



International Symposium on “Connecting the Connectivities in Asia-Pacific”, Yangzhou, China, 26-28 September 2016

The international symposium on “Connecting the Connectivities in Asia Pacific” was held by Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) on 27 September 2016 in Shangri-La Hotel, Yangzhou, China. The one-day symposium, which was organised by China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (CNCPEC) with the support of Yangzhou local government, APEC Study Center of Nankai University and World Canal Cities Organization (WCCO), was attended by around 150 thought leaders from Asia-Pacific region. Speakers and participants deliberated on how to link various connectivity initiatives in Asia-Pacific region in three main elements; the physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivities.

In “People-to-people connectivity: sharing experiences and exploring the practicable ways of interconnecting various initiatives” session, Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman and Chief Executive of ISIS Malaysia and Chair of Malaysia National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (MANCPEC), spoke on the issue of connectivity through tourism. He highlighted that there is a strong relationship between tourism, travel promotion and facilitation and increased tourist arrivals with non-people-to-people connectivity such as the aviation industry. “Air connectivity is expected to be the main support and driver for the APEC tourism industry,” he said. He added that in promoting tourism, concern such as border security protection should never be overlooked.

The international symposium was held in conjunction with the PECC Standing Committee Meeting held in Yangzhou on 26-28 September 2016.