Project Proposal

Project Proposal Number	DESG_202_2025A
Current Status	Satisfactory
Project Title 2	Discovering Cross-Border Government Credential Interoperability: Privacy-Enhanced Multi-Economy Workshop Initiative
Fund Source	APEC Support Fund (ASF)
Sub-Fund	ASF: Digital Innovation (Digital)
APEC Forum	Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)
Co-Proposing Forum	
Proposing APEC Economy	Chinese Taipei;
Co-Proposing Economy	
Co-Sponsoring APEC Economy(ies) if any	Chile; Japan; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Thailand;
Expected Start Date	01-01-2026
Project Completion Date	30-06-2027
Project Summary	This initiative aims to discover cross-border government credential interoperability opportunities across APEC economies that are willing to participate in the workshop comprehensive research and multi-stakeholder engagement. The project will explore two critical areas: government-issued digital credentials (including driver's licenses, professional licenses, and educational certificates), potential interoperability use cases and privacy-enhanced frameworks for personal data protection. The project begins with comprehensive surveys across participating economies to map existing government credential systems and privacy protection mechanisms. Through extensive pre-workshop consultations, the initiative will identify interoperability opportunities and privacy enhancement possibilities. The culminating workshop will feature dedicated sessions on credential discovery, and privacy protection within APEC.
Project Topic(s)	Digital Economy; Digital Technology and Innovation; Data Privacy;
Project Outputs	1. In-Person Workshop 2.Workshop Summary Report (APEC Publication)

Project Alignment to APEC's Putrajaya Vision 2040 and Aotearoa Plan of Action			
Primary Driver	2 Innovation and Digitalisation	**Primary Objective**	2.2 Digital economy and global interconnectedness
Secondary Driver (Optional)	1 Trade and Investment	**Secondary Objective (Optional)**	1.1 Regional trade and investment

Summary of Proposed Budget	**APEC Funding (USD) 1**	**Self-Funding (USD) 1**	**Total (USD) 1**
	100,000.00	40,000.00	140,000.00

Main Project Overseers Information	
Name	Jeremy Hao-En Wang
Job Title	Web3 System Analyst
PO Organization	Ministry of Digital Affairs
Primary Contact No	+886223800332

(Economy Code/Area Code + Telephone No)	
Primary E-mail	haoenvski@moda.gov.tw
Please provide a brief profile of the PO	Mr. Jeremy Wang is an experienced Web3 System Analyst. He is currently in charge of Chinese Taipei's Digital Identity Wallet Project at the Ministry of Digital Affairs.

Alternate Project Overseer Information

	SN	Alternate PO	Job Title	PO Organization	Contact No	Email
☐	1	Peggy Kao	Senior Advisor	Ministry of Digital Affairs	+886223800316	peggykao@moda.gov.tw

Section A: Overview and Relevance

SECTION A: Project Relevance

1a. Benefits to Region	The project addresses critical challenges in cross-border government credential recognition that impede seamless mobility, professional mobility, and trade efficiency across APEC economies. Currently, limited interoperability between government-issued credential systems creates barriers for travelers, professionals, students, and businesses operating across borders. Government credentials including driver's licenses, professional certifications, educational qualifications, and various permits lack standardized recognition frameworks, forcing reliance on complex verification processes and creating inefficiencies in cross-border activities. Privacy and personal data protection concerns further complicate cross-border credential recognition, as economies have varying approaches to data handling, consent mechanisms, and privacy/ personal data safeguards. The lack of privacy-enhanced interoperability frameworks creates tension between facilitating seamless recognition and protecting personal information. Educational credential recognition presents particular challenges for professional talent mobility. The absence of interoperable recognition mechanisms would limit cross-border professional opportunities and talent circulation within APEC. These challenges require systematic discovery of existing capabilities and identification of privacy-enhanced interoperability opportunities rather than imposed standardization.
1b. Eligibility and Fund Priorities	This project qualifies for the APEC Support Fund's Digital Innovation Sub-fund by directly addressing capacity building needs for APEC developing economies in advanced digital credential management and cross-border interoperability frameworks. The project aligns with multiple AIDER priorities: promoting interoperability through standardized frameworks, developing holistic government policy approaches through comparative analysis, and enhancing trust and security in digital systems through robust verification mechanisms. The initiative ensures broad stakeholder participation through multi-sector engagement including government agencies, industry associations, technical standards bodies, and civil society organizations. It employs evidence-based implementation through comprehensive policy analysis and comparative assessment across participating economies, promoting inclusive growth through enhanced digital credential accessibility for all socioeconomic groups.
1c. Capacity Building	This project delivers substantial capacity-building benefits for all participating APEC economies, with particular focus on developing economies. Through comprehensive cross-economy surveys, all participants will gain deep insights into diverse approaches to digital identity management enabling informed policy development and technical implementation decisions. The project enhances institutional capabilities by providing frameworks for balancing domestic regulatory requirements with international interoperability needs. Participating economies will develop expertise in multi-stakeholder coordination, technical standards alignment, and cross-border governance mechanisms. The hands-on experience of contributing to framework development and workshop participation will strengthen economies' capabilities in digital diplomacy and regional cooperation. For developing economies specifically, the project provides access to advanced technical knowledge, best practices from developed economies, and practical implementation guidance that would otherwise require significant independent investment. The collaborative approach ensures knowledge transfer while respecting each economy's unique circumstances and development priorities.
2. Objective	This project aims to discover cross-border government credential interoperability opportunities across participating APEC economies through three strategic objectives: (i) Comprehensive Discovery: Conduct detailed surveys of existing government credential systems (including professional, educational, and identity credentials) and

