



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2022/SOM2/CTI/002

Agenda Item: IV

**Summary Report – First Committee on Trade and
Investment Meeting 2022 (Endorsed Intersessionally,
30 April 2022)**

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: APEC Secretariat



**Second Committee on Trade and Investment
Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand
15-16 May 2022**

SUMMARY REPORT COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT (CTI)

**First Meeting for 2022
18, 21 & 22 February 2022**

INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI or “the Committee”) held its first plenary meeting on 18, 21 & 22 February 2022. The virtual meeting was hosted by Thailand. All 21 APEC economies were represented and participated virtually. Representatives from APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and ASEAN Secretariat also joined the meeting. The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) was also present and contributed to a number of items in which it is supporting work for CTI.

CHAIR’S OPENING REMARKS

2. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, including three new CTI representatives, Pak Reza Pahlevi Chairul from Indonesia, Alejandra Rosete Conde of Mexico, and Jon Preston of New Zealand. The Chair thanked Thailand for hosting and encouraged observers, and ABAC members to join the discussions.
3. The Chair noted that prior to the CTI meeting, he had met all 21 economies’ CTI representatives and all the subfora convenors, as a way to share priorities in support of the CTI agenda. He also informed members that he had attended ABAC’s Regional Economic Integration Working Group meeting where he shared CTI’s priorities for 2022 with ABAC members.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The agenda was adopted by members.¹

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RECORD OF THE LAST MEETING

5. The Summary Record from CTI3 2021 was endorsed intersessionally.²

THAILAND’S HOST YEAR PRIORITIES: OPEN, CONNECT, BALANCE

6. **Thailand** shared its CTI priorities focusing on the Bio Circular Green (BCG) economic model, and its non-paper on the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP).
7. There were two presentations on the BCG focusing on trade and investment.³ The first presentation was by Thailand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, followed by Dr. Janekrishna Kanatharana, Executive Director, Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation & Executive Vice President, National Science and Technology Development Agency, who provided the meeting with information on the BCG. The presentations were well received and members shared the application of elements of the BCG domestically.

¹ 2022/SOM1/CTI/001

² 2022/SOM1/CTI/002

³ 2022/SOM1/CTI/003 & 2022/SOM1/CTI/004

8. Thailand presented its non-paper on *FTAAP - The COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond*,⁴ which proposed a CTI dedicated session in mid-March. The session would result in an information paper, which would be produced in advance of a Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) between MRT and ABAC in May. Thailand's desired outcome of this PPD is a joint statement issued by MRT and ABAC, as well as a paragraph in the MRT to reflect the outcomes of the PPD. The non-paper was well received, with members supportive of a refreshed look at FTAAP through a COVID-19 lens. Some economies wanted to learn more about the modality for drafting and negotiating the MRT-ABAC statement, with one alternative suggestion for a joint press release. The PSU suggested FTAAP take into account the challenges brought about by the pandemic and how regional economic agreements or arrangements could identify and facilitate the movement of essential goods and essential workers; minimise the disruption of essential service and supply chains. The PSU stressed the importance of strengthening transparency.

SUPPORT FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

9. Ambassador Pimchanok Nan Pitfield, Thailand's Permanent Representative to the WTO and WIPO, updated the meeting on the state-of-play on key WTO issues. Ambassador Pimchanok shared that MC12 may be held in June 2022, following its postponement in late 2021. She highlighted four issues currently being discussed ahead of MC12, which were also highlighted in the AMM Statement from 2021. They are (i) WTO's response to the pandemic; (ii) fisheries subsidies; (iii) agriculture; and (iv) WTO reform. Ambassador Pimchanok also mentioned the number of plurilateral initiatives underway, i.e. the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs), and hoped for support from APEC members.
10. The Secretariat provided updates on the implementation status and number of participants from APEC members in the following WTO initiatives⁵:
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
 - Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and ITA Expansion;
 - WTO JSIs (E Commerce; Domestic Regulations; Investment Facilitation; MSME);
 - Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment.
11. Members shared views on three recent WTO environmental initiatives under the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment (CTE):
- **Canada** shared on the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD);
 - **China** spoke on the Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP);
 - **New Zealand** spoke on the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR) initiative.
12. Members expressed appreciation to Ambassador Pimchanok and speakers from Canada, China, and New Zealand for their updates. It was noted that a majority of APEC members were involved in these initiatives. Members exchanged views on their priority areas on on-going WTO issues, noting while the postponement of MC12 was disappointing, there

⁴ 2022/SOM1/CTI/005

⁵ 2022/SOM1/CTI/006

were some positive developments, such as the conclusion of the JSI on domestic services regulation, as well as the three initiatives under the CTE. The Chair encouraged members to consider proposing new initiatives in the CTI that could support APEC's role with regard to the MTS, in line with the Aotearoa Plan of Action. Some members noted that the upcoming MRT meeting in May could provide an opportunity for APEC to give momentum to the WTO ahead of a possible MC12 in early June.

TASKING TO CTI SUBFORA

13. With the exception of the Automotive Dialogue, the remaining CTI subfora met on the margins of SOM1. A number of subfora events were held prior to the meeting.
14. CTI intersessionally endorsed specific tasking to the Market Access Group, Group on Services and the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures.⁶
15. New Zealand shared its plans on taking forward the work on inefficient fossil fuel subsidy reform. New Zealand undertook to circulate the template contained in the Annex of the 2021 CTI Report to AMM for members' endorsement. New Zealand also stated it would circulate a proposal to have a self-funded virtual workshop ahead of SOM2, which would look at the issue of a voluntary standstill, including options for a standstill by volunteer economies as well as how to populate the template.
16. The CTI Chair also highlighted and sought cooperation from members to take forward work relating to the reviews of the three MRT annexes from 2020 and 2021 in time for AMM.⁷

