



Headlines

Trade Facilitation & Trade Generation Councils at the 29 th CACCI Conference 2015 ...	3
ADB invests in regional trade capacity	3
ADB supports trade facilitation for Myanmar	4
The state of trade in Asia Pacific	5
Trade facilitation can increase trade by 21%: WB	7
Exim Bank of India finances export trade facilitation	8
Certificate of Origin experts discuss its future....	9
Stronger partnerships essential for TFA implementation: ICC.....	10
APEC building labor capacity to power trade and growth	11
WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement will produce extensive profits: OECD.....	11
APEC boosts WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement	12
Trade Facilitation contributes to supply chains: OECD	12
WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement could cut cost by up to 17.5%	13
WTO welcomes new notifications under Trade Facilitation Agreement.....	15
OECD's view of China's trade facilitation.....	16
Status report on Trade Facilitation worldwide..	16
ADB awards banks for promoting trade	17
ITC supports developing countries' Trade Facilitation efforts.....	18
Foreign & local Australian banks in trade finance battle	18

**Trade Facilitation
means profits**

**The state of trade
in Asia Pacific**

**Trade Facilitation can
increase trade by 21%**

**WTO Trade Facilitation
Agreement could cut cost
by up to 17.5%**

**APEC boosts WTO Trade
Facilitation Agreement**

**Fruitful trade discussion
at CACCI KL 2014**

Message from CACCI VP

Country Reports

Australia

China - Australia FTA leads
to duty-free fruit juices 19

Bangladesh

FBCCI in Dubai for business 20
Government to implement
Trade Facilitation measures 20

Brunei

Increasing trade by reducing tariffs 20

Cambodia

New border crossing to facilitate trade 20

China

China helps Asian LDCs
boost trade capacity 20
Transparent TPP should
help Asian trade 21

Georgia

Japanese delegation visits Georgia 21

Hong Kong

CACCI Conference to discuss
new market expansion strategies 22

India

FICCI Trade & Investment
delegation to USA & Mexico 23
Which exports can create
new Indian growth? 23

Korea

Korea-Chile business and trade forum 24

Malaysia

Fruitful discussions on trade at
28th CACCI - Kuala Lumpur 2014 24
Malaysia focused on TPPA 25

Mongolia

Mongolian customs officials will rotate 25

Nepal

KOTRA: Nepal has potential for trade 25

Nepal and Bangladesh
discuss trade and transit 26

Pakistan

Pak-China business forum
boosts bilateral trade 26

The Philippines

ASEAN - EU Business Summit 2015 27
WTO encourages RP to ratify
Trade Facilitation Agreement 27

Russian Federation

SCO projects cooperation
Russia-China-Mongolia 27
BRICS leaders met
BRICS Business Council 28

Sri Lanka

First Asia-Pacific conformity-
accreditation takes off in Colombo 28

Taiwan

Nation to continue promoting economic,
trade liberalization: BOFT 29

Tajikistan

Helping exporters in
Tajikistan and Mauritius 29

United States

Congress legislating trade facilitation 30

Uzbekistan

Does the one-stop-shop
approach facilitate trade? 30

Vietnam

Entry into TPP Helps Vietnam integrate
internationally: U.S Ambassador 31

Message from CACCI Vice President
Pradeep Shrestha 32

Joint message from two Chairmen:
"Easier trade means profits" 33

**Which exports can create
new Indian growth?**

Trade Facilitation & Trade Generation Councils joint session at the 29th CACCI Conference 2015

The Asian Council on Trade Facilitation (ACTF) and Asian Council on Trade Generation (ACTG) will hold a joint annual Break-out session on October 29, 2015 in Hong Kong.

To be held as part of the 29th CACCI Conference hosted by Kowloon Chamber of Commerce (KCC), the joint Break-out session will be co-chaired by Mr. R. B. Rauniar, Chairman of ACTF and Mr. Stewart Forbes, Chairman of ACTG.

The joint session will discuss the current status of the trade facilitation talks in the Asia Pacific region as leading institutions such as the World Trade Organization and Asian Development Bank create standards to eliminate barriers to trade to increase exports and create economic growth.

Important guest speakers as Ms. Maria Perez-Esteve, Counsellor from World Trade Organization (WTO) who will present the latest progress in the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement, and Mr. Bryan Clark, Director from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), who will discuss trade issues affecting the South East Asia region, with respect to Australia and its neighboring countries.

The session will be divided into two parts. Part one will see participants exchanging experiences and information on trade facilitation progress in the region and trade opportunities in selected CACCI countries.

Part two will consider future ACTF and ACTG activities, including membership expansion, networking plans, and training programs, among others.

CACCI members, government trade officials, and policy makers are encouraged to attend the joint Break-out session in Hong Kong and share their ideas on the current implementation of trade facilitation measures in Asia Pacific and trade generating strategies for CACCI members.

Join 29th CACCI Conference in Hong Kong, 29-30 October 2015



For more information on this year's 29th CACCI Conference, please visit:

<http://www.hkccc.org.hk/cacci>

ADB invests in regional trade capacity



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Asian
Development
Bank is

investing in technical assistance (TA) across Asia and the Pacific to improve many poor economies lacking the specialist skills needed to take advantage of new business opportunities created by global and regional integration.

The 2006 Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy of ADB under pillar 2 (trade and investment) intends to building trade capacity through ADB's regional departments and the Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI) in ADB's developing member countries (DMCs).

This ADB program seeks broad-based participation through stronger public-private partnership (PPP) and effective coordination with other trade-related projects in the region crucial to adopting a pragmatic regional trade.

The expected outcomes is to create more awareness of trade-related needs and an effective approach to closing regional gaps through aid for trade (AFT), a regional approach

and strengthened PPPs in trade facilitation; enhancing institutional capacity of DMCs in dealing with free trade agreements (FTAs); and deepening sub-regional integration. The ADB's TA included four major components:

1. An Aid for Trade Road Map for Asia and the Pacific,
2. Support for Regional Trade Facilitation,
3. Training Courses on Designing, Negotiating and Implementing FTAs, and
4. Support for Deepening Sub-regional Trade Integration.

The training programs have varied from year to year and since last year they focused on the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The FTA training programs were of good quality, made use of the existing ADB FTA and the trade facilitation manuals and enhanced awareness of trade-related needs, in partnership with WTO.

With \$17.5 billion in 2011, Asia was the second largest recipient of Aid for Trade (AFT) and was less affected than other regions (only 5% less than in 2010).⁶ Enhanced institutional capacity of DMCs to deal with trade agreements was somewhat manifest in growing numbers of concluded FTAs in Asia which rose from 3 in 2000 to over 70 in 2013.

The lessons learned from these training assistance included:

1. The need for on-going high-level and technical engagement with development partners (including the WTO and donors.
2. The need for sustained intensity to keep the private sector involved in the Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF).

The expansion and diversity of side events at APTFF on good practices in trade facilitation were positive and it was recommended that in the future more knowledge work and events share good practices particularly on trade facilitation and to foster a culture of continuous evaluation of projects and programs.

“Technical Assistance Completion Report.”
Asian Development Bank. Website. June 2015.

<http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/160091/42125-012-tcr.pdf>

ADB supports trade facilitation for Myanmar



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Asian Development Bank's Regional

Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division approved technical assistance (TA) on trade facilitation support for Myanmar.

The TA was expected to help improve the capacity of Myanmar Customs Department (MCD) to benchmark trade facilitation services by conducting time release studies (TRS) and to help MCD align the regulatory framework of its Customs operations with international standards.

The training assistance was designed to deliver two outputs: (i) trade facilitation indicators established through TRS; and (ii) regulatory framework and operations of Customs reviewed. Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities

The implementation of the TA highlighted the challenges for MCD. Being the first initiative that highlighted the importance of TRS in facilitating trade, the conduct of the TRS was strongly supported both by the government and the private sectors.

Communication and coordination were significant challenges in TA implementation. The number of government officials with English proficiency was limited, and therefore, translator services were critical. Direct face-to-face meetings were often the most effective and efficient means to get information.

It is expected that closer coordination with Myanmar Resident Mission (MYRM) will help alleviate some of these communication difficulties.

“Technical Assistance Completion Report.”
Asian Development Bank. Website. May 15, 2015.

<http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/159952/46269-001-tcr.pdf>

CACCI

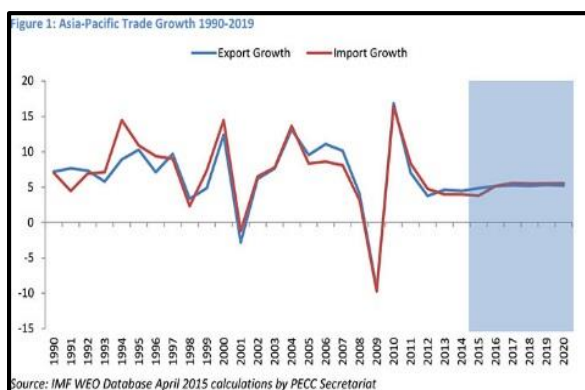
**Premier Business
Network in
Asia Pacific**

The state of trade in Asia Pacific



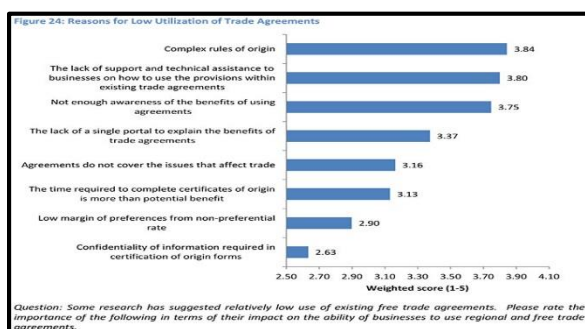
The Asia-Pacific regional economy is forecasted to grow by 3.9% in 2015, a

modest improvement from the estimated growth of 3.6% in 2014. Similarly, growth in the exports of goods and services is also expected to improve slightly from an estimated 4.5% in 2014 to around 4.9% this year as shown in Figure 1.



