



MEMORANDUM

TO : **The Assistant Secretary**
Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects
The OIC Assistant Secretary for Climate Change
and BMB Director, In Concurrent Capacity
The Directors
EMB, MGB, FMB
The OIC Director
Policy and Planning Service

FROM : **The Undersecretary**
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **4th VIRTUAL TECHNICAL BOARD ON APEC MATTERS**
(VTBAM4) MEETING, 03 DECEMBER 2020

DATE : 01 December 2020

May we respectfully refer a copy of the email dated 30 November 2020 sent by the office of PH APEC Senior Official Lourdes O. Yparraguirre, Office of the Undersecretary for Economic and International Relations APEC National Secretariat and International Economic Cooperation- Department of Foreign Affairs, regarding the preparation for the coming APEC Informal Senior Officials Meeting (ISOM) from 09 to 11 December 2020, APEC PH Secretariat is forwarding invitation to the **4th Virtual Technical Board on APEC Matters (VTBAM4) Meeting** to be held on 03 December 2020, 1:30 to 4:30 pm via Zoom.

The meeting link: Virtual TBAM 4
Meeting ID: 965 9420 5220
Passcode: ANSIEC

Meeting Reminders are as follows:

- All Principal representatives are requested to turn on cameras the whole time during the meeting;
- All other participants must be in listening mode (microphone and camera disabled), except when given the floor;
- Username format: Organization- First Name and Surname (ex. DFA-Apolinario Mabini); and
- The link to the attendance sheet will be posted 30 minutes before the meeting starts.

Attached are copies of the proposed agenda and minutes of the virtual TBAM3 meeting for reference. Kindly confirm participation to the meeting by accomplishing the **pre-registration form** (<https://tinyurl.com/VTBAM4REG>) on or before 5:00 p.m. on 02 December 2020.

For your immediate attention and appropriate action.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

Let's Go Green!!!

[INVITATION] Fourth Technical Board on APEC Matters (TBAM 4) Meeting, Thursday, 03 December 2020, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Zoom)

APEC PH National Secretariat <apec@dfa.gov.ph>

Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 6:16 PM

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Message sent on behalf of Undersecretary Lourdes O. Yparraguirre, Philippines APEC Senior Official

Dear TBAM Colleagues,

In preparation for the coming APEC Informal Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM) from 09 to 11 December 2020, we cordially invite you to attend the **Fourth Technical Board on APEC Matters (TBAM 4) virtual meeting on Thursday, 03 December 2020 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom**. Attached are copies of the proposed agenda and minutes of the virtual TBAM 3 meeting, for your reference and perusal.

Meeting Link: Virtual TBAM 4

Meeting ID: 965 9420 5220
Passcode: ANSIEC

Meeting Reminders:

- All Principal representatives are requested to turn on cameras the whole time during the meeting.
- All other participants must be in listening mode (microphone and camera disabled), except when given the floor.
- Username format: Organization - First Name and Surname (ex. DFA – Apolinario Mabini)
- The link to the attendance sheet will be posted 30minutes before the meeting starts.

Kindly confirm your agency's representative/s by accomplishing the **pre-registration form** (<https://tinyurl.com/VTBAM4REG>) **on or before 5:00 PM, Wednesday, 02 December 2020**.

Thank you and with our good wishes.

Sincerely,

--
APEC National Secretariat
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Office of the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
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3 attachments



TBAM 4 - Agenda.docx
72K



VTBAM 3 ANNEX A - List of Attendees.xlsx
13K



Minutes of the APEC 2020 VTBAM 3 Meeting.docx
72K



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

Fourth Technical Board on APEC Matters (TBAM 4)

03 December 2020, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Virtual Platform: Google Meet or Zoom

Agenda

- I. 1:30 pm - 1:35 pm **Welcome Remarks: DFA Undersecretary for International Economic Affairs and Philippine APEC Senior Official Lourdes O. Yparraguirre**
- II. 1:35 pm - 1:40 pm **Straight Roll Call by Secretariat of Board Members Present**
- III. 1:40 pm - 1:45 pm **Adoption of Draft TBAM 4 Agenda**
- IV. 1:45 pm - 1:50 pm **Review and Approval of TBAM 3 Minutes**
- V. 1:50 pm - 2:20 **Review and Summary of Highlights of the APEC 2020 Leaders' Declaration and Joint Ministerial Statement**
- VI. 2:20 pm - 2:40 pm **Review of Summary of Highlights APEC Post-2020 Vision (Putrajaya Vision)**
- VII. 2:40 pm - 2:55 pm **New Zealand's 2021 Hosting Theme and Priorities and Preparations for ISOM**
- VIII. 2:55 pm - 3:05 pm **Administrative Preparations for ISOM (Circular and Agenda)**
- IX. 3:05 pm – 3:10 pm **Propose Small Working Group (SWG) for TBAM on APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 Implementation Plan**

Three areas identified in Putrajaya Vision: Trade and Investment or Innovation and Digitalisation or Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: Digital
- X. 3:10 pm – 3:25 pm **Other Matters**
 - a. New Staff and Members Agencies
- XIV. 3:25 pm – 3:30 pm **Closing Remarks**

1 **SECOND MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL BOARD ON APEC MATTERS**

2 (TBAM No.03/2020)

