



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

A Multidisciplinary Approach to Inclusive Growth

The 2018 Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation

As APEC promotes free trade to foster economic growth, members engage in economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) to ensure this growth is sustainable and that everyone in the Asia-Pacific can participate and share in its benefits.

The Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) coordinates and manages APEC's ECOTECH agenda.

Priorities for Cooperation

2018 has seen a significant rise in collaborations between SCE sub-fora and across APEC fora. Over the course of the year, the work of the SCE allowed groups of varied expertise to collaborate in the pursuit of certain priorities, such as:



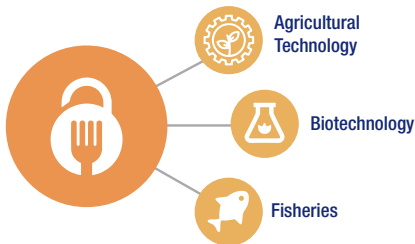
Women and the Economy

A significant development in 2018 has been the implementation of the new Women and the Economy Sub-Fund, which the Policy Partnership for Women and the Economy has used to encourage cross-fora collaboration and integration of gender issues across APEC, ranging from promoting women's inclusion in the maritime sector, to looking at the role of structural reform in women's economic empowerment.



The Digital Economy

The Telecommunications Working Group has been collaborating with several other groups to incorporate digital technology with emergency preparedness, disability issues, inclusion, creating a safer digital environment, and digital literacy.



Food Security

The Agricultural Technological Cooperation Working Group, the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology, the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group, and the Policy Partnership on Food Security collaborated to organize Food Security Week, which brought together policy makers who deal with food production as well as participants from the private sector to discuss the future of food in the region.

Why Cross-fora Collaboration?

In 2017, the steering committee developed guidelines for cross-fora collaboration, with the goal of increasing inclusive growth through capacity building.

Getting these different groups to work with each other encourages diverse views, multiple approaches to finding solutions.

It promotes open dialogue and optimizes resources in the pursuit of each agenda.

A Standardized Assessment System

Because the fora and working groups that operate under the SCE are so diverse, objectively measuring their activities may pose as a challenge.

In 2018 the steering committee implemented a new system for assessing its fora, which provides members with a template for reporting that brings more consistency to the process through a standard annual program. By the end of 2020, all 17 of the SCE fora will be assessed using this new standardized system allowing a more complete picture of the SCE's collective activities.



Data on Projects and Funding

Number of APEC-Funded Projects of SCE fora:

70*

APEC Funding:

USD 6,564,087*



Number of Projects Funded by:

APEC Support Fund

49*

SCE-endorsed self-funded projects

41**

General Project Account

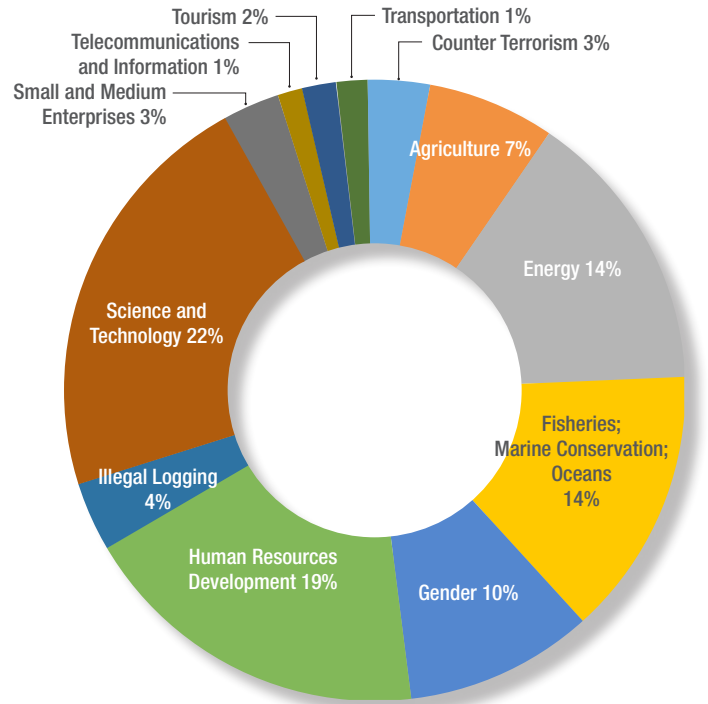
17*

Trade and Investment Liberalization Account

3*

* 2017 Project Funding Session 2 and 2018 Project Funding Session 1
** 2018 only

Distribution of SCE-Endorsed Self-Funded Projects 2018



Mainstreaming Gender

In 2018 the SCE has intensified its push to give women and girls more and better access to the economy.

The budget for gender-related projects grew by more than 20%. And by design, no APEC project is planned without taking gender issues into consideration.

There is a significant focus on promoting and encouraging women to become leaders and business owners, as well as supporting women in traditional sectors like agriculture and tourism and in non-traditional sectors such as transportation, shipping, and mining.

Part of this initiative is a drive to close the digital divide. High-level and public-private dialogues were held on improving the standing of women in the digital age.



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