

# 3-1. Capacity Building Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy “Members’ Journey with MEPS” (EWG\_205\_2024A)

## APERC Workshop

The 71st Meeting of APEC Energy Working Group (EWG71)  
18 March 2026 – Nanchang, China

Ms Elvira Torres GELINDON, Research Fellow, APERC



# Outline

## Introduction

- Background
- Participants

## Session Key Discussion Highlights

- Opening Session
- Session 1 Setting the context : The Role of MEPS in Advancing Energy Efficiency
- Session 2: Overcoming Challenges and Leveraging Success Factors in MEPS Implementation
- Session 3: Advancing MEPS Implementation – Strategies, Impact, and Evaluation
- Breakout session
- Closing Session

## Preliminary Key Outcomes and Key Recommendations

# Background

**Capacity Building Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy** - developed to address the increasing need of the members to enhance their capacity in policy formulation, especially in addressing energy efficiency and conservation.

- A one-day in-person workshop to be held annually in the margins of an EGEEC meeting. Each workshop will have a different theme\* and different objectives.
- Succeeds PREE (2009-2024).
- Benefits a larger number of member economies.

**\*2025 Theme: Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)**- emerged as one of the most effective and scalable policy tools available to APEC economies.

- 1) Identify common challenges and contextual constraints in MEPS policy implementation across APEC economies.
- 2) Facilitate peer learning through structured exchanges of experiences, lessons learned, and best practices.
- 3) Generate actionable recommendations for strengthening the design, adoption, and enforcement of MEPS policies.

# Summary of Participants

- **Including experts, APERC and consultants:** 52 participants.  
(Female participation 25/52=48%)
- **Excluding experts, APERC and consultants:** 41 participants  
(Female participation 22/19=46%)
- **No. of member economies: 12** (CDA; PRC; HKC; JPN; ROK; MAS; MEX; PHL; RUS; CT; THA; VN)
- **APEC Fora:** 5 (APEC Secretariat, EWG LS, EWG Secretariat, EGEEC, EGNRET, APERC)
- **Others** – Experts (CLASP, IEA, Light Naturally, UNEP, Advisor-Mexico), Project Consultants



The experts and participants

**Venue** – Oakwood Premier COEX Center, Seoul, Korea

# Opening session

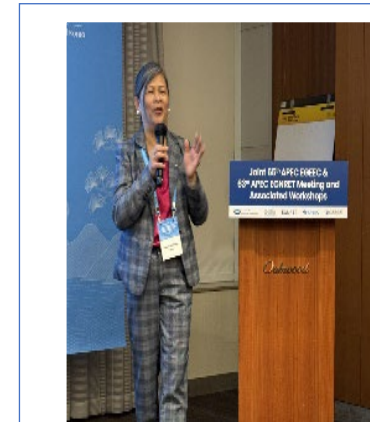
- ❑ The participants were welcomed by **Mr Youngsun You, Korea Energy Agency Director General**.
  - Emphasized the importance of strengthening energy efficiency and conservation measures as APEC economies work to meet rising energy demand and long-term decarbonization commitments.
- ❑ **Mr Mitsuhiro Takada, APERC's Vice President**, delivered the Opening Remarks.
  - Highlighted the important role of the APEC EGEEC in supporting member economies through collaborative initiatives, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building programs.
- ❑ **Ms Elvira Gelindon and Ms Yasmin Fouladi of APERC**
  - Gave the background and workshop objectives, structure, and expected outputs.
  - Presented an overview of APEC's progress in energy intensity reduction, highlighting ongoing challenges and the role of MEPS in bridging the gap between economic growth and emissions reduction.



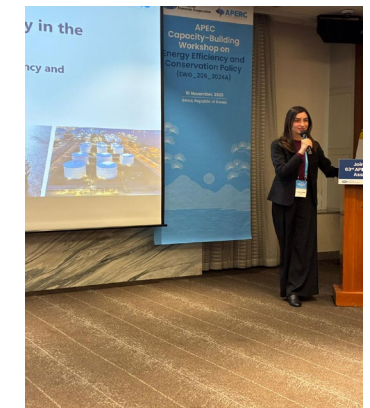
Mr Youngsun You



Mr Mitsuhiro Takada



Ms Elvira Gelindon



Ms Yasmin Fouladi

# Session 1 Setting the context: The Role of MEPS in Advancing Energy Efficiency

## APEC adoption of MEPS

- **Figure 1** shows MEPS coverage across APEC economies, indicating a strong and growing attention to high-impact product categories such as refrigerators and freezers, and ACs.
- **Figure 2** shows the integration of MEPS with comparative labelling schemes is increasingly common across APEC economies.



Ms Emily McQualter

## Host economy case

- Presented Korea's long-standing experience with appliance and equipment efficiency programs.
- Emphasized that energy efficiency is central to Korea's energy strategy, with the appliance and equipment sector contributing significantly to potential CO<sub>2</sub> reduction opportunities.



