

KOREA APEC STUDY CENTERS CONSORTIUM CONFERENCE 2025 – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

As the Chair of the APEC Study Center Consortium, I am pleased to issue this call for proposals for the APEC Study Centers Consortium Conference to be held in May 2025 in Jeju Island, Korea. This conference will be hosted by the National Center for APEC Studies at the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP).

We invite paper proposals (maximum 500 words) addressing the following themes:

Theme 1: Advancing Discussion on the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP)

Regional Economic Integration remains crucial for promoting sustainable economic growth and strengthening resilience across the Asia-Pacific, particularly as the global trading landscape faces a range of unprecedented challenges ranging from geopolitical tensions to supply chain disruptions. Through the promotion of free and open trade, APEC economies can enhance regional connectivity and cooperation. Expanding on the guiding elements set forth in the Ichma Statement, further advancement of FTAAP discussions is needed to examine linkages between trade and emerging priorities such as digitalization, sustainability and supply chain resilience.

Theme 2: Building Supply Chain Resilience

In the post-pandemic era, strengthening supply chain resilience requires continued attention and enhanced measures beyond existing efforts. Further discussions are needed to promote cooperation for resilient supply chains that can withstand external shocks. By enhancing transparency, adaptability, and regional collaboration, economies can secure resilient trade and investment flows across borders. In particular, strengthened supply chains facilitate dynamics within the region, which accounts for half of global trade.

Theme 3: Digital Innovation and AI

Innovation and digitalization stand as key pillars of APEC's Putrajaya Vision 2040, recognizing the fundamental role these pillars play in creating an interconnected global economy. The rapid advancement of digital technologies and AI is reshaping the economic landscape of the Asia-Pacific region, offering unprecedented opportunities for enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Cooperation among economies will strengthen the Asia-Pacific's leadership in the global digital economy.

Theme 4: Addressing Climate Change and Sustainable Growth

The Asia-Pacific region faces urgent climate change challenges that demand coordinated action. Accelerating clean energy transitions remains vital for achieving net-zero emissions while driving innovation-led growth. The region should advance diverse carbon-free energy sources and strengthen climate resilience. Climate change affects various sectors, from energy to food and marine systems, requiring innovative solutions and sustained cooperation among economies.

Theme 5: Promoting Inclusive Prosperity

APEC's commitment to inclusive growth addresses various social challenges. At the midpoint of the La Serena Roadmap, efforts continue to expand women's economic participation, particularly in digital transformation and leadership roles. MSMEs require enhanced support through emerging technologies. The region also faces demographic challenges, with low birth rates and aging populations affecting economies.

Other APEC relevant topics are also welcome for submission.

Proposal Submission Guideline

Proposals should be submitted to this email: tschoi@kiep.go.kr by February 28th, 2025.

The authors of accepted proposals will be required to submit the completed papers or their presentations by April 25th, 2025.

Please also attach the following information for submission:

- First and Last name
- Email
- Nationality
- Date of Birth
- Institutional Affiliation
- Position
- Proposal Title
- Co-authors
- Abstract (maximum 500 words)

Due to the space and time constraints, we will need to balance geographic representation and subject matter coverage in selecting from amongst the paper proposals. We anticipate sufficient capacity to allow for at least one presentation from each APEC member economy. To the extent that submissions outnumber the speaking slots available, we will post the papers of speakers and non-speakers alike on a publicly accessible website.

Best regards,

Sungbae An, PhD
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Vice President for External Affairs, KIEP