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE REGION

17. In 2021, AMM mandated that officials continue to support on-going efforts to conclude, ratify, implement and upgrade high standard and comprehensive trade agreements. In this regard, the **Secretariat** provided updates on the CPTPP and RCEP based on publicly available information from official websites of member economies as well as the ASEAN Secretariat. On the CPTPP, it was noted that with Peru's ratification of the agreement in September 2021, the agreement is now in force for 8 members (out of 11). The 5th CPTPP Commission Meeting took place in September 2021 and established a Committee on Electronic Commerce to facilitate continued discussion on the implementation and operation of the Electronic Commerce Chapter and further explore ways to promote digitalisation within the region. It was also noted that 17 subsidiary bodies met virtually ahead of this Commission meeting. The RCEP entered into force on 1 Jan 2022 and is in force for 11 members. By 18 March, it will come into force for one more member, taking the total to 12.
18. **Hong Kong, China** and the **PSU** updated the meeting on their "Study on Tariffs – Analysis of the RCEP Tariff Liberalisation Schedules". In its presentation, the PSU provided additional findings from its earlier presentations in 2021, comparing the extent of tariff liberalisation within CPTPP and RCEP.⁸ The PSU commented that (a) RCEP appeared to be more sensitive towards non-agricultural products compared to CPTPP (which was more sensitive to agricultural products); and (b) there appeared to be faster liberalisation within RCEP in certain categories of goods such as machinery, chemicals and raw materials; while labour-intensive products, agricultural goods and vehicles face slower liberalisation or even partial liberalisation and exclusions. Hong Kong, China was of the view that despite the numerous challenges in the negotiation process, the degree of trade

⁶ 2022/SOM1/CTI/024

⁷ (i) 2020 MRT Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods by the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT); (ii) Annex to MRT Statement 2021 on COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chains; & (iii) Annex to MRT Statement 2021 on Services to Support the Movement of Essential Goods

⁸ 2022/SOM1/CTI/008

liberalisation in RCEP is still remarkable and like the CPTPP, the RCEP is a step forward for APEC to realise the FTAAP.

19. The **United States** spoke on their updated *FTAAP Work Program on Labour-related Provisions in FTAs/RTAs, including information-sharing on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building provisions*.⁹ The US further noted that 19 economies have a Labour Chapter or side-letter in their trade agreements. China shared that it held on to a people-centered development concept, which has put the protections of rights and interests of labour high on the economic agenda. However, after careful consideration, China could not find the proposal's value-add, which was stock-taking labour-related provisions in existing FTAs. China also raised concerns with the neutrality of the proposal, especially the data collection and analysis, and suggested to engage a third party to ensure the representation of APEC members is fully respected. The Chair set a deadline for comments of 4 March and asked economies to try to achieve consensus on the proposal.
20. **Japan** introduced an updated proposal *FTAAP Work Program addressing State-owned and Controlled Enterprises (SOEs)*.¹⁰ Proponents suggested tasking the PSU to undertake a compilation of provisions related to SOEs in members' RTAs/FTAs. This compilation of provisions would be used to assess convergences and divergences in provisions relating to SOEs, and to increase transparency. A workshop and a joint session with the Economic Committee is also included in the proposal. China noted that with a prudent and in-depth study, it would have no substantive difficulties to have technical discussion on SOEs within APEC. However, China wanted discussions to be built on multilateralism and ownership neutrality, remain respectful of the diversity of models of economic development of members and non-discriminatory to all market entities, and to benefit the fair competition between and common development of enterprises of all types. China undertook to provide comments intersessionally. The Chair set a deadline for comments of 4 March and asked economies to try to achieve consensus on the proposal.
21. The **United States** introduced a new proposal *FTAAP Work Program on APEC efforts to address inclusion in trade agreements and trade policy approaches*.¹¹ The proposal calls for two capacity-building workshops and a stock-take report, which would look at economies' efforts to incorporate inclusion aspects into trade agreements and trade policy approaches. The Chair set a deadline of 11 March for comments.
22. The **United States** introduced a new proposal *FTAAP Work Program on Low Value Shipments (LVS)*. This proposal aims to look at challenges MSMEs face in the logistics for LVS. The US undertook to circulate a concept note intersessionally.
23. **The United States** introduced another new proposal *FTAAP Work Program on Multi-stakeholder Engagement*.¹² The objective of this proposal is to build the capacity of members to advance inclusive policies through domestic multi-stakeholder engagement approaches and procedures. The Chair set a deadline of 11 March for comments.
24. **Korea** shared its intention to circulate a concept note for the *Fourth Capability Building Needs Initiative*, which aims to help members build capacity to participate in high standard and comprehensive agreements.

TRADE FACILITATION, CONNECTIVITY, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

Projects and initiatives supporting Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

⁹ 2022/SOM1/CTI/009

¹⁰ 2022/SOM1/CTI/010

¹¹ 2022/SOM1/CTI/011

¹² 2022/SOM1/CTI/012

25. **Japan** updated CTI on its next steps on *Best-Practices Sharing Workshop: Utilising Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation under the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond (Phase 2)*. Three workshops are being planned in the coming months. The focus will be on (a) Technologies to Support Customs Procedures; (b) Digitalisation of Cooperation between Customs Authorities; and (c) Port Digitalisation and Efficient Supply Chains.
26. The **PSU** presented its January 2022 Policy Brief “*A Decade of Supply Chain Initiatives: Opportunities and Challenges in Post-COVID-19 Recovery*”.¹³ The PSU reviewed work on supply chains, looked at trends in GVC development and digital economy, and highlighted current challenges where work could be directed. Members welcomed the PSU’s timely analysis.
27. This was followed by **Singapore**’s update on the next steps on Supply Chains Framework Action Plan. Singapore undertook to circulate a proposal intersessionally.
28. **Australia** introduced their self-funded project “*Supply Chain Resilience – Seminars and Resources*”, which builds on their 2020 project “*Building Resilient Supply Chains 2020: Survey and Analysis*”.¹⁴ The aim of the new project is to highlight the importance of effective management of supply chains and improve the knowledge and practice of SMEs in supply chain strategy and management. The project will deliver seminars for SMEs engaged in international trade and will involve speakers with expertise in logistics, global risk assessments and relevant new technologies, as well as representatives from multinational enterprises. Other potential deliverables include online resources comprising of a self-assessment tool, articles/best practice examples and checklists. The Chair set a deadline of 4 March for comments.
29. **China** updated members on work on *Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network (APMEN)*. China sought members’ consideration of the 2022 APMEN Annual Work Plan.¹⁵ China also sought consideration of two APMEN projects, namely (a) *Realising Compliant Flow for Cross-Border Data of Trade & Logistics through E-port*;¹⁶ and (b) *Developing Low Carbon Cross-Border Supply Chains through E-port*.¹⁷ China informed the meeting that these two pilot projects had been endorsed by the APMEN Joint Operation Group (AJOG). The Chair set a deadline for comments of 11 March. China further noted that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for APMEN would expire by the end of this year, and undertook to circulate the new ToR for APMEN’s next phase.
30. **China** provided updates on *APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain (GSCNET)*. China noted that since its inception, GSCNET has been exploring solutions for building a green supply chain management system in APEC. Against the global economic recovery, there have been calls for a more resilient and sustainable supply chain. Hence, China viewed that green supply chains have a relevant role to play. China undertook to table the 2022 Annual work plan for GSCNET intersessionally. The Annual events and joint research amongst pilot centers and expert groups will stay on the agenda. China welcomes more like-minded APEC members to get on board to share insights and attend collective activities. In response to economies’ suggestions, a Terms of Reference for GSCNET will also be drafted and tabled for consideration by CTI. This document aims to strengthen the structural and institutional organisation of GSCNET and support the expanding cooperation.