Dr Bongjoo Shin

Figure 1 • MEPS Coverage Across APEC Economies

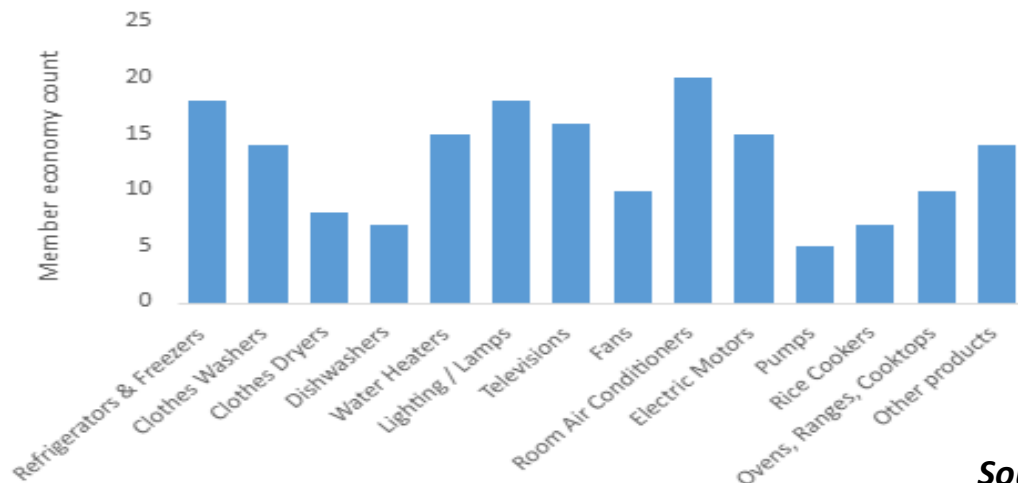
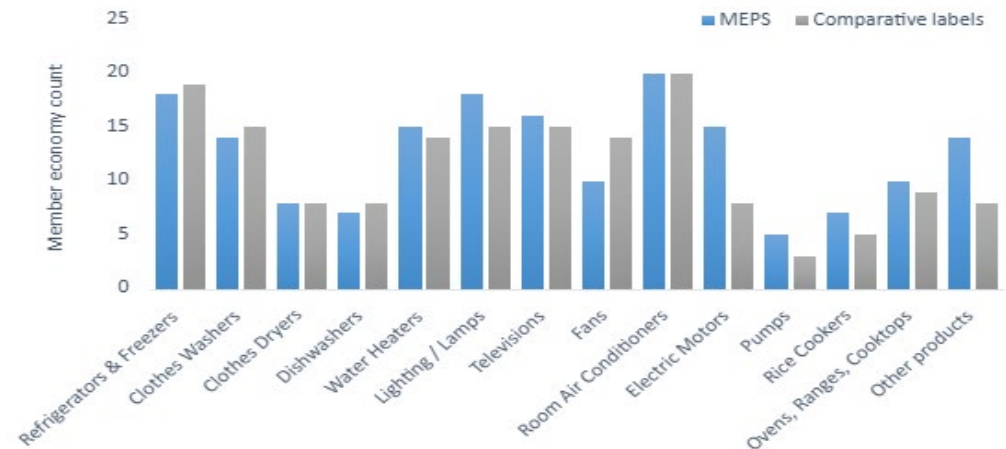


Figure 2 • MEPS and Comparative Labels Across APEC Economies



Source: APEC pre-workshop survey

# Session 2: Overcoming Challenges and Leveraging Success Factors in MEPS Implementation

## Experts' perspectives

- ✓ **Dr Kevin Lane: *Best Practice Policies for Energy-Efficient Appliances***
  - Highlighted that MEPS are among the most cost-effective tools for reducing energy demand.
- ✓ **Mr Leonardo Beltrán : *Mexico's Appliance Energy Efficiency Programme***
  - Presented Mexico's institutional architecture.
- ✓ **Mr Steve Coyne : *Overcoming Challenges and Leveraging Success Factors in MEPS Implementation***
  - Presented the experiences from the Pacific and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regions, illustrating how regional harmonization can dramatically reduce costs and accelerate MEPS adoption.

## Members sharing

- ✓ **Malaysia**
  - Outlined its transition from voluntary to mandatory MEPS and its recent expansion into thermal and commercial products under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act of 2024.
- ✓ **The Philippines**
  - Presented its Minimum Energy Performance for Products (MEPP) and the Philippine Energy Labelling Program (PELP), supported by a robust regulatory foundation under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act.
- ✓ **Chinese Taipei**
  - Described its mature and well-integrated policy ecosystem comprising MEPS, energy efficiency rating labels, voluntary conservation labels, and multiple incentive programs.

# Session 3: Advancing MEPS Implementation – Strategies, Impact, and Evaluation

## Experts' perspectives

- ✓ **Dr Steven Zeng** : *Technical Foundations for MEPS Development*
  - Detailed overview of the technical building blocks required for effective MEPS design and implementation.
  - Highlighted that MEPS programs operate at the intersection of engineering, market analysis, regulatory design, and consumer behavior and therefore require an integrated approach.
- ✓ **Dr Zhuolun Chen** : *A Roadmap for Scaling MEPS Ambition*
  - Provided a structured roadmap for how APEC economies can introduce, strengthen, and align MEPS programs over time.