	privacy protection frameworks across participating economies identifying interoperability opportunities and privacy enhancement possibilities. (ii) Privacy-Enhanced Exploration: Explore privacy-preserving mechanisms for cross-border credential recognition with particular focus on educational credentials for professional mobility. (iii) Multi-Stakeholder Discovery Workshop: Foster dialogue through targeted consultations and comprehensive workshop sessions, including dedicated privacy protection and interoperability discussions within APEC. These objectives support APEC's digital economy priorities while enhancing privacy protection and capacity building.
3a. APEC	This project strongly aligns with multiple Key Focus Areas (KFAs) from APEC's Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER): KFA 2: Promoting Interoperability - The project's primary focus on discovering cross-border recognition opportunities for government credentials directly supports this priority through systematic exploration of existing capabilities. KFA 4: Development of holistic government policy frameworks - By examining existing credential systems and privacy frameworks, the project contributes to policy understanding for digital economy advancement across all of APEC. KFA 5: Promoting coherence and cooperation of regulatory approaches - The multi-economy discovery process supports regulatory cooperation while respecting domestic autonomy and privacy/ personal data sovereignty. KFA 7: Enhancing trust and security in ICTs - The project addresses trust mechanisms and privacy/ personal data protection essential for cross-border credential acceptance, with dedicated focus on privacy-enhancing technologies and frameworks. KFA 8: Facilitating free flow of information and data while respecting domestic laws - The privacy-enhanced approach specifically addresses this balance by exploring how credential interoperability can respect varying privacy regulations across economies. KFA 11: Facilitation of E-commerce and Advancing Cooperation on Digital Trade - Cross-border educational credential recognition support digital trade and professional talent mobility. The project also aligns with the Cross-Border E-Commerce Facilitation Framework by promoting ICT infrastructure understanding for cross-border commerce while enhancing cooperation on consumer and data protection. The topic of interoperability of digital identity is also in the 2022 ABAC report on "Digital Identity in APEC: Deepening Trust, Inclusion and Interoperability in the Digital Economy" and "ABAC Report to APEC Economic Leaders 2023". This project acknowledges the importance of developing a trusted digital identity system in the APEC region, aligning with the recommendations from ABAC.
3b. Forum	This project directly supports the Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) mandate by exploring government credential interoperability opportunities through systematic discovery processes. It promotes understanding of enabling technologies while addressing trust, security, and privacy/ personal data concerns in cross-border digital transactions. The project's comprehensive approach to government credentials - including educational credentials, addresses DESG's holistic vision for digital economy development, supporting both individual mobility and business efficiency while maintaining strong privacy protection across the APEC region.

SECTION B: Project Impact

	SN	Output Name	Description
☐	1	Pre-workshop survey report	Pre-workshop stakeholder consultations, workshop agenda design based on discovery findings, coordination with local partners, and logistics planning for multi-session workshop including dedicated enhancement session. Online questionnaires will be sent to all member economies to summarize the current status of digital credential adoption and assess their willingness to attend the workshop. Potential workshop participants will be interviewed to identify their key areas of interest, which will shape the workshop topics. A pre-workshop survey report of at least 10 pages will be published, covering (but not limited to) an overview of the digital credential landscape, technology stacks, potential economic value of cross-border interoperability, existing privacy-enhancing frameworks, and shared values.
☐	2	Workshop	Two-day in-person workshop on the margins of SOM1, 2027. The first day will be keynote speeches and panel discussions, covering government credential landscapes, interoperability options, and privacy or personal data safeguards. The second day will be breakout groups of policies and technology discussion for both for interoperability and privacy-enhanced frameworks. Target: at least 10 speakers, total of 50 participants, and representation from 10 economies. Deliverables include agenda, slides, attendance list, and run-of-show.

