

APEC Background Guide

APEC is a unique organization comprised of 21 members referred to as Member Economies (not States), allowing for the participation of economies such as Taiwan (Chinese Taipei) and Hong Kong. Annual meetings are hosted by different Members every year, and each year the Host Economy announces a theme and an emphasis. The 2017 Host is Vietnam, declaring the theme to be “Stronger Joint Action for APEC’s Shared Vision.” Papua New Guinea will be the Host in 2018. The theme will be “Creating Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing The Digital Future.” Throughout the year, technical experts meet on issues of mutual interest, and these ideas are then discussed and debated at subsequent Senior Official Meetings (SOM). Finally, Leaders evaluate the results of the experts and SOM meetings and gather to announce Leaders’ Statements, providing recommended actions for Members going forward. APEC is not a decision-making institution, and all Statements are adopted by consensus. In its 28 year history, APEC has laid groundwork for collaboration, cooperation and understanding.

In preparing for Model APEC:

- Quickly review the foundational documents in the organization to understand how the Economies work together each year in hopes of advancing the principles originally enunciated in Bogor, Indonesia (http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/1994/1994_aelm.aspx) and in the 1995 Osaka, Japan Action Plan on Implementation (https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/1995/1995_aelm).
- Be aware of the many Working Groups (<https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation>) addressing a broad range of topics.

This year’s TexMUN is focusing on two critical issues worthy of consideration. The goal for APEC delegates at TexMUN is to reach a consensus and write a Leaders’ Statement about two topics: Sustainable Growth and Fair Trade. This Statement will recall agreed upon principles and recommendations, suggest Best Practices presented by Member Economies, and recommend actions for facilitation of greater progress toward APEC goals. The Dias and the delegates together will select a subset of Member Economies to serve on a Drafting Committee to finalize the Leaders’ Statement. However, to be adopted, it must receive a consensus vote.

Topic One: Sustainable Growth

Consider the following questions: How does your Economy address food security and sustainable agriculture? How does it meet APEC’s principles? What lessons and opinions can it share with other Members?

- Review APEC’s history on Sustainable Development: <https://www.apec.org/Groups/Other-Groups/Sustainable-Development>)
- The APEC Economies are committed to improving food security and sustainable agriculture in response to climate change in its Member Economies (https://apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Food-Security/2017_food_security).
- APEC provides a policy partnership on food security: (<https://www.apec.org/Groups/Other-Groups/Policy-Partnership-on-Food-Security>).

- Review the details of individual Members' implementation efforts along with key documents supporting this topic. (<http://www.ncapec.org/issues/foodsecurity.html>)
- Find practices, policies, and statistics here: (<http://www.apip-apec.com/>)

Topic Two: Fair Trade

Consider the following questions: What roles do RTAs and FTAs play for your Member Economy? How can we reduce trade barriers? What external and internal powers impact the the current climate of international discussions on trade?

- APEC recognizes the important role Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) can play in trade liberalization in the APEC region. (https://www.apec.org/Groups/Other-Groups/FTA_RTAs)
- Review the Regional Economic Integration Agenda (<https://www.apec.org/about-us/about-apec/fact-sheets/regional-economic-integration-agenda.aspx>)
- Review US-APEC Trade Facts: (<https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/other-initiatives/asia-pacific-economic-cooperation-apec/us-apec-trade-facts>)