



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

Outcomes & Outlook

2022 - 2023

APEC Secretariat



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Message from the Executive Director

In the past year, APEC officials in Thailand signaled renewed enthusiasm and commitment to cooperation despite differences and disagreements borne by global geopolitics. The high-level gatherings covered all sectors crucial to the region's recovery from trade, health, tourism, forestry, and food security to the economic empowerment of women, and small and medium enterprises.

In November 2022, APEC leaders met in Bangkok and successfully delivered a joint statement, as well as a watershed document in the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, which will comprehensively advance APEC's sustainability and inclusion objectives and which signals a welcome surge of emphasis on the environment.

The outcomes of discussions were guided by Thailand's theme to "Open, Connect and Balance" the region's economy, and demonstrate how APEC recognizes that economic goals should include not just growth, but must also ensure the well-being of people, inclusion, equity, and sustainability.

These values are being carried over to 2023, when the United States take on the duties of APEC host. Members are focusing on the interconnected concepts of "resiliency," "sustainability," and "inclusivity," recognizing as well that these have a direct impact on economic prosperity. This idea is neatly encapsulated by their theme: "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All." It is my sincere hope that the spirit of cooperation and the get-it-done mindset fostered in Thailand will continue during the US host year.

APEC economies represent diversity in terms of culture, size and development. For initiatives to flourish, they will need to be inclusive, flexible and designed to benefit the majority rather than the few. It is not a rules-based forum, which means its most common currency is trust. Specifically, trust in the fact that each member—as well as each representative from the business community, or academia, or anyone brought to the table—is invested in a greater good brought about by cooperation rather than division.

Trust has seen us over the course of many challenging events, including two major financial crises, disruptive trade tensions, and of course, the COVID-19 pandemic. We have heard many experts point out cracks in the old comfortable order but, so far because of this trust, multilateral cooperation endures.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again soon.



Dr Rebecca Sta. Maria
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat





The idea of APEC was first publicly broached by former Prime Minister of Australia Bob Hawke during a speech in Seoul, Korea, on 31 January 1989. Ten months later, 12 Asia-Pacific economies met in Canberra to establish APEC. The founding members were Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; the Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; and the United States.

China; Hong Kong, China; and Chinese Taipei joined in 1991. Mexico and Papua New Guinea followed in 1993. Chile acceded in 1994. And in 1998, Peru; Russia; and Viet Nam joined, taking the full membership to 21.

Between 1989 and 1992, APEC met as an informal senior official- and ministerial-level dialogue. In 1993, former US President Bill Clinton established the practice of an annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting to provide greater strategic vision and direction for cooperation in the region.

About APEC

APEC Milestones

2022 • Bangkok, Thailand

As APEC emerges from COVID-19, economies work to reopen, reconnect and rebalance the region. In Thailand, APEC officials, ministers and leaders meet in person for the first time since 2020 to prepare for the post-pandemic era, which comes with a slew of challenges such as geopolitical conflict, high inflation, a slowing economy and supply chain disruption. Aware of the need for an inclusive and sustainable recovery, as well as for the need to address head on climate change and other environmental challenges in a meaningful way, Leaders endorse the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy—a comprehensive framework to further APEC's sustainability objectives. Leaders commit to advance these goals in a bold, responsive and comprehensive manner, merging existing commitments with new aspirational ones.

2021 • Wellington, New Zealand

Faced with an ongoing pandemic and the biggest downturn in 75 years, APEC economies take extraordinary measures to respond to the economic and health crisis and work towards recovery. Leaders meet twice over the course of APEC's first fully virtual year—first for an extraordinary informal retreat in July, to invigorate efforts to beat back the pandemic, and again in November. With success in facilitating trade in COVID-19 vaccines and related essential medical products and responding to the immediate challenge of climate change, the 2021 agenda also builds on the previous year's launch

of the Putrajaya Vision 2040 by setting out a plan for APEC's work through the next two decades. The Aotearoa Plan of Action advances trade and economic growth in the present, while underpinning policy directions to support future generations.

2020 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The APEC chair releases the Host Economy Leader's Statement, which commemorates the 30th year of APEC and echoes the APEC 2019 theme "Connecting People, Building the Future." The chair lays out the year's achievements, notably in putting people at the center of the forum's agenda, as well as issues important to people, such as inclusivity and the environment. The La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth was finalized this year, which acknowledges the urgent need to lift the role of women in the economy. Two significant ocean-related roadmaps were developed, for addressing Marine Debris and Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The chair recognizes that, working together, economies strengthen each other and rules-based international trade. The chair recognizes that the needs of people in the Asia-Pacific are evolving, and encourages inclusive and sustainable solutions for future work.

2019 • Santiago, Chile

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the center of the forum's agenda, as well as issues important to people, such as inclusivity and the environment. The La Serena Roadmap for Women is finalized this year, which acknowledges the urgent need to lift the role of women in the economy. Two significant ocean-related roadmaps are developed, for addressing Marine Debris and Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The chair recognizes that, working together, economies strengthen each other and rules-based international trade. The chair recognizes that the needs of people in the Asia-Pacific are evolving and encourages inclusive and sustainable solutions for future work.

2018 • Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

The APEC chair releases the Era Kone Statement, reflecting the work of member economies throughout 2018. It states that leaders reaffirm the importance of trade liberalization and facilitation in achieving sustainable economic growth and in creating jobs. They recognize the contributions of the rules-based multilateral trading system in achieving this. APEC leaders commit to advancing inclusive growth through innovation, such as the use of digital technologies. They recognize that digital technologies are changing the way businesses and government operate, and although they come with challenges, they have the potential to provide significant widespread gains. To further APEC's ability to meet these challenges, they endorse the Action Agenda for the Digital Economy which lays out clear commitments to meet the digital future.

About APEC

2017 • Da Nang, Viet Nam

Leaders underline APEC's crucial role in supporting a rules-based, free, open, fair, transparent and inclusive multilateral trading system. APEC commits to strengthening the ability of micro and small enterprises to compete in international markets and endorsed a strategy to create an environment that enables them to go green and sustainable. The forum aims to meet the potential of the internet and digital economy through regulation and policy and seeks to prepare workers—especially those in vulnerable groups—for the changing world of work through human resource development. To ensure food security in and beyond the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the context of climate change and rural-urban development, the forum adopts the Food Security and Climate Change Multi-Year Action Plan 2018-2020. And through the creation of the APEC Vision Group, Leaders show their commitment to a strategic and ambitious post-2020 vision that will position APEC to aim for 21st Century opportunities after the Bogor Goals are met.

2016 • Lima, Peru

APEC leaders reaffirm the member economies' confidence in international trade as a mechanism for achieving positive economic and social change. This is after throwing their support behind an agenda that pursues inclusive growth as the Asia-Pacific region takes strides to achieve a free and open trade area. Specifically, they express support for advancing the regional economic integration and growth agenda; developing human capital; modernizing micro, small, and medium business; and enhancing regional food systems. In line with these priorities, APEC put forward policy commitments for

members towards sustainable economic integration in the region.

2015 • Manila, Philippines

APEC leaders unite behind the opportunity to build inclusive economies in a bid to make economic growth felt broadly by more sectors in society. Acknowledging uneven global growth and the presence of risks and uncertainties in the global economy, the leaders agree to set forth policy enablers for integration of micro, small and medium enterprises in regional and global markets; for building sustainable, and resilient communities; developing human capital; and enhancing the regional economic integration agenda. They also express support for the achievement of quality growth, and endorse a network on services cooperation, recognizing that the services sector represents a significant percentage of businesses in the region.

2014 • Beijing, China

APEC leaders commit to taking a concrete step towards greater regional economic integration by endorsing a roadmap to translate the vision of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) into a reality. Members implement the first-ever APEC Connectivity Blueprint to achieve targets for better physical, institutional and people-to-people linkages across the region by 2025. In order to capture higher value-added growth, policies to promote innovation, human resource development and sustainability are part of the new APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth. Recognizing the importance of promoting diversified energy supplies, APEC economies agree

to work toward doubling the share of renewables by 2030 in the region's energy mix, including in power generation.

2013 • Bali, Indonesia

APEC leaders reaffirm their commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system and achieving the successful Doha Round outcome at the World Trade Organization (WTO) 9th Ministerial Conference. APEC Leaders endorse a multi-year plan on infrastructure development and investment. As a first step under this plan, a Public Private Partnership Centre in Indonesia will be established. To encourage people-to-people connectivity, APEC seeks to promote cross-border cooperation with the target of 1 million intra-APEC university students per year by 2020. APEC holds its first joint Ministerial Meeting on Women and SMEs to promote women entrepreneurship.

2012 • Vladivostok, Russia

APEC leaders endorse an APEC List of Environmental Goods that directly and positively contribute to green growth and sustainable development objectives. APEC seeks to address transparency as a new next generation trade and investment issue, and leaders endorse the APEC Model Chapter on Transparency for RTAs/FTAs to be used as a guide by APEC economies.

2011 • Honolulu, United States

APEC leaders commit to taking concrete steps towards a seamless regional economy; addressing shared green growth objectives; and advancing regulatory cooperation and convergence. To reach these goals, APEC resolves to reduce, by the end



About APEC

of 2015, applied tariff rates of environmental goods to 5 percent or less, taking into account economies' circumstances, without prejudice to APEC members' positions in the WTO. APEC sets the goal to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035. In addition, APEC commits to take specific steps by 2013 to implement good regulatory practices by ensuring internal coordination of regulatory work; assessing regulatory impacts; and conducting public consultation.

2010 • Yokohama, Japan

APEC leaders provide a roadmap for members to realize an economically integrated, robust and secure APEC community. This includes the formulation of a comprehensive, long-term growth strategy. APEC completes an assessment of its progress towards the Bogor Goals and finds significant gains in the areas of liberalizing trade in goods, services and investment, as well as trade facilitation. APEC formulates the APEC Strategy for Investment and endorses the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform. APEC holds its first APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security.