While the region's export performance is expected to be slightly better than the immediate post-Global Financial Crisis (GFC) years, this performance is well below the growth rates posted in the 1990s and early, pre-crisis 2000s.

The forecast for trade performance underscores the need of trade facilitation to achieve strong growth. Figure 2 shows a survey's results of the Asia-Pacific policy community conducted by Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC).



Some 52% of the participants considered trade facilitation for SME participation in global value chains important. These rankings echo views expressed on the major impediments to trade in the region due to the lack of the participation of small and medium enterprises in global trade.

Has Trade Reached a Peak?

Asia-Pacific opinion-leaders' bullishness on trade contradicts a major talking point among trade policy experts that trade has reached a peak. A look at the data over the longer term suggests the need for caution before reaching the conclusion that the trade summit has been reached is due more to structural rather than to cyclical factors.

There are important structural changes in major economies that might support the argument that trade has indeed reached a peak in terms of its dynamism in relation to growth.

Another critical factor to weigh in this equation is the impact of the 'creeping protectionism' witnessed since the Great Recession. While wholesale beggar-thy-neighbor tariff wars were avoided, evidence from both the WTO and unofficial monitors such as the Global Trade Alert suggest that protectionism is on the rise.

The challenge ahead is that significant non-tariff barriers including those that affect the service sector and investment.

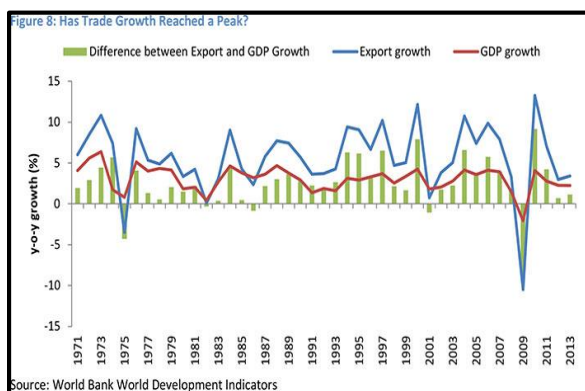
While it is up to respective governments to decide whether or not they wish to reduce these barriers, these are the exact type of barriers that are likely to impede an economy's participation in global value chains and prevent integration.

Over the course of the past 45 years there are several moments at which trade slowed significantly and grew only marginally faster than the broader economy. One observation is that periods of low overall growth for the world economy tend to be accompanied by slower export growth – and that the elasticity of export growth with respect to the growth of the overall economy tends to go down during lower growth periods.

But achieving solid, balanced growth will require economies to exit their stimulus programs and to adopt complex and varied structural reforms. These will be difficult to implement technically and politically.

One problem in analyzing the extent of rebalancing taking place is that even some 6 years after the depth of the crisis, significant stimulus remains in play distorting the picture even further. Indeed, interest rates remain exceptionally low and liquidity in capital markets very high. Even though the US has announced

an end to its third round of quantitative easing, the EU and Japan still have highly accommodative monetary stances in support of aggregate demand.



Slower economic growth in major export markets was perceived as by far the highest risk to trade growth, followed by competition from suppliers in other economies and exchange rate volatility.

Impediments to Trade

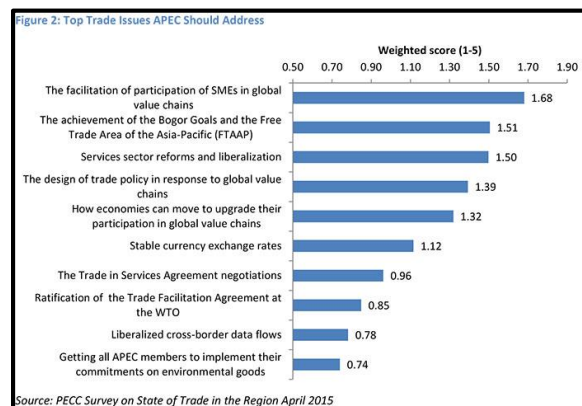
Regulatory measures affecting service sectors such as telecoms, finance and transport were ranked as the top trade impediment, followed by restrictions on investment and then other non-tariff measures. Concerns regarding impediments to services reflect their growing importance of services in the Asia-Pacific trade. Work to understand global value chains is revealing the importance in production across the board – whether in light manufacturing such as computers, or mining or even agriculture.

Yet, complex rules of origin appeared at the top of impediments according to the survey. While some rules are simple at face value, such as the ASEAN 40% regional value content rule (RVC 40), this was overhauled in 2003. An alternative change in tariff classification rule (CTC) “applicable to all products which cannot comply with the 40% local/ASEAN content requirement” was introduced in four sectors (wheat flour, wood-based products, aluminum products, and iron and steel), and later extended to ASEAN priority sectors.

The research findings underscored the problem that firms, especially SMEs, face in using the preferential tariffs available through trade deals. APEC’s strong engagement with business gives it an advantage. Moreover, given the prevalence

of value chains in regional trade, the rules of origin needs to be in focus.

The state of trade in the Asia-Pacific remains largely positive. However, slowing trade growth indicates that regional economies are not adjusting quickly enough to the evolution of global value chains. Indeed, the region would likely be best served by supporting more inclusive processes – whether multilaterally, or even the mega-regionals.



The low utilization rates of trade agreements – primarily due to complexity in compliance with rules, as well as low awareness levels, should give pause on the next steps taken in the integration process.

However, APEC’s continuing focus on economic integration supported by capacity building to address supply side constraints – whether through improving education policy or better infrastructure, has the potential to ensure that the benefits of trade are more broadly shared throughout the region’s economies.

Low, Patrick and Pedrosa, Eduardo. “The State of Trade in the Region.” Pacific Economic Cooperation Council. Website. 2015.

<http://www.pecc.org/state-of-the-region-reports/268-2015-2016/619-the-state-of-trade-in-the-region>

CACCI 50 years of Partnership in Asia Pacific

Trade facilitation can increase trade by 21%: WB



In 2014 the Doing Business project's Trading across

Borders team took on additional research aimed at providing new data to complement existing tools for benchmarking in trade facilitation. The study applied a time-and-motion approach to map out the step-by-step procedures in trade.

The research focused on 10 economies: Bangladesh, Benin, China, the Czech Republic, Honduras, the Republic of Korea, Moldova, Qatar, St. Lucia and Zambia.

Two lists of procedures were created for each economy, one for exporting and one for importing. These procedure lists made possible to clearly identify what steps have to take place in exporting and importing, how much time each of them took and how much each costs.

Among the 10 case study economies, Korea has the fewest procedures, landlocked economies tend to have the most procedures because of the many additional procedures at the border. The exception is the Czech Republic, which has the second fewest procedures among the case study economies.

A higher number of procedures to export and import can be associated with higher fees charged for customs and port-related services. The methodology allowed the research to take into account the simultaneity of procedures that in practice often happen in parallel. This approach therefore produced lower estimates of the total time to trade than reflected in the Trading across Borders data—22% lower for exporting and 32% lower for importing.

Trade can promote faster growth and development and higher income per capita in an economy. At the firm level, trade allows local entrepreneurs to become part of global supply chains, access raw materials and know-how, expand their markets and, by achieving economies of scale, reduce their per-unit costs.

But achieving efficient trade is not easy because a range of factors can hamper a firm's ability to access global markets: inadequate infrastructure, inefficient port operations, excessive documentation requirements, time

consuming customs procedures, complicated border processes, high costs along the logistics chain, and heavy-handed audits and inspections by different government agencies.

These obstacles can be reduced through trade facilitation, defined by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business as “the simplification, standardization and harmonization of procedures and associated information flows required to move goods from seller to buyer and to make payment.”

Multiple studies have confirmed the positive effect of trade facilitation on trade costs and volumes. If APEC improves port efficiency, customs environment, e-business and regulatory environment, the study shows that APEC members could increase trade by \$254 billion—or by 21%.

The research findings indicate that economies that perform well on Trading across Borders indicators tend to have a smaller number of procedures, while those that perform poorly tend to have a larger number. But differences emerge even between economies with similar rankings on the ease of trading across borders.

Among coastal or island economies, those in the low-income or lower-middle-income group (Bangladesh, Benin and Honduras) tend to have more procedures than the average for exporting or importing (or for both), despite having direct access to the open sea.

By contrast, those in the upper-middle-income or high-income group (China, the Czech Republic, Korea and Qatar) either match the average or have fewer procedures. The one exception is upper-middle-income St. Lucia, with 14 procedures to import.

For instance, in Korea the customs clearance process takes only one procedure, with no associated cost, for both exports and imports. Moreover, for imports the process takes only 3 hours, while for exports the time is recorded as 0 (with the exports released instantly in most cases).

Korea has developed an electronic single window, connecting more than 38 participating government agencies as well as banks, traders and carriers. Users can access services at any time and from any place, and there is no charge for using the system. Korea is ranked number 3

on the ease of trading across borders in Doing Business 2015 (World Bank 2014).

Landlocked economies could greatly reduce the transport time not only by improving poor road infrastructure but also by addressing time delays caused by burdensome customs procedures at the border and by queues, police checkpoints and numerous weigh stations.

Conclusion

Economies that perform well on the Trading across Borders demonstrates the importance of trade facilitation measures that target the entire export and import process—from warehouse to seaport.