3 Monday, 19 October 2020, 2:00PM to 5:00PM

4 Online Meeting - Zoom

5
6 **Welcome Remarks**

- 7
8 • Undersecretary Lourdes Yparraguirre welcomed everyone to the 3rd TBAM meeting. She
9 noted Malaysia's announcement of the schedule of the concluding SOM (11 Nov), AMM
10 (16 Nov), and AELM (20 Nov). She emphasized the need for APEC to do better amid the
11 pandemic, as she recalled that APEC was not able to produce a Leaders' statement in
12 2018 and 2019. She shared her hope that, for 2020, APEC will have a Ministerial
13 Statement, with 2 Leaders' Declaration (APEC at Work and the Post-2020 Vision). She
14 stressed the need to demonstrate that APEC remains a proactive platform for
15 collaboration, show that APEC is resilient from any shocks and that we can inject vigor
16 on the individual and collective efforts of APEC economies for economic recovery, and
17 show that APEC is part of the solution to the COVID-19 pandemic.
18

19 **Roll Call of Agencies Attendance**

- 20 • DG Eric Tamayo acknowledged the agencies present.
21

22 **Adoption of Draft Agenda and Review of the Minutes of TBAM 4 Meeting**

- 23
24 • The minutes of the 2020 TBAM 2 was circulated through e-mail for comments from the
25 various agencies. An add referendum of approval of the minutes was approved.
26 • The agenda was presented and adopted with no additional comments.
27

28 **Result of the APEC 2020 Virtual Second Senior Officials' Meeting (VSOM 2) and SOM**
29 **Dedicated Sessions on Post-2020 Vision**

- 30 • DG Tamayo presented the updated APEC 2020 Theme and Priorities as revised by
31 Malaysia. The revised theme is now "Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient
32 Future of Share Prosperity".
33 ○ Malaysia's priority areas include improving the narrative of trade and investment;
34 inclusive economic participation through digital economy and technology, driving
35 innovative sustainability. It also employs the 3P approach: Pivot, Prioritise, and
36 Progress.
37 • DG Tamayo also provided a brief overview of the APEC Sectoral Ministerial Meetings
38 and reminded colleagues to provide updates on the meetings that have transpired.
39
40 • DG reported the highlights of discussions during the VSOM2 which include the following:
41
42 ○ Outcomes of the in-person first meeting of Senior Officials in January
43 ○ APEC's agenda and further the thematic pursuits and priorities of APEC 2020 Host
44 Economy Malaysia involving inclusive economic participation, through digital
45 economy and technology, and improvement of the trade and investment narrative.
46 ○ Endorsement of APEC COVID-19 Latest and Immediate Virtual Exchange (LIVE)
47 an online policy tracker
48 ○ Refinement of APEC sub-fund on Combatting Covid-19 and Economic Recovery
49 (CEER)
50 ○ Updates on AELW were provided and it was noted that there will be no VSOM3.
51 ○ Other topics include: preparations for 2020 High Level Policy Dialogue on Food
52 Security in the context of COVID-19; the 2020 Ministerial Meeting of SME
53 Ministers; no economy has presented to host APEC 2023 yet; Letter to Leaders

54 from ABAC relative to COVID-19 and economic recovery; SOM are looking ahead
55 on the adoption of the APEC Post 2020 Vision and Implementation Plan in 2021.
56

- 57 • DG Tamayo further discussed the updates on the APEC Post-2020 Vision:
 - 58 ○ SOM-level drafting sessions are held on a two-week basis to finalize the document,
59 draft version 7 is currently being deliberated by economies. The next dedicated
60 session will be on 26 October. The Vision is expected to be launched at the
61 Leaders' Meeting.
 - 62 ○ The collective view among economies is to keep the document short, concise,
63 aspirational and readable by laymen, with the goal of a more resilient, inclusive
64 and sustainable Asia Pacific community.
 - 65 ○ There are five key elements of the draft: 1) Rules based multilateral trading system
66 and completion of the Bogor Goals 2) Digital economy 3) Human capital
67 development and interaction with stakeholders 4) Sustainability and the
68 environment and 5) Empowerment of the APEC Secretariat.
 - 69 ○ The current draft outline version 7 has the following parts with the critical issues:
 - 70 ▪ Title: Leaders' Declaration on Post-2020 Vision (Working Title)
 - 71 ▪ Catchphrase: Chapeau to preface the Vision Statement (use of shared
72 prosperity; modify community as an economic community)
 - 73 ▪ Paragraph 1: Free, Fair and Open Trade and Investment (reference to
74 WTO; reference to "Fair"; reference to Bogor Goals)
 - 75 ▪ Paragraph 2: Innovation and Digitalization (reference to secure and trusted
76 data flows)
 - 77 ▪ Paragraph 3: Balanced, Inclusive, Sustainable, Innovative, and Secure
78 Economic Growth (reference to environmental challenges in lieu of climate
79 change)
 - 80 ▪ Paragraph 4: Institutional Strengthening and Stock take (reference to
81 timetable and review)
- 82 • DTI encouraged agencies to have an active role in drafting the Post-2020 Vision.
 - 83 ○ The APEC COVID-19 Latest & Immediate Virtual Exchange is an online platform
84 to share policy interventions, measures, programs, and initiatives adopted by
85 economies to address the impact and challenges arising from the pandemic. The
86 Philippines generally supports the proposal and mentioned building on CTI's
87 stocktake on economies' trade and investment policy measures implemented in
88 response to COVID-19.
 - 89 ○ Regarding Malaysia's proposal on facilitating the flow of essential goods in APEC,
90 DTI mentioned that the proposal contains unilateral tariff commitments that will
91 come into force by 1 January 2021. The economy-specific lists are not subject to
92 negotiations and will be determined by the economies; the list will be without
93 prejudice to the positions of APEC Economies at the WTO. It is proposed to
94 contain products from one or more of the following: medical, food, and agriculture.
 - 95 ○ Meanwhile, the proposal from New Zealand and Singapore on APEC Trade in
96 Medical Goods Initiative is voluntarily suspending applied tariffs the World
97 Customs Organisation's (WCO) list of medical supplies and medicines for COVID-
98 19. The proposal is a living document and economies can add products on the list.
99 Economies commit to not apply export prohibitions or restrictions.
 - 100 ○ During the VESOM, Senior Officials recommended that the Malaysia and joint
101 New Zealand-Singapore proposals be discussed in the APEC CTI. DTI is working
102 with other agencies for comments and proposals.
 - 103 ▪ There is a proposal by NEDA to bring the issue to the CTRM given that
104 there will be tariff adjustments involved.