¹³ 2022/SOM1/CTI/013

¹⁴ 2022/SOM1/CTI/014

¹⁵ 2022/SOM1/CTI/015

¹⁶ 2022/SOM1/CTI/016

¹⁷ 2022/SOM1/CTI/017

31. The **United States** elaborated on its plans for a self-funded *Trade Policy Dialogues on Digital Trade*. The US will hold two dialogues, bringing together APEC policymakers, businesses, and other stakeholders to examine issues related to digital trade/e-commerce, as well as views on regulatory approaches and policies to facilitate digital trade/e-commerce and participation in the digital economy. The dialogues would identify potential areas of economy-level capacity building; further educate economies on ABAC's work related to the digital economy; and demonstrate economy approaches to encourage facilitation, address barriers, and adopt emerging technologies. Other focus areas would be human capital and re-skilling.
32. **Japan** provided an update on its APEC Quality Infrastructure Peer Review Training, which involved a peer review for Indonesia. Japan conducted five days of capacity-building workshops for Indonesia in January 2022 in the areas of road, water services and waste management, aiming to support the infrastructure development environment to be more sustainable and resilient. In this regard, Indonesia appreciated Japan for the capacity building and emphasised the importance of Public Private Partnership (PPPs) as one of the key factors for success in the project of quality infrastructure. Japan plans to have another seminar and also sought volunteers for its next peer review.
33. **Korea** introduced a proposal on *Data Standardisation*. Its objective is to raise awareness on the need for data standardisation within APEC and build a research network at APEC, while contributing to building capacity to prepare for global data standardisation.¹⁸ In terms of activities, the proposal calls for selection of prioritised fields for data standardisation, to be followed by a study and devising methods in detail for data standardisation. This will culminate in a workshop.

INCLUSION & SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

34. **Thailand** updated CTI on its plans for the May Symposium for its "APEC Best Practices for Green and Innovative MSMEs by using BCG Model" (CTI 04 2021A). It is tentatively scheduled for 20 May, one day ahead of the MRT. Thailand noted that they intend to set up physical booths in the MRT meeting area and asked interested economies to send products or video presentations to display. Thailand also welcomed all interested economies to participate and contribute speakers to this symposium.
35. **China** introduced its self-funded proposal *Research on Key Areas and Implementation Paths for Deepening APEC Inclusive Trade and Investment Cooperation*.¹⁹ The objective of this proposal is to strengthen cooperation in inclusive trade and investment through a seminar and research. China proposed to have a checklist / "Menu of Options" approach, to promote the wide application of best practices of inclusive trade and investment and as a reference for APEC members in formulating related policies and individual action plans. China undertook to consult with economies that required further clarifications.
36. The **United States** introduced two proposals on environmental sustainability, which they noted were an extension of the earlier work on e-waste recycling under the "Recyclable Materials Policy Programme." The first on *Circular Economy – Importance of E-waste recovery in APEC region*²⁰ calls for a multi-year program, aimed at building capacity among developing APEC economies' regulators, policy makers and other relevant entities to improve their understanding of a circular economy for e-waste. The US proposed to commence with a capacity building workshop focusing on how an e-waste circular economy operates, and exploring approaches to responsibly recover associated valuable materials. The second proposal calls for work on *compostable bioplastics*. The US

¹⁸ 2022/SOM1/CTI/018

¹⁹ 2022/SOM1/CTI/019

²⁰ 2022/SOM1/CTI/020

undertook to circulate a written proposal intersessionally. This proposal will look at issues such as labelling requirements, standards and conformity assessments. The US was of the view that these two proposals responded to the 2021 AMM statement that directed members to focus work on NTMs in environmental goods and services, as well as being linked to Thailand's focus on BCG economy.

37. **Australia** shared its non-paper, tabled at the Market Access Group (MAG) on *Recommendations for potentially producing a reference list of new and emerging environmental goods*.²¹ As a follow-up from Ministerial mandates, Australia's non-paper proposed three options to develop recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list with a view to providing guidance for further work. This work will proceed under the MAG.
38. **Russia** introduced its initiative "Exploring convergences in APEC approaches on Green Finance and Sustainable Investing", which aims to promote a better understanding of taxonomies.²² It aims to identify the commonalities, differences and gaps in members' approaches to building sustainable taxonomies, and to promote a dialogue on possible ways to make them more compatible with each other. The proposal is to conduct research on the current state-of-play in the development of domestic taxonomies through a questionnaire and prepare a draft report with the information collected, which could serve as a basis for further exchange of views on this matter and considering possible appropriate next steps towards convergence of green finance standards in APEC.

