

APEC Voices of the Future

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

12 - 18 November 2018



A Special Report on the APEC Voices of the Future 2018 held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Background

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was formed in 1989 as a regional platform in which Heads of the 21 APEC Member Economies could meet and discuss free trade and economic cooperation along the Pacific Rim, in the midst of rapid regional growth brought about by the expansion of international trade. Over the years, the region had experienced increased globalization, which was accelerated by advancements in technology, faster movement of information flow, and the emergence of new challenges in areas such as climate change, food security and natural resources.

Papua New Guinea was very honored to host the APEC Economic Leaders Week in November 2018 for the first time since APEC was formed. The APEC Economic Leaders' Week was attended by Heads of the 21 APEC Member Economies from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the United States and the Host Economy Papua New Guinea.

“The APEC Voices of the Future has grown from a mere 30 young leaders in 1998, to more than 150 young leaders today. This bears testament to the vision of each successive host over the years who have supported the programme.”

**H.E. Peter O'Neill CMG, MP
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea**

In conjunction with the APEC Economic Leaders' Week 2018, the APEC CEO Summit and ABAC Meeting, the APEC Voices of the Future 2018 was held concurrently in Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. The topic for APEC Voices of the Future 2018 was in line with the theme of APEC 2018, “Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future”. This addressed harnessing technology for a better future and the role of youth in their own home economies to support digital innovation.



H.E. Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea gracing the Opening Ceremony of the APEC 2018 CEO Summit on board the P&O Cruise Liner, The Pacific Explorer at Port Moresby.



APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting 2018 hosted by H.E. Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea at the APEC Haus, Port Moresby.



Leaders from the 21 APEC Member Economies gathering for the official group photograph during the APEC Leaders' Week 2018 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

APEC Voices of the Future 2018 Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony of the APEC Voices of the Future 2018 was held on 13 November 2018 at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby. The Opening Ceremony was graced by H.E. The Honorable Justin W. Tkatchenko, PNG Minister for APEC 2018. In his welcome address, Mr James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council welcomed the youth delegates and educators to Port Moresby, where many of them had travelled great distances to attend the event. To many, this mega event was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and Mr Soh encouraged them to seize this chance to understand the work of regional groups and the workings of the APEC community.



Mr James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council delivering the Welcome Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the APEC Voices 2018 Youth Summit.

Mr Andrew G. Barry, Managing Director, ExxonMobil PNG Limited encouraged the delegates to explore various opportunities in the resource-rich economy of Papua New Guinea. ExxonMobil was honoured to welcome and host the delegates when they visited the ExxonMobil LNG Plant at Caution Bay.

Mr David Toua, Chair, APEC Business Advisory Council 2018 encouraged the youth delegates to engage and explore opportunities with key business leaders and captains of industries who represented their economies at the APEC Summit. He encouraged them to interact, explore business opportunities and discuss relevant issues with leaders from the Asia-Pacific region.

Minister Tkatchenko extended a warm welcome to the APEC Voices delegates and educators from 15 APEC Member Economies to Papua New Guinea, and congratulated the momentous occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the APEC Voices of the Future program. The Minister encouraged the young leaders to fully utilize the platform, engage with APEC and Business Leaders, extend their network with fellow delegates, and work together to create a more vibrant and dynamic Asia-Pacific region. He also encouraged the delegates to explore the rich culture and traditions of Papua New Guinea.



H.E. Justin W. Tkatchenko, Minister for APEC addressing at the Opening Ceremony of the APEC Voices 2018 Youth Summit at the University of Papua New Guinea.



Mr Andrew Barry, Managing Director, ExxonMobil PNG welcoming the delegates at the Opening Ceremony.



Mr David Toua, Chair, APEC Business Advisory Council 2018 addressing the delegates at the APEC Voices 2018 Youth Summit.

