

APEC Voices of the Future

Da Nang, Viet Nam

5 - 11 November 2017



A Special Report on the APEC Voices of the Future 2017 held in Da Nang, Viet Nam

Background

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was formed in 1989 as a regional platform in which member economies could discuss free trade and economic cooperation along the Pacific Rim. Its primary purpose is to facilitate economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region with the vision of creating a seamless regional economy.

The first time Viet Nam hosted the APEC Leaders' Week was in 2006 in Hanoi. In 2017, the APEC Leaders' Week was successfully hosted by Viet Nam for the second time.

The APEC Leaders' Week held in Da Nang, Viet Nam from 9 and 10 November 2017 was attended by Heads of APEC member economies from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States of America and the host economy Viet Nam.

In conjunction with the APEC Leaders' Week, the APEC CEO Summit and ABAC Meeting, the APEC Voices of the Future 2017 was concurrently held at the beautiful coastal city of Da Nang, Viet Nam from 5 to 11 November 2017 with the support of the APEC 2017 National Committee of Viet Nam and the APEC Secretariat.

The theme for the APEC Voices of the Future 2017 was in line with the theme of APEC 2017, "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future" and how young leaders from the Asia-Pacific region can play a role and contribute to the well-being and success of the region.



H.E. Tran Dai Quang, President of Viet Nam gracing the Opening Ceremony of the APEC 2017 CEO Summit at Ariyana Exhibition and Convention Centre in Da Nang, Viet Nam.



APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting 2017 hosted by H.E. Tran Dai Quang, President of Viet Nam.



Leaders from the 21 APEC Member Economies gathering for the official group photograph during the APEC Leaders' Week 2017 in Da Nang, Viet Nam.

ABAC Women's Luncheon 2017

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Women's Luncheon event was held at the Ariyana Exhibition and Convention Centre on 5 November 2017 in Da Nang, Viet Nam.

APEC Voices 2017 Keynote Speaker for the Youth Forum, Dr Noeleen Heyzer, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2007 to 2015) and Member, United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Board on Mediation, was also the Keynote Speaker on the theme: Women's Economic Empowerment for the ABAC luncheon event, which was followed by a panel discussion.



Dr Noeleen Heyzer, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2007-2015) and Member, UN Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Board on Mediation addressing the ABAC Women's Luncheon.

"It is time for your generation to take up the baton of building a vision for a dynamic, interconnected, sustainable and inclusive APEC community. Let us make APEC 2017 a meaningful year for creating new dynamism, fostering a shared future."

H.E. Pham Binh Minh
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Chairman, APEC 2017 National Committee
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



Panel discussion during the ABAC Women's Luncheon at the Ariyana Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Official Opening Ceremony of the APEC Voices of the Future 2017

The annual APEC Voices of the Future Programme was held from 5 to 11 November 2017 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. The programme kicked off with an orientation conducted by the APEC Voices Leadership Council for the youth delegates and educators at the Palm Garden Resort in Hoi An where the APEC Voices delegates were staying. The orientation program was attended by youth delegates and educators from 17 APEC Member Economies. Delegates were briefed on the day-to-day activities during the APEC Week and members had the opportunity to get to know one another.

The APEC Voices 2017 Opening Ceremony was held on 6 November 2017 at the Da Nang University and was graced by H.E. The Honourable Huynh Duc Tho, Chairman of the People's Committee of Da Nang, Viet Nam.

In his Welcoming Address at the Opening Ceremony at Da Nang University, Mr James Soh, Co-Chairman of the APEC Voices Leadership Council, welcomed the APEC Voices delegates to the beautiful coastal city of Da Nang for the 2017 APEC Voices Youth Forum. He encouraged delegates to take this rare opportunity to learn about the workings of APEC and to discuss among themselves how - as youth leaders from the Asia Pacific region - they could play an active role in contributing their ideas and making a difference to the region in the future as the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

At the Opening Ceremony, Mr Le Quoc Phong, the First Secretary of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union welcomed the APEC Voices delegates to Da Nang and encouraged the youth leaders not only to engage actively with their APEC Voices counterparts, but also with the Vietnamese youth leaders attending the event as well. "Viet Nam is very open to new ideas especially from the youths and we look forward to many fruitful discussions and exchange of ideas during the Youth Forum at the Da Nang University," he said.



H.E. Huynh Duc Tho, Chairman of the People's Committee of Da Nang addressing at the Opening Ceremony of the APEC Voices 2017 at Da Nang University.



