



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 4.2

## **Health Working Group Work Plan for 2024**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: HWG Chair



**SOM Steering Committee on  
Economic and Technical Cooperation  
- Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Lima, Peru  
5 March 2024**

# Health Working Group (HWG) 2024 Work Plan

## Overview

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Working Group on Health has made significant progress in promoting the health and well-being of the populations of member economies. Going forward, it is imperative to continue this important work. To achieve continuity of the efforts made in recent years, it is necessary to align the work of the Health Working Group (HWG) through 2040 with the long-term goals set out in the **Putrajaya Vision 2040**, which refers to creating an "open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community for the **prosperity of all people and future generations**". By setting ambitious goals and targets, we aim to improve health outcomes, strengthen health systems and address prevailing health disparities across the Asia-Pacific region.

The pandemic context has taught us valuable lessons about the importance of preparedness, coordination and collaboration in responding to health emergencies. As we move forward, it is crucial to reflect on these lessons learned and integrate them into our work strategies. In doing so, the HWG must improve the ability to effectively prevent, detect, and respond to future pandemics and epidemic outbreaks. This work requires a thorough review and analysis of the actions taken during the recent COVID-19 crisis and **the incorporation of best practices** into our future plans.

The HWG will work to implement the APV2040, Aotearoa Plan of Action, the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular Green Economy and the **La Serena Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth** with the aim of improving women's well-being and full development by **promoting gender equality and their economic empowerment** as key aspects of public health. This means addressing gender inequalities in accessing quality health services that meet women's specific needs. As a result, APEC member economies can achieve better health outcomes and a greater contribution to the overall sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Women's ability to access economic opportunities is sometimes hindered by health concerns, thus, the HWG will work to continue APEC's work in 2024 on the "**Healthy Women, Healthy Economies**" initiative. A Policy Toolkit was developed to address health-related barriers specific to women so they can join, remain and rise in the workforce. The Policy Toolkit includes policy recommendations and practices on: workplace health and safety; health access and awareness; sexual and reproductive health; gender- based violence; and work-life balance.

In this line, the APV2040 and APA seek to achieve **universal access to quality healthcare** with strengthened health systems that bring tangible benefits and improved health and well-being to all, including MSMEs, women and others with untapped economic potential; HWG will contribute to APEC's work in 2024 to gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of vulnerable populations.

Peru as APEC's host economy in 2024, has set the theme of "**Empower. Include. Grow.**" with three priorities: Trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth; Innovation and digitalization to promote the transition to the formal and global economy; and Sustainable growth for resilient development. Consistent with the host economy's theme and priorities, the HWG will focus on the following priorities:

## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Continue the implementation of the **2021-2030 Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific** to ensure that everyone has **equal opportunities** to take care of their mental health for a healthier and more productive society. In 2024, we will continue to contribute to an Asia Pacific that promotes the digitization of health data and strengthens the process of implementing specialised community mental health modules.

## VACCINATION ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

Continue the implementation of the "**APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course**", in order to mitigate the resurgence of diseases by strengthening the vaccination schedules of health systems, to avoid the risk of new threats to economies. This priority will promote the strengthening of

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the supply chain, with special emphasis on Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for cancer prevention.

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH: NEW HEALTH THREATS

Articulate efforts to reduce the risks of climate change on people's health, to achieve the **Bangkok Goals** (2022), implementing **actions to address new pandemic threats**, with special emphasis on the management of epidemics and metaxenic plagues, such as dengue. In this regard, Peru will promote an integrated response to outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging diseases resulting from climate change, with a One Health approach in the Asia-Pacific region.

### GENDER IN HEALTH

In line with the **La Serena Roadmap (2019-2030)**, the **APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Initiative**, and the **Aotearoa Action Plan**, to close the gaps in women's access to health and promoting health systems that consider the important role of women in the economy, with a focus on recognizing indigenous women. APEC 2024 will continue to encourage efforts to build **inclusive and sustainable health systems** that consider the importance of women as economic agents and recognize the value of traditional medicine knowledge of indigenous populations. This includes actions to develop gender-sensitive health services, implementing strategies to address issues such as the epidemiological surveillance of migrant transit, with emphasis on the protection of women and vulnerable populations.