Table 1. Number of export and import procedures in the case study economies

Economy	Region ^a	Income group	Geography	Ranking on ease of trading across borders ^b	Export procedures	Import procedures
Bangladesh	SAS	Low income	Coastal	140	14	13
Berlin	SSA	Low income	Coastal	121	16	14
China	EAP	Upper middle income	Coastal	98	13	13
Czech Republic	OECD	High income	Landlocked	58	8	8
Honduras	LAC	Lower middle income	Coastal	70	14	13
Korea, Rep.	OECD	High income	Coastal	3	7	6
Moldova	ECA	Lower middle income	Landlocked	152	16	20
Qatar	MENA	High income	Coastal	61	12	11
St. Lucia	LAC	Upper middle income	Island	122	12	14
Zambia	SSA	Lower middle income	Landlocked	177	23	21

a. EAP = East Asia and the Pacific; ECA = Europe and Central Asia; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA = Middle East and North Africa; OECD = OECD high-income economies; SAS = South Asia; SSA = Sub-Saharan Africa.
b. Rankings are as reported in *Doing Business 2015* (World Bank 2014) and refer to the full *Doing Business* sample of 189 economies.

The research highlights the importance to landlocked economies of simplifying customs procedures by establishing joint border control—or eliminating them altogether by joining customs unions. Direct access to the sea is no guarantee of efficiency in procedures:

Inefficient customs and port procedures, lack of connection between the electronic systems used by port and customs authorities, and requirements to submit hard copies of documents in addition to lodging them electronically must be targets of trade facilitation programs.

Bilotserkivska, Iryna. “Measuring trade facilitation step by step: findings from a sample of 10 economies.” World Bank Group, Doing Business 2015. Website. 2015.

<file:///C:/Users/CACCI/Desktop/Measuring-trade-facilitation-step-by-step.pdf>

Exim Bank of India finances export trade facilitation

As the premier institution for India's international trade, Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) manifested through its “Project Export Finance Facility” that it aims to provide Indian companies with a comprehensive range of financing options including loans and guarantees, information, advisory and support services. This initiative played a significant role in catalyzing India's project exports last year.

With Exim Bank India's ‘Project Export Finance Facility’, Indian companies made an impressive growth in 2014 in a number of areas like civil construction projects, turnkey projects and technical services. Also with the support of Exim Bank, project export contracts valued more than US\$3.5 billion were secured by Indian companies during the FY 2014-1015. And at the end of December 2014, 374 project export contracts valued at approximately USD 27 billion supported by Exim Bank were under execution in 78 countries across Asia, Africa, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) by 112 Indian companies.



“Project Export Finance Facility”: Exim India's Holistic Approach to Trade Facilitation & Finance.” Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific. Website. June 8, 2015.

<http://www.adfiap.org/news/members-news/project-export-finance-facility-exim-indias-holistic-approach-to-trade-facilitation-finance/>

Certificate of Origin experts discuss its future

More than 50 chamber trade experts from 30 countries used the 9th World Chambers Congress to dialogue on trade documents, in authorized economic operator (AEO), trusted traders programs and electronic certificates of origin (eCOs).

During a workshop dedicated to Certificates of Origin, chambers and customs representatives exchanged their opinions on topics such as the opportunities and role for chambers in Free Trade agreements, in defining origin and the benefits of eCOs for businesses and Customs.

Chambers of commerce play a crucial role in defining origin. Marc Bauer, Head of Foreign Trade at Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce, representing the ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation, presented the position paper stating that ICC observes the proliferation of non-preferential rules of origin as an increasing barrier to cross-border trade and calls for a standstill until either a multilateral agreement can be reached.

Martin Van der Weide, Policy Advisor from the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, focused his presentation on the benefits and challenges of eCOs systems for business and Customs and the importance of opening a dialogue between Customs and chambers for their acceptance worldwide.



Participants also discussed the challenges of electronic COs worldwide and the importance of customs recognizing digitalized trade documents.

Andrew Willcocks, Senior Adviser, Trade Facilitation, Australian Chamber of Commerce, encouraged chambers to pave the way for the future in creating a "trusted" trade environment.

The meeting was moderated by Lee Ju Song, Executive Director of ICC Asia, with introductory remarks on the work done by the International CO Council provided by Peter Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Lee said that due to the changes in the supply chain as well as changes in investment patterns and trade trends, origin criteria face challenges. Criteria for non-preferential origin has become more complex as re-export account for up to 45% of major trading countries' total exports.

International CO Accreditation Chain

The Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry became the twelfth member country of the CO Chain. The other 11 members are:

1. Australian Chamber of Commerce
2. Federation of Belgian Chambers
3. British Chambers of Commerce
4. Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce
5. China Council for the Promotion of International Trade
6. Dubai Chamber of Commerce
7. Netherlands Chamber of Commerce
8. Paris Ile de France Chamber of Commerce
9. Singapore International Chamber of Commerce
10. Korean Chamber of Commerce
11. Slovak Chamber of Commerce.

The International CO Chain was launched by the ICC World Chambers Federation in September 2012 based on its International Certificates of Origin Guidelines, on voluntary basis. Chamber members benefit from the use of the internationally recognized quality label and the frequently visited CO online verification website, which reinforce their integrity and credibility as competent trusted third parties in issuing COs.

"Certificate of Origin experts meet to discuss the future of origin." International Chamber of Commerce. Website. June 22, 2015.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/Products-and-Services/Certificate-of-Origin-experts-meet-to-discuss-the-future-of-origin/>

Stronger partnerships essential for TFA implementation: ICC

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) joins forces with the World Bank and the United Nations (UN) on ratification and implementation of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). During its annual meeting in Geneva, the Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade (GFP) identified private sector engagement as vital for effective implementation of the agreement.

The GFP brought together ICC, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Bank, the International Trade Center (ITC), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to achieve significant improvements in transport and trade facilitation.

Gathered at UN Headquarters in Geneva on 22 April, over 150 representatives of governments, private sector, international organizations and trade experts discussed the role of the business community in the implementation of the TFA. By implementing the TFA many developing countries will increase their capacity to handle and grow their share of international trade and attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

- Implementing the TFA

Since its adoption by WTO members in November 2014, thus far only Hong Kong, Mauritius, Singapore and the United States, have ratified the TFA. Ratifications from 108 WTO members are needed for the agreement to enter into force.

Donia Hammami, ICC policy manager in charge of customs and trade facilitation, highlighted four key characteristics for a successful approach to TFA implementation: business engagement, ambition, speed and a coherent approach to implementation.

Category A provisions are to be implemented upon entry into force of the TFA. ICC recommends a harmonized implementation of TFA articles and identifies the World Customs Organization's Mercator Programme as a useful guideline for implementation. While emphasizing the need for multistakeholder dialogue on the national level, Ms Hammami said: "trade facilitation would need to be championed by all agencies and stakeholders involved."



- Private sector engagement

In its global advocacy efforts ICC has always underscored the importance of understanding the border challenges businesses face to enhance national competitiveness. Fostering private sector participation to facilitate practical feedback is instrumental to ensure government solutions fit practical needs and enhance trade flows rather than being burdensome for businesses.

In Geneva, the GFP's members agreed to encourage private sector involvement, including SMEs, in their trade facilitation efforts. In its outcome document the GFP declared the establishment of national committees on trade facilitation an important step to safeguard regular consultation with private sector representatives in order to identify legislative gaps and bottlenecks. Furthermore, the GFP partners will provide technical support and capacity building to assist in the implementation of the WTO TFA in developing countries.

"Stronger partnerships essential for robust deliverables on TFA implementation."
International Chamber of Commerce.
Website. May 7, 2015.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2015/Stronger-partnerships-essential-for-robust-deliverables-on-TFA-implementation/>

APEC building labor capacity to power trade and growth



Senior education, labor and social protection officials and the private sector from the [21 APEC member economies](#) convened in Port Moresby on May 7 2015

intent on equipping labor forces across the Asia-Pacific to thrive as next generation trade and growth-enhancing measures come online.

Officials gathered for the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Human Capacity Building and focused on opening up new career training, skills development and study opportunities and considering private sector inputs to ensure compatibility with the needs of industry.

Areas in the spotlight include improving financial services and information and communications technology access and training, reducing administrative barriers to starting a business, guidance on production chain integration, and greater social support for women, youth and the disabled, among others.

The SME sector alone accounts for over 97 per cent of all businesses and employs more than half the workforce in APEC region but contributes a small amount of exports.

“To maximize the participation of SMEs in the regional and global value chains, APEC needs to identify measures that will provide an open and transparent business environment suited for innovation and entrepreneurship,” expressed Mario A. Deriquito, Philippine Undersecretary of Education. “SMEs must also be provided easier access to finance, markets and technology.”

“APEC Building Labor Capacity to Power Trade, Inclusive Growth.” Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation High Level Policy Dialogue on Human Capacity Building. Website. May 7, 2015.

http://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2015/0507_HCB.aspx

CACCI

50 years
of Partnership
in Asia Pacific

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement will produce extensive profits: OECD



In a trade facilitation study presented by the OECD, experts estimated the effects of trade facilitation on export diversification, as measured by

two extensive margins: the number of products exported by destination and the number of export destinations served by product.

To address the issue of causality, the paper employed an identification strategy whereby only exports of new products, or exports to new destinations, were taken into account when computing the respective margins of trade.

The study found a positive impact of trade facilitation on the extensive margins of trade.

[The results of this study](#) were robust to alternative definitions of extensive margins, different sets of controls and various estimation methods. Simulation results suggest substantial extensive margin gains from trade facilitation reform in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The estimation results were convincing, with the coefficient on the trade facilitation variable being positive and statistically significant across almost all specifications. Using these estimates, the experts simulated the impact of implementing the agreement on developing countries' extensive margin of trade.

Implementation of the agreement was measured using two alternative realistic scenarios – convergence to the regional median and convergence to the global median. Developing countries were likely to experience a substantial increase in the number of products exported and of destination markets.