OTHER INITIATIVES

39. **Chile** provided a summary of the Canada-Chile initiative, "*The role of government procurement (GP) in responding to COVID-19*". Outcomes were endorsed last year and will be available on the APEC meeting database after CTI1. Some of the key takeaways gathered from the survey and the webinar are (i) GP has played a critical role in securing medical goods and services to fight the pandemic, as well as the supply of vaccines for vaccination programs; (ii) experts suggested that economies with government procurement commitments in trade agreements or open procurement systems have benefited from a reduction in the number of procedures and the time taken to complete the procurement process of medical products; (iii) the adoption of specific measures to facilitate the continued participation of MSMEs in government procurement will help secure the subsistence of many of these companies and its workforce.
40. **Japan** updated the meeting on preparations for its 4 March self-funded workshop on "*New-Normal Model of Trade Promotion in the Post Pandemic Era*". Japan shared that the workshop aimed to introduce best practices in the use of digital technologies to enhance trade promotion, particularly in the fields of business exhibitions and business meetings. The workshop will also explore the role of governments in digitalising trade promotion, as well as challenges and opportunities. It is expected that results from the workshop will be consolidated into an APEC publication.
41. **Peru's** Directorate of Technical Requirements for Foreign Trade provided an update on its initiative on *Promoting Transparency of Technical Barriers to Trade WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information (2020/CTI2/IS06)*.²³ In terms of next steps, Peru will circulate a self-funded study for comments, with a PPD planned on the margins of SOM3. A "Best Practices Guidelines" and Summary Report will then complete the project.

²¹ 2022/SOM1/CTI/021

²² 2022/SOM1/CTI/022

²³ 2022/SOM1/CTI/023

UPDATES FROM SUBFORA CONVENORS & ENDORSEMENT OF CTI SUBFORA CONVENORS REPORTS

42. CTI members heard updates from the following convenors and endorsed the following convenors' reports:

- i. Business Mobility Group (BMG);²⁴
- ii. Group on Services (GOS);²⁵
- iii. Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG);²⁶
- iv. Investment Experts' Group (IEG);²⁷
- v. Market Access Group (MAG);²⁸
- vi. Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP);²⁹
- vii. Chemical Dialogue (CD).³⁰

43. Members agreed and endorsed MAG's recommendation to conclude the *Pathfinder on Self-Certification of origin*, noting that most economies have self-certification in their trade agreements.

44. CTI endorsed the reports of the Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)³¹ and Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC).³²

45. Members strongly welcomed the active engagement and wide-ranging initiatives of CTI's subfora already this year. In particular, Members welcomed progress in CTI subfora on progressing tasking from Ministers, as well as first steps towards implementing the Aotearoa Plan of Action. Stronger collaboration this year between CTI and its subfora was encouraged.

46. Based on the Tasking to the subfora, the following updates were noted from Convenors.

47. Updates from the MAG:

(a) Thailand has fulfilled the commitments under the 2012 APEC Environmental Goods List (EGL). This brings it to a total of 20 economies who have fulfilled the commitment;

(b) There is on-going discussion on the issue of the APEC EGL List's transposition to HS2022 for reference purposes;

(c) Noting that environmental goods and technologies have evolved and cover a wide range of sectors, discussions are continuing on developing recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list;

(d) The *Pathfinder on Self-Certification of origin* has concluded, with most economies having self-certification in their trade agreements;

48. The SCCP is intending to have a deliverable at the MRT, on work on *Best Practice Guidelines on Customs Control for COVID-19 Related Goods* which is led by Thailand.

²⁴ 2022/SOM1/CTI/030

²⁵ 2022/SOM1/CTI/032

²⁶ 2022/SOM1/CTI/027

²⁷ 2022/SOM1/CTI/026

²⁸ 2022/SOM1/CTI/031

²⁹ 2022/SOM1/CTI/028

³⁰ 2022/SOM1/CTI/025

³¹ 2022/SOM1/CTI/029

³² 2022/SOM1/CTI/024

49. The Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) convenor updated members on the outcomes of the 15 February Joint Health Working Group-LSIF meeting as well as the 16 & 17 February HWG meeting. The LSIF Convenor updated that the prevailing view among LSIF members is to continue/incorporate the following work into the HWG. These include: (a) eight LSIF projects (two APEC-funded and six self-funded); (b) LSIF Workstreams, including Joint HWG-LSIF workstreams (such as Vaccines Task Force; Cervical Cancer & Telehealth Solutions) and LSIF workstreams (such as Rare Disease Network; Cancer Control Policy & Health Financing); (c) Subsidiary body and centers including one subsidiary body, the Regulatory Harmonisation Steering Committee (RHSC) and two APEC Centres, i.e. Peking University APEC Health Sciences Academy (HeSAY) & APEC Harmonisation Center. Discussions are still continuing with HWG members, working towards a consensus.

NEXT STEPS ON AOTEAROA PLAN OF ACTION (APA)

50. CTI Chair and the PSU introduced the non-paper which proposes ways in which members could take forward the APA in the area of evaluation of progress. Members had a wide-ranging discussion and shared views.³³
51. Following initial feedback the PSU highlighted various elements of importance which it thought necessary for an effective evaluation process.
52. Members discussed the importance of implementing the Putrajaya Vision and APA as well as ensuring that the CTI and its subfora continued incorporating the Putrajaya Vision, and APA actions into their fora and work.
53. Members exchanged views on the process towards the evaluation of progress. Members also discussed having a coordinated and coherent approach in CTI.
54. The CTI Chair will be engaging with members and CTI subfora on the next steps of the implementation and evaluation of Putrajaya Vision and APA.

UPDATES FROM ABAC & OBSERVERS

55. The **ABAC Secretariat** highlighted areas of interest to CTI, specifically on regional economic integration. ABAC noted that it would be pursuing work in 2022 to progress pathway agreements towards the realisation of the FTAAP. This will include an analysis of various issues to be included in the pathway towards the realisation of FTAAP; a study/report on areas of expansion and convergence for FTAAP; and a potential dialogue with Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) on FTAAP. On support for the WTO, ABAC wanted to see a stronger, more relevant WTO emerging from the WTO Ministerial Conference this year. In this regard, ABAC would be preparing an ABAC Statement on the WTO, highlighting issues of importance to business. There is also a plan to hold a roundtable to engage the WTO, APEC and other business groups such as the World Economic Forum (WEF) and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on the subject. On services, ABAC will be assessing business priorities in the ASCR and will continue to engage with key stakeholders and the Asia-Pacific Services Coalition through PPDs. On the reopening of borders for safe and seamless travel, ABAC welcomed the establishment of the APEC Safe Passage Taskforce in response to its 2021 recommendation. ABAC would be participating actively in the work of this taskforce and focusing, for example, on

