



Members Updates

- AusPECC
- CHILPEC
- HKCPEC
- NZPECC
- CTPECC
- TNCPEC
- USPECC

PECC-Related Events

- From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian

Recent Publications

- International Property Law and Policy – A primer
- Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific
 - From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - APEC HRDMM
 - APEC EMM
 - APEC TMM

Any other business

From the Curator's Desk

Navigating a Transforming Asia-Pacific in 2026

As we navigate a shifting and increasingly complex geoeconomic landscape in late 2026, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and its member committees have remained at the forefront of regional dialogue, policy research, and collaborative action. Across the Asia-Pacific, our network has been actively addressing the defining challenges of our time—from advancing regional trade and foreign direct investment to harnessing the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence.

Key Highlights

- **Advancing FTAAP & Trade:** Championing bottom-up, voluntary pilot initiatives for digital trade and logistics, supported by strategic trade and investment profiles across member economies.
- **Steering the AI Revolution:** Launching the USPECC-led report on *Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation* (featuring workforce insights from HKCPEC) and PECC AI Event featuring the table-top exercise on AI-driven supply chain disruption, followed by two panel discussions under the theme “AI for Good and for All”.
- **Ministerial Engagement:** PECC Co-Chair and CNCPEC Chair Amb. Zhan Yongxin actively delivering key addresses at APEC ministerial meetings, on human resources, energy resilience, and smart transport.
- **Digital Trust & IP:** New initiatives, including NZPECC’s comprehensive IP Primer and projects on the digital substantiation of product claims (such as Digital Product Passports), are providing policymakers with critical frameworks to balance modern innovation with consumer protection and transparency.
- **Fostering the Next Generation:** From former PECC Secretariat interns bringing the “PECC spirit” forward into influential policy roles, to rising changemakers in CTPECC’s Youth Training Camp and HKCPEC’s Model PECC—shaping policies and our shared values.

We thank you for your continued engagement and invite your feedback and contributions for future editions of the PECC Link E-newsletter at media@pecc.org.

Sincerely,
PECC International Secretariat

AusPECC: Updates

AusPECC and CNCPEC Collaboration on Advancing APEC's FTAAP vision

Throughout 2026, the Australian Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee (AusPECC) and the Australian APEC Study Centre (AASC) have worked alongside the China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (CNCPEC) and the China APEC Study Centre at Nankai University (ASCNK) to advance APEC's vision for the FTAAP during China's APEC host year. This work is supported by the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations (NFACR) and aligns with work AusPECC is leading on a PECC Signature Project, *FTAAP Pathways to Prosperity*.

Track II Dialogue on Advancing APEC's vision for the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP): Deepening understanding between Australia and China

On 6 August 2026, AASC at RMIT University and AusPECC hosted a Track II Dialogue in Melbourne, *Advancing APEC's Vision for the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP): Deepening Understanding between Australia and China*. The dialogue brought together around 40 business leaders, policymakers and academics from Australia and China to discuss how the FTAAP vision can be advanced during China's 2026 APEC host year (see the [post event write up](#)). It was held in collaboration with CNCPEC and ASCNK and supported by NFACR.

It was structured around the practical trade and investment challenges businesses face operating in the region and the pathways through which those challenges could be addressed. Business participants highlighted traceability, unclear regulations and overlapping trade agreements as immediate priorities, alongside opportunities in green technology, indigenous business recognition and decarbonisation.

On pathways forward, participants converged on a bottom-up, voluntary "Pathfinder Initiative" model as the most realistic route to advancing the FTAAP, given ongoing challenges to a comprehensive top-down negotiation. Proposed areas for possible pathfinder initiatives included digital trade and logistics corridors, AI-enabled cross-border services, paperless trade, and a "project passport" concept to support services and talent mobility. Participants also discussed the importance of rebuilding trust in the international trading system as urgent and floated the possibility of a joint Australia-China pilot initiative as a tangible near-term step.

The dialogue concluded with a call to enable further consideration of the pathfinder approach for FTAAP in APEC, to embed a stronger and more inclusive business voice in discussions, and to ensure lessons from any pilots undertaken are shared across the wider APEC membership, thereby embedding a capacity-building element into all pathfinder initiatives.

AusPECC/CNCPEC Workshop on Regional Trade: Advancing APEC's FTAAP Vision, Shanghai

The Melbourne dialogue follows the AusPECC-CNCPEC special session on FTAAP held in Shanghai in May 2026 during the 33rd PECC General Meeting.



The special session, moderated by Arjuna Nadaraja (Chair, AusPECC), brought together dialogue speakers Craig Emerson (Executive Chair, AASC) and Zhao Zhongxiu (President, University of International Business and Economics), followed by a panel discussion. The session focused on how APEC economies could move the FTAAP from a long-term vision to practical outcomes, with strong support for progressing it through an evolving set of voluntary "Pathfinder Initiatives." These would be collaborative, non-binding pilots in areas such as environmental goods, paperless trade, business travel and the digitalisation of services, that willing economies could lead and others join once ready. The engagement of youth when progressing FTAAP initiatives was also identified as important.

These ideas are set out in more detail in the AASC/AusPECC discussion paper, [Advancing APEC's Vision for the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific \(FTAAP\)](#), as well as the [summary paper](#) prepared following the Shanghai workshop.

AASC and AusPECC hope to continue collaboration with CNCPEC and ASCNK on advancing APEC's FTAAP vision through China's APEC host year, with outcomes to be conveyed to APEC and the broader PECC and APEC Business Advisory Council networks as FTAAP priorities are finalized.



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- [Alumni Insights](#)
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- [APEC Ministerial Meetings](#)
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business

CHILPEC Updates



Members Updates

- AusPECC
- CHILPEC
- HKCPEC
- NZPECC
- CTPECC
- TNCPEC
- USPECC

PECC-Related Events

- From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian

Recent Publications

- International Property Law and Policy – A primer
- Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific
 - From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - APEC HRDMM
 - APEC EMM
 - APEC TMM

Any other business

1. Asia Pacific Economic Profiles 2026

This year's publication of the Asia Pacific Economic Profiles devoted to the theme "Attracting Foreign Direct Investment: Comparative Asia-Pacific Experiences and Strategic Guidance for Chile".

The report's overall objective is to analyze the institutional models, state strategies and public policies that Asia-Pacific economies have used to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and to draw lessons applicable to Chile, against the backdrop of geoeconomic fragmentation, active industrial policies and of spread of the investment screening mechanisms.

