

# APEC COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT 2023

Annual Report  
to Ministers



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade  
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity





**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

**2023**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS**

**APEC Committee on Trade and Investment**

**November 2023**

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Dear Ministers,

Trade and investment has been a powerful driver of growth for decades, increasing living standards, creating jobs and driving innovation. This year, I have heard from economies that trade and investment has an important role to play in supporting economic recovery and growth for all our communities, amidst a challenging and uncertain economic outlook. It helped our region respond to COVID-19. It can help address the rising cost of living, and build more inclusive and sustainable economies.

The APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), and the CTI sub-fora, are **well placed to collectively respond** to our region's opportunities and challenges. We are forums of high-energy and engagement.

This year, the CTI has made strong progress in advancing APEC's work under the Putrajaya Vision 2040, and the Aotearoa Plan of Action. These relatively recent, and important Leader level documents, have given the CTI a clear direction for our work over the next two decades. We are also progressing work covered by Leaders' and Ministers' annual instructions. This means that overall, there is **strong leader and minister level engagement and direction** in our work.

APEC's support for the **multilateral trading system** has been an important focus this year. We have seen momentum on WTO issues as a result of MC12 outcomes, with the focus now firmly on MC13 in a few months. In the CTI and the CTI sub-fora we have focused on APEC's value-add in support of the MTS: supporting the implementation of MC12 outcomes as well as existing agreements; incubating ideas on emerging issues such as sustainability and inclusion; and trying to build consensus and capacity on outstanding and live issues. I am pleased that economies have agreed on a joint CTI-DESG statement this month in support of the WTO e-commerce negotiations.

**Sustainability and inclusion** are growing areas of focus in the CTI, including due to the United States as host prioritising these issues. This emphasis reflects the increasing demand for trade and investment to benefit all people, and address environmental challenges. In this light, APEC's *Non-Binding Guidelines on Services that Support the Clean-Up of Marine Debris*, and the draft *San Francisco Principles on Integrating Inclusivity and Sustainability into Trade and Investment Policy* that is forthcoming will give momentum to this work.

This year the CTI took its first steps in implementing the new FTAAP agenda Work Plan, agreed during Thailand's 2022 host year. The Work Plan has the potential to give APEC's wider progress on **economic integration in the region** more structure, and find ways to promote early harvest opportunities in issues such as digital trade, and support for MSMEs. The CTI could take further steps to coordinate better with ABAC and PECC and develop practical initiatives to support economic integration in the region.

Particularly in response to COVID-19, we have seen increased work on **Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation**. I am pleased the Group on Services responded to Ministers' call to better facilitate trade in essential goods such as vaccines, through the development of guidelines to address barriers to logistics-related services during public health emergencies. In addition, APEC has contributed to reducing the costs of doing business across borders such as accelerating the digitalisation of border paperwork and promoting interoperable systems, including through the electronic invoicing principles that Trade Ministers welcomed in Detroit. I am pleased APEC has started to consider how it can meaningfully contribute to global discussions on generative Artificial Intelligence.

Our actions to respond to **Leaders' and Ministers' instructions** from recent years is tracking well. In particular, we are ensuring your instructions on environmental goods and services, as well as inefficient fossil fuel subsidies are progressing as much as possible.

This year, two important milestones were reached towards our implementation of the **Aotearoa Plan of Action**. The majority of APEC economies voluntarily showcased a number of their individual actions; and we undertook our first evaluation of progress. Although both are relatively technical, these two milestones were requested by Leaders, and help ensure APEC's work is in line with the Aotearoa Plan of Action.

It's clear the CTI family this year has made real efforts to propose meaningful and tangible work this year. In the last two years we have seen a **large number of projects** proposed in the CTI, using virtual and/or in-person meetings where it makes sense. This high number should be commended. However, at the same time, we currently have a handful of longstanding of projects which have not found consensus from all economies.

This year we have encouraged more deliberate and active participation by a broad range of **economic stakeholders** including ABAC and our observer organisations. Although we have reached new heights, more work could be done to ensure there is active dialogue and coordination.

I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the convenors of the CTI sub-fora and industry dialogues, the invaluable support from CTI program director, Benjamin Tan, and his colleagues from the APEC Secretariat, and the outstanding research and policy analysis provided by the Policy Support Unit. I wish the incoming CTI Chair, Mr Christopher Tan, all the best for a successful tenure during Peru and Korea's APEC host years.

Finally, I would like to thank the United States for its generous hospitality and organisational arrangements which have helped to facilitate the CTI's outcomes this year.

CTI looks forward to your guidance and instructions, as we enter the 2024 host year of Peru.

Sincerely,



Blake van Velden  
CTI Chair tment

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## Introduction

APEC Leaders launched the Putrajaya Vision 2040 (PV2040) in 2020, the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) in 2021, and the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy in 2022. In order to implement our Leaders' new instructions, the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), is actively contributing to all three economic drivers under the PV2040, namely (a) Trade and Investment; (b) Innovation and Digitalisation; and (c) Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.

With the United States as host economy, the three CTI plenary meetings in 2023 were aligned with the overall CTI work programme, principally to (a) Support for the Multilateral Trading System; (b) Deepen Economic Integration in the Region; (c) Promote Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation; and (d) Inclusion and Sustainability. Within these areas, the CTI also focussed on specific Leaders' and Ministers' instructions from recent years, on issues such as, environmental goods and services, inefficient fossil fuel subsidy reform and identifying "practical ways to integrate inclusion and sustainability into trade policy...".<sup>1</sup>

With its large body of work, CTI in 2023, as APEC's peak body on trade and investment issues, continue to oversee and is supported by 10 sub-fora:

- i. The Automotive Dialogue (AD)
- ii. The Business Mobility Group (BMG)
- iii. The Chemical Dialogue (CD)
- iv. The Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)<sup>2</sup>
- v. The Group on Services (GOS)
- vi. The Intellectual Property Experts Group (IPEG)
- vii. The Investment Experts Group (IEG)
- viii. The Market Access Group (MAG)
- ix. The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)
- x. The Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)

All CTI sub-fora met twice with the majority meeting on the margins of SOM1 and SOM3. In between, work was carried out intersessionally.

CTI also worked closely with other APEC Committees, and working groups, to ensure that Leaders' and Ministers' instructions on trade and investment issues were implemented in a coordinated manner. In this regard, this year, we held joint policy dialogues with the Economic Committee (EC), and the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE). The Chairs of these two groups as well as the Chairs of the Transportation, and SME Working Groups also participated in various CTI plenary meetings.

CTI has worked closely with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), APEC observers such as Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) as well as a large number of guests.

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<sup>1</sup> 2023 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement of the Chair

<sup>2</sup> In relation to matters of the former Electronic Commerce Steering Group's existing work program on e-commerce and trade-related digital economy issues

The 2023 CTI Annual Report to Ministers highlights the CTI and sub-fora's progress and achievements, including in support of United States' 2023 theme "*Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All,*" and its priority of building a more *interconnected, innovative, and inclusive* APEC region.

The Report is structured around the CTI's priorities and key activities as set out by CTI:

Section I:	Support for the multilateral trading system
Section II:	Advancing Economic Integration in the Region
Section III:	Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation
Section IV:	Inclusion and Sustainability issues
Section V:	Engagement with the business sector and industry dialogues
Section VI:	Governance
Section VII:	Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

Finally, CTI is pleased to share the following:

- i. Across CTI and its sub-fora, 33 projects were approved for APEC funding in 2023 (see Table 1);
- ii. 32 self-funded projects were approved in 2023 across CTI and its sub-fora; (Table 2);
- iii. Eight CTI-level initiatives were launched in 2023 (Table 3)
- iv. 21 CTI-level events (not including plenary meetings) were conducted this year (see Table 4);
- v. Over 40 CTI publications released since last November;
- vi. The above does not include the many more events, publications and work done by CTI's sub-fora. The details of which can be found in the relevant appendices; &
- vii. A number of projects and initiatives are still seeking convergence of views.

## CTI 2023 Recommendations

CTI recommends that Ministers:

- Note:**
- Table on APEC economy progress in notifying acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies Appendix 1
  - CTI sub-fora reports:
    - The Automotive Dialogue (AD) including Key Policy Recommendations of the 37<sup>th</sup> APEC Auto Dialogue Appendix 2
    - The Business Mobility Group (BMG) Appendix 3
    - The Chemical Dialogue (CD) including the Executive Summary on the Implementation Convergence of the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in APEC Economies Appendix 4
    - The Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) Appendix 5
    - The Group on Services (GOS) Appendix 6
    - The Intellectual Property Experts Group (IPEG) Appendix 7
    - The Investment Experts Group (IEG) Appendix 8
    - The Market Access Group (MAG) Appendix 9
    - The Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) Appendix 10
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  - 2023 Update on CTI Pathfinder Initiatives Appendix 12
  - Evaluating Progress on the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA): Trade and Investment Perspective Appendix 13
  - Good Regulatory Practices Blueprint for APEC Link [here](#)
  - Priorities of cooperation for promoting an inclusive digital economy Link [here](#)
  - On-going work on the *San Francisco Principles on Integrating Inclusivity and Sustainability into Trade and Investment Policy*
- Endorse**
- Key Policy Recommendations of the 37<sup>th</sup> Auto Dialogue

## Section I: Support for the Multilateral Trading System (MTS)

Throughout 2023, CTI members continued to actively share views and implement initiatives in support of the Multilateral Trading System (MTS). In this regard, the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) in February 2024, provides an important reference point as APEC members navigate towards this important milestone.

In order to be updated with WTO issues, we included discussions on the MTS at each of the three CTI plenary meetings. Mr David Bisbee, United States' Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR) to the WTO, updated us at CTI1, on the state-of-play on key WTO issues. Ms Andrea Durkin, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs, joined us at CTI3 to discuss and provided a broad overview of US' perspectives and its priorities and how APEC could serve to support the MTS, including ahead of MC13. At the Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting (MRT) in May, our ministers were joined in-person by the WTO Director-General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. The DG's in-person participation has not taken place since 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for their participation and views.

ABAC provided input and recommendations throughout the year, including a statement in Support of the WTO<sup>3</sup> issued ahead of the MRT meeting and a May 2023 statement on the FTAAP.<sup>4</sup>

Amongst the issues we discussed during the course of the year were:

- a. APEC's role to support the implementation of MC12 outcomes and priorities going into MC13;
- b. APEC's role as an incubator of ideas, particularly on trade and the environment, and inclusion issues;
- c. APEC's role to support ongoing discussions (including those that have been finalised) in the WTO, such as, agriculture, fisheries subsidies, the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs) including on E-commerce, Services Domestic Regulation, Investment Facilitation for Development, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs);; the Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment; and WTO reform; and
- d. APEC's role to support the implementation of existing WTO commitments, particularly the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA); the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies; and the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and ITA Expansion.

### *Implementing WTO Agreements*

On implementation of the WTO TFA, we note that members' implementation of the agreement has been static over the previous year. The figures are as follows:

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<sup>3</sup> 2023/SOM2/CTI/004

<sup>4</sup> 2023/SOM2/CTI/005

Rate of implementation	100%	80-99%	50-79%	Less than 49%
As 31 October 2023	17 members	3 members (all 3 are above 85%)	1 member	0 member
November 2022	17 members	3 members (all 3 are above 85%)	1 member	0 member
November 2021	14 members	4 above 90%; 3 below 88.7%		

Extracted from the [WTO TFA Database](#)

In order to help members with implementation of the TFA, Chile organised a two-day workshop on the margins of the SOM3/2023 entitled, “*Measuring the Economic Impact of Trade Facilitation Policies on Trade*”. The project examined how policy areas in the TFA are being implemented and aimed to understand the challenges faced, particularly in the digital trade processes. The workshop included analysis, and robust evidence on specific trade facilitation reforms that have been implemented and their impact on reducing trade costs and enhancing trade flows in various sectors. Findings and recommendations from the workshop will be compiled into a report in an “APEC Policy Brief format” and will be circulated.

