

APEC Professional Services and Mutual Recognition Community of Practice

Session 5 – Wednesday, 29 March 2023 – 11:00AM to 12:30PM (AEST)

Towards MRAs for the future:

Update on Australia's MRA Analysis & MRA Toolkit and Template

Session 5 Discussion Summary

During Session 5, the Australian team shared updates about two projects currently underway:

- The MRA Inventory Analysis, and
- The MRA Online Toolkit and Template

The purpose of sharing these project updates was to inform and seek early feedback from the community of practice about the content of the working draft versions of these projects. Gaining some early feedback helped the Australian team to check and confirm the projects are heading in the right direction from the perspective of practitioners. In particular, some suggestions that were made during the session to enhance both projects were of great value. Shortly after the session, working draft material was sent out to community of practice members for further comment and contribution.

Overview of themes

The following themes were then covered:

Theme 1 – The MRA Inventory Analysis Project - Common elements and case studies: sharing early insights

Professor Chris Ziguras, Associate Dean, Global and Language Studies, School of Global Urban and Social Studies, RMIT is leading the work on the MRA Inventory Analysis Project. He described the purpose of this project, and provided an overview of the emerging insights from the analysis.

Theme 2 – The MRA Online Toolkit and Template Project: Sharing early content

Mr Paul Howorth, APEC MRA Community of Practice Facilitator, Advisor on Trade, Investment, Development and Impact is leading the work on the MRA Online Toolkit and Template Project. He described the purpose of this project and provided an overview of the content developed so far.

A link to the presentation made at Session 5 can be found here:

<https://auapecstudycentre.wordpress.com>

Summary of key discussion points

The following key points emerged from facilitated discussion of the above themes:

Theme 1 – The MRA Inventory Analysis Project - Common elements and case studies: sharing early insights

Following the presentation from Professor Ziguras, discussion of this project focused on the following points:

- Acknowledgement of the usefulness of the MRA Inventory Analysis, particularly for understanding the current state of practice
- Engagement around and further exploration of the emerging insights, with several participants providing some further context from their own experiences as leads for further development and nuancing of the insights
- Clarifications about the method of analysis, such as, for example, what data is available via the inventory and how has it been used
- Broad agreement with the identification of impediments to progress in certain sectors and economies, and current drivers of MRA practices
- Suggestions of further areas to explore and additional consultation that could be undertaken to further develop the analysis

Theme 2 – The MRA Online Toolkit and Template Project: Sharing early content

Following the presentation from Mr Howorth, discussion of this project focused on the following points:

- Acknowledgement of the usefulness of having an MRA Online Toolkit and Template as an accessible reference point for those who are working on mutual recognition
- Confirmation that the topics covered so far are relevant
- Valuable suggestions of additional topics and additional content within the current topics

As mentioned, following the session, working draft material from both projects was sent out to community of practice members, and further comments and contributions were received.

Work is continuing on both projects through April to June 2023, and the project teams will continue to engage with community of practice members and other officials as the projects are finalised.

The terms of reference for the Community of Practice are available on the [APEC Projects Database](#).