- 107 ▪ DTI shared its assessment on the proposals such as supporting in
- 108 principles, clarifying implementation and monitoring, the statements are as
- 109 good as commitments by other economies, and support if there is a critical
- 110 mass. There must be a commitment from all APEC economies.
- 111 ▪ DTI conducted a quick review of tariffs already in place for the medical
- 112 products. Some tariffs are high for the chemical products and some
- 113 agricultural products.
- 114 • DG Tamayo sought comments and updates from TBAM members/agencies on their
- 115 current workplans.
- 116 ○ DOT shared that the Tourism Working Group met on 15 May 2020 to discuss
- 117 APEC's strategic tourism plans consisting of 4 priority areas: digital transformation
- 118 (actions: policy framework for policy knowledge sharing, more on exchanges of
- 119 information), human capital development (and how to help tourism workers), travel
- 120 facilitation and competitiveness, sustainability of tourism growth. The Tourism
- 121 Working Group is thinking of coming up with a Tourism Ministers' Statement. DOT
- 122 sought comments from TBAM members on this matter.
- 123 ▪ DG Tamayo shared that a statement is a political effort on the part of
- 124 Ministers and manifestation of the need to come up with stated goals and
- 125 directions for member economies to follow. But a statement at the working
- 126 level is equally compelling.
- 127 ▪ DTI shared the same view that a statement at the working level is also
- 128 important. Maybe at the working group level, the Tourism Working Group
- 129 can continue to come up with tourism initiatives to revive the tourism
- 130 industry.
- 131 ○ ABAC has reprogrammed its priorities to work on a COVID-19 work program such
- 132 as MSMEs, digital connectivity, open markets for goods and services, and
- 133 ensuring supply chains resilience. ABAC will have their last meeting on 24 June
- 134 2020 to finalize their recommendation to the MRT.
- 135 ▪ ABAC Philippines also welcomed a new member, Mr. Sabin Aboitiz.

136

137 **Results of the APEC Virtual Minister Responsible for Trade (VMRT) Meeting (c/o DTI)**

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- 139 • The VMRT was led by DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez. The highlights of the meeting include
- 140 the following:
- 141 ○ Discussed APEC initiatives in response to COVID- 19 and common actions to fast-
- 142 track the path for economic recovery; noted ABAC Report on COVID-19 and
- 143 recommendations to mitigate the immediate impact of the pandemic; and
- 144 recognized ABAC's call for APEC to lead work in revitalizing the MTS and to
- 145 address the evolving business needs (ABAC Statement on the WTO)
- 146 • Meanwhile, Secretary Lopez's statement pointed to three areas of work for APEC to
- 147 collectively work on:
- 148 ○ safeguarding and building resilience
- 149 ○ promoting free, open, and fair trade ("fair" – PH have not put restrictions on
- 150 essential goods/supplies that are important in addressing the pandemic; watch out
- 151 for different support programs that may affect other economies)
- 152 ○ preparing economies for the new normal – digital economy; support MSMEs
- 153
- 154 • The VMRT outcome documents include the APEC VMRT statement and the adoption of
- 155 the APEC Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods.
- 156

