

POLICY PARTNERSHIP ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (PPSTI)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Preface

The Terms of Reference of this Sub-fora are established in accordance with agreed APEC rules and principles.

Background

The initial policy direction of the APEC Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG) was set by APEC Economic Leaders, and have been since guided by APEC Ministers responsible for Science and Technology (S&T). In 2012, APEC Senior Officials agreed to broaden the mandate of ISTWG to include issues of innovation policy development by transforming ISTWG into the Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) to intensify cooperation among the relevant stakeholders, including government, the private sector, and academia.

The PPSTI is APEC's primary forum to engage actors involved in joint scientific research and the technology inception, dissemination, and commercialization cycle, with both its competitive commercial sectors and non-profit elements. The PPSTI is uniquely positioned to identify, assess, and make recommendations to address challenges and opportunities to support science, technology and innovation (STI) growth and development in the APEC region. While other working groups focus on specific areas (e.g., health, digital technologies, etc.), the PPSTI looks at structures, systems, policies, and practices that support and advance STI broadly, as well as priority areas identified by the forum.

The PPSTI will work to further the objectives set out in these Terms of Reference, in accordance with the scope of work of APEC, by supporting innovative, strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth for member economies, the region, and the global economy; by enhancing member economies' STI capacity; and by helping to strengthen collaboration and build human capacity to address global issues and emergencies. The PPSTI will also exchange STI best practices and lessons learned, and develop modern market-driven initiatives with active participation from relevant stakeholders.

In 2005, the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) was established through APEC reform, and the mandate of the PPSTI will continue to be subject to the SCE. The SCE will forward PPSTI recommendations, as appropriate, to APEC Senior Officials, Ministers, and Leaders.

Goals and/or Strategic Focus

The PPSTI will support STI cooperation as well as effective policy recommendations in APEC, through collaboration between government, academia, the private sector and other APEC sub-fora. The PPSTI's strategic aim is to support innovative, strong, balanced, secure, sustainable, and inclusive growth by advancing STI, including through developing an enabling environment for market-based STI policy, supporting commercialization, strengthening STI capacity, and facilitating STI cooperation among member economies. To do this, the PPSTI provides a platform for knowledge sharing between industry, academia and governments on STI best practices, challenges, and opportunities.

Objectives

The PPSTI's main tasks are:

- to develop ST&I policy recommendations that support member economies' plans and strategies, increase STI capacity, stimulate STI cooperation and promote the dissemination and commercialization of innovative technologies;
- to encourage economies' STI capacity building through the development of human capital, infrastructure, and policies that support openness, transparency, reciprocity, and fair, just, non-discriminatory and merit-based competition;
- to encourage the sharing of best practices and success stories to support the establishment of policies and programs that provide resources, skills, and knowledge to support STI-related organizations/businesses;
- to encourage an environment that enables cross-border investment in cutting-edge technologies;
- to provide an avenue for networking among researchers across borders to stimulate exchange of knowledge and information;
- to develop networks/platforms of STI stakeholders and to strengthen multilateral STI projects and programs;
- to facilitate voluntary, market-driven dissemination of technology and promote measures to create a relevant legal framework and regulatory environment; and
- to contribute to the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and leaders' commitments on envisioning an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations.

In pursuing these tasks, the work of the PPSTI will be guided by the priorities and principles of the annual PPSTI work plans and its Strategic Plan, and will support key initiatives such as the the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030), the APEC Connectivity Blueprint, the Initiative on Toward Innovation-Driven Development, and the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap. As well, PPSTI may discuss potential mechanisms to evaluate the impact of science and innovation cooperation within APEC to better inform policy recommendations.

Priorities

The PPSTI will: 1) strengthen science capacity, 2) promote an enabling environment for STI, and 3) enhance regional S&T connectivity.

PPSTI member economies will work toward better engaging private sector, academia, and non-government representatives, continue to identify and assess targeted areas for strengthened international collaboration, and work with members to enhance information sharing on STI. Relevant activities to advance these priorities can include workshops, seminars, forums, policy dialogues, projects, joint research, the establishment of new networks, and PPSTI statements and recommendations. PPSTI will work regularly with other APEC sub-fora to strengthen cross-fora cooperation, as well as to reduce duplication of effort within APEC.

