong and cohesive APEC education community characterized by inclusive and quality education that supports sustainable economic growth and social well-being, enhances competencies, accelerates innovation and increases employability.

In light of the above mandates, consensus has been made that an Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy (hereinafter referred to as Action Plan) is to be developed, serving as a roadmap to achieve the goals and objectives of APEC Education Strategy. The Action Plan shall contribute to realizing the larger goal of economic integration and social well-being, especially by enhancing competencies, accelerating innovation and increasing employment through synergy created between the APEC regional action plan and the economy-specific policies, strategies and plans as well instruments and policy levers to facilitate achieving the goals. Also the Action Plan will draw on relevant regional and global initiatives of such multilateral organizations as UNESCO and the OECD.

II. Objective

The Action Plan of the APEC Education Strategy will be formulated by all economies and for all economies. It will draw on the insights and knowledge of what works in education, by analysing existing research and strategic publications, and by consulting with stakeholders. Account will also be taken of the related global agenda as reflected in strategies such as UN SDG 2030 and UNESCO Education 2030. The Action Plan will be developed by all economies and for all economies and will:

- achieve a common understanding of the role that education will play in economic growth and integration across the APEC region
- identify the objectives and targets of education development by 2020 with a vision of education development by 2030
- synthesize lessons from previous APEC work on education
- propose actions to take in each priority area
- propose implementation levers, in particular, projects and initiatives for the Strategy

The Action Plan will also help to better link the APEC Education Strategy with education policies in specific APEC economies through relevant domestic projects and initiatives.

III. Recent Progress

The Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy is essentially an outcome of collective efforts of all APEC member economies, the following progress has been achieved:

Step 1: Setup of the Task Force and Advisory Team

On the basis of nomination made by member economies, a task force for the Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy has been established, involving participants from 14 economies as well as World Bank; Likewise, an advisory team was set up, with participants from 12 economies as well as OECD, World Bank, UNESCO, APRU and WISE.

Step 2: Reaching consensus on framework, methodology and timeline

APEC member economies reached consensus on framework, methodology and timeline of the Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy through a technical meeting and the EDNET meeting held in Nha Trang, Viet Nam in February 2017. It has been agreed that The Action Plan will contain preamble, vision and objectives, targets and indicators as well as projects and initiatives. The Action Plan also contains an inventory of projects and initiatives including actions, timeframe, outcomes and contribution to the APEC Education Strategy. In addition, there will be an optional Individual Action Plan of the APEC Education Strategy for each member economy to assess the progress and how they contribute to the *APEC Education Strategy*

Step 3: Collective Work on the First Draft of the Action Plan

The first draft was created through collective work, in particular, the Workshop on Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy held at Hanoi, Vietnam from 11 to 12 May 2017 with participants from 17 economies as well as representatives from the APRU, the UNESCO and the WISE. The first draft of the Action Plan was completed at the Workshop. The draft, built upon the three pillars of the APEC Education Strategy, consists of five sections, i.e. Preamble, Visions and Objectives, Instruments and Tools, Targets and Indicators as well as Monitoring and Evaluation. The participants also endorsed the template of optional individual economy action plans including measures of progress in forms of qualitative and quantitative indicators aligned with the vision, objectives and actions specified in the APEC Education Strategy.

Step 4: Inter-sessional Online Consultation

All APEC member economies have been consulted through online consultation. The draft was revised through online consultation with contribution from member economies, the Action Plan is aligned with global agenda such as UN SDG 2030 and UNESCO Education 2030, in particular, by inviting the representative of other multi-lateral organizations such as UNESCO, the World Bank, APRU and WISE to relevant events and inviting representatives of these organizations to join the Task Force and the Advisory Team, among other things.

As a result, an updated draft has been produced for further revision and finalization in the future.

IV. Next Steps

1. Reporting to SCE and SOM and Cross-Fora Consultation

To identify potential areas of cooperation, the progress for drafting the Action Plan will be reported to SCE and SOM. In doing so, hopefully, it will reinforce its linkages with other significant initiatives of

APEC to achieve synergy for achieving the goal of education development and economic integration in APEC region.

2. Workshop on Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy

Another workshop on the further revision of the Action Plan back to back with APEC Education Strategy Dialogue that involves stakeholders from government, industry and academia to delve into the issues related to competencies, innovation and employability will be held in Beijing, China in September. The nomination as well as registration of the participants is under way.

In addition, in order to make the Action Plan relevant to the development of member economies and the APEC region, six analytical reports focusing on competencies, innovation, employability, targets and indicators, instruments and tools as well as monitoring and evaluation respectively will be completed by researchers or research teams nominated by APEC member economies.

3. Online Consultation

Following the workshop held in Beijing, online consultation will be undertaken *towards finalization of the Action by the end of October.*

4. Submission and Adoption by APEC Leaders' Summit

The finalized Action Plan will be submitted to APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting for adoption.