The comparison of the Asia-Pacific models will be a crucial point of the report to set out orientations to strengthen Chile's capacity to attract FDI; identify policy instruments in strategic sectors such as critical mineral, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, digital services and infrastructure; analyze interinstitutional coordination among investment agencies, line ministries and trade policy; and assess the role of trade policy.

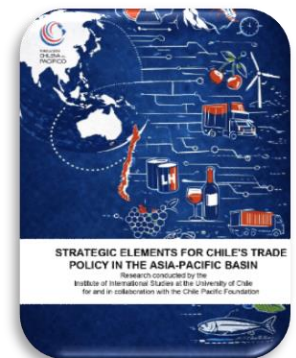
2. Strategic Elements for Chile's Trade Policy in the Asia-Pacific Basin

The report "Strategic Elements for Chile's Trade Policy in the Asia-Pacific Basin" report was released in January 2026. The study offers a strategic reading of Chile's insertion in the region, distinguishing the Asia-Pacific, Indo-Pacific and Latin-Pacific frameworks as reference points for national policy.

It maps Chile's engagement with the Asian basin—trade agreements, strategic partnerships and regional forums— and analyzes trade in goods, from the evolution of exports to tariffs, non-tariff measures, logistics costs, global value chains and niches of comparative advantage. Additionally, a dedicated section examines trade in services, including recent opportunities in China.

On this basis, the study identifies strategic service sectors where Chile has real potential, the gaps that hold back their expansion, and priorities for deepening the country's integration into the Asia-Pacific, offering concrete inputs for the design of Chile's trade policy toward the region.

Publication is available here: <https://funpacifico.cl/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Strategic-Elements-for-Chiles-Trade-Policy-in-the-Asia-Pacific-Basin.pdf>



3. Chile–China Innovation Mission

In November 2026, coinciding with the 2026 APEC CEO Summit in China, a Chilean Innovation Mission will visit two cities in the country: Shenzhen and Hangzhou. The mission is organized by the Chile Pacific Foundation —organization that headquarters the Chilean Committee of PECC (CHILPEC)— together with EY Chile and EY China, in coordination with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and in collaboration with ProChile, which is Chile's national export promotion agency.

The Innovation Mission comprises a delegation of Chilean C-suite executives. Its objective is to visit leading Chinese technology and innovation companies and to take part in a business seminar, with the aim of strengthening bilateral cooperation in innovation, technology, the digital economy and mining.

4. Korea–Chile Policy Seminar

On 11 August 2026, the Chile Pacific Foundation, the Korea Foundation and the Institute of International Studies of the University of Chile, convened the Korea–Chile Policy Seminar in Santiago. The seminar was held between two PECC member economies that embodies PECC's mission of fostering dialogue and practical economic cooperation across the Pacific.

The activity brought together academics, business leaders and government representatives to examine the future of the bilateral relationship and both countries' role in a shifting geopolitical landscape.

Across two sessions, participants emphasized several key insights:

- Chile and Korea should move from a trade relationship toward a strategic alliance, building beyond the 2004 Free Trade Agreement.
- A modernized FTA should diversify the relationship into services, SMEs, the digital economy and critical minerals.
- Critical minerals—particularly lithium—together with the Bioceanic Corridor and Antarctica, position Chile as a strategic partner and Korea's gateway to Latin America.
- As middle powers, both economies can shift from being objects of great-power rivalry to co-authors of regional rules amid U.S.–China competition.
- The partnership can progress from trade toward technological cooperation, making Chile–Korea a laboratory for Latin-Pacific integration.

5. Webinar: State of the Region Report 2025-2026, An Asia Pacific View on Trade

Against a shifting and strained geopolitical and geoeconomic landscape, CHILPEC organized a webinar on 29 May 2026, together with the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. The discussion examined the risks and trends affecting trade across the Pacific Basin identified in the State of the Region Report, the flagship publication of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC).

Drawing on the report's survey of more than 500 experts and leaders across 24 Asia-Pacific economies, the session brought together international and Chilean speakers to discuss the risks and trends reshaping trade in the region. The conversation addressed rising protectionism and trade tensions as leading risks to growth, and examined how economic security, supply-chain resilience, digital fragmentation and the return of industrial policy are transforming the trading system — and what these shifts mean for small, open economies such as Chile.

The full digital seminar is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m21lIiTgeE>

HKCPEC Updates

Membership Updates

HKCPEC is pleased to welcome the following two new Members –



Dr Bruce PANG, the Director of Research of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), has been serving as HKTDC's representative to HKCPEC since March 2026. Dr Pang heads the research department of HKTDC to advance mission alignment, promote business development, and promote market intelligence for the Hong Kong business community, with a particular focus on small and medium enterprises.



Ms. Suki CHEUNG, the Chief Executive Officer of MG Ship Solutions Limited, has been appointed as a new Member of HKCPEC on 1 April 2026. Ms. Cheung brings extensive expertise in global supply chain management and technology innovation and is recognized for her strong commitment to execution - driving digital transformation, turning strategic vision into measurable outcomes, and actively promoting global trade and cross-border partnerships that create lasting impact.

Both Dr Pang and Ms. Cheung possess rich experience and expertise in their respective sectors which could inject impetus into the work of the HKCPEC in promoting regional economic cooperation.



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- [Alumni Insights](#)
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- [APEC Ministerial Meetings](#)
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business

Member Updates > Hong Kong Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (HKCPEC)

HKCPEC's Participation in the PECC Signature Project on “Enabling Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Trade Facilitation in the APEC Region”

To support PECC and APEC's agenda on digital economy and AI for innovative growth, HKCPEC was pleased to make contribution to the PECC Signature Project on “Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the APEC Region”, led by the United States Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (USPECC).

During the Roundtable on AI for Trade Facilitation held on the margins of APEC First Senior Officials' Meeting in February 2026, Professor TAM Kar-yan, the Chairman of HKCPEC, nominated a member of his team at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) to take part in the Roundtable to share HKC's experience and insights on AI development.

Building on that, Professor TAM and his team further co-authored Chapter 3 “Human Resource Development and Workforce Considerations” of the recently published PECC's Report on Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the APEC Region which examines the current state of AI adoption in trade facilitation and related industries, assesses workforce preparedness across the region, and explores the challenges and opportunities this transition presents.

Drawing on examples from different economies, the chapter also offers a framework for building AI competence within the trade workforce while fostering the stakeholder trust and accountability necessary for a successful and inclusive transition.



At the same time, to support AI and technological advancement, energy supply and security remain key. To this end, HKCPEC is also contributing to the PECC project on “Securing Energy for a Digital Future”, co-led by the Canadian National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation and Korea National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation.