For Sub-Saharan African countries, the simulations suggested they could see an increase of up to 15.7% in the number of products exported by destination and an increase of up to 27.9% in the number of export destinations by product.

For countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the simulations suggested they could see an increase of up to 12.2% in the number of products exported by destination and an

increase of up to 21.7% in the number of export destinations by product.

These numbers have to be treated with caution. Nonetheless, they implied potentially sizeable impacts of the Trade Facilitation Agreement on extensive margins of export, and therefore on export diversification.

Cosimo Beverelli, Simon Neumueller, Robert Teh. "Export Diversification Effects of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement." FIW. OECD. Website, January 2015.

<http://www.fiw.ac.at/fileadmin/Documents/Publicationen/Working Paper/N 137 BeverelliNeumuellerTeh.pdf>

APEC boosts WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement



APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Chair Agaton Uvero discusses efforts to bring the agreement online to make it easier to trade at borders for businesses large and small.

http://www.apec.org/Press/Videos/2015/0525_WTO_TFA.aspx

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Asia Pacific**

Trade Facilitation contributes to supply chains: OECD



The internationalization of production has given rise to complex cross-border flows of goods, know-how, investment, services and people, referred to as "supply-chain trade".

The [OECD paper](#) analyzed shed empirical light on how specific border procedures impact the functioning of supply chains and draw attention to the policy implications. The report carried out an assessment of the contribution of trade facilitation measures to the operation of supply chains, using data from the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators (TFI) database and from the OECD-WTO database on trade-in-value-added. It drew on new trade facilitation data for OECD countries, collected over the summer 2014.

The analysis focuses on three different measures of integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs), the amount of foreign value-added embodied in final domestic demand or in gross exports of a reference country, and the amount of domestic value-added embodied in foreign final demand.

These measures gave a metric of engagement in the form of buying from and selling to GVCs, so as to allow exploring within a gravity model framework the impact of trade facilitation measures on the demand and the supply sides of the value chain activity.

Their sectoral coverage organized into four main categories, namely agriculture-primary products, low tech industries, medium-low tech industries and high and medium high tech industries, also allows exploring the specific impact on sector-pairs where value added originates and where it is directed for final consumption or further processing.

Overall, the estimates highlighted a positive relationship at the sector level between various sets of specific trade facilitation measures and indicators capturing the level and intensity of countries' integration in global value chains. The analysis finds that a small increase of 0.1 in Trade Facilitation Indicators (TFIs) performance (TFIs values range between 0 and 2, where 2 denotes the best performance possible that can

be achieved) could generate increases in a country's value-added "imports" ranging between 1.5 and 3.5%, while in the case of "exports" these increases could range between 1 and 3%.

Measures that appeared to encourage the most linkages on the demand side of the value chain activity are, by order of magnitude, the availability of advance rulings, the streamlining of border procedures and controls, the proportionality and transparency of import and export fees and charges and the automation of the border process.

The impact of trade facilitation measures seemed to be most significant when the value-added originates in "medium-low tech industries", such as mining and quarrying or basic metals sectors, or in "high and medium-high tech industries", such as transport equipment, chemicals and electrical and optical equipment, while the destination sector belongs to "high and medium-high tech industries".

Most results for the agriculture-primary products sectors showed a weak correlation between the value added traded and trade facilitation. The key sets of trade facilitation measures for developing the supply side of the value chain activity, or the reference country's export base, include the availability of trade-related information, the opportunities for dialogue with the trade community, the proportionality and transparency of import and export fees and charges, the automation of the border process, and the streamlining of border procedures and controls.

Evdokia Moisé and Silvia Sorescu.
"Contribution of Trade Facilitation Measures to the Operation of Supply Chains." Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development - Trade Policy Papers, No. 181, OECD Publishing, Paris. May 29, 2015.

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/5js0bslh9m25.pdf?expires=1439279929&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=CEE09717479B77D7BD01A06014501FBB>

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement could cut cost by up to 17.5%



The [2015 OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators](#) (TFIs) found that the implementation of the TFA could reduce worldwide trade costs by between 12.5% and

17.5%. Countries which implement the TFA in full will reduce their trade costs by between 1.4 and 3.9 percentage points more than those that do only the minimum that the TFA requires.

The opportunities for the biggest reductions in trade costs are greatest for low and lower middle income countries.

What are the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators? The 2015 OECD TFIs covered 152 countries across different geographical regions and levels of development. Using cost estimates from the updated ESCAP-World Bank Trade Costs Dataset, they provided the most current assessment of the potential impact of implementing the measures included in the WTO TFA.

They also allowed countries to identify their strengths and weaknesses in trade facilitation, prioritize areas for action and mobilize technical assistance and capacity building in a more targeted way. The OECD TFIs measured the actual extent to which countries have introduced and implemented trade facilitation measures in absolute terms, but also their performance relative to others, using a series of quantitative measures on key areas of the border process. The updated OECD TFIs also allow countries to monitor their progress since 2012 and to make comparisons with individual countries or groups of countries of interest.

Two interactive web tools allowed users to compare country performance across the 11 trade facilitation indicators, to discover the key measures driving the performance of a selected country in a specific indicator, and to simulate the effects of potential policy reforms.

What reduction in trade costs is expected from implementation of the TFA?

1 • The potential cost reduction from a "full" implementation of the TFA is 16.5% of total costs for low income countries, 17.4% for lower-

middle income countries, 14.6% for upper-middle income countries and 11.8% for OECD countries according to 2015 TFI data.

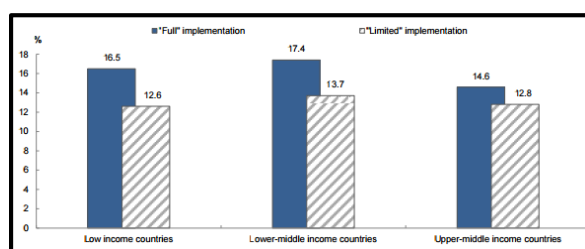
2 • If countries limit themselves to the mandatory provisions of the agreement, the potential reduction reaches 12.6% for LICs, 13.7% for LMICs, 12.8% for UMICs and 10.4% for OECD countries.

2015 OECD TFI data show that a higher level of ambition in implementing the best endeavours provisions of the TFA would generate very substantial benefits of 3.9, 3.7, 1.8 and 1.4 percentage points more than if countries only implemented mandatory provisions. The opportunity costs were particularly high for the low and lower middle income country groups, as many upper middle and high income countries already implement measures that are formulated on a “best endeavours” basis.

What trade facilitation measures are estimated to have the greatest impact?

- Improvements in the area of formalities (simplification of trade documents; streamlining of border procedures; and automation of the border process) appeared to have the greatest impact on trade costs, generating cost savings of 2.8% to 4.2% depending on the level of development. Other policy areas that have an important potential for cost reductions were the availability of trade-related information and the possibility to request advance rulings.

Figure 1. Overall potential trade cost reductions by income group



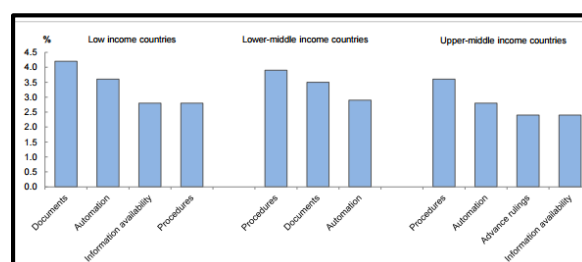
What trade facilitation measures are estimated to have the greatest impact?

- Improvements in the area of formalities (simplification of trade documents; streamlining of border procedures; and automation of the border process) appeared to have the greatest impact on trade costs, at 2.8% to 4.2% depending on the level of

development. Other cost saving policies were availability of trade-related information and the possibility of advance rulings.

- For low income countries the measures with the potential to most reduce trade costs are: harmonising and simplifying trade documents (4.2%); automating trade and customs processes (3.6%); ensuring the availability of trade-related information (2.8%) and streamlining border procedures (2.8%).
- For lower middle income countries, streamlining border procedures have the greatest impact (3.9%), while harmonizing, simplifying and automating trade documents and customs procedures would reduce costs by 3.5% and 2.9% respectively.
- For upper middle income countries the measures with the greatest impact on trade costs are streamlining border procedures (3.6%), automating trade and customs processes (2.8%), ensuring the availability of trade-related information (2.4%) and providing advance rulings on customs matters (2.4%).

Figure 2. Potential trade cost reductions by measure



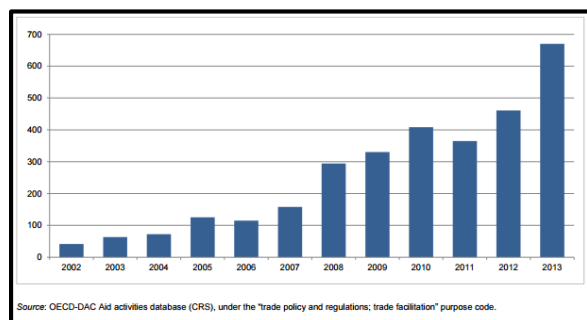
What support is available to help countries implement trade facilitation measures?

Expenses for purchasing equipment, training officials and putting in place new measures have benefitted from substantial technical and financial assistance for trade facilitation over the last decade. Since 2005, approximately USD 1.9 billion has been disbursed in aid for trade facilitation.

Donor commitments directed to simplifying and modernizing border rules and procedures reached USD 670 million in 2013, an almost eightfold increase from the 2002-05 base-line average. The largest beneficiary was Africa, which received USD 268 million in 2013, a 25-

fold increase over a ten-year period. Indeed, aid for trade facilitation resisted the financial crisis relatively well, declining by 10% between 2010 and 2011, compared to the 14% decline in overall aid for trade commitments in 2011.