2009 • Singapore

APEC resolves to pursue balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth, while leaders agree to extend their standstill commitment on protectionism until 2010. The first-ever joint meetings of APEC senior trade and finance officials are held to address the economic crisis. APEC launches the Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework and the Ease of Doing Business Action Plan to make doing business in the region 25 percent cheaper, faster and easier by

2015. Member economies also commence work on an APEC Services Action Plan and an Environmental Goods and Services Work Program.

2008 • Lima, Peru

APEC economic leaders address the global financial crisis in the Lima Statement on the Global Economy, in which they commit to take all necessary economic and financial measures to restore stability and growth, to reject protectionism and to intensify efforts to advance the WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations. APEC focuses on the social dimensions of trade, reducing the gap between developing and developed members and corporate social responsibility. Leaders welcome the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan aimed at improving the investment environment in the region.

2007 • Sydney, Australia

For the first time, APEC member economies issue a Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development outlining future action in support of a new international climate change arrangement and announcing a forward program of practical, cooperative actions and initiatives. Leaders also adopt a major report on closer regional economic integration, including structural reform initiatives, and welcome the second APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan which aims to reduce trade transaction costs by a further 5 percent by 2010.

2006 • Ha Noi, Viet Nam

APEC economic leaders endorse the Ha Noi Action Plan which identifies specific actions and milestones to implement the Bogor Goals. Leaders

conclude that the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan has achieved its target of a 5 percent reduction in trade transaction costs in the region between 2002 and 2006. APEC takes a strategic approach to reform fora and strengthen the Secretariat.

2005 • Busan, Korea

APEC completes the Mid-Term Stock-take of Progress towards the Bogor Goals. The stock-take finds that average tariffs in the APEC region have been reduced to 5.5 per cent, down from 16.9 percent when APEC was established in 1989, and that APEC is on schedule to meet the Bogor Goals. It also outlines the Busan Roadmap to the Bogor Goals. The APEC Privacy Framework is launched.

2004 • Santiago, Chile

APEC adopts best practices for RTAs and FTAs, a reference guide for APEC members undertaking RTA/FTA negotiations. The Leaders' Agenda to Implement Structural Reform (LAISR) is launched. It addresses five priority areas: regulatory reform; corporate governance; public governance; competition policy; and strengthening economic legal infrastructure. Leaders endorse the Santiago Commitment to Fight Corruption and Ensure Transparency.

2003 • Bangkok, Thailand

Members undertake to implement the APEC Action Plan on SARS and the Health Security Initiative to help the region prevent and respond to health threats. Leaders pledge to strengthen regional efforts to promote sound and efficient financial systems and encourage the development of domestic and regional bond markets.

2002 • Los Cabos, Mexico

APEC adopts a Trade Facilitation Action Plan and the Statement to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy. The Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative is launched and a Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards is endorsed.

2001 • Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Leaders issue APEC's first Statement on Counter-Terrorism and pledge to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. Leaders also adopt the Shanghai Accord which focuses on: broadening the APEC vision to reflect changes resulting from the digital economy; clarifying the roadmap to reach the Bogor Goals; and strengthening the IAP Peer Review Process and capacity building activities. An e-APEC Strategy, identifying the necessary policy environment and specifying appropriate goals and actions to maximize the benefits of the digital economy, is also endorsed.

2000 • Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

APEC commits to the Action Agenda for the New Economy. Leaders set the goals of tripling internet access throughout the APEC region by 2005 and achieving universal access by 2010.

1999 • Auckland, New Zealand

APEC leaders endorse the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform, aimed at addressing the structural and regulatory weaknesses that contributed to the Asian Financial Crisis. APEC commits to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and 2010 in developing economies. The APEC Business Travel Card scheme is approved and a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Electrical Equipment and a Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC are endorsed.

1998 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

APEC ministers agree on a Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce, including a commitment to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and by 2010 in developing economies.

1997 • Vancouver, Canada

APEC endorses a proposal for early voluntary sectoral liberalization in 15 sectors and decides that individual action plans should be updated annually.

1996 • Manila, Philippines

The Manila Action Plan for APEC is adopted, outlining the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation measures required to reach the Bogor Goals. The first collective and individual action plans are compiled, outlining how economies will achieve the free trade goals.

1995 • Osaka, Japan

APEC adopts the Osaka Action Agenda which provides a framework for meeting the Bogor Goals through trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation and sectoral activities, underpinned by policy dialogues and economic and technical cooperation. The APEC Business Advisory Council is established to inject a business perspective into APEC deliberations and to give advice on business sector priorities.

1994 • Bogor, Indonesia

APEC sets the Bogor Goals of "free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies." The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations conducted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is concluded. APEC is widely considered to have been a significant force in bringing the Uruguay Round to a conclusion.

1993 • Blake Island, United States

APEC Economic Leaders meet for the first time and outline APEC's vision of "stability, security and prosperity for our peoples."

1989 • Canberra, Australia

APEC begins as an informal ministerial-level dialogue group with 12 founding members.



About APEC

Benefits of APEC

APEC has grown to become a dynamic engine of economic growth and one of the most important regional forums in the Asia-Pacific. Its 21-member economies are home to around 2.95 billion people and represent approximately 62 percent of world GDP and 48 percent of world trade in 2021.

As a result of APEC's work, growth has soared in the region, with real GDP more than doubling from approximately just USD 19 trillion in 1989 to USD 52.8 trillion in 2021. Meanwhile, residents of the Asia-Pacific saw their per capita income rise almost fourfold, lifting millions out of poverty and creating a growing middle class in about three decades.

Bringing the region closer together, reducing trade barriers and smoothing out differences in regulations have boosted trade which has also led to this dramatic increase in prosperity. Average tariffs fell from 17 percent in 1989 to 5.3 percent in 2021. During that same period, the APEC region's total merchandise trade increased nine-fold—outpacing the rest of the world with more than two-thirds of this trade occurring between member economies.

Economic Data

Member Economy and Year Joined	Population in 2021 (thousands)	GDP in 2021 (US\$m)	GDP per capita in 2021 (US\$)	Imports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial in 2021 (US\$m)	Exports of Merchandise Goods and Commercial Services in 2021 (US\$m)
Australia (1989)	25,739.3	1,542,659.9	59,934.1	299,061	389,376
Brunei Darussalam (1989)	441.5	14,006.6	31,722.7	9,450	11,231
Canada (1989)	38,246.1	1,990,761.6	52,051.4	607,716	610,263
Chile (1994)	19,212.4	317,058.5	16,502.8	107,962	101,295
China (1991)	1,412,360.0	17,734,062.6	12,556.3	3,126,710	3,754,448
Hong Kong, China (1991)	7,413.1	368,139.2	49,660.6	773,912	746,555
Indonesia (1989)	276,361.8	1,186,093.0	4,291.8	224,702	243,431
Japan (1989)	125,681.6	4,937,421.9	39,285.2	974,180	920,028
Korea (1989)	51,744.9	1,798,533.9	34,757.7	740,742	766,373
Malaysia (1989)	32,776.2	372,701.4	11,371.1	273,296	319,821
Mexico (1993)	130,262.2	1,293,037.9	9,926.4	560,775	521,804
New Zealand (1989)	5,122.6	249,991.5	48,801.7	63,057	54,033
Papua New Guinea (1993)	9,119.0	26,594.3	2,916.4	3,959	10,531
Peru (1989)	33,359.4	223,249.5	6,692.2	60,976	62,214
The Philippines (1989)	111,046.9	394,086.4	3,548.8	143,432	108,223
Russia (1998)	143,446.1	1,775,799.9	12,172.8	378,702	549,472
Singapore (1989)	5,453.6	396,986.9	72,794.0	629,582	686,909
Chinese Taipei (1991)	23,468.3	774,942.0	33,011.0	421,147	499,564
Thailand (1989)	69,950.8	505,981.7	7,233.4	332,124	296,182
United States (1989)	331,893.7	22,996,100.0	69,287.5	3,460,192	2,526,179
Viet Nam (1998)	98,168.8	362,637.5	3,694.0	350,797	339,427
APEC	2,951,268.3	59,260,846.2	20,069.7	13,542,474	13,517,359
World	7,836,630.8	96,100,091.0	12,262.9	28,125,243	28,322,422

Source: StatsAPEC
Extracted: January 2023

The APEC Process

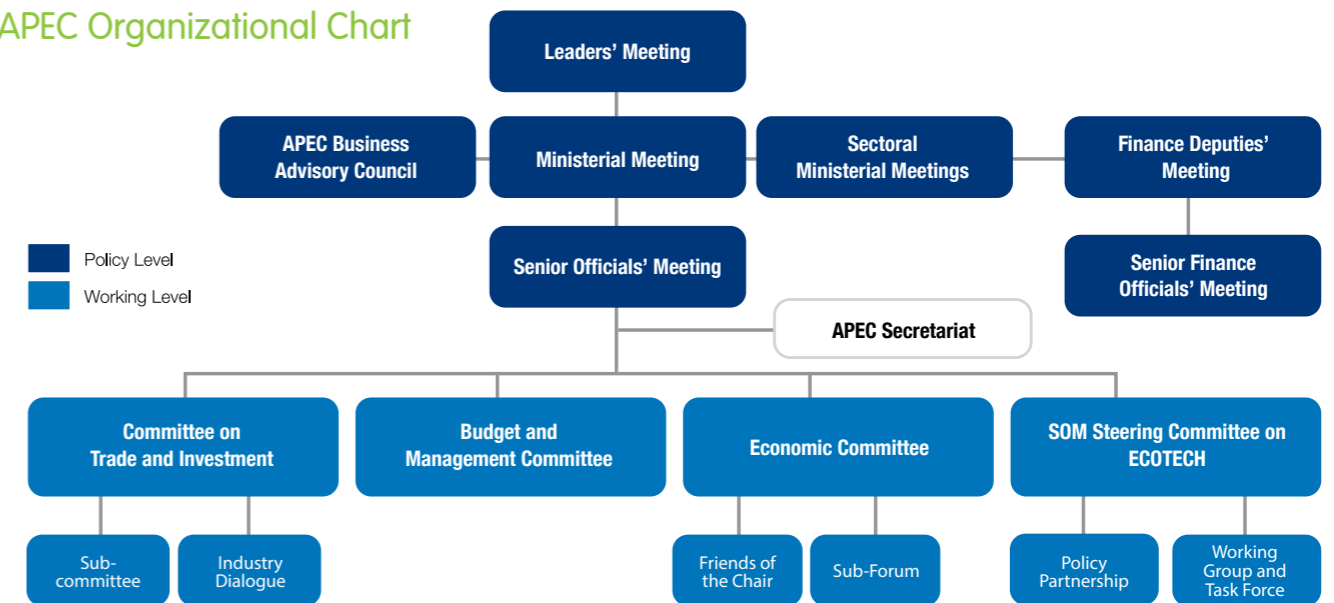
APEC operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. Member economies* participate based on open dialogue and respect for views of all participants. In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments or treaty obligations. Commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis and capacity

building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.