The Opening Ceremony concluded with Mr Soh presenting the newly published APEC Voices 20th Anniversary Commemorative Book which provided a historical documentation of the APEC Voices journey from 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea to Guest-of-Honor, H.E. Minister Tkatchenko and key partners before a group photo session at the University of Papua New Guinea.



APEC Voices 2018 officials and delegates from the 15 APEC Member Economies at the APEC Voices 2018 Opening Ceremony held at the University of Papua New Guinea.

APEC Voices of the Future 2018 Youth Forum

The APEC Voices 2018 Youth Forum commenced with brief remarks by Dr Jessica Hennessey, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Furman University, USA who served as the Youth Forum Moderator. The Plenary Session began with a presentation from one representative of each APEC Member Economy on the topic: Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future and the role of youth in their home economy. The presentations were in-depth and reflected some of the challenges of the respective economies. Each economy had been experiencing different challenges as they were in different stages of development. The issues raised set the agenda for the break-up group discussion in the second half of the Youth Forum.



Dr Jessica Hennessey, Associate Professor of Furman University, USA, moderating the APEC Voices of the Future 2018 Youth Forum.



Team from APEC Voices New Zealand presenting their Economy Report at the APEC Voices 2018 Youth Summit.

The delegates were divided into four main groups, and each group was assigned to discuss and tackle issues related to various topics, namely: Harnessing Technology for a Better Future, the Role of Education in Preparing our Youth for the Future, Digital Innovation: Opportunities and Challenges for our Young People and Harnessing Inclusiveness: Challenges and Opportunities. The delegates then disbursed to various parts of the campus for their deliberations.

Another group was specially selected by their economies to work on the APEC Youth Declaration 2018. The main framework was agreed upon and the group responsible for the Youth Declaration waited anxiously for the input of the break-up group, with the hope that the declaration would be a fair representative of the APEC Voices delegates 2018. The educators played a crucial role in facilitating the group discussions, but avoided influencing the outcome of the discussions.



Intense discussion among the APEC Voices 2018 delegates on issues concerning young people in their respective APEC Members Economies.

The group presentations were of high standards with much in-depth discussion, and the delegates articulated themselves well during the question-and-answer sessions. To tackle the issue of inclusivity, one group suggested coming up with APEC key performance indicators for each APEC economy so that the APEC Leaders would be able to better identify gaps and produce targeted solutions. Delegates also recognized the importance of education and that some economies do not have equal access to education. They hence proposed an APEC Youth Fund that could benefit and provide struggling economies with necessary resources for an improved education system for young people. The representatives worked vigorously through the night on board the cruise ship to finish the tasks assigned.



Group presentation from the APEC Voices 2018 delegates on their deliberation at the APEC Voices 2018 Youth Summit.



Group presentation on their discussion at the APEC Voices 2018 Youth Summit.

Visitation to ExxonMobil LNG Site and Port Moresby Nature Park



APEC Voices 2018 delegates visiting the ExxonMobil LNG Plant at Caution Bay on the South Coast of PNG's Central Province.

The APEC Voices delegates and educators deserved a good break after their intense discussion at the Youth Forum 2018 on the 3rd day of the APEC Summit. The first order of the day was a specially arranged trip to the ExxonMobil PNG LNG Plant which is located 20 kilometers northwest of Port Moresby, at Caution Bay on the South Coast of PNG's Central Province. The LNG Plant was operating by receiving natural gas from the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant through a 700-kilometre pipeline.

The ExxonMobil PNG LNG Plant superintendent, Mr Scott R. Buechler and his team provided the delegates with an elaborate briefing of the two LNG process trains, LNG storage tanks, marine loading terminal, LNG plant facilities and amenities etc. The visit to the PNG LNG Plant was the first for all the delegates, and they were very grateful for this opportunity.

“APEC Voices of the Future is an important platform that allows young leaders from the 21 APEC Member Economies to engage government and business leaders on cross-cutting issues relevant to APEC.”