157 **Agencies' Reports/Updates /Issues and concerns**

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159 **1. SCE c/o DFA**

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- The discussions focused on two (2) issues:
 - Policy Dialogue on the Circular Economy: look at circular economy to repair/support supply chains, reduce resource use and waste, and repurpose waste
 - Standardized Fora Assessment Program: effort to update criteria; fora/groups are evaluated by senior officials particularly on the work on COVID-19. Groups to undergo assessment include the following:
 - For 2020: SMEWG, ATCWG, EGILAT, EPWG, and PPSTI.
 - For 2021: HWG, OFWG, TELWG, TWG, TPTWG, HRDWG, and PPWE.
- 2. Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) Meeting c/o DENR-FMB**
- The 18th EGILAT Meeting was held on 25 August 2020, which was chaired by Australia and quorum of 16 economies.
 - The EGILAT program director briefed EGILAT on the following: addendum to the EGILAT 2020 work plan which was endorsed by EGILAT members and subsequently submitted to APEC SCE for review; EGILAT's agreed mandate and the EGILAT TOR will expire in 2021, summary of review processes; update on the status of EGILAT Project.
 - Members presented updates on their domestic works to combat illegal logging. The PH provided update on House Bill filed at the Phil Congress consolidating all law enforcement on environment and natural resources in one separate agency
- 3. Energy Working Group (EWG) Meeting c/o DOE**
- DOE provided a brief background on the EWG.
 - The theme for 2020 is on renewable energy (RE) transition for sustainable development. The Philippines' reported its RE development policy mechanism initiatives such as the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP) Guidelines; Renewable Energy Market (REM) Rules; Guidelines on the Duty-Free Importation and Monitoring of the Utilization of RE Machinery, Equipment, Materials, and Spare Parts and their Transfer and Disposition.
 - In terms of notable energy development: the Philippines' reported DOE's responses to COVID-19; energy efficiency and conservation; update on the downstream oil and gas.
 - The EWG 59's major deliverable is the proposed new or modernized energy security initiatives spearheaded by the US, China, and Australia. It aims to keep abreast to increasing energy demand and supply. This would require EMM endorsement if finalized.
 - Other agreements include the following: Energy input to AELM Declaration for discussion and inputs for consolidation out of session; Japan proposal to review the EELCMT sub-fund to include energy resilience as criteria; Energy Access Paper and Energy Resilience Principle for members' endorsement in EWG60; Energy Ministers' Meeting – last meeting was in 2015 hosted by PH in Cebu.
- 4. Health Working Group (HWG) Meeting c/o DOH**
- DOH shared some of the meeting items which include 10th APEC high level meeting on health and the economy agenda ad joint statement; governance update 2020; APEC

213 Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life Course; APEC Infectious disease update;
214 addressing impacts of the public health response to COVID-19; end of the year status
215 update and 2021 activities.
216

- 217 • DOH shared the following PH interventions:
 - 218 ○ PH recommends that the HWG should first conduct a comprehensive review of
 - 219 the Health Asia Pacific 2020 prior to the endorsement of the North Star
 - 220 ○ On APEC Infectious Disease Update, PH recommends regular and close
 - 221 coordination and sharing of best practices between APEC and the WHO –
 - 222 international collaboration is important
 - 223 ○ PH is maximizing its Health Technology Assessment Council, to be guided by the
 - 224 WHO recommendations
 - 225 ○ PH expressed interest to join the WHO solidarity trial on COVID-19 vaccine
 - 226 ○ PH calibrated its outbreak preparedness and response strategy
 - 227
- 228 • DOST Asec. Leah Buendia noted that there is a TWG on Vaccine Development and
- 229 informed that the PH is already participating in the WHO Solidarity Trial (vaccine;
- 230 therapeutics and drugs). She furthered share that DOST will fund the WHO solidarity trial
- 231 for vaccine development. DOH have submitted a letter of intention to join the COVAX
- 232 facility PH is evaluated as lower middle-income country – subsidized. The PH is currently
- 233 evaluating bilateral partners and vaccine developers.
234

235 **5. Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) c/o DA**

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- 237 ○ DA reported on the two meetings: agricultural technical cooperation working group and
- 238 the PPFS.
239
- 240 ○ During the Agricultural Technical Working Group, economies discussed the Strategic
- 241 Plan 2021-205. Among the important points include strengthening regional food security
- 242 and safety; promoting conservation and utilization of animal and plant resources;
- 243 enhancing research and development; extension of smart agriculture (agriculture 4.0);
- 244 building agriculture value chain and marketing channels; building climate smart and
- 245 resilient agricultural systems; fostering sustainable agricultural systems; strengthening
- 246 cooperation on prevention and control of animal and plant pests and diseases.
 - 247 ○ Member economies gave updates on their agricultural developments. PH reported
 - 248 on its digital agriculture initiatives. Updates on projects for 2020 and 2021 were
 - 249 reported.
250
- 251 • During the PPFS, APEC economies took note of the challenges brought b COVID-19 on
- 252 food production and distribution resulting to bottle necks in ensuring food security.
 - 253 ○ Economies welcomed collaborative efforts in enhancing connectivity, providing
 - 254 financial assistance, among others.
 - 255 ○ APEC Food Security Roadmap 2020 was discussed – basis for possible post-
 - 256 2020 roadmap
 - 257 ○ Draft Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security Statement on COVID-19 was
 - 258 discussed – two more drafts until presentation
 - 259 ○ Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security will be held on 27 October 2020;
 - 260 Agriculture Secretary Dar has already confirmed to attend the meeting
261

262 **6. Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) c/o PCW**

263

- 264 • PCW presented the highlights for both PPWE1 and PPWE2.
265

266 ○ During the PPWE1, PPWE Chair (Chile) and Co-chair (Malaysia) stressed the
267 importance of PPWE's work as women and girls are disproportionately affected by the
268 pandemic. Chile presented updates on the Implementation Plan of the La Serena
269 Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth. Economies also presented their gender-
270 focused responses to COVID-19. There were also discussions on the process of
271 selecting the next PPWE Chair for 2021-2022. The PH nominated New Zealand to be the
272 next chair for 2021-2022 due to its active participation in PPWE, 2021 host economy;
273 COVID-19 response - expertise to lead PPWE in discussing women's economic
274 recovery.

275
276 ● During the PPWE2, PPWE Chair acknowledged the important contribution of the private
277 sector to COVID19 response and recovery efforts, hence the inclusion of a Public-Private
278 dialogue on Women and the Economy at the PPWE2. Public-Private dialogue focused
279 on three sectors: construction, mining, technology. Presentations focused on the
280 importance of women's participation on economic recovery.

