



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

# Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation 2019

## Many Paths to an Inclusive and Sustainable Future

APEC is a place for economies to explore creative solutions to shared challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and to learn from each other through economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH).

**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 various but ultimately interconnected areas.

## From 2015 to 2019, SCE's crosscutting work prioritized the following



Developing human capital through capacity building



Harnessing technologies for the future and supporting innovation



Developing and strengthening the dynamism of small and medium enterprises



Inclusive growth—addressing the social dimension of globalization, health and gender

## 2019 Highlights

APEC's work in ECOTECH has produced groundbreaking roadmaps and crucial progress on some important issues of our time.



## Preserving the Ocean and its Resources

### What is marine debris?

- Refuse from towns and villages
- Ocean garbage, especially plastic
- It affects the economy, food security and tourism

### Roadmap on Marine Debris

Recognizing that further marine debris is a global and multidisciplinary challenge, APEC takes action based on scientific evidence and lessons learned from regional efforts.

The Marine Debris Roadmap is one of the first multilateral documents addressing this issue.

**20%** of fish captured is lost to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

**52%** of fisheries catch are sourced from the APEC region.

**Untaxed** and often excessive, IUU fishing exacerbates global food insecurity.

### Roadmap on Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

APEC recognizes the importance of fishing for food security and sustainable growth. This roadmap advances joint initiatives to prevent IUU fishing to promote conservation and the sustainable use of resources.

# Helping Small Business

# 97%

of businesses across APEC are small or medium enterprises (SMEs)

# More than 50%

of the workforce are employed by SMEs, which provide livelihoods for many women. But they only account for 35% of direct exports

## In 2019 APEC SME officials committed to



**Preparing** small business for digital transformation



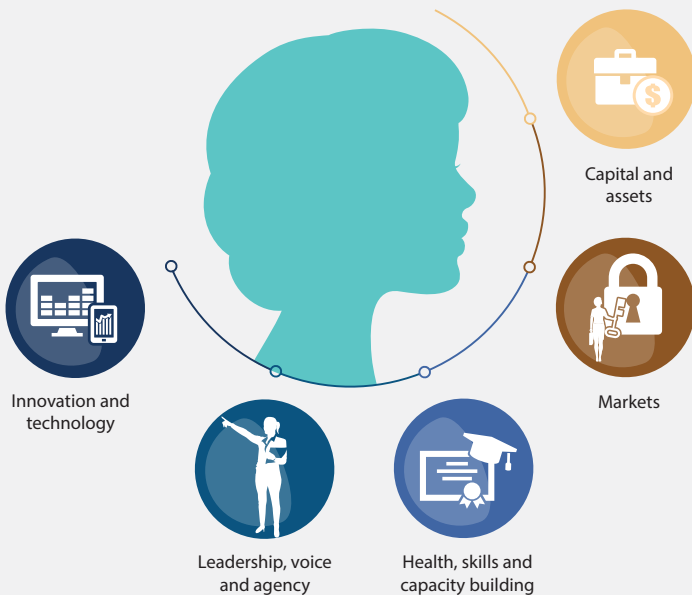
**Providing** them with access to credit and diverse funding sources



**Supporting** their participation in international trade

## Empowering Women

For decades, APEC's work has focused on the integration of women into the economy by enhancing their access to



## Women and the Economy Dashboard

Provides a snapshot of the status of women in the region, by measuring the progress of women's economic engagement and inclusion in systems, institutions and markets over the years based on the following indicators:



Nevertheless, women of diverse backgrounds continue to face multiple disproportionate barriers to economic empowerment.

The dashboard shows general improvements but policy gaps and structural barriers remain.

**For Example:** 18 APEC economies penalize the dismissal of pregnant women but only 8 have laws mandating equal pay for work of equal value



## The La Serena Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth

Provides concrete direction for policy actions that will drive greater inclusive economic development and participation in favor of women in the Asia-Pacific. The passage of this initiative represents much progress as well as acknowledgement that much work lies ahead to achieve true economic and social inclusion.