### Governance of the Forum in 2024

- Develop HWG 2024 Work Plan prior to the first HWG plenary meeting during SOM1 cluster
- Hold two HWG meetings respectively during SOM1 in February and SOM3 in August
- Hold the 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLMHE14) in August
- Initiate SCE Sub-Fora Assessments Process in December 2024 as instructed by SCE
- Renew HWG Strategic Plan 2021-2025
- Submit HWG Annual Report to SCE in October-November
- Contribute to the biennial reporting on progress in the achievement of La Serena Roadmap objectives.
- Contribute to the biennial reporting on progress towards the achievement of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

### Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2024

- 14th High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy Joint Statement
- Renewed APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Policy Toolkit
- Enhanced cross-fora collaboration with APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE), Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), Chemical Dialogue (CD), and APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

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### Itemized Work Plan

Output/Project Title	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans, ABAC recommendations)	Summary of Activities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<p><b>ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities (APA ECOTECH-related Collective Actions):</b> Build on APEC’s Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion to enhance economic inclusion for all, including by advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade and investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life for all members of society.</p> <p><b>Host Year Priorities:</b> Innovation and digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy</p>			
<p><b>Sub-Working Group on Mental Wellness</b></p> <p>Participating members: Australia, Canada (lead), Indonesia, Peru, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, USA, Malaysia, Singapore</p>	<p>The mandate of the Sub Working Group on Mental Wellness is derived from SOM/SCE priorities, decisions, and strategic plans:</p> <p>[APEC] recognises the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in the region and emphasises the importance of an integrated approach for prevention and treatment.</p> <p>[APEC] acknowledges and support ongoing work on Mental Health, Cervical Cancer, and Rare Diseases. <b>(2019 APEC Ministerial Chair’s Statement)</b></p> <p>[APEC] encourages cross-fora collaboration to achieve the common goal of proactive investment in healthy workforces and access to healthcare. <b>(2016 APEC Ministerial Declaration)</b></p> <p>Supporting healthy populations across the life-course, including the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including mental health, and promoting healthy aging. <b>(HWG Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025)</b></p> <p>HLM13 acknowledged the importance of both public and private sector solutions to ensure sustainable, shock-resistant, equitable and quality health services,</p>	<p>The 2021-2030 Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific represents APEC’s strategic approach to supporting mental wellness in a post-COVID Asia Pacific from 2021 to 2030 through project implementation, strategic partnerships, and inclusive growth.</p> <p>The Sub Working Group on Mental Wellness has continued to support the implementation of the Roadmap in a number of ways:</p> <p><u>Progress Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada led a policy discussion during SOM1 and SOM3 and invited HWG members to share their lessons learned about mental health impacts in the region during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the digital mental health innovations that have been developed in this region and the impact that they have had on capacity, access to services, wait times and overall mental health and substance use treatment outcomes, as well as how APEC members promote healthy aging using digital health solutions.</li> <li>• The Digital Hub for Mental Health is co-designing, in partnership with a Lived Experience Advisory Council of people with lived experience from across the APEC region a series of interactive online learning modules hosted on the University of British Columbia’s innovative Tapestry platform. These modules are intended for a general audience with an interest in global mental health, digital mental health equity, and partnership and collaboration for mental health.</li> </ul>	<p>The Sub-Working Group on Mental Wellness will work with other APEC fora and other external organizations (WHO, Global Coalition on Aging, University of British Columbia, Canada) as necessary.</p> <p>Cross collaboration with HWG Sub-Working Group on Digital Health will also be explored.</p>