³³ 2022/SOM1/CTI/033

health certificates. On the digital economy, ABAC was of the view that the COVID-19 crisis has emphasised the necessity of a robust digital economy and the need to develop the requisite infrastructure. ABAC therefore underscored the need to accelerate the development of physical, digital, and data infrastructure necessary to harness the benefits of the digitalising economy for all. In addition, as part of the work on establishing foundational digital infrastructure, ABAC agreed to commission a report on Digital ID that would assess the current ID landscape across APEC and provide recommendations. ABAC will also hold a Digital Symposium on Cybersecurity, as a cornerstone of an integrated regional digital economy, on the margins of ABAC II in Vancouver in April. On strengthening regional data infrastructure to increase productivity, trade, and regional competitiveness, ABAC agreed to enhance the uptake of the APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) at the company level by understanding the issues for the low-uptake and identifying solutions. ABAC also agreed to undertake a study on the use of data in digital trade with a view to promoting an interoperable regulatory environment to maximise value creation. On expanding vital physical infrastructure to expedite the digitalisation of the economy, ABAC will be preparing a report on the state of 5G, cloud infrastructure across APEC, with recommendations on the development and deployment of 5G and other essential physical infrastructure. Finally, on MSME & Inclusiveness, ABAC will undertake work to help promote the digital transformation of MSMEs, including through a workshop on promoting assistance on financing investment for IT equipment and software and upskilling employees, as well as promoting improved understanding of practical cybersecurity and basic data protection practices.

56. The **PECC** updated members on its recent activities where they relate to APEC and Thailand's priorities. PECC shared findings from its "*State of the Region*" report and spoke on the RCEP and Pacific Alliance as pathways to the FTAAP. PECC stressed that effective implementation would be essential. PECC recalled the reason for ABAC calling for an FTAAP, which was to help reduce trade costs.

57. The **ASEAN Secretariat** provided updates on trade facilitation efforts in ASEAN. 259 products have been identified as essential goods. ASEAN Secretariat is looking to launch a pathfinder on Low Value Shipments and an enhanced Authorised Economic Operator programme.

SECRETARIAT UPDATE

Project Update

58. The APEC Secretariat briefed members on APEC project management and other administrative issues, including deadlines for Project Session 2/2022.³⁴ It was noted that in 2021, there were 26 approved concept notes from the CTI family,³⁵ with four proposals coming from CTI proposals.

59. Economies were encouraged to propose concept notes to support the implementation of the APA, as well as to contribute to this host year's priorities.

Items for noting

60. CTI members endorsed the *Items for Noting* document which serves as a written update to committee members in lieu of a verbal update.³⁶

Other Business

³⁴ 2022/SOM1/CTI/034

³⁵ including 6 from DESG projects related to e-commerce and digital trade

³⁶ 2022/SOM1/CTI/035

61. Indonesia shared information on its G20's presidency priorities, which strongly align with Thailand's priorities in APEC this year.³⁷ Indonesia and the CTI Chair encouraged greater collaboration between APEC and the G20 this year.

62. Members agreed to Thailand's proposal to hold a CTI Dedicated Session on FTAAP on 15 March.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

63. The CTI Chair closed the meeting by thanking CTI members for their active participation.

- END -

³⁷ 2022/SOM1/CTI/036

Items for Noting – Third Committee on Trade and Investment Meeting 2021

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
1.	APEC Investment Commitment Handbook Project (IEG 02 2018S)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Australia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase 2 of the Handbook Project with Viet Nam is progressing toward conclusion - A full draft has been finished and comments have been received from relevant stakeholders across the Vietnamese government - The draft will be the subject of a workshop with Vietnamese officials. This will be the second workshop held on the project. The purpose of the workshop will be to (1) confirm the handbook meets the requirements of Vietnamese officials and (2) raise awareness of the handbook across government. At present the workshop scheduled to take place virtually in September. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second phase of project expected to be completed by late 2021 or early 2021. - Welcome advice from economies interested in participating in the next phase of the project. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
2.	APEC Single Window Interoperability Action Plan	Supply Chain Connectivity	Chile, China and Peru	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The technical group has continued its work intersessionally and through virtual meetings to define the parameters to set up the pilot. - Economies have agreed that the document to be exchanged in the pilot will be the customs data declaration. - As a further development, Korea requested to participate in the pilot as an observer instead of as a voluntary economy. Therefore, the economies that will actively participate in the pilot program are Chile, Peru and

³⁸ For members' ease of reference, a document number from 2021 CTI meetings will be provided

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				<p>Singapore with New Zealand and Korea as observers.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group is currently analyzing each other’s custom data declaration, as to familiarize with the design and particularities of the document in each Economy. This will, in turn, help determine the best technology to use to interoperate and also the standards that will define the pilot like, for example, applicable international regulations or treaties. - Once this analysis is concluded the group will work on a Harmonization Matrix and Service Contracts for the document to be exchanged. - The intersessional work will continue, and further meetings of the technical group are expected before the end of the year. However, given the current status of things and, particularly, the delays due to the pandemic it is possible the actual launch of the pilot is moved to 2022 instead of 2021 as originally planned. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil
3.	Initiative “Dispute Settlement Mechanisms in Trade Agreements”	Regional Economic Integration	Chile	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to internal and unexpected circumstances the project has delayed more than expected. The Project Overseer is working on the summary report with the information collected through the survey to circulate to CTI on August or latest by September 2021. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because of the previous delay, we are now considering hosting the webinar that is part of this project in 2022 instead of 2021. A final decision hasn’t been made yet and we will brief the CTI on this as soon as a final decision is made

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4.	<p>Work Plan on Digital Trade and E-Commerce for the Realization of the FTAAP</p> <p>2020/SOM1/CTI/034</p>	REI - Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) Agenda	Japan	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan has been working on completing the draft report, gain feedbacks from various economies. Japan reflects all the feedbacks in the report and tries to gain endorsement by CTI 3 (August 26th) <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft plans to be revised based on comments and feedback from economies. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N.A.
5.	<p>Utilizing digital technology in the field of trade facilitation under the current COVID-19 pandemic and beyond</p> <p>(CTI 07 2020T)</p>	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Japan	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan held a series of workshops this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st workshop (11 May): Trade facilitation through trade platforms; • 2nd Workshop (29 June): E-Commerce-Enabling Technologies; - 3rd Workshop (3 August): Interoperability and Data Security for Single Windows <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan will hold the last series of workshop on 14 September, which is focused on empowering MSMEs to Participate in Cross-Border Trade. - Japan also consider further workshops to deal with the issues that could not be covered under the previous workshops next year and submitted the CN for session 2 of 2021. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economies are encouraged to join our workshops and co-sponsor the next project.
6.	Study / Report	Trade Facilitation & Connectivity	Korea	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The final report was endorsed by CTI on 19 Aug

