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ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

U.S.-APEC Technical Assistance to Advance Regional Integration (ATAARI)

Funding Level

\$26.8 million

Duration

2013 – 2018

Geographic Scope

APEC economies: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Peru, Russian Federation, Viet Nam

Key Partners

- U.S. Government Agencies
- APEC Secretariat
- APEC Member Countries and stakeholders

Activity Implementing Partner

Nathan Associates Inc. along with other development partners (e.g. Pacific Disaster Center, ICF International, the Asia Foundation, and IBI International)

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OVERVIEW

In 2013, the U.S. Government launched the U.S.-Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Technical Assistance to Advance Regional Integration (ATAARI) project to reinforce its belief that APEC is the premier forum for advancing trade and investment policy in the Asia-Pacific region. The project will support U.S. and APEC policy objectives through technical assistance on economic integration and institutional management issues until 2018.

FOCUS AREAS

Promoting Trade and Investment Liberalization

The project supports APEC's cornerstone goal of promoting free and open trade and investment and strives to strengthen and deepen economic integration in the region. Activities help foster good regulatory practices, trade and investment in environmental goods and services, improved supply chain performance, the alignment of standards and codes, and further progress in other policy areas that contribute to this goal.

Improving Business Facilitation

APEC's *Ease of Doing Business Action Plan* identified five priority areas for regulatory reform in APEC member economies: (1) starting a business, (2) getting credit, (3) trading across borders, (4) enforcing contracts, and (5) dealing with permits. The project also targets structural reforms in areas such as competition policy, corporate governance, and economic and legal infrastructure.

Supporting Inclusive Development

The project also works to ensure that all persons within the APEC region are able to participate in global trade, and supports the five tenets of the APEC Growth Strategy: promoting balanced, inclusive, secure, sustainable, and innovative growth. Examples of activities include technical assistance focused on reducing fossil fuels subsidies, promoting women entrepreneurs, advocating policies that improve food security, and supporting the transition to a digital economy.

FOCUS AREAS (CONT.)

Strengthening APEC and Host Economy Support

The project provides training to increase the capacity of the APEC Secretariat—as well as of the developing member economies that host APEC—to provide the logistical, policy, and substantive leadership needed to advance APEC’s work.

GOALS

- Strengthen the capacity of the APEC Secretariat and APEC’s foreign-assistance eligible developing member economies to advance regional economic integration and achieve the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the region
- Build upon past assistance provided to APEC by the U.S. Government to assist APEC in achieving its policy objectives by delivering targeted technical assistance, through policy studies and assessments and capacity building, training, and expert advice on integration, trade liberalization and institutional management

IMPACT

- Piloted a fossil fuels subsidies reform peer review approach in Peru with recommendations for farmer field schools program reform and for more consistent reporting metrics for reform efforts
- Finalized diagnostic reports assessing region-wide performance and recommended details on three previously identified supply chain chokepoints
- Launched study examining stakeholder experiences in good regulatory practices across APEC economies with providing public comments on proposed regulations
- Implemented three capacity building workshops under CT/ST priorities, training 139 representatives from 17 economies in countering and preventing terrorist threats
- Finalized the *APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard*, a framework comprised of 75 indicators on barriers and opportunities to enhance women’s economic empowerment

THE APEC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FACILITY, 2008-2012

Prior to the U.S.-ATAARI project, USAID supported the APEC process and stakeholders utilizing the APEC Technical Assistance and Training Facility (APEC TATF) project. The APEC TATF project worked to help APEC achieve its policy objectives by delivering targeted technical assistance and logistical support to regional initiatives and developing member economies, furthering economic integration with a focus on liberalizing trade.

Throughout its period of performance, APEC TATF contributed to APEC’s credibility by conducting activities quickly and expediting project approval. It built confidence in APEC TATF’s abilities by nurturing the relationships necessary to forge an ambitious assistance agenda and leveraged resources, such as by encouraging ASEAN-APEC synergy.

The program also served USAID’s development goals by narrowing the gaps between developed and developing member economies by promoting reforms at the border, behind the border, and across the border. Participants in APEC TATF workshops and seminars evinced their new capacity and commitment to carrying out reform and becoming agents of change at home. The impact of APEC TATF has proven greater than the sum of its parts (workshops, studies, technical assistance): APEC TATF has contributed to the revitalization of the APEC agenda led by APEC member economies as well as the successful implementation of reform initiatives.