On fisheries subsidies, CTI welcomed the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted at MC12. To support the expeditious entry-into-force of the agreement, CTI embarked on a transparency exercise in which members’ status of acceptance would be reported in the CTI Chair’s Report to Senior Officials at SOM2 and the CTI Report to Ministers at AMM. CTI started this exercise from 2023. The table monitoring acceptance is attached as **Appendix 1**. As of 31 October 2023, ten APEC economies have submitted acceptance of the Agreement.<sup>5</sup> Some APEC members are also actively taking part in Phase II of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.

On the ITA, which had its origins in APEC, the MAG is working on a project *Impact of ITA and Future of ICT Trade*. This work will include literature review, online survey, and interviews of stakeholders. It will look at changes in ICT trade volume and environment, such as, ICT policies, digital divide, and fees/costs of communication networks and IT equipment of APEC as a whole and of individual economy since ITA and ITA2 concluded. A one-day virtual capacity building workshop “*Study on the Impact of Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and Future of ICT Trade*” is scheduled for 10 November 2023. A report will then complete this project. Relatedly, Thailand reported that it has fully implemented the ITA expansion from 1 July 2023, while Malaysia reported that it has completed all domestic processes on the reduction and elimination of tariffs on a total of 201 high technology ICT products. China noted that since 1 July 2023, it had implemented its eighth package of tariff rates reduction on 62 IT products and has therefore delivered all its tariff reduction commitments.

### *Ongoing discussions*

<sup>5</sup> Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Peru; Singapore; and the United States

A number of WTO discussions are being led/co-led by APEC members and updates are provided by the leads at the CTI plenary. They include:

- a. Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) (co-led by Canada)
- b. Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP) (co-led by China)
- c. Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR) (led by New Zealand)
- d. WTO JSI on E-Commerce (co-convened by Australia, Japan and Singapore)
- e. JSI on Investment Facilitation for Development (co-led by Chile and Korea)

Many APEC members are also actively involved in the JSI on MSMEs; the now-completed JSI on services domestic regulation; and the “*Declaration on Advancement of Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment within Trade*”. On the JSI on Services Domestic Regulation, we recalled APEC’s role as an incubator of ideas, where we had helped shaped this outcome with the earlier 2018 “*APEC Non-binding Principles for Domestic Regulation of the Services Sector*”.

At the DESG2 meeting, co-convenors of the WTO JSI on E-commerce – Australia, Japan and Singapore – delivered a presentation on the importance of the JSI, the current state of negotiations, and its relevance to APEC, followed by a discussion with member economies and stakeholders. A summary of this presentation was also presented to the CTI.

The CTI and DESG issued a Statement in support of the WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce.<sup>6</sup>

APEC continued work on the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) WTO. The report *CTI Public – Private Dialogue on Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information* was published in February 2023.<sup>7</sup> It aims to facilitate transparency and predictability of WTO TBT notifications. At SOM1, the US led a workshop on *Strengthening Understanding of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement*. This two-day event aimed to help members implement domestic regulatory policy in a manner consistent with the WTO TBT Agreement. The workshop also updated delegates on the work taking place in the WTO, WTO jurisprudence, and the conduct of trade and regulatory policy.

To identify Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) impeding the export and importation of grain within the APEC region, a report *Workshop to Identify Future Work on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) Affecting Grain Trade* was published in April 2023.<sup>8</sup>

CTI also commends the CTI sub-fora for continuing to deliver strong work on issues related to the WTO, including through supporting the implementation of MC12 outcomes, incubating ideas, and supporting ongoing discussions.

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<sup>6</sup> Link to the statement to be added

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/02/cti-public-private-dialogue-on-promoting-transparency-of-tbt-wto-notifications-improving-completeness-and-clearness-of-information>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/04/apec-workshop-to-identify-future-work-on-non-tariff-measures-\(ntms\)-affecting-grain-trade](https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/04/apec-workshop-to-identify-future-work-on-non-tariff-measures-(ntms)-affecting-grain-trade)

## Section II: Advancing Economic Integration in the Region

### *Achieving the Putrajaya Vision 2040*

Advancing Economic Integration in the Region continues to be an important part of the CTI and CTI-sub-fora work programmes.

### *The Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda*

APEC endorsed the FTAAP agenda Work Plan at the end of Thailand's 2022 host year in November 2022.<sup>9</sup> This Work Plan was the result of Thailand leading a refreshed conversation on the FTAAP agenda, which included the May MRT 2022 tasking officials “to develop a multi-year work plan to continue dialogue and capacity building programs, with a view to progress the FTAAP agenda”.

Below are highlights from the work plan.

The United States during its host year also led on a number of work in support of the FTAAP agenda.

- a. Under the *FTAAP Work Program on APEC Efforts to Address Inclusion in Trade Agreements* (CTI 08 2022S), the United States hosted two workshops at SOM1 and SOM3/2023 and will have a stock-take report aiming to promote dialogue and information sharing on experiences and lessons learned to incorporate inclusion aspects in trade agreements. Through these activities, participants shared best practices that helped address and reduce trade barriers faced by MSMEs; women; and others with untapped economic potential, while simultaneously learning how to apply these practices to enhance their trade agreements.
- b. Under the *FTAAP Work Program: Multistakeholder Engagement Approaches for Trade Agreement Development* (CTI 06 2022S). As an extension to its work on strengthening multistakeholder engagement approaches for the development of trade agreements, the United States conducted an economy-level survey for a more in-depth understanding. Through this survey – where 139 respondents from 11 economies responded - CTI members and other trade stakeholders shared individual experiences and lessons learned from administering and participating in these approaches. The United States then hosted a half-day workshop at SOM1/2023, where participants considered how multistakeholder engagement could help pursue trade objectives, how to identify and reach trade stakeholders, and how to mitigate potential obstacles or concerns. The United States is developing a report to highlight outcomes and lessons learned, building from the information shared through the survey and workshop.

To support the FTAAP agenda Work Plan and under Peru's initiative on taking a “*New Look at the FTAAP*”, the APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) is doing a review, and studying areas of convergence and divergence across chapters of trade agreements “that contribute to high standard and comprehensive undertakings”. This review will focus on the work done by APEC in moving forward the FTAAP agenda and seeks to strengthen APEC's key role as an incubator of ideas on trade and investment issues in the region; as well as advance capacity building

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<sup>9</sup> 2023/SOM1/CTI/005

programmes and cooperate on best practice for the development of and participation in high standard regional undertakings. Further, during Peru's host year in 2024, and as part of the "A New Look at the FTAAP" initiative, a dialogue to exchange views will take place at each of the CTI meetings in 2024.

In the pipeline for 2024 is a China-led project "*FTAAP Work Program: Digital identity system for entities*". The project will gather information on the application of Digital Identity system for entities, including how digital identities might advance trade and investment facilitation as well as any risks, and examine on provisions related to digital identity system for entities chapters/clauses in RTA/FTAs. It also seeks to improve capacity of APEC economies to negotiate trade agreements with provisions related to digital identity. Doing so could help build secure, trusted and inclusive domestic digital identity system for entities ecosystem in line with international obligations and standards, in order to better support the growth of digital economy. In addition to a research report, a capacity building workshop will be held in 2024.

In order to help build the capacity of APEC members, CTI endorsed the Fourth Phase of the *Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI 4)*. Led by Korea, the CBNI 4 will run from 2024 to 2025, with the objectives of covering sectors that (a) reflect the new post-pandemic era economic environment well as (b) those sectors that were included in previous CBNI programs but whose demands for further discussion and clarification remain; and continuing to narrow FTAs/RTAs capacity gaps among APEC member economies. CBNI 4 will build the negotiation capacity of members by providing a platform for sharing current practices and hands-on experience and by exchanging views on the emerging issues of FTAs/RTAs negotiations.

Additionally, the CTI has FTAAP agenda related work that is planned, completed and ongoing on:

- a. Promotion of seamless connectivity involving peer review and capacity building on APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment;
- b. Trade Facilitation by utilizing IT products which will look at the study on the impact of Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and future of ICT trade;
- c. Trade facilitation involving APEC workshops for capacity building in Self-Declaration of Origin for FTAs/RTAs;
- d. Promoting e-commerce/digital trade rules that support MSMEs trade;
- e. Enhancing innovation through sharing best trade policy practices to enhance synergies between trade and innovation;
- f. Promoting development of an inclusive digital economy in the region;
- g. Supply Chain Resilience through research on helping businesses build and maintain, open secure and resilient supply chains;
- h. Climate change related non-tariff measures through a study on non-tariff measures affecting the trade in goods reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- i. Inclusion; &
- j. Tariffs

CTI continued discussions on proposals for FTAAP agenda Work Programs on (a) State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) and (b) Labor-related Provisions in FTAs/RTAs, including information-sharing on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building provisions in FTAs/RTAs. Consensus was not reached on these proposals.



PECC updated the CTI on its *PECC Signature Project: FTAAP Pathways to Prosperity*, which aims to give greater substance to the FTAAP and provides an opportunity to engage APEC economies, businesses and academics to develop a longer-term vision for trade and economic collaboration in the region.<sup>10</sup> All economies were invited to participate.

#### *Other EIR initiatives*

CTI also continued exchanging information under the annual “*Information Sharing Mechanism*”, moderated by Australia. This year at CTI3, members looked at “*Institutional provisions in FTAs/RTAs*” which examined WTO-plus aspects of RTAs. The St. Gallen Endowment for Prosperity through Trade, provided the opening remarks. Indonesia spoke on the ASEAN-Australian-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) while Peru spoke on the Pacific Alliance (PA). New Zealand spoke on how institutional provisions could support Indigenous economic empowerment and cooperation. Other economies shared their perspectives on utilising institution provisions to ensure FTAs/RTAs remained ‘living agreements’ and responsive to the needs of business.

APEC members who are participants in various pathways and other initiatives, have been periodically updating CTI on their developments:

- a. *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)*. CPTPP ministers at the 7th Commission Meeting on 16 July, welcomed ratification and entry into force of the Agreement for Chile and Brunei Darussalam on 21 February and 12 July 2023, respectively. CPTPP participants also welcomed the United Kingdom as the first economy to accede to the CPTPP.
- b. *Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)*. With the entry-into-force by Indonesia and the Philippines on 2 January 2023 and 2 June 2023, respectively, the RCEP has been implemented by all participating members. The second RCEP Ministerial Meeting took place on 21 August 2023.
- c. *Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)*. Work is ongoing on the matter of accessions. Four “affirm” provisions in the DEPA have been amended to become legally, certain, and enforceable commitments. These are on Non-Discriminatory Treatment of Digital Products; Information and Communication Technology Products that Use Cryptography; Cross-Border Transfer of Information by Electronic Means; and Location of Computing Facilities.
- d. *Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG)* and the *Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA)*. The GTAGA was created within ITAG and is a trade instrument focusing on promoting gender equality and women’s economic empowerment in international trade. Costa Rica and Ecuador joined both initiatives in July 2023 while Australia has expressed interest in joining.
- e. *Singapore-Australia Green Economy Agreement (GEA)*. The GEA aims to catalyse economic growth and job creation in green sectors, while promoting decarbonisation to support the region’s transition towards net-zero. Many of the GEA’s disciplines

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.apec.org.au/ftaap-pathways-to-prosperity>

build on APEC's ongoing workstreams and commitments, including work on environmental goods and services.

### *Market Access Group*

This year, as with the last, CTI continued to follow up with the tasking to the Market Access Group to follow up on the 2021 AMM Statement related to Environmental Goods, i.e., to “develop recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list with a view to providing guidance for further work, and to update the APEC List of Environmental Goods to HS2022 for reference purposes”. The work on EGs can be found in the Sustainability section.

