Australian Aid

APEC
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

APEC Professional Services and Mutual Recognition Community of Practice – Session 12

Tuesday, 25 March 2025, 11:00 – 12:30 AEDT

Session theme: Measuring the benefits of mutual recognition and MRAs

In this session, we will explore how we might measure the intended benefits and impacts of mutual recognition and MRAs, now and into the future. This exploration will overview and build upon research that the Australian APEC Study Centre is currently undertaking to measure benefits and impacts, looking at current practice and future directions.

Agenda (90 mins)

10:45AM: **Participants join the virtual platform (15 mins)**

11:00AM: **Welcome, Introductions (5 mins)**

Mr Paul Howorth, Session Facilitator

11:05AM: **Some Opening Remarks on the Theme (5 mins)**

Mr Arjuna Nadaraja, Chair AUSPECC

11:10AM: **Measuring benefits and impacts: overview of the current research approach (10 mins)**

Prof Chris Ziguras, Lead Researcher

11:20AM: **Facilitated Discussion and Q&A: Measuring the benefits of mutual recognition and MRAs (60 mins)**

Mr Paul Howorth, Session Facilitator

Guest Speakers

Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in the Philippines

Atty. Melisa Jane Comafay Yeachana, Director IV, International Affairs Office

Ms. Kathlyn Irish Mae C. Polido, Supervising PRO, International Affairs Office - Qualification Recognition Division

Ms. Alexandra Pauline S. Fernando - Senior PRO, International Affairs Office - International Commitments Negotiation Division

12:20PM: **Session Wrap Up and Evaluation (10 mins)**

Measuring the benefits of mutual recognition and MRAs

The Australian APEC Study Centre is currently developing a research paper that aims to more comprehensively measure the benefits and impacts of mutual recognition and MRAs in the APEC region. Doing this will help us to evaluate the effectiveness so far of APEC's efforts towards supporting mutual recognition and MRAs. In turn, this will help us to consider where best to focus future efforts, taking into account the rapidly evolving context surrounding trade in professional services.

Looking at past and current practice within APEC, the intended benefits of mutual recognition and MRAs seem to fall into three broad categories:

Professional Mobility For example, the physical movement of professionals across borders	**Closer Integration of Services Economies** For example, the alignment of standards to enable closer integration	**Increasing Cross-Border Supply** For example, more trade in professional services between economies

If we want to measure progress towards each of these benefits, we need to identify sources of data that can tell us something about them. To support our current research, we'd like to broaden our awareness of data sources within the region, that may be relevant to or useful for the measurement of these benefits and other impacts.

In today's discussion we'll be asking the following questions:

- Do you know of data sources within your economy or sector that could be relevant to or useful for any of the three categories above?
- Who collects or holds this data - Government? Competent Authorities? Academia? Others?
- Are you familiar with the data, and if so, are there any immediate insights you could share that point to the benefits?