
Life Sciences Innovation Forum

Selected Highlights of Current Projects

Life Sciences Innovation Forum Meeting 2020

The Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) recognizes that participants of the LSIF and Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee meetings are key officials stationed in health ministries, medical product regulatory agencies and important industries.

In consideration of the World Health Organization's declaration of a global public health emergency as well as the responsibilities of these officials, who are obligated to assist with domestic outbreak-management efforts with regard the COVID-19 pandemic, the LSIF Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC) meeting and LSIF Planning Group meeting were convened for the first time ever online on 15 June and 18 September 2020, respectively.

Important Notice on the First Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF1) 2020

The Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) recognizes that participants of the LSIF and Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee meetings are key officials stationed in health ministries, medical product regulatory agencies and important industries.

In consideration of the World Health Organization's declaration of a global public health emergency as well as the responsibilities of these officials, who are obligated to assist with domestic outbreak-management efforts with regard the novel coronavirus (or COVID-19) the LSIF Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC) meeting on 7-8 February, and the LSIF Planning Group meeting on 9 February have been postponed and tentatively moved to the APEC SOM-2 timeframe in mid-April 2020.

The confirmed meeting date and venue will be informed whenever they are available.

- The LSIF held a suite of meetings during 2019's Third Senior Officials Meeting in Puerto Varas, Chile:
- LSIF Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (15–16 August)
- LSIF Planning Group (17 August)
- LSIF Policy Dialogue on Innovation, Regulatory Systems, and Regulatory Convergence (18 August)
- Health Working Group (HWG) – LSIF: 9th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health & the Economy (HLM9, 20–21 August)

Policy Dialogue on Enabling Investment in the Innovative Life Sciences

To explore how to foster and accelerate innovation, the APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) convened a Policy Dialogue on Enabling Investment in the Innovative Life Sciences on 15–16 May 2019 in Chile on the sidelines of the Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting (MRT). Participants included officials from government, startups, investment firms, global businesses, think tanks and academia. The event featured panels and presentations exploring challenges and opportunities for unlocking investment and how APEC economies can foster vibrant life sciences ecosystems through trade, investment, innovation and other policies and initiatives.

Key themes of the policy dialogue included:

- ***The vital role that trade, investment and innovation policies play in incentivizing private sector investment in the innovative life sciences.*** Economies must remove policy barriers and create a pathway for a return on investment, including through intellectual property rights, to unlock capital for life sciences innovation.
- ***The opportunity for greater cross-ministerial collaboration to advance innovation.*** Trade ministries as well as other government ministries such as finance and science have important

roles to play with health ministries to develop and advance coordinated strategies for life sciences innovation. Public consultation is also important to support these efforts.

- ***Government, industry and academia must strengthen partnerships to develop strong innovation ecosystems that promote commercialization.*** Vibrant ecosystems are essential to transforming research into new products that can be commercialized and improve health outcomes. But such ecosystems will not develop without the right policies, best practices, access to capital and other essential elements.
- ***The importance of other enablers such as human capital, regulation and standards.*** These other factors include developing a strong base of human capital for the life sciences and leveraging standards and regulations that promote the development and commercialization of life sciences innovations.

The final report of this Policy Dialogue can be found [here](#).

Policy Dialogue on Innovation, Regulatory Systems, and Regulatory Convergence: “A Decade of Regulatory Convergence in APEC: Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future”

The project built upon the LSIF’s long-standing recognition of the critical role that the life sciences sector plays in promoting public and economic health and the role that strong and efficient regulatory systems play in enabling life sciences innovation.

The policy dialogue convened the leaders of drug and medical device regulatory authorities and representatives from industry and academia to reflect on a decade of progress towards regulatory convergence in APEC and to envision the next iteration of a regional vision for how regulatory systems and regulatory convergence may accelerate life sciences innovation and make new medical products available to populations across APEC economies.

One of the most important outcomes of the policy dialogue is the release of research results on the Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee’s ([RHSC](#)) key performance indicators (KPIs) tracking regulatory convergence over the last decade and now on an annual basis (conducted as an LSIF – APEC Harmonization Center project). The project acknowledged that the KPIs endorsed by the RHSC to date are focused on regulatory convergence of drug and vaccine approvals, and welcomed KPIs to monitor and evaluate regulatory convergence of medical device approvals as well. The research result encouraged the RHSC to not only continue tracking the KPIs on an annual basis, but also to develop more specific KPIs to track progress within each priority work area. Please find the result illustration [here](#).

The final report of this Policy Dialogue can be accessed [here](#).

Expected outcomes/deliverables for 2019 – 2020

Source: <https://www.apec.org/Groups/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment/Life-Sciences-Innovation-Forum>.