



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 11

Implementation of Action Plan of APEC Education of Strategy and Development of APEC Report on Education and Economic Development Concept Note

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: HRDWG-EDNET



**Human Resources Development Working
Group Education Network Meeting
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
28 February – 1 March 2018**

Implementation of Action Plan of APEC Education of Strategy Through APEC Report on Education and Economic Development

Concept Note

I. Rationale

Education, or the transmission, acquisition, creation and adaptation of information, knowledge, skills and values, is a key lever of inclusive growth and sustainable development. In particular, there is credible evidence that educational quality has a strong causal impact on individual earnings and economic growth. Aligned with APEC's goal of "supporting sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region", education has played an increasingly significant role in "building a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community" in recent years.

APEC has set its goal of education development and cooperation in its first long term education plan *APEC Education Strategy 2016-2030* with three themes: competencies, innovation and employability. As noted in the 2016 Leader's Declaration, the 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."

Aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and mutual learning, the 21 APEC member economies have shared information of their respective education systems and reforms through a *Baseline Report on Current Education Status in Asia Pacific Region*. Each economy's chapter contains an overview, an education system chart, details of the education administration system, education governance system, key education policies, and key education indicators. The Baseline Report will be updated.

Thanks to efforts by member economies on the platform of the EDNET, many APEC-badged projects have been implemented through collaboration. From 2015 to 2017, 32 projects have been initiated and undertaken by the EDNET members, accounting

for 65% of the total number of HRDWG projects and much more than the average number of projects of the APEC working group (22). The projects, which focus on common issues of concern to APEC member economies, have produced substantial results and could potentially be disseminated to a wider audience.

As endorsed by the Concluding Senior Official Meeting in 2017 and noted in 2017 Joint Ministerial Statement, the Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy will be implemented to promote competencies, innovation and employability in the APEC region. The Action Plan basically serves as a central reference point of education collaboration by nine substantive targets as well as thirty measurable and achievable indicators which could facilitate the development of strong evidence base to underpin education collaboration and inform the development of policy.

To increase the cost-efficiency of the education collaboration in the APEC, and aligned to the Action Plan of the APEC Education Strategy, it is proposed to integrate the updated “Baseline Report on Current Education Status in Asia Pacific Region” and outcomes of projects and initiatives to develop a report on education and economic development for the sharing of best practices and mutual learning. In doing so it is hoped this will create synergy of education-related collaborative projects and initiatives among APEC economies. This will in turn contribute to achieving APEC’s goals of supporting sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

II. Objective

In light of the Action Plan of APEC Education Strategy, the APEC Report on Education and Economic Development will draw on completed and ongoing undertakings of EDNET members, in particular, the results and findings from APEC-badged projects and the Baseline Report on Current Education Status in Asia Pacific Region. The related global agenda will also be taken account of as reflected in goals

and strategies such as the UN SDG 2030 and the UNESCO Education 2030. The Report will be developed by all economies and for all economies and will:

- share best practices on competencies, innovation and employability.
- analyse the relationship between education and economic development in the APEC region
- generate policy recommendation on education and economic development.

IV. Alignment

The *APEC Report on Education and Economic Development* will be aligned with the following:

- APEC 2018's theme "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future" and priority areas of APEC 2018;
- APEC Education Strategy 2016-2030 and its Action Plan, both focusing on competencies, innovation and employability.
- 2017 APEC Joint Ministerial Statement that "acknowledge the progress made in implementing the APEC Education Strategy 2016 - 2030, and welcome its Action Plan to guide our work to promote competencies, innovation and employability in the APEC region".
- 2016 APEC Leaders' Declaration and *the 6th APEC Education Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement: "An inclusive and quality education"*.
- *2017 Leaders' Declaration*, "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future" which notes "we recognize the vital importance of continuing to work for quality and equitable education to enable people of all ages to meet the challenges of rapid changes in today's world."

The Report will incorporate the findings and results from completed and ongoing APEC projects focusing on member economies' commonly concerned issues such as

cross-border education, including higher education, and technical vocational education and training (TVET).

V. Methodology and Timeline

Step 1: Development of the Framework of Report (February-March)

The delegates from member economies will discuss the framework of the Report at the annual EDNET meeting .

Step 2: Reformation of the Taskforce (March)

The Task Force will be established for drafting the APEC Report on Education and Economic Development.

Step 3: Setup of Advisory Team (March)

An Advisory Team will be established to support the development of the Report.

Step 4: Completion of Draft Action Plan (May)

A draft Action Plan will be developed for consideration by all EDNET members.

Step 5: Workshop on APEC Report on Education and Economic Development (May)

A Workshop on APEC Report on Education and Economic Development will be held in May on the sidelines of the SOM2 Meeting to discuss the draft report (venue and dates to be confirmed).

Step 6: Online Consultation and Revision (May-August)

Following the workshop held on the sidelines of SOM2, online consultation and refinement of the Report will be undertaken.

Step 7: Launch of the Report (September-October)

The Report will be launched at the High Level Policy Dialogue on Education and Economic Development to be held in Beijing, China.

VI. Beneficiaries and Stakeholders

All APEC economies will benefit from the Report. The immediate beneficiaries include the ministers and senior officials, the focal points of the APEC HRDWG and EDNET, the representatives of APEC member economies nominated as the Task Force Members. Policymakers, researchers and practitioners will also directly benefit from the report as it would provide information on other economies' methods, approaches and strategies to common challenges and an analysis = of the relationship between education and economic development. Furthermore, the document will embody the collective insight and wisdom for regional education development. In the long run, the Report is expected to generate positive changes and far-reaching impact upon education development and economic growth.