Figure 3. Commitments 2002-13 (USD million, 2013 constant prices)



In addition, the equipment and infrastructure needs of trade facilitation reforms have also benefited from the substantial funds directed to trade-related infrastructure, with USD 18.7 billion devoted to transport and storage and USD 1 billion devoted to communications in 2013.

Trade Facilitation Indicators OECD has developed a set of indicators to assess trade facilitation policies, including the following:

Information Availability	Enquiry points; publication of trade information, including on Internet
Involvement of the Trade Community	Consultations with traders
Advance Rulings	Prior statements by the administration to requesting traders concerning the classification, origin, valuation method, etc., applied to specific goods at the time of importation; the rules and process applied to such statements
Appeal Procedures	The possibility and modalities to appeal administrative decisions by border agencies
Fees and Charges	Disciplines on the fees and charges imposed on imports and exports
Formalities – Documents	Acceptance of copies, simplification of trade documents; harmonisation in accordance with international standards
Formalities – Automation	Electronic exchange of data; use of risk management; automated border procedures
Formalities – Procedures	Streamlining of border controls; single submission points for all required documentation (single windows); post-clearance audits; authorised economic operators
Internal Co-operation	Control delegation to Customs authorities; co-operation between various border agencies of the country
External Co-operation	Co-operation with neighbouring and third countries
Governance and Impartiality	Customs structures and functions; accountability; ethics policy

“Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: The Potential Impact on Trade Costs.” Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development – Trade and Agriculture Directorate. Website. June 2015.

http://www.oecd.org/trade/tradedev/WTO-TF-Implementation-Policy-Brief_EN_2015_06.pdf

WTO welcomes new notifications under Trade Facilitation Agreement



64 developing and least-developed country members have now submitted notifications to the WTO outlining which provisions of the [new Trade Facilitation Agreement \(TFA\)](#) they intend to implement upon entry into force of the pact.

At the 11 June meeting of the WTO's Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation (PCTF) informed that number of "Category A" notifications received is an "encouraging sign of members' continued commitment" to the TFA

In addition to the three least-developed countries (LDCs), new Category A notifications have been received from Dominica, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago.

The TFA broke new ground for developing and least-developed countries in the way it will be implemented. For the first time in WTO history, the requirement to implement the Agreement was directly linked to the capacity of the country to do so. In addition, the Agreement states that assistance and support should be provided to help them achieve that capacity.

Developing and LDC members must notify the WTO which provisions they will implement when the Agreement enters into force or, in the case of LDCs, within one year after entry into force (Category A commitments); which provisions they will implement after a transitional period following the entry into force of the Agreement (Category B); and which provisions they will implement on a date after a transitional period following the entry into force of the Agreement and that require the acquisition of assistance and support for capacity building (Category C)

The TFA will only enter into force once two-thirds of the WTO membership (108 members) has formally accepted the Agreement. To date, Hong Kong China, Singapore, the United States, Mauritius, Malaysia, Japan and Australia have ratified the TFA, representing 6 per cent of the total needed to ensure entry into force.

“Chair welcomes new notifications under the Trade Facilitation Agreement.” World Trade Organization. Trade Facilitation. Website. June 11, 2015.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news15_e/af_12jun15_e.htm

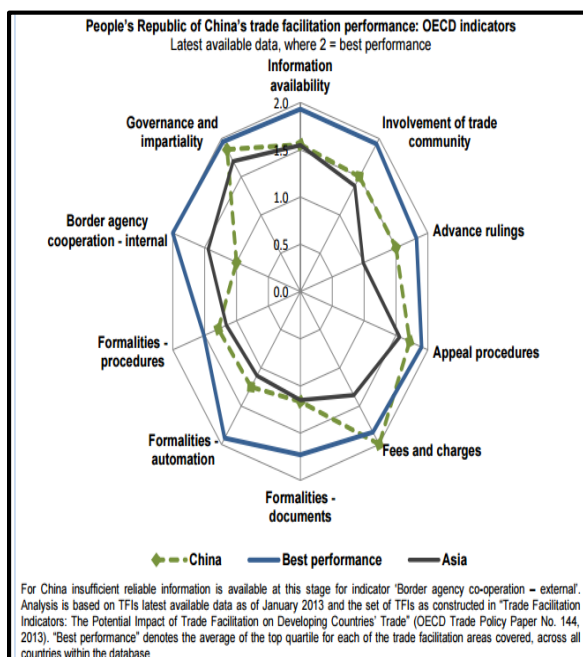
OECD's view of China's trade facilitation



An [OECD Study of China's trade facilitation](#) indicated that China performs better than the average of Asian and upper middle-income countries in the areas of

advance rulings, appeal procedures, fees and charges and governance and impartiality.

China's performance for internal border agency cooperation is below the average.



“Trade Facilitation Indicators – People's Republic of China.” Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. Website. April 2014.

<http://www.oecd.org/china/china-oecd-trade-facilitation-indicators-april-2014.pdf>

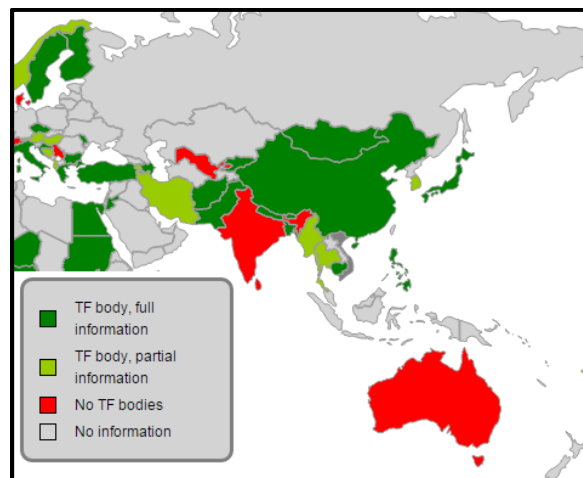
Status report on Trade Facilitation worldwide



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published a new report in January of last year analyzing 50 trade facilitation

bodies. The report that complements an earlier one on the same subject published in 2013, also offers a first-hand set of recommendations and policy-oriented conclusions aimed at assisting countries strengthening their national trade facilitation committees because with the signing of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement, countries are committed to creating or maintaining a national trade facilitation committee.

In this context, this UNCTAD publication, based on an in-depth analysis of 50 trade facilitation bodies, is very helpful. It provides the first quantitative analysis of existing national trade facilitation bodies and recommendations based on experiences.



Trade Facilitation in CACCI's area

The study shows that, regardless of the type of body, the biggest challenge for trade facilitation working groups is their sustainability. There is no one determining element, but many factors might have an impact on the sustainability of a group. The relative importance of each element depends on the administrative culture of each country. However, analysis shows that the level of development of a country is the most influential factor on the sustainability of a group.

The type of body and geographical region may also be determining elements.

With an interactive and user-friendly interface, UNCTAD's latest version of the [online repository of national trade facilitation bodies](#) presents information from trade facilitation platforms in over 80 countries and also assists UNCTAD member States in creating or strengthening trade facilitation bodies through useful information about country cases from different geographical regions on the establishment and management of trade facilitation bodies.

“New report on national trade facilitation bodies in the world.” United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Website. February 18, 2015.

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=928&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home:#1450:#Technology and Logistics:#1721:#Transport:#510:#Trade Facilitation

ADB awards banks for promoting trade



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) held

on April 23, 2015 its first annual Trade Finance Program (TFP) awards ceremony, with 12 partner banks recognized for their role in supporting trade in the region.

“These awards give ADB’s TFP an opportunity to recognize the contributions of our partner banks in supporting trade in developing Asia,” said Steven Beck, head of trade finance at ADB. “Our work together helps create growth and jobs.”

While 11 of the award recipients are banks in TFP’s countries of operation, one international bank, JP Morgan Chase, was also awarded.

The TFP helps fill market gaps for trade finance in developing Asia by providing guarantees and loans to banks to support trade. Backed by ADB’s AAA credit rating, the program works with over 200 partner banks to provide companies with the financial support they need to engage in import and export activities.



Since 2009, the TFP has supported more than 6,000 small and medium-sized enterprises in about 10,000 transactions valued at over \$20 billion in a wide range of sectors, from commodities and capital goods to medical supplies and consumer goods in the region’s most challenging markets.

Here is the full list of award recipients:

- Leading Partner Bank in Armenia – Armenian Economy Development Bank OJSC
- Leading Partner Bank in Bangladesh – Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd
- Leading Partner Bank in Georgia – TBC Bank
- Leading Partner Bank in Indonesia – PT Bank Muamalat Indonesia
- Leading Partner Bank in Mongolia – Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia
- Leading Partner Bank in Nepal – Nabil Bank Ltd
- Leading Partner Bank in Pakistan – Habib Metropolitan Bank Ltd
- Leading Partner Bank in Sri Lanka – National Development Bank Plc
- Leading Partner Bank in Tajikistan - OJSC Bank Eskhata
- Leading Partner Bank in Uzbekistan – OJSC Bank Hamkorbank
- Leading Partner Bank in Viet Nam – Vietnam International Commercial Joint Stock Bank
- Leading Partner Confirming Bank – JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A.

- Leading SME Trade Bank – Vietnam International Commercial Joint Stock Bank

“ADB Awards Partner Banks for Promoting Trade in Developing Asia.” Asian Development Bank. News Release. Website. April 23, 2015.

<http://www.adb.org/news/adb-awards-partner-banks-promoting-trade-developing-asia>

ITC supports developing countries' Trade Facilitation efforts

The private sector must participate in analysis, decision making, and supervision of the trade facilitation's implementation.