281 **7. Telecommunication and Information Working Group (TELWG) Meeting c/o NTC**

282
283
284 ● The meeting focused on discussion on fostering innovation and addressing regulatory
285 challenges.

286
287 ● The PH, through the NTC, reported the following initiatives:

- 288 ○ RA 11202 Mobile Number Portability was enacted
- 289 ○ Rules and regulations on unblocking of mobile phones and devices were issued
- 290 ○ Granted authority to new major player, Dito

291
292 ● In response to the pandemic, the PH telecom sector undertook the following issuances:
293 extending the validity of NTC permits, certificates, and licenses; ordered public telecom
294 entities (PTEs) and internet service providers (ISPs) to submit business continuity plans
295 to address increased demand of ICT services; appealed to LGUs and homeowners to
296 allow the entry of PTE and ISP personnel to perform repairs and installations to ensure
297 internet is not interrupted; supported DepEd for free access to DepEd commons; and
298 accessibility for consumer complaints.

299 **8. Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) Meeting c/o ATC**

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301
302 ● The CTWG met last February and the PH highlighted that international cooperation is
303 required to counter terrorism.

304
305 ● ATC reported the PH continues to participate on meetings on cross border terrorism. The
306 PH sought to combat terrorism through the use of advanced passenger information (API).
307 The PH also took part in the launching of the UN Counter Terrorism Go Travel Program.
308 The PH constituted working groups: one technical and one legal to harmonize API and
309 border information system, among others. The PH also shared that the Anti-Terrorism
310 Act was passed to improve PH's capacity to combat terrorism.

311 **9. APEC Network on Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies** 312 **c/o OMB**

313
314
315 ● The meeting is scheduled on 21 October and member economies will report ongoing
316 investigation in cases of mismanagement and fraudulent activities in relation to COVID-
317 19. Other topics will include member exchanges on ongoing investigations, report on the

318 result of capacity building workshop, report on domestic mechanisms on anti-money
319 laundering and asset recovery, and discussions on mutual legal assistance.
320

321 **10. Outcomes of Budget and Management Committee Meetings c/o DFA**

322

- 323 • There are now discussions on process improvements within the APEC Secretariat.
324 Measures are underway to improve human resource management of APEC Secretariat.
325
- 326 • The APEC Secretariat continues to refine online tools that will enable economies to submit
327 concept notes; allow program directors to assess the concept notes. It is expected to roll
328 out in 2021.
- 329
- 330 • There were also discussions on the need to appoint a data privacy security officer, issues
331 on Policy Support Unit funding, and contribution of economies.
332

333 **11. Committee and Sub-Fora Report c/o DTI**

334

335 **A. CTI**

- 336 • Discussions focused on 4 areas namely: support for the multilateral trading
337 system; Bogor Goals final assessment report; FTAAP Report to Leaders; and
338 Declaration on facilitating the movement of essential goods.
 - 339 ○ Support for the multilateral trading system highlights: Policy dialogue to update
340 on the ongoing WTO joint statement initiative on e-commerce; and PH
341 intervention called for economies to actively engage in the JSI and contribute
342 thru parallel work in APEC
 - 343 ○ Bogor Goals final assessment report highlights: included a review on the
344 impact of COVID19 pandemic to region's economic activities; highlighted
345 progress in many areas, including trade facilitation measures triggered by the
346 pandemic; and identified unfinished business in Bogor Goals (tariffs, non-tariff
347 measures, restrictions on cross-border data transfer, etc.)
 - 348 ○ FTAAP Report to Leaders highlights: developed by CTI chair and PSU; PH
349 supports next generation trade and investment issues; Demandeur: China;
350 Oppositeur: USA
 - 351 ○ Declaration on facilitating the movement of essential goods highlight: Proposal
352 for CTI to lead work

353 **B. DESG**

- 354 • The DESG will convene on 21 October 2020 where major topics for discussion is
355 the finalization of the work program to implement the APEC Internet and Digital
356 Economy Roadmap (AIDER). Member economies are expected to share
357 information on relevant domestic e-commerce issues/initiatives. The PH
358 intervention will call member economies' attention on the joint report of the World
359 Bank and NEDA on the PH digital economy.
360

361 **C. MAG**

- 362 • The MAG will virtually convene on 03 November. The PH will provide the updates
363 on the usage report of the APEC Trade Repository (APECTR) and the
364 implementation of the Boracay Action Agenda (BAA).
365

366 **12. Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS) c/o NPC**

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- 368 • As the youngest member of the CBPR system, the PH reported on the approval of its letter
369 of intent and plan on operationalizing the system in the PH. The PH also reported on the
370

- 371 draft roadmap on the nomination of accountability agent. The PH, through the NPC,
372 continues to attend meetings on CBPR expansion.
- 373 • The DPS Chair presented the 2019 DPS workplan as basis for the DESG workplan for
374 2020-2021. The draft DBS Workplan 2021 contains the implementation of the APEC CPBR
375 System and APEC Interoperability.
 - 376 • Updates on data privacy legislations were also presented.
 - 377 • On 17 October 2020, the DPS statement on COVID-19 was circulated for comments.