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	COVID-19 and Cross-Border Mobility in the APEC Region - Passports, Tickets and Face Masks			Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The report will be published in the APEC website and shared with relevant APEC groups
7.	FTAAP Capacity Building Workshop on E-commerce Elements in FTAs/RTAs (Phase 2) (CTI 02 2020T)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Korea	Current status and progress/update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korea decided to shift the format of the workshop to a virtual format. - Korea developed a draft agenda for one-and-a-half day virtual workshop. - Korea circulated General Information and is now accepting speaker/participant nominations by 25 August. Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korea will hold the virtual workshop on 8-9 September.
8.	Consumer Protection in Digital Trade / E-commerce: Towards Building an APEC Regional Consumer Protection Framework (CTI 09 2020A)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Korea	Current status and progress/update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korea decided to shift the format of the workshop to a virtual format. - Korea developed a draft agenda for the one-day virtual workshop. - Korea finished accepting speaker/participant nominations. Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korea held the virtual workshop on August 4.
9.	The APEC GVCs Blueprint 2020-2025: Realizing the Role of the Digital Economy Within GVCs (CTI 06 2020A)	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Korea and Chile	Current status and progress/update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korea decided to shift the format of the workshop to a virtual format. - Korea developed a draft agenda for the one-day virtual workshop. - Korea held the virtual workshop on July 28. Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korea will submit Summary Report and Research Report.

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10.	<p>PPD on Advertising Standards in the Digital Economy</p> <p>(CTI 05 2019T)</p>	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Peru	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project contemplated the development of a workshop, which was held at SOM3 2019, and the elaboration of document “Digital Advertising Guide: Recommendations on advertising standards in the digital economy”. The PO is still working on the document. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given to the difficulties that COVID-19 caused in the coordination among domestic agencies, the PO requested to update the approved calendar. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When circulated, the endorsement of the recommendations by CTI.
11.	<p>PPD on promoting Consumer Protection in the dispute resolution and redress mechanisms in E-commerce</p> <p>(CTI 09 2019T)</p>	Update on Other CTI Initiatives & Projects	Peru	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PPD was held between 27-29 April 2021 and it was attended by 90 representatives. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PO circulated on 16 August the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) PPD Summary Report and the (ii) Recommendations to promote best practices for consumers’ dispute resolution and redress mechanisms of eCommerce - Both documents are seeking CTI’s comments and endorsement with deadline of 23 August <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When circulated, the endorsement of the recommendations by CTI. <p>[Afternote: both documents were endorsed on 24 August]</p>

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12.	<p>Outcomes on the Application of the Test of Ex Ante Control of Regulations on Advertising</p> <p>(CTI 06 2020S)</p>	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Peru	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The self-funded project was endorsed in July 2020. The project is under implementation. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PO is elaborating the study. It is expected that the first draft will be circulated among CTI members for comments intersessionally after CTI 2021. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Endorsement of the study by CTI
13.	<p>Self-Funded Initiative on Promoting Transparency of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) World Trade Organization (WTO) Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information</p> <p>2020/CTI2/IS06</p>	Support for the Multilateral Trading System	Peru	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The self-funded initiative was endorsed in September 2020. The initiative is under implementation. - The PO presented a Concept Note to Project Session 1 2021 titled “Public Private Dialogue on Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information”. The proposal was approved for APEC funding. - Peru circulated the Terms of Reference of the Study which was endorsed on 1 April 2021. The Study is currently being carried out and processing the information collected. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PO is in the process of elaborating the study. The first draft will be circulated after CTI3 2021 for intersessional comments.. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CTI’s revision and endorsement of the study intersessionally before CSOM.

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14.	<p>Implementation of the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs (BAA) & progress/ update on the Final Review</p> <p><i>Update on (i) the Final Review of the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSME: Study Report and (ii) APEC Global MSME Forum</i></p>	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Philippines	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines conducted the APEC Global MSME Forum last 28-30 June 2021. More than 250 participants from the 21 member economies attended the three-day event. - The Philippines is currently finalizing the BAA Study Report <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines will be circulating the final version of the BAA Study Report at the SMEWG for economies' review and approval to finalise and publish the report.. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CTI members to note updates
15.	APEC Trade Repository	Updates from Sub-Fora Convenor/Chair	Philippines	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines provided MAG members the latest APECTR usage report covering the period 16 February to 31 July 2021. - The Philippines also uploaded the updated file on the APEC Survey on E-commerce Regulations (led by Singapore). <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intersessionally, the Philippines will request MAG members to provide their APECTR reporting templates in line with the APECTR's annual updating (done every 30th September). <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
16.	Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement	Support for the Multilateral Trading System	Singapore	Current status and progress/update:

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress/update of economies' implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation <p>2021/SOM1/CTI/040a</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTI members endorsed the proposal on 17 May to upload the "Table Monitoring TFA Implementation" onto the APEC CTI webpage and APEC Trade Repository The table is now "live" on both websites. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See below. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members may contact the Secretariat to provide updates on their status of implementation.
17.	<p>Enhancing Trade Policy Transparency in APEC as part of the work plans on FTAAP</p> <p>2020/CTI2/IS05</p>	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Russia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia has updated the Stock-take of ongoing and completed APEC initiatives on transparency based on the inputs received from economies after VECTI 2020 and considering information on APEC projects contained in the AIMP. The updated Stock-take was endorsed in the CTI on 3 August 2020 (2020/CTI2/IS05). Russia is finalizing a draft summary on key conclusions from the undertaken Stock-take. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft summary on key conclusions from the undertaken Stock-take and suggested next steps will be circulated in CTI intersessionally. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the draft summary is circulated, we will be asking APEC economies to provide comments in writing with a view to seek endorsement of the document.