With assistance from International Trade Centre (ITC) in 2014, eight developing countries

formally identified and announced binding commitments to improve customs and border procedures, with a dozen more such notifications under the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the pipeline.

The agreement, concluded in December 2013 and written into WTO rules 11 months later, promises to be an important tool in helping developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) reduce costs linked to international trade. This is particularly crucial for SMEs, which lack the personnel and resources to arrange complex border procedures.

Upon entry into force, the agreement will create binding obligations for WTO members to improve customs procedures, transparency and efficiency. However, before some TFA provisions become binding, the agreement's ground-breaking development-oriented provisions specify that developing countries and LDCs must receive the technical and financial assistance required to implement them.

As the first step towards the implementation, developing countries and LDCs need to categorize their obligations under the treaty into Category A commitments, which they will implement immediately; Category B

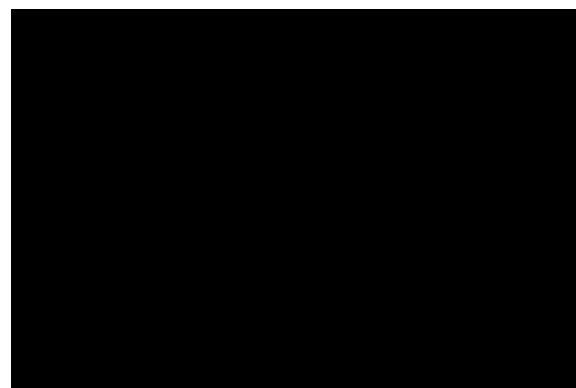
commitments, which they can only implement later; and Category C commitments, for which they require assistance and support.

Everything goes global, even the workers:

“Developing countries submit WTO trade facilitation commitments with ITC support.” International Trade Centre. News. Website. June 15, 2015.

<http://www.intracen.org/news/Developing-countries-submit-WTO-trade-facilitation-commitments-with-ITC-support/>

Foreign & local Australian banks in trade finance battle



“The tight battle of International Banks vs. Domestic Banks in the Australian trade finance market.” East & Partners. Website. March 26, 2015.

<http://east.com.au/media/videos/trade-finance-international-vs-domestic-banks>

CACCI *50 years* of Partnership in Asia Pacific

Country Reports

Australia

China - Australia FTA leads to duty-free fruit juices

Citrus growers and mainland Australia will benefit from the new FTA with China more slowly, because only certain horticultural exports from certain areas are pests-free, and only cherries and apples from Tasmania are allowed into China at present expressed Australian Horticultural Exporters Association Chair David Minnis.

However, it is expected that the price to legally shipped fresh fruits and vegetables directly to China, instead of via Hong Kong, will drop.

Trade with China for horticultural products has already reached US\$83 million in 2013, up from US\$13 million in 2008.

The agreement signed June 17, 2015 in Canberra and under the China FTA, all tariffs on horticultural products will be eliminated.

Key outcomes from the agreement include:

- Elimination of the 10 to 25 per cent tariff on macadamia nuts, almonds, walnuts, pistachios and all other nuts within 4 years.
- Elimination of the 11 to 30 per cent tariff on oranges, mandarins, lemons and all other citrus fruits within 8 years.
- Elimination of the 10 to 30 per cent tariff on all other fruit within 4 years.
- Elimination of the 10 to 13 per cent tariff on all fresh vegetables within 4 years.

“China and Australia Free Trade Agreement will lead to duty-free fruit juices.” Market Insider. International Trade Center. June 18, 2015.

<http://www.intracen.org/blog/China-and-Australia-Free-Trade-Agreement-will-lead-to-duty-free-access-for-fruit-juices/>

Bangladesh

FBCCI in Dubai for business

FBCCI newly elected Vice- President Mahbubul Alam and a delegation of 20 members held Business consultation in Dubai June 3, 2015 at the Hall Room of the consulate for a dialogue.

The meeting focused on the prospects, opportunities and issues of trade and investment in Bangladesh. Officers of Bangladesh Consulate General also took part in the discussion identifying a number of issues and putting recommendations to facilitate and support the businesses and trade operated by the entrepreneurs of Bangladesh living in UAE.

While appreciating the initiative of the present government to set up a number of economic zones in different parts of Bangladesh, the members of Bangladesh Business Council stressed on establishing specific economic zones in Chittagong and Sylhet only for the NRBs willing to invest in Bangladesh.

They also pointed out the need for a direct shipping liner between Bangladesh and Dubai to increase the exports of Bangladesh and to expand the export market in the region since Dubai is a prominent re-export hub of the GCC and MENA regions. They further emphasized on holding a single-country trade fair in Dubai under the direct patronage of FBCCI.

The guest of honor and the FBCCI Vice-President Mr. Mahbubur Alam gave his assurance to work more closely with Bangladesh Business Council in Dubai.

“FBCCI newly elected Vice - President Mahbubul Alam held Business consultation in Dubai.” Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Website. June 10, 2015.

<http://www.fbcci-bd.org/fbcci/update-news-media/Press%20Release-10-06-2015.pdf>

Government to implement Trade Facilitation measures

<http://www.thedailystar.net/business/nbr-roll-out-trade-facilitation-measures-3813>

Brunei

Increasing trade by reducing tariffs

<http://www.bt.com.bn/business-national/2015/04/03/lower-tariffs-expand-asean-trade-oecd>

Cambodia

New border crossing to facilitate trade

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/new-border-crossing-set-make-trade-easier>

China

China helps Asian LDCs boost trade capacity

International Trade Centre (ITC) is working with the Chinese government to help equip small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from six Asian least-developed countries (LDCs) with the technical knowledge they need to take advantage of preferential access to China.

China is already the world's biggest market for LDCs, accounting for nearly a quarter of all merchandise exported by LDCs in 2013 - worth some US\$59.4 billion - albeit with oil and other mineral products accounting for almost nine-tenths of the total.

Beijing extended duty-free, quota-free market access to LDCs on 95% of its tariff lines in 2013, according to the World Trade Organization, and has announced its intention to expand this coverage to 97% of products by 2015. But tariff-free access alone is often not enough to jumpstart trade – especially for SMEs, which struggle to understand prospective markets, connect to buyers and comply with still-mandatory non-tariff measures. They must also bear the fixed costs these entail.

Khemmani Pholsena, minister of industry and commerce of Lao PDR, noted that her country's

exports to China were a modest US\$2.7 billion in 2013 despite a variety of tariff preferences. 'This might reflect two possibilities: one is the exporting country's domestic supply side constraints and the other is the importing country's domestic regulation restrictions as well as non-tariff barriers,' she said.

Building supply capacity and overcoming trade obstacles could create virtuous circles of production, trade growth and job creation, especially where SMEs are concerned. In Asia, SMEs account for more than 90% of businesses and 80% of the workforce. The more they are able to connect to regional value chains, the greater the potential for job creation and growth.

This three-year project, launched in 2014, seeks to diminish the obstacles SMEs from the six LDCs face in penetrating the Chinese market through a combination of customized information about trading with China, capacity building and facilitating direct contact with potential Chinese partners and buyers.

To accomplish these objectives, ITC is partnering with trade and investment support institutions such as chambers of commerce and trade promotion organizations in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Nepal. The objective is to familiarize SMEs with Chinese import regulations, customs procedures, certification and entry strategies.

This project is funded by China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), which is responsible for trade, investment and international economic cooperation, underscoring the growing role that emerging economies play in trade-related technical assistance. Through this project, China is serving not only as an engine of economic growth, but also as a leader facilitating regional trade integration at the business-sector level.

“China helps Asian LDCs boost trade capacity.” International Trade Centre. Website. June 8, 2015.

<http://www.intracen.org/news/China-helps-Asian-LDCs-boost-trade-capacity/>

Transparent TPP should help Asian trade

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2015-08/04/content_21498857.htm

Georgia

Japanese delegation visits Georgia

On April 28, 2015, Vice-President of the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Avtandil Sakvarelidze held a meeting with the Japanese business-delegation in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The delegation was represented by Heads of the leading corporations (11 businessmen). The Japanese Holding HAA Kobe, Co., Ltd., was also represented at the meeting. The Holding consists of 40 companies and its annual turnover is 100 billion Yen. The visit of the Japanese delegation to Georgia was organized by the representative of the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan Mr. Levan Tsaguria.



The Vice-President of the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry informed the Japanese businessmen regarding the Chambers activities, business environment, investment opportunities and prioritized sectors in Georgia. The Parties underlined the perspectives of the development of automobile service in Georgia.

“Meeting with the Japanese business delegation.” Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Website. April 28, 2015.

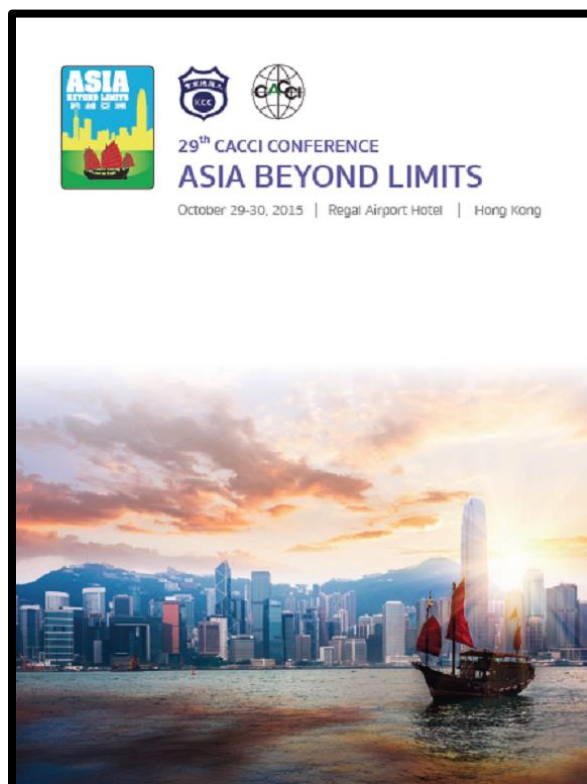
<http://www.gcci.ge/?31/795/&lan=en>

CACCI Premier Business
Network in
Asia Pacific

Hong Kong

CACCI Conference to discuss new market expansion strategies

Carrying the theme “Asia Beyond Limits”, this year's 29th CACCI Conference to be held in Hong Kong on October 29-30, 2015 will be a valuable platform for CACCI members and invited experts to share their views on measures that the business sector and governments in the region are undertaking to profit not only from the Asia-Pacific markets but from other markets as well, thereby enabling them to grow beyond the domestic borders and into the global market.



