

2017/SOM3/CTI/WKSP3/005

Chinese Experiences in Strengthening Transparency and Participation in the Process of Negotiating Trade Agreements: With the Focus on Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

Submitted by: China



Workshop on Strengthening Transparency and Participation in the Processes of Negotiation of Trade Agreements
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
20 August 2017

Chinese Experiences in Strengthening Transparency and Participation in the Processes of Negotiation of Trade Agreements: With the Focus on the FTA Negotiations

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Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)

Chinese Perceptions on the FTAs

The Chinese Government values Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) as

- a new platform to further opening up to the outside and speeding up domestic reforms,
- an effective approach to integrate into global economy and strengthen economic cooperation with other economies,
- as well as particularly an important supplement to the multilateral trading system.

Chinese FTA development strategy

The Opinons of the Acceleration of the FTA Strgety,

State Council, 2015

- Short term: accelerating the FTA process under negotiation, updating the level of current FTAs when feasible, promting the FTAs with most of the neiboouring countries and regions, FTA trade share in the total trade be the same or more than most of the developed countries and emerging economies
- Middle and long term: the FTA network including neibouring countries and regions and Roat and Belt countries, with impact on major counties in the five continents, to liberize and facilitate most of Chinese forieign trade and bilateral investment.

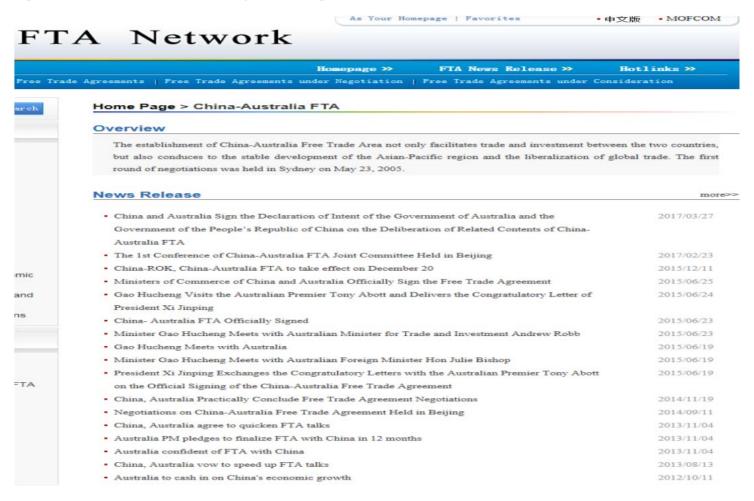
Chinese FTAs: Some facts

- China's Free Trade Agreements (15): China-Georgia FTA, China-Australia FTA, China-Korea FTA, China-Switzerland FTA, China-Iceland FTA, China-Costa Rica FTA, China-Peru FTA, China-Singapore FTA, China-New Zealand FTA, China-Chile FTA, China-Pakistan FTA, China-ASEAN FTA, Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic and Partnership Arrangement, Mainland and Macau Closer Economic and Partnership Arrangement, China-ASEAN FTA Upgrade Negotiations
- Free Trade Agreements under Negotiation (11): Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), China-GCC(Gulf Cooperation Council) FTA, China-Japan-Korea FTA, China-Sri Lanka FTA, China-Maldives FTA, China-Israel FTA, China-Norway FTA, China-Pakistan FTA second phase, China-Singapore Upgrade FTA, China-Newzealand Upgrade FTA, China-Chile Upgrade FTA
- Free Trade Agreements under Consideration (11): China-Columbia FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Moldova FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Fiji FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-NePal FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Papua New Guinea FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Canada FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Bengal FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Mauritius FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Mongol FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Peru Upgrade FTA Joint Feasibility Study, China-Switzerland Upgrade FTA Joint Feasibility Study
- Preferential Trade Agreement: Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

