

The 27th PECC General Meeting

Optimising Human Potential Towards a Future of Shared Prosperity and Sustainability in Times of COVID-19

Zoom Webinar

14-17 December 2020

As of 25 November 2020

Monday, 14 December 2020

[for Next Generation Participants]

9:00-10:00

“Track Two in a Nutshell” – Introduction to Track Two

Highlights the nature, context and purpose of what Track Two is about, filled in with some pointers, vocabulary/terminology, and nuances/things to watch out for.

The session is a 60-minutes induction into Track Two platform featuring the purposes, expectations, advices and tips about ways to communicate in a Track Two environment. This session will incorporate an overview of terminology, acronyms and terms that are likely to emerge throughout the General Meeting. This will be an interactive session and not so much a seminar, but exchanging perspectives on the various topics that have dominated the scene in recent time (such as APEC, trade war, CPTPP, the ASEAN Way, COVID-19, environmental issues and others) – facilitators can touch on these concepts and have a chat about how we interpret/view them from our own perspectives.

Welcome Remarks

Ambassador Don Campbell

Co-Chair, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC);

Chair, Canadian Committee on Pacific Economic Cooperation (CANCPEC)

Facilitators

Dr Juita Mohamad

Fellow

Economics, Trade and Regional Integration (ETRI)

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Mr Muhammad Sinatra

Analyst

Foreign Policy and Security Studies (FPSS)

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

10:05-11:05

Track Two Simulation Discussing a Popular Theme Across the Region that Is Relevant to Next Generation

Tentative topics:

- Socio-economic Concerns of the Next Generation
 - Increasing Cost of Living
 - The Future of Jobs and Job Security
- Trade Wars – Trials or Opportunities?
- The Limits of Globalisation: Armed Conflicts, Pandemics and Disasters

Remarks by:

Mr Hugh Stephens

Vice-Chair

Canadian Committee on Pacific Economic Cooperation (CANCPEC)

Mr Eduardo Pedrosa

Secretary-General

PECC International Secretariat

Facilitators

Mr Muhammad Harris Zainul

Analyst

Economics, Trade and Regional Integration (ETRI)

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Mr Calvin Cheng

Analyst

Economics, Trade and Regional Integration (ETRI)

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Tuesday, 15 December 2020

9:00-9:10

Opening Remarks

Mr Herizal Hazri

Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS);
Chair, Malaysia National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation
(MANCPEC)

Ambassador Don Campbell

Co-Chair, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC);
Chair, Canadian National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation
(CANPEC)

9:10-9:30

Keynote Address: Malaysia and Trade Reforms in Uncertain Times

YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali

Minister
Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)
Malaysia

9:30-10:30

Plenary Session 1: Economic Repercussions of the COVID-19 Crisis

Over the past couple of years, numerous global hazards have threatened to hamper the growth of international trade and the proliferation of global value chains. These include the rise of trade protectionism, the resultant multi-sided trade tensions and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. With many economies in the region heavily dependent on trade and deeply integrated into global supply chains, these disruptive shocks have large negative impacts on economic activity in the region. Amid this backdrop of recurring systemic risks to global trade, how should APEC member economies respond in the coming decade? What role can APEC play as an institution in mitigating the downsides of these risks and safeguarding international trade and global supply chain activity?

Moderator

Dr Narongchai Akrasanee

Chair
Thailand National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (TNCPEC)

Speakers

Mr Vangelis Vitalis

SOM Chair
APEC 2021

Dr Mari Pangestu

Managing Director, Development Policy and Partnerships
The World Bank

Dr Richard Record

Lead Economist

Macroeconomics
The World Bank

Mr Shiro Armstrong

Director
East Asian Bureau of Economic Research
The Australian National University (ANU)

Mr Pascal Lamy

Chair
France Pacific Territories National Committee for PECC (FPTPEC);
Former Director General World Trade Organization

10:35-11:35

**Plenary Session 2: Initial Assessment of the CPTPP and the Future of RCEP
– How are Member Economies Faring to Date Especially in Times of
COVID-19?**

After more than two years since the signing of CPTPP, only seven members have successfully ratified the agreement. It entered into force on 30 December 2018 after Mexico, Japan, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada became the first six economies to ratify the agreement. In January 2019, Vietnam became the latest ratified member of the CPTPP. What are, if any, initial benefits reaped by these seven economies? How has CPTPP impacted their GDP, exports and employment in different tradable sectors especially during the pandemic pre-pandemic times? With rising trade tensions and the virus still unable to be contained, what can member economies of RCEP learn from the CPTPP agreement?

Moderator

Mr Souleymane Coulibaly

Lead Economist and Program Leader
Equitable, Finance and Institution (EFI)
The World Bank

Speakers

Dr Vo Tri Thanh

National Financial and Monetary Policy Advisory Council;
Chair; Vietnam National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation
(VNCPEC)

Dr Kiki Verico

Special Advisor to the Minister of Finance
Industry and International Trade Division Indonesia

Ambassador Jonathan Fried

Former Ambassador to the WTO;
Chair of the WTO's General Council;
Member of the APEC Vision Group, Canada

11:40-12:40

Plenary Session 3: Accelerating Solutions to Climate Change – Can Markets Transition to a Low Carbon Economy?