ABAC Members, APEC Voices Leaders and senior officials at the Opening Ceremony of the APEC Voices 2017 at Da Nang University.

In his Opening Address, the Chairman of the People's Committee of Da Nang, The Honourable Huynh Duc Tho also warmly welcomed the APEC Voices delegates and guests to Da Nang. Mr Huynh emphasised the importance of the APEC Theme "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future" as he strongly believed that we need to embrace our younger generation which is our future and encourage them to fully utilise their creativity, passion and enthusiasm not only in helping to develop the economy in the region but also contribute their leadership in other fields on their interests in the region and beyond.

"Not only can young people establish links for businesses, these young voices can also advocate good governance and best practices within business communities in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond."

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



Mr David Toua, ABAC Chair 2018 of Papua New Guinea, Ms Katherine Rich, ABAC Member, New Zealand with youth delegates from Papua New Guinea.



APEC Voices 2017 officials and delegates from 17 APEC Member Economies at the APEC Voices 2017 Opening Ceremony at Da Nang University.

APEC Voices of the Future 2017 Youth Forum

The highlight of the APEC Voices Youth Forum was the keynote address by Dr Noeleen Heyzer, Former United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific and current Member of the United Nations' Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation.

In her address, Dr Heyzer shared with youth delegates on the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how to create new dynamism and foster a shared future amongst youth in the Asia-Pacific Region. She also shared how the Millennium Development Goals had achieved substantial progress in the areas of combating poverty, improving education, health and reducing hunger across the globe. "Much progress has been made on these areas, but there is still a long way to go to achieve these goals. We need to galvanise and encourage everyone to be involved in order to achieve the SDG Goals," she added.

The APEC 2017 theme "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future" is indeed a very appropriate theme for the APEC Voices of the Future. As a youth leader, you can play an active role in your own community and create a platform so that more young people like yourself can come together to create an impact and make a difference in our region and beyond, starting with your own economy. By empowering your peers, friends and community to



Dr Noeleen Heyzer, Keynote Speaker at the APEC Voices 2017 Youth Forum at Da Nang University.

combat climate change as well as to protect our eco-system such as the oceans and marine resources for sustainable development, and by promoting peaceful and inclusive societies so that everyone has a role to play, we can all help to build effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

"Youth are our future and your commitment and active participation can help make a big difference in our region," she concluded.

APEC Voices of the Future 2017 Youth Forum

Another guest speaker at the youth forum was Dr Dinglong Huang, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Malong Technologies. Dr Huang spoke on the topic: "Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability - What are the challenges of start-ups and the future of the digital age in the Asia Pacific Region?"

Dr Huang shared his views on the technological revolution which we have seen today and how it will impact our lives and work.

"Indeed, many people fear that their jobs will be taken over by machines in the future. How does one respond to these so-called threats?" Dr Huang believes that machines won't completely take over all the jobs from human beings. "Used wisely, machines may help us to progress even faster and society will benefit from it."

Both speakers were engaged in a very lively dialogue after their presentation which challenged the youth delegates to think out of the box and to seek new ideas to make our region a more vibrant community.



APEC Voices delegates representing various economies presenting their group report at the Youth Forum.



Guest Speaker Dr Dinglong Huang, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Malong Technologies, China, Guest Speaker at the APEC Voices 2017 Youth Forum.

The APEC Voices Youth Forum also provided a platform for delegates from the 21 APEC Member Economies to address the issues related to APEC from these youth leaders' perspectives and the challenges they faced in their respective economies. One of the issues raised countless times during the past few forums was the mismatch between education and the job market. Many delegates shared their own experiences of their difficulties in finding jobs that matched what they were trained for.

In conclusion, the APEC Voices Youth Forum 2017 was also an excellent platform for the students of University of Da Nang to interact with the APEC young leaders and to forge a close friendship between Vietnam and the APEC member economies.

"I encourage the APEC's voices of the future to engage in meaningful dialogue with key policymakers and business leaders to discuss and share your insights in finding new solutions to current and future challenges."

Dr Alan Bollard
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat

Visit to Quang Nam Peace Village

The APEC Voices delegates were also invited to visit the Orphanage at Quang Nam Peace village located in Tam Dan commune, Phu Ninh District, Central Quang Nam Province. Quang Nam was one of the two central provinces in Viet Nam badly affected by Agent Orange/Dioxin during the Viet Nam War and was also the main operating theatre for soldiers from the Republic of Korea fighting the war. Built with the support of the Korean Disabled Veterans Organisation and the Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee, the peace village was established with the objective of nursing and providing rehabilitation for these disabled war veterans and their descendants.