378 379 **13. Group on Services (GOS) c/o NEDA**

- 380 • The GOS met twice in 2020.
- 381
- 382
- 383 • During the first meeting (65th meeting), there were two workshops held: 1) workshop to
384 advance the APEC Environmental Agenda and 2) workshop on mutual recognition of
385 qualifications and skills as part of the final push to achieve the Bogor Goals. The 5th
386 Technical Group Meeting was also conducted.
- 387
- 388 • During the second meeting (66th meeting), there were discussions on the impact of COVID-
389 19 on APEC services sector, proposed methodology for midterm review of the ASCR in
390 2021, addressing the unfinished business of the Bogor Goals, and Project Management.
- 391
- 392 • NEDA also shared other APEC Trade Related Meetings attended such as the APEC CTI
393 Virtual Extraordinary Meeting, Virtual APEC Trade Ministerial Meeting, EC Informal
394 Meeting on RAASR, CTI virtual meeting, and webinar on analytical application of the STRI-
395 Trade Cost Implications of Services Barriers.

396 397 **14. Life Science Innovation Forum (LSIF) c/o DOH**

- 398 • The DOH attended the Policy Dialogue and the Planning Group Meeting.
- 399
- 400
- 401 • Among the highlights of the Policy Dialogue include Looking Ahead to the Next Decade of
402 Life Sciences Innovation in the Asia Pacific; Harnessing Digital Technologies to Enable
403 the Future of Life Sciences Innovation; Accelerating Regulatory Convergence in the Asia
404 Pacific in the Next Decade; Perspectives on Preparing Health Systems in the Asia Pacific
405 for Transformative Therapies; and Enhancing Innovative Funding and Financing in
406 Support of Resilient Health Systems in the Asia Pacific Lessons Learned and Next Steps.
- 407
- 408 ○ Barriers to Regulatory Convergence were discussed. One of the most important
409 barriers was the lack of understanding and legal structure for undertaking Regulatory
410 Reliance (RR). Under RR, the time spent for review of technical dossier will be less
411 without sacrificing the quality of the review.
- 412 ○ There was also a discussion on accelerated pathway in case of emergencies
413 highlighting pandemic regulatory best practices.
- 414 • The Planning Group Meeting discussed the preparations for the 10th APEC High-Level
415 Meeting on Health and the Economy and the LSIF Strategic Plan in 2021 and LSIF
416 strategies were presented.

417 418 **15. Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) Meeting c/o** 419 **DOST**

- 420
- 421 • During the 15th APEC PPSTI Meeting, the PH project proposal "Transforming APEC
422 Economies through Inclusive Collaboration of Industry 4.0 Tech" was endorsed.
- 423

- 424 • Discussions during the 16th APEC PPSTI include the five projects that have been approved
425 for APEC funding, updates on APEC ASPIRE, APEC Policy Sharing Webinar on "Open
426 Science" (where the PH moved to promote science-based evidence in the promulgation of
427 domestic policies), endorsement of the PPSTI Statement on COVID-19.
428
- 429 • Moreover, there was a presentation on NZ's 2021 priorities, recovery using STI approach,
430 resilience, climate and economic, rescaling, use of STI to detect emergence of new
431 diseases.
432
- 433 • DOST also shared its active participation in several webinars.
434

435 **16. SCSC c/o DTI**

- 436
- 437 • The DTI attended the 25th JRAC Meeting on Electrical and Electronic Equipment were
438 updates on the EEE sector and administrative issues related to JRAC were discussed.
439
- 440 • During the SCSC 2 2020 meeting, Malaysia presented measures undertaken during the
441 pandemic. Selected SCSC works were also discussed, as well as SCSC projects.
442
- 443 • The PH project on improving transparency on food packaging approve in 2019 is extended
444 and amended due to COVID-19. The projects is slated until next year.
445

446 **17. SCCP c/o DTI-BITR**

- 447
- 448 • The DTI-BITR participated in the SCCP APEC Workshop in integrating SMEs in authorized
449 economic operator programs. The outcomes of the workshop expected to be presented in
450 the SCCP meeting on 27 October.
451
- 452 • One of agenda items of the meeting is the information sharing session on relevant
453 COVID19 policy responses related to trade facilitation.
454
- 455 • The meeting of APEC alliance of supply chain connectivity is scheduled on 29 October.
456

457 **18. APEC Economic Committee c/o NEDA**

- 458
- 459 • The EC met twice. The highlights of these meetings are as follows:
460 ○ The EC endorsed the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform Final Review
461 Report.
462 ○ NEDA noted that APEC economic have made good progress in advancing RAASR.
463 ○ The proposed agenda on structural reform for 2021-2025 was shared. The PH
464 suggested the inclusion of digital economy and resilience, inclusivity, and
465 sustainability.
466 ○ It was announced that there will be no SRMM this year.
467 ○ There was a general consensus that new RAASR will be endorsed at a ministerial
468 level.
469 ○ The EC endorsed the 3rd ease of doing business action plan and implementation plan.
470 ○ PSU discussed the key finding of the 2020 AEPR on structural reform and women
471 empowerment. Moreover, the 2021 AEPR on structural reform and future of work will
472 include the future of work around the impact of COVID-19 and economic resilience,
473 conduct a policy dialogue to narrow down the scope of future of work and identify key
474 issues, consider 2017 AEPR which recommended the reform of labor market
475 regulations and enhance social protection.