☐	3	Workshop summary report	APEC publication synthesizing discovery findings and workshop inputs, with case snapshots, comparative tables, and a practical menu of privacy-enhanced interoperability options for voluntary next steps, with at least 30 pages, excluding annexes. Includes annexes for survey tools and session notes where appropriate.

	SN	Outcome Description
☐	1	Enhanced Regional Knowledge Sharing – Economies gain a shared understanding of existing government credential systems, interoperability challenges, and privacy approaches through survey findings and workshop exchanges.
☐	2	Improved Policy and Technical Capacity – Officials and stakeholders build capacity in designing and implementing privacy-enhanced credential interoperability frameworks.
☐	3	Accelerated Uptake of Interoperability Solutions – Participating economies adopt and pilot the project's recommended digital credential interoperability tools and frameworks (including privacy-enhancing measures), leading to tangible improvements in cross-border credential recognition and personal data protection.

6. Beneficiaries	Primary Beneficiaries: Project attendees will benefit significantly from enhanced understanding of advanced digital credential systems, access to technical expertise from developed economies, and capacity building in cross-border interoperability frameworks. Furthermore, attendees will benefit by joining breakout discussion in the workshop, exploring solutions and potential economic values. Secondary Beneficiaries: With the workshop report, economies will benefit from learning key materials of digital credentials advancement, topics and solutions to the interoperability and privacy issues. The broader APEC community will benefit from replicable frameworks and best practices that can be adapted across the region. Sectoral Beneficiaries: Private sector organizations that work with government agencies responsible for digital identity and trade facilitation, and ultimately, citizens and businesses engaging in cross-border activities, will benefit from more efficient credential recognition processes. We expect to invite domain strategic experts from Standards Development Organization, e.g. W3C, and established frontline cross-border business manager, to share their insights.
7. Dissemination	APEC Publication: The Workshop Summary Report will be published as an official APEC publication on the APEC website, in accordance with APEC publication guidelines. It will be made available electronically for wide access. Electronic Dissemination: All approved workshop materials (e.g. agenda, presentations, survey tools) will be disseminated electronically via the APEC Meeting Document Database and DESG channels to ensure broad accessibility and reuse by member economies. Primary Audiences: Key audiences include APEC policymakers, regulators, and technical experts working on digital government credentials, data privacy, and cross-border trade facilitation. Secondary audiences encompass private sector stakeholders, standards-setting bodies, and academic researchers interested in digital identity and interoperability.

8. Gender

1. Description of Gender Inclusion in the Project

PO is committed to collecting sex disaggregated data for all speakers and participants (not only those funded by APEC) at the project event. This data will be included when submitting a Completion Report to the Secretariat upon completion of the project, as well as providing guidance to future POs on their own gender parity targets.

The project will ensure women' s active participation through gender-balanced nominations of speakers and participants, targeting at least 40% female representation. Gender-disaggregated data will be collected and reported.

2. Gender Participation Target Goals	As Participants (%)	As Speakers/Experts (%)
Male	60	60
Female	40	40

☐ Check this box if no event is proposed in the project

Five Pillars of the Gender Criteria

- ☐ Access to Capital and Assets
- ☐ Access to Markets
- ☑ Skills, Capacity Building, and Health
- ☑ Leadership, Voice and Agency
- ☑ Innovation and Technology