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	<p>including for mental health. APEC acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the mental health of all people, especially those in vulnerable situations. <b>(13<sup>th</sup> APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy Joint Statement)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Digital Hub continued its flagship study, Enhanced Measurement-base Care Effectiveness for Depression (EMBED), to focus on technology-enhanced care for depression in mental health centres through randomized controlled trials. The Youth Promotion of Resilience Involving Mental e-Health (Y-PRIME) is another study underway which consists of adapting, co-designing, and testing, in partnership with Vietnamese youth, a life-skills and self-management program to be delivered at the population level via an app among Vietnamese secondary school students.</li> <li>• In September 2023, the Digital Hub hosted, in collaboration with the e-Mental Health International Collaboration, an online forum which brought together panellists representing APEC member economies to share best practices and model programs that support and promote equitable access to digital mental health supports.</li> </ul> <p><u>Proposed Activities for 2024:</u></p> <p>Building upon the foundation laid out in the 2021-2030 Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific, the Sub-Working Group will continue to explore opportunities to support the implementation of the Roadmap:</p> <p><i>Convene Virtual Sub-Working Group Meeting with Participating Economies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada will explore the opportunity to convene a virtual sub-working group meeting with participating economies (<i>Australia, Indonesia, Peru, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, USA, Malaysia, Singapore</i>) to discuss progress, ideas to support the implementation of the Roadmap, possibilities for a virtual policy dialogue, and next steps for this working group.</li> </ul> <p><i>Virtual Policy Dialogue on the Margins of SOM3:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada will explore the opportunity to organize a roundtable discussion with APEC economies, seeking insights from current research, expertise and experiences to further support the goals outlined in the <i>Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific</i>, and identify opportunities for next steps, linked with broader global mental health discussions and initiatives (specific topics/focus TBD).</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>HWG 04 2021A (Philippines)</b> Forum on Mental Health Resiliency among Healthcare Workers in the New Normal</p>	<p>HWG Strategic Plan 2021-2025</p> <p>Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 (HAP2020) Initiative endorsed by APEC Leaders and Ministers in 2014</p>	<p>The main objective of the project is to support actions that will help improve health system efficiencies and foster an enabling local environment for stakeholders in health-related industries by enhancing mental health resiliency among APEC member economies through a consensus on the essential elements in providing contextually and culturally appropriate mental health initiatives for health workers.</p> <p>A 2-day virtual forum was conducted in May 2023.</p> <p>A Compendium of Best Practices on Mental Health Resilience of Health Service Providers is scheduled to be published in February 2024.</p>	<p>APEC fora: EPWG and HRDWG</p> <p>External Organisations: WHO</p>
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### **ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities (APA ECOTECH-related Collective Actions)**

#### **Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth:**

1. Promote and cooperate on measures that facilitate the safe cross-border movement of people, particularly in the context of changing pandemic related health and travel measures, so as to strengthen tourism, aviation and similarly affected sectors.
2. Enable quality and equitable health access and outcomes for all with a view to achieving universal health coverage, including by strengthening health systems, by cooperating on
  - a) preventing, detecting, responding to, and recovering from, pandemics;
  - b) accelerating equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable vaccines for all;
  - c) supporting the safe, secure and efficient operation of resilient health related supply chains; and
  - d) the use of digital technologies that foster health system innovation.

#### **Host Year Priorities:**

1. Trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth
2. Innovation and digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy

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<p><b>Sub-Working Group on Vaccination</b></p> <p>Participating members: Australia, Canada (co-lead), People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, China; Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, USA (co-lead), Malaysia</p>	<p>The APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course was endorsed by the LSIF and HWG in 2021. It is a comprehensive strategy for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of life-course immunization programs in APEC member economies through 2030.</p> <p>The Vaccination Program of Work (VPoW) was endorsed by the HWG in January 2020. The VPoW’s work aligns with broader APEC objectives, as listed below:</p> <p>[APEC] members will continue to mobilise resources to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and reinforce our systems to prevent and prepare for and respond to future threats. We should continue our efforts to improve digital solutions and access to health services and strengthen health systems with a view to achieving universal health coverage. <b>(APEC Leaders Declaration 2022)</b></p> <p>Strengthened health systems including capacity building for human resources for health, resilient supply chains, and the promotion of regulatory convergence, to support universal health coverage and improved health emergency preparedness, detection, response, and recovery systems for public health emergencies in the APEC region. <b>(North Star 2030)</b></p> <p>Strengthened collaboration across the region by demonstrating the economic imperative of addressing pandemic and public health emergency preparedness, response, and recovery; preventing and controlling infectious diseases. <b>(North Star 2030)</b></p>	<p>In 2023, Canada and the USA co-led a policy discussion during SOM1 on Vaccination and Immunization where members were invited to share lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to combat the persistent threat of vaccine-related mis- and disinformation; the best approaches to achieve the goal of maintaining and sustaining vaccine confidence (and thus uptake) throughout the life course in order to support long term population protection and productivity; and efforts towards resilient and strengthened health systems to enable vaccine and health equity.</p> <p>Canada continued to lead on the Vaccination Spotlight Report to highlight economy experiences regarding vaccine hesitancy.</p> <p>The Vaccination Task Force (VTF, led by the USA and incorporated into the Sub-Working Group on Vaccination from the former LSIF) hosted the Vaccination Across the Life Course Policy Dialogue during SOM1 to explore how the APEC region could accelerate the development, implementation, and sustainability of economy-wide life-course immunization plans &amp; policies by sharing evidence-based policies and solutions to build resilient immunization programs in the APEC region.</p> <p><u>Proposed Activities for 2024:</u></p> <p>In 2024, the Sub-Working Group on Vaccination will aim to continue to support economies in achieving the objectives outlined in the WHO Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), with the vision that all 21 APEC member economies will have implemented resilient and sustainable life-course immunization programs by 2023, thereby ensuring widespread uptake of vaccination and protecting the health and wellbeing of all populations.</p> <p><i>Publication of the Vaccine Spotlight Report:</i> As part of the <i>Vaccination Program of Work</i>, Canada has prepared a Vaccine Spotlight Report to share successful policies and programs submitted by 8 Member Economies which target vaccine hesitancy and misinformation. The report is expected to be published and publicly accessible on the Health Working Group website in the coming months to provide easy access to information on best practices and policies. The Sub-Working Group will also share the report on social media and encourage sharing through our network of global health partners, including the WHO, UNICEF, and Gavi.</p>	<p>Established partnerships with the WHO, Gavi, UNICEF, and PAHO will be leveraged to host a policy dialogue. Collaboration with industry, academia, and other external stakeholders will be assessed as necessary to ensure the maximum impact of HWG’s efforts and coordinate with global health partners.</p>
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	<p>Enhancing preparedness, response, and recovery systems for public health emergencies and disasters, including prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (<b>HWG Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025</b>)</p> <p>HLM13 stressed the importance of continuing efforts to promote equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured and affordable vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. APEC welcomed member economies' progress in implementing the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination across the Life-Course, with continued efforts to capture the full societal and economic benefits of immunization, bolster vaccine confidence, and address misinformation and disinformation. (<b>13<sup>th</sup> APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy Joint Statement</b>)</p>		
<p><b>HWG 202 2023A</b> (Chinese Taipei) Cervical Cancer Elimination</p>	<p>The North Star: A 2030 Strategy for Enabling Resilient Health Systems and Promoting the Health of our Populations in the Asia Pacific</p> <p>APEC Roadmap to Promote Sustainable Economic Advancement for Women Through Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control</p> <p>La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030)</p>	<p>Completion of the project proposal's quality assessment by March 2024</p> <p>Plan for a hybrid conference to take place in March 2025 in Taipei with two key topics (1) HPV vaccination strategies; (2) cervical cancer screening strategies</p>	<p>Collaboration with academia and other external stakeholders.</p>

**ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities (APA ECOTECH-related Collective Actions):**

1. Stimulate practical application of digital technologies for inclusive & sustainable growth in such areas as trade, finance, public services and healthcare.
2. Enable quality and equitable health access and outcomes for all with a view to achieving universal health coverage, including by strengthening health systems, by cooperating on pandemics, vaccines, supply chains, and digital health.

**Host Year Priorities:**

1. Trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth
2. Innovation and digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy



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<p><b>Sub-Working Group on Digital Health</b></p> <p>Participating members: Chinese Taipei (lead), Thailand, Viet Nam, the Philippines; Peru, Korea, United States</p>	<p>Putrajaya Vision 2040</p> <p>Aotearoa Plan of Action</p> <p>HWG Strategic Plan 2021-2025</p> <p>Chair's Statement of the 13th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and Economy</p> <p>2023 ABAC Statement on Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>2023 Leaders' Declaration</p>	<p>The Sub-Working Group on Digital Health will lead the following work in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish the “Study on the Use of Telemedicine to Promote Health Equity in APEC Region after COVID-19”, the study has collected survey results from 12 economies and case studies from 11 economies to provide the landscape and trends of digital health governance in the APEC region and is being circulated to seek endorsement.</li> <li>• Convene the “Study on Practical Experiences in Building a Resilient Healthcare System Using AI and Digital Tools”, which will compile experiences from economies in utilizing technologies such as artificial intelligence and data science to enhance the resilience of healthcare systems. It will cover aspects including governance structures, digital health ecosystems, one health issues (e.g. AMR, infectious diseases, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases) and strengthening health security. It will also include policy experiences in enhancing the climate resilience and adaptability of healthcare systems.</li> </ul> <p>Plan to host a policy dialogue in November 2024 that aims to invite APEC members to share their best practices and views on utilizing technologies such as artificial intelligence and data science to address “one health” challenges, including AMR, infectious diseases (particularly zoonotic and vector-borne diseases), and strengthening health security. It will also include policy experiences in enhancing the climate resilience and adaptability of healthcare systems.</p>	<p>ABAC will be invited to attend policy discussion or policy dialogue.</p> <p>External Organisations: industry, academia and other external stakeholders will be invited to attend policy discussion or policy dialogue.</p>
<p><b>HWG 06 2022A</b> (Chinese Taipei) Empowering the Next Generation – Investment in Preventable Infant Deaths by a Healthy Start</p>	<p>The North Star: A 2030 Strategy for Enabling Resilient Health Systems and Promoting the Health of our Populations in the Asia Pacific (especially on the topic of childhood developmental health issues across the life-course)</p>	<p>A conference to take place in March 2024 in Taipei with 3 main discussion topics: (1) Care and Development of Children with Severe Disorders: Current Practices and Future Planning; (2) Investment of Strategies for Reducing Preventable Infant Deaths: Improvement of Care and Follow-up for Preterm Infants; (3) Experiences among APEC economies of improving prenatal healthcare as well as neonatal and infant healthcare for decreasing infant mortality.</p>	<p>Collaboration with industry, academia, and other external stakeholders.</p>

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<p><b>HWG 07 2022A</b> <b>(Chinese Taipei)</b> Managing Infectious Diseases on Cross-Border Cruise Ships in the Post COVID-19 Era: Application of Digital Technology</p>	<p>Thailand's policy priorities for APEC 2022 (Priority 2: Restoring Connectivity in All Dimensions)</p> <p>2021 Leaders' Declaration (in which the leaders declared "we support APEC playing a greater role in promoting information exchange and coordination measures related to cross-border movement of people, including in relation to air and maritime crew, and COVID-19 testing and vaccination certificates")</p> <p>Aotearoa Plan of Action</p>	<p>A 1.5-day Conference was hosted in Taipei in August 2023 for cruise epidemic prevention policy makers and officials, public health officials, border health officers, experts and private sectors (e.g., cruise lines); activities included (1) interactive sessions on strategies to manage infectious diseases and use digital tools to support epidemic prevention on cruise ships and (2) site visits to maritime institute(s) or boarding cruise ships to observe how to implement quarantine measures.</p> <p>A Conference Report - Managing Infectious Diseases on Cross-Border Cruise Ships is scheduled to be published in February 2024.</p>	<p>Collaboration with industry, academia, health policy makers and border control authorities.</p>
<p><b>HWG 201 2023A</b> <b>(Chinese Taipei)</b> Advancing Health Technology Assessment for Sustainable Universal Health Coverage</p>	<p>Putrajaya Vision 2040</p> <p>HWG Strategic Plan 2021-2025</p> <p>The North Star: A 2030 Strategy for Enabling Resilient Health Systems and Promoting the Health of our Populations in the Asia Pacific</p>	<p>The project aims to provide a platform to exchange experiences and learn from the successful cases and best practices in collaboration with all stakeholders regarding applying Health Technology Assessment in supporting the development of policies related to the adoption of new medicines and innovative healthcare services, as well as enhancing the health systems' capabilities in responding to public health emergencies and addressing new health threats.</p> <p>Completion of the project proposal's quality assessment by March 2024</p> <p>Plan for a workshop to take place in the second half of 2024 in Taipei</p>	<p>Collaboration with industry, academia and other external stakeholders</p>
<p><b>HWG 203 2023A</b> <b>(Chinese Taipei)</b> Conference on Policies and Technologies to Promote Healthy Aging with Healthy Diet</p>	<p>This project aligns with the 2021-2025 strategic plan goals of the APEC Health Working Group (HWG) to promote the health and well-being of populations throughout their lifespan with a specific focus on preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases.</p>	<p>Completion of the project proposal's quality assessment by March 2024</p> <p>Plan for a hybrid conference to take place in March 2025 in Taipei with 3 main goals: (1) Building an age-friendly eating environment; (2) Promoting healthy eating awareness and behaviour; (3) Technological assistance to enhance nutritional care.</p>	<p>Collaboration with health officials, international organizations, health workers, industry, academia, and other external stakeholders.</p>