- 476 ○ Future meetings for the EC include the EC Virtual Meeting in 2020. Workshops, virtual
477 EC 2 Plenary, and virtual structural reform ministerial meeting are slated for 2021.
478

479 **19. Tourism Working Group c/o DOT**

- 480
- 481 • The 56th online meeting of the APEC Tourism Working Group was on 22 September 2020.
 - 482
 - 483 • DOT shared that attendees talked about global data, scenarios, travel, and tourism trends.
 - 484
 - 485 • The TWG is working on the finalization of the Tourism Strategic Plan (TSP) 2020-2024
486 which will have 44 actions. The four (4) priority areas of the TSP are digital transformation,
487 human capital development, travel facilitation and competitiveness, sustainable tourism
488 and economic growth.
 - 489
 - 490 • APEC member economies were invited to be the lead economy of the actions under the
491 tourism workplan.
 - 492
 - 493 • The PH confirmed its commitment to facilitate and undertake the following: create policy
494 framework for knowledge sharing, collect and disseminate travel safety and security
495 guidelines, and share good practices for women's and young's empowerment in the
496 tourism industry.
 - 497
 - 498 • DOT will be conducting the APEC funding forum to entice stakeholders to participate and
499 submit concept notes/project proposals – series and by level.

500 **High-level Ministerial Meetings**

501 **1. Finance Ministers' Meeting c/o DOF**

- 502
- 503 • The FMM was convened on 25 September 2020. The meeting focused on COVID-19
504 response, financial initiatives, commitment to support balance and inclusive growth and
505 financial stability in the region.
 - 506
 - 507 • The Finance Ministers' encouraged member economies develop and cooperate on the
508 development of COVID19 vaccines that are safe, affordable, and accessible to all;
509 support MSMEs, commitment to work on the digital economy by developing regulations
510 that would make digital economy safer.
 - 511
 - 512 • Moreover, the Finance Ministers are considering the extension of cooperation on disaster
513 risk financing and insurance to include pandemic risk.
 - 514

515 **2. High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy c/o DOH**

- 516
- 517 • During the 10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy During, the DOH
518 Secretary shared a video message. There were 3 sessions namely: COVID-19 and the
519 Economic Imperative for Investing in Health; A Systems Approach to a Resilient APEC
520 Region; and Harnessing Digital Economy in the Health Sector to Combat COVID-19. The
521 PH provided interventions on each session.
 - 522
 - 523 ○ The PH interventions focused on the three sessions highlighting APEC's role in
524 promoting UHC as a framework for the region and recommends investments on
525 health, infrastructure, health information and communication technology, health
526 technologies, research and development and human resources for health.
527
528

- 529 ○ The PH recognized the need to optimize the use of limited resources through
530 cooperation with other Regulatory Authorities among APEC member economies,
531 and work together in harmonizing regulatory requirements and processes across
532 the region.
- 533 ○ The PH also recommended the creation of a COVID-19 Hub that functions as a
534 repository of digital solutions and venue for sharing initiatives and experiences.
535 The PH also highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration for
536 increasing broad innovation capacity and scaling up effective digital technologies.

537 **3. Women and the Economy Forum Virtual Meeting c/o PCW**

- 538 • The PH provided interventions in facilitating the recovery of women led MSMEs through
539 access to financing, market matching activities, e-commerce training.
- 540 • The PH also presented its strategies to empower women even at the time of COVID-19,
541 which includes the following:
 - 542 ○ One strategy presented was the need to strengthen digital capacity and fostering
543 competitiveness and innovativeness by integrating digital marketing training
544 program for women entrepreneurs. This includes initiatives such as the E-Peso
545 Project and webinar series.
 - 546 ○ The PH, in partnership with NZ, will launch the project K3 (Kalinga para sa
547 Kalusugan ng Komunidad) to bolster the health sector's response and recovery
548 capacity.
 - 549 ○ Another strategy is to ensure that the most impacted sectors are supported by
550 passing the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act.
 - 551 ○ In terms of regional cooperation and support, the PH encouraged greater
552 collaboration at all levels and across the region, development of early mitigation
553 policies, more efficient regional coordination in the implementation and monitoring
554 phase of response and recovery effort, sharing of best practices among
555 economies in flattening the pandemic curve.

560 **4. Upcoming SME Ministerial Meeting c/o DTI-BSMED**

- 561 • As reported by DTI-BSMED, the 26th meeting will be on 23 October, while the SME
562 Working Group Meeting is on 21 and 22 October. The agenda includes presentation of
563 report of ABAC, APEC Executive Director, and Australia (APEC SME WG Chair).
- 564 • DTI-BSMED shared the possible interventions which includes highlighting the Bayanihan
565 approach to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and digitalizing MSMEs for inclusive and
566 sustainable new normal. DTI will share the highlights of the meeting in the next TBAM
567 meeting.
- 568 • The adoption of the 2020 Ministerial Statement is also expected and will focus on
569 intensifying cooperation through digitalization.

570 **5. Policy Dialogue on Food Security c/o DA**

- 571 • The virtual ministerial meeting will be on 27 October and chaired by Malaysia.
- 572 • The agenda will be on the reporting of the Chairs of PPFS and ABAC to the Ministers.
- 573 • The focus of the meeting is on APEC's response to COVID-19 food security. Ministerial
574 interventions are expected to focus on policy measures to strengthen food security.
- 575 • The Ministerial Statement on Food Security will be presented by Malaysia and endorsed
576 by the Ministers.

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6. ABAC

- ABAC4 is moved on 17 November 2020 and there will be no ABAC dialogue with Leaders. However, there will be a CEO dialogue scheduled on 19 November. The updated program will be sent to the ANS once received.
- Moreover, ABAC invited everyone to attend the Digital Innovation Forum on 21 October 2020.