The PPSTI Strategic Plan will guide PPSTI's activities. The Plan will adopt a flexible approach to complement the annual PPSTI priorities, determined each year by the Host Economy.

Alignment with International Frameworks

The activities under the PPSTI shall be conducted in alignment with international frameworks for

STI. To this end, PPSTI will endeavour to:

- pursue regional cooperation, in accordance with international agreements which regulate activities under the PPSTI, such as those issued by the United Nations and other international organizations, e.g., WTO, WIPO;
- identify areas for alignment with international frameworks and review, on a regular basis, member economies' activities, with a view (where appropriate) to aligning them with international frameworks;
- explore practical options for regulatory cooperation to reduce the negative impact of different regulatory requirements on regional STI collaboration; and
- where appropriate, complement the work of specialist regional bodies in the development and review of STI, including in cooperation with other APEC members and the OECD.

PPSTI may also endeavour to:

- consider ways in which member economies could give positive consideration to adopting the policies in other member economies, to achieve its objectives;
- exchange information on STI policies and programs; and
- identify and discuss issues, bottlenecks, or incidents, either domestic, APEC, or others in international fora which might be of vital importance to, and impact on the activities of the PPSTI, or which the PPSTI might be able to influence.

Cooperation with Regional and International Bodies

The PPSTI's activities will be designed to complement and strengthen STI-related work already taking place in regional or multilateral organizations such as the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST). In addition, the PPSTI's work will be aimed at developing a more coherent regional perspective for articulation in broader international bodies. To enhance closer regional cooperation, member economies will endeavor to:

- collaborate with specialist regional and multilateral bodies;
- consider, where appropriate, joint action within appropriate international fora towards shared objectives;
- coordinate the PPSTI's work program with, and (where appropriate) draw upon the expertise and the experience of, regional and international bodies;
- foster an effective interface between regional and international fora; and
- ensure that the PPSTI's work builds upon, rather than duplicates, the work undertaken in regional and international bodies, as well as other APEC fora.

Membership

The PPSTI will be open to all APEC member economies. Participation of non-members shall be guided by the principals and procedures outlined in the APEC Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members.

Member Economy Delegations: The delegation of member economies to the PPSTI meeting may consist of representatives of governments, academia, and the private sector. The Head of Delegation will be a government representative from the member economy.

Leadership

The PPSTI Governing Board will consist of a Chair, two Vice Chairs and a representative from the private sector to serve as the Principal Advisor. The Chair of the PPSTI shall be elected from the representatives of member economies' delegations for a two-year term.

The Vice-Chairs shall be government representatives: one will be elected from representatives of member economies who will serve for a two-year term, and the other Vice-Chair will be a representative of the current hosting economy who will serve for a one-year term.

Terms for the Chair and elected Vice Chair will be staggered whenever possible.

The selection process for the Principal Private Sector Advisor who will serve in a personal capacity will be an open and transparent process and the appointment will be endorsed by the representatives of member economies' delegations. The role of the Principal Advisor is to serve as the interface with the private sector and to support PPSTI in leveraging ABAC's initiatives and expertise. The term of the Principal Advisor will be two years.

Meeting arrangements

The PPSTI will meet twice a year during SOM meetings, unless otherwise decided by member economies. The PPSTI will operate on the basis of consensus, and in line with agreed APEC rules and guidelines.

The PPSTI may, as appropriate and with the consensus of all member economies, establish non-decisional subgroups, ad hoc task forces, STI-focused dialogues (including the APEC Research and Technology Program), workshops, or expert groups it considers necessary to assist the conduct of its work program. The proposals for all of these engagements will be submitted to PPSTI for endorsement prior to commencement of the activity.

Structure of the Group

Participation at PPSTI meetings includes not only member economies, but also three-year-guests (e.g., Macao, China, APRU, and WIPO) and other Non-Member Participants.

