



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2021/SOM1/CTI/033**

Agenda Item: XI

## **Market Access Group Convenor's Report – Endorsed**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: MAG Convenor



**First Committee on Trade and Investment  
Meeting  
3-4 March 2021**

## **MAG CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI 1 2021**

### **1. How does the Forum's work contribute to CTI's Objectives of:**

*Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading. Please refer to Appendix A for further detail on CTI's objectives.*

#### **a. Support for the Multilateral Trading System**

##### **(i) WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)**

- Singapore updated on economies' implementation of the WTO TFA. An updated monitoring table was shared with members. Two updates were noted. One economy implemented four Category B provisions and another economy's request to extend its Category C provisions was accepted. Singapore invited economies to share suggestions intersessionally regarding areas of interest or that require assistance for the implementation of the TFA.
- The United States provided an update on Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information – Phase 2. A project had been underway to assist Peru to analyse the publication of trade-related information. The corresponding report was circulated in February 2021.
- The United States updated on Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 3 (Advance Rulings) – Phase 3. Economies were encouraged to reach out if capacity building needs were identified. A workshop under the project was held in February 2020 and the revised summary of the workshop was circulated in February 2021.
- The United States provided updates on Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 8 (Border Agency Cooperation). A related workshop would be organised on the margins of SOM3 2021.

##### **(ii) MAG Work on Tariffs**

- MAG noted the importance of the implementation of the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) Expansion, and encouraged member economies who had not yet joined the ITA Expansion to consider doing so.

##### **(iii) APEC List of Environmental Goods (EG List)**

- As of 1 January 2021, Indonesia had fully complied with the tariff reductions for all 54 products listed in the EG List to a maximum of 5%.
- Chile informed that the bill to implement the EG List commitments was under legislative procedures and tariff lines remained at 6%, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic had delayed the process.
- Thailand informed that the proposal to reduce tariffs on remaining environmental goods was under the study by the working groups under the Ministry of Finance.
- All other economies had fully implemented their tariff reductions for the APEC List of 54 Environmental Goods List.
- New Zealand presented a non-paper on environmental goods for initial discussion to develop an updated APEC List of Environmental Goods in 2021. Some economies expressed the need to start internal consultations with their line agencies and evaluate achievements of the current EGL list before moving forward.

**b. Regional Economic Integration, including taking forward the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and contributing to the development of the Implementation Plan in 2021**

**(i) APEC Trade Repository (APEC TR)**

The Philippines updated on the usage of the APEC TR from 1 November 2020 to 15 February 2021, which accounted for 1 878 users, 2 232 sessions and 3 643 page views.

Indonesia presented a Concept Note on a “Study on strategy to promote the utilisation of the APEC Trade Repository” for project session 1 2021. Economies welcomed the proposal and Indonesia was open to further input by 5 March 2021.

**(ii) Rules of Origin (ROO)**

In place of discussing the Revision of 2007 APEC Model Measures for RTAs/FTAs on ROO, Singapore suggested to focus future work on analysing the divergence of ROOs at sectoral level between the RCEP and CPTPP.

**(iii) MAG Inputs for the Putrajaya Vision Implementation Plan**

MAG members were encouraged to share potential contributions for the Putrajaya Vision Implementation Plan to the CTI.

**c. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity**

**(i) Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan Phase II (SCFAP II)**

Singapore informed that the PSU would undertake the Final Review of the SCFAP II in 2021. The corresponding TOR had been prepared as well. Singapore encouraged economies to submit case studies for the Final Review that highlighted steps to unlock the five chokepoints mentioned in the SCFAP II Framework (pre- and post-COVID cases would be considered). Suggestions from economies for the next phase of SCFAP would be welcomed.

**(ii) APEC Pathfinder for Self-certification of Origin**

MAG noted the implementation of the APEC Pathfinder for Self-Certification of Origin and encouraged members who had not yet joined the Pathfinder to consider doing so.

