



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2016/SOM1/CTI/018**

Agenda Item: 7.2

**Trade Policy Dialogue on WTO-Plus Aspects of  
Recently Concluded Regional Trade Agreements  
and Free Trade Agreements**

Purpose: Consideration

Submitted by: Australia



**First Committee on Trade and Investment Meeting  
Lima, Peru  
28-29 February 2016**

## **Implementing the APEC FTA/RTA Information Sharing Mechanism**

### **Proposal for Trade Policy Dialogue at CTI2 on WTO-plus Elements of Recently Concluded RTAs/FTAs**

In 2014, APEC Leaders endorsed the “Beijing Roadmap on APEC’s Contribution of the Realization of the FTAAP”, a key element of which is the Information Sharing Mechanism on RTAs/FTAs. A related paper endorsed at CTI3 in 2014, ‘Operationalising the APEC Information Sharing Mechanism on RTAs/FTAs’, provided for a trade policy dialogue on recently concluded FTA/RTAs in the APEC region to be held in the margins of CTI2 each year.

The first TPD dialogue under the Information Sharing Mechanism was held at CTI 2 in Boracay in May 2015. Australia organised the program and several economies took part in the presentations which covered examples of RTA/FTA chapters that are notable for innovation and trade liberalising outcomes or approaches, e.g. on services, competition policy, dispute settlement, certification of electrical and electronic componentry and e-commerce (see 2015/SOM2/CTI/039rev1).

In light of the success of the first dialogue, Australia proposes that at CTI2 in Arequipa, Australia, and Peru as host economy, conduct the second Trade Policy Dialogue on sharing and assessing information on WTO-plus elements of RTAs/FTAs. Economies are invited to volunteer to make presentations at the TPD on recently concluded FTAs to which they are party.

TPD participants should be policy officers engaged in actual negotiation of an agreement and others who are likely to have such a role in future agreements. Presentations should focus on the WTO-plus elements of an FTA/RTA. WTO plus elements and areas where further engagement is foreshadowed under in-built work programs (e.g. exemptions from tariff reduction or elimination commitments; disciplines on non-tariff measures; limited WTO-plus outcomes on services etc) could also be highlighted, as well as mechanisms to address such difficulties over time (e.g. built-in work programs). The finalisation of the TPP in 2015 should provide a rich source of material for discussion. Member economies will have an opportunity to comment and ask questions of the presenters. A written summary of the discussions/findings will be prepared for posting on the CTI website.

Australia would be pleased to hear from economies willing to participate. The contact is Heath McMichael, APEC Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia at [heath.mcmichael@dfat.gov.au](mailto:heath.mcmichael@dfat.gov.au) and +612 6261 1693.