

Capacity building workshop: Current trade-related issues and their implications for APTA

*11 September 2018, Courtyard Marriott Seoul Namdaemun hotel,
Seoul, Republic of Korea*

Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) was first signed in 1975 as a conventional Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) covering only goods under the name of Bangkok Agreement. In keeping with the global trends of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs), Participating States agreed to expand its coverage to other areas of cooperation in 2007 when the fourth-round negotiation launched. This was followed up by signing of three separate Framework Agreements on Trade Facilitation, Trade in Services and Investment. Since then, the Second Amendment to the APTA has been implemented (since 1 July 2018). All Participating States are now ready to move APTA toward to a comprehensive and truly region-wide trade agreement.

To this end, three Working Groups were established in March 2018 focusing on Services, Investment and Trade Facilitation. This workshop will review current trade-related issues in these areas and discuss their implications for APTA in support of the activities of the Working Groups. During the workshop, Working Groups will reaffirm their discussions from the previous meeting and review the agenda for the upcoming meeting. The workshop will also invite experienced ESCAP staff and experts to share their perspective on a wide range of trade-related issues such as enabling paperless trade in digital age, liberalization of environmental services and investment facilitation in RTAs and International Investment Agreements (IIAs), followed by interactive discussion among participants.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Time	Contents
Session 1	Opening for all Working Group
09:00~09:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks Ms. Mia Mikic Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division(TIID), UNESCAP Mr. Hodong Lee Director General, Int'l Tax & Customs Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF)
09:15~10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Working Group meetings (For all Working Groups) All WGs will meet in the plenary to review and reaffirm the outcome of the 1st Working Group meetings and review the agenda for the 2nd Working Group meetings
10:00~10:20	Break
Session 2	Workshop on current issues relevant to APTA
10:20~12:00	1) Current issues on trade facilitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trade Facilitation and paperless trade in Asia and the Pacific: State of play Mr. Yann Duval Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, TIID, ESCAP Secretariat ○ E-C/O exchange system for successful APTA Implementation Mr. Dong-soo Lee Deputy Director, FTA Cooperation Division, Korea Customs Service Q&A
12:00~13:30	Lunchbreak
13:30~15:10	2) Current issues on Trade in Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Service trade facilitation and liberalization of environmental services Ms. Witada Anukoowattaka Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, TIID, ESCAP Secretariat ○ Role of Ombudsman in facilitating FDI in Republic of Korea Mr. Rajan Ranta Economic Affairs Officer, SSWA-SRO, UNESCAP Q&A
15:10~15:30	Break
15:30~16:50	3) Current issues on Investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investment facilitation for APTA Participating States Mr. Marc Proksch Chief, Investment and Enterprise Development Section, TIID, ESCAP Secretariat ○ Role of Ombudsman in facilitating FDI in Republic of Korea Mr. Young Yeol Yoo Principal Executive Consultant, Office of the Foreign Investment Ombudsman, KOTRA (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency) Q&A
16:50~17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concluding remark Ms. Mia Mikic Director, TIID, United Nations ESCAP

**Note: Working Group on Rules of Origin (RoO) may have its separated meeting from the afternoon of 11 September 2018.*