

Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Partnership (APIP) Work Program for 2016

Objectives

- Continue to be an effective platform for high-level discussions between infrastructure industry experts and regional policymakers (such as Ministers, senior officials and regulators) to support the infrastructure development agenda and initiatives of Asia-Pacific economies, especially through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).
- Dialogues between APIP panel experts and regional policymakers also help to share knowledge and expertise on PPP policy development and implementation.
- Support the infrastructure-related objectives of the Cebu Action Plan to promote more regional collaboration in infrastructure development.

Governance

- The APIP was established by the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in 2011 and reports its activities to ABAC's Advisory Group on Financial System Capacity Building at each ABAC meeting every year.
- The APIP is chaired by Mark Johnson AO, and membership to the APIP is open to infrastructure industry experts from across the Asia-Pacific region.
- The Australian APEC Study Centre (AASC) will be the Secretariat for the APIP, commencing its activities from 2016.

New Operational Plan

The AASC proposes developing a new operational plan for the APIP with concrete guidelines on the number and location of APIP meetings to be organised each year. Key features of the proposed new operational plan are:

- 2-3 APIP meetings should be organised each year
- Meeting locations (for the next two years) will be based on the criteria illustrated below.

Table: Proposed formula for APIP meeting locations

	2016	2017
Meeting 1	Viet Nam <i>(as APEC Chair for 2017 year)</i>	Viet Nam <i>(as APEC Chair)</i>
Meeting 2	Peru <i>(as APEC Chair)</i>	Papua New Guinea <i>(as APEC Chair in the following year)</i>
Meeting 3	Open slot <i>(to be organised on economy requests)</i>	Open Slot

- Timing of the meetings will still be determined based on consultations involving senior officials, APIP members and senior representative from the APIP Secretariat.
 - However, the Australian APEC Study Centre, given its role as the APIP Secretariat, recommends that strong attempts be made to agree on a tentative meeting schedule by end-January or early-February every year, following discussions at Senior Finance Officials' Meeting 1 (SFOM1), Senior Officials' Meeting 1 (SOM1) and the First ABAC Meeting each year.

Benefits of a pre-determined meeting schedule

- Preliminary discussions on APIP's effectiveness during the 2015 ABAC 3 meeting in Melbourne noted that progress on infrastructure PPP readiness and implementation has been most visible in economies where APIP dialogues have been held frequently, such as the Philippines.
- The proposed formula for determining meeting locations is aimed at ensuring there is some measure of continuity in APIP's engagement with APEC policymakers.
 - It will allow APIP members to develop a better understanding of country-specific experiences in PPP policy development and implementation. Furthermore, policymakers in APEC economies will also benefit from a more sustained engagement with PPP and infrastructure delivery experts.
- APIP members will also benefit by being able to better plan their availability and travel logistics for APIP meetings.

An APIP review on the operational and governance framework underpinning successful PPP Centres

- The review will focus on examining the institutional settings and governance arrangements that play an important role in successfully establishing and operating an effective PPP centre.
- Whilst acknowledging that every economy is different, the aim of this review is deepen APIP's understanding of the institutional and operational framework needed to successfully deliver PPPs and share that knowledge and country experiences through regional cooperation.
- It will look to build on the extensive body of knowledge that already exists on best practice PPP policies and regulations to successfully deliver infrastructure projects.
- There is not as much documented evidence in a regional context on the organisational and operational practices that has boosted the performance of PPP centres in APEC economies.
 - This review will try to fill that gap in the literature by examining the operational and governance framework of the Philippines PPP Centre, which is widely considered to be a regional benchmark.