

2017 APEC Economic Policy Report (AEPR)

Call for action:

We are keen for APEC fora members to:

- ✓ Promote the 2017 AEPR within their fora;
- ✓ Look for links to existing projects; and
- ✓ Place relevant recommendations and follow-up items for the 2017 AEPR on the workplans of the groups they represent

Background

The theme of the 2017 AEPR is **Structural Reform and Human Capital Development**. The Report discusses some of the issues and policies relating to skills development and labour markets in the APEC region. It analyses how otherwise positive economic changes—such as the growth and development process, trade and globalisation, or technological upgrading—can contribute to structural unemployment, and what can be done to mitigate the impacts of these changes. It concludes with a discussion of some policy options regarding the reallocation and mobility of displaced labour, and provides pointers for regional cooperation and integration.

There are many new and legacy areas of APEC work that relate to the theme of the 2017 AEPR (for example, under the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform or RAASR). The Post Core Team (PCT) has been established to track the progress on implementation of the AEPR recommendations and it will also work with economies on specific projects that flow from the analysis of the AEPR in areas such as capacity building for skills training and employment services, etc. (for example, Australia-led project through the Human Resources Development Working Group on “Developing Better Labour Market Data in the APEC Region”).

Post Core Team objectives

The PCT, led by New Zealand, has the task of ensuring **strong dissemination and follow-up** of the 2017 AEPR and its recommendations. It includes both ‘push’: **raising the profile of 2017 AEPR**, encouraging wide support for it amongst member economies and flagging the relevance of its themes for APEC Committees, specific APEC projects and high-level initiatives; and ‘pull’: **gathering, assessing and reporting on the progress and results** of implementation.

Reporting back

The PCT is expected to report back on progress in 2019, and to present its final report in 2021.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on the work of the PCT – please send all feedback, comments and questions to (Helen.Roberts@mfat.govt.nz).