



**Life Sciences
Innovation Forum**

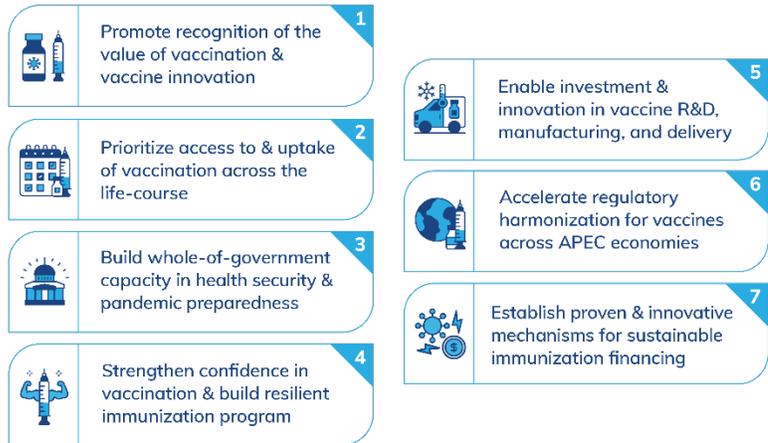
**The Role of Vaccination in Maintaining Health and the Economy during Pandemics:
“Cooperation to Secure Health & the Economy: The Arrival of the APEC
Action Plan on Vaccination”**

17 September 2021

The APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course (“Action Plan”) was recently endorsed by the APEC LSIF and Health Working Group (HWG), and establishes a set of 7 policy pillars, targets, and metrics to help support APEC economies to implement resilient and sustainable life-course vaccination programs to protect the health and well-being of populations. The APEC Vaccines Task Force has held several convenings to support APEC economies in their efforts to implement the Action Plan.

On 17 September, the APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) hosted a webinar entitled [Cooperation to Secure Health & the Economy: The Arrival of the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination](#). This webinar brought together expert presenters, **Dr. Lulu Bravo**, **Ms. Stacey Knobler**, and **Mr. Carlos Kuriyama**, to discuss the importance of life-course immunization in the APEC region, as well as existing and innovative international partnerships that have emerged to advance life-course immunization in the long-term and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

APEC economies should move to take measures to:



Learn more at <https://www.apec.org/vaccinestaskforce/Action-Plan>

Key Takeaways

- The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed gaps in immunization systems, while demonstrating the value of vaccination as an indispensable public health tool
- International collaboration is increasingly recognized as a key driver of vaccine development and innovation, regulation, and distribution, and is critical to ensuring vaccine confidence and access across the life-course
- Increasing confidence in vaccines and vaccination programs requires positive messaging tailored to unique values, beliefs, and attitudes, as well as strong, transparent leadership across public and private stakeholders
- Reducing the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases and optimizing health outcomes requires investment in adolescent and adult vaccination programs

Building Vaccine Confidence for Life-Course Immunization

Dr. Lulu Bravo discussed the importance of leadership and personalized messaging to build confidence in vaccines and vaccination programs in the midst of increasing misinformation and evolving vaccine hesitancy. Dr. Bravo stated that while discussions should be rooted in science and evidence, it is equally important to understand the values, beliefs, and attitudes that build confidence and support vaccine uptake. Dr. Bravo underscored that experts and leaders should respond to hesitancy by ensuring transparency, empathy, equity, equality, timeliness, and honesty., and every economy will need to develop effective dialogue and communication platforms involving all stakeholders to address unique social, cultural, and political contexts.

The Impact of Life-Course Immunization on Health & the Economy in the APEC Region and the Role of International Cooperation

Ms. Stacey Knobler presented on trends related to innovation in vaccine research & development, manufacturing, and delivery. Over the last decade, innovation in vaccine development has slowed, with decreases in revenue growth, flattening of the development pipeline, declining numbers of vaccine candidates reaching clinical studies, and remaining unmet needs for vaccine-targetable diseases, including global endemic diseases such as HIV and norovirus,



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as well as diseases endemic to resource-constrained economies, such as tuberculosis and malaria. However, an increase in the number of overall new programs, particularly by small biotechs and emerging market players, have been critical to the establishment of collaborative public-private and private-private partnerships, and more globally distributed development and manufacturing capabilities that supported the clinical development of COVID-19 vaccination programs.

Ms. Knobler additionally outlined three core areas of innovation-driving investment, which have been leveraged to address the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. Science and technology innovation, including mRNA and viral vectored vaccines;
2. Process innovation, through overlapping and staggered clinical trial plans, newly defined and designed regulatory pathways, and regulatory harmonization
3. Health systems and program design innovation, through pooled procurement strategies and adult immunization outreach

The Importance of International Cooperation to Roll Out Vaccinations to Fight COVID-19

Mr. Carlos Kuriyama examined the role of international cooperation and trade facilitation within the global vaccine supply chain. In addition to safely and effectively producing, procuring, distributing, and administering vaccines, regions and economies must either produce and/or procure a variety of ancillary supplies, such as syringes and freezing equipment. COVID-19 vaccination programs are sensitive to disruptions in the supply of necessary components, for which access may be limited in lower-resource economies, particularly without collaborations between public and private stakeholders. Mr. Kuriyama additionally highlighted several gaps in international collaboration that may impact COVID-19 vaccination programs, including complex supply chains, tariff barriers, export restrictions, and divergence in regulatory protocols.

About the APEC Vaccines Task Force

The COVID-19 crisis has made an impact on every APEC economy and across the globe, while putting populations at fundamental health risk. Over 56 million cases have been detected within APEC, and a region-wide GDP contraction of 3.7% has been forecasted for 2020. Although recovery is forecasted for 2021, a return to growth is highly dependent on containment of the virus and the ability for economies to return to work in the coming months. In such a climate, the need to establish resilient and sustainable health systems has never been more evident, both to promote healthy citizenry and to enable a thriving economy.