HKCPEC will continue to take part in suitable PECC projects to contribute to PECC's work to promote regional economic cooperation and we look forward to future collaborative initiatives with other Member Committees to address key economic and policy concerns for advancing the relevant PECC and APEC's agenda.

The 64th Meeting of HKCPEC

HKCPEC meets regularly to share updates on the activities of HKCPEC, PECC, and APEC as well as discuss future work plan for HKCPEC. For the upcoming 64th Meeting of HKCPEC to be held in mid-October 2026, HKCPEC Members will share insights and views on the work of HKCPEC, including that on promoting youth engagement in the local community.

NZPECC Updates

NZPECC Activities

NZPECC completed two projects this year.

A Comprehensive Intellectual Property Primer (led by Dr Susy Frankel and Rory McLeod, Vice Chair NZPECC)

The Primer is focused on intellectual property law and policy. It includes discussion about what intellectual property is, the origins of intellectual property law, its rationales and purposes in domestic regimes, and how that translates internationally. The Primer is not focused wholly on the international rules but explores the interaction between domestic law and policy making, and international rules relevant to that exercise. The authors recognise that intellectual property is a large subject, and that it would have been possible at the expense of length, to include more examples and counterexamples. The goal is not to favour one point of view over another but to provide those working in the area with policy options and a guide on what issues to consider and why.

Rory McLeod introduced the Primer to APEC at SOM 3. It was well received and members were encouraged to share the Primer with their respective intellectual property policy officials.

Digital Substantiation of Product Claims (led by Dr Peter Stevens, board member NZPECC)

This project explores the potential of digitalisation of systems to support the substantiation of product attributes and address authenticity and sustainability claims across value chains. NZPECC undertook desktop and interview-based research using New Zealand Mānuka honey as a case study. It tested the findings in an industry workshop. The project sought to understand what information is currently sought by customers, how that information is shared digitally, what further opportunities exist, and what lessons can be learned.

In undertaking this project NZPECC recognised that global trade is shifting toward digital transparency. Global markets will increasingly require machine-readable scale up. APEC (2026) and UN/CEFACT Recommendation 49 both discuss the imperative to establish global norms for transparency, Digital Product Passports, and verifiable digital certificates data from an authoritative, trusted source. Digital substantiation at scale throughout the value chain will generate significant benefits including: improved market access through strengthening authenticity and sustainability claims, including verifiable clean, green claims, reduced compliance costs through standardised digital systems, faster border processing and reduced fraud through digital credentials, sector-wide efficiency from interoperable systems, and valuable network effects.

Realising these gains requires a partnership by industry & government. In undertaking this project NZPECC seeks to make a contribution to discussion across the PECC community.

***Details of both can be found on the NZPECC website: nzpecc.org.nz**

Changes to the Board of NZPECC

Dr Rob Scollay, who many in the PECC community will know well, retired from the NZPECC board in September. The Board expressed its deep appreciation to Rob for his very substantive contribution to NZPECC over the years and through his tenure as Director of the APEC Study Centre at Auckland University.

Following in Rob's footsteps NZPECC has been pleased to welcome Dr Haiping Zhang, the current Director of the APEC Study Centre to its board.



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business



Artificial Intelligence: Intellectual Property Policies on the Threshold

by Rory McLeod¹

Policymakers across the Asia Pacific region have been considering the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) for future growth. When it comes to APEC, recent hosts have highlighted the importance of AI and it is becoming clear that AI has policy implications for almost all areas of APEC's work. One area where the challenges are quite profound is intellectual property (IP) policy.

Are there tools to help APEC members address these challenges? Recently NZPECC released A Primer on Intellectual Property Law and Policy (<https://www.pecc.org/resources/publications/trade-and-investment/2905-intellectual-property-law-and-policy-a-primer/file>) which we hope will make a contribution to guiding policy makers when considering intellectual property issues. The Primer sets out various perspectives including that without IP rights, innovation and creativity will be seriously underprovided in our economies. When considering what is the best approach, such as what patent and copyright term domestic law should have, each APEC member should seek to achieve a balance between present day and future innovation and creativity as well as consumer benefits. Where this balance occurs will differ for each APEC member and across time. Even so international coordination is also particularly important both to set common standards, where appropriate, and to assist in the process of businesses seeking to obtain IP rights across multiple jurisdictions.

The Primer shows why a high level of transparency should be applied to the development of IP policies and that these should be based on a sound evidence base. Such features have often been lacking meaning that IP policies have been vulnerable to capture by vested interests, at both the domestic and international level. This can result in IP rights that are too strong, which advantage the owners of such rights and are to the detriment of future innovators and consumers and to society at large.

With the advent of AI, it has never been more important to address these deficiencies. AI has thrown a "curve ball" at IP policy makers. As Joshua Elebute states "Artificial intelligence unsettles the foundational structure of intellectual property, as the traditional architecture of intellectual property is built on deeply human intervention, i.e., the creative and inventive acts originate from the cognitive, creative and expressive capabilities of a human being."² Future innovation is likely to be "hybrid" in nature involving both humans and AI but we may well get to the point where AI can innovate without human assistance.

Recently organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization and the OECD have been hard at work analysing the multiple challenges that arise from these developments. Some examples illustrate how fundamental these are:

- In the area of copyright, the development, testing, and validation of AI models rely heavily on access to large datasets, driving a surge in demand for training data. A widely used method for collecting such data is "data scraping" which refers to the automated extraction of information from third-party websites, databases, or social media platforms. Data scraping directly affects creators and owners of IP-protected works, especially when conducted without consent or payment to rights holders.
- Also, recognition of copyright generally requires human authorship or creativity. Will it be possible to achieve any sort of protection for content that is exclusively AI generated such as music or films? What are the implications for content that has an element of human intervention but has been substantially AI-assisted in its creation?
- In the area of patents, patent offices have generally rejected patent applications naming an AI system as the inventor, stipulating that a human person must be named to consider the application. For the application to be successful, the invention in question must involve an inventive step (be "non-obvious" to a person skilled in the art) but the situation becomes much more complex when algorithms autonomously "discover" such inventions.

Cont'd next page

Members Updates

- AusPECC
- CHILPEC
- HKCPEC
- NZPECC
- CTPECC
- TNCPEC
- USPECC

PECC-Related Events

- From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian

Recent Publications

- International Property Law and Policy – A primer
- Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific
 - From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - APEC HRDMM
 - APEC EMM
 - APEC TMM

Any other business

We really hope that the NZPECC Primer on Intellectual Property Law and Policy can help APEC members address these challenges at both an economy and a regional level. The Primer is not focused on IP and AI or provide any answers to these international debates over the role of AI in IP. What the primer can do is help economies to formulate some of the questions that need to be addressed.