Section C: Effectiveness

9. Work Plan

	SN	Start From	Finish By	Description of Tasks	Deliverables
☐	1	01-01-2026	31-03-2026	"Request For Proposal (RFP)" and proceed with a contract: Contract for personnel who will conduct surveys and research	Contract for personnel
☐	2	01-04-2026	30-09-2026	Conduct economy-wide survey and targeted interviews; analyze current issuance and verification flows, standards in use, and privacy safeguards; consolidate findings	Pre-workshop survey report
☐	3	01-10-2026	01-10-2026	Submit the Monitoring Report to the Secretariat.	Monitoring Report
	4	01-12-2026	31-12-2026	Circulation of the General Information Circular (GIC) announcing the implementation of the project event at least 8 weeks before SOM1 2027	GIC
☐	5	01-01-2027	31-03-2027	Deliver the two-day in-person workshop at SOM1 margins; manage on-site and virtual operations; collect attendance and gender-disaggregated data; administer the post-event survey, keep it open for a defined window, and export the raw dataset; compile session proceedings and materials	APEC Event Attendance List Final Workshop Agenda Post-event Survey
☐	6	01-04-2027	30-04-2027	Analyze proceedings and feedback; draft the workshop summary with key insights, case snapshots, and recommended next steps; circulate to DESG for comment; incorporate edits and prepare for publication. The report include: final agenda, APEC Event Attendance List, and Post-event survey.	Workshop summary report
☐	7	01-05-2027	01-05-2027	Submit draft Workshop summary report to the Secretariat for review and approval and fora for endorsement.	Draft Workshop Summary Report
☐	8	31-08-2027	31-08-2027	Submit APEC Completion Report and supporting documents to the Secretariat with supporting documents.	APEC Completion Report and Supporting Documents
☐	9	31-12-2027	30-06-2028	Participation in the LTEAP survey.	LTEAP survey

10. Risks

	SN	Describe the Risk	Mitigation
☐	1	Terminology and scope variance: Key terms in cross-border identity and credentialing differ across economies, including what counts as a government credential, trust and assurance levels, verification modes, and consent/privacy concepts. Misalignment can affect the pre-survey design, workshop discussions, and the practicality of recommendations.	Circulate a concise glossary and scope note with examples before the survey; engage economies on draft instruments; present pre-read slides to align terminology; reserve time in the agenda to confirm shared definitions.
☐	2	Speakers and expertise balance: Identifying speakers with hands-on implementation experience and securing economy balance is challenging. Late withdrawals can disrupt program flow and dilute technical depth.	Request nominations early through APEC channels; maintain a reserve list; confirm backups in each session; diversify speakers across regulators, implementers, standards communities, and industry; obtain early slide drafts to ensure fit.

☐	3	Agenda relevance and timeliness: Without an up-to-date picture of systems and initiatives, sessions may miss real interoperability pain points or duplicate existing work.	Run a preliminary stock-take survey and short interviews; review related studies and fora outputs; use findings to refine session objectives and case selections; include an economy roundtable to validate priorities.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

Output

☐	SN	Outputs	Indicators	Target Goals	Evaluation Method	Reporting
☐	1	Pre-workshop survey report	No. of responding economies	10	Respondent list	Completion Report
☐	2	Workshop	No. of participants(excl.speakers, experts)	50	Attendance List	Completion Report
☐	3	Workshop	No. of speakers engaged	10	Attendance List	Completion Report
☐	4	Workshop	% of participating men/woman(excl. speakers, experts)	60%/40%	Attendance List	Completion Report
☐	5	Workshop	% of speakers and experts(men/women)	60%/40%	Attendance List	Completion Report
☐	6	Workshop	No. of attending economies	10	Attendance List	Completion Report
☐	7	Post-Workshop Survey	No. of responding economies	10	Respondent list	Completion Report
☐	8	Post-Workshop Survey	% of participants report satisfaction	80%	Respondent result	Completion Report
☐	9	Workshop Summary Report	No. of pages	30	Certification by PO	Completion Report

Outcome

☐	SN	Outcomes	Indicators	Target Goals	Evaluation Method	Reporting
☐	1	Enhanced Regional Knowledge Sharing	(i) % of participants report substantial knowledge increase (ii) % of participants report they will engage in the research and development of credential systems (iii) % of participants report they will willing to further share their findings of credential systems	(i) 75% (ii) 50% (iii) 40%	Post-workshop Survey	Completion Report
☐	2	Improved Policy and Technical Capacity	(i) % of participants self-reporting enhanced capacity (ii) % of participants confident to apply privacy-enhanced interoperability frameworks in their economy.	(i) 60% (ii) 40%	Post-workshop Survey	Completion Report

☐	3	Accelerated Uptake of Interoperability Solutions	% of member economies initiating pilot projects or policy updates using the project's recommendations within 12 months of project completion.	40%	Post-workshop Survey	Completion Report

Others

12. Linkages	This project operates under the Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) mandate and directly implements several AIDER priority areas. The initiative will actively engage with multiple APEC bodies including the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) for trade facilitation aspects, the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) for private sector perspectives on credentialing and will also invite the Tourism Working Group and the Business Mobility Group to contribute their views. The project will coordinate with ongoing APEC initiatives on digital transformation, particularly connecting with work on supply chain digitization and cross-border data flows. It will also engage with international standards organizations and technical bodies working on digital identity standards to ensure alignment with global best practices. Furthermore, the project will facilitate participation from relevant international organizations, academic institutions, and industry associations to ensure comprehensive coverage of technical, policy, and implementation perspectives. The collaborative approach ensures that outcomes can be integrated into broader APEC digital economy initiatives and contribute to the region's overall digital transformation agenda.