Eminent speakers have been invited to explain relevant issues such as:

One-Belt, One Road Initiative: Opportunities for Asian Business - This session will examine how the One Belt, One Road policy is expected to boost levels of infrastructure development across Central Asia and along the maritime silk road, what its impact will be on the economies in the region, how it can help to support economic growth and trade in these countries, and what opportunities will it offer to businesses.

Challenges in Investing Overseas: This session will feature speakers who will share their views on some of the challenges in investing overseas, including the need for adequate management and systems support, extensive market research involving both the industry, product and local regulations governing foreign investment, realistic assessment of what resource utilization the investment will entail, and factoring of political and foreign exchange risks into the business plan, among others.

Promoting the Internationalization of SMEs: This session will examine ways of assisting SMEs tap into the international market. These are not limited to exporting their products and services, but also to attracting investors and business partners. Invited speakers will share their views on why it is essential for SMEs in this region to accept the reality of the globalization of markets, and how they can enhance their growth by exploiting this new economic environment.

Parallel sectoral breakout sessions will also be organized that will gather government and private sector experts and business players for dialogue and panel discussion on important sectoral issues, areas of cooperation.

Furthermore, a special session “Discover Business Opportunities through CACCI” will feature country presentations by selected member chambers on current economic conditions in their respective countries and opportunities for trade and investments.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.hkkcc.org.hk/cacci>

CACCI *50 years*
 of Partnership
 in Asia Pacific

India

FICCI Trade & Investment delegation to USA & Mexico

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in association with Consulate General of India - Houston, Indian Embassy in Mexico, Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade, Investment & Technology (COMCE) and South Carolina Department of Commerce is mounting a multi-sectoral Trade & Investment delegation to the USA and Mexico on September 13-19, 2015.

The focus sectors for this delegation are IT/ITES & Telecom, Pharmaceuticals and Auto components and allied industries. The objective of this delegation will be market penetration/access to markets, technical collaboration, joint ventures with Mexican/US companies, and with possible opportunities to invest in Mexico/ United States.

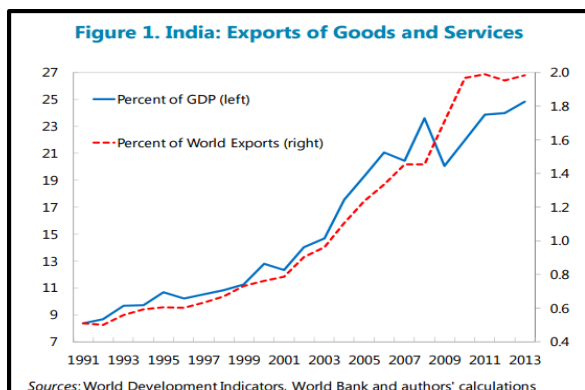
“FICCI Trade & Investment Delegation to the USA & Mexico.” Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Website. July 2015.

<http://www.ficci.com/events-page.asp?evid=22489>

Which exports can create new Indian growth?

India's exports have been increasing since the early-1990s – both as a share of GDP and as a share of world exports. Total exports as a share of GDP have risen to almost 25% in 2013 from around 10% in 1995 (Figure 1).

Likewise, Indian goods exports as a share of world goods exports have risen, with the share almost tripling to 1.7% during 1995-2013. A similar trend is visible in India's services export – the share tripling to over 3% of world service exports during 2000-2013. It is generally accepted that trade leads to structural transformation and diversification of economies. But recent literature suggests that the dynamics of structural transformation also depend on what goods and services are traded and with whom.



Specifically, structural transformation and future growth and export performance will depend on:

- Diversification across destinations, products, and services
- Composition of the export basket measured by technological content, quality, sophistication, and complexity of exports and
- How closely related a country's goods and services exports are to globally-traded products and services.

Since countries that are dependent on a narrow export basket often suffer from export instability arising from unstable global demand. Diversification of export products and destinations helps in stabilizing export.

Thus, the study present key observations about exports and future growth:

First, what matters for growth is not how much you export but what you export (Hausmann, Hwang and Rodrik, 2007.)

Second, economic development is underpinned not just by new products and trading partners, but also by quality improvements to existing products.

Third, the enormous income gaps between rich and poor nations are an expression of the vast differences in productive knowledge amassed by different nations.

As countries change their export mix, there is a strong tendency to move towards goods that are more closely related to ones already being produced.

Countries that are specialized in a dense part of the product space have an easier time in

developing export than countries that are specialized in more disconnected products.

The paper's main findings can be summarized as follows:

Indian exports have progressively diversified in term of products and, in line with other EMs.

While services exports, as a share of total exports and in terms of sophistication, are comparable to high income countries, the share of manufacturing exports and their level of overall value content are still low compared to its peers, especially in Asia.

India exports many high quality products, but there is still room for India to converge with other EMs in manufacturing quality and complexity.

Given its exports structure, India is well positioned to benefit from the structural changes in technology and emerging forces of globalization.

In the medium-term, India has immense potential to diversify by latching onto products and services that are closely related to its current capabilities. For example, by in addition to building automobile components, it should export high-quality automotive products.

How to achieve it: Medium-Term Policy

1. Reducing Trade Barriers and Fostering Integration:
2. Becoming a hub of Global Value Chains (GVCs):
3. Liberalizing Foreign Direct Investment.
4. Improving Infrastructure Planning.
5. Developing Skills and Liberalize Labor Markets.
6. Creating an environment for Innovation and entrepreneurship.

Anand, Rahul, Kochhar, Kalpana and Mishra, Saurabh. "Which Exports Can Drive the Next Wave of Growth?" International Monetary Fund. Working Paper Asia and Pacific Department. Website. May 2015.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2015/wp15119.pdf>

Korea

Korea-Chile business and trade forum

Businessmen from South Korea and Chile met in Santiago, Chile, on April 22, 2015 to pledge bilateral business and trade cooperation between the two countries. President Park, Geun Hye who was visiting Central and South America attended this forum, the largest Korea-Chile business event with a large entourage of businessmen from both countries.

About 150 people from Korea attended the forum on that day including business community leaders such as Park, Yongmaan, chairman of the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Also, about 150 individuals from political and financial circles in Chile attended the forum including Alberto Arenas, Minister of Finance, Alberto Undurraga, Minister for Civil Works, Joaquin Villarino, chairman of the Chilean Mining Council, and Hermann von Muhlenbrock, president of the Chilean Federation of Industry

“Korea-Chile Business Forum.” The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Website. April 23, 2015.

http://english.korcham.net/sub01/photo_view.asp?nKey=2226

Malaysia

Fruitful discussions on trade at 28th CACCI - Kuala Lumpur 2014

During the 28th CACCI Conference in Kuala Lumpur in September 2014, ACTG (Asian Council on Trade Generation) and ACTF (Asian Council on Trade Facilitation) conducted their first joint Breakout session in a mini conference setting at the Convention Center in Kuala Lumpur.

In a lively and interactive session, over 35 participants from different countries obtained useful information and exchanged views about

public and private sectors' approaches to trade facilitation and trade generation.

The conference was guided by 5 expert panelists from the public and private sector. The distinguished speakers were (1) Y Bhg Datuk Dr. Madam Rebecca Sta Maria, Secretary General at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of the Philippines, (2) Y Bhg Dato' Dr. Madam Wong Lai Sum, CEO of Malaysia External Trade Development Corp., (3) Mr. Jose Purnello, Chief of Trade Support Institutions Strengthening Section at the International Trade Center (ITC), (4) Mr. Guido Bolatto, Secretary General of the Torino Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and (5) Mr. Bryan Clark, Director of Trade and International Affairs at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Presentation of Dr. Rebecca Sta. Maria highlighted on the national, bi-lateral, regional, and multilateral arrangements and also about Free Trade Zones (FTZ) of the region. She also explained customs, logistics, ASEAN tariff procedures and the effects of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB). She further elaborated on the issues concerning seamless movement of goods within and behind borders and the level of key infrastructure developments such as ports.

Dr. Wong Lai Sum discussed public sector initiatives on general trade such as the chambers' push on local authorities to create a trading environment with an emphasis on infrastructure. She also talked on growing NTBs, lack of coordination among institutions and increased competition. She mentioned that government's red tape and bureaucratic paperwork remain an obstacle to trade.

Mr. Jose Purnello made a presentation on Integrated Trade Facilitation, ITC Assistance in trade facilitation and International business generation. He offered training opportunities and advised on access to e-learning.

The fourth speaker, Mr. Guido Bolatto, made a presentation on the Chamber of Italy's international cooperation and international strategy. He also talked about ATA (Admission Temporaire in French) carnet, conformity visa, and custom free sample sale.

The fifth and last speaker was Mr. Bryan Clark from Australia, who explained the emerging Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Australian Chamber's cooperation with CACCI.

He spoke on the four benefits of trade links, opportunities posted by the Australian Chamber, their centralized data base and the Australian capabilities to develop business.