**Dr Alan Bollard
Executive Director, APEC Secretariat**

After the visit to the ExxonMobil LNG Plant, the delegates proceeded to the Port Moresby Nature Park for lunch, away from the hustle and bustle of the Port Moresby city area. Upon their arrival, the delegates were greeted with song and dance by the tribes dressed in traditional tribal outfits. The Port Moresby Nature Park is Papua New Guinea's leading botanical and native zoological park and garden, which showcased the best of PNG's flora and fauna. The park has been home to over 250 native animals, including birds of paradise, tree-kangaroos, cassowaries, wallabies, snakes, crocodiles, hornbills and multiple parrot species.



APEC Voices delegates visiting the Port Moresby Nature Park, away from the hustle and bustle of the Port Moresby city area.



APEC Voices delegates learning the traditional cultural dance at the Port Moresby Nature Park.

During their stay in Port Moresby, delegates also visited the National Museum and Art Gallery showcasing artifacts from 19 provinces of Papua New Guinea, with collections that dated as far back as 1800. The delegates saw the best of PNG as they explored SME stalls at the International Convention Centre, where many local arts and crafts were on display, showcasing the rich tribal culture of Papua New Guinea.



Visiting the National Museum and Art Gallery of Papua New Guinea was a rare treat for the APEC Voices delegates.

APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

The APEC Voices attended a special dialogue session with members of the APEC Business Advisory Council at the Lamana Hotel. The meeting provided an opportunity for the APEC Voices delegates to meet the respective ABAC Members from their economies. The ABAC Members were keen to learn what the youth delegates had experienced over the last few days, and their views on APEC and issues that concerned them. These informal discussions were useful for business leaders to gain insights into the views of these young delegates and leaders of tomorrow.



Mr James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council, presenting the APEC Voices 20th Anniversary Book to Mr Richard von Appen, President of Ultramar and ABAC Chile 2019 Chair at the ABAC Meeting in Port Moresby.



Mr Antonio I Basilio, Director, ABAC Secretariat, interacting with the APEC Voices 2018 delegates at the ABAC Meeting in Port Moresby.



Mr Ho Meng Kit, Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Business Federation and ABAC Singapore Member, meeting the APEC Voices 2018 delegates.

Dialogue Session with Yao Chen, Chinese Actress and Philanthropist



Ms Yao Chen, a renowned Chinese actress and philanthropist sharing her UN refugee work with the APEC Voices delegates on board The P&O Cruise Liner Pacific Jewel at Port Moresby.

APEC Voices delegates attended a sharing session by Yao Chen, a Chinese actress and philanthropist. In 2014, Time had named her as one of the most influential people on the Time 100 list. She was also listed by Forbes as the 83rd most powerful woman in the world. Several Western media outlets have even nicknamed her as “China’s answer to Angelina Jolie.” She shared her UN refugee work with the APEC Voices delegates and how she had been making a difference to create an impact for the community in China. She encouraged the young delegates to have a positive attitude and contribute their best for their communities.



APEC Voices 2018 officials and delegates with Ms Yao Chen, Guest Speaker at the Dialogue Session.



Ms Yao Chen with APEC Voices delegates at the APEC CEO Summit 2018.

APEC CEO Summit 2018 Cultural Night and Dinner

The APEC CEO Summit 2018 Cultural Night and Dinner - A World of Astounding Diversity was held at the wharf area where delegates were welcomed by various tribal groups in traditional tribal costumes. The party arrived with delicious traditional food and drinks and delegates enjoyed the peaceful seafront ambience with concerts and performances.



A night of fun and enjoyment for the APEC Voices delegates at the APEC CEO Summit Cultural Night Dinner event.

Youth delegates and their educators were invited to attend the Welcome Reception held on board the Pacific Explorer hosted by Mr Isikeli Taureka, Chairman of the APEC CEO Summit 2018. The youth delegates could move freely at the reception, and interacted with CEOs and the business community who attended the APEC CEO Summit. It was a night to remember and both CEOs and young people had a good time interacting during the reception.



