

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 2015 Host is the Philippines, declaring the theme to be “Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World.” Peru will be the Host in 2016. The theme will be Quality Growth and Human Development. 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 26 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 (<http://www.apec.org/Home/About-Us/How-APEC-Operates/Action-Plans>).
- Be aware of the many Working Groups (<http://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation.aspx>) addressing a broad range of topics (<http://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation.aspx>). In Model APEC, we cannot address all the topics for the sake of time.

This year’s TexMUN is focusing on two critical issues always worthy of consideration: Investment and Energy. The goal for APEC delegates at TexMUN is to reach a consensus and write a Leaders’ Statement about two topics: Investment and Energy. 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: Investment

Consider the following questions: What is your Economy’s investment climate? How does it meet APEC’s principles? What lessons and opinions can it share with other Members?

- The APEC Economies are committed to improving investment climates in its Member Economies (<http://www.apec.org/Home/Groups/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment/Investment-Experts-Group>).
- APEC provides a [set of principles](#), an update of the principles ([Non-Binding Investment Principles \(2011 Update\)](#)), and even a strategy ([APEC Strategy for Investment](#)) to assist Members and business enterprises.

- Review the details of individual Members' implementation efforts. (<http://www.apec.org/Groups/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment/Investment-Experts-Group/Investment-Related-Links.aspx>) Using the search mechanism on the APEC site, delegates can search for a Member Economy and discover current challenges and opportunities for Member Economies.
- To provide greater focus for the committee, the staff suggests delegates analyze the enhancement of business-friendly environments, sustainable investment opportunities, and practices in the APEC region. APEC states the goal for Members is to: “[S]hare experience, lessons and opinions on balancing investment, environmental, and social objectives to increase the public support for free and open trade and investment, thereby creating new demand and jobs; and share experience on improving the living environment and community livelihood.”

Topic Two: Energy

Consider the following questions: What is your Economy's energy outlook? How does it view and plan for a “Smart Energy Community?” (<http://esci-ksp.org/>). What are the best ideas and most realistic ways to promote renewable energy sources in the APEC region? (<http://www.egnret.ewg.apec.org/>.)

- The APEC Economies understand the importance of energy security, the need for energy supplies, and the stability of energy markets. The aspects of energy security must include the development of alternative and renewable sources both to provide energy and to preserve the environment.
- APEC provides a clear picture of its Members' diversity and priorities: <http://www.apec.org/Home/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Energy>. Individual Economies must address these priorities, and the APEC assumption is that all can benefit from collaboration, shared information, and technology development.
- Additionally, the APEC Energy Working Group has generated a list of priorities and programs: http://www.ewg.apec.org/key_issues.html.