APEC's structure is based on both a "bottom-up" and "top-down" approach. Four core committees and their respective working groups provide strategic policy recommendations to APEC Leaders and ministers who annually set the vision

for overarching goals and initiatives. The working groups are then tasked with implementing these initiatives through a variety of APEC-funded projects. Members also take individual and collective actions to carry out APEC initiatives in their individual economies with the assistance of APEC capacity building projects.

APEC Organizational Chart



Every year, a member economy hosts the APEC meetings. The APEC host economy is responsible for chairing the annual Economic Leaders' Meeting, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials' Meetings, the APEC Business Advisory Council and the APEC Study Centres Consortium.

*The word "economies" is used to describe APEC members because members engage with one another as economic entities.

About APEC

APEC Stakeholder Participation

APEC recognises that strong and vibrant economies are not dependent on governments working alone but instead rely on partnerships between governments and key stakeholders, including the business sector, industry, academia, policy and research institutions, and interest groups within the community.

APEC members recognise that business drives the economies of the region and therefore involve representatives of the private sector at all levels of the APEC process. At the highest level, APEC Economic Leaders communicate through annual meetings with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). ABAC comprises high-level businesspeople from all 21 APEC member economies.

Through the APEC Study Centres Consortium (ASCC), APEC member economies actively engage academic and research institutions in the APEC process. The ASCC assists the APEC process by undertaking independent policy research on APEC-related issues. There are APEC Study Centres in most APEC member economies, comprising some 50 universities, research centres and centres of academic excellence.



Photo: APEC Thailand 2022



Photo: APEC Thailand 2022

Outcomes



OPEN. CONNECT. BALANCE.

This year was the first time since 2020 that most meetings were held in person. It was a period of emergence from a long and challenging crisis after the breakout of COVID-19. In 2022, under Thailand's host year, APEC aimed to become open to all opportunities, connected in all dimensions, and balanced in all aspects, to usher the region into the post-COVID-19 future.



Outcomes

Open to all Opportunities

To revitalize recovery and regenerate growth, APEC continued to utilize its traditional strengths by facilitating open trade and investment, improving the business environment, and advancing deeper economic integration in the region, while leveraging digitalization and innovation.

Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference

In November 2022, APEC Leaders welcomed the successful outcomes of the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) held in June 2022. They jointly expressed determination to uphold and further strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, and to cooperate in the WTO to continue to support its necessary reform to improve all its functions, in order to ensure that it can better address existing and emerging global trade challenges.

Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific

The current global environment has greatly evolved since APEC Leaders first initiated the conversation on a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) in 2006. With this in mind, Thailand initiated a refreshed conversation on the FTAAP agenda, in the context of the COVID-19 and beyond, incorporating emerging trade issues such as health, environment, and digitalization.

Leaders welcomed the advancement of this agenda this year and will continue to build on this momentum through the FTAAP Agenda Work Plan.

Leveraging digitalization and innovation

APEC Leaders emphasized the need to create an enabling, inclusive, open, fair and non-discriminatory digital ecosystem for the digital economy to further drive trade through facilitation of e-commerce and advancing cooperation on digital trade, so as to unlock the full potential of our society and prepare the people for the future of work in this digital era through education and skills advancement.

Ensuring the flow of essential goods and services

APEC Leaders supported efforts to foster open, secure, and resilient supply chains as the region faces the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and other emerging global challenges. They encouraged economies to continue efforts to remove barriers to logistics-related services and welcomed Phase Three of the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan endorsed by the APEC Ministers.

Outcomes

Connect in all Dimensions

Three years into the pandemic, disrupted connectivity remains a pressing issue in the region. To revive growth, APEC 2022 focus on restoring connectivity by resuming safe and seamless cross-border travel, reinvigorating tourism and the services sector, facilitating business mobility as well as increasing investment in health security.

Safe and seamless resumption of cross-border travel

Thailand pushed forward the work on safe passage of people across borders in the APEC region. APEC Leaders jointly stated that economies will further cooperation to promote safe and seamless cross-border travel within the region as it emerges from the pandemic, including for essential workforces, including air and maritime crew, as well as improve infrastructure and tools, such as the interoperability of vaccination certificates and ensuring the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) is inclusive.

Regenerative tourism

The tourism and services sectors are among the hardest hit by cross-border restrictions. The impact is particularly significant for small businesses, especially those owned by women and members of vulnerable communities in tourism-dependent economies. Thailand facilitated work to rebuild the tourism sector to be more sustainable and inclusive through a regenerative tourism approach that aims to actively conserve, revitalize and regenerate the environment while engaging and benefiting local communities and economies in the process.

Strengthening public health

APEC placed emphasis on strengthening and investing in public health security and resilience.

As economies continue to mobilize systems and resources to prevent and prepare for and respond to future health threats, APEC Leaders expressed determination to further strengthen the public health workforce. They encouraged continued efforts to improve digital solutions and access to health services and strengthen health systems with a view to achieving universal health coverage.





Outcomes

Balance in all Aspects

The pandemic left the region unbalanced, with an uneven and fragile recovery, and has worsened inherent inequalities, while environmental challenges remain to be tackled. To address this, APEC has integrated inclusivity and sustainability objectives in tandem with economic goals.

Inclusive economies

APEC Leaders are committed to building an environment where all, including MSMEs and women, are empowered to access economic opportunities and contribute to and benefit from the economy. They encouraged expanded efforts for APEC to work with other groups with untapped economic potential, such as Indigenous Peoples as appropriate, people with disabilities, and those from remote and rural communities. Thailand also recognized the role of youth in advancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Youth leaders were invited to share their perspectives on the most pressing issues facing the Asia-Pacific, particularly on climate change and sustainability.

Thailand continued championing gender equality and the economic empowerment of women through the full implementation of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth.

Sustainability for food security

APEC Leaders pledged to expedite and intensify work to promote agricultural development and promote long-term food security, strengthen global food supply chains, and reduce food loss and waste. They also reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the sustainable resource management of agriculture, forestry and marine resources and fisheries.

They welcomed the Implementation Plan of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 to help economies transition towards sustainable food systems and agricultural practices.

Outcomes

The Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy

APEC Leaders endorsed the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, to advance APEC's sustainability and inclusion objectives. These goals will reinforce and contribute to ongoing global actions.

To implement these goals, APEC will accelerate the creation of a conducive regulatory framework, ramp up capacity building and infrastructure development, and will do what it does best—creating networks among stakeholders to foster discussion and incubate ideas.



What is the Bio-Circular-Green Economy?

The Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy concept integrates three mainstream approaches to create a more holistic pathway to sustainability. At its core, it aims to transform the whole of society to become more balanced and sustainable. It can be seen as a post-pandemic growth strategy which reinforces continuing global efforts on sustainability and climate change and accelerates the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This is the overarching thinking behind APEC 2022 Thailand's theme, priorities, and key deliverables.



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



APEC 2022
THAILAND

29th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) - Retreat Session 1 : Balanced, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

18 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand



2022 Leaders' Declaration

29th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand • 8-19 November 2022

1. We, the Economic Leaders of APEC, met in-person for the first time in four years in Bangkok on 18-19 November 2022. We continue the implementation of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action. This year, under the APEC theme "Open. Connect. Balance.", we advance work through three priorities: to be open to all opportunities, connected in all dimensions, and balanced in all aspects, to advance long-term robust, innovative and inclusive economic growth as well as sustainability objectives in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. We have been intensifying our efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating its impact on our people and economies to promote health and wellbeing, as well as improving the overall standard of living for all.
3. This year, we have also witnessed the war in Ukraine further adversely impact the global economy. There was a discussion on the issue. We reiterated our positions as expressed in other fora, including the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly, which, in Resolution No. ES-11/1 dated 2 March 2022, as adopted by majority vote (141 votes for, 5 against, 35 abstentions, 12 absent) deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and demands its complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine. Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it

is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy – constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks. There were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions. Recognising that APEC is not the forum to resolve security issues, we acknowledge that security issues can have significant consequences for the global economy.

4. We reaffirm our commitment to realise the APEC Putrajaya Vision of an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations. We will continue to promote efforts to strengthen APEC's leadership and standing as the premier economic forum of the Asia-Pacific, as well as a modern, efficient and effective incubator of ideas. APEC's cooperation will contribute to practical solutions for common challenges and complement global efforts including the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To that end, we resolve to build momentum of the work carried out in 2022 and coordinate our APEC-wide actions on sustainability through the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy.
5. Trade and investment play a critical and indispensable role in enhancing the prosperity of our people by assisting with global challenges and can open up opportunities that offer tangible

benefits. We underscore the importance of international trade and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in facilitating global economic recovery, growth, prosperity, alleviation of poverty, the welfare of all people, sustainable development, and facilitating cooperation in relation to the protection and conservation of the environment. We reaffirm our determination to deliver a free, open, fair, nondiscriminatory, transparent, inclusive and predictable trade and investment environment. We will continue to work to ensure a level playing field to foster a favourable trade and investment environment and reaffirm our commitment to keep markets open and to address supply chain disruptions.

