



**PECC Internship Program 2025
Internship Report**

**Period of internship:
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My two-month internship at the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) International Secretariat in Singapore was an enriching and transformative experience that significantly enhanced my professional skills and broadened my understanding of regional economic dynamics and international cooperation. I am especially grateful to the Hong Kong Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (HKCPEC) for sponsoring this valuable opportunity, which allowed me to contribute to high-impact projects and gain unique insights into the Asia-Pacific region's economic and geopolitical landscape.

One of the highlights of my internship was working under the guidance of Dr Karen Pitakdumrongkit on the 2025 State of the Region Report. I contributed to the PECC survey, which gathered responses from over 23 economies. My tasks involved cleaning the data, performing statistical analysis, and creating visualisations to highlight trends and insights. Additionally, I conducted data mining and visualisation on market volatility using indicators such as the Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index and trade policy uncertainty indices, explaining spikes in the data by correlating them with key global and regional events, including trade restrictions. I also researched risks to economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region and contributed to a write-up on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) initiatives aimed at mitigating these risks, which deepened my understanding of regional policy frameworks and their practical implications.

During my internship, I had the opportunity to participate in two notable PECC events. The first was the 2025 Conference on “Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance Accelerator and Preparing for AI Transformation” co-hosted by the Singapore National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (SINCPEC) and Singapore Infocomm Media Development Authority in Singapore. I assisted with logistical support for the SINCPEC and collaborated with another intern, Mr Mike Wong, to draft a comprehensive summary report capturing key discussions and outcomes of the conference. This experience honed my ability to synthesise complex information and communicate it effectively. The second event was the 32nd PECC General Meeting and Standing Committee Meeting held in Seoul that I attended virtually. Participating in these high-level discussions provided valuable insights into the strategic priorities of PECC and the collaborative efforts of its member committees to address regional challenges through collective action.

On the recommendation of my supervisor, Ms Betty Ip, I attended two insightful seminars that enriched my perspective on regional geopolitics and cooperation. The first, hosted by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University, was titled “Prospects for China-Japan-South Korea Cooperation in the Era of Trump” presented by Dr Makio Miyagawa. The second was a webinar by the ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute on “Where Southeast Asia Fits: China’s Evolving Regional Strategy Amid American Retreat” delivered by Dr Miao Ji. These sessions broadened my understanding of the geopolitical dynamics shaping the Asia-Pacific region, including trade tensions and economic collaboration amidst uncertainty, and highlighted the importance of international cooperation.

The support and mentorship I received from my supervisor Ms Ip, Ms Zakiah Kassim, and Ms Nor Irdawaty were instrumental to my professional growth. Over team lunches, they offered valuable insights into the work of international organisations such as PECC and APEC, life in Singapore, and professional journeys in the field. These informal discussions fostered a sense of community and cultural exchange, enhancing my interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills. Their guidance provided a nuanced understanding of workplace dynamics in a multicultural environment.

This internship was a profoundly rewarding experience that allowed me to contribute meaningfully to high-impact projects, engage in significant regional events, and learn from esteemed professionals. The skills I developed in data analysis, research, report writing, visualisation, and event coordination, combined with the exposure to regional policy and geopolitical discussions, have equipped me with a strong foundation for my future career. It has strengthened my ability to work with large datasets, present findings impactfully, and collaborate in diverse teams. Most importantly, it has underscored the interconnectedness of economic policies and the value of collective efforts in driving sustainable growth. I am deeply grateful to the HKCPEC for sponsoring this opportunity and to colleagues of the PECC International Secretariat for their mentorship and support, which made this journey transformative both professionally and personally.