



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

25 March 2015

APTA Business Forum

19-20 March 2015
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Report of the APTA Business Forum

I. Proceedings

A. Opening Session

1. Mr. Seung-il Cheong, Director-General for FTA Policy, Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy, ROK, delivered a welcoming address in which he expressed the APTA as the oldest and one of the important preferential trade agreements in Asia. He noted that the participation of the private sector as well as member countries will be essential to implement APTA smoothly going forward.

2. Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director of ESCAP SRO-ENEA, also delivered a welcoming statement noting that the region needs to shore up domestic and regional demand through stronger intra-regional trade linkages. He also introduced his recent participation in the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan emphasizing sustainable development.

3. Dr. Joong-Wan Cho, Chief, APTA Secretariat, ESCAP delivered opening remarks. In his statement, he noted the success of APTA depends on the private sector as it is the business community that benefits mostly from this unique regional trade agreement. He also noted that the role of Business Forum is also important in the sense that the views from the private sector representatives of APTA Participating States would show the direction of APTA in the future.

B. APTA: Conclusion of the Fourth Round negotiations

4. Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer, TID/ESCAP made a presentation on “The Outcome of the 4th Round Negotiations and the Importance of Capturing Preferential Trade Data”. He briefed the significant changes in the outcome of the 4th Round negotiations and some foreseeable issues to address including the capturing and exchanging the preferential trade data. Discussions were held on the private sector perspective on implementation of the 4th Round concessions and dissemination to private sector. The business forum representatives felt that once the 4th Round is implemented it would be useful to have national workshops to disseminate the information and the business forum focal points will be able to coordinate such national workshops.

5. Ms. Jing Huang, Consultant, TID/ESCAP conducted a presentation on “NTM and ROO Database Developed by ESCAP under the 4th Round Concession Lists and Electronic CoO in APTA”. She stated that the Database is scheduled to be launched during the next Ministerial Council.

C. APTA and the Electronic Certificate of Origin (e-COO) Issues

6. Mr. Jun Ho Shin, Expert on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation, TID/ESCAP made a presentation on “ESCAP Resolution 70/6 on Cross-Border Paperless Trade”. The business forum was appreciative of ESCAP’s efforts in reducing the trade cost.

7. Mr. Sungheun Ha, Director, Korea Trade Network made a presentation on “The Recent Development of e-CoO in the Region and its Implications for APTA”.

8. The Sri Lankan delegation pointed out that they are in a process of implementation of e-CoO with the help of their development partner.

D. The ROK’s Trade Practices and Implications for APTA Utilization

9. Mr. Jaeho Jung, Deputy Director, Korea Customs Service made a presentation on “The Role of Korea Customs Service in Trade and APTA Utilization”.

10. Ms. Eun Suk Ahn, Manager, Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry made a presentation on “The Role of KCCI in Trade and APTA Utilization”.

11. Mr. Jay Ko, Sein Customs and Auditing Corporation made a presentation on “ROK Exporter’s APTA Utilization Case”.

E. Private Sector’s Perspectives on APTA and Future Action Plan - Establishment of APTA CCI Network and a roadmap to implement the issuance of electronic CoO

12. The respective representatives of Bangladesh, India, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia made presentations on the “Private Sector’s Perspectives on APTA and a Roadmap to Implement the Issuance of e-CoO”.

13. Sri Lanka representative briefed on the establishment of the APTA CCI Network including the overall structure, membership, and funding mechanism.

14. Bangladesh representative flagged a few issues; a fast-track visa issuance to APTA business sector stakeholders, the relationship between government and the private sector in the APTA CCI, and the possibility of the APTA business forum segment in the APTA Standing Committee and possibly in the APTA Ministerial Council meeting.

15. The Business Forum was informed of the decision of the 46th session of the APTA Standing Commission on the issue of APTA CCI as below:

“The Secretariat briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal on establishing the APTA CCI. The Standing Committee went through the proposal made by Sri Lanka focal point of the APTA Business Forum. While agreeing in principle that the establishment of APTA CCI will help promotion of trade and investment linkages among the APTA Participating States, it felt that the Business Forum should prepare a draft ToR for the APTA CCI which should include, inter alia, objectives, role and functions, chairmanship, funding mechanism, etc. for the APTA CCI, so that the Standing Committee can discuss them in the future.”

The Business Forum discussed the modalities for formulating the APTA CCI and the future work programme in this regard. On a query from the Business Forum if the members can attend the APTA SC or not, the Secretariat expressed that the present framework does not allow the Business Forum representatives to attend the APTA Standing Committee meeting as it is a closed meeting only participated by Government nominees of APTA PS. The Secretariat also informed that the relevant proposals and recommendations by the APTA Business Forum can be placed before the APTA Standing Committee by organizing the next business forum prior to the Standing Committee (SC) session rather than after the SC meeting. The Secretariat stated that it will examine if the Business Forum representatives can be allowed to attend the opening session of the APTA SC and present their report.

16. The APTA Secretariat requested the Sri Lankan representative to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) in view of the decision of the APTA Standing Committee and send it to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will circulate the draft to all the focal points of APTA business forum for their comments. The draft ToR will then be placed before the next Business Forum meeting for finalisation so that the recommended ToR can be placed before the next Standing Committee meeting for appropriate decision.

F. Other matters

17. The business forum representatives of APTA Participating States expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Korea Chamber of Commerce, and the APTA Secretariat for organizing and supporting the relevant and useful APTA Business Forum in Seoul.

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II. Final List of Participants

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

20 March 2015

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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