6. We welcome the successful outcomes of the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) and are determined to uphold and further strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core. We look forward to the early and effective implementation of the MC12 outcomes. We will cooperate in the WTO to continue to support its necessary reform to improve all its functions, in order to ensure that it can better address existing and emerging global trade challenges. We commit to working together with a view to achieving meaningful progress by the Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference.
7. Recognising the useful contributions of the Lima Declaration and the Beijing Roadmap on progressing the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda, we welcome the advancement of this agenda this year through a refreshed conversation on the FTAAP in the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. We will continue to build on this momentum towards high quality and comprehensive regional undertakings through the FTAAP Agenda Work Plan. We task officials to report progress in carrying out the Work Plan to the AMM in the following years. At the same time, we will further strengthen our engagement with stakeholders, including the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and increase public-private sector dialogues. We note with appreciation of ABAC's recommendations in advancing the FTAAP Work Programs. We commend the public and private sector collaboration between the Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) and ABAC, which

underscores APEC's emphasis on advancing an inclusive economic development. We will also continue our efforts in capacity building to improve trade negotiation skills of economies.

8. In order to achieve post-COVID-19 economic recovery, it is our priority to drive growth-focused structural reform that is designed to be inclusive, sustainable, and innovation-friendly. This includes fostering an enabling environment for businesses of all types, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups, and collaborating to improve opportunities for them to be competitive, specialised, innovative, and expand into the international markets. We reaffirm our commitment to the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR) and endeavour to make collective and individual progress, including on the ease of doing business.
9. Furthermore, we recognise the urgency of enhancing the competitiveness of the services sector, especially travel, transport, and other services that have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. We reiterate our commitment to accelerate work in response to the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR) Mid-Term Review, with the aim to fully implement the ASCR by 2025. By increasing APEC's global share of trade in services, we will be able to inject dynamism in our economy and underpin APEC's position as the world's growth engine.
10. Macroeconomic and structural policies are vital to tackling rising inflation, ushering in sustained economic recovery, and raising living standards in the region. We reaffirm the importance of sustainable financing, capacity building, and technical assistance for innovation and growth as well as for addressing all environmental challenges, including climate change. We will continue to advance digital tools to facilitate economic activities and the provision of public services, including the delivery of assistance and stimulus packages to the people, and to drive financial inclusion.
11. We commend APEC's work on safe passage, including under the Safe Passage Taskforce. We will further our cooperation to promote safe and seamless cross-border travel within our region

Leaders' Declaration

as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, including for essential workforces, including air and maritime crew, as well as improve infrastructure and tools, such as the interoperability of vaccination certificates and ensuring the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) is inclusive.

12. We reaffirm our commitment to enhance an open and interconnected Asia-Pacific region, including through the implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint (2015-2025). We will strengthen physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity as well as take advantage of digital connectivity, and will intensify efforts to promote regional, sub-regional and remote area connectivity through quality infrastructure development and investment. We will promote regenerative tourism that is sustainable, inclusive and resilient, and to connect the entire tourism eco-system. We support efforts to foster open, secure and resilient supply chains, enhance supply chain connectivity and minimise supply chain disruptions. We encourage economies to continue efforts to remove barriers to logistics-related services. We welcome the endorsement of Phase Three of the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan by the APEC Ministers.
13. Digital technology and innovation have a greater role to play in advancing inclusive and sustainable growth, improving access to services as well as opportunities to generate income and better the livelihoods of our people, including by encouraging the transition of economic actors from the informal to the formal economy. We will deepen cooperation to bridge digital divides between and within economies, including on facilitating access to digital infrastructure and supporting development of digital skills and digital literacy. We will cooperate on facilitating the flow of data, and strengthening business and consumer trust in digital transactions.
14. We recognise the power of digital transformation in facilitating and reducing barriers to trade and unlocking exponential growth, including through nurturing the interoperability of digital systems and tools across the region. We encourage APEC to incubate more cutting-edge and comprehensive cooperation initiatives on digital

economy. We will, therefore, accelerate the implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) to harness new and emerging technologies and the full potential of our society as well as create an enabling, inclusive, open, fair and non-discriminatory digital ecosystem for businesses and consumers.

15. We affirm our commitment to promote strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth. We recognise that more intensive efforts are needed to address today's challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, food security, and sustainable energy transitions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while ensuring energy resilience, access and security in the region, including by facilitating investments in relevant activities. We recall our commitment to rationalise and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while recognising the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services. To reach this goal, we will continue our efforts in an accelerated manner. We will also continue to take concrete steps to implement the APEC Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris. To this end, we will expedite efforts to promote economic policies, cooperation and growth which support global actions to comprehensively address all environmental challenges and call for deepened collaboration with stakeholders to make substantive progress.
16. We endorse the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy as a comprehensive framework to further APEC's sustainability objectives. We will advance the Bangkok Goals in a bold, responsive and comprehensive manner, building upon existing commitments and workstreams as well as considering new aspirational ones. We also welcome the launch of the APEC BCG Award this year to recognise the achievements of sustainability in the region.
17. We continue to mobilise our resources to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and reinforce our systems to prevent and prepare for, and respond to future health threats. We are determined to ensure extensive immunisation of our people against COVID-19 as a global

public good. It is imperative that we further strengthen the public health workforce, acknowledging their tremendous contributions to protecting our people's lives and safeguarding their health. 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.

18. We pledge to expedite and intensify our work to promote agricultural development, including in rural areas, and promote long-term food security by ensuring our agricultural and food systems are more resilient, productive, innovative and sustainable, strengthening global food supply chains, and reducing food loss and waste. We also reaffirm our commitment to work towards the sustainable resource management of agriculture, forestry and marine resources and fisheries. We welcome the Implementation Plan of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 as a pathway to achieve sufficient, safe, nutritious, accessible and affordable food for all.
19. Recognising that long-term economic growth can only be achieved through realising the full potential of our society, we welcome the continued efforts to use a gender mainstreaming approach in relevant APEC processes and accelerate the full implementation of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019 – 2030). We are committed to building an environment where all, including MSMEs and women, are empowered to access economic opportunities and contribute to and benefit from our economy. Building on these initiatives, we encourage further efforts to expand APEC's work with other groups with untapped economic potential, such as Indigenous Peoples as appropriate, people

with disabilities, and those from remote and rural communities, while also promoting the role of youth in advancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth. We will place a special emphasis on human resource development, particularly access to resources, reskilling, upskilling, lifelong learning, and other support, to advance employment and decent work for all as well as enable our workforce to participate and lead in the digital and green economies.

20. Recognising the detrimental impact of corruption on economic growth and development, we are committed to taking practical actions and a united approach, to jointly fight crossborder corruption and deny safe haven to corruption offenders and their illicit assets.
21. We reiterate our commitment to expedite the realisation of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action. In this endeavour, we will improve APEC's governance and organisational structure, with a view to efficiently and effectively delivering upon all elements of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and deepen engagement with stakeholders, including the ABAC, and international and regional organisations.
22. We welcome the outcomes of the 2022 APEC Ministerial Meeting as well as the 2022 Sectoral Ministerial Meetings for Trade, Tourism, Health, Forestry, Food Security, Women and the Economy, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Finance.
23. We thank Thailand for hosting APEC in 2022, and we look forward to APEC 2023, which will be hosted by the United States of America. We also welcome Peru and the Republic of Korea as hosts of APEC 2024 and 2025, respectively.

Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green Economy

1. Recalling the Putrajaya Vision 2040, APEC reiterates our commitment to pursuing strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. APEC is determined to continue advancing its sustainability objectives in a bold, responsive, and comprehensive manner to address the heightened economic and environmental challenges and disruptions facing the region, building on our commitments in the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the actions set out in the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA), for the prosperity of all our people and future generations.
3. By adopting the Bangkok Goals, APEC moves forward with outlining how to achieve its comprehensive and ambitious sustainability and inclusion objectives, while reinforcing and contributing to ongoing global actions. APEC explored approaches such as the biocircular- green (BCG) economy model that integrates three economic approaches, where technology and innovation are used to create value, reduce waste, advance resource efficiency, and promote sustainable business models. It also calls for more holistic efforts to achieve more balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth. Such efforts should build on APEC's existing commitments and workstreams as well as consider new aspirational ones to further APEC's sustainability objectives.
4. APEC will marshal existing targets and workstreams in conjunction with the following goals, key areas and aspirational targets:
 - a. Supporting global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet, particularly in terms of climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience by:
 - (i) Contributing practical, ambitious and concrete initiatives to transition to a climateresilient future global economy which align with global efforts, such as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as appreciating and supporting APEC members' respective net zero / carbon neutrality commitments, recognising the urgent need to collectively address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the need to provide international support including capacity building, technological and financial support, which are key enablers in this regard;
 - (ii) Enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and associated risks, including through mainstreaming adaptation measures into policies, strategies and planning, as well as disaster and emergency preparedness and management;
 - (iii) Strengthening cooperation to develop and exchange policies and best practices, and promote capacity building and awareness-raising programmes that address all environmental and climate challenges, and support sustainable growth;
 - (iv) Ensuring diversity and inclusion in our collective efforts to address climate change;
 - (v) Advancing the transition to clean and low-carbon energy through various pathways reflecting the different circumstances in each economy, strengthening energy resilience, promoting energy security, and ensuring affordable and reliable energy access, including by fostering technical collaboration and exchange of best practices and experiences. We acknowledge the importance of stable energy markets and clean energy transitions. Noting the progress made to date, APEC economies are discussing goals for further strengthening the region's capacity to adopt renewable energy and other clean and low-emissions energy technologies;
 - (vi) Recalling our commitment to rationalise and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption while recognising the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services, and, to reach this goal, continuing efforts in an accelerated manner;
 - (vii) Promoting sustainable, resilient, productive, and inclusive food systems and agricultural practices, achieving food security and nutrition, reducing food loss and waste, including through encouraging environmentally-friendly policies and minimising environmentally-harmful ones, conserving agrobiodiversity, and enhancing the use of agricultural biotechnology, digitalisation and other innovative approaches;
 - (viii) Promoting research, development and deployment of cost-effective low and zero emissions technologies, acknowledging that there are a variety of technologies and approaches available;
 - (ix) Supporting finance and investments in sustainability and climate action, including disaster risk finance insurance, and, if appropriate, carbon pricing and nonpricing mechanisms and international carbon credit markets, as well as exploring options to support the alignment of financial flows towards a greener and cleaner global economy, for example taxonomies and other alignment approaches.
 - b. Progressing sustainable and inclusive trade and investment and ensuring that they are mutually supportive with our environmental policies by:
 - (i) Intensifying work that enhances stability, resilience and sustainability of supply chains, as well as improves connectivity, including through the implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint and advancing cooperation and sharing best practices on green public procurement;
 - (ii) Advancing work on the facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services, building on discussion about the APEC List of Environmental Goods and the Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services and further discussing the impact of non-tariff measures on trade in environmental goods;
 - (iii) Advancing concrete initiatives on responsible business conduct, environment, social and governance (ESG) industry practices, for example through the development of sustainable tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, transport and logistics sectors, as well as the green and low-carbon digital and technology sectors;
 - (iv) Advancing gender equality and economic integration, inclusion and empowerment of women;
 - (v) Strengthening the roles of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including encouraging the formulation of an updated APEC Strategy for Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs, building capabilities for MSMEs in sustainability practices such as the ESG and BCG approaches, and collaborating to improve opportunities for MSMEs to be competitive, specialised, innovative and expand into international markets.
 - c. Promoting environmental conservation, sustainable use and management of natural resources, as well as halting and reversing biodiversity loss by:
 - (i) Enhancing conservation and sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems as well as sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, including preventing, combatting and working towards ending illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and implementing the APEC Roadmap on Combatting IUU Fishing;
 - (ii) Continuing work to prevent and reduce marine debris and plastic pollution, including through the implementation of the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris;
 - (iii) Strengthening efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade, stop the degradation of forest ecosystems, and promote