APEC Voices delegates performing for the children at Quang Nam Peace Village.



Mr James Soh, Co-Chair, APEC Voices Leadership Council presenting the APEC Voices appreciation plaque H.E. Mr Huynh Khanh Toan, Vice Chairman, Quang Nam People's Committee at the Quang Nam Peace Village.

Visit to Tam Thanh Mural Village and Hoi An Ancient Town

APEC Voices delegates also toured the Tam Thanh Mural Village as part of their enrichment programme during the APEC Week. The murals were painted by talented Korean artists with more than 100 images showcasing the daily lives of the people in this fishing village and its lively and colourful landscapes. The day-tour ended with a visit to the Ha Linh Lantern Making Factory in the UNESCO-gazetted ancient town of Hoi An where APEC Voices delegates had a hands-on experience of creating their own lanterns with the help of the experts at the factory. It was indeed an enriching experience to be involved with the ancient art of lantern-making. The young leaders also had the opportunity to explore the town of Hoi An as well as savour traditional Vietnamese cuisine during their visit.



APEC Voices delegates visiting the Tam Thanh Mural Village at Quang Nam Province.



Listening to the guide explaining on the background of the mural wall at Tam Thanh Mural Village.



Youth delegates from the Asia Pacific testing their skills in creating their own lanterns in Hoi An.

APEC CEO Summit 2017

“Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future”

The APEC CEO Summit 2017 held at the Ariyana Exhibition and Convention Centre was the highlight of the APEC Voices Programme for the youth delegates where they all had the opportunity to hear firsthand APEC and business leaders addressing the issues facing the Asia Pacific region.

The APEC CEO Summit 2017 was officially opened by H.E. Tran Dai Quang, President of Viet Nam. The summit saw APEC and business leaders addressing the challenges faced by both governments and business communities in a globalised world.

APEC government leaders who spoke at the APEC CEO Summit included H.E. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, President of Peru; H.E. Rodrigo Duterte, President of the Philippines; H.E. Enrique Pena Nieto, President of Mexico; H.E. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand; H.E. Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia; H.E. Peter O’Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea; H.E. Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile; H.E. Najib Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia; H.E. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive, Hong Kong SAR; H.E. Donald Trump, President of the United States of America and H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China.

For many APEC Voices delegates who are attending the APEC CEO Summit for the first time, it was indeed an eye-opening experience of a lifetime as the delegates had the rare opportunity to witness APEC Leaders sharing their insights and policies on free trade and how the Asia-Pacific region can solve some of the issues through partnership and collaboration.



H.E. Tran Dai Quang, President of Viet Nam addressing the APEC CEO Summit 2017 in Da Nang.



H.E. Peter O’Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea addressing the APEC Leaders Meeting in Da Nang.

APEC CEO Summit 2017



H.E. Donald Trump, President of the United States addressing the APEC CEO Summit.



H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China addressing the APEC CEO Summit.



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



APEC Voices delegates from Japan with H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.



APEC Voices delegates from New Zealand with H.E. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand.



Singapore's APEC Voices delegates with H.E. Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Singapore.



APEC Voices delegates from China and Singapore with Mr Scott Price, Executive Vice Chairman, Global Leverage, Walmart International.



APEC Voices USA delegates at the APEC CEO Summit 2017.

APEC Voices 2017 Closing Ceremony-cum-Cultural Night

The APEC Voices 2017 Closing Ceremony-cum-Cultural Night was held at the Palm Garden Resort in Hoi An, Quang Nam Province and was hosted by the Provincial Government of Quang Nam Province. Artists from Quang Nam province put up a rich and spectacular cultural performance at the closing ceremony showcasing traditional songs and dance with beautiful costumes. It was an unforgettable evening indeed.

In his closing address, Mr James Soh, Co-Chairman of the APEC Voices Leadership Council thanked H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and Chairman, APEC 2017 National Committee of Vietnam for supporting the APEC Voices 2017 during the APEC Week 2017 held in Da Nang, Vietnam. Mr Soh also thanked H.E. Dr Le Van Thanh, Vice-Chairman of Quang Nam Province People's Committee for his strong support for the APEC Voices 2017 Programme and for hosting the Closing Ceremony-cum-Cultural Night.

