

# Beyond the Bogor Goals: Vision for Asia Pacific

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The key word of the session – “Asia – Pacific Partnership”

APEC has been about cooperation. Now it is being seen as partnership. If that is the case, then we have come a long way. And now we want to go forward.

At the beginning, in the 1980s, a group of people who has transformed to become PECC, wanted to create APEC in the form of a community. The main reason behind the movement was to create a trade and investment regime that would enhance economic growth particularly in the Pacific West.

The regime was to be free trade, subscribing to the Adam Smith and Heckscher-Ohlin-Samuelson models of economic growth. That was why in 1994 APEC set the Bogor Goals of 2010 and 2020 for developed and developing economies to achieve free trade respectively, recognizing the fact that the developed countries were closer to free trade at that time.

Fast forward to 2017, 23 years later, the whole Asia Pacific has changed so much. APEC itself grew from 12 to 21 member economies. And because of trade liberalization by means of WTO, and by ways of various FTAs, all Asia Pacific economies particularly developing ones, have advanced a great deal.

The process was enhanced very much by technological progresses in transportations, telecommunications, and computation, with the last two having been combined known as smart phones and i-pad.

Now Asia Pacific economies are very well integrated at many levels, sub-regional and regional, which have made Asia-Pacific the dominant economic region of the world. If that is the case, then why are there concerns about the APEC process? And, what can PECC do?

The original APEC's Bogor Goals had influences from the PECC people. The PECC people are academic oriented. They thought more in terms of economics – the functioning of market forces. When it became APEC, it involved bureaucrats and politicians. So it became political economy- market forces function within an environment and boundaries defined by policies and politics.

The Asia Pacific politics of today do not favor for free trade to go all the way, meaning not wanting to be reminded of the Bogor Goals. Then, what should APEC do in the form of Asia – Pacific partnership? Partnership in what areas?

Having seen progress and emerging problems in Asia Pacific economies, I would like to propose that we take a serious look at “Sustainable Development Goals- SDGs”, most of which are relevant for all Asia Pacific economies regardless of being classified as developed or developing.

To cite some examples

- # 3 Good health and well-being
- # 4 Quality education
- # 7 Affordable and clean energy
- # 8 Decent work and economic growth
- # 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- # 10 Reduced inequalities
- # 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- # 13 Climate action

Asia Pacific partnership in achieving some of these goals would enhance the relevance of APEC as many APEC economies are faced with similar challenges. For example, goals # 7, 8, 10 and 11 are faced by all. And some developing economies are handling the issues better

than the developed ones. In other words, when considering APEC economies in terms of these issues, the dividing line between developed and developing economies became blur.

So, going forward for APEC, we should give up the characterization of the member economies in terms of developed and developing, which gave rise to the Bogor Goals, and begin to consider APEC economies in terms of issues – based.

By this means, a more equitable sense of responsibility will emerge, thus transforming APEC into Asia Pacific Partnership.