Annex

- trade and consumption in sustainably managed and legally harvested forest products;
- (iv) Striving to ensure diversity and inclusion to improve our efforts in maintaining, conserving, managing and protecting the environment and natural resources.
- d. Advancing resource efficiency and sustainable waste management towards zero waste by:
 - (i) Increasing cooperation to advance circular economy approaches, including through promoting circular business models as well as exchange policies and best practices, and sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- 5. To achieve the above and the three economic drivers of the Putrajaya Vision 2040 requires the adoption of an inclusive approach that improves the quality of life for all members of society and advances gender equality as well as economic inclusion and empowerment of MSMEs, women, and other groups with untapped economic potential, such as Indigenous Peoples as appropriate, people with disabilities, and those from remote and rural communities, while also promoting the role of youth. Further, there is a need for stronger whole-of-society partnerships and whole-of-system approaches within APEC, particularly across all fora and sub-fora in order to deliver comprehensive, coherent and mutually-reinforcing outcomes.
- 6. The following enablers should be accelerated through relevant APEC mechanisms:
 - a. Conducive and agile regulatory frameworks and enabling business environment, including through structural reform, good regulatory practices and international regulatory cooperation, particularly advancing the implementation of the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR) and taking into account the findings and

- recommendations of the 2022 APEC Economic Policy Report (AEPR) on Structural Reform and a Green Recovery from Economic Shocks and other relevant AEPRs to inform policies and approaches.
 - b. Capacity building by deepening economic and technical cooperation, exchange of experiences and best practices to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, as well as inclusive human resource development, especially reskilling and upskilling to boost recruitment, retention and promotion of a diverse workforce.
 - c. Enabling environment for the development of quality infrastructure, financing and investment, as well as further leveraging science, technology, innovation and digitalisation.
 - d. Networks for collaboration among public sector, private sector, financial sector, academia, other international and regional organisations, other relevant stakeholders, as well as mechanisms within and related to APEC, including ABAC, the APEC Study Centers Consortium, and APEC permanent observers namely ASEAN, PECC, and PIF.
7. The APEC Committees and relevant sub-fora will integrate and advance the above agenda in their respective strategies and work plans, where appropriate, as well as to deepen cross-fora collaboration. The APEC Secretariat will maintain an evergreen compendium of the actions and initiatives taken and to provide regular updates to Senior Officials as the means to review our progress to contribute to and in accordance with the APA review process. Senior Officials will have the overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluating progress under the Bangkok Goals on BCG Economy. The furtherance of the sustainability agenda in a comprehensive and ambitious manner will support APEC's growth trajectory towards a strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive future.



Photo: APEC Thailand 2022

2022 in Reports and Analysis

The APEC Regional Trends Analysis (ARTA)

The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) biannual flagship report is published with two chapters: one on economic trends, and one on a topic of interest to PSU's analysts that are relevant to the region.

May 2021

- **Tackling Trade Costs and Facilitating Supply Chain Networks** Trade costs are a key determinant of trade patterns and trade networks. Overall trade costs remain high but have been on a downward trend despite upticks during times of economic crisis.
- **Sustainable Recovery amid Uncertainty** Economic recovery faltered toward the second half of 2021 with the emergence of the highly contagious Omicron variant, while rising inflation, particularly of food prices, could push more people into extreme poverty.

APEC Economic Policy Report 2022: Structural Reform and a Green Recovery from Economic Shocks

Structural reform policies, which aim at improving the conditions for growth, could also be an effective response to environmental threats. It has been argued that there are tensions and trade-offs between growth and environmental sustainability. However, this report supports the contrasting view that structural reforms to promote sustainable outcomes can also promote higher rates of growth.

COVID-19 and Cross-Border Mobility in the APEC Region: Addressing Uncertainties at the Border

The APEC region has had some of the most stringent cross-border travel restrictions in the world during the nascent stage of the COVID-19

pandemic. Two years since the start of the pandemic, some economies have started to reopen borders to revive travel and tourism. This report gives recommendations to revitalize cross-border travel and tourism in the region.

Transitioning to a Sustainable Economy while Ensuring Inclusion (PSU Policy Brief No. 54)

The significant human and economic costs of climate change warrant the shift to a low-carbon economy. The road toward low carbon, however, is not going to be well-paved. Livelihoods in high-carbon sectors would be at risk and communities would be negatively affected, with vulnerable sectors of society likely to be hurt disproportionately.

Trade Networks amid Disruption: Promoting Resilience through Digital Trade Facilitation (PSU Policy Brief No. 53)

The fragmented nature of global value chains, which defines present-day trade networks, makes them vulnerable to challenges. The measures rolled out by economies to contain the COVID-19 pandemic led to ports being shut, and factories having difficulty accessing raw materials. Such issues have brought forth questions of how GVCs could be strengthened and made more resilient.

Artificial Intelligence in Economic Policymaking (PSU Policy Brief No. 52)

Artificial Intelligence is a powerful tool for policymaking and policy implementation. It has applications across the various stages of the policy cycle, from agenda setting to policy formulation, decision making, implementation and evaluation.



2022 in Dashboards and Portals

APEC Regional Dashboard on Vaccination across the Life-Course

In 2022 APEC member economies announced a comprehensive dashboard to help measure their collective progress towards implementing and advancing sustainable life-course immunization programs.

The APEC Regional Dashboard on Vaccination across the Life-Course builds on last year's endorsed vaccine action plan which set strategies and policy targets for member economies to boost routine vaccination efforts, as well as enhance the resilience and sustainability of immunization programs in the region through 2030.

Safe Passage Portal

APEC also launched a one-stop portal aiming to provide high-level summary of information on international travel within the region as member economies safely resume cross-border movement. It aims to provide simple explanations of travel protocols and taps official resources.

The Bangkok Goals Portal

Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy is a landmark achievement for APEC Thailand 2022—a comprehensive framework to further APEC's sustainability objectives to which leaders have committed to advance. To learn more about the Bangkok Goals, go to bangkokgoals.apec.org.



Awards and Campaigns



APEC Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education — also known as ASPIRE

The APEC Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education, or ASPIRE, celebrates international scientific values and showcases high-impact researchers lighting the pathway to an economically inclusive and sustainable future.

A scientist specializing in sustainability science and process systems engineering for energy, environment and sustainability, Dr Jingzheng Ren, was selected by consensus as the APEC region's top young science researcher and winner of ASPIRE 2022. Through his research, he unfolded new methods to promote an integrated development of the economy, environment and society, including through bio-circular-green practice.



APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Research Prize

The annual APEC Healthy Women, Healthy Economies Research Prize was first launched during APEC 2019 in Chile to encourage the development and usage of sex-disaggregated data and promote gender-based research within APEC.

In 2022, Dr. Ruimin Zheng was announced the winner for her innovative study that addressed the high incidence of maternal depression among women in low-income and middle-income regions. Dr. Zheng's evidence-based strategy included recommendations such as the implementation of routine depression screenings across the entire birth process in order to reduce women's disease burden and economic loss due to depression during childbirth.

Awards and Campaigns



BEST Award: Women Driving Organic, Biodegradable Business

The APEC Business Efficiency and Success Target (BEST) Award aims to support to the development of women entrepreneurs and provide participants with a chance to network and internationalize their businesses

Varangtip Satchatippavarn from Thailand won the grand prize with her organic, biodegradable feminine hygiene products. Her company, Ira Concept, offers a more sustainable option for consumers, while aiming to reduce social disparity and break the stigma about female hygiene care in Thailand through charity initiatives and education programs.

“Everyone has the right to basic hygiene,” Varangtip said. “Our company aims to provide this basic need and we want to do it the right way; by being transparent about what we put in our products, as well as using only organic and biodegradable materials that will result in zero waste.” Cronin said.



App Challenge: Kitchen@Venture

In its sixth consecutive year, the APEC App Challenge invited young developers and digital entrepreneurs from across the region to build new mobile and web tools that can help promote growth among APEC’s eco-friendly, small and micro-agricultural farms and entrepreneurs in the sustainable agri-food business.

Thailand’s Palakon Kotchapansompote and Peerawit Tungwongsin stood out among a field of 28 developers from across the Asia-Pacific region with an app that can help reduce food waste. Kitchen@Venture is a digital tool designed for consumers and restaurant owners that offers healthy meal choices from local, high-value producers and suggests quality meals. Users can take a photo of food in their fridge, upload it on the app and receive suggestions of healthy alternatives based on what is available.