APEC Voices delegates with tribal members at the Cultural Night and Dinner event.



APEC Voices delegates networking with business leaders at the APEC CEO Reception on board The Pacific Explorer.



A night of interaction and networking amongst the APEC Voices delegates and business leaders on board The Pacific Explorer.

APEC CEO Summit 2018

“Inclusion in the Age of Disruption: Charting A Common Future”

The APEC CEO Summit was one of the highlights of the APEC Voices program in Port Moresby. The Opening of the APEC CEO Summit was held on board the Pacific Explorer on 16 November 2018 and was graced by H.E. Mr Peter O’Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea under very tight security. Key business leaders such as Patrick Pouyanne, Chairman and CEO of Total, Scott Price, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer of UPS, Neil Chapman, Senior Vice-President of ExxonMobil took turns to address the APEC CEO Summit on the first day, on topics such as “Trade and Globalisation, the Future of Globalisation: Is a New Approach required?”, “Expanding Opportunities and Creating an Ecosystem for MSME Growth and Opportunity”, “Resource Industry Development” and “Should We Fear Disruption?” These dialogue sessions were moderated by well-known media personalities like Tian Wei, Host of CGTN, Charlie Campbell, East Asia Correspondent, Time and Haidi Stroud-Watts, Anchor, Bloomberg.



APEC CEO Summit 2018 held at the auditorium on board the Cruise Liner The Pacific Explorer.

APEC CEO Summit 2018

APEC Economic Leaders who addressed the final day of the APEC CEO Summit on 17 November 2018 were H.E. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong, H.E. Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia, H.E. Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of Russia, H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China and H.E. Michael Pence, Vice-President of the United States.

H.E. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, spoke about the dark side of disruption, how policies should ensure that no one is left behind in the age of disruption, and highlighted retraining programmes, scholarships for professional and postgraduate studies, and technology-related programmes for youth to tackle technological disruption and job displacement. H.E. Carrie Lam spoke about the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education, women in the workforce, and how youth and startups would play a larger role in the future workforce. H.E. Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia, emphasized the importance of free trade and on APEC's future role in the region as a practical forum for creating an ecosystem for business. H.E. Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of Russia, focused on the importance of having a robust transport infrastructure and logistics chain to facilitate trade across our region. H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China praised openness and cooperation between APEC economies, and warned against the rising trend of protectionism and unilateralism. He denied that the Belt and Road Initiative contained hidden geopolitical motivations, but rather, was "an open platform for cooperation." H.E. Michael Pence, Vice-President of the United States spoke on the importance of trade in the region and on promoting civil society. He criticized China's global infrastructure drive, and remarked that the US would not back down from its trade dispute with China, and might even double its tariffs until China "changes its ways." Vice-President Pence also reaffirmed the US' commitment to the Indo-Pacific and confidence in a cooperative future with Asia-Pacific economies.

"I have a personal attachment to the APEC Voices Program because I launched it in 1998 in Malaysia. Since then, APEC Voices of the Future program has not looked back, going from strength to strength, and here we are today, celebrating its 20th Anniversary."

**H.E. Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad
Prime Minister of Malaysia**



APEC Voices delegates from Canada with H.E. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.

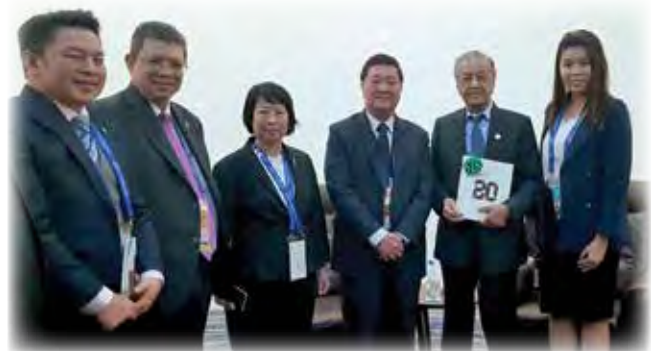
The Closing Ceremony of the APEC CEO Summit was followed by a Warm Welcome to the APEC CEO Summit 2019 to be held in Santiago, Chile. H.E. Sebastian Pinera, President of Chile and Jean-Paul Luksic, Chairman, APEC CEO Summit 2019 sent their warmest invitation to delegates to attend the APEC CEO Summit in 2019 in Chile. The APEC CEO Summit ended with a Closing Lunch held on board the Pacific Explorer.



