

21 July 2026

His Excellency Liu Wei

Chair, APEC Transportation Ministerial Meeting

Minister of Transport

People's Republic of China

Dear Minister Liu,

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), as the voice of business in the Asia-Pacific region, writes to offer its recommendations to APEC Transportation Ministers gathering under the theme “Synergy and Innovation: Shaping a Smart Future for Transportation in the Asia-Pacific Region.”

Transportation connectivity is a key driver of economic growth and regional integration in the Asia-Pacific. It enables businesses to participate in regional and global markets, supports investment and tourism, and is critical to the functioning of supply chains, especially during periods of disruption. As economies pursue growth in an increasingly uncertain environment, efficient and reliable transportation networks are essential to ensuring resilience, maintaining competitiveness and deepening regional connectivity.

The transportation sector is also undergoing significant transformation. New technologies, evolving trade patterns, changing consumer expectations, and the transition to more sustainable transport systems are reshaping how goods and people move across the region. Greater cooperation between policymakers, regulators and the private sector will be vital to ensure that transportation networks remain efficient, responsive, sustainable and equipped for future economic needs.

ABAC’s theme this year is “Openness, Connectivity, Synergy.” It reflects the conviction that open markets, enhanced connectivity, and deeper economic integration will enable the region to be more resilient and competitive. In this spirit, ABAC encourages Transportation Ministers to advance a practical agenda that strengthens transport connectivity, improves logistics resilience, and enables the seamless movement of people and goods across the Asia-Pacific.

ABAC recommends that Transportation Ministers:

- **Strengthen resilient and future-ready transport connectivity.** Transport connectivity remains a cornerstone of regional economic integration, supply chain resilience, energy security, tourism, and people-to-people exchange. Despite progress under the APEC Connectivity Blueprint, significant infrastructure gaps, aging transport assets, underdeveloped cross-border linkages, and increasing exposure to natural disasters and climate-related risks continue to undermine regional connectivity. ABAC encourages economies to invest in resilient and sustainable transport infrastructure, strengthen multimodal connectivity, expand financing through blended finance and innovative investment mechanisms, and promote greater interoperability through common approaches to infrastructure planning, evaluation, and resilience.
- **Safeguard maritime transport networks and critical logistics corridors.** Maritime transport remains the backbone of regional and global trade. Recent disruptions have highlighted the

economic consequences of chokepoints, congestion, and supply chain vulnerabilities. ABAC urges economies to prioritize safe, efficient, and uninterrupted maritime transport networks by strengthening port resilience, improving logistics infrastructure, enhancing availability of sea lanes, promoting the rules-based order for maritime transport, and deepening public-private cooperation to improve preparedness and response to transportation disruptions and emergencies.

- **Strengthen supply chain and logistics resilience.** Reliable and resilient supply chains are essential to economic growth, trade competitiveness, and business confidence. ABAC encourages economies to work together to identify and address transportation bottlenecks and systemic vulnerabilities while maintaining open and predictable trade and investment environments. Priorities should include accelerating digitalization and interoperable, adaptive and flexible paperless trade, improving transparency and visibility across supply chains, ensuring a seamless flow of people and legitimate goods across the region, investing in resilient logistics infrastructure, and strengthening workforce development initiatives that support the improvement of working conditions, recruitment, retention, and productivity of logistics and transport workers. This year, ABAC is updating its supply chain resilience toolkit to offer increased visibility to areas that often cause delays.

- **Open Skies in APEC: A Roadmap for Greater Air Connectivity in the Asia-Pacific.** Air connectivity is a critical enabler of trade, tourism, investment, business mobility, education, and supply chain resilience. ABAC recommends that APEC economies work towards phased implementation of an APEC Open Skies policy agenda between member economies. While many economies have expanded market access on paper, practical barriers continue to limit the development of commercially viable passenger and cargo services. There is a need for a new APEC air connectivity agenda that moves beyond formal market-opening language toward practical reforms that make connectivity more usable, more contestable and more resilient. The analysis shows that the clearest near-term gains lie in cargo liberalization, secondary-airport access, removal of implementation bottlenecks, and measures that reduce excessive dependence on a small number of major hubs and corridors.

- **Strengthen business mobility across the Asia-Pacific.** Efficient movement of business travelers remains essential to investment, trade, project development, and economic integration. The APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) scheme continues to be one of APEC's most successful business facilitation initiatives. ABAC encourages economies to further strengthen the scheme by improving processing efficiency, enhancing digital integration with the ABTC platform, ensuring consistent recognition of physical and virtual cards at border control points, improving visibility of priority lanes, reinforcing coordination among relevant authorities, and exploring opportunities to further enhance the practical value of the scheme for the business community.

- **Accelerate the transition to zero- and low-carbon mobility.** Decarbonizing transport is important for energy security, emissions reduction, and industrial competitiveness. ABAC encourages Transportation Ministers to support electrification and zero- and other low-emission mobility solutions across land, maritime, and aviation transport where feasible. This will require intelligent charging and swapping infrastructure, smart grid upgrades, battery recycling, and circular economy practices. Greater harmonization of technical standards for batteries, charging interfaces, and safety performance can reduce fragmentation and support economies of scale. Ministers should also support open and resilient green supply chains so that zero-carbon transport solutions can move across the region efficiently. These efforts can complement ongoing regional work to advance hydrogen, batteries, fuel cells, and other emerging technologies that support lower-emission transportation systems. ABAC also recalls its proposal for a Roadmap for Trade and Investment in Renewable Energy, which would contribute to the same goal.

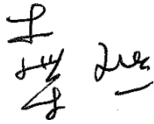
Taken together, these actions would help build a more connected, resilient, and competitive Asia-Pacific region. They would reduce business costs, strengthen supply chain reliability, support trade

and investment, enhance people-to-people connectivity, and improve the region's ability to respond to future disruptions and emerging challenges.

ABAC stands ready to work with Transportation Ministers, officials, and the APEC Transportation Working Group to advance practical solutions that strengthen connectivity, foster greater synergy across transportation systems, and deliver tangible benefits for businesses and communities across the region.

ABAC welcomes the opportunity to discuss these recommendations at the Transportation Ministerial and looks forward to continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Li Fanrong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Li Fanrong
ABAC Chair 2026