In addition, the Market Access Group also carried out work, including:

- a. A project *Trade of Remanufactured Consumer Electronic Products in APEC* led by the United States to progress work on the “Pathfinder on facilitating trade in remanufactured goods.”<sup>11</sup> This project consists of three elements: a study on the region's trade of remanufactured consumer electronic goods; a workshop following the study to discuss best practices and facilitate experience sharing; and finally an economy-level capacity building program on remanufactured consumer electronic product.
- b. The MAG monitors the use of the APEC Trade Repository ([APEC TR](#)) by users and keeps the information up-to-date. The platform is an online reference tool for trade and tariff information on APEC's 21-member economies, in furtherance of its work towards trade facilitation, transparency, information dissemination and connectivity. *A Study on Strategy to Promote the Utilization of the APEC Trade Repository* was released in May 2023.<sup>12</sup>
- c. In addition to the project studying the *Impact of Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and Future of ICT Trade* (see Section 1, para 8), MAG members continually exchange views on the benefits of joining the ITA and the expanded ITA.

### *Services Trade*

This year, as with the last, CTI continued to follow up with the tasking to the Group on Services:

- a. On Environmental Services – see section on Sustainability.
- b. *Services to Support the Movement of Essential Goods*. As part of the work to facilitate essential goods during COVID-19, APEC ministers had in 2021 and 2022, urged officials to implement the 2021 MRT Statement on Services to Support the

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<sup>11</sup> [https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/annual-ministerial-meetings/2011/2011\\_amm/annex-d](https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/annual-ministerial-meetings/2011/2011_amm/annex-d)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/05/study-on-strategy-to-promote-the-utilization-of-the-apec-trade-repository>

Movement of Essential Goods.<sup>13</sup> This led to the milestone *APEC Definition of Logistics-related Services* adopted at the MRT of 2022.<sup>14</sup> In 2023, the GOS has been working to develop guidelines.

Under the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR) Implementation Plan, the CTI has been tasked to report on APEC measurement of trade and investment in services both to support implementation of the Roadmap and to improve the collective understanding of key issues that arise in this area. To this end, the GOS has provided updates on the APEC Index. Canada continues to be the champion economy for this endeavour. The APEC Index to Measure the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade provides a helpful tool for policymakers in the region to support decision making processes on services trade policy, including by enabling policymakers to review and address barriers to digitally enabled services.

- a. A virtual technical group meeting was held in September 2023.
- b. To assist economies, GOS conducted two related workshops, led by the United States. The first *Expansion and Application of the APEC Index - Supporting Economy-Level Capacity Building to Advance the Services Agenda in APEC* which was held on June 2023 in Papua New Guinea. The second, *Practical Application of the APEC Index on the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade in Research and Policy* was held on the margins of SOM3.
- c. All APEC economies are now participating in the Index endeavour, including gathering and verifying data pertaining to their domestic services regulatory environment, and expanding their current coverage to additional sectors. Some areas of convergence still require to be worked out.

*Services Domestic Regulation: Envisioning Next Generation Technical Standards Principles.* Building upon the January 2021 study on Next Generation Practices for Services Authorization in the Asia-Pacific Region, the United States led a study and workshop at SOM3/2023 to explore effective and emerging regulatory practices to facilitate a discussion among APEC economies of best practices in the area of technical standards for services.

The GOS also finalised the *APEC Non-Binding Guidelines on Logistics-related Services that Support the Movement of Essential Goods During a Public Health Emergency*.

### *Investment*

The Investment Experts Group (IEG) is exploring the relevance of indicators in the Work Plan of the Next Generation Trade and Investment (NGeTI) issues and reviewing the APEC PSU report of members' Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP) actions and implementation in 2021-2022. In addition, the IEG is actively updating itself on the state-of-play on investment-related developments, including the textual conclusion of the WTO joint initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, application of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Foreign Direct

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/annual-ministerial-meetings/2021/2021-apec-ministerial-meeting> & <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/annual-ministerial-meetings/2022/2022-apec-ministerial-meeting>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/sectoral-ministerial-meetings/trade/apec-ministers-responsible-for-trade-statement-of-chair/annex-a-apec-definition-of-logistics-related-services>

Investment (FDI) Qualities Policy Toolkit, World Economic Forum’s Climate FDI, and investor-state dispute settlement reform discussions.

In terms of events, the IEG have held the following events:

- a. An experience-sharing workshop on the topic “*Experience in Implementing Inclusive and Responsible Business and Investment (IRBI) and Climate FDI Facilitation*” on 4 August 2023;
- b. A capacity building workshop covering “*International Investment Agreements and Climate Change: What is the role that international investment agreements play in the transition to a green economy?*” on 5 August 2023;
- c. A workshop for the Project “*Realizing IRBI in APEC*” scheduled on 12 September 2023;
- d. A capacity building workshop on “*How Investment Facilitation Policies can enhance Sustainable Investment*” on 25-26 September 2023.

#### *Other areas*

Following the SOM3/2022, Chile-led a one day workshop *Dispute Settlement Mechanisms in Trade Agreements* which aimed to get a better understanding of the operation and the environment and new areas such as the digital economy. Chile has been working on the final report of the initiative.

Work was also completed under a Canada-Chile-led initiative *The Role of Government Procurement (GP) in Responding to COVID-19*.

## Section III: Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation, and Innovation

### *Trade Facilitation - Supply Chain Connectivity*

In 2022, the AMM endorsed the Third Phase of the APEC Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAP III) 2022-26.<sup>15</sup> In order to progress work, specifically on measuring the progress for the mid-term and final assessments of SCFAP III in 2024 and 2027, the PSU published the report "*Measuring Progress on SCFAP III (2022–2026): Indicators and Policy Practices*".<sup>16</sup> In 2023, champion economies were also identified for the five chokepoints:

Chokepoint	Champion Economies
1	Korea; Peru; Singapore; the United States
2	Japan
3	China; Korea
4	United States
5	Chile; the Philippines

The *APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2)* held its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on the margins of SOM3/2023.<sup>17</sup> The meeting focused on APEC's renewed efforts to focus on supply chain and acted as a forum for public and private stakeholders to explore opportunities to overcome the chokepoints identified in SCFAP III through presentations and discussions. The meeting fostered dialogue to support participants and member economies' efforts to reform and improve supply chain connectivity and resilience. In addition, plans are ongoing to renew the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the A2C2 for the period 2024-2027.

WTO TFA implementation – see Section 1 Para 5 & 6, including the two-day workshop, *Measuring the Economic Impact of Trade Facilitation Policies on Trade* that took place on the margins of SOM3.

### *Trade Facilitation - Digitalisation*

At this year's MRT meeting in Detroit, Michigan, APEC Ministers welcomed the 'Principles for the Interoperability of Electronic Invoicing Systems in the APEC Region'.<sup>18</sup> Recognising the benefits of electronic invoicing in increasing the efficiency, accuracy and reliability of cross-border trade transactions, these principles will promote interoperable approaches and the

<sup>15</sup> 2022/SOM3/CTI/012

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/09/measuring-progress-on-the-supply-chain-connectivity-framework-action-plan-\(scfap-iii\)-2022-2026-indicators-and-policy-practices](https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/09/measuring-progress-on-the-supply-chain-connectivity-framework-action-plan-(scfap-iii)-2022-2026-indicators-and-policy-practices)

<sup>17</sup> The A2C2 was established as a public private mechanism for stakeholders from APEC economies to formally engage in supply chain work

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/sectoral-ministerial-meetings/trade/2023-apec-ministers-responsible-for-trade-statement-of-the-chair/annex-1>

use of digital technologies to facilitate trade and investment, while promoting seamless connectivity and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.

Under the Japan-led project “*Phase II -Utilising Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation under the current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Best Practices Sharing Workshops*”, three virtual workshops were held in August 2022 and January 2023. Topics included (a) Technology to Support Customs Procedures; (b) Digitalizing Customs Cooperation; and (c) Port Digitalization for Efficient Supply Chain. A report released in April 2023 included key findings from the workshop series.<sup>19</sup> The report found significant benefits that digital technologies could provide for both customs agencies and port authorities. Key to the success in adopting these technologies is cross-agency and cross-border interoperability. Cybersecurity measures, such as ensuring the authenticity of digital documents, must also be developed and implemented for digital technology adoption in both of these agencies that play critical roles in trade.

China is leading a project on “*Literature review on cooperation of data flows and cross-border payments to support digitalized supply chains among APEC economies*”. This project aims to find ways to address the Chokepoint 3 of the SCFAP III by doing literature review among APEC economies. The project will conduct literature review of the similarities and differences of relevant domestic, bilateral and regional disciplines and other good practices in APEC economies with regard to collaboration in areas of single windows for trade, e-ports and other similar public ICT infrastructures. The review report will be shared and presented to APEC members as the outcome of the project.

### *Global Value Chains*

Australia is leading a work stream on “*Fostering Greater SME Participation in Global Value Chains*” which aimed at improving the opportunities for SMEs to engage in international trade through better participation in global value chains. Greater participation in GVCs will provide SMEs with an additional channel to grow their markets and increase their productivity. The first phase of the project provided the latest insights into the various approaches to global value chains of multinational enterprises (MNEs) and their requirements from SME partners, especially MNEs from developing economies; and improve SMEs’ knowledge and opportunities to access and participate in these global value chains by partnering with MNEs. The second phase of the project is focused on SMEs’ utilisation of digitalisation and digital technologies to enable greater participation in GVCs and to make SMEs more competitive.

On the *Supply Chain Integration 4.0 Through Single Window Interoperability – Action Plan (2019-2021)*, co-led by Chile, China and Peru, work remains as reported in the 2022 CTI report to AMM.

Efforts to renew the ToR for the *Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN)* started in 2022. The APMEN was established in 2014 at the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting (AELM) with a focus to contribute to regional trade facilitation and supply chain connectivity through E-Ports including literature review and research, capacity building, public-private dialogue and seminar or workshop on specific topics, best practices and pilot projects. At CTI2, China gave a presentation titled “The Progress & the Way Forward of APMEN”. While there are no

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<sup>19</sup> [https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/04/utilizing-digital-technology-in-the-field-of-trade-facilitation-under-the-current-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond-\(phase-ii\)-best-practices-sharing-workshops](https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/04/utilizing-digital-technology-in-the-field-of-trade-facilitation-under-the-current-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond-(phase-ii)-best-practices-sharing-workshops)

further comments to the content of draft ToR, the proposal for its renewal has been unable to achieve consensus at this stage as one economy is of the opinion that the APMEN no longer needs to be in APEC. Discussions are still ongoing.

### *Trade Facilitation - Customs Procedures*

Key outcomes and achievements for the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) in 2023 include the following:

- a. APEC Customs Business Dialogue at SOM3 under the theme “Women in Trade.” Throughout the dialogue, the private sector shared their efforts to support inclusive trade for women.
- b. Two APEC-funded projects are underway:
  - i. Gender Mainstreaming in Customs Administrations;
  - ii. Capacity building in Self Declaration of Origin for FTAs/RTAs
- c. Five self-funded projects will be carried out in 2023 – 2024:
  - i. "The Future of Trade and Border Management" Policy Dialogue;
  - ii. Measures used to Secure Cargo Containers from Tampering;
  - iii. Promoting MSMEs Engagement in E-Commerce on Regulatory Procedures for Small, Low-Value Shipments;
  - iv. SCCP Workshop on APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework (SCFAP) III Chokepoint 1; &
  - v. Strengthen Customs Smart Control and Services to Improve the Development of Free Trade Ports/Free Zones (FTPs/FZs)
- d. To share best practices on key issues in customs procedures, the following initiatives are being carried out by the SCCP:
  - i. Compendium for Trade and Pandemic Recovery;
  - ii. Compendium for Survey on Green Customs Practices;
  - iii. Update the SCCP Intellectual Property Rights Compendium of Practices; &
  - iv. Good Practices Sharing on Smart Customs in the APEC region

### *Connectivity – Business Mobility and the ABTC*

The APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) facilitates short-term business travel within the APEC region by streamlining the entry process into APEC economies. It helps facilitate business to business interaction to boost economic growth in the region. Following the launch of the Virtual ABTC in November 2020, participating members are progressively transitioning cardholders over to the virtual ABTC. The Business Mobility Group (BMG) continues to discuss modernization of the ABTC. This August, the BMG agreed to establish virtual ABTC business continuity/contingency plans. The BMG will survey APEC economies to seek feedback on their processes and implications should the virtual ABTC be unavailable for technical reasons. Potential improvements, including identifying shared solutions to improve



the speed and confidence with which economies are able to undertake pre-clearance assessments of foreign ABTC holders, and to upload data into the ABTC system are also being looked into. A virtual discussion will be held to consolidate possible solutions. Additionally, a number of BMG projects are being planned for 2024.