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
18.	<p>Work Program on Environment-related Provisions in FTAs/RTAs</p> <p>2020/SOM1/CTI/011</p>	Regional Economic Integration	Russia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia has updated the Stock-take of environment-related provisions in FTAs/RTAs based on the inputs received from economies. An updated Stock-take of environment-related provisions in FTAs/RTAs will be circulated for endorsement in the nearest time. - A desk research is being prepared based on the existing results of the undertaken Stock-take. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia will be seeking for endorsement of the Stock-take and the desk research to be prepared on its basis. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We look forward to receiving inputs from the remaining APEC economies with a view to endorse the Stock-take.
19.	<p>Proposal for Enhancing Trade Policy Transparency in APEC: Tariff Policies</p> <p>2020/CTI2/007 2020/CTI3/IS06</p>	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Russia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The revised version of the proposal for Enhancing Trade Policy Transparency in APEC: Tariff Policies was endorsed on 23 October 2020 intersessionally. - The questionnaire for government authorities was circulated to collect data on the existing practices, international requirements, and possible ways to enhance transparency on tariff policies. Inputs were received from 14 APEC economies. - Further to previous questionnaire, Russia has prepared an additional one for private sector, which has been circulated among APEC economies to collect data on private sector views on the existing practices and international requirements, and their impact on business activities. These questionnaires will make possible to prepare detailed analysis and allow a more complete picture to be painted. <p>Next steps:</p>

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia will prepare a draft report reflecting the information collected to promote an exchange of views on existing practices, international requirements, and possible ways to enhance transparency on tariff policies. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We look forward to receiving inputs on the questionnaire from the remaining APEC economies. - We asked APEC economies to review the additional questionnaire and fill it, if necessary, within the set timelines.
20.	<p>Workshop on Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Digital Content Trade</p> <p>(CTI 02 2019)</p>	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Russia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia has prepared the Workshop Summary Report based on the outcomes of the conducted event. The document will be circulated among APEC economies intersessionally. - Russia is in the process of preparing a proposal on further steps on enhancing IPR protection in digital content trade in APEC region <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia will prepare a proposal on further steps on enhancing IPR protection in digital content trade in APEC region. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once the Workshop Summary Report and the proposal are prepared and circulated, we will be asking APEC to review the documents and provide comments on them.
21.	<p>Blueprint 2.0.: Compilation of modern-day factors affecting the formation and</p>	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Russia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Stock-take of the respective past work undertaken by APEC was endorsed by the CTI on 29 May 2020.

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	<p>development of global value chains</p> <p>2020/SOM1/CTI/IS09 2020/CTI-E/IS05</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A questionnaire regarding modern-day factors affecting the formation and development of GVCs has been developed based on the results of the undertaken Stock-take. - Russia is in the process of updating the questionnaire in line with the comments of some economies. The updated questionnaire will be circulated among APEC economies intersessionally. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia will prepare a survey focused on addressing factors that have an impact on GVCs' functioning and the integration of APEC economies into global production processes. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once the questionnaire is updated and circulated, we will be asking APEC economies to complete the questionnaire - Once the survey is prepared and circulated, we will be asking APEC economies to provide comments in writing with a view to seek endorsement of the document
22.	<p>Blueprint 2.0.: Workshop on Effective Domestic Policymaking for Stimulating Economic Upgrading through Global Value Chains</p> <p>(CTI 14 2019A)</p>	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Russia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparations for the Workshop are currently focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Selection of speakers; and b. Finalization of the draft program and agenda of the Workshop, as well as the Questionnaire to be completed by APEC economies within the framework of preparing for the event. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Russia will circulate intersessionally a Questionnaire for the completion by APEC economies within the framework of preparing for the event. <p>Request to CTI members</p>

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economies are encouraged to complete the Questionnaire to be circulated by Russia intersessionally.
23.	<p>Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 3 (Advance Rulings) – Phase 3</p> <p>(CTI 11 2019A)</p>	Support for the Multilateral Trading System	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United States launched Phase 3 of the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 3 in 2019. As part of Phase 3, the United States hosted a workshop on Advanced Rulings Best Practices on 5 February 2020 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The one-day workshop enabled participants to discuss economies’ implementation of advance rulings and to identify overlaps and differences in their systems. The workshop focused on the usability of advance rulings systems and honed in on the ways economies could make their application of rulings more user-friendly, efficient, and transparent. Participants worked with one another to collectively draft example rulings that would reveal differences in approach and then discussed potential areas of improvement that economies could consider for more effective practices. The revised workshop report was endorsed in February 2021. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pandemic impacted technical assistance and training. However, we are working to identify assistance-eligible economies to receive targeted technical assistance and training. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil.
24.	<p>Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement</p>	Support for the Multilateral Trading System	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Article 1 requires economies to publish trade-related information (import, export and transit) in print and provide documents, forms, contact information, and “how to import” guides online. Publication and access to information and forms creates a transparent

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	<p>Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information – Phase 2</p> <p>(CTI 12 2019A)</p>			<p>and predictable trade environment for all businesses, governments and citizens. Phase 2 of the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information was launched in 2019 and will provide technical assistance and training for developing member economies implementing WTO TFA Article 1 obligations. The US-SEGA project has been working with Peru to analyze the publication of trade-related information. The Ministry of Trade and Tourism (Mincetur) requested an analysis of best practices for trade portals featured as modules within broader single windows, as Peru is considering something like this for the “VUCE 2.0”. Mincetur also asked us to examine health and agricultural agencies’ publication of information. Consultants in Lima confirmed that US-SEGA/APEC recommendations had been incorporated into the design of a trade information portal to be featured in the upgraded VUCE. The report also features a framework for an import/export guide for agricultural products. The report was endorsed in April 2021.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil
25.	<p>Blueprint 2.0.: Work Plan on Cooperation on Implementing and Taking Full Advantage of Statistics Related to GVCs</p>	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	China, Indonesia and United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China, Indonesia, and the United States Work Plan on Cooperation on Implementing and Taking Full Advantage of Statistics Related to GVCs³⁹ for workstream 3 of Blueprint 2.0 was endorsed on 9 March 2020. The Work Plan seeks to help APEC economies to better utilize the TiVA database by undertaking a survey of economies’ needs and challenges in developing and

