



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

Highlights of Economic and Technical Cooperation in APEC 2024

Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) is a core building block of APEC's model of member-driven collaboration and support. By strengthening capacity, sharing technical know-how and best practices, APEC works to achieve its collective priorities, which include sustainable and inclusive trade and economic growth.

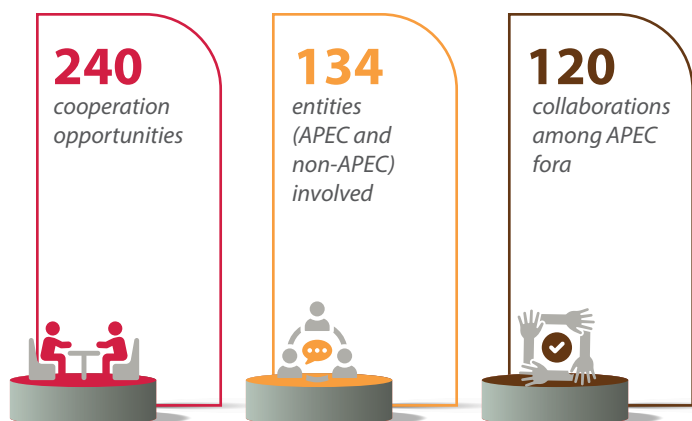
The Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation, or the SCE, coordinates APEC's ECOTECH agenda. Numerous sub-fora operate under the SCE, specializing in diverse and interconnected areas such as agriculture; oceans and fisheries; human resources development; and women's economic empowerment, among others.

Year in Review

In 2024, the SCE, alongside its sub-fora, undertook a wide range of initiatives aimed at building capabilities, advancing key regional goals, and addressing challenges and opportunities. Central to these efforts is a strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

The SCE focused on enhancing cooperation across its 14 sub-fora and coordinating efforts towards achieving the 2024 APEC theme of "Empower. Include. Grow."

Stakeholder Cooperation Highlights



Areas for Collaboration



APEC Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Award

Continuing the momentum of the BCG model introduced in 2023, the APEC BCG Award recognized three trailblazing women, youth and MSMEs from APEC economies for their outstanding efforts in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth through innovative approaches.

Key Ministerial Meetings and High-Level Dialogues

Peru hosted nine sectoral ministerial meetings and high-level dialogues in 2024, all bolstered by the support of the SCE sub-fora. Throughout the year, the SCE facilitated discussions on key topics such as tourism, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), energy, food security, health, and disaster management. These meetings served as essential platforms for addressing priority issues including the empowerment of women in trade, marking the first time APEC ministers responsible for women and trade convened.

Thematic Initiatives

Driving Inclusive, Interconnected Growth

A key theme throughout 2024 was the pursuit of trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected economic growth. The SCE and its sub-fora advanced this agenda through various initiatives including the events hosted by the Transportation Working Group focused on resilient supply chains, mobility integration, and sustainable transport technologies.

The Tourism Working Group published the "Establishing a Safe and Sustainable Future for Travel in the Better Normal – Compendium," detailing policies and best practices to facilitate safe regional passage.

Further, the Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group supported inclusive economic participation through workshops, forums and events advancing digital connectivity, formalizing informal businesses, and expanding MSME access to global value chains.

Accelerating Innovation and Digital Transformation

Innovation and digitalization were at the heart of many of the SCE's initiatives. Throughout the year, APEC promoted the transition to a more formal and globally integrated economy through digital solutions.

This included the Peru-hosted SCE Policy Dialogue "Understanding the Nexus between Digital Connectivity and Formalization in Asia-Pacific" where participating experts shared insights on policies and discussed the role of digital connectivity for formalization in the region.

Additionally, the Health Working Group organized policy dialogues on genomic medicine and health workforce resilience, using data-driven strategies to improve healthcare systems and workforce planning.

Advancing Sustainable and Resilient Growth

Sustainable and resilient economic development remained a core priority, with the SCE and its sub-fora advancing initiatives including the finalization by the Energy Working Group of the "APEC Policy Guidance to Develop and Implement Clean and Low-Carbon Hydrogen Policy Frameworks in the Asia-Pacific" to support clean energy transitions.

The Agriculture Technical Cooperation Working Group focused its efforts on food security, played a pivotal role in the launch of the "Trujillo Principles for Preventing and Reducing Food Loss and Waste," to strengthen institutional frameworks, public-private partnerships, and data collection to reduce food loss and waste.

Lastly, the Human Resources Development Working Group achieved a milestone with the endorsement of the "APEC HRDWG Arequipa Goals," aimed at empowering people with disabilities for sustainable, inclusive growth.