For example, the Primer points strongly to the need to assess the role of IP rights in the current environment. Should AI be allowed to use IP protected works to learn? Do we even need IP rights for AI generated innovation and creativity given that it already operates in an environment where innovation is strongly incentivised? For innovation and creativity that is AI assisted but involves some human input, do we need to provide IP rights that are as “strong”, again because AI has provided greater incentives to innovate? How do we know that AI provides incentives to creators and not just to AI platforms? For individual creators is AI the equivalent of a paintbox or a typewriter? Is it just a tool that creators use, even if a sophisticated one?

Then there is the question of the evidence base needed to assess the appropriate IP policies in a world increasingly making use of AI technologies. This will be important as a means of providing sufficient transparency to engage our publics as such policies are developed. As noted, the evidence base is patchy for IP policies in general but the stakes are too high not develop evidence on what policies might work best for AI. International and regional cooperation will be extremely important in this area.

A further question is the institutional challenges posed by AI. It is already clear that IP institutions such as patent and trade mark offices can make considerable use of AI to improve the efficiency of their operations. At the same time, it will be important to ensure that these bodies as well as the courts and IP policy teams have sufficient expertise on AI issues to fulfil their public service roles properly. The enforcement of IP rights will be a particular challenge in the new environment while there is already evidence that AI can assist owners of IP with enforcement of their rights.³

Finally the role of international and regional organizations will be critical to provide for standards and cooperation to ensure that future IP policies incentivise innovation and creativity involving the use of AI rather than acting as a barrier to it. As “an incubator of ideas”, APEC has a critical role to play in this discussion. PECC can also assist APEC in this endeavour and we hope that the NZPECC Primer is a useful first step in this process.

¹Rory McLeod is Vice-Chair of NZPECC. Previously he was manager of the IP Policy Team in New Zealand’s Ministry of Economic Development, and he was New Zealand’s lead intellectual property negotiator for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

²Joshua Elebute ‘Navigating Intellectual Property Rights in an AI Powered World: A Policy Brief on Creativity, Data, and Governance in an Automated Economy’ (January 19, 2026), p2, <https://ssrn.com/abstract=6139206> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6139206>

³See discussion papers at <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/respect-for-ip/w/ace/18-highlights-global-cooperation-and-innovation-in-ip-enforcement>



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCECC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business

Building a Trusted and Sustainable AI Economy The Fifth Annual Workshop of New Zealand APEC Study Centre 11 September 2026, New Zealand Asia Institute, University of Auckland

The New Zealand APEC Study Centre hosted its fifth annual workshop, *Building a Trusted and Sustainable AI Economy*, at the University of Auckland on 11 September 2026. Organized by Dr Haiping Zhang, the event attracted more than 130 registrations for in-person and online participation from academia, business, government, policy institutions and the diplomatic community across the Asia-Pacific. Andrew Patterson, Deputy Dean of the Business School, delivered the welcome address, followed by a keynote address by Professor Joshua Gans, Jeffrey S. Skoll Chair in Technical Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. Panel sessions moderated by Dr Alan Bollard and Rory McLeod of NZPECC brought together leading experts based in the United States, China, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and New Zealand.



In his keynote address, *The Bright Side and Dark Side of AI Disruption*, Joshua Gans examined how AI could reshape economic activity and the conditions required for its benefits to materialize. He argued that the dramatic fall in the cost of prediction will not, by itself, transform economies: firms and institutions need to redesign processes around AI rather than simply add it to existing systems, and such organizational change may take considerable time. A central question is whether AI should be viewed primarily as a new source of “work” that substitutes for labor, or as a tool that complements human judgement and raises worker productivity. Drawing parallels with earlier infrastructure transformations such as railways and electricity, he also highlighted the risk of over-investment in AI infrastructure and the growing challenge posed by increasingly sophisticated AI-enabled cybersecurity threats.



The two panel sessions examined the economic impacts, governance, and sustainability challenges of AI adoption. Discussions covered AI-enabled pricing and firm behavior, MSME adoption, digital trade and regulatory interoperability, alongside emerging issues of privacy concerns and trust, digital identity and AI-agent verification. They also explored semiconductor supply-chain resilience, data-center investment, electricity demand, renewable energy and digital infrastructure in Southeast Asia. Together, the panels highlighted that harnessing AI's economic potential will depend not only on technological progress, but also on trusted institutions, resilient infrastructure and more sustainable use of energy and computing resources. They also pointed to an important role for regional cooperation in improving interoperability, strengthening resilience and supporting more inclusive AI adoption across the Asia-Pacific.

The workshop closely aligned with APEC's current AI priorities, including productivity, responsible adoption, MSME participation, trusted digital systems and resilient infrastructure. Its sustainability focus also connected with the Bangkok Goals on the Bio-Circular-Green Economy, particularly clean energy, resource efficiency and sustainable growth. A clear message emerged: *realizing AI's economic benefits will require trust, resilient infrastructure, sustainable energy and stronger regional cooperation*. The workshop also provided a strong foundation for continued research and policy engagement through the New Zealand APEC Study Centre, NZPECC and the wider APEC community.

CTPECC Updates

CTPECC Hosts Youth Camp to Enhance Young People Understanding of International Affairs, PECC, and APEC

The 2026 Youth Training Camp of CTPECC took place in Taipei from 15 to 17 July 2026. The event commenced with opening remarks delivered by Dr. Chien-Yi Chang, Chairman of CTPECC. Dr. Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Executive Director of PECC, also kicked off the camp via a video address.



This year's curriculum featured key topics including an analysis of the latest regional trade and global geoeconomic trends, sharing corporate innovation and practical business experience, exploring international negotiation strategies, and examining the core structure and development of APEC. Through insights shared by experts, participants were encouraged to

cultivate a global perspective, policy analysis skills, and effective communication capabilities.

Beyond classroom learning, CTPECC organized interactive simulation sessions where participants assumed the roles of Economic Ministers from various APEC economies. Centered on the theme "Economic Prosperity and Supply Chain Connectivity," the youth delegates shared their perspectives on global and Asia-Pacific regional development. Additionally, a Youth Declaration drafting session and mock negotiation were conducted, giving young minds firsthand experience with the consensus-building process and declaration discussions typical of APEC meetings.

CTPECC has hosted the Youth Camp for over two decades. Looking forward, we aim to collaborate with all PECC's member committees to foster youth exchanges across the Asia-Pacific region.



