



2018 APEC Study Centre's Consortium Conference (ASCCC) Call for Papers

The PNG APEC Study Centre (PNGASC) which is part of the PNG National Research Institute (PNG NRI), will host the 2018 APEC Study Centre Consortium Conference (ASCCC) to be held from 14 - 15 May 2018 at the Laguna Hotel in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG). The conference will be research focused and support the overall objectives of APEC 2018 hosted by PNG.

The overall APEC 2018 theme is ***'Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future'***, with three priorities:

- Improving Connectivity, and Deepening Regional Economic Integration;
- Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Growth; and,
- Strengthening Economic Growth through Structural Reform.

The ASCC Conference will closely align with these priorities and focus on presenting evidence-based research, policy and best practice to inform and present practical steps for policy makers.

Conference Theme and Topics

The ASCCC will examine the overall theme of ***'Inclusive growth opportunities in an increasingly connected region'*** with four topics or sub-themes, listed below. Presenters are encouraged to use the questions under each topic as guides for focusing the papers and to assist in developing recommendations for public policy.

1. Regional economic integration and connectivity.

- 1.1. What are the major economic opportunities for APEC economies in an increasingly integrated and connected region?
- 1.2. What are current trends and opportunities in mining and petroleum, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, forestry, tourism, and services sectors?
- 1.3. What is the role and impact of current and proposed trade agreements (e.g. TPP, FTAAP)? Do they promote economic integration and connectivity in APEC?
- 1.4. Using case studies, what is the value of foreign direct investment in promoting and securing growth in the region?
- 1.5. How can economic inclusion be promoted and ensure that the benefits of APEC are shared to all people?
- 1.6. How can increased connectivity help APEC countries and what should be done to maximise the benefits of connectivity?
- 1.7. How can APEC support both the formal and informal sectors to promote and benefit from economic growth and regional integration?
- 1.8. How can APEC member economies work together to safe-guard the future of the region against the impacts of climate change and natural disasters?

2. Structural reform and competition

- 2.1. Boosting growth through structural reform – challenges and strategies
- 2.2. What are APEC economies' experience with competition policy?
- 2.3. How can competitiveness in APEC economies be improved by reforming domestic institutions?
- 2.4. What are the reforms to enhance public sector governance (using case studies)?
- 2.5. Using evidence, can one demonstrate the linkages between productivity growth and competition?

2.6. What is the role for State Owned Enterprises in a competitive economy?

3. Digitisation

- 3.1. What is the experience of current APEC economies with digital connectivity platforms, and how will they deliver improved services and improve livelihoods?
- 3.2. What are the regulatory priorities national governments should be focused on to respond to a digital economy?
- 3.3. How do APEC economies ensure all sectors of the economy benefit from the digital revolution and don't get left behind?
- 3.4. What can be done to improve vital areas including; health, education, infrastructure, climate change policy, gender equity, labour mobility, SME and entrepreneur growth, and land ownership to promote greater inclusive growth?

4. Innovation and technology

- 4.1. What are the current innovation and technology trends helping APEC countries expand trade, promote economic growth and improve vital services?
- 4.2. Technology and innovation can be disruptive and impact on business, communities and governments; what processes / frameworks should APEC consider to meet these challenges?
- 4.3. How can APEC economies utilise innovation and technology to increase growth and eliminate poverty while at the same time promoting sustainability?
- 4.4. What are the key technology infrastructure constraints and strategies as APEC economies gear up for the 'digital revolution?'

Call out for Expressions of Interest for Presentation of Papers

The PNG APEC Study Centre (PNG ASC) is calling for expressions of interest to present high-quality research, policy and best practice papers at the two-day ASCC Conference in Port Moresby 14-15 May 2018. The conference will be an exciting opportunity to inform and influence public policy for APEC economies.

Each presenter will be invited to speak for a maximum of 20 minutes, followed by a group Q&A at the end of each session.