Vaccination is inevitably a critical component of any such program. Not only must health systems be ready for the administering of a COVID-19 vaccine when such a vaccine arrives on the market, but they must provide robust immunization programs throughout and after the current crisis so that COVID-19's impact is not compounded by additional outbreaks of vaccine-preventable disease.

The APEC Vaccines Task Force serves to address the need for regional cooperation on vaccines policy through cooperation across the public and private sector stakeholders. Established in 2020, the Task Force brings together public and private sector stakeholders and serves as the main coordinating mechanism for all LSIF work and activities on vaccines-related issues. In conjunction with the APEC Health Working Group (HWG), the Task Force has developed the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course, a comprehensive strategy for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of immunization programs in APEC member economies across the 2021-2030 decade. Ultimately, implementing the targets of this action plan will help APEC economies operationalize and achieve the [WHO Immunization Agenda 2030 \(IA2030\)](#).

To view a recording of the webinar and associated presentation slides, [please visit the event page](#).



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Further Reading

https://www.apec.org/-/media/Satellite/vaccinestaskforce/APEC_VaccinationActionPlan_2021.pdf?la=en&hash=A7FAE0F5EFE1A890697F54011ED81F715F1F8AED

https://www.apec.org/-/media/APEC/Publications/2021/5/Promoting-Trade-in-Vaccines-and-Related-Supplies-and-Equipment/221_PSU_Promoting-Trade-in-Vaccines-and-Related-Supplies-and-Equipment.pdf

Meeting Agenda	
Opening Remarks from the APEC LSIF Secretariat	
Presentations	<p><u>APEC Action Plan on Vaccination across the Life-Course</u></p> <p>Initial remarks from the LSIF Chair to introduce and summarize the Action Plan and its purpose, as well as discussion of how ongoing global work on vaccination aligns with the action plan and can set the stage for further collaboration.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Michelle McConnell: Director, Asia and Pacific, Office of Global Affairs, US Department of Health and Human Services; Co-Chair, LSIF Planning Group • Charles Harvey: Regional Director, Vaccine Public Policy Japan, China and Asia Pacific (JCAP), MSD • Ada Wong: Asia Public Affairs Lead, Sanofi
	<p><u>The impact of life-course immunization on health and the economy in the APEC region and the role of international cooperation</u></p> <p>Overview: Under a life-course approach, vaccination strategies are designed to maximize individuals’ ability to protect themselves from infection and maintain good health over the course of their lives and circumstances. Taking a life-course approach to immunization offers a valuable opportunity to improve health, contribute to a more economically sustainable health system, and promote healthy aging.</p> <p>By leveling the health risks that different groups face, large-scale life-course vaccination programs are instruments for promoting health equity. There is work to be done to maximize the benefits of vaccination across the entire population in the Asia Pacific region. Individually and within APEC, economies regularly and creatively cooperate internationally to advance shared goals, including improving life-course immunization.</p> <p>Moderator: Nora Siagian: Senior Director, Vaccines Lead, Pfizer EM Asia</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lulu Bravo: President, Immunization Partners in Asia Pacific; Professor, Pediatric Infectious and Tropical Diseases, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila • Ms. Stacey Knobler: Vice President, Vaccine Innovation, Sabin Vaccine Institute • Mr. Carlos Kuriyama: Senior Analyst, APEC Policy Support Unit
Moderated discussion	
Audience Q&A	
Closing Remarks from the APEC LSIF Secretariat	



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Speaker Biographies



Dr. Lulu Bravo

Dr. Lulu Bravo is Professor Emeritus at the University of the Philippines Manila College of Medicine. She currently serves as president of Immunization Partners in Asia Pacific (IPAP), and is the founding president of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination. She is also the former Vice Chancellor for Research and Executive Director of the National Institutes of Health at the University of the Philippines. Dr. Bravo completed her MD, pediatric residency and subspecialty training in infectious disease at Philippine General Hospital-College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines. She has published more than 100 scientific articles, books and book chapters in both local and international circles.



Ms. Stacey Knobler

Stacey Knobler is Vice President of Vaccine Innovation & Global Immunization at the Sabin Vaccine Institute. Stacey has more than 20 years of experience as a global health and development professional, with expertise in research, program design and implementation, and strategic planning. She previously served as a Senior Adviser and Scientific Program Director for multiple large-scale initiatives for the Division of International Epidemiology and Population Studies at the Fogarty International Center (FIC), within the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Ms. Knobler has been recognized for her leadership of research and outreach activities that have effectively engaged stakeholders from multiple sectors, integrated numerous academic disciplines and translated scientific findings for application within a broad range of communities. She has over 40 professional publications and has served on the editorial review committees of several public health and infectious disease journals.



Mr. Carlos Kuriyama

Carlos Kuriyama is currently Senior Analyst at the APEC Secretariat, Policy Support Unit, working mainly on topics concerning trade and investment liberalization, regulatory and structural reforms. Previously, Carlos was government official at Peru's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, where he served as Chief Negotiator of the Peru-China FTA negotiations, General Coordinator of the Peru-Singapore FTA negotiations and Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade. He also led the design of Peru's trade negotiations agenda and implemented Peru's trade strategy with Asia and Oceania countries.

In the academic sector, Carlos was Associate Researcher and Lecturer in Economics at Universidad del Pacifico (Lima, Peru), where he wrote extensively and participated in several research projects on trade, investment and integration issues for several domestic and international institutions. He holds a Master of International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University (New York, U.S.) and a Bachelor's Degree on Economics from Universidad del Pacifico (Lima, Peru).