

APEC Institute of Innovative Education Development

Newsletter



»» APEC HRDWG & EDNET MEETINGS in PERU

The 2024 annual meetings of the Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) and Education Network (EDNET) took place from May 4-8 in Arequipa, Peru.

During the HRDWG meeting, Peru's Minister of Labor and Employment Promotion, Daniel Maurate Romero, initiated an expert dialogue focused on inclusion and empowerment for people with disabilities. The dialogue aimed to enhance APEC economies' ability to incorporate people with disabilities into the workforce and foster a more inclusive and resilient labor market, with a particular focus on digital transformation driven by artificial intelligence. Experts discussed practical approaches to tackle the challenges of labor formalization and digital transformation policies with a focus on inclusivity for people with disabilities. They also deliberated on the development of digital skills tailored to individuals with disabilities.

It was also highlighted during the meeting that, with technology advancement accelerated by the pandemic, there is an urgent need for member economies to prioritize human capital development and enhance productivity to ensure equal employment opportunities for all. Additionally, the gap between educational programs and labor market needs was identified as a pressing issue requiring attention.

The 2024 EDNET annual meeting gathered education officials and experts from the region to discuss topics on rural education enhancement, inclusive education, digital education, education system optimization, and women's empowerment.



PRIORITIES FOR APEC 2024

Empower. Include. Grow



Trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth

- **Trade liberalization**

To deliver a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment, Peru will coordinate the implementation of APEC's work toward the 13th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13) and effectively advance efforts on the FTAAP agenda, consistent with the Lima Declaration on FTAAP adopted in 2016.

- **Trade facilitation**

APEC will strive to strengthen connectivity and resilient supply chains in the region, seek to adopt and improve effective standards and conformance systems, and promote the flow of quality investment.

- **Trade and inclusion**

To foster quality growth that brings palpable benefits and greater health and wellbeing to all, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), women and others with untapped economic potential, APEC will continue to promote start-ups, advance MSMEs' access to global markets and global value chains, and enhance the economic empowerment of women.

Innovation and digitalization to promote transition to the formal and global economy

- **Policy frameworks and strategies toward formal transition**

APEC will double down on policy frameworks and strategies that support capacity building and exchange of policies, practices and incentives in common areas of interest that facilitate the transition from informal employment and informal entrepreneurship to formality.

- **Underscoring the social dimension of economic growth**

Peru will attach particular importance to the role of the social economy to improve competitiveness and to drive the formalization process; the transition to the formal economy through technology (e-formality); and promoting formalization in value-added chains to facilitate regional trade and access to financing.

- **Bridging gaps and highlighting inclusion**

Special focus will be on narrowing gaps through inclusive digital transformation, financial inclusion and open finance to empower groups with untapped economic potential. Peru will also prioritize women in the economy and the informal economy in the tourism sector.

Sustainable growth for resilient development

- **Collaborative efforts toward energy transition**

Peru will collectively work on policy guidance to develop and implement low-carbon hydrogen policy frameworks in the Asia-Pacific to support energy transition.

- **Working plan for food security**

Faced by the need to better manage its food requirements, APEC's agenda will include initiatives to prevent and reduce food loss and waste in the region.

- **A sustainable and resilient finance**

APEC 2024 will put forward several initiatives to promote sustainable and resilient finance in five relevant areas: sustainable finance initiatives, sustainable infrastructure, carbon leakage measures, clean energy transition, and hydrometeorological risk financing.