Digital Prosperity Award: Agronect

The APEC Digital Prosperity Award recognizes innovative digital products that can increase prosperity and inclusive growth and is a joint initiative of APEC New Zealand and the APEC Secretariat, with support from The Asia Foundation and Google.

This year, the much-anticipated award centered around sustainability. The winning application, Agronect was developed by Sarinah Ziziumiza and Nursheila Ziziumiza of Brunei Darussalam. It provides access to education and immersive training experiences for farmers and agri-food entrepreneurs. According to Sarinah, their main goal was “to empower people to learn sustainable techniques that help them grow their businesses, and, using virtual reality and augmented reality, make it that much easier and lower the cost.”



APEC Voices of the Future

Since 1998, youth from APEC economies have been able to learn directly and engage with APEC government officials and business leaders. Through the APEC Voices of the Future program, the movers and shakers of tomorrow engage today’s leaders to discuss issues affecting the future of Asia-Pacific economies and the region. This is also a platform for the youth to connect with their peers across the borders and discover that while each of us may be unique, our best way forward is to work together to achieve individual and collective prosperity.

The 2022 APEC Voices of the Future Program was held in Bangkok, Thailand. With the theme “Open. Connect. Balance.”

Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha received a joint declaration from more than 100 Voices of the Future delegates with whom he met on Monday. Reflecting the views of the youth sector, the declaration highlights issues that are important to our younger generation.

The APEC Photo Contest

The annual photo contest asks participating photographers and photo enthusiasts in the APEC region to interpret APEC's yearly theme and priorities including

- 1) open to opportunities,
- 2) connect in all dimensions and
- 3) balance in all aspects.



First Prize: A Tapestry of Indonesian Vegetable Patches by Hana Krisna Arysta

The winning photo by Hana Krisna Arysta and the Popular Choice Award winner, Mohammad Reza Gemi Omandi, highlighted different aspects of a green and sustainable economy which may soon become the norm across the APEC region.



Judges' Second Prize:
Fishing for better future by Bambang Wirawan



Judges' Third Prize:
Harvesting vegetables by Arie Basuki



Popular Choice Award:
EmPOWERing the Rural Community by Mohammad Reza Gemi Omandi



Influencer Award*:
Energy Source by Yusuf Arif Rohman



APEC 2023

UNITED STATES

Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All

In 2023, APEC will be hosted by the United States of America.

The US host year will focus on the interconnected concepts of “resiliency,” “sustainability,” and “inclusivity,” which directly impact APEC’s economic drivers and are necessary to advance economic prosperity across the region.

In 2020, APEC Leaders endorsed the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, which reflects a joint vision for an “open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations.” As APEC host in 2023, the United States will continue to advance this vision through our three streams of policy priorities:

Interconnected. Innovative. Inclusive.





Outlook

Interconnected

Building a resilient and interconnected region that advances broad-based economic prosperity.

As the host of APEC 2023, the United States will prioritize renewing cross-border ties for sustainable and responsible travel and commerce while building new digital and physical connections to spur equitable growth. Developing these connections can fuel economic recovery while better preparing the APEC region for future shocks to the regional and global economy. To this end, in 2023 APEC will advance work on sustainable and inclusive trade, including in areas such as supply chain resilience, services trade, digital trade, as well as cross-border travel, physical connectivity and infrastructure

- Supporting a rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core
- Ensuring the flow of essential goods and services, including COVID-19 vaccines and related medical products
- Enabling an ecosystem for the digital economy and accelerating the implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap
- Ensuring sustainable and inclusive finance for women, the youth, small business owners, those who work in the informal sector and those with untapped potential
- Promoting structural reform for green recovery
- Promoting economic policies that contribute to addressing environmental challenges

Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience

The combined effects of the pandemic, climate crisis, and ongoing global tensions revealed the importance of resilient supply chains to the economy and to daily life. Both the APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAP) III and the APEC Alliance on Supply Chain Connectivity provide ideal platforms to strengthen supply chain resilience and further implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Enhancing Services Trade

APEC will strive to raise performance across all services sectors by improving data about the services sector and by broadening adherence to transparency and good-governance principles.

Promoting Digital Trade

APEC will hold digital trade policy dialogues that focus on the contribution of cross-border data flows to APEC's continued growth.



Outlook

Restarting Cross-Border Travel

The United States will promote the importance of travel facilitation of all business travelers in the region and work to modernize the travel experience through developments in technology, such as contactless travel.

Enhancing Infrastructure and Transportation Networks

To achieve inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth, APEC will focus on increasing the quality of infrastructure projects in our region by focusing on transparency, economic efficiency, and debt sustainability.

Strengthening Health Systems

APEC 2023 will continue to focus on digital health, health security and pandemic preparedness, mental health, cancer prevention and control, including cervical cancer, and regulatory harmonization and convergence. APEC 2023 also provides the opportunity to build on ongoing health collaboration to address gender and health equity in the context of health systems.

Defining New Trade Standards and Models through the “FTAAP Work Plan”

Trade agreements should be re-thought to meet new goals and challenges. APEC in 2023 can advance discussions under APEC’s “Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) Agenda” to exchange best practices in bilateral and regional trade agreements.

Innovative

Enabling an Innovative Environment for a Sustainable Future

APEC economies will further address the climate crisis, promote environmental sustainability, reduce disaster and disease risk, improve emergency response, promote the digital economy, and enhance digitalization, and foster an enabling business environment, including

through undertaking structural reform, while advancing women’s participation in science and technology.

Enhancing Climate Mitigation and Resilience

APEC must initiate new workstreams and build on existing workstreams, starting with endorsing updated and ambitious clean energy and sustainability targets.

Reducing Disaster Risk and Improving Emergency Preparedness and Response

APEC 2023 will highlight the ongoing efforts and opportunities to reduce disaster risk. This effort must go together with climate adaptation and prioritizing equity in emergency management programs in each economy. The APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework will continue to guide APEC’s efforts.

Promoting the Digital Economy and Enhance Digitization

The United States will advance the digital economy and facilitate inclusive innovation, including in digital trade, digital assets and payments, data privacy, telecommunication networks, cybersecurity, digital health, e-commerce, and emerging technologies.

Promoting Food Security, Food Safety, and Agricultural Biotechnology

APEC 2023 will focus on food security, food safety, sustainable productivity growth, the promotion of innovation and science-based and risk-proportionate policies, specifically agriculture biotechnology, and international trade standards

Tackling Environmental Challenges

The United States will support efforts to improve waste management systems and services, and facilitating greater reuse, recycling, and recovery of materials, including plastic, as well as efforts to address deforestation by combatting illegal logging and associated trade.

Fostering an Enabling Environment

The United States will promote consistent and well-regulated food safety conformance, as well as the adoption of sound competition laws and create an anticorruption roadmap

Inclusive

Affirming an equitable and inclusive future for all APEC economies should work towards inclusive growth for workers and those with untapped economic potential, including women, SMEs, and underserved and underrepresented communities. APEC will seek to incorporate gender into discussions about equity and inclusion in multiple workstreams. APEC will continue to promote workforce development and education, elevate worker voices across the agenda, and support underserved communities through trade.

Addressing Inclusion in Trade

APEC 2023 will advance work on renewed conversations on the FTAAP agenda, especially on inclusive trade and multistakeholder engagement.

Advancing Gender Equity Across Workstreams

APEC 2023 can maintain momentum in applying a gender lens to policy areas such as agriculture, customs, e-commerce, infrastructure, energy, climate resilience, structural reform, services, trade, MSMEs, STEM fields, the future of work, and health.

Strengthening Small and Medium Enterprises

By utilizing digital tools and bringing SMEs closer to the fore of innovation, economies can promote broader SME economic engagement. APEC 2023 will continue to integrate SME and equity-related workstreams.

Expanding Economic Potential and Opportunity Through Investments in Infrastructure and Workers

Creating the conditions for a more productive and inclusive labor force means using targeted public expenditures and supporting policies to invest in high-quality infrastructure, promote workforce development, and facilitate the participation of workers who have traditionally faced barriers to the labor market.

Elevating Workers’ Voices

At the core of equitably distributed prosperity is the elevation of workers and their voices in setting economic policy throughout the region. Increasing APEC’s outreach to existing and new stakeholders can reduce barriers to participation in APEC, and help disadvantaged groups and labor organizations engage in the policy process.

Engaging Historically Underserved and Underrepresented Segments of the Population

In 2023, APEC intends to include and elevate the voices of underserved and underrepresented segments of the population to ensure that economic policies are developed with representation from all communities, affording equitable economic opportunities to people, regardless of background.



Key Meetings in 2023

Meeting	Date
First Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	February
Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting	February
Second Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	May
Transportation Ministers' Meeting	May
Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting	May
Third Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings	August
Senior Finance Officials' Meeting	August
Senior Disaster Management Officials' Forum	August
SME Ministerial Meeting	August
Women and the Economy Forum	August
Energy Ministers' Meeting	August
Food Security Ministers' Meeting	August
High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy	August
Finance Ministers' Meeting	November
APEC Economic Leaders' Week	November

Note: Dates are subject to change, for the latest information please go to: <http://www.apec.org/Events-Calendar.aspx>

The APEC Secretariat

The APEC Secretariat, based in Singapore, operates as the core support for APEC fora and processes. It is staffed by a team of diplomats seconded by APEC members, specialists and administrative experts. It provides technical and advisory support, and information management for APEC members. It engages stakeholders through its communications and outreach initiatives to promote APEC work; and it administers the APEC annual budget. The Project Management Unit at the APEC Secretariat is the centralized project management mechanism for APEC members, as it oversees the APEC project cycle each year.

The APEC Secretariat also houses the Policy Support Unit, which is the research and analysis arm of APEC.

The APEC Secretariat's Effective Action Plan sets to achieve operational efficiency in serving the APEC fora and members through four key functions:

- Supporting an effective APEC;
- Activating stakeholder engagement;
- Ensuring an accountable, effective and efficient Secretariat; and
- Enhancing project management effectiveness.

Supporting the APEC Work Program

A key mandate of the APEC Secretariat is to assist APEC senior officials, members and fora in realizing leaders' and ministers' instructions.

