

## APEC DIGITAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Today's workers across the Asia-Pacific region are finding that jobs increasingly require new and innovative digital skills and competencies. However, effective training in and delivery mechanisms for such skills are in short supply creating barriers to both gainful employment and an efficient workforce. To address these needs and improve career and technical education (CTE) in the region, the United States Department of Education sponsored the APEC Digital Workforce Development (DWD) Project with the support of twelve cosponsoring APEC member economies through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) Education Network (EDNET) and was approved in December 2017 as APEC Project Number HRD 06 2017A. The DWD Project's activities, openly accessible products, and constructive collaboration will benefit project participants, HRDWG and EDNET delegates, and stakeholders in all member economies.

Delegates to HRDWG and EDNET from participating APEC member economies and representatives from non-governmental organizations will be invited to share their experiences in a series of interactive, informative webinars and a two-day workshop, tentatively scheduled for December 3-4 2018 in Washington, DC, and to advise the development of a guide to promising practices and design principles and other DWD Project outputs.

DWD Project participants may be officials of ministries of education, labor, training, or science and technology from participating APEC member economies; professors, researchers, or other academics; representatives from businesses and key industries; educators and administrators from universities, colleges, and training providers; and other subject matter experts or consultants. Participants will have experience and expertise in the fields of digital and distance CTE; career pathways or industry aligned credentials; online CTE or training; online higher education or MOOCs; rural CTE; virtual career academy or university extensions; virtual professional development; or workforce development programs.

DWD Project staff in the U.S. Department of Education Office of International Affairs will solicit participation through invitations to HRDWG and EDNET delegate contact lists and through outreach to regional organizations and institutions identified in initial project research as leaders in the fields of digital and distance learning and innovative CTE. Potential participants will be considered and approved by members of an inter-office DWD Project Working Group within the U.S. Department of Education that will seek diverse input by balancing stakeholders and participants across gender, member economies, and the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum is a voluntary collaborative effort among 21 members around the Pacific Rim. More information on APEC can be found at [www.APEC.org](http://www.APEC.org).

- DWD Webinars:
  - 15 August – Webinar #1: Program Content
  - 18 September – Webinar #2: Program Delivery [*date TBC pending presenters*]
  - 17 October – Webinar #3: Program Quality [*date TBC pending presenters*]
- DWD Workshop 3-4 December – United States Department of Education Headquarters, Washington, DC, USA