

CBNI Seminar on Electronic Commerce Chapter of the RTAs/FTAs

February 22, 2017, Nha Trang, Viet Nam

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

The recent developments of information technologies, as exemplified by the internet, have profound positive impacts to spur innovation on the manufacturing and services, and dramatically reduced the cost of international trade. The internet has, since its birth in the last century, accelerated data flows across the border, transformed R&D, production, delivery and consumption process of goods and services and created numerous business opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region. As a result, trade opportunities have been created for a broader range of people and businesses, especially for those traditionally outside of global value chains due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure, efficient logistics or access to suitable markets. Against this background, recent RTAs / FTAs have developed Electronic Commerce Chapters. It is beneficial for APEC economies to share experiences and deepen understanding on existing and emerging related issues.

APEC has conducted a number of initiatives under the Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI) as contributions to the eventual realization of the FTAAP. In 2014, to maintain and utilize the momentum created in the first phase of the initiative, the APEC Leaders endorsed the Action Plan Framework for the second CBNI.

Based upon above mentioned background, the seminar was held with aims to share experiences among economies, understand business needs, increase capacity (ies) and explore possible implications on trade and situation of economy (ies) if participating in the FTA/FTAAP.

Electronic Commerce Chapter of the RTAs/FTAs

The seminar invited five speakers from governments or government related agencies to learn from their experiences.

- Mr. Hiroshi Tanaka, Researcher, Economic Partnership Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
- Ms. Bui Thanh Hang, Deputy Director, Viet Nam E-Commerce and Information Technology Agency (VECITA)
- Mr. Lee Kyu Yub, Associate Research Fellow, Trade and Investment Policy Team, Department of International Policy, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)
- Mr. Pu-Yun Long, Executive Officer, Multilateral Trade Division, Bureau of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Chinese Taipei
- Mr. Fernando Mayer, Director for International Trade in Services and Investment, Secretariat of Economy, Mexico

The seminar also heard from speakers from private sector who are involved in e-commerce business.

- Dr. Makoto Yokozawa, Nomura Research Institute
- Mr. Tim Conway, Founder and Chief Executive, C-Metrics Pty Ltd., Australia
- Mr. Nguyen Hoa Binh, Founder & Chairman, NextTech Group of Technopreneurs, Vietnam
- Mr Benjamin Mah, Co-Founder and CEO, V-Key Corporation, Singapore

OUTCOMES

Most of speakers from government sector mentioned recent development of e-commerce chapter of FTA/RTA, which includes advanced clauses, such as free data flow clause, data localization clause, software source code clause. Speakers from private sector stressed importance of e-commerce sector as fast growing business field and facilitating business environment for supporting such growth.

According to the questionnaires for participants, 100% of participants answered the seminar was “useful”.