The APEC Secretariat supports the APEC structure, which consists of:

- five senior official-level fora;
- four core fora, i.e., the four committees¹;
- 60 sub-fora / working groups and subsidiary bodies; and
- the APEC Finance Ministers' Process.

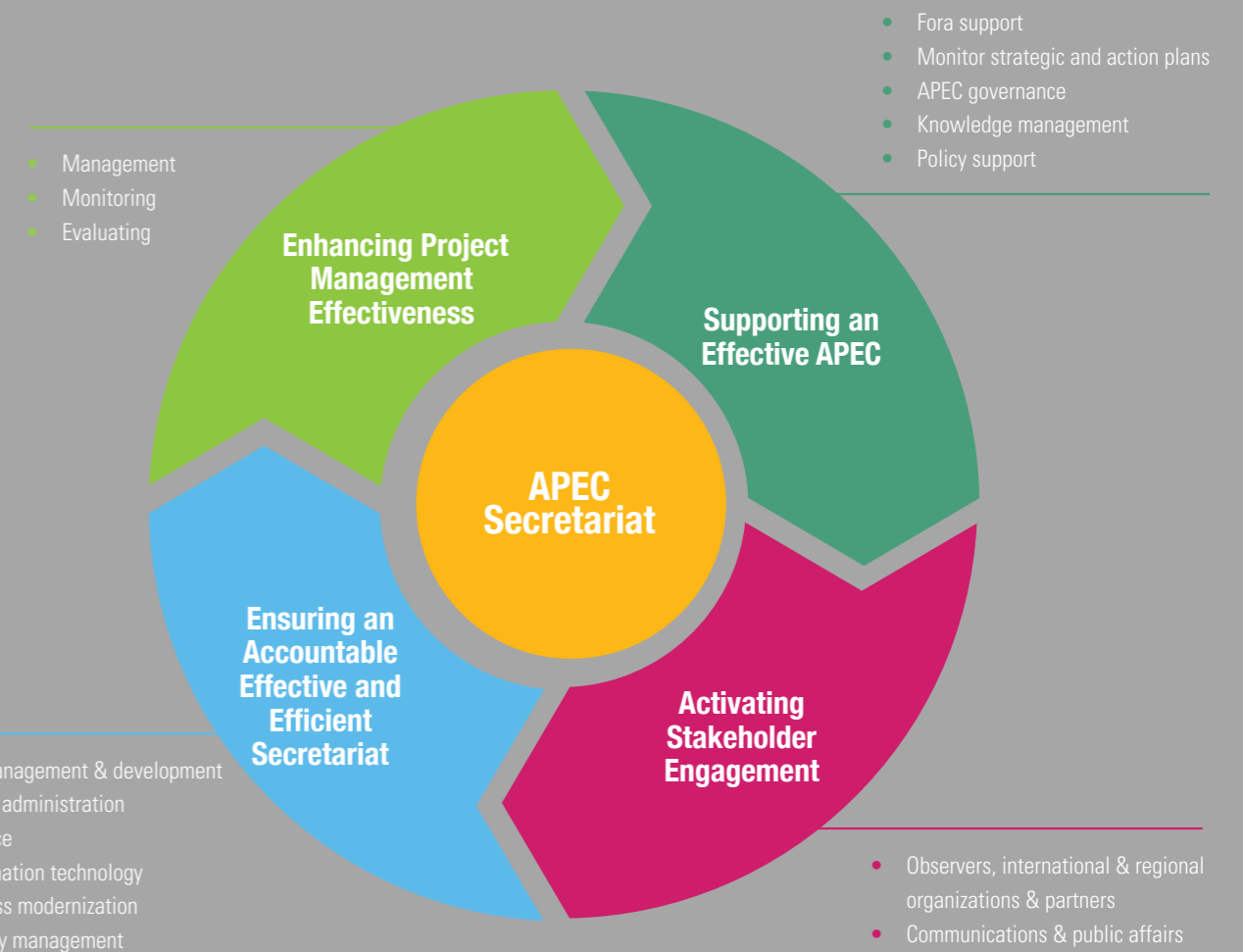
The APEC Secretariat supports all APEC fora in developing strategic and work plans that follow overarching directions given by APEC leaders, ministers and senior officials, and in alignment with the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA). It also supports APEC fora chairs with substantial work, including the preparation of annual APEC committee reports; planning and administering APEC meetings; and facilitating intersessional work across APEC fora.

The APEC Secretariat monitors the progress of implementing the APA. In 2023, it will support APEC members in preparing the first reporting on the APA, specifically, on collective and individual actions, as well as areas for continuous improvement.

The APEC Secretariat regularly provides updates to APEC senior officials, member economies and all APEC fora on the progress of work implemented across APEC, including APEC projects, as well as highlight cross-cutting work areas to strengthen cross-fora collaboration in APEC.

At the direction of senior officials, the APEC Secretariat facilitates efforts to improve APEC governance, including streamlining of APEC processes.

The APEC Secretariat Executive Director attends the APEC senior officials' meetings, sectoral ministerial meetings, high-level policy dialogues and the APEC economic leaders' meetings. In 2022 she participated and contributed to regional conversations and dialogues on topics that are of key interests to APEC, including those on sustainability; environmental, social, and governance (ESG); energy; COVID-19 recovery and the resumption of cross-border travel to revive economic activities; trade and supply chains; as well as women's economic empowerment. She also contributed to discussions within APEC on strengthening coordination of APEC's work in technical and economic cooperation, and sustainability. She continues to advocate for youth participation in APEC through deepening engagements with the APEC Voices of the Future program and through outreach efforts that are targeted at the youth.



The APEC Secretariat is ISO 9001-certified. This recognizes the continuous efforts to provide high quality administrative and support activities.

The APEC Secretariat

The APEC Secretariat continues to benefit from the Australian Government Effectiveness Grant for Project Management and the US-Support for Economic Growth in Asia (US-SEGA).

Supporting the APEC Host Economy and Members

Each year, the APEC Secretariat provides support to the APEC host economy and members in various areas, including logistical, administrative and substantive matters. It is the institutional memory for APEC and provides advice on APEC guidelines, procedures and best practices. It maintains the APEC Collaboration System, which serves as a private workspace for APEC members and fora to collaborate, communicate and share information securely. It also maintains important repositories for APEC members, namely, the APEC Meeting Documents Database, which provides records of APEC’s agenda, discussions, achievements and substantive work from as early as APEC’s establishment in 1989; and the APEC Projects Database, which provides records of APEC projects from 2006 onwards.

To prepare APEC host economies, the APEC Secretariat collaborates with US-SEGA on delivering the host economy capacity building programs.

In 2022, Thailand as the APEC host economy, delivered a successful year under the theme “Open. Connect. Balance”, with a focus on the following priorities:

- i. Open to All Opportunities to Facilitate Trade and Investment;
- ii. Connect in All Dimension to Reconnect the Region; and
- iii. Balance in All Aspects to Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Growth.

Under Thailand’s lead, APEC members adopted the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green Economy.

Throughout 2022, the APEC Secretariat supported Thailand in administering APEC ministerial meetings, high-level policy dialogues and fora meetings to deliver the APEC work program. The APEC Secretariat also supported Thailand in the following areas:

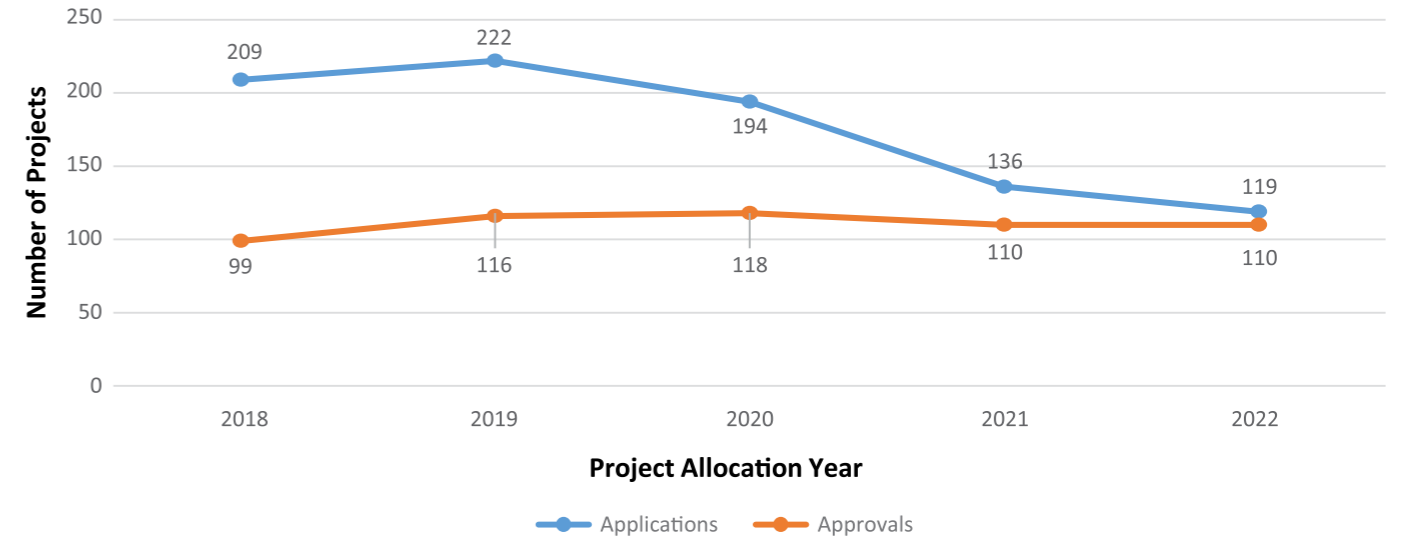
- Appointed a dedicated Sustainability Coordinator at the APEC Secretariat to support Thailand in consolidating the Bangkok Goals Evergreen Compendium of Actions and Initiatives.
- Developed the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green Economy website that was launched at the 2022 APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting.
- Supported the establishment and the work of the APEC Safe Passage Task Force, with Thailand as the Chair, to advance several key initiatives that aimed at facilitating safe and seamless reopening of borders and resumption of travel to revive economic activities within APEC. The APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade welcomed three key deliverables from the Taskforce, namely: the “APEC Information Portal for Safe Passage across the Region” and “Interoperability of Vaccination Certificates: Sharing of Technical Specifications” that are led by Thailand in the APEC Health Working Group; and the “Voluntary Principles for the Interoperability of Vaccination Certificates in the APEC Region” by Australia.
- Supported the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment in developing the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) Agenda Work Plan to advance Thailand’s initiative to refresh the conversation on FTAAP, to integrate elements addressing the COVID19 pandemic and beyond.
- Continued monitoring and tracking of the progress of the APEC work program and initiatives, including through assisting Thailand in preparing the APEC Tasking Statement for 2023.
- Promoted Thailand’s priorities as APEC host for 2022 through media and stakeholder outreach and engagements.