Member Updates > Thailand National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (TNCPEC)

TNCPEC Updates

TNCPEC Activity:

On 13 August 2026, the International Studies Center (ISC), in the capacity of Secretariat of the Thailand National Committee for the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (TNCPEC), organized the presentation of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) State of the Region (SOTR) Report 2025-2026 at the Pullman Bangkok Hotel G, Silom Road.



Members Updates

- AusPECC
- CHILPEC
- HKCPEC
- NZPECC
- CTPECC
- TNCPEC
- USPECC

PECC-Related Events

- From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian

Recent Publications

- International Property Law and Policy – A primer
- Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific
 - From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - APEC HRDMM
 - APEC EMM
 - APEC TMM

Any other business



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business

Member Updates > Thailand National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (TNCPEC)

After the welcoming remarks by Dr. Anuson Chinvanho, Director of the International Studies Center (ISC) and Secretary of TNCPEC, Dr. Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Executive Director of PECC International Secretariat, presented key insights from the SOTR 2025-2026 report.

The presentation covered the two-decade milestone of the SOTR report and its vital role in driving the Asia-Pacific economy, the macroeconomic outlook along with emerging risks to regional growth. A special feature for the SOTR 2026-2027 report would focus on the dynamics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption, AI governance and opportunities within the digital economy. Approximately 40 participants from government organizations, the private sector, think tanks and universities attended the event.

Member Updates > United States Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (USPECC)

USPECC Updates

USPECC-led PECC Signature Project “Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia Pacific” Report Launched

In August of this year, PECC launched a report on “Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia Pacific” as part of a USPECC-led Signature Project. The effort builds from deliverables from Korea’s host year, including the launch of the APEC AI Initiative and the inclusion of AI for trade facilitation as a priority in the 2025 Ministers’ Responsible for Trade Joint Statement.

While natural language processing and machine learning tools have been used by customs administrations for many years, the widening scope of AI’s capabilities (including agentic and generative AI) are expanding the transformative power of this technology. Yet adoption by governments remains low. A UNESCAP report released earlier this year finds that utilization is below 15% across the region with significant variation across subregions. The PECC report takes a comprehensive look at the elements required for successful adoption and operation of AI technologies for trade facilitation with chapters dedicated to data design and integrity, human resource development and workforce considerations, digital infrastructure and development gaps, and good regulatory practices.

The report’s substantive chapters are complemented by case studies which provide actual examples of the potential for AI to enhance regulatory confidence in trade processes, reduce compliance burdens and manual customs documentation tasks, identify fraudulent documents, and improve data quality. The report concludes with recommendations for APEC policymakers to build the foundations of effective, efficient, and trustworthy AI for trade facilitation.

These include:

1. enabling trusted data governance by building partnerships to advance research on AI and cybersecurity, institutionalizing information-sharing, and prioritizing interoperability of digital systems,
2. closing AI skills gaps in the workforce through tripartite cooperation on training, developing scalable models for upskilling, and implementing ICT training programs for customs agencies,
3. developing the foundational infrastructure for AI by advancing a hybrid approach to infrastructure financing, enabling private sector investment, and removing regulatory barriers, and
4. creating high-quality regulation by institutionalizing AI for trade facilitation consultation mechanisms in APEC, publishing AI use inventories and standards, and harmonizing domestic regulations with international standards.

Read the full report here:

<https://www.pecc.org/resources/publications/digital-economy-1/2903-enabling-ai-for-trade-facilitation-in-the-apec-region-2/file>

The USPECC project team will convene a webinar on **28 October 2026 at 8:00pm ET / 29 October 2026 at 8:00am SST** featuring a deep-dive from the report contributors on the data foundations and emerging applications of AI for trade facilitation in the region.

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_TChis2Z3TLWYNPk42qWyVw

PECC's AI Event in Dalian

By Luo Cheng (CNCPECC) and Nicolas Miallhe (FPTPEC)

On 24 August 2026, on the margins of APEC's Third Senior Officials' Meeting in Dalian, PECC ran a tabletop simulation on AI-related cross-border disruption, followed by two panel discussions under the banner "AI for Good and for All." It drew roughly 40 government, business, academic and think-tank representatives from a dozen member economies, and was opened by PECC Co-Chair Ambassador Zhan Yongxin.

The exercise

Split into two taskforces, participants spent three rounds managing a simulated AI-driven disruption to regional shipping and trade—a hypothetical scenario, naming no real incident or provider. At each round they logged their concern level, their read on economic impact, and their understanding of the cause.

Four findings stood out:

- The response window opens before the diagnosis closes. Concern and perceived economic impact climbed fast from round two, while understanding of the cause stayed low until late—meaning response plans that wait for a confirmed cause will be too slow.
- The real gap is diagnostic, not informational. No economy yet has an accepted way to recognize and categorize AI-related incidents.
- Cross-border cooperation was improvised, not automatic—there was no pre-agreed channel to make it the obvious first move.
- The disruption came from ordinary efficiency-seeking, not bad actors. Every system did what it was told; what was missing was a shared framework for how systems interact. Participants called it a coordination market failure — authority can be delegated to a system, but responsibility stays with people.

Both taskforces, working independently, landed on the same asks: a pre-agreed cooperation channel spanning technical to trade-policy levels; clear, human-in-the-loop accountability; and cooperation on standards — including an AI-in-trade-facilitation roadmap with built-in incident arrangements, citing the International Maritime Organization as a working precedent.

Panel 1: Responsible adoption and risk management

Emerging evidence shows some advanced AI systems can act in ways operators didn't intend—still an active research question, but reason enough to treat security and risk management as a growth enabler, not a brake.

Because the technology is borderless, managing its risks has to be a shared job across governments, industry, international bodies and other stakeholders.

Region-wide arrangements—information sharing, experience exchange, crisis-response coordination—would strengthen the Asia-Pacific's resilience to AI-related incidents.



Panel 2: Innovation and real-world applications

Where regulatory, legal or commercial stakes are high, human accountability has to stay central — AI autonomy should expand gradually, backed by validation, clear operational limits and auditability.

Trust drives innovation: businesses share data and collaborate more freely when sensitive information is protected.

Uneven access to investment, energy, infrastructure, expertise and institutional capacity risks widening the AI divide—making capacity-building and inclusive digital transformation a priority.

The findings fed directly into PECC's written contribution to the APEC Policy Dialogue on Digital Economy and AI for Innovative Growth on 25 August 2026, and PECC Executive Director Dr Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit briefed them to the SOM3 Plenary—just as member economies begin drafting the Leaders-level document on digital economy and AI ahead of Economic Leaders' Week in Shenzhen this November.