Call Out Details

- **Call out for papers commences 12 February 2018**
 - Potential presenters must first send an abstract of no more than five hundred (500) words which should also include any potential impact on public policy. Each submission must include a short bio of the presenter (no more than 150 words). All submissions will be through the NRI website portal <http://www.pngnri.org/png-apec-study-centre>.
- **The deadline for receiving Abstracts is 23 March 2018.**
- On 30 March 2018, The PNG ASC will advise participants who submitted an abstract whether they have been selected to present at the ASCCC. Participants will then be requested to provide (via email to pngasc@pngnri.org) the following:
 - Any relevant paper (no more than 5000 words);
 - An accompanying powerpoint presentation (maximum 10 slides); and
 - A photo of the presenter (to be used in the conference handout).
- **The deadline for receiving all presenter documentation is 30 April 2018.**

Screening of Expressions of Interests for Presentation of Papers

Abstracts for presentation of papers at the conference will be screened by a panel of experts to ensure high-quality papers are delivered and align with the Conference theme and topics.

Program for Conference

An electronic program for the conference will be emailed to participants prior to the conference in May 2018. The PNG ASC will use the emails provided in the electronic registration form.

Timeframe of Activities

The table below outlines the key activities and timeframes for the Conference.

Activity	Timeframe
1. Callout for Expressions of Interest for presentations	12 February 2018
2. Deadline for receipt of Expressions of Interest (EOI): abstract (500-word limit) and bio (150-word max).	23 March 2018
3. ASC advises successful EOIs short-listed to present at ASCCC 2018.	30 March 2018
4. Registration Deadline for Attendees ONLY at ASCCC 2018	11 April 2018
5. Deadline for all presenters to send all documentation (Paper, presentation, photo of presenter) via email pngasc@pngnri.org	30 April 2018
6. Participants advised of the program schedule for ASCCC	May 2018
7. ASCCC early registration desk open at Laguna Hotel.	13 May 2018 (5pm-8pm)
8. APEC Study Centres Consortium Conference 2018 is conducted	14-15 May 2018
9. Cocktail event for participants at Laguna Hotel Port Moresby	14 May 2018 (6pm-9pm)
10. Following the ASCCC, a summary of proceedings will be sent to participants.	June 2018

Registration for Attendance

Registration to attend the 2018 ASCCC (14-15 May) is now open. To participate in this two-day event please register by completing the electronic form on the ASCCC website. (<http://www.pngnri.org/png-apec-study-centre>)

Information about getting to the 2018 ASCCC

The following section provides information to assist participants to obtain the appropriate travel visas and provide accommodation options.

Visa

All Participants will be provided with a FREE visa on arrival. Visas will be organised through the ASCCC. Details to be provided during the conference registration process.

Participants wishing to organise their own visa may do so by accessing the PNG Department of Immigration website for assistance: <https://www.immigration.gov.pg>.

Accommodation and Transport Options

The following accommodation options are recommended for conference participants.

1. [Laguna Hotel](#)
2. [Stanley Hotel](#)
3. [Holiday Inn](#)
4. [Lamana Hotel](#)
5. [Airways Hotel](#)

Transport will be provided for participants for airport transfer and transportation between the hotels and meeting venue.

ASCCC Social Event

All participants are invited to a cocktail party between 6pm-9pm Monday 14 May 2018 at the Laguna Hotel. It will be an opportunity for participants to network and share ideas. Official invitations will be available at the registration desk, 13-14 May 2018, at Laguna Hotel Port Moresby.

Cultural Activities

PNG has a diverse and rich culture dating back tens of thousands of years with over 800 languages spoken across the 21 provinces covering coastal and mountainous regions.

The ASC would encourage participants to explore the culture and beauty of PNG, which may include a trip to the PNG National Museum in Port Moresby to learn about the history and culture of PNG, or a trip to the Port Moresby Nature Park to see PNG's native flora and fauna.

If participants can stay longer in PNG, a trip to one of PNG's 21 provinces to explore some of the world's most ecologically diverse diving or breath-taking hikes, is highly recommended.

The PNG APEC Study Centre looks forward to welcoming all conference participants to the PNG.

Key Contact and Enquiries

For further information on the Conference and/or clarifications, contact:

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