APEC Connectivity Blueprint

We underscore that connectivity facilitates the flow of goods, services, capital, and people across the region. It helps to foster closer economic ties and enable long-term economic growth, towards building an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations, guided by the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

We recognize the role of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint (2015-2025) in support of cooperation to advance connectivity over the past decade. As emerging trends and evolving demands reshape the region's connectivity landscape, we encourage economies to continue efforts towards aspirational goal of achieving a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated Asia-Pacific region.

Pillar 1: Physical
Objective: enhance physical connectivity by encouraging economies to develop, maintain and upgrade quality infrastructure, including through innovation and adoption of modern technologies.

- Strengthen land, maritime, and air connectivity with transport links to enhance regional connectivity.
- Advance innovation and digital transformation in the transport sector, and explore safe and secure autonomous and unmanned technologies and emerging mobility solutions, including through voluntary knowledge exchange, and sharing of relevant experiences and best practices to strengthen readiness for emerging technologies.
- Promote safe and efficient operation of maritime, air and intermodal connectivity to facilitate the movement of people and goods.
- Support energy infrastructure interconnectivity where feasible and beneficial, facilitate energy transmission and trade, enhance the reliability, security and resilience of critical energy infrastructure and supply chains, to promote energy security and universal access to

high-quality energy, while enabling technological innovation.

- Encourage the development of reliable, scalable, trusted, secure and resilient communication infrastructure; extend accessible networks to rural and remote areas, and improve access to digital services for all; encourage cooperation to support an enabling environment for next-generation connectivity technologies and services including low-earth orbit satellites; upgrade digital infrastructure to meet growing demands with higher energy and resource efficiency; promote digitalization of existing infrastructure to enhance operational efficiency and service delivery.
- Identify and address infrastructure financing gaps through developing a whole-of-ecosystem approach that mobilizes resources from the public sector, the private sector, and multilateral development banks (MDBs).
- Enhance planning and implementing infrastructure projects, incorporating resilience measures, ex-ante investment in disaster risk reduction, and lifecycle cost considerations.

Pillar 2: Institutional

Objective: encourage economies to reduce institutional barriers, in advancement of trade and investment, and contributing to a more connected regional economy.

- Modernize customs procedures through technology and innovation, border agency cooperation, appropriate inspection, automated risk management, and streamlined clearance procedures.
- Undertake structural reforms to stimulate growth, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, foster an enabling and competitive business environment, and continue to advance the Strengthened and Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (SEAASR) 2026-2030 and APEC's Fourth Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Action Plan.
- Encourage deepened exchange and cooperation on technical standards in sectors of mutual interest, and recognize the value of implementing good regulatory practices to foster transparency, predictability and efficiency in the regulatory environment.
- Address behind-the-border barriers to trade and investment, streamline related procedures to enhance efficiency, ease of doing business, productivity, and competitiveness.

- Improve supply chain connectivity by addressing chokepoints, enhancing resilience, boosting operational efficiency, minimizing disruptions, and strengthening value chains, including through leveraging relevant APEC works, such as the APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAP).
- Promote trade digitalization by harnessing digital and other emerging technologies.
- Strengthen the enabling role of data for economic growth and digital innovation, encourage efforts to promote flow of data, including via the APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) System, while strengthening business and consumer trust in digital transactions, and ensuring respect for data protection, privacy and intellectual property rights.
- Enhance financial connectivity to support the flow of capital across the region, including by promoting capital market development, infrastructure financing and disaster risk finance.

Pillar 3: People-to-people

Objective: facilitate connectivity that benefits all through business mobility, education, tourism, human resource development, and innovation cooperation.

- Facilitate business mobility, including through APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) and encourage fully participating economies' uptake and acceptance of the virtual ABTC.
- Recognize the importance of addressing irregular migration flows.
- Strengthen education, vocational training, skills development exchanges, explore academic mobility and support lifelong learning.
- Support participation in the digital economy, enhance digital literacy and make the benefits of digital transformation accessible to all, including through capacity building, policies that build digital literacy and competencies, and opportunities for upskilling and reskilling throughout working life.
- Empower MSMEs and facilitate their participation in value chains, by fostering an enabling business environment, elevating their innovation, capabilities, and expertise, eliminating burdensome and unnecessary regulations, as well as promoting informal MSME's transition from the informal to the formal and global economies.

- Engage all segments of the labor market, support entrepreneurship, create more economic opportunities, promote access to high-quality, full and productive employment, strengthen lifelong learning and access to upskilling and reskilling opportunities, protect the rights of workers and continue our efforts to promote international labor standards in the changing world of work.
- Prepare the workforce for demographic changes by building resilient employment and education systems, strengthening work-force demand and skills forecasting, modernizing human resources development, and expanding labour market participation including by expanding access to healthcare.
- Promote cultural exchanges and tourism facilitation, leverage digital technologies to enhance the efficiency, capacity, and productivity of the tourism sector.
- Foster a competitive innovation ecosystem; and encourage the voluntary sharing of knowledge on mutually agreed terms to boost the region's innovation capacity and competitiveness.

Implementation

- Economies are encouraged to further advance connectivity in the region through existing APEC efforts and mechanisms, where appropriate. Cross-fora collaboration with relevant stakeholders is also encouraged.
- Senior Officials will discuss the implementation of this Blueprint during one of the Senior Officials' Meetings once a year from 2027 to 2030, with a view to further discussing this issue as decided by Senior Officials. The APEC Secretariat is requested to provide updates on the actions and initiatives taken by relevant APEC fora and sub-fora, and economies are encouraged to report their progress during the Senior Officials' Meetings.