



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2024/SOM3/BMG/014

Agenda Item: 18.2

APEC Business Travel Card: History and Workshop Goals – Workshop Presentation

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Australia



**Business Mobility Group Meeting
Lima, Peru
14-15 August 2024**

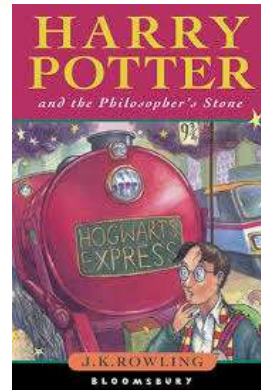
APEC Business Travel Card: History and workshop goals

Mr. Conagh McMahon-Hogan
13 August 2024

Original concept, trial and launch



The 1990s



NIRVANA

THE SIMPSONS



Original concept, trial and launch

- 1989 – Canberra, Australia
- 1990 - Singapore
- 1991 – Seoul, Korea
- 1992 – Bangkok, Thailand
- 1993 – Blake Island, USA



APEC economic leaders, Blake Island (USA)

“... identify issues APEC should address, to facilitate regional trade and investment, and encourage the further development of business networks throughout the region”

APEC economic leaders on the foundation of the Pacific Business Forum

Original concept, trial and launch

The Bogor Goals – Indonesia, 1994

1. To find cooperative solutions to the challenges of our rapidly changing regional and global economy;
2. To support an expanding world economy and an open multilateral trading system;
3. To continue to reduce barriers to trade and investment to enable goods, services and capital to flow freely among APEC economies;
4. To ensure that our people share the benefits of economic growth, improve education and training, link our economies through advances in telecommunications and transportation, and use our resources sustainably.

Original concept, trial and launch

Osaka Action Agenda– Japan, 1995

13. MOBILITY OF BUSINESS PEOPLE

OBJECTIVE

APEC economies will enhance the mobility of business people engaged in the conduct of trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.

GUIDELINES

Each APEC economy will contribute positively to the work on the mobility of business people being undertaken in relevant WTO fora.

COLLECTIVE ACTIONS

APEC economies will:

- a. exchange information on regulatory regimes in regard to the mobility of business people in the region;
- b. examine the possibility of setting the scope for cooperation at a regional level aimed at streamlining and accelerating:
 - i. processing of visas for short term business travel; and
 - ii. arrangements for temporary residency for business people to engage in trade and investment; and
- c. establish and maintain a dialogue on mobility issues with the business community.

Original concept, trial and launch

APEC CTI and BMG



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**



Committee on Trade and Investment



Business Mobility Group

Original concept, trial and launch

ABTC trial and permanency



ABTC System Redevelopment

2005 - 2006

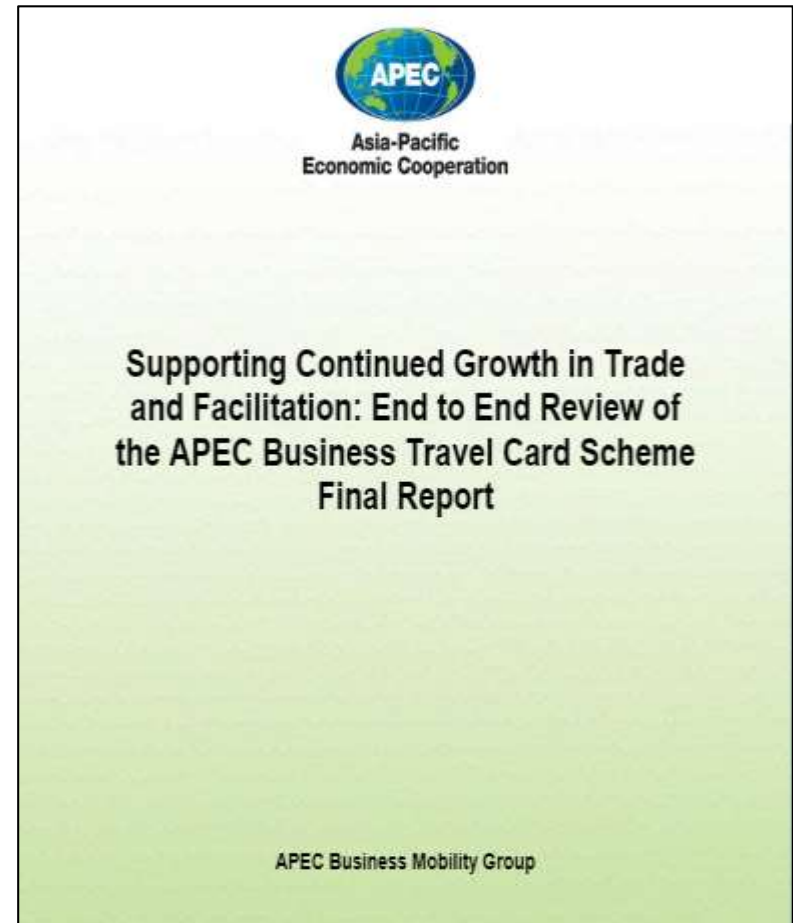


ABTC End to End Review

2014

5 key recommendations:

1. the extension of the validity of the ABTC card from 3 to 5 years
2. a technical assistance and programme management assistance project
3. improving pre-clearance times
4. simplifying the renewal process
5. online lodgement systems either shared or used by individual economies.