### *Connectivity - Expanding Regulatory Cooperation and Advancing Regulatory Coherence*

The Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) looks to reduce the negative effects that differing standards and conformance arrangements have on trade and investment flows in the Asia-Pacific Region.

To achieve these goals, the SCSC is conducting its normal committee work and projects focusing on specific areas were held across all three SOM cluster of meetings in 2023. Through SOM3, a total of 16 events were held (nine events at SOM3; four at SOM2; and three at SOM1). Topics included greenhouse gas measurement and monitoring technologies; battery energy storage systems; cybersecurity; circular economy; Artificial Intelligence standards; trade issues and halal; lead in plumbing; plastics pollution; risk communication and pesticide MRLs; Whole Genome Sequencing; a public private dialogue on food safety innovation, electronic labelling of ICT products; and strengthening understanding of the WTO TBT Agreement. Several other workshops outside of SOM meeting clusters were also organised throughout the year.

Among these SCSC events was the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference on Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs), held on the margins of SOM3. Conference sessions explored a variety of GRP topics, including regulatory reform measures economies are implementing, international resources to strengthen economies' practices, and innovative regulatory approaches to meet transboundary policy challenges. There were also sessions on regulating the digital and green economies. Exposure to the latest concepts in regulatory policy supports economies that are working to improve their GRP processes and mechanisms while also benefiting those economies whose practices are more mature. Key themes that emerged were that well-established good regulatory practices, such as public consultation, internal coordination, reliance on high-quality information, and regulatory cooperation, are just as relevant to emerging regulatory issues as they are to more traditional policy issues; and exploring the adoption of more flexible regulatory approaches can produce better outcomes for citizens in the region, facilitate trade, and encourage sustainable economic growth.

The SCSC also endorsed the Good Regulatory Practices Blueprint for APEC (GRP Blueprint) as a key deliverable for this year.<sup>20</sup> The GRP Blueprint complements other APEC GRP resources like the APEC-OECD Checklist on Regulatory Reform, while maintaining APEC as a thought-leader on good regulatory practices. It provides a concise, non-prescriptive mapping of key GRPs and related practices that can guide economy efforts at every stage in the regulatory life cycle, be incorporated into regulatory frameworks to increase transparency, improve regulatory quality, and produce better regulatory outcomes. Each core GRP is identified, its benefits explained, and examples or suggestions are given on specific actions for implementing the practice. The Blueprint offers a menu of actions, both traditional and newer, for economies to consider.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/11/blueprint-for-advancing-good-regulatory-practices-in-the-apec-region>



The Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee (JRAC) and the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Conference report to the SCSC as its subsidiary bodies. The 30th Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee (JRAC) on Electrical and Electronic Equipment meeting was held in August on the margins of SOM3. Following the endorsement of its ToR, the 9th APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Conference met at SOM2 in May along with a workshop on risk communication and MRLs, use of whole genome sequencing in food safety, and a public private dialogue on innovation in food safety.

### *Digitalisation and Innovation*

#### *“Digital Month”*

A first for APEC was the hosting of a “digital month” at SOM3/2023 where over 50 digital-related events, including workshops, roundtables, public-private dialogues, working group plenaries, private sector-led events and Ministerial sessions (including in four out of the six ministerials) were held. There was high level interest from both the private and civil sectors. Over 150 non-member participants were estimated to have taken part in the some of these events. Through Digital Month, stakeholder engagement had been elevated in 2023, particularly through private sector collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement. Topics discussed included Artificial Intelligence, digital assets, digital licensing, closing the digital skills gap, cloud technology, digital connectivity as well as women and eCommerce and SME and digital technology. Discussions in the ministerial meetings also covered digital issues. Digital Month therefore underscored the host economy’s commitment to advancing work on the digital economy at APEC as well as looking for further opportunities for deliverables arising from the Digital Pacific Agenda during Leaders’ week.

Under the *Innovation and Digitalisation* driver, CTI members focused on the digital aspects of this driver. The United States led two Trade Policy Dialogues (TPDs) on Digital Trade in 2023. Trade Policy Dialogues have been held since 2016 and bring together officials to discuss common issues related to digital trade, explore emerging policy topics, and further deepen an understanding of the opportunities to increase participation in the digital economy. The TPD at SOM1 focused on cross-border data flows, including enabling regulatory environments, trade barriers, as well as SME participation in the digital economy, with a particular focus on digitalization, upskilling, and digital inclusion. These discussions provided an opportunity for economies and companies to discuss innovations and approaches to emerging issues surrounding digital trade/e-commerce. The TPD at SOM3 focused on issues such as digital trade and the future of work; the impact of emerging technologies on jobs as well as artificial intelligence. Efforts under the TPD will continue to link to CTI’s ongoing digital trade/e-commerce work and create the foundation for future digital trade/e-commerce discussions.

To take forward work on the *APEC Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade*<sup>21</sup>, the United States will be holding a workshop in 2024. 11 members participate in this pathfinder. Economies continue to examine ways they can collectively and individually address issues of digital trade, including e-commerce as well as examining policies in the areas of cross-border data flows, data localization, intellectual property protection, and consumer protection

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.apec.org/2019/appendix-5---pathfinder-initiative-building-blocks-for-facilitating-digital-trade.pdf>

among other key topics, with the aim of further implementing and updating the building blocks, taking into account the evolving aspects of the digital economy.

China is leading an initiative *Promoting Development of an Inclusive Digital Economy in APEC region*, which aims to support an inclusive digital economy, in further implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap.<sup>22</sup> The initiative identifies priorities of cooperation as follows: use digital means to promote trade facilitation; invest in digital infrastructure to enhance connectivity and bridge the digital divide; conduct technical assistance and capacity building, and consider flexibility where appropriate, to support the development and implementation of high quality trade rules that support inclusive growth and innovation; promote participation and empowerment of all groups in the digital economy, and those from rural and remote communities; share experiences and best practices among economies, with respect to promoting inclusion in the digital economy; and carry out capacity building initiatives aimed at effectively addressing digital divide by closing gaps in access to, and decision-making on, digital infrastructure and technologies, digital services and digital skills learning and training. Economies are encouraged to facilitate discussions on information sharing, capacity building and policy dialogues to inspire cross-fora collaboration on actions of promoting an inclusive digital economy.

Following the publication of the study in April 2023 *Facilitating Access to Open Government Data: Frameworks and Practices*,<sup>23</sup> led by the United States, CTI endorsed a set of principles “Non-Binding Principles for Facilitating Access to Open Government Data (OGD) in the APEC region”<sup>24</sup> which would serve as a guide for further cooperation towards meaningful and impactful OGD operationalization.

An Australian-led project *Measuring the Economic Impact of Digital Trade / e-Commerce Provisions* was carried out in 2023. A virtual workshop was held in January 2023 and a report *Economic Impact of Adopting Digital Trade Rules: Evidence from APEC Member Economies* was published in April 2023.<sup>25</sup> The report provides policymakers with a clearer sense of how to maximize the economic benefits of modern digital trade provisions by using empirical and econometric analysis to produce data on the relationship between specific digital provisions such as paperless trading, electronic authentication and online consumer protection, and economic contribution.

To support the work on the WTO, a Joint CTI-DESG statement in support of the WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Joint Statement Initiative on E-commerce was issued. The statement encourages members to accelerate negotiations and work towards an outcome that is balanced, inclusive and meaningful and to further intensify discussions on the *moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions in the WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, including on its scope, definition and impacts*.

In the pipeline for 2024 are:

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<sup>22</sup> 2023/SOM3/CTI/024

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/04/facilitating-access-to-open-government-data-frameworks-and-practices>

<sup>24</sup> Appendix 14

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/04/economic-impact-of-adopting-digital-trade-rules-evidence-from-apec-member-economies>

- a. a Japan-led project “*Sharing Best Trade Policy Practices to Enhance Synergies between Trade and Innovation*” which aims to collect and share the trade policy best practices on trade and innovation in APEC economies. A virtual workshop is planned for Q1/2024 and will be accompanied by a stock take/summary report.
- b. a China-led project “*FTAAP Work Program: Digital identity system for entities*”. See Section II, para 12.

### *Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)*

On the margins of SOM3 were (a) a workshop on privacy enhancing technologies organised by ABAC and DPS; (b) a workshop on digital licencing and permitting measures; (c) a joint meeting with the Telecommunications and Information WG as well as a public private dialogue (PPD). The PPD featured a diverse panel of public and private sector representatives who facilitated a broad-ranging discussions on the issues of digital divides and multistakeholder roles in enabling digital inclusion. During the DESG-TEL Joint Meeting, the two groups exchanged information on projects and initiatives contributing to relevant Key Focus Areas (KFA) of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) and ideas for future work.

At the DESG plenary, there was a policy dialogue on how the lack of global rules has contributed to the fragmentation of digital policy approaches and regulations in the region. Panellists from the ABAC, World Economic Forum and St Gallen’s Endowment discussed the current state of digital fragmentation, its impact on businesses in the region, and possible ways APEC can help address this issue. Co-convenors of the WTO JSI on E-commerce – Australia, Japan and Singapore – delivered a presentation on the importance of the JSI, the current state of negotiations, and its relevance to APEC, followed by a discussion with member economies and stakeholders.

Led by Singapore, the DESG continued to update its database on E-Commerce Regulations, which is available to the public on the APEC Trade Repository. The work facilitates the transparency of economies’ domestic regulations and approaches on e-commerce.

### *Data Privacy Subgroup*

The DESG Data Privacy (DPS) subgroup, a subsidiary body of the DESG, continues to pursue work on the APEC voluntary Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) and Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) Systems which promote interoperability between different data privacy regulations to facilitate trade and build trust in e-commerce. In this regard, the DPS’s CBPR Joint Oversight Panel (JOP) has since DESG1/2023, received three applications from Accountability Agents (AA) for continued recognition for issuing certifications for the CBPR and PRP Systems, which are currently under JOP review. In August 2022, the JOP submitted its report recommending continued recognition of Institute for Information Industry (III) as an AA in Chinese Taipei to the DESG Chair, and that report remains under consideration by the DESG for endorsement.

Members continued to share their Data Privacy Individual Action Plans (IAP) which helped improve the transparency of data protection frameworks of member economies.

There were also updates on projects (a) “Information Sharing on Legal and Regulatory Interoperability for Privacy Protections in APEC” led by the United States and (b) “Comparative Study on Best Practices to Detect and Avoid Harmful Biases in Artificial Intelligence Systems” led by Chile.

#### *Pathfinders related to digital economy*

There are two digital-related pathfinders:

(a) *Pathfinder on a Permanent Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Included Content Transmitted Electronically* which has 13 participants. To further explore the issue, a workshop on the Impacts of the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions on the Business Sector was held in July 2023

(b) *Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade* which has 11 participants. A workshop on the latter pathfinder is planned for 2024.