SECTION D: Project Sustainability

13. Sustainability	Reusable tools: Survey instruments, interview guide, and comparative matrices shared for future economy-led pilots. Road-map: Summary Report provides a voluntary "menu" (e.g., bilateral/multilateral education-credential pilots; DESG–CTI touchpoints). Knowledge transfer: Event materials (per APEC policy) and contact list to support ongoing collaboration.

SECTION E: Project Efficiency

14. Budget

Part A : Project Budget Plan	
Event Number	1
Number of event days	2
Location (city) of the event	Hanoi

Cost Items	Details	Notes	APEC Funding (USD)
Experts to receive APEC funding	10		
Honorarium Type 1	$500 X 10	speakers	5,000.00
Honorarium Type 2	$0 X 0		0.00
Honorarium Type 3	$0 X 0		0.00
Per diem	10 X 3.75	$167 per day	6,262.50
Airfare Type 1 - International Economy	$1500 X 7	7	10,500.00

Airfare Type 2 - International Business	$6100 X 3	3	18,300.00
Airfare Type 3 - Domestic or others	$0 X 0		0.00
Participants to receive APEC funding	22		
Per Diem	22 X 3.75	$167 per day	13,777.50
Airfare Type 1 - International Economy (Short Distance)	$1400 X 10	10	14,000.00
Airfare Type 2 - International Economy (Long Distance)	$2500 X 10	10	25,000.00
Airfare Type 3 - Domestic or others	$600 X 2	2	1,200.00
Hosting	$5960	i) Venue rental: $2,000 per day(2 day workshop=$4,000), including setup and teardown periods. (ii) Venue layout: $1,960, including AV equipment, tables and chairs at a hotel.	5,960.00
Specialized equipment or materials	$0		0.00
Communications	$0		
Photocopying	$0		
Publication/distribution of report	0		
Total APEC Funding			**100,000.00**
Total Self Funding			**40,000.00**
Total Project			**140,000.00**

Part C : Self-Funding		
Budget Item	**Subtotal ($)**	**Note**
Experts' Honorarium		
Experts' Per Diem		
Experts' Airfare		
Participants' Per Diem		
Participants' Airfare		
Hosting	19,300.00	(iii) Refreshment: $4,000 (iv) Interpreters & interpretation equipment: $7,000 (v) Equipment, Software, and Operational Services: $8,300
Specialized equipment or materials		
Communications		
Photocopying		
Publication/distribution of report	5,700.00	Produce the report (meets the requirements of all APEC policies and guidelines): $5,700
Contractor Work	15,000.00	(i) Event Planning and Logistics Support Provider: $5,000 (ii) Recording and Editing Project Event Recordings: $10,000 (adhere to APEC Project Event Recording Policy and relevant APEC policies and guidelines)

Contractor Travel		
Total Self-Funding Amount:	**40,000.00**	

Part D : Waivers
Please indicate any waivers from the normal APEC financial rules and provide a detailed explanation for each request. Example of waivers may include funding for project site visits, and for open tendering processes.

Project Overseer Declaration	☑ I agree to the declaration stated below	**Date**	11-12-2025

As Project Overseer and on behalf of the above said Organization, I declare that this submission was prepared in accordance with the Guidebook on APEC Projects (the Guidebook) and any ensuing project will comply with said Guidebook. Failure to do so may result in the BMC denying or revoking funding and/or project approval. I understand that any funds approved are granted on the basis of the information in the document's budget table, in the case of any inconsistencies within the document. By submitting this APEC Concept Note to the APEC Secretariat, you (each Project Overseer or point of contact) agree that the APEC Secretariat will collect, use, disclose, and transmit the data contained in the APEC Concept Note, which you have provided to the APEC Secretariat, in accordance with the Singapore's Personal Data Protection Act 2012 and the APEC Secretariat's data protection policy (https://www.apec.org/PrivacyPolicy). The APEC Secretariat will transfer any data provided in this form, which may contain personal data of Project Overseer(s), to APEC member economies overseas via the APEC Secretariat.