APEC Business Advisory Council

SOM2 | THE APA REVIEW: ABAC INPUTS

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Sunday 17 May 2026



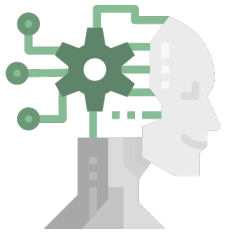
Photo by Mariah Hewines on Unsplash.com

The APA is essential to achieving the Putrajaya Vision…

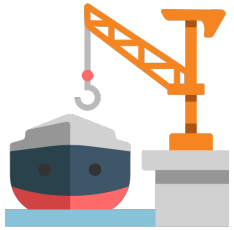
- The APA is a critical tool for economies to achieve the Putrajaya Vision 2040, and make progress in priority areas
- Much of the 2021 ‘roadmap’ is still useful, appropriate and highly valued by the business community
- The Review is a great chance to ensure that this “living document” still delivers what we need it to – in a way that is consistent with 2026 themes (*Openness, innovation, cooperation;* and *Openness, connectivity, synergy)*

…but the APA needs updating in a few key areas

The APA was drafted before four significant structural shifts took place:



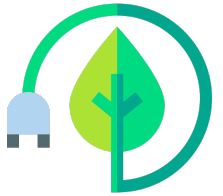
Generative AI
Quantum computing



Supply Chain challenges

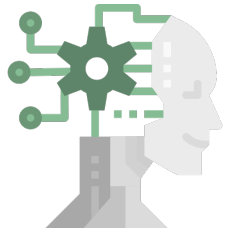


Accelerating economic fragmentation



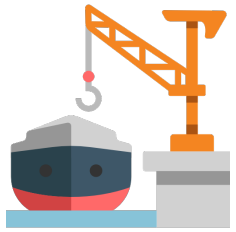
Energy transition and green trade growth

Missing elements: Examples for each structural shift



Policy settings for genAI,
AI-related structural reform
AI sectoral applications

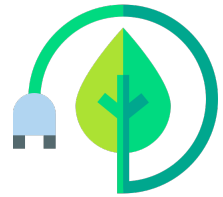
Quantum-ready economies
Post-quantum cryptography



Supply chain resilience:
Early warning systems
Robust infrastructure
Capacity for paperless trade (ACCEPT)



Bottom-up FTAAP early deliverables
E.g.:
- tackle food NTBs
- coherent digital trade rules
- Equal Pay Framework



Cooperation on green energy transitions

Responsible mining practices

Greener Trade Framework with a focus on commercial opportunities

Case study: the APA is out of date on digital

What it covers

- Structural reform – *but little detail*
- Adopt new technologies, innovative business environment
- Address challenges, barriers, competition – *but little detail*
- Promote interoperability, facilitate trade, discuss rules
- Work towards digitalizing border processes
- Capacity building, skills, digital divide
- Infrastructure – *but little detail*

What it doesn't

- Generative AI, agentic AI, sectoral AI
  - Impact on jobs, productivity, society
  - Trade implications
- Quantum Computing
- Data innovation
- Detail on "interoperability" in the real world
- Detail on digital supply chains (beyond the border) including eBL, e-invoicing, digital identities
- Coherent digital trade rules, including digitally-deliverable services
- Sustainable AI infrastructure

Recommendations

APEC should:

- Use the APA Review to prioritise updates in response to the four major structural shifts since 2021:
  - Digital transformation (AI, agentic AI, quantum computing, data innovation, interoperability, digitally-deliverable services and coherent digital trade rules)
  - Supply chain shocks (resilience elements e.g. early warning, robust infrastructure, building capacity for paperless trade)
  - Economic fragmentation (prioritise bottom-up early deliverables for FTAAP)
  - The green transition (cooperation on green energy, responsible mining, Greener Trade Framework)