#### *Innovation - Intellectual Property*

IPEG had a number of events and initiatives this year. They included:

- a. A one-day *Green Technology One-Day Program* at SOM3. To encourage sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth that includes a commitment to drive forward work on key issues including climate change and environmental sustainability, the United States organized the event that included interactions with green technology research and development facilities, and discussions with researchers and innovators. This was followed by a seminar with presentations by private and public sector speakers.
- b. Workshop on *Women, Inclusivity, and IP* at SOM3 under the project *Sharing on APEC Economies' Initiatives to Advance Women's Participation in the Global Intellectual Property (IP) System*, where economies such as Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, and the United States gave presentations sharing experiences and identifying practices that can possibly be replicated.
- c. *Workshop on Geographical Indications and Common Food Names* at SOM1 which discussed the importance of protecting geographical indications (GIs) while ensuring that terms that do not qualify as GIs, such as common names, are not protected. The workshop provided an opportunity for APEC economies to share information about their procedures (i.e., examination, opposition, and cancellation) ensuring GI protection is not granted for common name terms and relevant factors used to determine genericness. The workshop fostered dialogue on inclusive trade by inviting producers, such as SMEs producers, to share how they rely on common names and provide an overview of the problems they encounter when common names are not preserved.

- d. A *Roundtable on Copyright and Creativity in the Digital Economy* was held at SOM1 which highlighted the importance of copyright protection and enforcement for individuals and SMEs in the creative industries, especially in a global and digitized marketplace, and that such a roundtable discussion is both timely and will address a pressing concern for content creators, owners, rights holders, and other creative community stakeholders.
- e. A workshop *Leveraging Industrial Design Protections for Small-and-Medium Sized Enterprises* was held at SOM1, which highlighted industrial design protection as a critical component of any IP portfolio for competitive businesses in the modern innovation economy, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses in the APEC region.

In both IPEG plenary sessions, there was much information sharing amongst IPEG members. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) also joined in these discussions.

## Section IV: Inclusion and Sustainability

Under the theme “Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All,” the United States had among its three priorities – to build a more interconnected, innovative, and *inclusive* APEC region. As such, there are a growing number of initiatives, led by both the host economy and members on “inclusion” related topics. This work had also been developed under the previous host year’s outcome, with the *Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy*.

At the Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting in Detroit in May, ministers engaged on ways to integrate sustainability and inclusion in the development and implementation of trade policies. Importantly, the MRT chair’s statement tasked officials to build on the discussion in MRT and the work done thus far in APEC to “identify practical ways to integrate inclusion and sustainability into trade policy by the end of this host year.” In response to this mandate, APEC is working on the *San Francisco Principles on Integrating Inclusivity and Sustainability into Trade and Investment Policy*.

### *Trade and Sustainability*

The United States led on a project, “*Promoting Compostable Bio-Plastics in the Asia Pacific region*” which furthered work on promoting sustainable waste management solutions including circular economy approaches to reduce plastic pollution. Endorsed in 2022, the project seeks to strengthen the policy environment in APEC to guide the use of compostable bioplastics as well as provide more clarity for labelling and composability standards, with the aim of reducing plastic pollution in the region. A study was undertaken to provide a comprehensive assessment of the policy frameworks that govern the use and trade of compostable bioplastics. This study involved a survey distributed in September 2022 that gathered economy-level information on the issues related to compostable bioplastics. At SOM1/2023, the United States hosted a workshop to share and build upon the findings of the study and to showcase regional best practices in promoting compostable bioplastics as a potential solution to reducing plastic pollution. The Summary Report was endorsed in May 2023.<sup>26</sup>

The United States tabled a project “*Circular Economy Approaches to Promote E-waste Recovery in the Asia Pacific Region*” for consideration.

Viet Nam hosted a two-day workshop on *Promoting Green Garment and Textile Sector towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth* in September 2023. The main objective of the project is to share information, good practices and develop recommendations on ways to promote green garment and textile sector towards inclusive and sustainable growth. Possible areas might include a discussion on how to reduce GHG emission, implementation of circular economy and area of cooperation by garment and textile sector.

In the pipeline for 2024 is a Canada-led *Workshop on the Prospects of Low-Carbon Trade in the APEC Region* which aims to share knowledge and analysis on the prospects of low carbon trade in the APEC region, while considering the different circumstances in each economy. The project will be implemented and completed by May 2024.

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<sup>26</sup> 2023/SOM1/CTI/WKSP1/SUM

### *Environmental Goods*

At the 2021 AMM, Ministers instructed officials “*to develop recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list with a view to providing guidance for further work, and to update the APEC List of Environmental Goods to HS2022 for reference purposes. We encourage further discussions on the impact of non-tariff measures on trade in environmental goods and services, and on other regulatory measures that underpin the development of more sustainable supply chains*”. In this regard, the CTI tasked MAG to follow up on the issues:

- a. *Environmental Goods Work Plan.* A workplan was developed and endorsed by the MAG to provide a framework for APEC’s environmental goods agenda and to respond to ministerial tasking on this front. This encompasses work on key issues such as HS transposition, recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list of environmental goods, and facilitation of further work on non-tariff measures and regulatory issues for environmental goods – which have been tasked by Ministers. The MAG has extended the Work Plan for an additional year – to August 2024.
- b. *Technical updates to the 2012 APEC List of Environmental Goods.* The MAG made significant progress with most of the product lines resolved. There are only two outstanding products that require further discussion. MAG will continue to work towards completion of the transposition work as soon as possible.
- c. *Developing Recommendations for Potentially Producing a Voluntary, Non-Binding Reference List of Environmental Goods.* Following the May 2023 MRT instruction “...to begin work to develop a Framework of Discussions for Producing an APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods in support of developing a new, voluntary, non-binding APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods in accordance with the agreed recommendation...”, Australia volunteered to prepare a first draft of the framework to guide further discussions.

### *Technologies and Regulatory issues*

Following on work in 2021, including the 2021 Policy Discussion and Report on *Trade-Related Policies to Promote Trade in Environmental Products and Technologies Including Regulatory Issues, Contributing to Global Carbon Neutrality*, the PSU released the “*Study on Non-Tariff Measures Affecting Trade in Goods Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions*” in May 2023.<sup>27</sup> The report found that APEC member economies have taken steps to facilitate trade in these GHG-reducing goods, but more work needs to be done. Among NTMs, export and import formalities and quantity restrictions were found to be the most widely recognized barriers to trade in these goods. Firms also note that the costs imposed by NTMs, while burdensome, are less influential to their trade volumes than domestic policies. Across all these, firm-level experience has varied, indicating the importance of considering firms' perspectives when designing effective multilateral trade policy. This report also provided policy recommendations to help facilitate further the trade in GHG-reducing goods.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/05/study-on-non-tariff-measures-affecting-trade-in-goods-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

In 2023, the US led two workshops on *Standardization in Emerging Technologies related to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Measurement* to explore economies' standards-related activities, approaches and best practices surrounding greenhouse gas measurement reporting and verification, as well as tools and emerging technologies used in quantifying and mapping data. The Workshops highlighted the need to ensure that measurement information are comparable, verifiable and shared inclusively across economies to maximize impact.

### *Environmental Services*

At the 2021 AMM, the *Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services* was adopted and annexed to the AMM Statement. The AMM Statement itself instructed officials to take forward discussions on how to increase trade in environmental and environmentally related services, including by supporting liberalisation, facilitation, and cooperation. In this regard, the CTI tasked the GOS to take forward that mandate. With respect to the task, building on work done in 2022 and 2023, the GOS:

- a. Launched the publication, "*Model Schedule of Commitments for Environmental and Environmentally Related Services*" in December 2022.<sup>28</sup> The publication comprises a model positive list schedule of commitments, drawing on the APEC Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services. This publication is a standalone resource that can be used by economies when they negotiate services commitments on environmental and environmentally related services in FTAs/RTAs, tailoring it to their own individual circumstances.
- b. Released the publication *Policy Brief on Trade in Marine Debris Collection Services* which explores the market for marine-debris collection and clean up, the role and functions of the various services involved and the nature of barriers to their delivery. It discusses how APEC can best carry forward future work on services in cleaning up marine debris to promote investment, trade and market creation in these industries across the APEC region, including recommending solutions that extend across borders and cover multiple activities.<sup>29</sup>
- c. Delivered the *APEC Non-Binding Guidelines on Services that Support the Clean-up of Marine Debris* which is annexed to the 2023 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement of the Chair.<sup>30</sup>
- d. Reviewed and expanded the 2021 *Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services*<sup>31</sup> to include two additional sectors, namely (i) Wholesale trade services on a fee or contract basis – related to materials for recycling; and (ii) Support services to forestry and logging – related to fire management services that support forest ecosystem functioning.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.apec.org/publications/2022/12/model-schedule-of-commitments-for-environmental-and-environmentally-related-services>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.apec.org/publications/2022/11/policy-brief-on-trade-in-marine-debris-collection-services>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/sectoral-ministerial-meetings/trade/2023-apec-ministers-responsible-for-trade-statement-of-the-chair/annex-2>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/annual-ministerial-meetings/2021/2021-apec-ministerial-meeting/annex-2---reference-list-of-environmental-and-environmentally-related-services>



CPC 2.1	CPC 2.1 Description	CPC Prov	CPC Prov Description	Indicative beneficial relation to environmental conditions
61295 ex	Wholesale trade services on a fee or contract basis – related to materials for recycling	62778 ex	Wholesale trade services on a fee or contract basis – related to materials for recycling	Recycling
86142 ex	Support services to forestry and logging – related to fire management services that support forest ecosystem functioning	88140 ex	Services incidental to forestry and logging – related to fire management services that support forest ecosystem functioning	Support forest ecosystem functioning

### *Addressing Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies*

In the 2021 AMM statement, AMM “welcome(d) the options, as reported by officials, that member economies could take to pursue a voluntary standstill on inefficient fossil fuels subsidies” and “call(ed) for member economies to take forward discussions in 2022 to facilitate future implementation” as well as “encourage(d) officials to identify additional capacity building activities in support of this work”. In this regard, New Zealand, as the lead economy, has been updating CTI members of this work, including encouraging members to participate in the voluntary self-reporting exercise.

### *Fisheries Subsidies*

See Section I, Para 7.

### *Green Supply Chains*

The ToR of the APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain (GSCNET), led by China, was endorsed at CTI3.<sup>32</sup> The objectives of the GSCNET are to (a) raise awareness and understanding on trade and investment-related policies that support the development of green supply chains; (b) share information, experience and practices on Green Supply Chain, as they relate to the cross-border movement of goods and services, and promote public-private cooperation on these issues; (c) encourage enterprises in the region to utilize Green Supply Chain management tools, with an aim to facilitate the cross-border movement of goods and services; and (d) establish and maintain a communication and cooperation platform for knowledge sharing on Green Supply Chain management practice among APEC economies, improve the environmental performance of regional supply chains and contribute to the implementation of SCFAP III. The ToR of the GSCNET run from 2023 to 2026.

*Exploring interoperability in APEC approaches on Green Finance and Sustainable Investing.* Russia is leading work on this initiative which was endorsed in March 2023. The initiative aims

<sup>32</sup> 2023/SOM3/CTI/024

to promote a better understanding of the existing and emerging alignment approaches in the APEC region. A questionnaire was developed and distributed to members. A summary report is being prepared based on the responses received from eight member economies.

China is leading a project on “*Literature review on methods of greenhouse gas footprint measurement to better understand green and sustainable supply chain among APEC economies*”. This project aims to explore the methods of greenhouse gas footprint measurement in order to address the Chokepoint 4 of the SCFAP III by doing literature review on greenhouse gas emission calculating methods worldwide. The review report will be shared and presented to APEC members as the outcome of the project.