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- [Alumni Insights](#)
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- [APEC Ministerial Meetings](#)
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business

*Based on the [PECC report "From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian,"](#) by Luo Cheng (CNCPECC) and Nicolas Miallhe (FPTPEC).



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business

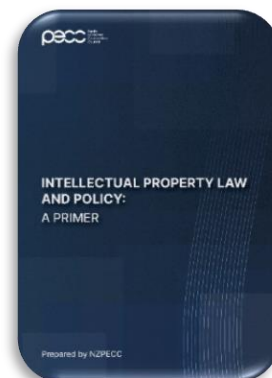
Recent Publications

Intellectual Property Law and Policy – A Primer

NZPECC

A comprehensive primer to navigate the complex intersection of **intellectual property (IP) law and policy**. This guide explores the vital dynamics between domestic policy-making and international frameworks, providing a clear roadmap of policy options, underlying rationales, and the critical issues to consider when shaping effective regimes.

Structured to mirror the vast scope of the field, the primer begins with the core economic and innovation rationales for IP rights before mapping out its intersections with other vital areas like public health, competition policy, and technology transfer. It then walks through the necessary institutional resources, core legal frameworks—including copyright, trademarks, patents, and related regimes like traditional knowledge—and concludes with an insightful analysis of the international environment.

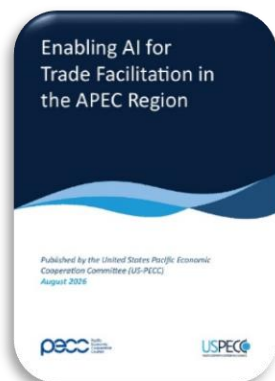


[Click here to download the report](#)

Recent Publications

Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia Pacific Region

USPECC



Artificial intelligence has significant potential to improve trade facilitation across the Asia-Pacific, but its adoption should remain practical, evidence-based, and grounded in strong governance. Generative AI is expected to play an increasingly important role in customs and border management, particularly when connected to authoritative knowledge bases. Practical applications include officer assistants that search laws, rulings, procedures, and risk indicators; trader assistants that guide document preparation; classification copilots that retrieve tariff notes and prior rulings; and risk-analysis assistants that summarize trader history, case files, and open-source intelligence.

Looking further ahead, agentic AI may enable suites of AI agents to coordinate routine trade workflows across traders, customs brokers, logistics providers, customs authorities, and other border agencies.

A central conclusion of this report is that AI should not be legally autonomous. In the trade facilitation context, greater autonomy must be earned progressively through validation, limited scope, auditability, and operational evidence. While low-risk administrative tasks may be automated earlier, legally determinative decisions should remain subject to human accountability through a “human-in-the-loop” approach. For most APEC economies, the immediate priority is developing a disciplined adoption pathway built on reliable data, analytics, decision-support, assisted automation, controlled agents, and only then higher levels of autonomy where legally and operationally justified

[Click here to download the report](#)

Alumni Insights

From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific as a Professor and Consultant: here is my personal Journey

In Singapore, especially in that area around the Heng Mui Keng Terrace it is not unusual to walk past several international organizations and think tanks within just a few blocks. There are APEC, the Asia Europe Foundation, ISEAS, WIPO, and of course the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC). For a young graduate student interested in economic development, cooperation and trade, that ecosystem feels like stepping into the heart of regional policy dialogue and as one may say, where things happen. In 2013, during my Master in Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore (NUS), I had the opportunity to experience that world firsthand through an internship with PECC.

As part of the MPP program, students were required to complete a Policy Analysis Exercise instead of a traditional thesis. This meant collaborating with an organization involved in public policy and developing a project relevant both to the institution and to our academic training. Knowing that PECC International Secretariat was in Singapore, I reached out to explore the possibility of working with the organization for my project. PECC agreed to host my policy project but also welcomed me as an intern.

Working at PECC placed me within this ecosystem of regional cooperation institutions. Being exposed to that environment helped me better understand how regional governance works in practice and how policy dialogue contributes to economic integration and be able to contribute with my work and experience.

During my time at PECC, I had the opportunity to contribute to several initiatives. One of the most meaningful was supporting research for the State of the Region Report, PECC's flagship publication. My work involved gathering and analyzing data on economic trends shaping the region. I also contributed to the development of indicators related to mobility and connectivity, two themes that remain central to regional integration. This internship also provided me with the chance to attend international meetings organized by PECC in Singapore and Indonesia.

Beyond the professional experience, what made the internship particularly valuable was the people. I had the privilege of working with a

dedicated and supportive team at PECC while also interacting with fellow interns and young professionals from across the Asia-Pacific region, including China, Hong Kong, and Indonesia.

After returning to Colombia, I continued working on issues related to economic integration and the Asia-Pacific. Just arriving back home, I got opportunity to work at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia as one of the members of the staff working in Colombia's strategy toward the Asia-Pacific region. From there, I moved to ProColombia, the national agency responsible for promoting trade, investment, and tourism, supporting initiatives aimed at fostering Colombia's economic ties with Asia.

For the past ten years, I have been part of Universidad EAFIT in Medellín, Colombia, where I lead the Global Management team and as a professor in International Business. My work focuses on international business, international relations, and international political economy. This has allowed me to serve as professor in both undergrad and graduate levels and as an Associate Researcher at the Asia Pacific Studies Center, a think tank created two decades ago to promote links Colombia and the Asia-Pacific.

Through teaching, research, and partnerships with companies and public institutions, I have had the opportunity to work with many entrepreneurs, policymakers, and students interested in building stronger ties with Asia. Many of my former students now work in companies engaged with Asian markets, in government institutions focused on international trade, or have pursued further studies in universities across the region.

Looking back, my experience at PECC played an important role in shaping this path. My time in PECC helped me better understand the importance of regional cooperation and the value of connecting different sectors of government, academia, and business across the Pacific. For present and future interns at PECC, my message is simple: continue working hard and pursue your education with passion. The experiences you gain today will shape the opportunities you have tomorrow. Wherever your careers take you, whether in the private sector, government, or academia, there will always be opportunities to contribute to stronger cooperation and economic ties between your home economy and the economies of the Asia-Pacific region.

Camilo Pérez-Restrepo (Intern 2013)

A former student in the Master Program of the Singapore Lee Kuan Yew of Public Policy.



