



Accession to the GPA: potential benefits and costs and policy considerations for Asian economies

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I. Present situation on GPA accessions

Present situation



At present, it has **15 Parties**, which together cover **43 WTO Members**.

- Recent accessions: Armenia, Croatia (as an EU member state).
- Two new accessions will become effective in 2015: Montenegro, New Zealand.
- Accessions in process (8): Albania, China, Georgia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Jordan, Moldova, Oman and Ukraine.
- Commitment to accede (5): the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Russian Federation.
- Others: Australia? Other Asian economies?

New requests for observership



- A total of 28 observer countries (+ 4 International Organizations), out of which eight are negotiating accession.
 - Observer status not necessarily linked to accession, comes with no strings attached/no obligations.
- New observers since 2010:
 - India: 10 February 2010
 - Malaysia: 18 July 2012
 - Indonesia: 31 October 2012
 - Montenegro: 31 October 2012
 - Viet Nam: 5 December 2012
 - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: 27 June 2013
 - Tajikistan: 25 June 2014
- Observer status can be requested by simple letter to the Chairman of the GPA Committee – Information sheet by the Secretariat available.
- Usefulness of observer status in order to follow and have the right to speak at Committee meetings, receive documentation, TA.



II. Potential benefits and costs

Potential benefits of accession *



Potential trade gains from assured access to other Parties' procurement markets and insulation from possible protectionist measures.



Possibilities for achieving enhanced value for money in acceding countries' own procurement systems.



Potentially increased incentives for inbound foreign direct investment.



Opportunity to influence the terms of other Parties' accessions.

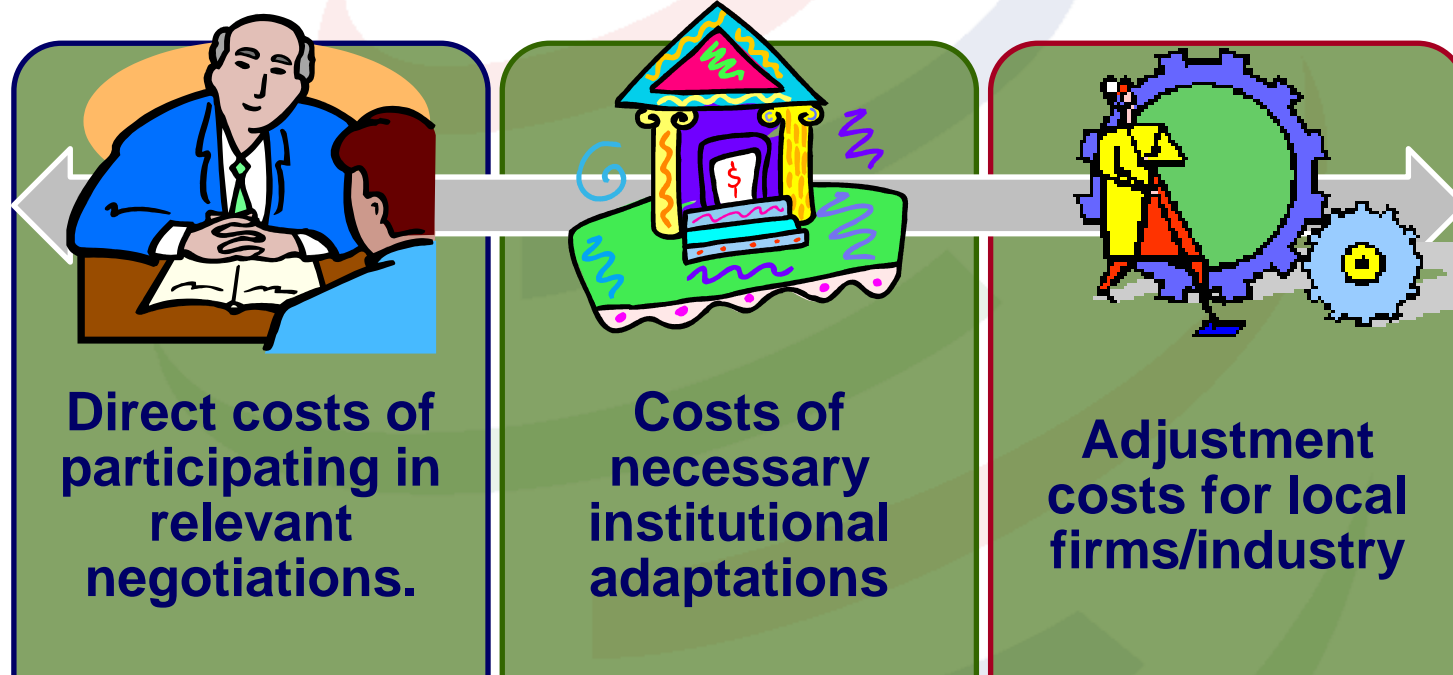


Opportunity to influence the future evolution of the Agreement.



***It is recognized that each acceding WTO Member must ultimately asses these for itself.**

Potential costs of accession*



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_4613