Reporting to the PPSTI, APEC PPSTI Centers, which are agreed and approved for a specific period of time, will also participate regularly in PPSTI meetings to report on their activities and ensure activity alignment with PPSTI goals and objectives. All PPSTI Centers and Networks are subject to the requirements of the APEC Branding Manual. (See Annex A for the evergreen list of Centres, as of June 2021.)

Engagement with Other Stakeholders

Research and Academic Institutions, Associations: The PPSTI Chair, in consultation with other PPSTI members, may invite such institutions or separate groups of researchers that member economies believe will add value to the PPSTI process to send observers/advisers to the PPSTI meeting.

APEC Sub-Fora and Multilateral Organizations: The PPSTI Chair, in consultation with other PPSTI members, may invite representatives from other APEC sub-fora, ASEAN, OECD, and/or other international bodies to send observers/advisers to the PPSTI meetings.

The PPSTI will take account of the activities of other APEC fora with which its work should be coordinated.

Reporting Structure

The PPSTI will report annually to the SOM Steering Committee for ECOTECH through the SCE Fora Report and to Senior Officials, as requested.

Fora Review

The PPSTI will evaluate its effectiveness on a regular basis in line with current APEC guidelines. The terms of reference will be reviewed periodically, particularly if there is a change in situation, with a view to modify or amend, as needed. As part of recommendation 12 of the SCE Fora Review, the PPSTI will be independently assessed every four years according to the Independent Assessment Schedule endorsed by the SCE. The review will be based on achievements against stated objectives and outputs, as well as a consideration of whether the group should continue to operate.

The 2021 SCE Sub-Fora Assessment for PPSTI noted important suggestions from APEC member economies, including recommendations to better consult and engage the private sector, academia, non-government representatives, and other APEC fora, to further PPSTI's work to identify and assess targeted areas for international collaboration, to strengthen the Concept Note process, and to work with members to strengthen information sharing and best practices on science, technology, and innovation areas.

Quorum

The quorum for PPSTI's meetings constitutes participation from 14 economies. Decisions can be made if quorum and consensus are reached. If the quorum is not reached, the meeting may continue, but decisions must be put to the full membership for consideration. Should the PPSTI fail to meet quorum for one meeting, the PPSTI group must notify the parent committee chair. Should the PPSTI fail to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings, or cannot show that it is meeting its mission through robust collaboration and projects, it shall be referred to Senior Officials for a decision on whether it should continue to exist, whether it should change the responsibilities or be merged with other relevant sub-fora.

Sunset Clause

The PPSTI term is from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025. Prior to the expiration of this and any subsequent term, the mandate of PPSTI and its Terms of Reference shall be reviewed by PPSTI and the Steering Committee on ECOTECH, and a recommendation on continuation of its mandate to be put to Senior Officials for approval. The PPSTI must be explicitly renewed by Senior Officials in order to continue, after the expiration of this Terms of Reference.

Evergreen List of APEC PPSTI Centers

1. APECCTT(APEC Center for Technology Transfer), (China), <http://www.apectt.org/>
2. APCTP (Asia Pacific Center for Theoretical Physics), (Republic of Korea),
<https://www.apctp.org>
3. APEC CTF (APEC Center for Technology Foresight), (Thailand),
[http://www.apecforesight.org /](http://www.apecforesight.org/)
4. ACES (APEC Cooperation for Earthquake Science), (Australia, China, Japan, USA),
<http://www.aces.org.au/>
5. APCC (APEC Climate Center), (Republic of Korea),
<http://www.apcc21.org/main.do?lang=en>
6. AMGS (APEC Mentoring Center for the Gifted in Science), (Republic of Korea),
<http://www.amgs.or.kr>
7. ACABT (APEC Research Center for Advanced Biohydrogen Technology), (Chinese Taipei),
<http://www.apecadvbioh2.org/>
8. ACTS (APEC Research Center for Typhoon & Society), (Chinese Taipei),
<http://www.apectyphoon.org/index.html>
9. APEC-VC(APEC Virtual Center for Environmental Technology Exchange),(Republic of Korea), www.apec-vc.com