### *Inclusive Trade*

To advance discussions around inclusion this year, the CTI chair convened a joint dialogue between the CTI and the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy which aimed to further discussions around the role of trade policy in supporting the inclusion of women in the economy. The dialogue brought together experts to examine the data around women’s participation in trade, better understand existing APEC resources and frameworks including the Women and the Economy Dashboard and the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth, and to share relevant examples of APEC work such as ongoing and planned APEC initiatives on customs, services, and standards.

In terms of CTI self-funded initiatives, there were five major projects on inclusive trade in 2023 and a number in the pipeline for 2024.

The United States led work on two Work Programmes on the issue in support of the FTAAP agenda.

- a. Under the project *APEC Efforts to Address Inclusion in Trade Agreements*, the United States held workshops at SOM1 and SOM3 and is conducting a stock-take study. The SOM1 workshop discussed the importance of trade and inclusion as well as various aspects of inclusion that economies could elevate in trade agreements and trade policy, looked at how economies are prioritizing inclusion in trade agreements and trade policy, demonstrating strategies APEC economies can learn from to advance inclusion in their home economies and discussing the types of resources or capacity building that would be helpful at both the regional and economy-level to promote inclusion in trade. In a subsequent workshop at SOM3, participants learned best practices that help address and reduce trade barriers faced by MSMEs; women; Indigenous Peoples; and others with untapped economic potential, while simultaneously learning how to apply these practices to enhance their trade agreements. The stock-take study is currently underway, with preliminary findings reported during the SOM3 workshop. The study will map the various efforts of APEC economies to incorporate inclusion aspects in trade agreements, including evaluating the extent of gender (and/or inclusion) impact assessments as well as identifying indicators and processes to measure progress in achieving more inclusive trade agreements both in the context of specific groups as well as various intersections of these groups.
- b. The second is on *Multi-stakeholder Engagement Approaches for Trade Agreement Development*. In August 2022, the United States circulated a survey to CTI members

to stock-take current APEC economy approaches and procedures to undertake multistakeholder engagement in developing trade agreements. 139 respondents from 11 economies responded to a survey, CTI members and other trade stakeholders shared individual experiences and lessons learned from administering and participating in these approaches. The United States hosted a half day workshop at SOM1/2023 where participants considered how multistakeholder engagement can help economies pursue trade objectives, how to identify and reach trade stakeholders, and how to mitigate potential obstacles or concerns. The United States is developing an outcomes report to highlight the landscape of multistakeholder engagement approaches and procedures, along with their resulting outcomes and lessons learned, building from the information shared through the survey and workshop, as well as follow up engagement with APEC economies and next steps.

Australia led on two projects:

- a. Under its *APEC Business Activator Pilot for Women-Led SMEs to Access Global Markets* and to contribute to the La Serena Roadmap on Women, this project aims to build on Australia's previous initiatives addressing how trade promotion organisations can assist women led business grow globally, including a series of online training programs and interview series to support women entrepreneurs access global markets delivered in 2020-2022. This project involves design and delivery of a pilot business activator program to support up to 21 women led SMEs across APEC. The program will provide online capacity building content of how to 'activate' a globally-oriented business and tailored content to address the identified needs of participants.
- b. Under its *Increasing Access to the Benefits of Trade for Indigenous Businesses and Entrepreneurs*, and in partnership with the World Economic Forum, this project aimed to further help Indigenous businesses overcome barriers to trade. A half-day hybrid workshop was held on the margins of SOM3/2023 to explore examples of public policies, Indigenous-led programmes, and business practices that increase access to trade benefits for Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs. A Summary Report will be circulated.

China is leading work on "*Research on Key Areas and Implementation Paths for Deepening APEC Inclusive Trade and Investment Cooperation*". This is a follow-up from the 2021 *Advancing Economic Inclusion through Trade and Investment in Asia Pacific Region* project that included a seminar. This project aims to address the large capacity gap of developing and implementing policies in the inclusive trade and investment field in the Asia-Pacific by developing a policy reference list of key areas and implementation paths, aimed at building the capacity of members to make and implement policies related to inclusive trade and investment. The research report on *Key Areas and Implementation Path for Deepening APEC Inclusive Trade and Investment Cooperation* was circulated in April 2023 and in the process of finalization following comments from members. A workshop will be held in 2023.

Korea led on "*Supply Chain Forum for MSMEs in Asia-Pacific: Improving MSMEs' Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Cooperation in APEC*". The project aims to contribute to enhancing supply chain resilience for MSMEs in the APEC region by focusing on addressing the challenges posed by supply chain disruptions. The project intends to suggest policy recommendations, tailored to the needs of MSMEs in the APEC region. By fostering private-

public collaboration, the project will help member economies establish and strengthen networks and partnerships among MSMEs, industry associations, and government bodies. A workshop was held in October 2023.

In the pipeline for 2024, are a number of projects by Peru, the host economy for 2024:

- a. *Promoting women's economic empowerment through trade policy and trade agreements: Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned in the APEC Region.* This project aims to build a better understanding of the various gender-related trade initiatives that APEC economies have implemented in order to identify ways in which APEC can contribute to the enhancement of women's economic empowerment in the region and globally. There will be a survey, followed by a two-day workshop and a Summary Report.
- b. *Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on substantiating environmental claims in advertising to increase consumer confidence and improve competition.* The PPD aims to address the challenges faced by APEC economies on green advertising as a competition tool and proposes advertising standards for the benefit of the environment, consumers and industry. The Project includes a PPD and a Best Practices Guidelines on Substantiating Environmental Claims. The PPD will be held on the margins of SOM3/2024.

## Section V: Engagement with the Business Sector, Industry Dialogues as well as other economic stakeholders

### *Engagement with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)*

The CTI and its sub-fora collaborated with the business community to ensure that private sector perspectives contribute to APEC's trade and investment outcomes. To this end, throughout 2023, ABAC representatives' participation was actively sought and welcomed in CTI and sub-fora meetings and events. The CTI Chair also participated in the ABAC1 meeting this year.

We noted ABAC's 2023 letter the MRT,<sup>33</sup> as well as ABAC's Recommendations on (a) Regional Cooperation for Cross-Border Paperless Trade,<sup>34</sup> and (b) Facilitating Trade in Environmental Goods and Services.<sup>35</sup>

We took note and aim to make further progress on the 2022 recommendations contained in the ABAC Report to APEC Economic Leaders.<sup>36</sup> We look forward to working with ABAC on how to progress their recommendations to their 2023 Reports to Leaders.

### *Engagement with the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council*

In 2023, we had good engagement with the PECC. Other than providing invaluable insights at our plenary meetings, PECC also updated members on its signature project: *FTAAP Pathways to Prosperity*. This project aims to give greater substance to the FTAAP and provides an opportunity to engage APEC economies, businesses and academics to develop a longer-term vision for trade and economic collaboration in the region. For the PECC, the goal is to support greater cooperation on trade and other economic issues, to build deeper understanding of the key drivers of future economic growth and welfare, and to help APEC chart a stronger, collective path to capture more fully the benefits of regional economic integration. PECC also invited CTI members to the PECC FTAAP event on 14 August 2023 in Seattle. In addition, the PECC updated members on its "2023-2024 - State of the Region" (SOTR) report which provided highlights from the PECC survey. Of interests was that the top 5 risks among the 700 respondents were: rising cost of living; geo-economic fragmentation; climate change; slowdown in world trade growth; and increased protectionism and trade wars.

### *Automotive Dialogue (AD)*

The AD is a forum where APEC officials and senior auto industry representatives work together to map out strategies for increasing the integration and development of the automotive sector within the region. It is a public-private forum in which regulators and producers collaborate to reduce regulatory barriers and to promote trade in vehicles, parts, technologies and related products throughout the APEC region.

### *Key Outcomes and Achievements in 2023*

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<sup>33</sup> 2023/MRT/004

<sup>34</sup> 2023/SOM3/CTI/007

<sup>35</sup> 2023/SOM3/CTI/008

<sup>36</sup> <https://www2.abaconline.org/content/download/22629871>

At AD1 in May 2023, there was a keynote presentation on the *Transition Challenge: Industry Impact of Journey from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) to BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle)* as well as a discussions Auto Industry Impacts of EV Transition; EV Battery Recycling and Re-Use; Circular Economy and Trade; Future Mobility Developments & Priorities in the APEC region as well as Micro-Transit Applications and Integration in Urban Transit and Infrastructure. At the most recent plenary held in October 2023, the AD discussed (a) emerging Zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV) Technologies, Unique Safety Challenges, and Developing Regulatory Frameworks and (b) Use of artificial intelligence in connected and autonomous vehicles. Members also provided updates on (a) Advanced Vehicle Technologies; Standards and Conformity Assessment for Electric Road Passenger Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE); as well as strategies to promote sustainable and safe mobility in APEC economies.

### *Supporting the Putrajaya Vision*

The Auto Dialogue's implements the Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action by:

On the Trade and Investment driver:

- a. Progressing liberalization of trade in goods by reducing unnecessary barriers, strengthening trade facilitation, and fostering regulatory reform;
- b. Increasing trade predictability and openness by improving economies' transparency through trade measures and policies;
- c. Addressing key infrastructure gaps and enhancing connectivity by creating transparent regulatory environments, promoting dialogue, and sharing best practices;
- d. Identifying and integrating new and emerging sustainable transportation and mobility technologies and services;

On the Innovation and Digitalization driver:

- a. Supporting the identification and integration of new and emerging sustainable transportation and mobility technologies and services;
- b. Adopting new and emerging technologies to stimulate growth, connectivity and digital transformation including discussions on the use of artificial intelligence in connected and autonomous vehicles.

On the Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth driver:

- a. Developing, encouraging and exchanging best practice policies, and by promoting capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through
- b. sustainable infrastructure and transport;
- c. promoting sustainable growth across sectors and the development of cost effective low and zero emissions technologies;
- d. seeking to deliver on existing Leaders' commitment to deliver a plan to reduce aggregate energy intensity by 45%, from 2005 levels, by 2035; and
- e. discussions on EV Battery Recycling and Re-Use; Circular Economy and Trade

See *Appendix 2 - Automotive Dialogue Report, including Policy Recommendations*

### *Chemical Dialogue (CD)*

The Chemical Dialogue (CD) serves as a forum for regulatory and trade officials and industry representatives to find solutions to challenges facing the chemical industry in the Asia-Pacific region. It reflects APEC members' recognition of the importance of both engaging with the private sector and building public-private dialogue and sustained cooperation for the benefit of both sectors. The CD focuses on chemical-sector trade liberalization and facilitation by improving trade and regulatory policies and practices. It seeks workable programs which ensure that regulatory, safety and environmental goals can be implemented by both governments and businesses.

### *Major Outcomes for 2023*

In 2023, the CD

- a. published the CD Risk Assessment Compendium as an APEC resource and tool for best practices;
- b. conducted a survey and endorsed a set of recommendations to help promote GHS implementation;
- c. organized a dialogue focused on advanced chemical recycling and its contribution to a more circular economy;
- d. collaborated with the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) through the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris to coordinate activities across APEC related to marine debris and circular economy issues;
- e. Industry associations drafted and shared a letter with the CTI during SOM2 focused on supporting supply chain resiliency and provided several recommendations;
- f. had two concept notes approved (in-principle) for funding: (a) training regulators on risk assessment of chemicals, and (b) partnering with the OECD to share the benefits of the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) System.

### *Supporting the Putrajaya Vision*

In order to promoting environmental sustainability and sustainable growth, the CD collaborated with the OFWG through the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris to coordinate activities across APEC related to marine debris and circular economy issues.

On the *Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*, the CD will continue work to promote more consistent international implementation of the GHS. The GHS is an UN-developed system that was designed to promote a globally harmonized approach for all chemical labelling. The CD has revised the GHS comparison report and convergence recommendations to consider recent developments and will develop additional capacity building efforts to help APEC economies address GHS divergences. An Executive Summary for the Report on Implementation Convergence of the GHS in APEC Economies is also appended to the CD Report.

