



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2022/CTI/WKSP1/006

Session 3.1

Experiences in Coordination and Stakeholder Consultation

Submitted by: UNESCAP



**Capacity Building Workshop on Regional
Trade Agreement and Free Trade Agreement
Negotiation Skills on Transparency
13-14 January 2022**

Session 3: Experiences in Coordination and Stakeholder Consultation

**APEC Capacity Building Workshop on RTA/FTA
Negotiation Skills on Transparency**

Date: 13 – 14 January 2022

Rajan Sudesh Ratna

Deputy Head

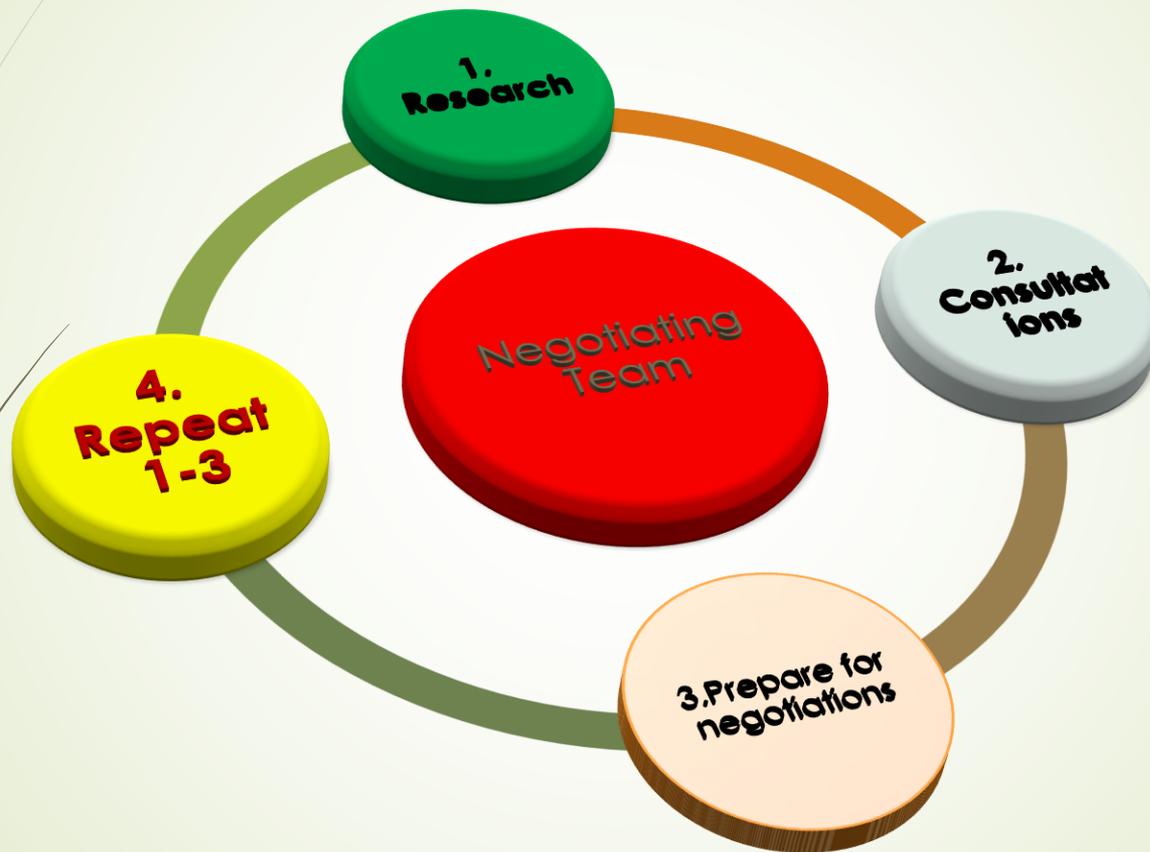
UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office

ratna@un.org

rsratna@gmail.com

Evidence based policy

- At every level of government, policymakers are facing the same challenge: How do we continue to innovate and make additional progress in addressing our domestic problems when budget cuts are making it difficult, if not impossible, to hold onto the gains we have already made?
- Most of the times the effectiveness of these policies are not known. Thus the role of stakeholder becomes very important.



Stakeholder's role

- At every stage ...
- Pre-negotiations: To vet the research and help policy maker in updating the studies (as they are based on old data) by giving the actual scenario
- During negotiations: help in identify:
 - Offensive interest
 - Defensive interest
- Post negotiations – implementation – TDM – the stakeholders play a very important role.

Stakeholder's role (2)

- Stakeholder's consultation is essential part of policy making for economies like USA and EC.
- They follow:
 - Posting information on website
 - Having sectoral consultations
 - Industry approaching directly the Government
- IPR in WTO came on demand from industry.
- Problem: Stakeholders do not directly participate in negotiations.

Stakeholders' consultations: Indian experience

6

- ▶ India's first FTA was with Sri Lanka.
- ▶ A very important aspect which was missed, not by intent but because of the fact that ISFTA was India's first full fledged FTA and the negotiators could not visualise the future scenario: impact of FTA on Indian industry.
- ▶ Initial negotiations - no proper study was done to examine economically the sensitivity.
- ▶ Industry became more pro-active to feedback in India's policy making.
- ▶ Very wide stakeholder consultations were held in subsequent negotiations.

India's negotiations: Some illustrations

7

Economy/Group	Start	Finish	Total Time	No. of consultations held) (Inter Govt. & industry)
Sri Lanka	August 1998	November 1998	4 months	4-5
SAFTA	1999	2004	5 years	> 20
Singapore	2003	2005	2 years	>40
ASEAN	2004	2009	5 years	> 70
Republic of Korea	2006	2009	3 years	>30
Thailand	2004	Not concluded	>17 years	>50
BIMSTEC	2004	Not concluded	>17 years	>50
EC	2007	Not concluded	>14 years	>30
Japan	2007	2011	> 4 years	>40

RESEARCH

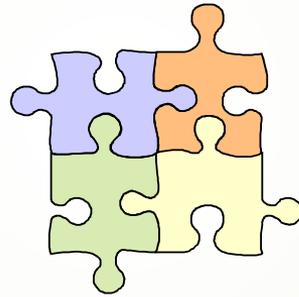


8



esh Ratna

CONSULTATIONS



NEGOTIATIONS



Conclusions

9

- ▶ The importance of proper research and stakeholders' consultations in the design of trade agreements – very important and essential.
- ▶ There are though several problems associated with:
 - ▶ Conflicting interests
 - ▶ Domestic policies
 - ▶ Inefficiencies
 - ▶ Large industry vrs. SME

THANK YOU