

APEC's Work on Women and Trade

Chen-Sheng Ho, Ph.D.

Director of International Affairs Department

Taiwan Institute of Economic Research

APEC Document: “Chile’s Priorities for 2019 APEC” (1)

2019 Priorities:

- ▶ Digital Society
- ▶ Integration 4.0
- ▶ Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth
- ▶ Sustainable Growth

Source: http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2019/PPWE/PPWE1/19_ppwe1_002.pdf

APEC Document: “Chile’s Priorities for 2019 APEC” (2)

Main Expected Outcomes for “Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth”:

- ▶ Promote greater participation of women in the economy and in international trade.
- ▶ Promote the development, growth and competitiveness of SMEs.

Major Deliverable: “The Santiago Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030)”

Source: http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2019/PPWE/PPWE1/19_ppwe1_002.pdf

APEC Document (Draft): “The Santiago Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030)” (1)

Key Action Areas (1)

1. Empowering women through access to capital and markets:

- ▶ Promote cooperation in the public and private sector, so that women-owned and women-led SMEs can access capital and assets in local and international markets.
- ▶ Enhance women-owned and women-led SMEs’ ability to participate in global value chains.
- ▶ Provide capacity building activities offering training on networking, mentoring, among other core skills, to increase women’s business competences.
- ▶ Exchange best practices in the adoption of policies that can increase the participation of women in global markets.

Source: APEC PPWE

APEC Document (Draft): “The Santiago Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030)” (2)

Key Action Areas (2)

2. Strengthening women’s labor force participation
3. Improving access of women to leadership positions in all levels of decision making
4. Support women’s education, training and skills development and access in a changing world of work
5. Advancing women’s economic empowerment through data collection and analysis

Source: APEC PPWE

APEC Document (Draft): “The Santiago Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030)” (3)

Roadmap Implementation:

- ▶ Senior Officials will monitor and evaluate progress.
- ▶ The Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) will support Senior Officials by coordinating with all APEC Fora and by maintaining collaboration with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and other relevant stakeholders.
- ▶ A Roadmap Implementation Plan will be developed during the first PPWE meeting of 2020.
- ▶ Senior Officials will report to Ministers on progress and Leaders will be given a full report in 2030.

Source: APEC PPWE

APEC Document: “2019 APEC Women and the Economy Forum Statement” (October 4, 2019)

- ▶ Welcome that for the first time in APEC’s history, women’s economic integration has been featured as a host economy priority under “Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth.”
- ▶ Promote the five pillars of PPWE’s work: (1) access to capital and assets; (2) access to markets; (3) skills, capacity building, and health; (4) leadership, voice, and agency; and (5) innovation and technology.
- ▶ Acknowledge that access to quality education, skills development, capacity-building, and technological literacy are essential for women to be competitive in the digital economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Source: https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Women/2019_women

ABAC Document: “2019 ABAC Report to APEC Economic Leaders” (1)

Major Points related to Women and Trade

Report Section: Facilitating MSMEs' market access and success in global value chains

- ▶ MSMEs, including women-led MSMEs, are not sufficiently engaged or are underrepresented in cross-border trade and in global value chains.

Report's Recommendations (1)

- ▶ Enhance MSMEs' access to finance, information and digital economy channels, and remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and in services.
- ▶ Develop and expand capacity-building programs that improve skills in ICT for MSMEs, such as ABAC's Cross Border E-Commerce Training (CBET), and the APEC Canada Growing Business Partnership Project, a multi-year project that combines research, practical toolkits and capacity workshops.

Source: ABAC Website

ABAC Document: “2019 ABAC Report to APEC Economic Leaders” (2)

Major Points related to Women and Trade

Report’s Recommendations (2)

- ▶ Leverage technology and the digital economy to further empower women.
- ▶ Address barriers that prevent women-owned MSMEs from accessing finance to further aid women-owned firms, both economically and socially.
- ▶ Promote bundling of financial services with business skill trainings, mentorship, better access to market, networking and due diligence assistance will help women-owned MSMEs to better achieve their entrepreneurial goals.
- ▶ Endorse a roadmap for action that would culminate in a **Women’s Economic Empowerment Trade Initiative** for agreement by the time of the 2020 WTO Ministerial in Kazakhstan.

