



Australian Government

Department of Employment

# APEC Skills Mapping Project: Results and recommendations

Update for the APEC Business Advisory Council  
February 2014

# Overview of the Skills Mapping Project

- Aims to draw together data on employment projections, skills supply and shortages to develop a regional picture
- Supports goal of closer integration of APEC labour markets through improving the availability of cross-economy information
- Major outputs:
  - Expert report on APEC region labour market imbalances and strategies to improve monitoring
  - Online Skills Mapping Tool
  - Final report
- All outputs to be completed by March 2014

# Areas of labour market imbalance

- Differs by APEC economies' level of development:
  - Industrialised economies are experiencing shortages of skilled workers in specific fields, but some also have elevated levels of unemployment
  - Most newly industrialised economies are experiencing shortages in service sector occupations
  - Many emerging economies are experiencing a mismatch between the skilled workers supplied by training institutions and the demands of their evolving manufacturing and service sectors
- Cross-APEC shortages are most prevalent in professional fields, but employers also report shortages of “soft skills” in a wide range of occupations

# Current information availability

- Almost all APEC economies collect and publish relevant data on labour market conditions – sufficient to provide a high level picture of labour market conditions across APEC
- However, the level of detail available varies considerably and few economies specifically monitor skills or labour shortages
- Cross-economy comparisons are complicated by differences in data definitions and the lack of a consistent qualifications framework (making it difficult to compare like with like)

# Options going forward

- Skills mapping tool can host data from additional economies that chose to participate, as well as further indicators
- Economies could run APEC projects to share good practices in monitoring skills demand and projecting future employment
- Possible role for APEC in advocating for improvements to the scope and quality of data collections and a consistent qualifications framework
- HRDWG will consider next steps in the context of an APEC HRD Ministerial Meeting in late 2014