

International Business Committee
Information Note on
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2026

SUMMARY

China is hosting Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) this year for the third time¹. This paper informs Members of the International Business Committee (IBC) the latest developments of APEC 2026 as well as Hong Kong, China's participation this year. Details are set out below.

DETAILS

APEC

2. Established in 1989, APEC is an inter-governmental economic and trade forum for member economies to exchange views and strengthen cooperation on economic and trade issues. It aims to promote balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and to advance regional economic integration for the prosperity of the people of the Asia-Pacific region. APEC currently has 21 member economies². Hong Kong joined APEC in 1991, and continued our participation as a separate and full member after July 1997 under the name “Hong Kong, China” (HKC). APEC follows a cyclical and hierarchical meeting structure, from the highest level (Leaders' Meeting), to the ministerial level (ministerial meetings), and then the Senior Officials' level (Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM))³.

¹ China hosted APEC in 2001 and 2014 respectively.

² APEC currently comprises 21 member economies: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China (HKC); Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States; and Viet Nam. HKC joined APEC in 1991, alongside China and Chinese Taipei.

³ HKC is represented by the Chief Executive at the annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, and by respective Principal Officials at the sectoral ministerial meetings. The Director-General of Trade and Industry is HKC's APEC Senior Official at the regular SOM.

3. In addition to inter-governmental exchanges, APEC Economic Leaders established the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in November 1995 in recognition of the important contribution of the private sector. ABAC tenders advice to APEC on business sector priorities, particularly through the annual ABAC-APEC Economic Leaders Dialogue, and responds to requests from various APEC fora for information about business perspective on specific areas. Each APEC Economic Leader can appoint up to three members and three alternate members from the private sector to attend ABAC matters⁴.

APEC China 2026

4. Under China's overarching theme of "*Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together*", the APEC 2026 agenda focuses on three policy priorities, namely *Openness*, *Innovation*, and *Cooperation* with a view to enhancing economic integration, embracing digital opportunities and jointly addressing pressing global and regional challenges. In particular, China has been spearheading efforts to deliver outcomes in areas such as the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, connectivity, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, as well as green and inclusive development.

5. For APEC 2026, China plans to host five clusters of SOM, as well as a total of 11 sectoral ministerial meetings covering digital and artificial intelligence, energy, finance, food security, forestry, human resources development, small and medium enterprises, tourism, trade, transportation, as well as women.

APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting 2026

6. In particular, the APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM) 2026, hosted by China's Ministry of Finance under the arrangements and organisation of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, will take place in Hong Kong in October for the very first time.

7. The FMM is expected to bring together finance ministers and senior

⁴ HKC's current Representatives to ABAC are Ms Marjorie Yang (Chairman of Esquel Group), Ms Mary Huen (Chief Executive Officer for Hong Kong and Greater China & North Asia of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited) and Ms Nisa Leung (Managing Partner of Aulis Capital) while HKC's Alternate Representatives to ABAC are Mr Spencer Fung (Group Executive Chairman of Li & Fung), Mr Duncan Chiu (Chairman of Lai Yuen Company Limited) and Mr Geoffrey Kao (Executive Director of Wah Ming Hong Limited).

finance officials of the 21 APEC member economies, as well as representatives of observing international organisations (such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Asian Development Bank). It is expected that around 500 visitors will come to Hong Kong for the FMM.

8. The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to the preparatory work for the FMM and strives to facilitate the successful hosting of the FMM in Hong Kong through close interdepartmental collaboration. Specifically, the HKSAR Government will make good use of the FMM programme arrangements. For example, Hong Kong's latest developments in finance, commerce and technology, as well as Chinese culture and the unique characteristics of Hong Kong, will be showcased through setting up exhibition booths around the conference area and arranging site visits for participants. This will enable FMM participants to discover firsthand the boundless opportunities offered by Hong Kong as an international metropolis.

APEC Economic Leaders' Week

9. The highlight of the year, APEC Economic Leaders' Week, will be held in November in Shenzhen, with the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting staging on 18 and 19 November. More information about APEC 2026 and its meeting schedules (including the SOM clusters and the sectoral ministerial meetings) is available on the official website at <https://www.apec2026.cn/> and <https://www.apec.org/engage-with-us/events-calendar>.

APEC CEO Summit

10. Alongside the APEC Economic Leaders' Week, the APEC CEO Summit (the Summit) will be held in Shenzhen as well. The Summit is an influential annual gathering of business and government representatives in the Asia-Pacific, and provides a platform for top CEOs to engage directly with top government officials on regional cooperation and economic growth. The Summit usually features keynote speeches from heads of government, alongside interactive panel discussions where corporate executives and public ministers debate broader global economic and trade trends. Off the main stage, the Summit drives actual business through private business-to-government meetings, showcases, and high-level networking gala dinners that allow attendees to build vital cross-border partnerships. The Summit this year will be organised by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. Business participation in the Summit is possible through delegate registration or corporate sponsorship, and registration for this year's Summit will be open

in the latter part of the year.

HKC's Participation in APEC 2026

11. HKC fully supports China's hosting of APEC 2026, and has continued its active participation across relevant APEC fora as a separate and full member of APEC, including through the following means –

- (a) taking part in APEC meetings across all levels – Last month, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, and the Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs respectively attended the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting and APEC Women and the Economy Forum held in Suzhou and Shanghai;
- (b) taking up leadership roles in certain key APEC fora – HKC representatives are currently serving as the Chair of the APEC Economic Committee as well as the Deputy Lead Shepherd of the APEC Energy Working Group; and
- (c) contributing to various APEC initiatives and projects – HKC is organising at least six APEC projects this year both in Hong Kong and in the Chinese Mainland⁵, and is actively participating in various workshops and seminars as guest speakers or panelists.

CONCLUSION

12. Being one of the most externally oriented and open economies in the world, Hong Kong attaches great importance to promoting regional economic co-operation, particularly through APEC. With trade between Hong Kong and other member economies of APEC accounting for some 80% of Hong Kong's external trade, APEC provides an invaluable platform for us to collaborate with other member economies on a wide range of economic and trade issues in the region, and to reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international trade and financial centre.

⁵ The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department hosted a two-day workshop "*APEC Practical Training on District Cooling and Heating Systems*" in Hong Kong in March 2026. Most recently, the Independent Commission Against Corruption also hosted a two-day workshop "*Promoting Integrity for Economic Prosperity*" in Hong Kong in June 2026.

13. In the lead up to APEC Economic Leaders' Week, IBC may wish to encourage members of the various chambers of commerce to consider registering for or sponsoring the APEC CEO Summit in due course.

14. Looking ahead, Hong Kong will continue its active and constructive participation not only in the remainder of APEC 2026, but also in the years to come, making full use of the APEC platform to deepen international exchanges and cooperation, contributing to the high-quality, sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

Trade and Industry Department
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
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