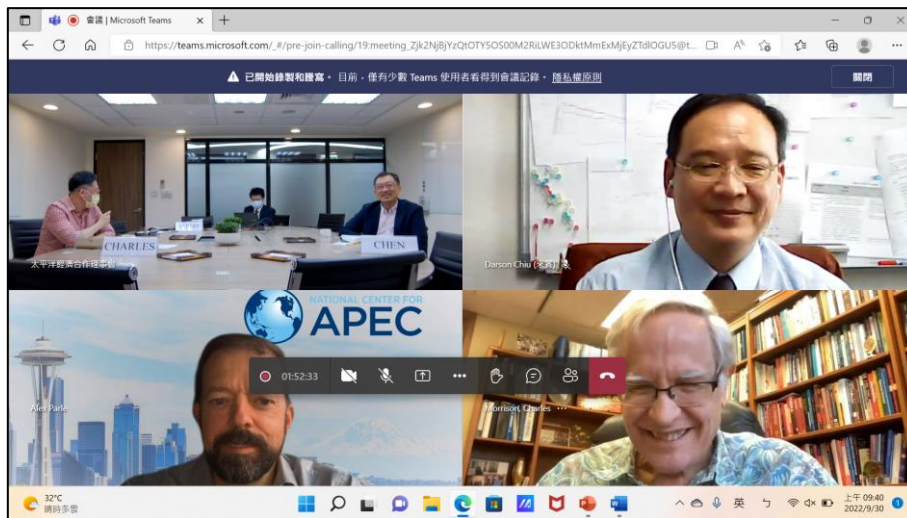
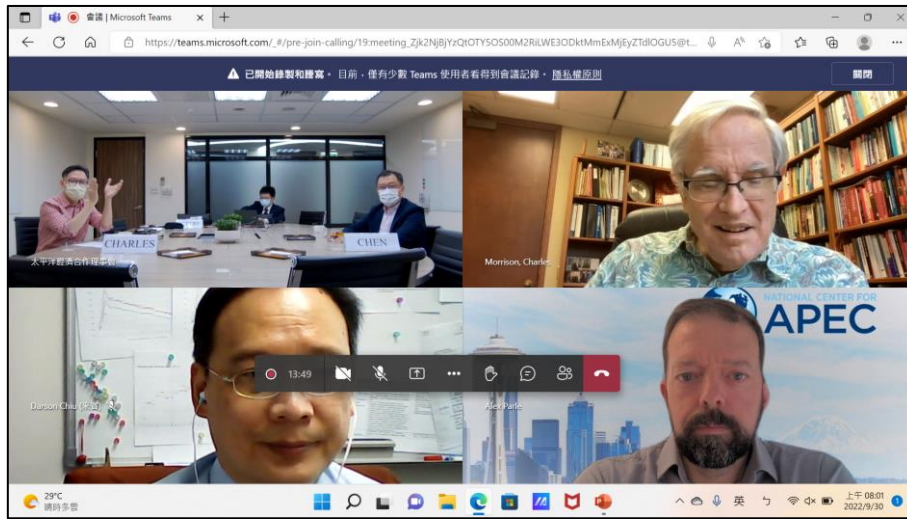


「APEC 2023：美國的優先議題與展望」智庫交流視訊會議

活動報告

活動日期與時間：	2022 年 9 月 30 日 (五) 08:00-10:00										
活動地點：	於台灣經濟研究院 2 樓 203 會議室 使用 Microsoft Teams 軟體 (連結： https://tinyurl.com/CTPECC20220930)										
出席人員：	周子欽秘書長 (CTPECC) Charles Morrison 資深研究員 (美國夏威夷東西中心) Alex Parle 行政副主席 (美國 National Center for APEC) 邱達生研究員 (我國 APEC 研究中心) 何振生幕僚長 (我國 ABAC 秘書處) 廖崇宇助理研究員 (CTPECC)										
活動議程：	<p style="text-align: center;">US Priorities and Prospect For APEC 2023</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>08:00-08:10</td> <td>Opening Remarks by Dr Charles Morrison & Dr Charles Chou</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08:10-09:10</td> <td>Presentations (10-15 minutes each) 1. Dr Charles Morrison (Senior Fellow, East-West Center) 2. Mr Alex Parle (Executive Vice President, NCAPEC) 3. Dr Darson Chiu (Research Fellow, CT APEC Study Center) 4. Dr Chen Ho (Lead Staffer, CT ABAC Secretariat)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09:10-09:50</td> <td>Free Discussion (All speakers to join)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09:50-10:00</td> <td>Conclusion and Group Photo</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	Description	08:00-08:10	Opening Remarks by Dr Charles Morrison & Dr Charles Chou	08:10-09:10	Presentations (10-15 minutes each) 1. Dr Charles Morrison (Senior Fellow, East-West Center) 2. Mr Alex Parle (Executive Vice President, NCAPEC) 3. Dr Darson Chiu (Research Fellow, CT APEC Study Center) 4. Dr Chen Ho (Lead Staffer, CT ABAC Secretariat)	09:10-09:50	Free Discussion (All speakers to join)	09:50-10:00	Conclusion and Group Photo
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活動截圖：



活動紀要 (英文) :

OPENING REMARKS

Charles M.