The Closing Ceremony-cum-Cultural Night was attended by officials and members of the APEC Voices delegates all dressed in their national costumes for this special night. Besides exchanging souvenirs, gifts and contacts with their fellow delegates and their hosts, these youth leaders from the 17 APEC member economies at this year's summit also put up their best performances of song and dance items reflecting the rich culture of their respective economies.



APEC Voices 2017 Certificates of Participation presented by Guest-of-Honour, H.E. Dr Le Van Thanh, witnessed by Ms Pham Phuong Chi, Director General of Youth International Cooperation Development Center and Secretary for International Affairs of National Committee on Youth of Viet Nam and Mr Soh.

"I believe that APEC Voices delegates can utilize your creativity, passion and enthusiasm to not only develop our economy, but also contribute to other fields in our region as well as the world."

H.E. Huynh Duc Tho
Chairman of the Da Nang People's Committee
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



H.E. Dr Le Van Thanh, Vice-Chairman, Quang Nam Province People's Committee addressing at APEC Voices 2017 the Closing Ceremony.



H.E. Dr Le Van Thanh, Ms Pham Phuong Chi and Mr James Soh witnessing the signing of the APEC Voices 2017 Youth Declaration by youth representatives from the 17 APEC Member Economies.



APEC Voices representatives presented the Youth Declaration to H.E. Dr Le Van Thanh, Ms Pham Phuong Chi and Mr James Soh.



A traditional cultural item presented by performers from the Quang Nam Province.



A stunning cultural performance by the youth delegates from Papua New Guinea.

One of the highlights of the Closing Ceremony was the presentation of the June Mayne Gould Award to the most outstanding young leaders of the APEC Voices 2017. The winner was Nguyen Cam Tu from the Academy of Finance, Vietnam. The evening concluded with the passing of the baton to the host economy of next year's summit, Papua New Guinea.



Handover Ceremony: Ms Nguyen Y Van, APEC Voices representative of Viet Nam handing over the APEC Voices plaque to Mr Charles Thomas Wama, APEC Voices representative of Papua New Guinea.

Synopsis

Following the success of the APEC Voices of the Future 2017 in Da Nang, Viet Nam, the APEC Voices Leadership Council looks forward to the APEC Voices of the Future 2018 to be hosted by Papua New Guinea in November 2018. In the true spirit of the warm and everlasting friendship of our Vietnamese hosts, the future for young leaders' engagement, leadership and contributions in the Asia-Pacific region looks as bright and as positive as ever, thanks to the opportunity provided by our hosts in Da Nang, Viet Nam.

The Closing Ceremony ended with the passing of the baton to next year's host economy, Papua New Guinea, with the theme "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future", focusing on the importance of the internet, e-commerce and digital economy. Likewise, the Youth Representative of Viet Nam also handed over the baton to the Youth Representative of Papua New Guinea as a symbol of continued progress and friendship.

Finally, all the APEC Voices delegates present also wished Papua New Guinea great success in hosting the APEC Leader's Week and APEC Voices Program 2018.



Ms Nguyen Cam Tu, Academy of Finance, Viet Nam receiving the June Mayne Gould Award 2017 from 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 Government of Viet Nam, especially H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman, APEC 2017 National Committee of Viet Nam; H.E. Huynh Duc Tho, Chairman of the People's Committee of Da Nang; H.E. Dr Le Van Thanh, Vice-Chairman of Quang Nam Province People's Committee, Dr Alan Bollard, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat, Mr Hoang Van Dung, ABAC 2017 Chair, APEC 2017 National Committee; H.E. Le Quoc Phong, First Secretary of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; Prof Tran Van Nam, President, Da Nang University and all our partners and supporters for their warm and generous support. We are also grateful to the provincial governments of Da Nang and Quang Nam province, security personnel and police for providing security for the APEC Voices delegates during the APEC Leaders' Week, as well as the media and press agencies in Vietnam for their extensive coverage of the APEC Voices 2017 Program.

The APEC Voices Leadership Council would also like to place on record our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the APEC Voices 2017 Working Committee co-chaired by Ms Aileen Yap, Deputy Executive Director, National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore and the National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore for their leadership and their tremendous support and contributions in making APEC Voices of the Future 2017 held in Da Nang, Viet Nam a resounding success.

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