Statement for the 32nd Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) General Meeting

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To the distinguished participants of the 32nd PECC General Meeting,

The Asia-Pacific region sits at the strategic epicenter of AI innovation, and therefore, has a crucial role in its governance. This positioning is especially important as the timelines to advanced AI shrink, reinforcing the urgency of general-purpose AI system (GPAI) and artificial general intelligence (AGI) governance. As GPAI and AGI capabilities scale, rapidly and unevenly, this region has both the **opportunity** and **responsibility** to shape AI governance that is grounded in shared values, mutual prosperity, and inclusivity.

In that spirit, I express my appreciation to the Korea National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (KOPEC) and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) for convening this timely meeting.

As the AI Lead & Board Member of the FPTPEC, I would like to offer some insights drawn from three strategic workshops on GPAI convened with PECC partners in the past year:

- The September 2024 US-French PECC committee workshop and report on "Responsible Adoption of General-Purpose AI" in San Francisco;
- The February 2025 US, French, and Singaporean PECC committees' Asia Pacific AI Governance Accelerator (APAIGA) workshop, piloted at the 2025 Paris AI Summit; and
- The July 2025 APAIGA workshop, organized by the Singaporean PECC committee with support from their national regulator, Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), and featuring representatives from the US, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Chinese Taipei PECC committees.

The Level and Pace of GPAI Advancement Requires Urgent Attention

Improvements in compute scaling, algorithmic efficiency, and reinforcement learning are contributing to rapid GPAI progress. Examples of this progress include:

- AI systems were able to outperform PhDs in the field on hard scientific reasoning questions in late 2024. In 2023, AI systems assessed on the same benchmark resulted in random responses.
- In late 2024, an AI agent outperformed humans in difficult, real-world AI research engineering tasks when given 2 hours per the METR RE-bench benchmark.

The large-scale implications of this progress are not yet clear. However, they do give credibility to concerns of achieving AGI and possibly even artificial superintelligence (ASI) by the end of the decade. Action cannot be taken *ex-post*; the time for establishing coordinated language, frameworks, and compliance/enforcement mechanisms is now.

Workshop Insights

Ahead of the 2025 Paris AI Summit, stakeholders convened in San Francisco for a workshop convened by FPTPEC and US PECC to identify emerging policy priorities for GPAI. Discussions surfaced critical levers, including growing energy access needs and the rising AI Assurance Technology industry. These insights informed the "Responsible Adoption of General-Purpose AI" report.

Building on this foundation, the Asia-Pacific AI Governance Accelerator (APAIGA) seeks to strengthen responsible AI adoption and innovation capacity within APEC. Launched at the 2025 Paris AI Action Summit, APAIGA emphasizes foresight-driven scenario exercises to stress-test regional AI governance readiness and coordination capacities across multiple futures. It seeks to promote shared principles of precaution, ethics, innovation and responsibility, and to address challenges/barriers to AI governance development.

The July 2025 workshop was the first official event under the APAIGA banner. It initiated practical discussions on AI supply chain capacities, industry-specific AI application use cases, and possible AI development scenarios.

Why the Asia-Pacific Region Must Lead on GPAI Governance

The Asia-Pacific region is home to key actors across the AI value chain. It plays a central role in chip manufacturing and foundation model training, and has a significant share of the global AI applications market. The ubiquitous and transboundary nature of AI reinforces how connected the region is, exposing vulnerabilities across interdependent economic, security, and governance fabrics.

Discussions revealed a key governance entry point for addressing AI value chain vulnerabilities — *trade negotiation mechanisms*. By providing appropriate technical understanding and capacity at critical junctures in the AI value chain, we can:

- Introduce structure into the AI value chain, diffusing AI benefits and mitigating the increasing hyperconcentration of AI power in the hands of a few countries/hyperscalers;
- Build local/regional and industry-specific (e.g., healthcare, fintech, etc.) regulator capacity to operationalize and harmonize AI governance;
- Promote international interoperability standards that enable cross-border AI deployments to avoid a fractured AI governance regime;
- Pilot practical mechanisms such as export controls, cryptographic and hardware-based chip use verification, data center-based AI regulation, model evaluation protocols, and "trade tech" sandboxes to assess their utility/efficacy; and
- Enable multilateral discussions and interventions to de-risk GPAI and AGI/ASI, addressing the growing threat of race dynamics and geopolitical tensions that distort productive AI governance.

Historically, APEC and PECC have helped create soft infrastructure and practical discussion channels to facilitate trade and investment. As well-positioned neutral and credible hubs, APEC and PECC can incubate evidence-based, interoperable, innovation-friendly, and safety-conscious governance frameworks that uphold responsibility, competition, and shared norms.

Policy Considerations for the 32nd PECC General Meeting

I urge the General Meeting to take decisive governance steps to enable safe, controllable, and aligned AI development and deployment across the Asia-Pacific region. I submit the following policy considerations, assembled from workshop insights, for consideration:

1. Help equip trade negotiators and APEC officials with strategic and technical AI fluency. This includes upskilling their understanding of critical enablers (e.g., compute infrastructure, data flows, algorithms, talent) that underpin AI development and deployment.
2. Use scenario planning as a strategic tool for AI governance. APEC and PECC policymakers should leverage foresight tools like scenario planning to stress-test assumptions, anticipate potential second- and third-order effects, and prepare for a range of AI development trajectories over the next few years.
3. Promote "co-opetition" over competition. APEC and PECC economies should favour collaboration over destabilising competition. Where direct cooperation is not feasible, structured coordination and open dialogue are essential to mitigate 'racing' dynamics and ensure responsible development and deployment. Efforts, including the Singapore Consensus on Global AI Safety Research Priorities, could be adopted by APEC to identify areas for regional co-opetition.

4. **Distribute AI benefits equitably.** GPAI governance must not become the privilege of a few advanced economies. APEC and PECC countries need to catalyse capacity-building efforts, including global AI talent development, large-scale AI literacy, safe and responsible compute distribution, and workforce adaptation mechanisms. Efforts, including the Guide on AI Governance and Ethics by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), could provide support for responsible and cross-border advanced AI adoption.
5. **Identify and prioritize AI use cases in critical industries and "coordination-enabling" technologies.** APEC and PECC countries need to explore how AI touches vital domains such as energy, health, agriculture, and supply chains. They also need to consider AI tools that can support negotiation, treaty verification, and crisis monitoring for multilateral governance efforts.
6. **Invest in the AI Assurance Technology industry.** Current technical AI risk assessment solutions for GPAI are vastly underdeveloped and insufficiently robust. Yet, the industry for these solutions is estimated to be worth USD 276 billion by 2030. Realising this potential will require APEC and PECC countries to create market-shaping policies proactively, align on regulatory signals, and harmonise cross-border governance frameworks. Engagements, including the APAIGA workshops, could be leveraged to explore emerging/weak signals and create sector-specific safety mechanisms.
7. **Enable a culture of AI system verification and testing.** Generate mutually-agreed upon technical metrics, model development process checks, assurance/audit methods, and incident reporting mechanisms to foster an open ecosystem of robust external validation. Tools, including the OECD's Reporting Framework, set upon the G7 Hiroshima AI Process Code of Conduct, could offer APEC and PECC economies a baseline framework for reporting and responding to AI incidents.
8. **Use multilateral networks for AI oversight and dialogue.** Platforms such as APEC and PECC are critical for inclusive AI governance discourse. These forums should strengthen their visibility in the AI governance conversation and proactively engage with bodies such as the International Network of AI Safety Institutes to promote regionally beneficial and responsible AI development and deployment.

Respectfully submitted,

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