See *Appendix 4 - Chemical Dialogue Report & 3.1 Executive Summary for the Report on Implementation Convergence of the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*.

### *Engagement with Non-members*

Under the APA's mandate to "promote engagement with a broader range of economic stakeholders", the CTI in 2023, expanded its engagement with non-members to enrich discussions. These included the Asian Development Bank; Fair Tech Policy, Asia / Access Partnership; the St Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade; and the World Economic Forum (WEF) who participated in our plenary meetings.

Many others participated in CTI and CTI-sub-fora events. Some of these include the Codex Alimentarius Commission; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; World Bank Group, World Health Organisation, World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organisation.



## Section VI: CTI Governance

### *CTI-related*

The CTI renewed the Terms of Reference for the *APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain (GSCNET)* for a period of four years (2023 - 2026).<sup>37</sup>

*Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC), APEC Harmonization Center (AHC) and the APEC Health Sciences Academy (HeSay)*. With the sunset of the Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) in 2022, the relationship between three entities under the LSIF and APEC has been discussed at the SOM-level, at the Health Working Group (HWG) and the CTI. While the issue of the oversight body continues to be unresolved, this year, the host economy attempted to find a resolution on the oversight body for them. The host economy reported to the High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLMHE) on 6 August 2023, requesting Health Ministers' attention and guidance to help resolve the situation, and all Health Ministers and delegates agreed that the work of the RHSC, AHC, and HeSay should continue in APEC. With this confirmation that these bodies have the mandate to continue their work, the Chair of HLMHE asked Health Ministers to coordinate with their APEC Senior Officials and relevant agencies in their economy to finalize the oversight forum for these activities. At the CTI3 plenary, the host economy proposed for an agreement in principle that all three bodies report to the CTI. One economy sought clarification on the working mechanisms and procedure before CTI discusses these issues.

1. Work is underway to renew the ToR for the APMEN for another four years; &
2. Work is underway to renew the ToR for the A2C2 for another four years

### *Sub-foras*

In March 2023, CTI endorsed the updated Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) which now incorporates the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), including FSCF's Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) as Appendix 4 of SCSC's TOR.<sup>38</sup> As a subsidiary body of the SCSC, the FSCF will report to the SCSC. Its term will follow that of the SCSC (i.e., until 31 December 2025).

### *Others*

For the first time, the WTO has been given three-year guest status at CTI and its sub-fora for the period 2023 to 2025.

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<sup>37</sup> 2023/SOM3/CTI/024

<sup>38</sup> 2023/SOM2/CTI/IS02

### *Pathfinder Initiatives*

Economy leads for CTI Pathfinder initiatives provided an update to members on recent activities under their Pathfinder (see *Appendix 12 – 2023 CTI Pathfinder Initiatives*). Seven Pathfinders continue to be implemented in the CTI and its sub-fora:

#### Under CTI

- a. Pathfinder on the APEC Technology Choice Principles;
- b. Pathfinder to Enhance Supply Chain Connectivity by Establishing a Baseline De Minimis Value;
- c. Pathfinder on Permanent Customs Duty Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Including Content Transmitted Electronically;
- d. Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade; &
- e. Pathfinder on “Inclusive Trade Initiative”

#### Pathfinders under CTI sub-fora

- f. Pathfinder on Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Conformity Assessment on Electrical and Electronic Equipment Mutual Recognition Arrangement (EE MRA) (SCSC/SCSC-JRAC); &
- g. Pathfinder on facilitating trade in remanufactured goods (MAG-CTI)

## Section VII: Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

### *Highlighting Individual Actions*

Since CTI3/2022, a number of economies voluntarily showcased a number of their individual actions based on the options under the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA). These economies included:

CTI3/2022	CTI1/2023	CTI2/2024	CTI3/2024
Canada Peru	Australia Hong Kong, China	Singapore Viet Nam	Brunei Darussalam Chile Japan Korea New Zealand Papua New Guinea The Philippines

### *Evaluating Progress under the APA*

With assistance from the PSU, APEC economies have also evaluated our progress towards achieving the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040. The report “*Evaluating Progress on the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA): Trade and Investment Perspective*” is appended as **Appendix 13**.

Table 1

**Projects by CTI and sub-fora endorsed in 2023**

APEC-funded projects endorsed in 2023

*Project Session 1, 2023*

	<b>Group</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Project Code</b>	<b>Proposing Economy/ies</b>		<b>Value (US\$)</b>
1.	CTI	Measuring the Economic Impact of Trade Facilitation Policies on Trade	CTI 01 2023	Chile		110,000
2.		APEC Workshop on Promoting Green Logistics for Inclusion and Sustainable Growth	CTI 02 2023	Viet Nam		125,000
3.		Sharing Best Trade Policy Practices to Enhance Synergies between Trade and Innovation	CTI 03 2023T	Japan		9,200
4.	DESG	Information Sharing on Legal and Regulatory Interoperability for Privacy Protections in APEC	DESG 01 2023A	USA		92,000
5.	IEG	International Investment Agreements and Climate Change: What is the Role that International Investment Agreements Play in the Transition to a Green Economy?	IEG 01 2023	Chile		120,000
6.	SCSC	Workshop on Sharing Best Practices on Strengthening Internal Coordination to Facilitate the Effective Implementation of the TBT Agreement among APEC Economies	SCSC 01 2023T	Indonesia		72,000
7.		Development of Guidance on Strengthening Good	SCSC 02 2023T	Indonesia		80,000

		Governance on the Implementation of Standardisation and Conformity Assessment for APEC Economies				
8.		Understanding the Trade Issues related to Halal Certification	SCSC 03 2023A	USA		100,000
9.		Reducing Lead in Drinking Water through Standardisation	SCSC 04 2023A	USA		100,000

*Project Session 2, 2023*

	<b>Group</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Project Code</b>	<b>Proposing Economy/ies</b>	<b>Value (US\$)</b>
10.	CTI	FTAAP Work Program: Digital Identity System for Entities	CTI 201 2023	China	140,000
11.		MSME-Specific Provisions in FTAs	CTI 202 2023	Malaysia	105,000
12.		Best Practices to Prevent Misleading Pricing and Discounts and Similar Practices at Online Shopping Platforms and Other Types of Online Sales of Goods and Services	CTI 203 2023	Peru	84,000
13.		Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Policies and Good Practices related to Influencers Advertising in order to prevent Harm to Consumers and Improve Competition	CTI 204 2023	Peru	105,000
14.		Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment through Trade Policy and Trade Agreements: Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned in the APEC Region	CTI 205 2023	Peru	140,140
15.		Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Substantiating Environmental Claims in Advertising to Increase Consumer Confidence and Improve Competition	CTI 206 2023	Peru	84,000
16.		Improving Supply Chain Transparency with Digital	CTI 207 2023	Peru	150,000

		Exchange of Traceability and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Credentials to Facilitate APEC Trade Flows			
17.		APEC Seminar on Cross-Border Telework	CTI 208 2023	Japan	35,000
18.	CD	Implementing OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) System	CD 201 2023	USA	48,295
19.		Increasing Access to Risk Assessment Tools in the Asia-Pacific	CD 202 2023	USA	48,295
20.	DESG	Research on Potential Applications of Artificial Intelligence to Improve Product Recall Procedures in the Region	DESG 201 2023	Peru	120,000
21.		Capacity Building Workshop on Digitalisation of Documentary Heritage in the APEC Region	DESG 202 2023	Korea	98,000
22.		Workshop on Strengthening Capacities to Use Spectral Signatures of Remote Sensing applied in Environmental Control Processes for the Identification of Environmental Impacts in the Mining Sector	DESG 203 2023	Peru	140,000
23.		Sharing Best Policy Practices to Develop and Promote MSMEs Access to Digital Cultural and Creative Industries	DESG 204 2023	Peru	100,000
24.	IEG	Best Practices aimed at Attracting Quality FDI and Measuring it to Promote Sustainable Development through the Execution of Physical Infrastructure	IEG 201 2023	Peru	115,000
25.	IPEG	Guidebook on Digital Enforcement to Improve Fight Trademark Counterfeiting	IPEG 203 2023	Peru	120,000
26.	SCCP	Improving the Digitalisation of International Trade: The Relevance of the Use of an Electronic Bill of Lading	SCCP 202 2023	Peru	110,000

27.		Best Practices to Promote Transparency in the Logistic Supply Chain: Information Platforms of Logistic Services for Foreign Trade	SCCP 203 2023	Peru	130,000
28.		Workshop on Technological Solutions for Green Customs in the Asia-Pacific Region	SCCP 204 2023	Peru	72,000
29.	SCSC	15 <sup>th</sup> SCSC Conference on Standards and Conformance: Leveraging Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS)	SCSC 202 2023	Peru	150,000
30.		Best Practices of Quality Infrastructure (QI) in APEC Economies	SCSC 203 2023	Malaysia	120,000
31.		Technical Barriers to Trade: Recent Trends in Regional FTAs	SCSC 204 2023	USA	115,000
32.		Women in Standards: Reducing Inequality	SCSC 205 2023	USA	110,000
33.		The APEC Workshop on Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Standardisation, Certification, Law, and System-building	SCSC 206 2023	Korea	100,000

Table 2

**Self-funded projects endorsed in 2023**

	<b>APEC Forum</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Proposing Economy(ies)</b>
1.	CTI	Fostering Greater SME Participation in Global Value Chains - Phase 2: Utilisation of Digital Technologies and Digitalisation	CTI 01 2023S	Australia
2.	CTI	Impacts of the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions on the Business Sector	CTI 02 2023S	New Zealand
3.	CTI	Workshop on the Prospects of Low-Carbon Trade in the APEC Region	CTI 03 2023S	Canada
4.	CTI	Trade Policy Dialogues on Digital Trade/E-Commerce	CTI 04 2023S	USA
5.	CTI	APEC Business Activator Pilot for Women-Led SMEs to Access Global Markets	CTI 05 2023S	Australia
6.	CTI	Increasing Access to the Benefits of Trade for Indigenous Businesses and Entrepreneurs	CTI 06 2023S	Australia
7.	CTI	Literature Review on Methods of Greenhouse Gas Footprint Measurement to Better Understand Green and Sustainable Supply Chain among APEC Economies	CTI 07 2023S	China
8.	CTI	Literature Review on Cooperation of Data Flows and Cross-Border Payments to Support Digitalized Supply Chains among APEC Economies	CTI 08 2023S	China
9.	CTI	Workshop on Implementing the APEC Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade	CTI 09 2023S	USA
10.	CTI	Supply Chain Forum for MSMEs in Asia-Pacific: Improving MSMEs' Supply Chain Resilience and enhancing cooperation in APEC	CTI 10 2023S	Korea
11.	DESG	Fostering Rural Development Empowered by Digital Technologies for Inclusive Growth	DESG 01 2023A	China
12.	GOS	Services Domestic Regulation, Envisioning Next Generation Technical Standards Principles	GOS 01 2023S	USA
13.	GOS	Practical Application of the APEC Index on the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade in Research and Policy	GOS 02 2023S	USA