Virtual ABTC



2019 - 2021

View the Virtual ABTC

Selecting the View Card button displays a virtual replication of the physical ABTC

Virtual ABTC Design

The Virtual ABTC and the information it displays replicates the physical ABTC, including the APEC Wave Design Pattern background

Pre-clearance Economies

The Virtual ABTC displays which APEC Economies have provided Pre-clearance Permissions and the cardholder's passport number and issuing Home Economy

Cardholder Personal Particulars

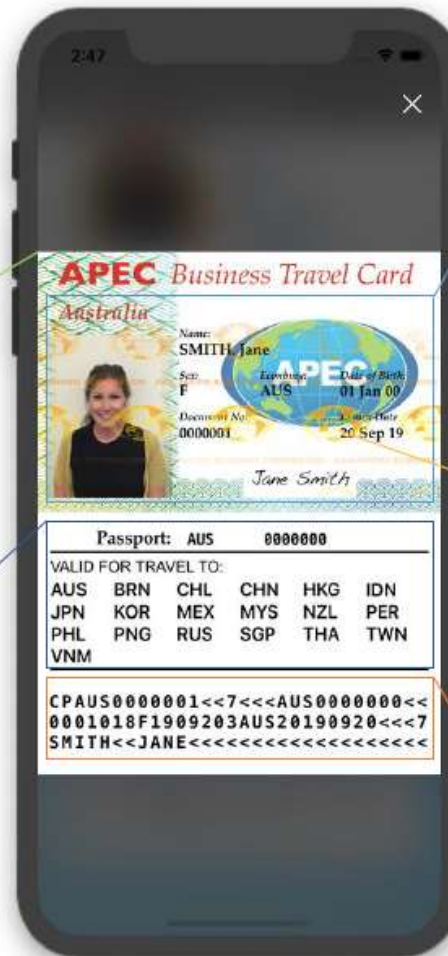
These panels include the cardholder's name, sex, Home Economy, date of birth, Virtual ABTC number and the ABTC's expiry date, along with the cardholder's portrait photo and signature images

Holographic APEC Logo Overlay

The Virtual ABTC includes a digital holographic APEC Logo overlay; it is locked to gravity and changes colour and visibility in real-time in correlation with the movement of the smart device

Machine Readable Zone

The Virtual ABTC replicates the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) on the back of the ABTC



Capacity Building Workshop on Improving the Utilization of ABTC

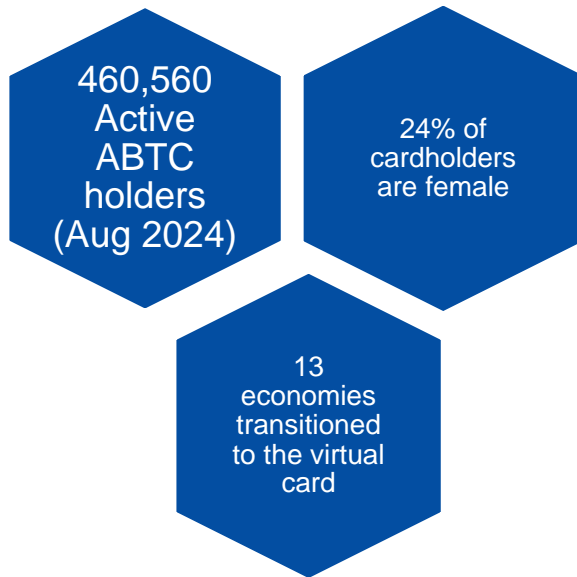
2020-2022

- Proposed by Indonesia
- Co-sponsored by Chile; China; New Zealand; and Papua New Guinea
- To share best practices on how to:
 - Increase the number of ABTC holders
 - Improve the efficiency of the scheme
 - Better risk management of the application process



Current status

2024



Economies that have transitioned to issue the virtual card (inc. hybrid)

Economy	Commencement Date
Australia	01 March 2021
Brunei Darussalam	30 June 2021
Chile	30 June 2021
Indonesia	01 April 2021
Japan	01 April 2024
Malaysia	24 October 2023
Mexico	23 April 2023
New Zealand	02 August 2021
Papua New Guinea	30 June 2021
Peru	28 May 2021
The Philippines	24 November 2021
Thailand	01 May 2021
Viet Nam	25 October 2023

Performance review study of the ABTC Scheme

Purpose of this workshop

To seek recommendations to enhance the operation of the Scheme, and performance metrics, for economies to use for future monitoring and evaluating of the Scheme.

Why facilitate business travel?
How do we improve the ABTC Scheme?
How do we measure success?