I thank Taiwan for inviting me and Alex. APEC is facing hard times, so it is good that we are meeting to find ways to strengthen enthusiasm, to make the agendas more robust and to ensure that APEC continues. I look forward to a rich discussion, hopefully one that can continue from time to time on an informal basis.

Charles C.

Thank you everyone for joining this mini roundtable. CTPECC, as a member of PECC, promotes dialogue between the public sector, the business community, and the academia. We cherish every opportunity to interact with leading figures in our region and learn from their experience and wisdom.

APEC 2023 is approaching. We are keen to provide early information to the Taiwanese delegation, thereby reinforcing cooperation between the United States and Taiwan, covering both the public and private sectors. And we are talking to the right ones today for this purpose.

PRESENTATION – CHARLES MORRISON

It has been reported in the Bangkok press that President Biden will not go to this year's APEC meeting, and instead he is sending Vice President Harris. His granddaughter's wedding has been scheduled for November 19th.

The US seems to have gotten a slow start to its year. This reflects a more general problem that the APEC process has lost some of its lustre and visibility. First of all, support for free trade in the US was not that strong to begin with. The US Constitution says that commerce with foreign nations is a matter for the Congress to decide, not the President. In recent years, the Republican Party has become more and more a party that is competing for blue collar and union votes. This puts pressure on the Democratic Party. It is basically impossible for President Biden to pursue anything that would be akin to a free trade agreement.

The administration is interested in climate change, building rules and a sense of common values, dialogue on trade issues, inclusion, digital, and innovation. The post pandemic inflation has made them very interested in resilient supply chains. Those items that are already on the agenda will continue to be emphasised as part of the US year.

APEC has special importance for Taiwan. The US is very anxious that Taiwan's participation in the international community remains. One of the most important things that we can do is to make APEC less of an Asia-Pacific specific institution, and more of an institution that helps us frame our agenda for global institutions. This is the agenda for the US year of APEC.

PRESENTATION – ALEX PARLE

The administration is viewing IPEF as the main tool for economic engagement in the Indo Pacific. They are trying to figure out how APEC supports IPEF.

The US is focused around trade and investment, innovation and digitalisation, and balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth. Resilience might be weaved in, through climate resilience and supply chain resilience. However, the government knows that supply chain resilience cannot be brought into APEC.

The US was never really a proponent of FTAAP, but FTAAP can still be a framework for talking about issues such as labour, environment, and state-owned enterprises. BCG aligns with the US. Another term you will hear is “just energy transition”¹. Under “inclusion”, the US wants to bring labour voices and other stakeholders into APEC.

¹ A “just energy transition” refers to “a transition to renewable sources of energy that simultaneously ensures 1) fair access to energy as well as 2) compensation for vulnerable people who rely on economic activity generated by the production and consumption of traditional sources of energy”.

The trade pillar of IPEF has a lot of overlap with APEC. However, supply the supply chain pillar would be problematic for APEC. The fair economy pillar has some anti-corruption overlap, but another big element of fair economy is tax. There has been no significant work in APEC on taxes. Finally, the clean economy pillar has a lot of overlap that would complement work going on in APEC.

Digital, women's economic empowerment, sustainability, and social governance are areas of interest for US companies. Health continues to be important. In finance, there is also interest in the digitisation of processes. There is also supply chain decarbonisation.

In ABAC, we are still in the early stages. Hopefully, in a couple of weeks we will have a better idea of our structure and priorities. We are looking at how we can change the structure of ABAC, so that we do not have to deal with so many issues. However, issues such as FTAAP, services, WTO, digital, sustainability, SMEs, women, and indigenous will continue in ABAC because that is where the interest is among members.

PRESENTATION – DARSON CHIU

APEC will still pay attention to the economic perspective. The host year themes and priorities in 2021 and 2020 focused on recovery. This year has also been a year of recovery, but there are still a lot of uncertainties, especially now the US Federal Reserve and also the European Central Bank are tightening their monetary policy.

It seems that the growth potential for next year is not very promising. Most APEC economies will see their recoveries slow down next year. In APEC this year, we talked a lot about inflation. But possibly by the end of next year, inflation will be greatly relieved. However, the World Bank says that the global economy is now in its deepest slowdown. Major economies, the US, China, and Europe have been slowing sharply, especially China. Even a moderate hit to the global recovery over the next year could tip into recession.

PRESENTATION – CHEN HO

In CT ABAC, Dr Ted Chang, the chief technology officer of Quanta Computer, is the co-chair of the digital working group. The ABAC Digital Health Project ties in with the work Quanta has been doing. Digital health is important especially in the ageing East Asia region. Dr Chang wants to continue to play an important role next year, but of course it depends on the ABAC chair and what the US wants.

Aside from the digital health area, we worked with the Asia Pacific Financial Forum to come up with a joint event. Speakers from the Asian Development Bank and major consulting firms want this to continue next year.