The APEC Secretariat completed the work for 2022 with a seminar, co-organized with the Royal Thai Embassy and the United States Embassy to apprise diplomatic missions and the media based in Singapore on the deliverables achieved during Thailand’s APEC year in 2022, as well as to launch the 2023 United States’ APEC year.

In 2023, the APEC Secretariat will support the United States as the APEC host economy to implement programs and initiatives in line with its theme

“Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All” and its policy priorities: “Interconnected. Innovative. Inclusive.”

Project Applications vs Project Approvals in APEC, 2018-2022



Working with Economies to Improve the Quality of APEC Projects

The Secretariat’s Project Management Unit (PMU) is responsible for administering the APEC project cycle, including the project selection, assessment, implementation and evaluation processes. PMU also supports The Secretariat’s Project Management Unit (PMU) administers APEC’s project processes, including the selection, quality assessment, and evaluation and reporting processes. PMU also leads efforts to strengthen the quality, impact and sustainability of APEC-funded projects, in partnership with economy stakeholders.

In 2022, the PMU oversaw the selection and approval of 110 projects, designed by member economies to build capacity through the sharing and

transfer of knowledge, skills, abilities, and technical know-how. Following a two-year trend, there was a decrease in the number of applications for funding in 2022, although levels of available funds remained high, and the number of approved projects was consistent with previous years. As a result, 92% of projects were approved for funding.

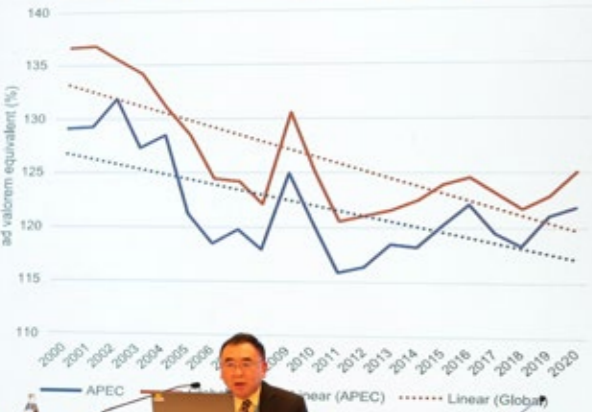
The PMU also delivered its two annual evaluation reports on APEC-funded projects:

- The Longer-Term Evaluation of APEC Projects Report, presenting performance data for the 57 projects completed in 2021; and
- The Summary Evaluation of Monitoring and Completion Reports, presenting project outputs and outcomes data collected between September 2021 and October 2022.

Trade costs are falling but remain high

APEC has shown resilience

Trade Costs in APEC and Global Economy



- Trade costs have been on a downward trend, but they remain high
- Trade costs peak during periods of economic crisis
 - Global Financial Crisis
 - COVID-19 pandemic
- APEC economies with the lowest trade costs also tend to occupy central positions in global trade networks



The APEC Secretariat

Some of the key findings² reported by PMU in 2022 included: a significant increase in the number of participants at APEC project events, assisted by the delivery of many events on virtual platforms; a continuing upwards trend in female participation, with women accounting for 55% of participants; and an increase in the number of participants from developing APEC economies, at 65% of participants.

Delivery of training for members is a key part of PMU's work to improve the quality of APEC projects. In 2022, PMU delivered seven training sessions on project quality in the margins of the SOM clusters, and four training workshops for individual member economies.

PMU is also engaged in the development of the APEC Project Administration System (APAS), which will automate project submission and assessment processes. In 2022, PMU supported the delivery of the APAS pilot in three APEC fora, and worked closely with the Information Technology Unit to develop training and instructional resources for APEC project stakeholders. APAS is scheduled to roll out across all APEC fora in Project Session 2, 2023.

Providing Research and Policy Capability

The Policy Support Unit (PSU) provides robust research and analysis in support of the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040. Twenty-three products were published in 2022, consisting of assessment-related report, research and policy analysis reports, and periodic publications. Technical advice was provided to APEC committees to support the implementation and evaluation of the Aotearoa Plan of Action toward achieving the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Highlights:

- The PSU proposed indicators to monitor APEC's collective progress on the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform.
- The PSU conducted research on topics addressing regional response to and recovery from COVID-19, including:

- COVID-19 border policies with policy recommendations to revitalize cross-border travel and tourism in the region;
- Role of supply chain connectivity in supporting post-COVID economic recovery;
- Suggestions to refresh the work program of the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) by addressing topics that have become more relevant in the light of the pandemic;
- Driving the growth of digital services and use of digital tools in trade to increase resilience in the region; and
- Impact of information disorder on trust and implementation of COVID-19-related policies.

Keeping abreast of the pandemic's impact on the region, the PSU released publications on the latest economic outlook and regional trends. The annual APEC in Charts offered glimpses into how the pandemic had affected the region's economic performance, as well as the trade and investment climate.

- Other published products examined topics that are increasingly relevant – digitalization, sustainability issues, and inclusion – all of which affect the well-being of people and society. Similarly, trade continues to be a key focus with studies completed on tariffs, global value chains and trade facilitation.

The products are available at the APEC website. The PSU also maintains APEC's statistics portal, at statistics.apec.org.

Communicating APEC's Messages to Stakeholders

Facing a complex messaging matrix driven by polycrisis in 2022, the Communications and Public Affairs Unit (CPAU) coordinated its work side-by-side with Thailand to create awareness and understanding of APEC's aspirations, vision, policies and outcomes by folding stakeholders and key audiences into the forum as travel opened up and people started to engage on-site.

CPAU's initiatives and its suite of programs centered around APEC's role in the region and the value of collaboration, as well as how the members address trade and economic policy issues; prepare for a digitally enabled recovery; and integrate inclusion and increased sustainability into APEC's priorities. Advancing APEC's goals through high-impact campaigns and specific initiatives, some highlights include:

- Shaping the first in-person APEC App Challenge after a two-year virtual hiatus due to pandemic restrictions in which 14 coder teams from 12 economies met in Bangkok to build an online tool to help the region's farmers and entrepreneurs access knowledge on bio-circular-green production techniques, connect with more market opportunities, and take the first steps to access local and export markets.
- Inaugurating APEC's "Journey to 2040" campaign to spread awareness about APEC and the Putrajaya Vision. Held during Leaders' Week in Bangkok for five weeks, the photo exhibition recognized the talents and generosity of the contest winners. Their photos revealed stories of greater interconnectivity of people in the Asia-Pacific, optimism and resilience.
- Conceptualizing, designing and launching the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy website shown by Prime Minister Prayut to leaders in Bangkok during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Building on APEC's established relationships with media through its content, CPAU further deepened engagement with multilateral and regional organizations, stakeholders and relevant industry partners by advocating for APEC's commitment to overcoming crises. In addition to prioritizing Thailand as APEC's 2022 host, in-person outreach included high-level visits to Canada, Japan and Viet Nam, on top of various virtual engagements where the Secretariat steered its messaging toward megatrends, the future

of supply chains, resilient travel; and advancing women's leadership.

Keywords such as 'trade' and 'economy'; 'digital future'; 'inclusive' and 'sustainability' found in our content became more inter-connected to what APEC policymakers are taking forward in the Putrajaya Vision 2040. Appearing more often together rather than in silos, this holistic narrative reflects the fact that APEC's agenda is evolving towards the goal to achieve an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations.

Aligning action with topical issues, CPAU focused its content and messaging on normalizing the host's directives to ensure APEC remains effective and relevant. By providing a risk management toolkit to the host in order to respond to scenarios facing ministers and leaders we sought to amplify the forum's priorities and initiatives; stay on pulse with the aspirations and needs of stakeholders; and champion dialogue with diverse sectors.

With ever-changing social media algorithms, the formula for optimal content publication continuously evolves. APEC's social media followers across the different platforms have grown steadily. This is driven, in part, by viral posts generated by organic engagements during the APEC Photo Contest as well as by campaign video content featuring Thai personalities with whom APEC engaged in 2022.

In addition to the three flagship reports of the committees on trade and investment; the economy; and technical cooperation and PSU's economic policy and regional trends analyses reports, the majority of APEC's publications in 2022 focused on economic development, gender and structural reform; energy; and micro, small and medium enterprises.



The APEC Secretariat holds ISO 9001 Quality Management Certification. This recognizes the continuous efforts made by the APEC Secretariat to provide high quality administrative and support activities. The APEC Secretariat is the first international trade-related secretariat to attain ISO certification.

On the Web

The APEC Secretariat manages www.apec.org, which contains information about APEC developments, issues and work programs, an events calendar and links to other key APEC websites. You can also follow us on social media:

- Facebook: @APECnews
- Twitter: @APEC, @Rebecca_APEC
- Instagram: @APEC
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asia-pacific-economic-cooperation-apec-secretariat>

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Publications

- APEC Regional Trends Analysis
- APEC in Charts 2022
- 2022 APEC Economic Policy Report
- 2022 CTI Report to Ministers
- Fact sheet: 2022 APEC Economic Policy Report
- Fact sheet: 2022 APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation
- APEC Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2022

Access to Publications

APEC publications can be downloaded free of charge. Visit the APEC Secretariat Publications Database at <https://www.apec.org/publications/listings> to download.





**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat

35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119616

Telephone: (65) 6891 9600 • Email: info@apec.org • Website: www.apec.org