

## Section 6 APEC

At the APEC ministerial and leaders meetings in 2017, which was chaired by Viet Nam, an agreement was reached on the APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion and also on the development of an APEC vision that looks beyond 2020, the target year for the achievement of the Bogor Goals. At the meetings, the participants emphasized the important role of APEC in supporting the multilateral trading system and reaffirmed APEC's commitment to ensure a level playing field and fight against protectionism, including all unfair trade practices. Regarding the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), the participants reaffirmed APEC's commitment to make progress in the process toward an eventual realization of the free trade area.

On digital trade, it was confirmed that actions to promote the development of the internet and digital economy, including e-commerce and digital trade, will be considered, and the APEC Cross-Border E-Commerce Facilitation Framework was approved. With respect to connectivity and quality infrastructure, the participants welcomed the progress made in various matters concerning quality infrastructure, including the progress in the "Peer Review and Capacity Building on APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment," which was proposed by Japan. The start of the revision of the APEC Guidebook on Quality of Infrastructure Development and Investment was also welcomed.

In 2018, Papua New Guinea serves as the APEC chair, and discussions are being held on three priorities--(1) improving digital connectivity, deepening regional economic integration, (2) promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, and (3) strengthening inclusive economic growth through structural reform--under the theme "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future." At a meeting of APEC trade ministers held in May, a ministerial statement confirmed the importance of the digital economy and quality infrastructure. In addition, the Statement of the Chair on Supporting the Multilateral Trading System was issued. The statement mentioned efforts to support, strengthen and improve the multilateral trading system and the commitment to fight against protectionism and trade distorting measures. At the APEC ministerial and leaders' meetings to be held in Port Moresby in November, the results of APEC's activities in the past one year will be summarized.

Japan will engage in initiatives to achieve the economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region, including FTAAP, while continuing discussions based on the Yokohama Vision that was presented in 2010. At the same time, Japan will engage in specific initiatives related to the promotion of the development and investment in quality infrastructure and implement policy measures to bring affluence and vitality to Japan while tapping into this region's strong growth potential. In accordance with the changing times, Japan will also actively promote new economic and trade agendas, including digital trade, at APEC. At the same time, Japan will strive to correct market-distorting measures and ensure a level playing field and will be actively involved in the development of the APEC Vision that looks beyond 2020.

**Figure III-1-6-1 APEC Ministerial Meeting and Economic Leaders' Meeting**

APEC Ministerial Meeting

(Source: METI website)



APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

(Source: APEC Secretariat)