With environmental risks such as climate change being recognised as significant threats to the business scene, companies need to respond and revamp their business models to adapt to the changes. Among the key risks posed by climate change are extreme weather events and natural catastrophes that will disrupt business activities as well as resource supplies. Furthermore, “transition risks” in shifting towards a low carbon economy, in the form of price fluctuations (ie. in changes of demand for fossil fuels) and policy changes may impact on business operations. Some businesses have successfully incorporated a new philosophy with innovative business models and gained market share as well as traction in popularity. This session explores how businesses and the market can transition to a low carbon economy by discussing existing and potential solutions.

Moderator

Dr Yose Rizal Damuri

Co-Chair

Indonesian National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (INCPEC)

Speakers

Dr Richard Cantor

Chief Credit Officer, Moody's Investor Services;

Chair, United States Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (USPECC)

Dr Ross Garnaut

Chair, Advisory Board

Australian APEC Study

Datin Seri Sunita Rajakumar

Founding Member

Climate Governance Initiative Malaysia

Mr Eugene Wong Weng Soon

Chief Executive Officer

Sustainable Finance Institute Asia Limited

Wednesday, 16 December 2020

9:00-10:00

Plenary Session 4: Youth and Jobless – Facing Youth Unemployment in the Asia Pacific

As governments in the region increasingly acknowledging the adverse effects that elevate youth unemployment, policy issues including graduate employability as well as technical and vocational training (TVET) have come to the forefront. At the same time, trends such as rapid technological change, the rise of gig economy and the spread of COVID-19 threaten to change the landscape of youth and graduate employment. How can economies in the Pacific improve labour outcomes for the youth? How should governments support youth skills development and adequately prepare them for the future of work and non-work challenges so that they remain resilient?

Moderator

Ambassador Sergio Ley-Lopez

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Business Section;

Chair, Mexico National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (MXCPEC)

Speakers

Dr Tan Khee Giap

Chair

Singapore National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (SINCPEC)

Mr Felix Weidenkaff

Employment Specialist

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ms Shanti Jagannathan

Principal Education Specialist

Asian Development Bank (ADB), The Philippines

10:05-11:05

Plenary Session 5: Digital Economy and its Infrastructure for an Inclusive Society

The prospects of digital economy have several considerations. One is the race for its enhancement, where economies aim to secure resources, invest in infrastructure and participate in discourse on rules and regulations. Another is the status quo of business that cannot be sustained due to new innovations tested and pushed into the marketplace, which inevitably shape how we interact with one another. Discussions on harnessing the possibilities of digital economies include those that harmonise digital value chains, develop digital single markets and promote inclusive growth among the population. What are the key issues of and challenges to growing digital economy in the direction of shared prosperity? Would the digital economy create a new North-South divide or can it help to bridge the gap in the long-run? How should governments tackle the issue of inclusive growth and what are the cost implications for these efforts?

Moderator

Dr Heungchong Kim

President, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP);
Chair, Korea National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (KOPEC)

Speakers

Ms Elina Noor

Deputy Director
Asia Society Policy Institute

Dr Peter Cowhey

Dean and Qualcomm Professor of Communication and Technology Policy
School of Global Policy and Strategy
University of California, San Diego

Mr Lu Guangtong

Engineer, Cyber Emergency Response Team
China Industrial Control System;
China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (CNCPEC)

Prof. Naoko Iwasaki

Institute of e-Government
Waseda University

11:10-12:10

Plenary Session 6: SMEs in Driving Innovation in the New Digital Age

Over the past few decades, Malaysia has transitioned from agricultural-based to industry-based economy. Almost 99 percent of the Malaysian economy consists of SMEs, where they provide 66 percent of the economy's employment, although contribution to the economy's GDP is merely 38.3 percent. It is evident that leveraging on SME's growth is essential for Malaysia and its trade partners, so that they become innovation-led nations that ensure that sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity can be achieved. Despite investments and other initiatives to uplift SMEs and innovation in the economy, the outcome is yet to be satisfactory in most economies in the region. This is especially in the New Digital Age where the speed and agility of companies are essential for survival, boosting the capability of SMEs to drive innovation is critical. What are the current challenges and anticipating future challenges for SMEs? What are the new technologies that could be leveraged on for sustainable growth? How do successful SMEs of the future look like, considering the impact of new technologies, growing customer demands and increased market competitiveness?

Moderator

Mr Rushdi Abdul Rahim

Senior Vice President

Malaysian Industry Government Group High Technology (MIGHT)

Speakers

Mr Muhundhan Kamarapullai

Director

Business Digital Adoption

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

Mr Lim Chee Siong

Vice President

Huawei Cloud Southern Pacific Region

Mr Manzur Rahman

Director of Marketing, Customer Experience and Innovation,

Axiata Digital Capital Sdn Bhd (ASPIRASI)

12:15-12:25

Closing Remarks

Mr Herizal Hazri

Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS);
Chair, Malaysia National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation
(MANCPEC)

Ambassador Su Ge

Co-Chair, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC);
Chair, China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (CNCPEC)

Thursday, 17 December 2020

- 9:00-11:00 **Concurrent Sessions: Next Generation Wrap-up Session**
Hosted by ISIS Malaysia
- 9:00-9:30 **Concurrent Session: Trust Protective Committee Meeting**
(for Trust Protective Committee members only)
Hosted by PECC International Secretariat
- 9:45-10:45 **Concurrent Session: Finance Committee Meeting**
(for Finance Committee members only)
Hosted by PECC International Secretariat
- 11:05-12:05 **Session with NextGen and PECC members: Presentation of Memorandum
by the Youth**
- 12:05-13:30 **Standing Committee Meeting**
(for PECC members only)