## Members sharing

- ✓ **Mexico**
  - Underscored the value of stable governance, predictable policy cycles, and strong coordination between regulators, testing bodies, and industry.
- ✓ **China**
  - Described how its MEPS system draws authority from multiple laws and is implemented through coordinated responsibilities across several ministries and regulatory agencies.
- ✓ **Japan**
  - Presented the Top-Runner Program that takes a market-driven approach to improving product efficiency. Rather than setting a fixed minimum threshold, Japan requires manufacturers to meet a target performance level based on the best technology available in the market.

# Breakout session: Identifying Barriers and Developing Solutions

## Barriers Identified by Participants

- Governance and Institutional Coordination Barriers
- Market and Industry Barriers
- Capacity, Testing, and Data Barriers
- Consumer Awareness and Behavioral Barriers

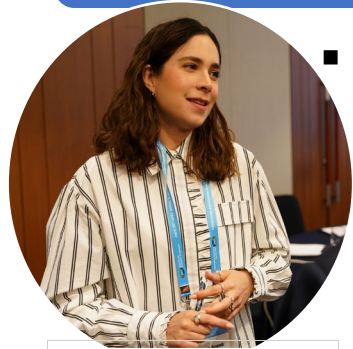


## Actionable Recommendations Proposed by the Groups

- ✓ *Strengthening Policy Design and Institutional Coordination*
  - Earlier and more systematic stakeholder engagement, especially industry consultation during MEPS development.
- ✓ *Enhancing Testing, Compliance, and MVE Capacity*
  - Third-party certification systems and use of external labs where domestic capacity is limited.
- ✓ *Improving Consumer Awareness and Market Communication*
  - Targeted education campaigns for consumers and retailers.
- ✓ *Supporting Industry Transition and Reducing Market Friction*
  - Harmonization of standards across economies to reduce compliance burden and expand markets. 9

# Closing session

## Reflections



Ms Andrea Arenas

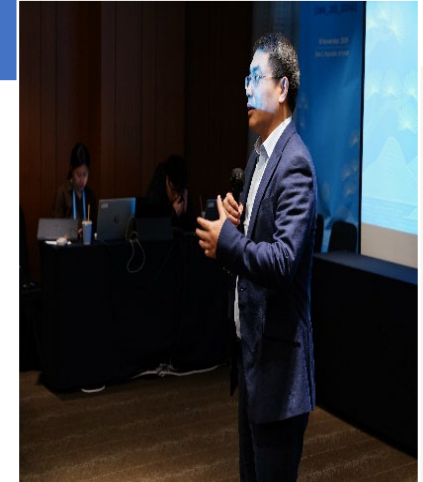
- Underscored the strong engagement and shared momentum among APEC economies policies.
- A clear convergence around the need for practical tools, better data, and sustained collaboration to improve appliance and equipment performance across the region.
- Participants have identified many actionable steps that economies can take in the near term.

## Way forward

- APERC provided the next steps and emphasized the importance of sustaining the momentum generated during the discussions.
- Looking ahead to the **Phase 2**, APERC invited the participants to propose a potential theme for the next workshop.

## Closing remarks

- **Dr Liu Meng, EGEEC Chair**, acknowledged the strong participation of member economies and the valuable contributions of the experts throughout the workshop.
- Advancing MEPS requires not only sound technical design, but also deeper collaboration across agencies, sectors, and economies.
- The workshop demonstrated the APEC community's shared commitment to improving energy efficiency and its willingness to learn from one another's experiences.



Dr Liu Meng

# Preliminary Key Outcomes and Key Recommendations

## Preliminary key outcomes

- 1) MEPS reaffirmed as a core driver of system-level efficiency gains.
- 2) MEPS is recognized as part of a broader policy ecosystem.
- 3) Growing momentum toward evidence-based standard setting and market analysis.
- 4) Broad support for regional alignment and shared technical resources.
- 5) Deeper appreciation of the role of industry, retail, and consumers.
- 6) Strong demand for peer learning, technical exchange, and practical tools.

## Preliminary key recommendations

- 1) ***Foundational priorities for economies developing initial MEPS programs***
  - Use existing international regulations and test methods as a starting point to reduce complexity, shorten timelines, and align with global best practice.
- 2) ***Priorities for economies scaling up existing MEPS programs***
  - Strengthen market surveillance, check testing, import controls, and enforcement to ensure compliance and maintain policy credibility.
- 3) ***Cross-cutting priorities for all APEC economies***
  - Prioritize residential cooling products as a high-impact opportunity, given rapidly rising demand and pressures on energy systems and household budgets.
- 4) ***Future workshop and cooperation priorities***
- 5) ***Policy ecosystem insights***
  - Treat MEPS as part of an integrated and evolving policy ecosystem rather than as standalone regulations.

**Thank you.**

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