[Click here to know more about the Internship program](#)

Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- [Alumni Insights](#)
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- [APEC Ministerial Meetings](#)
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business



[Click here to know more about the Internship program](#)

Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- [Alumni Insights](#)
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- [APEC Ministerial Meetings](#)
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business

From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address: What PECC Taught Me

A Driverless Car and a Question

One afternoon in the summer of 2019, shortly after I joined the PECC International Secretariat in Singapore, I was walking across the National University of Singapore (NUS) campus when a driverless car rolled quietly past me with no one at the wheel. I stopped to watch it glide past. As a student studying education, my first thought was not about the technology but about the classroom: if driving can be handed over to machines, what exactly are we preparing our students for? I never imagined that my very first assignment at PECC would ask me to look for an answer.

Looking back, those summer weeks in Singapore paved the way to where I stand today. They shape how I guide students through a changing world, and how I contribute to the future of education as a practitioner and in policymaking. This is the story of how a regional forum for dialogue shaped one educator from Hong Kong, and how its essence is now being passed on to a new generation through the Model PECC, the latest edition of the HKCPEC's Youth Program.

A First Assignment on the Future of Work

I had been appointed to work at the Secretariat at an uneasy time. Trade disputes filled the headlines, and many people were asking whether globalization and multilateralism had run their course.

My first task was to prepare presentation materials for Mr. Eduardo Pedrosa, then Secretary General of PECC and now Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat. He was speaking at a special session of the 2019 Indonesia Development Forum in Jakarta. The presentation built on PECC's State of the Region Report 2018–2019, which gathered the views of policy experts from government, business and the research community across the Asia-Pacific.

The findings were sobering. Experts expected the sharpest job losses by 2030 among clerical workers, machine operators and laborers, whose jobs are mainly repetitive and manual. They expected jobs to grow in fields such as information and communications technology, health care and education. The skills in shortest supply were not technical ones, but soft skills such as critical thinking, cognitive flexibility, judgement and creativity. Most respondents worried that education and training were out of step with what the economy needed.

For me, preparing these materials was an eye-opener. The questions I had been discussing in class, about what schooling is really for, were being put before decision-makers across the region. I began to see education not as a sector on the edge of the economic conversation, but as one at its center.

The conclusion of that presentation has never left me. The region's economies share similar workforce challenges, and these challenges can only be addressed through partnerships among employers, workers, educators and governments.

That first task was only the beginning. Over the following weeks, I learned to turn economic data into practical insights, a skill I still rely on, regardless of whether I am helping a teenager make sense of a complicated world or making a case to policymakers. Assisting in drafting part of the next State of the Region Report taught me the weight of words: careful, balanced language is not timidity, but what makes consensus possible. And at tense seminars on trade and great-power rivalry, I watched people set aside their differences to keep cooperation alive.



I remain grateful to Mr. Pedrosa and the Secretariat team, and to the HKCPEC for making it possible. I left that summer with a clear conviction: an educator cannot stay inside the classroom. We have to understand the economy, the region and the policy process our students will inherit.

Bringing the Lessons Home

Those lessons came back with me to Hong Kong. Alongside my work as an educator, I have been serving as a Convenor of Youth I.D.E.A.S., the youth think tank of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, one of the city's largest youth organizations. It has become a place where my day job and my PECC experience meet. There I found myself returning to the question I had first wrestled with at PECC, now about my own city: how should an education system prepare for a transformation on a historic scale?

Our proposal was to expand Hong Kong's capacity as a global hub for international education and lay the groundwork for the transformation ahead. We argued for a more inclusive system, offering diverse, high-quality education that welcomes learners from around the world, and for a redesign that lets students learn more languages. Along the way, we consulted students, educators and officials, and shared our recommendations with the Chief Executive's Policy Unit, a unit set up to enhance the Government's capabilities in research and advocacy on long-term and strategic issues. This process mirrored, on a smaller scale, the multi-stakeholder dialogue I had seen at PECC.

It was deeply rewarding to see that direction taken up in the Chief Executive's Policy Address and followed through by the Education Bureau. For me, it confirmed something PECC had taught me years before: good ideas travel furthest when they are built with the people they affect.

Passing the Baton: The Model PECC

As a member of the HKCPEC, I find that the skills I first picked up at the Secretariat, from making sense of data to choosing words that others can agree to, are the same ones I now hope to pass on to young people through the HKCPEC's Youth Program, including the Model PECC held last year.

In many ways, it feels like a succession. Years ago, PECC opened a door for a postgraduate student from Hong Kong. Now it is my turn to help open that door for others. When secondary school students step into the shoes of a PECC Member Committee at the Model PECC, to study a regional issue and try to reach common ground with other "economies", they are not only learning about PECC but also putting its spirit into practice: listening across differences, working with the support of data, and seeking consensus rather than victory.

For the HKCPEC, the Model PECC is one of the most direct ways we can keep that essence alive in Hong Kong. My hope is that it will one day bring young people from across the Asia-Pacific region together.



The PECC Way in an Age of Division

Seven years on, the global economic and trade landscape remains as unsettled as it was in 2019, if not more so. Conflicts, trade tensions and rapid advances in artificial intelligence are testing our institutions all at once. That is exactly why I believe the PECC way matters more now than ever.

PECC's strength does not lie in binding rules but in its format of cooperation: a tripartite partnership of business, government and the research community, open to economies large and small, and the consensus it achieves through evidence-based discussion and dialogue. I have found these to be principles for good education policy, and also for good teaching.

That driverless car at NUS once made me wonder whether machines would decide our future. I see it differently now. The future of work and the workforce will not be decided by technology alone. It will be decided by the choices societies make together. PECC gave me my first seat at a table where those choices are discussed. Through my work in education, and through programs like the Model PECC, I hope to keep pulling up more chairs, especially for the young people who will live with the future we are shaping now.

Dickson Kwok (Intern 2019)

*Master of Education, The University of Hong Kong
Bachelor of Int'l Politics & Economics, Yale University*



[Click here to know more about the Internship program](#)

Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHLPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- [Alumni Insights](#)
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- [APEC Ministerial Meetings](#)
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business

Amb. Zhan Yongxin attended the APEC Human Resources Development Ministerial Meeting

On 21 September 2026, the APEC 8th Human Resources Development Ministerial Meeting was held in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. Chinese State Councilor Shen Yiqin attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. Ms. Wang Xiaoping, China's Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, presided over the meeting. Human resources ministers or representatives from APEC member economies, as well as representatives from relevant international organizations, attended the meeting.