14.	GOS	APEC Professional Services and Mutual Recognition Agreement Project (Multi-Year)	GOS 01 2022S	Australia
15.	IEG	Experience Sharing Workshop: Implementing Inclusive and Responsible Business and Investment (IRBI) and Climate FDI in APEC	IEG 01 2023S	Malaysia
16.	IPEG	Leveraging Industrial Design Protections for Small-and-Medium Sized Enterprises	IPEG 02 2020S	USA
17.	IPEG	Roundtable on Copyright and Creativity in the Digital Economy	IPEG 01 2023S	USA
18.	IPEG	Workshop on Geographical Indications and Preservation of Common Names	IPEG 02 2023S	USA
19.	IPEG	Green Technology One Day Program	IPEG 03 2023S	USA
20.	IPEG	Information Sharing on APEC Economies' Initiatives to Advance Women's Participation in the Global Intellectual Property (IP) System	IPEG 04 2023S	The Philippines
21.	MAG	Trade of Remanufactured Consumer Electronic Products in APEC	MAG 01 2023S	USA
22.	SCSC	16 <sup>th</sup> Conference on Good Regulatory Practices (GRP)	SCSC 07 2022A	USA
23.	SCSC	Implementing Circular Economy Standards in the APEC Region	SCSC 01 2023S	Australia
24.	SCSC	Supporting AI at Scale in the APEC Region through International Standards	SCSC 02 2023S	Australia
25.	SCSC	Cybersecurity Approaches for Critical Infrastructure Sectors and Spotlight on Supply Chain Management	SCSC 03 2023S	USA
26.	SCSC	Assisting Policy Makers with Mitigation and Prevention of Plastics Pollution - Standards as a Resource for the Policy Framework	SCSC 04 2023S	USA
27.	SCSC	Regulatory Control of Extra-Low Voltage Electrical Equipment and Appliances	SCSC 05 2023S	New Zealand
28.	SCSC	Facilitating the Implementation of the APEC Food Safety Risk Communication Framework and its Associated Guidelines (the Framework) by APEC Economies	SCSC 06 2023S	Australia
29.	SCSC	2023 Communication Platform for Analytical Techniques - Food from Biotechnology Derived Crops Workshop	SCSC 07 2023S	Chinese Taipei
30.	SCSC	Standardization in Emerging Technologies related to Greenhouse	SCSC 08 2023S	USA

		Gas (GHG) Emissions Measurement, Exploring Practical Applications		
31.	SCSC	The APEC Workshop on Best Practices Sharing on the Role of Standardisation in Promoting Sustainable Development of Safe Digital Products and Services for Children	SCSC 09 2023S	China
32.	SCSC	Standards and Conformity Assessment for Electric Road Passenger Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) - Sharing Experience and Best Practices	SCSC 10 2023S	Chinese Taipei

Table 3

**Initiatives launched by CTI members in 2023**

	Initiative	Lead economy
1.	Principles for the interoperability of electronic invoicing systems in the APEC region (endorsed as an Annex to the MRT Statement) <sup>39</sup>	Australia
2.	Non-Binding Guidelines on Services that Support the Clean-up of Marine Debris (endorsed as an Annex to the MRT Statement) <sup>40</sup>	GOS
3.	A new look at the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) which consists of (a) a Review and Study and (b) Dialogues to be held on the margins of CTI meetings in 2024	Peru
4.	Action Plan Framework for the 4th Regional Economic Integration Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI)	Korea
5.	APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain (GSCNET)	China
6.	A study on “Promoting the Utilization of Paperless Trade Platforms in the Post COVID 19 Era”	Japan
7.	“Promoting development of an inclusive digital economy in the APEC region”	China
8.	Exploring convergences in APEC approaches on Green Finance and Sustainable Investing	Russia

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/sectoral-ministerial-meetings/trade/2023-apec-ministers-responsible-for-trade-statement-of-the-chair/annex-1>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/sectoral-ministerial-meetings/trade/2023-apec-ministers-responsible-for-trade-statement-of-the-chair/annex-2>

Table 4

**CTI-level events in 2023**

	<b>Title of Event</b>	<b>Date of event</b>	<b>Link</b>
1	Port Digitalization for Efficient Supply Chains - Third Workshop under the project “Utilizing Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation Under the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Best-Practices Sharing Workshops (Phase II)”	17 Jan	<a href="#">here</a>
2	Workshop on Measuring the Economic Impact of Digital Trade and e-Commerce Provisions	19 Jan	<a href="#">here</a>
3	Workshop on Promoting Sustainable Solutions for Compostable Bioplastics in the Asia-Pacific Region	20 Feb	<a href="#">here</a>
4	Digital Trade Policy Dialogue: Building Conducive Regulatory Environments to Maximize the Flow and Impact of Data	21 Feb	<a href="#">here</a>
5	Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific Work Program: Consultative Workshop on Trade and Inclusion	22 Feb	<a href="#">here</a>
6	Policy Dialogue with the Economic Committee on Accelerating the Transition to Sustainable Economies Through Trade and Green Structural Reform	24 Feb	<a href="#">here</a>
7	Workshop on Promoting 'One Village One Product' Through E-Commerce	6 & 7 Apr	<a href="#">here</a>
8	Workshop on Promoting Small Farmers' Integration into Global Value Chains	21 Jun	<a href="#">here</a>
9	Workshop on the Impacts of the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions on the Business Sector	13 Jul	<a href="#">here</a>
10	Introduction to a framework for digitalisation and adoption of technologies. Session 1 under project Fostering Greater SME Participation in Global Value Chains Phase 2: Digitalisation and Utilisation of Emerging Technologies:	26 Jul	<a href="#">here</a>
11	Fifteenth APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity Meeting	1 Aug	<a href="#">here</a>
12	Measuring the Economic Impact of Trade Facilitation Policies on Trade	8 & 9 Aug	<a href="#">here</a>
13	Collaboration and partnership for effective technology adoption and e-commerce. Session 2 under project Fostering Greater SME Participation in Global Value Chains Phase 2: Utilisation of Digital Technologies and Digitalisation:	9 Aug	<a href="#">here</a>

14	FTAAP Work Program: Workshop on Inclusion in Trade Agreements and Trade Policy	10 Aug	<a href="#">here</a>
15	Workshop on Increasing Access to the Benefits of Trade for Indigenous Businesses and Entrepreneurs.	11 Aug	<a href="#">here</a>
16	Trade Policy Dialogue on Digital Trade	12 Aug	<a href="#">here</a>
17	Joint Dialogue with PPWE on Advancing Gender Equity in Trade: Challenges and Opportunities 2023	15 Aug	<a href="#">here</a>
18	Better management of supply chain, customer relations and finances. Session 3 under project Fostering Greater SME Participation in Global Value Chains Phase 2: Utilisation of Digital Technologies and Digitalisation.	23 Aug	<a href="#">here</a>
19	Workshop on Promote Green Garment and Textile Sector towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth	21 & 22 Sep	<a href="#">here</a>
20	Supply Chain Forum for MSMEs in the Asia-Pacific: Improving MSMEs' Supply Chain Resilience and Enhancing Cooperation in APEC	13 Oct	<a href="#">here</a>
21	Fostering Greater SME Participation in Global Value Chains - Phase 2: Digitalisation and Utilisation of Emerging Technologies - Session 4: Best Practice Support for SMEs 2023	17 Oct	<a href="#">here</a>

Table 5

**List of CTI related publication from November 2022 to present**

1. **Blueprint for Advancing Good Regulatory Practices in the APEC Region**  
Published Date: November 2023
2. **APEC Workshop on Promoting Green Garment and Textile Sector towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth - Summary Report**  
Published Date: November 2023
3. **Mutual Recognition Agreements Toolkit**  
Published Date: October 2023
4. **Measuring Progress on the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAP III) 2022–2026: Indicators and Policy Practices**  
Published Date: September 2023
5. **Gender and Services Trade in the APEC Region: Policy Brief**  
Published Date: September 2023
6. **Women and Patents: Towards Gender Parity in APEC**  
Published Date: August 2023
7. **Monitoring Pandemic Recovery Under the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR)**  
Published Date: August 2023
8. **Building Laboratory Capabilities to Assure Water Quality in Asia-Pacific Economies**  
Published Date: July 2023
9. **Workshop Summary Report – APEC Workshop on Promoting Small Farmers’ Integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs)**  
Published Date: July 2023
10. **Patent Linkage System for Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health Harmonisation**  
Published Date: July 2023
11. **A Study on the Harmonization of the IP Financial System**  
Published Date: July 2023
12. **Report on the Environmental Goods Trade Policy Dialogue**  
Published Date: July 2023

13. **Translating Services Domestic Regulation Initiatives into Practice: Benefits and Experiences Implementing Services Domestic Regulation Disciplines - At A Glance**  
Published Date: June 2023
14. **Workshop Summary Report – APEC Workshop on Promoting “One Village One Product” (OVOP) through E-commerce**  
Published Date: June 2023
15. **Study on Non-Tariff Measures Affecting Trade in Goods Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**  
Published Date: May 2023
16. **Study on Strategy to Promote the Utilization of the APEC Trade Repository**  
Published Date: May 2023
17. **Policy Paths toward Low-emission Multimodal Transportation in APEC**  
Published Date: May 2023
18. **The APEC Workshop on Best Practices Sharing of Water-Conservation Standards and Evaluation on Their Benefits**  
Published Date: May 2023
19. **Research Outcomes: Summary of Research Projects 2022**  
Published Date: May 2023
20. **Translating Services Domestic Regulation Initiatives Into Practice: Benefits and Experiences Implementing Services Domestic Regulation Disciplines**  
Published Date: May 2023
21. **Recovering from COVID-19: Successful Practices among APEC Economies on the Use of IP as a Collective Tool to Foster and Promote Economic Development and Recovery of Vulnerable Populations and MSMEs**  
Published Date: May 2023
22. **Results of the Survey for the status of Aquaculture in APEC Economies**  
Published Date: May 2023
23. **Capacity Building in Biotherapeutics and Cell/Gene Therapies in Latin America**  
Published Date: April 2023
24. **Facilitating Access to Open Government Data: Frameworks and Practices**  
Published Date: April 2023
25. **Advancing Gender Equality in APEC Customs Administrations Final Report**

Published Date: April 2023T

26. **Guidebook on Biosecurity and Good Aquaculture Policies and Practices for small-scale farmers of tilapia (*Oreochromis* sp.) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)**  
Published Date: April 2023
27. **APEC Chemical Dialogue: Risk Assessment Policy Tools**  
Published Date: April 2023
28. **Utilizing Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation under the Current Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond (Phase II): Best-Practices Sharing Workshops**  
Published Date: April 2023
29. **APEC Workshop to Identify Future Work on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) Affecting Grain Trade**  
Published Date: April 2023
30. **Economic Impact of Adopting Digital Trade Rules: Evidence from APEC Member Economies**  
Published Date: April 2023
31. **Achieving Harmonization of a Biometric ID Management Framework across APEC Economies: Global Benchmarking Study**  
Published Date: March 2023
32. **APEC Regional Trends Analysis, February, May and August 2023**  
Published Date: February, May and August 2023
33. **CTI Public – Private Dialogue on Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information**  
Published Date: February 2023
34. **APEC Workshop on Promoting Business Opportunities in Remote Areas through Information and Communication Technology**  
Published Date: February 2023
35. **APEC Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges for GVCs during COVID-19 Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery**  
Published Date: January 2023
36. **Public-Private Dialogue on Digitally Enabled Services: Challenges and Opportunities**  
Published Date: January 2023



37. **APEC Policy Brief on EAASR and ASCR: Services Competitiveness and Structural Reform**  
Published Date: December 2022
38. **Transitioning to a Sustainable Economy while Ensuring Inclusion**  
Published Date: December 2022
39. **Trade Networks amid Disruption: Promoting Resilience through Digital Trade Facilitation**  
Published Date: December 2022
40. **APEC Advanced Vehicles Regulations and Standards**  
Published Date: December 2022
41. **Model Schedule of Commitments for Environmental and Environmentally Related Services**  
Published Date: December 2022
42. **APEC Capacity Building Workshop on Understanding Conformity Requirements for Software-controlled Weight and Measuring Instruments for Sustainable Trade**  
Published Date: November 2022
43. **Artificial Intelligence in Economic Policymaking**  
Published Date: November 2022s
44. **Policy Brief on Trade in Marine Debris Collection Services**  
Published Date: November 2022
45. **COVID-19 and Cross-Border Mobility in the APEC Region: Addressing Uncertainties at the Border**  
Published Date: November 2022



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