



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2020/DESG/008**

Agenda Item: 4

**Self-Funded Project Proposal - Using Digital  
Technologies for the Prevention and Control of  
COVID-19 and Economic Recovery**

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: China



**Digital Economy Steering Group Special  
Virtual Meeting on COVID-19  
26 June 2020**

## APEC Self-Funded Project Proposal Coversheet

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

<b>Project Title:</b>	Using Digital Technologies for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 and Economic Recovery
<b>Project Number (Assigned by Secretariat):</b>	
<b>Committee / WG / Sub-fora / Task-force:</b>	DESG
<b>Proposing APEC economy:</b>	China
<b>Co-sponsoring economies (if any):</b>	Malaysia; Chile; Russia; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia
<b>Date approved by fora:</b>	
<b>Expected start date:</b>	Apr 2020
<b>Completion date:</b>	Oct 2020
<b>Project summary:</b>  <b>(Describe the project in under 150 words. Your summary should include the project topic, goals, planned activities, timing and location. You must provide more details information by answering the questions on the next page).</b>  <i>(Summary must be no longer than the box provided. Cover sheet must fit on one page)</i>	<p>By analyzing the role of the digital technologies in the prevention and control of COVID-19 and economic recovery and sharing experiences in this regard, the project aims to encourage APEC members to make full use of digital technologies in pandemic monitoring, prevention control and treatment, resource allocation and assuring people's livelihood while respecting applicable domestic laws and regulation on data and privacy, so as to effectively improve emergency response capacity as well as digital governance capacities and promote economic recovery and digital economic development in Asia-Pacific.</p> <p>The project plans to share experiences of using digital technologies in the pandemic prevention and control, analyze the positive role of the digital technologies in improving digital governance capacity in response to public health crisis and promoting economic recovery and digital economic development, and propose recommendations to members, which might benefit policy makers and traditional enterprises undergoing the digital technologies-enabled digital transformation.</p>
<b>Total cost of project (USD):</b>	

### **Project Overseer Information and Declaration:**

**Name:**WU Chen(Ms.)

**Title:**project official

**Organization:**China DESG Team, Cyberspace Administration of China

**Tel:** +86 17601699895

**E-mail:**wuchen@cac.gov.cn

As Project Overseer and on behalf of the proposing APEC economy, I will ensure that all Project outputs (Project reports, proceedings, slides, presentations, CDs, etc.), will comply with the APEC Publications, APEC Logo and Copyrights Guidelines before being published. I will also ensure that the project will comply with the Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members (the guidelines are at: <http://www.apec.org/About-Us/About-APEC/Policies-and-Procedures.aspx>). I am aware that I am solely responsible for project fund management in relation to fully self-funded projects.

WU Chen

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Name of Project Overseer

Julio Pertuzé

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Name of Fora Chair/Lead Shepherd

Date:29April 2020

## Self-Funded Project Synopsis

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

#### (1) Practical measure to deal with COVID-19 and promote economic recovery

By sharing experiences of using the digital technologies such as 5G, Blockchain, AI, as well as Image analytics, Sensor technologies, Cloud computing, Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality, Industry 4.0, Internet of Things(IoT), Machine to Machine(M2M) and Integrated Database, among other things, in the prevention and control of COVID-19, it encourages policy makers of economies to leverage the digital technologies to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, improve the intelligent level of medical system, improve the emergency response capacity, and provide innovative digital medical services to the public, which is also in line with the Statement on COVID-19 issued by the APEC HWG.

#### (2) Contribute to implementing the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER)

AIDER takes “discuss issues related to the Internet and Digital Economy and propose cooperative activities on Internet and Digital Economy-related projects and initiatives between APEC fora and sub-fora” as one of the objectives of DESG. This project encourages deepened digital economic cooperation among APEC members, which is part of the effort to implement key focus areas of work set out by AIDER such as “Promoting innovation and adoption of enabling technologies and services” “Enhancing trust and security in the use of the digital technologies”. It would help economies to better take advantage of enabling the digital technologies to promote innovation in products, services, processes, organizations and business models.