Preparation for the APEC Economic Leaders' Week (AELW) – 11 to 20 November

- The AELW schedule of meetings was presented.
- The Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting is scheduled on 1 November. The anticipated discussion will focus on APEC Post-2020 Vision, the Ministers' Statement, and the Leaders' Declaration.
- The AMM will be chaired by Malaysia's Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry. Participation of both the Trade and Foreign Affairs Ministers of all APEC economies is expected. The key outcome of is the AMM Statement which is the precursor to the Leaders' discussion.
 - The Agenda for AMM will focus on combatting COVID-19, improving the narrative of trade and investment, inclusivity, digital economy and innovative sustainability.
 - There will also be an announcement of the APP Challenge inners, adoption of the 2020 AMM Statement, and note preparations for APEC 2021 New Zealand.
- DG Tamayo provided a brief overview of the AELM. The two agenda/main outcomes are the adoption of the APEC Post-2020 Vision and the AELM Leaders' Declaration.

Administrative Matters

- DG Tamayo provided information on important dates and deadlines for the AELW preparations.

Other Matters

- There was a quick family photo.
- DTI asked a query on whether there are plans to convene small meetings for the Post-2020 Vision and for the Ministers' and Leaders' Statement. DG Tamayo replied that this is being discussed and the ANS will circulate the drafts and consult with agencies.

Adjournment/Closing Remarks

- On behalf of Undersecretary Yparraguirre, DG Tamayo thanked everyone's participation. It is hoped that TBAM can meet again after ISOM in preparation for New Zealand's hosting. It is expected that most of the meetings/engagements for 2020 and 2021 will be virtual. DG Tamayo also announce the APEC Concept Note and Project Proposal Writing Workshop scheduled on 24 November.
- The meeting was adjourned.

ANNEX A – List of Attendees

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANIZATION	DESIGNATION
AMARO, JR.	MARCIAL	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLICY, PLANNING AND FOREIGN-ASSISTED AND CHIEF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
AQUIA	MARIE SHERLYN	DTI	SENIOR GAD SPECIALIST
AREVALO	AVERY SILK	PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW)	DIRECTOR
BALDAGO	DENNIS RUSSELL	OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
BALLESTER	RICHARD EMERSON DOMINGUEZ	NEDA	
BALLESTEROS	MARGARITA	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	DIRECTOR IV
BISCARA	MARK ALLEN	DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE	PLANNING OFFICER
BRIZ	RAUL	FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU, DENR	SUPERVISING FOREST MANAGEMENT
BUENDIA	LEAH	DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CANDELARIO	MICHAELLA LOUISE	DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
CARLOS	JEAN CLARISSE	PIDS	PEO III
CASTILLO	SUSANA	PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH- BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION	MEDICAL OFFICER IV
CATHERINE	ANTONIO	DTI-BPS	STIDS
CENIZA	SAMANTHA	DFA-QUIER	CONTRACT OF SERVICE
CONCEPCION	GIOVANI	TARIFF COMMISSION	ACTING CHIEF TARIFF SPECIALIST
DE LA CUESTA	TARIFF COMMISSION	TARIFF COMMISSION	ACTING CHIEF TARIFF SPECIALIST
DE LOS SANTOS	MARIA GENEVIC	DOLE ILAB	LEO III
DESPI	JOSEPHINE	NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II
DESPI	JOSEPHINE	NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II
DOMINGO	LUCKY JOY	NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION	ATTORNEY III
FAMINIAL	RAISSA	DTI-BITR	SENIOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY
GARCIA	JANET	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	DIVISION CHIEF FOR INTERNATIONAL
GAURANO	TANYA	DFA-UNIO	PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT
GAYAS	ISSA	NATIONAL PRIVACY COMMISSION	ATTORNEY III
JUSTIMBASTE	CHARLYN	TESDA	CHIEF TESD SPECIALIST
LEE	MATEO	NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS	DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEE, JR.	MATEO	NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS	DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LONTOK	JENEVIVE	DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE	FINANCIAL ANALYST
LUCES	LENLIEGH HOPE	BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	SENIOR HEALTH PROGRAM OFFICER

MANTARING	MELALYN	PIDS/PASCN	PDO IV
MENDOZA	MA. JOSEFINA	NATIONAL PRIVACY COMMISSION	ATTORNEY IV
MOLINA	ABBYGALE	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
NAÑES	MARIA ERIKA	ATC-PMC	PLANNING OFFICER III
PANES	SUSANA	NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION	ENGINEER III
PATROCINIO	MARIANNE CLAIRE	DILG-BLGD	PROJECT OFFICER
QUINTO	WILLIAM	DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	SUPERVISING SCIENCE RESEARCH
Quisao	Patricia Ann	DOLE	LEO II
RELLOSA	RASIELE REBEKAH	NATIONAL PRIVACY COMMISSION	OIC CHIEF, POLICY DEVELOPMENT
ROJAS	EMERITO	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY
SALONGA	SUSAN MAE	DTI-BSMED	CTIDS
SAPAEN	REVERIE PURE	NEDA	DIRECTOR III
TABILOG	ROMARK	DFA MOAO	DESK ASSISTANT
TOLENTINO	CARESS	DTI	TRADE-INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT
TOLENTINO	CARESS	DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY	TRADE-INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT
TRIMPE	MARIETTA	DTI-BITR	SENIOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY
USON	JASMIN	DOTr	SUPERVISING COMMUNICATIONS DEVT
VILLANUEVA	RAMAKRISHNA	NEDA	EA IV