**ECOTECH Medium-Term Priorities:**

Enable quality and equitable health access and outcomes for all with a view to achieving universal health coverage, including by strengthening health systems, by cooperating on

- a) preventing, detecting, responding to, and recovering from, pandemics;
- b) accelerating equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable vaccines for all;
- c) supporting the safe, secure and efficient operation of resilient health related supply chains; and

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d) the use of digital technologies that foster health system innovation.

**Host Year Priorities:**

1. Trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth
2. Innovation and digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy
3. Sustainable growth for resilient development

<p><b>HWG 01 2023A (China)</b></p> <p>Capacity Building in Managing Major Infectious Diseases and Responding to Health Emergencies</p>	<p>The project is in line with the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 which calls for strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth: (1) To ensure that the Asia-Pacific region is resilient to shocks, crises, pandemics and other emergencies, (2) To better equip our people with the skills and knowledge for the future.</p> <p>Furthermore, as indicated by the Policy Paper: Priorities for APEC 2022 Thailand, the pandemic has exposed and worsened inherent inequalities and imbalances that render our economies vulnerable to shocks. APEC needs to re-think its approach to achieve more balance, inclusivity and sustainability, as well as to build resilience and enhance preparedness against future shocks.</p>	<p>By integrating digital technology with on-site training, this program aims to strengthen the technical cooperation mechanism among APEC economies. Participants from all member economies will be invited to China and/or Japan to join the program. The capacity of the participants in preventing, controlling, treating emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and responding to healthcare emergencies is expected to improve after the training which will be organized two times a year. Thus, the capacities and resilience of health systems in member economies will be strengthened in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>If applicable, the project can be extended to APEC economies where the capacities of health systems are not strong enough to manage emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and responding to healthcare emergencies.</p>	<p>The participants are expected to be public health professionals and clinicians from medical universities or hospitals in APEC economies, and policy-makers responsible for relevant fields. Government officials that will attend the event include directors-general from China's National Health Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as WHO representative to China and his associates.</p>
<p><b>HWG 204 2023A (Peru)</b></p> <p>Towards an integrated response in the Asia-Pacific region to emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks, with emphasis on COVID-19 and a One Health approach: lessons learned, challenges and opportunities</p>	<p>Putrajaya Vision 2024 emphasizes the interest of APEC economies in ensuring resilience against crises, pandemics, and other emergencies in the Asia and Pacific region. ECOTECH has also prioritized strengthening health systems through cooperation to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from pandemics, as well as the use of digital technologies to promote innovation in health systems, such as telemedicine and digital health.</p> <p>Our project aligns with the objectives proposed by APEC economies, focusing on knowledge exchange and cooperation among human and technological resources across APEC economies on issues related to surveillance, prevention, and control of emerging and reemerging diseases. Our project complements the</p>	<p>A 2-day capacity building event will be hosted in May in 2024 in Peru. The event will commence with seminars addressing global health strategies, the integration of the "One Health" approach, advancements during the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of a coordinated international response to emerging diseases, and the empowerment of women in scientific research. This foundation paves the way for Methodological Workshops and interactive Q&amp;A sessions. The second day focuses on Dialogue Tables, delving into an array of health topics and promoting international collaboration. The overarching objective is to fortify collaboration among APEC economies, fostering an environment conducive to crafting a unified approach to potential disease outbreaks.</p> <p>A final report consolidating the results of the seminars and dialogues will be prepared. This report will include the agreements generated and provide a comprehensive summary of the learnings, challenges, and opportunities identified during the events.</p>	<p>EPWG</p> <p>WHO; community-based NGOs who work on the ground with practical experiences; scientific community and academia</p>

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	efforts of various APEC thematic groups, such as the health working group, to combat health threats related to the trade and security of economies.		
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