#### (3) Explore opportunities and challenges for developing digital technologies

As important foundations for promoting digital economic development, the application context of the digital technologies is being constantly broadened, and the impetus for digitalization will become stronger, which provide a major opportunity for APEC economies to promote digital economic development. But it also brings challenges. For example, APEC members differ in levels of information infrastructure construction, and how to bridge the digital divide among these members remains a problem to be solved; insufficient application and dissemination of the digital technologies impede digital economy and technological innovation from promoting economic development as well as people’s living standards for inclusive growth.

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

A research report on the role of the digital technologies in response to COVID-19 as well as economic recovery and digital economic development would be submitted. By introducing experiences in the digital technologies application and proposing advice for APEC members, it aims to raise the awareness of APEC members on leveraging the digital technologies in response to public health emergencies.

- Introduction of good practices such as COVID-19 Sentiment Analytic Platform(from Malaysia), COVID Apps(from the APEC members) and many other practices(from the APEC members) of using the digital technologies in pandemic prevention and control.
- Summarize the positive role of the digital technologies in prevention and control of COVID-19 and digital economic development with good practices, help promote the economy recover from the breakout of COVID-19 by using the digital technologies.
- Provide recommendations to APEC members.

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

1. Attract wide notice of APEC members to the digital technologies.
2. Share good practices of 5G, Blockchain, AI and other digital technologies in COVID-19 prevention and control.
3. Summarize the positive role of the digital technologies in COVID-19 prevention and control, and enhancement of digital governance capacity in response to public health emergencies as well as digital economic development, help promote the economies recover from the pandemic by using the digital technologies.

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

- The AIDER provides guidance for promoting technologies and policy exchange, promoting innovation, inclusive and sustainable growth, and bridging the digital divide. This project might help

to deepen understanding of the digital technologies, and help policy makers to better develop education and training policies, and improve people's digital literacy.

- How to maintain the stability of society, economic recovery and development, production, logistics, financing and disease control during the pandemic is of great concern to economies. This project might help policy makers use digital mindset, approaches and platforms to solve the above problems.
- The Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 Roadmap clearly proposes actions to deal with emerging and re-emerging infectious disease outbreaks. The project aims to raise awareness of the role of the digital technologies in pandemic prevention and control, effectively facilitate using the digital technologies to improve the digital governance of public health, and improve the capacity in response to public health emergencies, and contribute to economic recovery in Asia-Pacific.

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

- This project is aligned with KFA set out by AIDER such as “Promoting innovation and adoption of enabling technologies and services” “Enhancing trust and security in the use of the digital technologies”. It’s an effort to facilitate technological and policy exchanges among member economies and to promote innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth.

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

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

Dates	Activities
April-June2020	Submit the Concept Note and endorsed by DESG
June-Sep2020	Case collection and report writing
October2020	Complete and submit the report

- **Beneficiaries: Selection criteria for participants, beneficiary profiles (e.g. participants, end users, policy makers, researchers/ analysts, gender) and how they will be engaged.**  
The beneficiaries of this project might be decision makers, relevant authorities of digital economy and public health emergency, the traditional enterprises that use the digital technologies for digital transformation.
- **Evaluation: Indicators developed to measure progress, project outcomes and impacts/ successes. Where possible provide indicators, which could assess impacts on women.**
  - Experiences of using the digital technologies in the pandemic prevention and control as well as economic recovery.
  - Opportunities and challenges identified for the application of the digital technologies in pandemic prevention and control as well as economic recovery.
  - Feedback from APEC members on the report.
- **Linkages: Information on other APEC and non-APEC stakeholders and how they will be engaged. If and how this proposal builds on (but does not duplicate) the work of other projects. How will this activity promote cross fora collaboration?**
  - For governments and enterprises, the digital technologies are of great significance for APEC members to improve ability in response to public health emergencies and promote the development of digital economy, so as to help economic recovery from the pandemic well. By means of proposing initiatives and holding relevant activities, APEC is committed to improving its members’ public health governance capacity and digital economic development in an innovative way. This project is part of effort to contribute to this by sharing experiences and providing policy recommendations.
  - The COVID-19 has caused serious economic impact, many governments have launched trillions of dollars in fiscal and monetary measures to deal with the impact on the economy. The digital technologies can help MSMEs within APEC to better integrate into the global market, so as to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, and assist MSMEs to achieve the economic recovery in short time.