



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2017/SOM3/DIA/004

**Summary of CTI Trade Policy Dialogue on WTO-Plus
Aspects of Regional Trade Agreements and Free
Trade Agreements**

Submitted by: CTI Chair



**Dialogue on Regional Trade Agreements and Free
Trade Agreements
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
27 August 2017**

Summary of CTI Trade Policy Dialogue on WTO-plus aspects of RTAs/FTAs

Lyn Aquia, CTI Chair
SOM Dialogue on RTAs/FTAs,
27 August 2017
Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam

Advancing Free Trade for Asia-Pacific Prosperity



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CTI Dialogue: What has been done



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2014 Beijing Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of the FTAAP

2015

Boracay, Philippines

14 May

- Services
- Electrical and Electronic Equipment and their Components Annex
- Investment
- Competition policy
- E-commerce

2016

Arequipa, Peru

7 May

- Conformity assessment
- Government procurement
- Intellectual property rights
- Regulatory coherence

Canada-European Union FTA (CETA)

WTO-plus outcomes:

- non-tariff barriers
- confirming access to public contracts
- enhancing labor mobility
- increasing transparency predictability for services trade, and
- promoting investment

TBT Chapters in Singapore's recent FTAs

- FTAs w/o TBT chapter contained provisions on NTMs or 'STRACAP' elements
- Newer FTAs contained WTO-plus elements on transparency, compliance period and disciplines in marking and labeling

For future work: Issues/areas for CTI/SOM/APEC



Possible areas of focus:

- Rules of Origin
- Trade Remedies
- Labor
- Environment
- Transparency and Anti-Corruption
- Dispute Settlement

For future work



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Intensify the information sharing mechanism:

Proposed tasks in 2014	2015	2016	2017
1. <u>Enhancing Access to Information on RTAs/FTAs</u>			
• Publishing texts of concluded RTAs/FTAs	✓	✓	✓
• Update existing 2009 APEC comparative tool database			
• Compile e-links to economies' existing FTAs	✓	✓	✓
2. <u>Sharing and Assessing Information on WTO-plus elements of RTAs/FTAs</u>			
• Presentation by economies	✓	✓	✓
• CTI sub-fora to identify and discuss WTO-plus elements			✓

For future work



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Proposed tasks in 2014	2015	2016	2017
3. <u>Holding Annual Dialogues and Reports on RTAs/FTAs</u>			
• SOM Dialogue on trends and patters in key WTO-plus elements and treatment of newer issues	✓	✓	✓
• Annual discussion by MRT	✓		
• PSU research and annual report	✓	✓	✓
4. <u>Reinforcing and Intensifying Use of WTO RTA Transparency Mechanism</u>			
• Improve transparency on the detail of concluded RTAs/FTAs	nd	nd	nd

Next Steps



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- Explore further economic and technical cooperation initiatives
 - Intensify capacity building activities directed to RTAs/FTAs (best practices, negotiations in RTAs/FTAs)
 - Continue to support and capitalize on CBNI-related initiatives
- Exchange of views with the private sector
- Compendium of APEC Information Sharing Mechanism

CTI Chair Contact points



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