³⁹ 2020/SOM1/CTI/033

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	2020/SOM1/CTI/033 2020/CTI-E/IS02 2020/CTI3/IS02			<p>utilizing TiVA data; providing capacity building; and assisting APEC economies in developing better underlying statistics that goes into TiVA compilation. Phase 1 of the five-year work plan calls for a survey to be conducted to identify the level of understanding TiVA statistics; assess capacity building needs; and identify the type of extended SUTs and supporting data that are needed by each economy. On 9 September 2020, the draft survey was circulated in CTI for comments and endorsement. On 2 December 2020, the survey was circulated to economies for completion and re-circulated on 22 January 2021.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The next step is for remaining economies to submit a response to the survey after which responses will be compiled. Individual economies will have engaged with ministries, departments, and agencies that are interested in the use of statistics that are related to global value chains in their work. Each economy will have submitted one (1) consolidated response that reflects the input from the various organizations that were consulted. In order to ensure that those agencies are engaged in future capacity building activities, the survey asked for specific information regarding the organizations and individuals consulted. A capacity building plan will be developed based on information gathered from the survey that addresses various needs from APEC economies on how to access the database and how to effectively use and improve the quality the TiVA data for policy analysis. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We ask economies to respond to the survey if they have not already submitted a response.
26.	APEC Trade in Value Added (TiVA) Database	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	United States and China	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed revising the APEC inter-economy input-output tables based on the review comments from member economies.

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed revising the APEC TiVA indicators based on the revised APEC inter-economy input-output tables. - Completed updating the APEC TiVA Initiative Report 2 based on the revised APEC TiVA indicators. - Completed the publication of the APEC TiVA Initiative Report 2. - Completed the revision and visualization of the online APEC TiVA database. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China is revising the APEC TiVA database on the website. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil.
27.	<p>Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs Related to WTO TFA Article 8 (Border Agency Cooperation)</p> <p>(CTI 05 2020A)</p> <p>2020/SOM1/CTI/035</p>	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United States hosted a workshop on August 11 on Border Agency Cooperation (WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 8). The workshop was designed to build economy-level benefits of WTO TFA Article 8 implementation and raise awareness of border agency cooperation best practices to improve APEC economies' efficiency, predictability and transparency of border clearance procedures. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several assistance-eligible APEC economies have notified WTO TFA Article 8 as Category B or C, signaling the need for technical assistance and training to comply with Article 8 requirements. The project overseers have already made preliminary contact with potential volunteer economies to gauge their interest and brainstorm potential terms of reference. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil.

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28.	<p>APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2), including its extension until the end of 2023</p> <p>2020/CTI2/008</p>	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Thirteenth Meeting of the Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) took place on 18 August 2021. The meeting focused on stop gap measures put in place during COVID-19 and the possibility for permanent reform; emerging simplified procedures for low value shipments; and provided an update on supply chain programs and future work for APEC. - The APEC A2C2 was renewed for three additional years at CTI2 2020. The forum will foster innovative approaches to ongoing supply chain challenges in the coming years by bring together regional stakeholders to discuss potential local or regional solutions. In addition, A2C2’s work will continue to provide guidance and technical input surrounding implementation of the World Trade Organization’s Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning for the Fourteenth Meeting of the A2C2, to take place next year, are underway but no date has been set. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the upcoming A2C2 meeting.
29.	<p>Proposal for Recyclable Materials Policy Program (RMPP)</p> <p>(CTI 04 2020S)</p> <p>2020/SOM1/CTI/020</p>	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The self-funded Recyclable Materials Policy Program proposal was endorsed by economies on 13 June 2020. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United States hosted a webinar on 16 June on Improving Waste Management and Recycling Policies in the APEC Region. During the webinar there was a presentation on the preliminary findings of the study on Waste Management and Recycling (WMR) practices in APEC and alignment with APEC’s policy directions; a panel discussion involving public sector officials on existing policy frameworks guiding WMR, implementation challenges

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<p>including investment related constraints, social impacts, lessons learned and WMR solutions across the various APEC economies; and a private sector panel on attracting investment for WMR programs and infrastructure, aspects relating to trade in waste including e-waste and recyclable materials, and other innovative approaches for developing effective waste management solutions in the Asia Pacific region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on the study is underway. The intention is to provide a resource document for APEC on waste management and recycling (WMR). This seeks to help build capacity of policymakers to identify appropriate domestic policies that promote better WMR infrastructure, and help stakeholders to identify best practices appropriate for the scale, scope, and geography of their domestic waste management and recycling challenges <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil
30.	<p>Trade Policy Dialogue on Digital Trade</p> <p>(CTI 01 2021S)</p>	Internet and Digital Economy and E-Commerce	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Trade Policy Dialogue (TPD) on Digital Trade was held on May 18, 2021. The TPD discussed the ways in which cross-border data flows can facilitate the development of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence as well as emerging data transfer mechanisms and their impact on cross-border data flows. The discussion also focused on the continued evolution of trade agreements to meet digital realities, and specifically how APEC can play a concrete role in furthering discussions around digital trade. A second Digital Trade Policy Dialogue will occur during the first half of October 2021, which will delve further into these issues. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A summary report will be circulated to CTI members for endorsement.

No.	Initiative or item ³⁸	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CTI will need to endorse the summary of the TPD once it is circulated. Economies are also encouraged to participate in the second Digital Trade Policy Dialogue in October 2021.
31.	<p>Study: Policies and Regulatory Frameworks on Modern Digital Economy Issues – Open Government Data</p> <p>(CTI 05 2021S)</p>	Internet and Digital Economy and E-Commerce	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A self-funded proposal on open government data was endorsed by economies on May 12, 2021. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on the study is underway to identify emerging practices across the APEC region on the subject of facilitating access to open government data (OGD). The study will examine policies and regulatory frameworks surrounding this issue in APEC economies to identify divergences as well as alignment. By better understanding the various policies and regulatory frameworks of OGD measures, regulators can facilitate ways for companies to make more effective use of available data both domestically and internationally. - The United States will reach out to APEC economies interested in providing specific case studies or features in the report during the third or fourth quarters of 2021 and will deliver a summary of initial findings of the report on the margins of the First Senior Officials’ meeting in 2022. Feedback on the report in early 2022 will feed into the finalization of the report and possible follow-on activities (e.g., technical assistance and workshops during 2022 and 2023). <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interested economies are encouraged to provide case studies that can be included in the report.