



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

APEC

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Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

What is APEC?

- Grouping of 21 economies focused on trade and economic cooperation
- Forum for sharing ideas and best practice, and capacity building – nothing is binding
- Based on consultation and consensus
- APEC leaders and ministers meet annually and set agenda
- Around 70 different subject specific working groups carry out that agenda

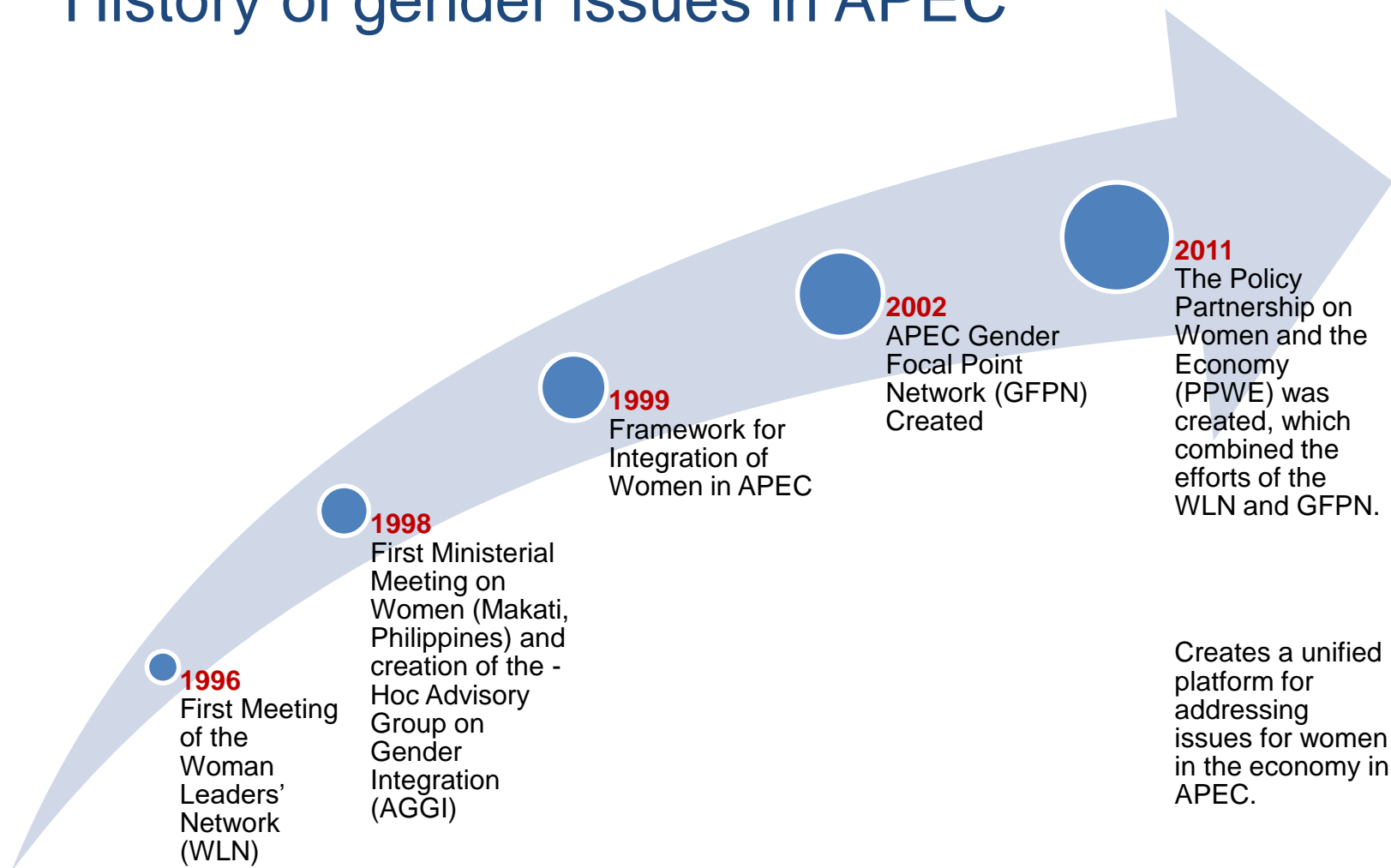


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Why is APEC focused on women?

- Gender equality offers **significant economic growth potential**. Latest McKinsey report: advancing women's equality in Asia Pacific could add \$4.5 trillion to collective annual GDP in 2025.
- With increasing recognition that the benefits of trade are not necessarily shared equally, APEC is increasingly focused on “inclusive trade” – being trade that creates opportunity for all segments of society, including women.

History of gender issues in APEC



So what is APEC's agenda on women?

- Since 2011: Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE)
- Goal: integrate gender equality and women and the economy considerations throughout APEC.
- Tools:
 - APEC Dashboard on Women and the Economy
 - APEC Women and the Economy Sub-Fund

Dashboard link: <https://www.apec.org/Publications/2017/09/The-APEC-Women-and-The-Economy-Dashboard-2017>



Current focus areas

- Increasing the number of Women in **science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)**
- **Structural reform**: identifying the conditions necessary to give equal opportunity to women in the workplace: maternity leave, paternity leave, flexible working arrangements, childcare
- Ensuring women benefit equally from the **digital economy**
- Increasing the number of women in management and corporate governance roles in **non-traditional sectors** like mining, transport and energy



What has worked well?

2018 project on “Empowering Women as Managers in the Renewable Energy Sector”:

- 42 women from 12 APEC economies working in the renewable energy sector selected to participate in a six month training programme designed to support their accelerated career advancement
- Technical skills building, network expansion, peer-to-peer mentoring and establishment of alumni network
- Success to be replicated for other target sectors

Looking ahead....

- Women and inclusive growth is a priority area for Chile (the 2019 APEC host) – so expect more work in this space!
- Chile wish to focus on:
 - Increasing the participation of women in non-traditional sectors
 - Bridging the digital literacy gender gap
 - Advancing women's economic empowerment through data



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