



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2014/SOM1/037anx2**

Agenda Item: 2

## **Annex 2 - Work Plan of CTI FoTC Group on Strengthening REI and Advancing FTAAP**

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: CTI Chair



**First Senior Officials' Meeting  
Ningbo, China  
27-28 February 2014**

**Work Plan of CTI FoTC Group on Strengthening REI and Advancing FTAAP  
(Proposed by China and US)**

The FoTC Group should prepare CTI recommendations to strengthen regional economic integration, kick off and advance the process of realization of an FTAAP, seeking endorsement by CTI Reps, Senior Officials, Ministers and Leaders. In developing recommendations, the FoTC Group should consider the following, non-exhaustive list of issues.

1. Building on the existing report on RTA and FTA negotiations at the SOM, how shall APEC set up the RTAs/FTAs information sharing mechanism before MRT as agreed at CTI 1, aiming at increasing transparency of ongoing RTAs and FTAs within APEC, as a means of building a better understanding of the possible pathways to an FTAAP? The Information sharing dialogue on RTAs/FTAs will kick off this mechanism, and be held at the margins of SOM2.
2. How can APEC improve its capacity building efforts, building on the CBNI, prepare economies for realizing a possible FTAAP, which would occur outside of APEC?
3. Would a stocktake of economies' existing RTAs and FTAs help build a better understanding of the possible pathways to an FTAAP? What would be the parameters for that stocktake? How to conduct stocktake built on the work done by the other international bodies, such as WTO, think tank and academia, etc? How to enhance coordination and cooperation and share of information with academia, private sectors and other stakeholders? How do we bring in relevant parts of our existing RTAs/FTAs into our work on FTAAP? Could the stocktake include information on the RTAs' and FTAs' level of liberalization, scope and coverage, work program and timeline/milestones for implementation? Could the stocktake seek advice of former and current negotiators and learn their experiences and lessons they have gained?
4. As a means of enhancing APEC's role as an incubator of an FTAAP, how can APEC carry out a possible feasibility study on realizing an FTAAP? What would be the scope and contents of this study? Should the CTI establish a task force to undertake this work? Who will participate in this task force? What about the structure, operation and tasks of the task force?
5. What are the key trade and investment initiatives APEC can undertake to achieve the Bogor Goals and support the realization of an FTAAP? How do we feed existing APEC work (such as the 2010 Yokohama Declaration – Pathways to FTAAP, 2008 APEC Model Measures for RTAs/FTAs) into our discussions on FTAAP?
6. How to explore the development of a possible roadmap towards the realization of an FTAAP? Should this roadmap include a timeframe and milestones for realizing a possible FTAAP? What additional steps and actions can APEC economies take to realize an FTAAP? How do we start work on the principles that an FTAAP should be based on? What are the principles that would underpin an F

TAAP to make it a successful vehicle for regional economic integration?

**CTI 1:**

- The FoTC established, endorse the workplan and launch the work on REI and FTAAP in 2014; CTI agreed in principle on the establishment of the APEC information sharing mechanism on RTAs/FTAs.

**Mid-March**

- Request economies submit ideas and inputs on the above issues to the FoTC lead by March 14. These inputs will be considered and incorporated into the revised proposal on strengthening REI Framework proposed by China.

**Before CTI 2**

- Based on comments and inputs provided by the economies, China will submit the revised proposal, which would contain details of the roadmap, possible feasibility study and possible timeframe to the FoTC Group for considerations inter-sessionally.

**Mid-May, 2014 /CTI 2/MRT:**

- CTI 2 to consider and discuss the revised proposal and other potential contributions on how to take forward this work.
- Report progress to SOM2 and MRT and submit possible recommendations on the roadmap, the framework of the possible feasibility study, a possible timeframe and milestones for consideration at MRT.
- MRT to discuss and seek to endorse the recommendations and further actions to finalize the work on strengthening REI and advancing FTAAP in 2014.

**Mid-August, 2014 /CTI 3:**

- CTI to submit recommendations to SOM3 and seek to endorse the possible proposals.

**Early November, 2014/CSOM/AMM/AELM:**

- Ministers and Leaders to endorse possible recommendations and outcomes on strengthening REI and advancing FTAAP.