



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2021/SOM3/CTI/008**

Agenda Item: VI ii

## **Investment Expert Group Convenor's Report**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: IEG Convenor



**Third Committee on Trade and Investment  
Meeting  
24-26 August 2021**

## VIRTUAL THIRD MEETING OF THE APEC COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT (CTI3)

Date : 25 August 2021 (Wednesday)  
Time : MYT 1000 hours / NZT 1400 hours  
Platform : Microsoft Teams

### **IEG BRIEF REPORT**

1. The second virtual IEG for 2021 was held from 17 to 18 August 2021 and was attended by all the 21 economies.
2. The IEG is shaped to support the CTI's objectives as follows:
  - a. first, in support for the multilateral trading system, the IEG continued deliberating the key areas under Phase V of the Investment Facilitation Action Plan (or IFAP) Work Plan for 2021-2023;
  - b. in addition, to uphold trade facilitation and connectivity, the IEG continued to constructively deliberate augmenting the aforementioned IFAP Phase V with ABAC's proposal to consider three (3) new investment facilitation principles;

**Note:** *The three (3) new investment facilitation principles are:*

- i. alignment of investment facilitation efforts at different levels so these are mutually supportive;*
- ii. ensuring that investment facilitation focuses on increasing investment's contribution to sustainable development; and*
- iii. facilitating Digital FDI, including mechanisms to at once address any screening concerns by policymakers while ensuring new and increasing Digital FDI opportunities.*

- c. third, to promote regional economic integration, the IEG (led by Peru), successfully conducted a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) Capacity Building Workshop on New Trends in Investment Elements Negotiations in FTAs/RTAs virtually on 3 to 4 August 2021. The two (2) day workshop included 9 speakers and attracted 124 participants from 18 economies;
- d. lastly, to encourage innovative development and inclusive approaches, the IEG is further reflecting on cross-collaboration work on Inclusive and Responsible Business and Investment, echoing the allusions to Responsible Business Conduct in the draft Putrajaya Vision 2040 as well

as supporting principle of Investor Behaviour in the CTI's APEC Non-Binding Investment Principles.

3. The IEG has examined three (3) key deliverables throughout 2021:
  - a. first, submission of the IEG Terms of Reference for the period of 2022-2025. We look forward to hearing about the progress, and hope for a renewal of the IEG;
  - b. second, suggesting key inputs to the draft Implementation Plan for the Putrajaya Vision 2040; and
  - c. finally, to review the eight (8) Investment Facilitation Action Plan agreed in 2008 to see if they have retained relevance, or whether there needs to be new principles to reflect an increasingly changing world.
  
4. To augment these deliverables, the IEG has planned both private sector engagement as well as cross-fora collaboration. This includes:
  - a. embarking on the Next Phase of the APEC Investment Commitment Handbook led by Australia, with an upcoming workshop scheduled in September 2021;
  - b. a forthcoming workshop scheduled in November 2021 on 'Sustainable Investment to Enhance Digitally-enabled & Inclusive Recovery: Paradigms & Capacity Building in Precision Health'. For information, this is a self-funded project led by Chinese Taipei; and
  - c. relevant updates from the WTO and UNCITRAL on a wide-range of issues from the current state-of-play of the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development discussions to the current Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) reform discussions.
  
5. To summarise, the IEG is committed to being kept up-to-date on dynamic investment-related developments in various international platforms, with an eye towards reaffirming the two principal pillars of its work, which is:
  - a. international investment regime – principles and practices; and
  - b. investment promotion, facilitation and retention.

Thank you.