



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2019/SMEWG48/018

Agenda Item: 11.2.4

APEC Capacity Building Workshop on Free Trade Agreement Utilizations by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Viet Nam



**48th Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group
Meeting
Qingdao, China
30-31 May 2019**

APEC Capacity Building Workshop on FTA Utilizations by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam
07 – 08 June 2018



I. Introduction

- The Concept note was initiated by Viet Nam and co-sponsored by Malaysia; Russia; Mexico; Peru; Chinese Taipei.
- The APEC Capacity Building Workshop on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Utilizations by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) was held from 7-8 June 2018 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.
- Speakers and participants came from Chile; Japan; Korea; Indonesia; Malaysia; Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Thailand, and Viet Nam.

II. Alignment

- In line with APEC Economic Leaders' instructions in 2015;
- 2016 APEC Economic Leaders statement;
- 2017-2020 SMEWG (Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group) Strategic Plan.



III. Objectives

- Equip MSMEs and experts from MSME associations and supporting organizations with knowledge and skills on FTA utilization to improve their competitiveness and access to global and regional markets;
- Share experiences and best practices among MSMEs and experts from MSME associations and supporting organizations in taking advantages of FTAs for internationalizing their goods and services;
- Network MSMEs and experts from MSME associations and supporting organizations.

IV. Workshop Sessions

- There were 5 main Sessions during the 2 days Workshop:
 - (i) Overview on Existing FTAs of APEC Member Economies, Benefits and Challenges for SMEs;
 - (ii) Trade in Goods and Related Commitments (especially non-tariff barriers) in FTAs;
 - (iii) Rules of Origin Chapters in FTAs; Trade in Services and Other FTA Contents;



IV. Workshop Sessions (cont')

(IV) Moving Forward;

(V) Workshop Wrap-up and Recommendations.

- The Workshop also included 2 exercises on (i) Lookup Preferential Import Tariffs under some FTAs and (ii) Rules of Origin (ROO) Determination.



V. Key Recommendations

- How to socialize FTAs to MSMEs;
- Creating a website with user-friendly information on FTAs for SMEs;
- Providing SMEs with tools on innovation and digital economy;
 - Workshop on next-generation trade and investment issues;
- Workshop for SMEs services providers;

V. Key Recommendations (cont')

- Workshop on benefits of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement for SMEs;
- Train-the-trainer Workshop for services providers;
- Network/ platform for SMEs in information/ experience sharing;
- Training program for MSMEs on conceptual understanding of FTAs, ROOs and COOs.

Thank you!