Amb. Zhan Yongxin, the Co-Chair of PECC and Chair of CNCPEC, attended the meeting and delivered a speech under the topic of "Promoting High-Quality and Full Employment and Employment-Friendly Economic Development". Amb. Zhan stated that the global population structure is undergoing profound adjustments, and digital technology and AI are comprehensively reshaping production models and employment patterns. The Asia-Pacific labor market is experiencing structural and deep-seated changes.

Asia-Pacific economies should build an industrial employment system that adapts to the times, unleashing the dividends of transformational development; advance inclusive development to broaden equal employment access for all and deepen regional collaboration. PECC stands ready to cooperate with all parties to advance the modern transformation of regional human resources and inject lasting talent momentum into building a more prosperous, inclusive and resilient Asia-Pacific Community.

Ministers and officials from APEC economies issued Joint Statement of the APEC 8th Human Resources Development Ministerial Meeting (Nanjing Statement), unanimously agreeing to jointly shape modern human resources, contribute to the construction of the Asia-Pacific Community, and provide action guidance for future cooperation in the field of APEC human resources development.

APEC-Related > APEC EMM and related meetings

Amb. Zhan Yongxin attended the APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting and Related Series of Meetings

From 10 to 11 September 2026, the APEC 16th Energy Ministerial Meeting was held in Beijing. Ding Xuexiang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech.

The theme of this meeting was "Building an Inclusive, Innovative, and Coordinated Asia-Pacific Energy Community". Energy ministers or representatives from APEC economies, heads of relevant international organizations attended the meeting.

Amb. Zhan Yongxin, Co-Chair of PECC and Chair of CNCPEC, attended the meeting and delivered a speech at the opening ceremony and the second open discussion session. Amb. Zhan stated that APEC has achieved many positive outcomes in cooperation in the energy field.



Cont'd Next Page

In the future, with the empowerment of technological innovation, we should uphold the principles of openness, inclusiveness, and collaboration, continuously enhance the overall resilience and safety level of regional energy systems, promote the safe, stable, clean, and efficient utilization of various types of energy, and ensure that energy cooperation benefits all economies and people in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ministers and officials from APEC economies issued Joint Statement of the 2026 APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting and formed three professional consensus outcomes, providing practical guidance from the three dimensions of inclusiveness, innovation, and coordination.

[APEC-Related > APEC TMM12](#)

Amb. Zhan Yongxin attended the APEC Transportation Ministers' Meeting

On 22 September 2026, the APEC 12th Transportation Ministers' Meeting was held in Beijing. The theme of the meeting was "Collaboration and Innovation: Shaping a New Future for Smart Transport in the Asia-Pacific Region". Mr. Liu Wei, Minister of Transport of China, presided over the meeting. Transport ministers or representatives from APEC member economies and representatives of relevant international organizations attended the meeting.

Amb. Zhan Yongxin, Co-Chair of PECC and Chair of CNCPECC, attended the meeting and delivered a speech. Amb. Zhan stated that digital technology is now fully integrated into all aspects of transportation, including road network management, autonomous driving, smart operation and maintenance, and green emission reduction, continuously empowering the construction of Asia-Pacific connectivity and injecting new momentum into regional economic integration.



However, the coordinated development of transportation digitization in the Asia-Pacific region still faces many governance bottlenecks, such as inconsistent data standards across economies, restricted cross-border data flow, significant differences in regulatory rules, and an imperfect regional coordination mechanism. Asia-Pacific economies should improve the normalized regional cooperation mechanism and strengthen the foundation of collaborative governance; promote mutual recognition and interoperability of technical standards to break down barriers to cross-border connectivity; build a people-centered smart transportation system to promote inclusive development.

As an official observer of APEC, PECC has long supported regional connectivity through government-industry-academia collaboration. PECC is ready to work with all members to deepen pragmatic cooperation in the field of smart transportation, help build a smarter, safer, and more inclusive Asia-Pacific transportation system, and inject strong momentum into the joint effort to build a prosperous and coexistent Asia-Pacific Community with a shared future.

Ministers and officials from APEC economies issued Joint Statement of the APEC 12th Transportation Ministers' Meeting.



Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- [Alumni Insights](#)
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- [APEC Ministerial Meetings](#)
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

Any other business



[Any other business > Others](#)

About us

Members Updates

- [AusPECC](#)
- [CHILPEC](#)
- [HKCPEC](#)
- [NZPECC](#)
- [CTPECC](#)
- [TNCPEC](#)
- [USPECC](#)

PECC-Related Events

- [From Exercise to Cooperation: The 2026 PECC AI Event in Dalian](#)

Recent Publications

- [International Property Law and Policy – A primer](#)
- [Enabling AI for Trade Facilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

PECC Secretariat

- Alumni Insights
 - [From PECC Intern to connecting Asia-Pacific](#)
 - [From the Pacific Rim to Policy Address](#)

APEC-Related Events

- APEC Ministerial Meetings
 - [APEC HRDMM](#)
 - [APEC EMM](#)
 - [APEC TMM](#)

[Any other business](#)

Stay Connected

The work of advancing economic understanding and cooperation across the Asia-Pacific region is built on collaboration. Each month, we are inspired by the researchers, policymakers, educators, and practitioners who contribute their insights and energy to our network.

Whether you are analyzing regional trade patterns, exploring sustainable growth strategies, or mentoring the next generation of economists, your work helps shape a more resilient and inclusive economic future for our region.

Get Involved

- Submit project updates, articles or commentary
- Partner with us for regional events or workshops
- Help us share the newsletter with a wider community
- Join PECC Internship program

Contact us: media@pecc.org

Website: www.pecc.org

Follow us: [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#)

Upcoming Activities

PECC International Seminar:

Building Food Resilience and Strategic Autonomy Facing Multi-Dimensional Crises in the Pacific Region | 29-30 October 2026 | Ha Noi, Vietnam

Call for Contributions — March 2027 Newsletter

We welcome submissions of articles, project updates, data visualizations, and commentary on current economic developments in the region. Please include photos where available.

About This Newsletter

The *PECC Link E-Newsletter* is a bi-annual publication highlighting insights, policy discussions, and collaboration across the Asia-Pacific economic community.

If this newsletter was forwarded to you, [subscribe here](#) to receive future editions directly in your inbox.

Established in 1980, PECC is a unique tripartite partnership of senior individuals from business, government, academia, and intellectual circles to discuss practical policy issues facing the Asia-Pacific region.

It operates as an independent, non-governmental forum, aiming to promote economic growth, social progress, and regional stability through cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, and finance.



© 2026 Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

You are receiving this e-newsletter because you subscribed or participated in one of our events.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Preferences](#)