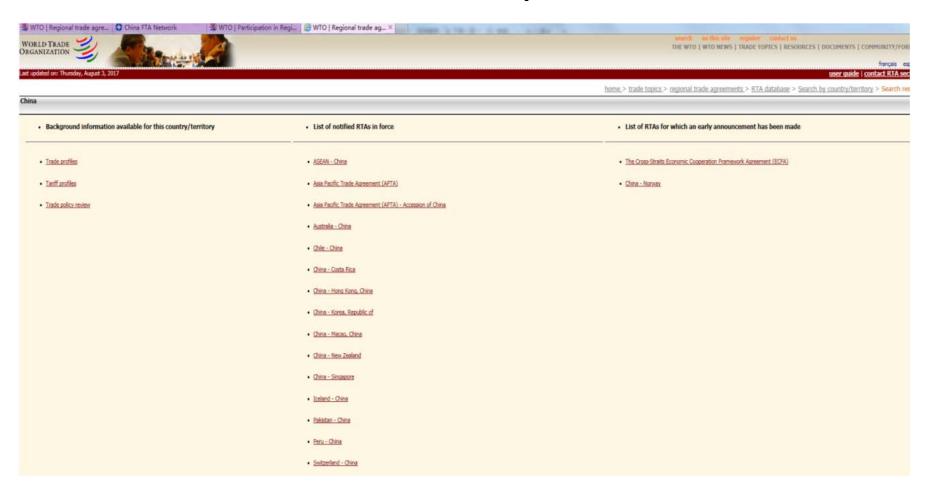
Information exchange, discussions and coordinations

- For the specific issues in the negotiations, comments will be solicited from concerned government agencies, industrial associations, companies, and etc.
- A coordinating mechanism has been established by the State Council.
- Information exchange and discussions will be held under this coordination mechanism.
- When necessary, coordinations for decision makeing will also make undertaken through this coordination mechanism.

Transpacency: Feasible Study, ongoing negotiations, progresses and achievements...



The WTO notification: All the FTAs have been notified to the WTO as required



Promotion and Implemention

When the FTAs have been assigned, the Chinese government will:

- publish the text of the Agreements and related information at the official website of MOFCOM;
- have official interpretations through the website of the State Council;
- organize various seminar to promote the understanding of the Agreements at national and regional level...
- and one can enqury the detailed tarrif rates and service schedule...

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Free Trade Agreements under Negotiation

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Free Trade Agreements under Consideration

- China-Columbia FTA Joint Feasibility Study
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Overview

The establishment of China-Australia Free Trade Area not only facilitates trade and investment between the two countries, but also conduces to the stable development of the Asian-Pacific region and the liberalization of global trade. The first round of negotiations was held in Sydney on May 23, 2005.

ews Release	more>
China and Australia Sign the Declaration of Intent of the Government of Australia and the	2017/03/27
Government of the People's Republic of China on the Deliberation of Related Contents of China-	
Australia FTA	
 The 1st Conference of China-Australia FTA Joint Committee Held in Beijing 	2017/02/23
 China-ROK, China-Australia FTA to take effect on December 20 	2015/12/11
 Ministers of Commerce of China and Australia Officially Sign the Free Trade Agreement 	2015/06/25
 Gao Hucheng Visits the Australian Premier Tony Abott and Delivers the Congratulatory Letter of 	2015/06/24
President Xi Jinping	
China- Australia FTA Officially Signed	2015/06/23
 Minister Gao Hucheng Meets with Australian Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb 	2015/06/23
Gao Hucheng Meets with Australia	2015/06/19
 Minister Gao Hucheng Meets with Australian Foreign Minister Hon Julie Bishop 	2015/06/19
 President Xi Jinping Exchanges the Congratulatory Letters with the Australian Premier Tony Abott 	2015/06/19
on the Official Signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement	
 China, Australia Practically Conclude Free Trade Agreement Negotiations 	2014/11/19
 Negotiations on China-Australia Free Trade Agreement Held in Beijing 	2014/09/11
China, Australia agree to quicken FTA talks	2013/11/04
 Australia PM pledges to finalize FTA with China in 12 months 	2013/11/04
Australia confident of FTA with China	2013/11/04
China, Australia vow to speed up FTA talks	2013/08/13
 Australia to cash in on China's economic growth. 	2012/10/11
 Official reveals timetable for Sino-Australia FTA talks 	2010/06/25
 Fourteenth negotiation talks of Sino-Australian FTA held in Canberra 	2010/02/28
 Australian business leader urges early agreement of free trade with China 	2009/10/24

Full Text of the Agreement

Agreement

The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (English + Chinese)

Annexes

Annex 1-A-1-- (English + Chinese)

Annex 1-A-2-- (English + Chinese)

Annex 1-B-1-- (English + Chinese)

Annex 1-B-2- (English + Chinese)

Prospects and suggestions

- FTAs are important to promote trade and economic interests among partners.
- Transparency to statekeholders and the third parties are merited.
- Participation of stakeholders could be improved and capacity building for this purpose should be enhanced.
- APEC could and should contribute to the above initives.

Thank you for your kind attention!

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