ABAC Document: “Trade Rules for Women’s Economic Empowerment” (1) (WTO Plurilateral on Women’s Economic Empowerment)

Issues:

- ▶ There is a gender trade gap.
- ▶ Women entrepreneurs face greater challenges to establish and grow businesses and engage in international commerce.

Main Points:

- ▶ Economies can work to address the gender trade gap through trade agreements.
- ▶ Trade agreements can include commitments to change domestic laws when necessary to remove legal barriers.
- ▶ Trade agreements can include commitment language that demonstrates resolve for closing the gender trade gap.
- ▶ These commitments can be incorporated into bilateral and regional trade agreements.

Source: ABAC Website

ABAC Document: “Trade Rules for Women’s Economic Empowerment” (2) (WTO Plurilateral on Women’s Economic Empowerment)

The Major Commitments

Rights to Entrepreneurship:

- ▶ Can all persons legally open a bank account, irrespective of gender?
- ▶ Do all persons have equal ownership rights to property, irrespective of gender?
- ▶ Do all offspring, irrespective of gender, have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?

Rights to Ownership:

- ▶ Do all surviving spouses, irrespective of gender, have equal rights to inherit assets?
- ▶ Can all persons legally register a business, irrespective of gender?
- ▶ Does the law prohibit discrimination by creditors on the basis of gender?

Freedom of Movement:

- ▶ Can all persons apply for a passport, irrespective of gender?
- ▶ Can all persons legally travel outside their home, irrespective of gender?
- ▶ Can all persons legally choose where to live, irrespective of gender?

ABAC Document: “Trade Rules for Women’s Economic Empowerment” (3) (WTO Plurilateral on Women’s Economic Empowerment)

ABAC Recommendation:

- ▶ ABAC urges APEC Leaders to support the WTO adopting a Plurilateral Women’s Economic Empowerment Trade Agreement at the 13th Ministerial in June 2020 in Kazakhstan.

Proposed Timeline:

- ▶ **ABAC 3:** ABAC to endorse approach and encourage APEC to adopt as part of Women’s Economic Empowerment Roadmap.
- ▶ **November 2019:** APEC to Endorse Women’s Economic Empowerment Roadmap.
- ▶ **May 2020:** APEC MRT to support WTO Plurilateral on Women’s Economic Empowerment.
- ▶ **June 2020:** Adopt by WTO Ministerial in Kazakhstan.

Source: ABAC Website

APEC Project Funding (1)

APEC Support Fund – Sub-Fund on Women and the Economy

- ▶ Established in 2017.
- ▶ Advance APEC's objectives of increasing women's economic participation.

Voluntary Contributions to the Sub-Fund:

- ▶ Australia: US\$ 751,281
- ▶ New Zealand: US\$30,376
- ▶ Chinese Taipei: US\$ 600,000
- ▶ United States: US\$ 500,000

Source: APEC Website

APEC Project Funding (2)

Examples of APEC Projects by PPWE: 2018-2019

- ▶ Advancing Inclusion through Enhancing Women and Girls' Digital Literacy and Skills in the Context of Industry 4.0
- ▶ APEC Women Connect Capacity Building Program - 2018 Global Value Chain-Cross Border e-Trade (GVC-CBET) Workshop
- ▶ APEC GIFTS A+: Promoting Gender Inclusion in Smart Agriculture (GIFTS: Gendered Innovation for Technology and Science)
- ▶ Understanding and Bridging the Digital Literacy Gender Gap in APEC Economies
- ▶ Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment through Data
- ▶ Action Strategies Toolkit: Increasing Participation of Women in Non-Traditional Sectors
- ▶ Public-Private Dialogue "Women Engagement in E-Commerce: Barriers and Opportunities"

Source: APEC Website

Thank You