



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2022/SOM2/CTI/016**

Agenda Item: VIII b

**Self-Funded Project Proposal Coversheet -  
Research on Key Areas and Implementation Paths  
for Deepening APEC Inclusive Trade and Investment  
Cooperation**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: China



**Second Committee on Trade and Investment  
Meeting  
Bangkok, Thailand  
15-16 May 2022**

# APEC Self-Funded Project Proposal Coversheet

*Submit through Secretariat Program Director. Please ensure the proposal is no longer than 4 pages.*

<b>Project Title:</b>	Research on Key Areas and Implementation Paths for Deepening APEC Inclusive Trade and Investment Cooperation
<b>Project Number:</b> (Assigned by Secretariat)	
<b>APEC Forum:</b>	Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)
<b>Proposing APEC Economy:</b>	China
<b>Co-sponsoring Economies (if any):</b>	Hong Kong, China; Chile; Malaysia; Peru
<b>Expected Start Date:</b>	April 2022
<b>Project Completion Date:</b>	May 2023
<b>Project Summary:</b> <i>In 150 words -what is the issue that you will address or examine in your project? outline the key things your project will do, in terms of what, where, when and with whom. (Summary <u>must be</u> no longer than the box provided. Cover Sheet must fit on one page)</i>	As a follow-up project of Advancing Economic Inclusion through Trade and Investment in Asia Pacific Region, this project aims to address the large capacity gap of making and implementing policies in the inclusive trade and investment field in the Asia-Pacific area. In light of the spirit of Putrajaya Vision 2040, the project will be conducted to yield a policy reference list of key areas and implementation paths aiming to build the capacity of APEC members to make and implement policies related inclusive trade and investment. A stock-take study will be necessary to collect present policies in the inclusive trade and investment field so that a full view of the inclusion development could be clear. The key areas will be determined by this stock-take study and may include policy field, referred communities, possible issues, model inclusive policies and others topics. The implementation paths will be consisted of policy reference and recommendations which is a part of key areas but highlighted by pointed out in the project's title. With the best practices of APEC members and case studies completed in the previous project as solid foundation, this project will be achieved through a stock-take study, a seminar, and a summary report with the Research Report and Policy Reference list to CTI.
<b>Total cost of project (USD):</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>List all project outputs:</b> <i>For example:</i> 1. Research and Background Paper 2. Workshop 3. Project Summary Report	<i>Project Overseers are encouraged to limit outputs to 3 or fewer</i>  1. Research Paper 2. International Seminar 3. Project Summary Report

## **Project Overseer Information and Declaration**

**Name:** Yu Miao (Ms.)      **Title:** Deputy Director

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As Project Overseer and on behalf of the above said Organization, I declare that this submission was prepared in accordance with the **Guidebook on APEC Projects** and any ensuing project will comply with said Guidebook. Failure to do so may result in the BMC denying or revoking funding and/or project approval. I understand that any funds approved are granted on the basis of the information in the document's budget table, in the case of any inconsistencies within the document. By submitting this APEC Project Proposal to the APEC Secretariat, I agree that the APEC Secretariat will collect, use, disclose, and transmit the data contained in the APEC Project Proposal, which I have provided to the APEC Secretariat in accordance with Singapore's Personal Data Protection Act 2012 and the APEC Secretariat's data protection policy (<https://www.apec.org/PrivacyPolicy>). The APEC Secretariat will transfer any data provided on this form, which may contain personal data of Project Overseer(s), to APEC member economies overseas via the APEC Secretariat.

Yu Miao (Ms.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Project Overseer

Blake van Velden

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Name of Fora Chair/Lead Shepherd

**Date:**

## Project Synopsis

<p><b><u>Project Objective:</u></b></p> <p><b>State the overarching objective of the project in 100 words or less.</b></p> <p><i>The objective is the overarching goal of your project, for example, “Our objective is to build the capacity of project participants through workshop and research to better support the X Roadmap, and produce recommendations as a basis for further collaboration to address the APEC-wide issue of...”</i></p>	<p>Our objective is to improve the capacity of APEC economies of policy making and implementation through a stock-take study and information sharing seminar. A policy reference list is expected to be framed and utilized as a reference tool for APEC members in formulating related policies and economy-level action plans, thus contributing to the implementation of the <i>Aotearoa Plan of Action</i> and the development of inclusive trade and investment.</p>
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1. **a) Relevance – Issues: What problems does the project seek to address? Does it have sustained benefits for more than one economy in the APEC region?**

