

## Welcome Remarks

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Madam Fan, Dr. Lee, Dr. Wu, distinguished delegates, fellow colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome on behalf of the PECC HRD Task Force all of you to the symposium on “The Impact of Globalization and Human Capacity Building”. I am all the more honored to mention that this event brings together many eminent experts to address various pertinent issues.

The PECC HRD Task Force is privileged to be hosting this event. We express our sincere appreciation of the help and advice given by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Council of Economic Planning and Development, Taiwan Institute of economic Research and CTPECC for making this event possible.

Present here today are representatives from the government, business and academic sectors from all PECC economies. This occasion sets a positive note to the beginning of many more ambitious efforts that the HRD task force hopes to undertake. It provides an opportunity for representatives from different sectors and regions to examine issues of pressing concern. The task force looks to the outcome of the discussion as guide to our future planning and work. Therefore, your contribution is most valuable.

The HRD task force is proud to serve all PECC member economies, specifically in human capacity-building. Since its inception, the task force has defined its objectives as: (1) To promote regional economic cooperation and foster a sense of regional community; (2) To facilitate mutual learning among members regarding best practices in individual economies; (3) To forge collaboration through the PECC tripartite network; and (4) To plan viable outreach activities in the path of globalization.

Based on that, we shortlist several central issues for planning future activities. These issues are: Enhancing the human capacity for industrial restructuring; Nurturing human resource for small and medium enterprises; Highlighting the culture industry in the globalization; and HRD and high value-added technology. As you may see, they are the same issues that call for our attention in this symposium. We look forward to your active participation in sharing your thoughts and experiences on those issues.

Increasingly, the development and management of human resource is compelling task for many economies. Both the public and private sectors have put in tremendous efforts into building a workforce that can easily adapt to structural changes and technological innovations. In many cases, commendable work is done and encouraging results are achieved. However, for sustainable development, PECC members have to join efforts, and pool ideas and resources. The world has become one big, connected place. Regional cooperation is integral to global connectivity.

In a new era of globalization, Asia-Pacific economies must work ever more closely to accelerate progress and prosperity in the entire region. The HRD Task Force is proud to play a part in that endeavor, and we will strive to help build an economic powerhouse of the Asia-Pacific region.

It has often been said that teaching the man to fish is more important than giving him fish. However, there is an added challenge today – helping the man develop an ability to fish in all waters and weathers. He must learn to cope with complex circumstances, and ride the globalization wave to make the world his oyster.

For a venue to discuss an issue so closely related to structural and technological changes, the choice of Yunlin University of Science and Technology cannot be more appropriate. The university is located in a region that depends largely on the rural economy. Here, manufacturing belongs mainly to traditional industries although tourism is strongly promoted in recent years. The local government faces the compelling questions of industrial upgrading, human resource development and the impact of globalization. As a tertiary institution, NYUST plays a crucial role in helping the local economy link up with the global system. This symposium represents a significant step forward. Both the county and the university are eager to learn from your discussion.



Once again, the PECC HRD Task Force extends its sincere thanks to you for being here to share your ideas and opinions in the next two days. Working in concerted efforts, I believe, we can elevate human resources to new heights of excellence. I wish the symposium every success, and I wish all of you a very fruitful experience.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.