H.E. Sebastian Pinera, President of Chile addressing the APEC CEO Summit 2018 on board the Cruise Liner The Pacific Explorer.



APEC Voices officials and Japanese APEC Voices delegates with H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and Mrs Akie Abe.



Mr James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council and the APEC Voices 2018 Organising Committee with H.E. Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia. With Prime Minister Mahathir are H.E. Dato Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Datuk Darell Leiking, Minister of International Trade and industry.



Singapore's APEC Voices delegates with H.E. Dr Mohd Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Defence and Mayor of South East District and Dr Tan Wu Meng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry.

APEC Voices of the Future Closing Ceremony cum Cultural Night

The APEC Voices delegates gathered at the Dome on board the Pacific Jewel to show their appreciation to the APEC Voices 2018 organisers from Singapore and host economy Papua New Guinea. The spirit was on board high and everyone was thankful for this opportunity of a lifetime, to be part of the APEC Voices 2018 program in Port Moresby despite facing many challenges and uncertainties. It was a meaningful learning experience and even as they returned to their respective economies, they would continue to remember the bonds that they have forged, the lessons learnt, and would be ready to serve and contribute not just in the Asia-Pacific region but around the world.

Youth Representatives from the APEC Member Economies took turns to come forward and sign the APEC Voices 2018 Youth Declaration witnessed by Mr James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council. The signed declaration would be handed over to the Heads of APEC Member Economies by the APEC Voices Secretariat. In his closing address, Mr Soh thanked each youth leader and educator for their kind understanding, patience and good spirits when faced with challenges during the week. He highlighted that the most important thing was that as youth leaders and educators, they had prevailed and emerged stronger as a family of the APEC Voices of the Future.

“We are confident that we will continue to build on the solid foundation laid by our pioneers to further enhance our joint partnership and collaboration while contributing to the wider youth sector in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.”

**James Soh BBM PBM MBE
Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council**



APEC Voices delegates celebrating the success of the program in Port Moresby during the APEC Voices Closing Ceremony on board The Pacific Jewel.



APEC Voices Youth Representatives signing the APEC Voices 2018 Youth Declaration witnessed by Mr James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council.

Sincere Appreciation and Gratitude

The APEC Voices Leadership Council and the APEC Voices Secretariat in Singapore would like to thank the host Economy, Papua New Guinea, especially H.E. Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, H.E. Justin W. Tkatchenko, Minister for APEC 2018 for their support to the APEC Voices program 2018 in Papua New Guinea during the APEC Economic Leaders' Week. Dr Alan Bollard, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat, Ambassador Ivan Pomaleu, OBE, 2018 APEC SOM Chair, Mr David Toua, ABAC 2018 Chair, APEC 2018 Papua New Guinea Co-ordination Authority, APEC Business Advisory Council, APEC PNG security personnel for providing security for the APEC Voices delegates, ExxonMobil PNG for the partnership and generous support, and the PNG media for their coverage of the APEC Voices 2018 program.

The APEC Voices Leadership Council would also like to express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the APEC Voices 2018 Working Committee co-chaired by Ms Aileen Yap, Deputy Executive Director, National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore and Ms Helena Dickson of the APEC 2018 Papua New Guinea Co-ordination Authority, executives and staff of ExxonMobil PNG for their support and contributions, and officers and staff of the Pacific Jewel for their assistance during our stay. We would like to thank the National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore for their leadership, support and contributions in ensuring the APEC Voices of the Future 2018 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea was a success.

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