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## **Enabling Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific: Pathways: Preference of Plurilateral Agreements**

Submitted by: ABAC



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





### **SOM Dialogue on FTAs and RTAs**

# Enabling FTAAP Pathways: Preference of Plurilateral Agreements

Japan ABAC Member: Matt Takahashi

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#### ABAC Enabling FTAAP 2017 Work plan

- 1. Support to pursue the Pathways to FTAAP:
  - ① Encourage TPP parties to adhere to the commitments of the original agreement and to preserve its high-quality outcomes; and
  - ② Encourage RCEP parties to conclude negotiation by the end of the year, ensuring that the agreement is comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial.
- 2. Identify further areas and issues from Lima Declaration on FTAAP.
  - 1 Forward-Looking
  - 2 Business priorities
  - 3 Convergence at highest level of pathways
  - 4 Capacity building for next-generation trade and investment issues
  - Propose an additional initiative on domestic and regional benefits of Plurilateral Trade Agreements.

#### **EXISTING FTAs/RTAs:**

- Number of Agreements
  TPP members (12) → 42
  RCEP members (16) → 115
- 2. Contribution to Tariff reduction Pre-GATT 45% → 2010 4.2%
- 3. Increased NTBs
- 4. Increased complexity in goods/services trade and investment
- 5. Complexity discouraged new investment decisions on Global Value Chains

## Benefits of Free Trade are empowered by Plurilateral Agreement with High-Quality and Comprehensiveness:

- Stronger justification of Structural Reform to minimize NTBs/NTMs
- 2. Positive promotion of Capacity Building
- 3. Acceleration to advance digital and internet economy with more standardized cross-border rules
- 4. Encouragement of more investment activity to advance more competitive and resilient Global Value Chains