CT ABAC wants to focus on digitalisation and the utilisation of AI, as well as net zero economy. Taiwan seeks to achieve net zero economy by 2050. So we want to come up with a public-private partnership in this area. Thirdly, we want to focus on global value chains, especially in the computer related areas.

Labour issues and climate change are linked together, because the future will be green jobs. So for next year CT ABAC wants to hold a workshop on green jobs in the margins of the HRDWG.

Also this year, Taiwan set up a Digital Ministry. All the important digital issues will be moved to that ministry. But even though they are new, their officials come from different existing ministries, so that should not be a problem.

FREE DISCUSSION

Darson

How will the US use FTAAP to focus on labour rights and state-owned enterprises?

Charles M.

FTAAP was always a vision of a vision. If we are still focused on inflation, then supply chains become very important. But if we end up in a serious recession, then we could potentially include trade liberalisation. Right now the emphasis will be more on building norms and values, with negotiations at a much later stage.

Darson

How can IPEF respond to the RCEP supply chain?

Charles M.

IPEF shows the limits of where the Biden administration is at the present time. I do not see right now anything that would force a change.

Alex

You would really have to have a change in the mind-set of players in the US economy. Right now we think of trade as something that subtracts from the US economy.

The US can still show benefits to members of IPEF without granting market access. IPEF could address the complications of exporting to the US, through an administrative change that does not require Congress. Also, if members of IPEF are changing their laws to conform to something in IPEF, that has a similar effect as signing a trade agreement. Furthermore, if there is nothing binding on the US side, there is no real risk for IPEF partners.

Charles M.

In the US right now, it is hard to get any laws through. That is why the last three administrations have focused on executive orders and trying to do things without law. But then the following administrations can reverse the whole course of things unless there is a strong business or other constituency that has developed to protect it.

Chen

Taiwan is not part of IPEF now, but the 21st Century Initiative on Trade is probably in the same direction as IPEF. It is more about coming up with standards and cutting red tape to address non-tariff barriers. That is important because ICT related tariffs are already low.

Could Alex provide the places or the cities that maybe some of the APEC meetings will be held?

Alex

We are supposed to know in a couple of weeks. ISOM will be in Honolulu. Everything else will be like 2011, in four clusters.

Charles C.

Will there be a new institution or global organisation focusing on privacy protection? What will the effect be on APEC?

Charles M.

Sectoral institutions will not compete with APEC. Leaders would not come together over a sectoral dialogue of any kind. However, to strengthen APEC, one has to involve people within the political sphere, or bring in a security dimension. However, that is almost impossible because of the ASEAN-centrality push around the East Asia Summit.

The US-China competition may force reconsideration of the “free-trade” type of agreement. If RCEP becomes more and more significant and IPEF is not seen as meeting that demand, there could be a push again in the United States to have a more robust trade and investment approach towards the region.

Alex

APEC could grow to involve other stakeholders, and from levels of government. For example, the mayors of former host cities could get together every year and create a network.

One other source of competition for APEC is when discussion moves away to other platforms. APEC loses a little value each time. That could over time be a detriment to the lustre of APEC.

Charles M.

We should try to have two or three visible APEC projects that we all could contribute to.

Alex

The business travel card is an example of that. If you talk to an average business person, they will think APEC is the card.

Charles M.

The problem with APEC is that it is hardly known in this country outside of the bureaucracy and a few people in larger businesses, and very few selected SMEs. Maybe partly because we are not just an Asia-Pacific country, but also a trans-Atlantic country, an inter-American country.

CONCLUSION

Charles C.

I would like to thank Professor Morrison, Mr Alex Parle, and my colleagues. I think this is a very fruitful event. It is just the beginning, not the end, of dialogue between us. I expect that the next chance for our dialogue and cooperation to come very soon. Thank you very much for your participation today.

心得與建議：

- Under the current US political climate, non-binding agreements such as IPEF will continue to be preferred by the US. The fundamental bottleneck is partisan obstructionism, which in turn is a complex problem.
- IPEF issues mostly overlap with APEC issues, but also contain more controversial topics such as supply chains, labour, and environment. US work in APEC will support US priorities in IPEF. Thus, even though Taiwan is not in IPEF, we can still take advantage of discussions in APEC as well as the 21st Century Trade Initiative to prepare for much-needed domestic reforms. Ultimately, it is still desirable to have ourselves show more initiative in aligning ourselves into IPEF.
- Visible projects are needed to promote APEC among politicians and the public. We should follow the lead of our allies as they help us build our domestic capacity to host large diplomatic events.
- The US speakers suggested involving the security dimension, as well as different levels of government and civil society, in APEC, to address the problem that APEC loses a little value each time discussion on specific issue areas move away from the platform. However, the inclusion of the security dimension in APEC can spur a lot of controversies, as Taiwan's role can be a source of tension. Representatives from local governments might not be able to bring substantial benefits, as competition in the region is based on strategic differences between economies, rather than among different cities. The presence of representatives of civil society could put more pressure upon the two major groups that comprise the APEC process – governmental officials and the business communities. The corporatism prevailing in Europe might not be a feasible framework for re-structuring APEC in the coming years.