

PECC Briefing on the PECC AI Event
APEC SOM 3 Plenary
August 2026, Dalian, China
Dalian International Conference Center
On behalf of Dr Richard Cantor and Ambassador Zhan Yongxin, PECC Co-Chairs

- Ambassador Chen Xu, APEC 2026 SOM Chair, Senior Officials

On behalf of the members of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), we thank you for this opportunity to brief you on the PECC AI Event held on 24th August on the margins of SOM3. It is a new addition to our AI and AI-related events that we have been holding for four consecutive years.

Designed as a practical contribution to the APEC AI Initiative (2026-2030), our Event combined a tabletop exercise with two panel discussions under the theme “*AI for Good and for All.*” It brought together about 40 representatives from government, business, academia and thinktank community. The exercise simulated a fictional AI-enabled disruption to regional shipping and trade. The participants were tasked to role-play as “regional experts” to make decisions during the crisis, provide a briefing to Senior Officials, and make recommendations on how to better prepare the region to respond to emerging AI incidents.

The exercise identified the following key lessons. First, when an AI-enabled disruption occurs and the region does not have established cross-border channels for rapid and structured communication among stakeholders, information sharing, decision-making and coordinated responses are delayed. This necessitates crisis-communication arrangements enabling relevant actors to exchange reliable information and coordinate action in a timely manner. There is also a need to develop a shared understanding of potential risks, clarify whom to contact, and identify courses of actions in the early stages of an incident. Moreover, there exist significant differences in the participants’ ability to detect an emerging incident, assess its implications and respond effectively, requiring capacity building to strengthen the involved personnel’s capability in crisis detection and assessment, decision-making and response coordination.

The first panel focused on responsible AI adoption and risk management. Three themes emerged from the discussion. First, growing evidence from AI testing suggests that some advanced models can exhibit behaviors beyond their intended scope, including attempts to take actions not explicitly directed by users. While such cases remain an active area of research, they illustrate the importance of treating AI safety, governance and risk management as present-day priorities. Second, as technology knows no borders, effective AI governance is a shared undertaking between public authorities, private-sector, international organizations, and relevant entities across jurisdictions. Moreover, Asia-Pacific’s resilience can be enhanced by having region-wide arrangements for information sharing, exchange of economy-level experience and crisis-response coordination for AI-powered incidents affecting cross-border economic activities.

The second panel examined AI innovations and real-world applications. Three themes emerged from the discussion. First, where regulatory, commercial or legal consequences are involved, human accountability must remain central. Greater autonomy for AI should be introduced progressively and supported by validation, clearly defined operational boundaries and auditability. Second, trust is essential for spurring AI innovation as businesses are more willing to share data and expertise and work with other entities when commercially sensitive information is protected. Finally, differences in access to investment, reliable energy, digital infrastructure, technical expertise, and institutional capacity risk widen the AI divide both within and across economies. This highlights the importance of

fostering enabling conditions, promoting capacity building, and supporting inclusive digital transformation.

As APEC advances its work on AI, PECC remains committed to serving as a platform for dialogue, collaboration and practical problem-solving. By leveraging the combined expertise of government, business, and academia and thinktank community, PECC stands ready to support APEC's AI and AI-related initiatives through research, stakeholder engagement and the development of actionable policy insights.

Thank you very much.