The Asia-Pacific has achieved tremendous economic growth over the past three decades. The region has outperformed the rest of the world. Trade in goods and services have increased fourfold. Nonetheless, the benefits have not been shared fully and equally by all APEC members and vulnerable groups in the region, such as women, the elderly, persons with disabilities and rural communities. The referred community problems will be specifically addressed in the study because the vulnerable communities are different among APEC economies. A significant proportion of working age population still lack the capabilities, means and resources to participate in the global economy, which may result in the widening of income gaps and greater social inequality. The project will probe that how APEC, as the most influential regional cooperation mechanism in the Asia Pacific region, can play a more active and effective role in addressing these issues by further promoting inclusive trade and investment in an effective manner.

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

This project supports ongoing efforts of APEC members to implement the APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion adopted by APEC Leaders in 2017, with the vision of building a more inclusive APEC community by 2030. The Action Agenda instructs economies to develop a holistic set of policies and measures to promote the multiple dimensions of inclusion, and encourages APEC Committees and groups to incorporate economic, financial and social inclusion in their work plans or strategic plans where relevant.

The project also supports the priorities of APEC in promoting trade and investment cooperation and inclusive growth established in the Putrajaya Vision 2040, and contribute to the implementation of related individual and collective actions set out in the Aotearoa Plan of Action.

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

APEC economies have initiated discussions and initiatives in CTI on various inclusive issues such as inclusive business, inclusive trade, women and the economy among others. The CTI responded to the 2017 Action Agenda by holding a policy discussion on advancing economic inclusion in 2018.

2. **Capacity Building: How will the project build the capacity of APEC member economies.**

This project will frame a policy reference list of key areas and implementation paths for APEC members’ reference. Through an follow-on information-sharing seminar, the list will be widely discussed and disseminated to all APEC members and eventually improving the understanding and governing capacity of APEC members on inclusive trade and investment cooperation. The contributions of the project might include, but are not limited to:

- To improve the inclusiveness of policies and business environment of APEC members
- To increase participation and economic benefits of vulnerable communities
- To encourage innovative business models that contribute to economic inclusion and policies that make trade and investment work for all.

3. **Methodology:** How do you plan to implement the project? Briefly address the following:  
**Workplan:** In a simple table, outline the project from start to end. Show key project outputs and activities and associated dates or timelines. Indicate if you intend to record any project event. Refer to the *APEC Project Event Recording Policy* at Annex N of the Guidebook.

Timeline	Activities and outputs
August 2022	Carry out a stock-take study by utilizing the case study conducted in the previous project, collecting current all trade and investment initiatives and policies that support economic inclusion, and then compile a preliminary policy reference list of key areas, main issues, and implementation paths that help strengthen inclusive trade and investment
March 2023	Hold a Seminar on Key Areas and implementation paths for deepening APEC Inclusive Trade and Investment Cooperation
June 2023	Prepare a Summary Report based on the above-mentioned study and seminar with two annexes, i.e. the research report and the reference list
August 2023	Submit the Summary Report to CTI

**Beneficiaries:** Selection criteria for participants, beneficiary profiles (e.g. participants, end users, policy makers, researchers/ analysts, gender) and how they will be engaged.

The research paper of the project will build on current knowledge within and outside the Asia-Pacific, and facilitates the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt on policies to advance economic inclusion through trade and investment. A suggested policy reference list of main issues, policy objectives and implementation measures that help strengthen inclusive trade and investment will reflect the focus and interest demands of all APEC members and related stakeholders, and help in substantially promoting the cooperation of APEC in this field. On the international seminar, APEC economies will be invited to include key speakers and panelists to speak on their economy's best practice, domestic regulations and research. Beyond CTI delegates, the international seminar will be open to all APEC officials, academics, and business people working in trade and investment policy.

**Evaluation:** Outline the indicators which will be used to measure progress towards the project outcomes. Where possible, provide indicators which could assess impacts on women.

- The number of APEC economies participating, including the number of developing economies;
- A report, including policy recommendations and reference checklist;
- A survey to participants to determine quality and relevancy of the workshop;
- The number of proposals and projects explored into CTI's future agenda on this issue; and
- Participation rates, including gender specific aggregated data.

**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?

The concept of inclusion underpins the high-level agendas of a number of international organizations and forums. For example, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all people. In June 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders endorsed the document of Update on the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Besides CTI's agenda, this project strongly links with APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC region, the La Serena Roadmap and Boracay Action Agenda. This project would therefore add to the existing activities undertaken by economies under above Action Agenda.