**(iii) APEC Pathfinder for Facilitating Trade in Remanufactured Goods**

MAG noted the implementation of the APEC Pathfinder for Facilitating Trade in Remanufactured Goods and encouraged members who had not yet joined the Pathfinder to consider doing so.

The United States had been conducting the Study on Trade of Remanufactured Goods in APEC focusing on refurbished medical device. The study examined how APEC economies defined and regulated importation of refurbished medical devices and would provide an update on APEC refurbished market (ready for circulation on May/June 2021). A workshop was under preparation to take place on the margins of SOM3 2021 to share the results of the study.

**d. Inclusion**

Nil.

## **2. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2021**

*Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2021 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.*

- Updated Table Monitoring the implementation of the WTO TFA;
- Study on Trade of Remanufactured Goods in APEC – Refurbished Medical Device;
- Workshop on Study on Trade of Remanufactured Goods – Refurbished Medical Device (SOM3 2021);
- Updated APEC TR;
- Study on Strategy to Promote the Utilization of the APEC Trade Repository;
- Workshop on Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 8 (Border Agency Cooperation) (SOM3 2021); and
- Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information.

## **3. Planned private sector engagement in 2021**

*Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2021*

- Further engagement with ABAC to share views in MAG plenary meetings.

## **4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2021**

*Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2021*

- MAG-PPWE: MAG to provide input to the La Serena Roadmap Implementation Plan by 10 June 2021.

## **5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting**

*Please provide in list format*

- Singapore updated on the Table Monitoring the implementation of the WTO TFA;
- The United States updated on Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information – Phase 2; Article 3 (Advance Rulings) – Phase 3; Article 8 (Border Agency Cooperation);
- Updated implementation status of the APEC EG List noting that Indonesia had fully complied with the tariff reductions for all 54 products listed in the EG List to a maximum of 5%;
- New Zealand presented a non-paper on environmental goods for initial discussion to develop an updated APEC List of Environmental Goods in 2021. The proposal was well received by MAG members but some economies expressed the need to start internal consultations with their line agencies and evaluate achievements of the current EGL list before moving forward. Further discussion would be undertaken in the CTI;
- The Philippines updated usage information of the APEC TR;
- Indonesia presented a Concept Note on a “Study on strategy to promote the utilisation of the APEC Trade Repository” for project session 1 2021;
- Singapore suggested to focus MAG efforts on ROO to analyse the divergence of ROOs between the RCEP and CPTPP;
- Singapore updated on the Final Assessment of the Supply Chain Framework Action Plan Phase II (SCFAP II);

- The United States updated on the 12th meeting of the APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) highlighting the importance of proactive communication for effective vaccine distribution and taking small steps in the supply chain and customs procedures;
- Peru presented the Concept Note on “PPD on Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information” to be presented in CTI for project session 1 2021; and
- The United States briefed on the development of the self-funded project “Study: Trade of Remanufactured Goods in APEC”. A related workshop is being planned in the margins of SOM3 2021.

**6. Was quorum<sup>1</sup> reached at the most recent plenary meeting?**

*Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting.*

- The quorum was reached with all 21 member economies attended the meeting.

**7. What is your Forum doing to maintain/increase its relevance to APEC member economies and increase participation from its members?**

*Please provide a brief list of planned efforts to increase participation from members*

- As the primary forum for discussing market access issues, MAG has been overseeing the implementation of several major initiatives towards supporting the multilateral trading system and trade liberalisation for regional economic integration. Economies are encouraged to make use of MAG to initiate high-quality projects contributing to areas of tariffs, non-tariff measures, ROO, transparency and trade facilitation.

**8. Decision points needed from CTI**

- Seek CTI’s endorsement of the MAG Convenor’s Report.

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<sup>1</sup> Quorum requires 14 economies or more. Quorum is measured by member economies (not including private sector) participating. Remote participation is counted.