

**APEC Recommendation for Fostering a
Competitive Open Innovation Ecosystem**

August 12th, 2026

1. The Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) acknowledges that Asia-Pacific economies, as the core engines of global growth, are deeply interconnected. This calls for stronger science, technology, and innovation (STI) cooperation to foster a competitive, open, resilient and secure innovation ecosystem. By adopting the APEC Recommendation for Fostering a Competitive Open Innovation Ecosystem (the “Recommendation”), APEC economies will harness the potential of STI to accelerate scientific discovery, technological advancement, and resilient growth. APEC economies reaffirm that the Gyeongju Declaration and the APEC Collaborative Framework for Demographic Changes highlight the importance of strengthening cooperation in STI, supporting MSMEs and startups, and addressing demographic changes. These priorities are closely aligned with and constitute the core pillars of this Recommendation.

2. To realize this, we commit to advancing the following four key pillars:
 - a. Jointly foster an open, resilient, and secure innovation ecosystem, and an enabling policy environment within APEC.

- b. Empower STI stakeholders at all levels and strengthen the Asia-Pacific's overall innovation competitiveness.
- c. Promote the appropriate integration of innovative technologies to accelerate the application of STI breakthroughs for the benefit of the APEC region.
- d. Leverage STI to improve well-being, enhancing the shared economic prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

3. Accordingly, we recommend focusing on the following actions:

A. Jointly foster an open, resilient, and secure innovation ecosystem and an enabling policy environment within APEC.

- i. **Promote policy research and exchange.** Encourage research on open and secure innovation ecosystems, and utilize existing mechanisms to regularly share STI policies and best practices among economies to foster mutual learning.
- ii. **Facilitate policy alignment and identify priority areas.** Identify and address bottlenecks in STI policy alignment across economies, and define priority areas for cooperation.

B. Empower STI stakeholders at all levels and strengthen the Asia-Pacific's overall open innovation competitiveness.

i. Foster interconnectivity among innovation centers and ecosystems.

Encourage existing innovation centers and ecosystems to enhance their interaction; support member economies in developing unique innovation centers and ecosystems tailored to their specific strengths.

- ii. Elevate the openness of STI stakeholders.** Facilitate open innovation of STI stakeholders, such as research and funding institutions, academic societies, private sectors and startups, based on voluntary knowledge exchange on mutually agreed terms with respect for intellectual property rights and national security.

C. Promote the appropriate integration of technological and industrial innovation.

i. Promote the openness of fundamental research rooted in the principles of integrity, accountability, reciprocity, and transparency.

Encourage member economies to participate in open science initiatives and carry out open science and FAIR principle practices by promoting the voluntary sharing of knowledge, scientific data, and research infrastructure on mutually agreed terms while also respecting fundamental freedoms, intellectual property rights, and national security. Promote science integrity principles for research to encourage science that is reproducible, transparent, collaborative, unbiased and communicates uncertainty.

ii. **Accelerate the application of STI breakthroughs for the benefit of the APEC region.** Encourage trusted cross-border projects to accelerate technological innovation; support the development of diversified platforms for STI commercialization.

D. Leverage STI to improve well-being, enhancing the shared economic prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

i. **Boost growth and address demographic changes.** Encourage member economies to share best practices on leveraging STI solutions to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and empower the development of remote and rural areas; support the development of accessible, affordable, and trusted technologies to improve the quality of life for all, including the elderly and people with disabilities.

ii. **Empower cultural exchanges.** Encourage the use of technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data, and Virtual Reality (VR), to protect and disseminate cultural heritage, such as conducting experience sharing regarding S&T applications on cultural heritage protection, and expediting international joint archaeology excavation with leading technologies.

4. Implementation

To support the achievement of this Recommendation's objectives and priorities, APEC member economies may further policy exchange, capacity building, and academic research based on voluntary participation, with clearly defined standard operating procedures, subject to the approval by all members through the concept note process. This Recommendation respects the various implementation approaches of member economies. It reflects our shared vision to foster a world-leading open and secure innovation ecosystem throughout the Asia-Pacific region, aiming to realize innovative economic growth driven by science, technology, and innovation.