At the conclusion of the session, the two chairmen, Mr. Stewart Forbes of the Asian Council on Trade Generation and Mr. Rash Bihari Rauniar of the Asian Council on Trade Facilitation jointly thanked CACCI and the conference host, MICCI (Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry) for conducting a successful 28th CACCI Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Malaysia focused on TPPA

<http://www.nst.com.my/node/93846>

Mongolia

Mongolian customs officials will rotate

<http://ubpost.mongolnews.mn/?p=9964>

Nepal

KOTRA: Nepal has potential for trade

A Korean business delegation led by the Chief Director General of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) Dong Seok Choi met the FNCCI office bearers and other members in Kathmandu, Nepal in April 2015. The meeting focused on exploring opportunities for promoting bilateral trade and investment between Nepal and Korea.

FNCCI Officiating President Pashupati Murarka gave private sector's views on the contemporary economic situation and stated that confidence of business community as well as investment environment in Nepal is improving of late, and there has been huge increment in FDI in Nepal- both from domestic and foreign investors. He further mentioned that sectors like hydropower, tourism, cement manufacturing are attracting huge investment and requested the Korean delegates to not miss the opportunity.

Korean companies based in India, like Hyosung Corporation India Pvt. Ltd., Daewoo International India Pvt. Ltd., Samsung C&T Corporation India, and POSCO E&C India Pvt.Ltd participated in the meeting.

Likewise, from FNCCI, Vice President Kishore Kumar Pradhan, EC Member Gyanendra Lal Pradhan, DG Hemant Dabadi, Sr. Consultant Dharanidhar Khatiwada, IPPAN Secretary General Kumar Pandey and FCAN Secretary General Ram Sharan Deuja was present at the meeting.

“KOTRA DG: Nepal has a potential for trade.” Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry. FNCCI Trade & International Affairs Newsletter. Website. Issue 5, April 2015.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bzw4ht2tyCwCZIJIMOVrU0tpWEk/view>

Nepal and Bangladesh discuss trade and transit

On the outset of the Nepal International Trade Fair (NITF) 2015 during March 12-16, 2015, the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) organized a business seminar on cooperation between Nepal and Bangladesh with focus on enhancing bilateral trade and transit relation.

Joint Secretary of Bangladeshi Ministry of Commerce Md. Obaidul Azam along with the visiting Bangladeshi business delegation participated in the 4th Nepal International Trade Fair.

Welcoming the Bangladeshi delegates, FNCCI President Pradeep Jung Pandey lauded the support of Bangladeshi private sector in making the NITF successful with their active participation in the Fair every year. He further stated that such interactions among the private sector as well as with the government officials would help in further strengthening trade and transit relation between the two countries.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Mashfee Binte Shams expressed her delight to be the Partner Country of the 4th NITF and stated that there is a huge potential of trade and investment between Nepal and Bangladesh.

Md. Obaidul Azam stated that Bangladesh is ready to address the concerns raised by the Nepalese private sector and also requested Nepal Government to address trade relation between Nepal and Bangladesh.

“Nepal and Bangladesh: Trade and Transit Issues to be Addressed Soon.” Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry. FNCCI Trade & International Affairs Newsletter. Website. Issue 5, April 2015.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bzw4ht2tyCwCZIJIMOVrU0tpWEk/view>

Pakistan

Pak-China business forum boosts bilateral trade

From March 27-30 of this year, the Pak-China Business Forum in Islamabad, provided businessmen from the two countries the opportunity to improve bilateral trade relations and boost economic activities between the two countries. This was stated by Mian Muhamamd Adrees, President of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) while addressing the inaugural session of a 4-day Pak China Business Forum organized by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology. Minister for Science and Technology.

Rana Tanveer Hussain was the chief guest on the occasion. Mian Idrees said that the forum would prove as a catalyst for promoting bilateral trade relations. He said Pakistan's top leadership has given high priority to boosting good relations with China and the mega project of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) was reflective of the government's commitment.

He said that “trade volume between the two countries stands at \$15 billion which is much higher than that of \$5 billion before signing of Free Trade Agreement around 8 years ago”, the FPCCI President added.

He said this forum will open up new era of trade relations with China. Minister for Science and Technology, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Pak-China Business Forum 2015 will explore new opportunities for educational institutes and

new avenues for researchers, businessmen and students will also be opened.

He stressed on devising national strategies for the human resource development and promotion of Science and Technology, businessmen, students of both the countries can exchange their ideas and increasing trade.

“Pak-China business forum provides podium to boost bilateral trade ties.” Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Fortnightly Bulletin. Website. March 16-31, 2015.

<http://fpcci.org.pk/>

The Philippines

ASEAN - EU Business Summit 2015

On 23rd of August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, the EU-ASEAN Business Council and the EU-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce & Industry jointly organized the 4th ASEAN-EU Business Summit, a prestigious business focused event linking over 300 businesses, politicians, policy makers and influencers from two of the world's largest trading blocs.

A key note address was given by Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan, Minister for International Trade and Investment II, Malaysia, and the forum was attended by the ASEAN Economic Ministers.

The Summit was a unique opportunity to get messages across to the key architects of future ASEAN economic and trade policy.

“ASEAN - EU Business Summit 2015.” EU-ASEAN Business Council. Website. August 23, 2015.

<http://eu-asean.eu/>

WTO encourages RP to ratify Trade Facilitation Agreement

<http://www.tribune.net.ph/business/wto-calls-on-rp-to-support-tfa>

Russian Federation

SCO projects cooperation Russia-China-Mongolia

The 11th Joint Forum of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Russia, China and Mongolia was held in Baotou on 20-23 July. During the first day Russian investment projects in Eastern Siberia, the Republic of Buryatia, Novosibirsk, the Republic of Tuva, Altai Region, and Chinese and Mongolian projects were presented.

The representatives of the Administration of Inner Mongolia, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Mongolia, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Khakassia Republic and the Mayor of Baotou took part in the Forum Plenary Session.



The head of the Russian delegation, the Vice-President of the CCI of Russia Vladimir Strashko said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) had become an international platform for discussion and solution of global issues. He underlined, the special status of Mongolia in the SCO extends the investment projects cooperation between the SCO Member States and Mongolia.

All the parties agreed to work on the SCO Development Fund and Development Bank implementation, on the implementation of the Silk Road Economic Belt, and on the construction of transport and logistics centers, and energy corridors. Integration of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into big investment projects is one of the main objectives of the CCIs of the countries, Mr. Strashko stated.

Mr. Strashko said that deregulation is a key to SMEs expansion to international markets and the CCI of Russia always encourages the cooperation with China and Mongolia.

He also reported, tourism is a priority and that companies and the CCI of Russia as well as the CCIs of Russian regions bordering China and Mongolia would cooperate with the neighboring states in creating a business climate for mutual tourism. Mr. Strashko stressed, border cooperation among Russia, China and Mongolia plays a crucial role in trilateral trade-economic and business ties.

“SCO Extends Projects Cooperation Russia-China-Mongolia.” Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation. Website. July 23, 2015.

<http://tpprf.ru/en/news/sco-extends-projects-cooperation-russia-china-mongolia-i91234/>

BRICS leaders met BRICS Business Council

The BRICS National Leaders including the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil Dilma Rousseff, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi and the President of the Republic of South Africa Jacob Zuma met the national representatives of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Business Council in Ufa, Russia in July 9, 2015.

The Chairperson of the Russian chapter in the BRICS Business Council, the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Katyrin reported that the BRICS BC had prepared and submitted to the BRICS National Leaders a detailed annual report on their activity.

The BRICS BC was regarded by entrepreneurs and businessmen as a practical instrument for develop bilateral economic ties and provide multi-party cooperation. The Chairperson of the Russian chapter stated that the BRICS BC followed the principles of transparency, mutual trust, consideration of interests and commitment to a dialogue and work continuity.

Summing up the results of negotiations the President of Russia Vladimir Putin also highly appreciated the BRICS BC work and illustrated the implementation of the BRICS BC proposals, reminding about national currency settlement and e-commerce rules unification. Russian President added that Member States are working on the simplification of the visa regime for businessmen. He also stressed that the Russian Federation was working on providing favorable conditions for cooperation and trade within BRICS members.

“BRICS national leaders met heads of BRICS Business Council.” Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation. Website. July 9, 2015.

<http://tpprf.ru/en/news/brics-national-leaders-met-heads-of-brics-business-council-i89143/>

Sri Lanka

First Asia-Pacific conformity-accreditation takes off in Colombo

Ushering international recognition for Sri Lanka's conformity realm, the first ever Asia Pacific accreditation confab took off in Colombo June 15, 2015 and the country has accepted 14 international standards in 2012/2013.

Sri Lanka is pursuing these accreditations to enhance living standards and exports. “Sri Lanka also issued 145 new ISO (International Organization for Standardization) certificates and 14 international standards” said Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce.

Minister Bathiudeen was addressing the inauguration of APLAC (Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and PAC (Pacific Accreditation Cooperation) joint General Assembly Meeting on June 15 in Colombo. The event also celebrates 20th anniversary of PAC.

More than 170 international delegates from 35 economies were in attendance at the Colombo event. Among the 9-day agenda items are technical and training sessions (such as on ISO/IEC 17020), APLAC/PAC general training sessions, host economy seminars, peer evaluator's workshops and a technical visit.

16 national Medical laboratories are already SLAB (Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment) accredited while 10 more applications are under consideration.

In 2012 Sri Lanka also issued 145 new ISO certificates and 14 international standards were adopted by Sri Lanka standards institution. Sri Lanka is a member of SAARC and has developed harmonized standards for identified common products to exchange them under mutual recognition programmes.

Newly appointed committees should develop guidelines for trade facilitation and conformity assessment. It was suggested that SAARC countries have an economic integration initiative with ASEAN by the end of this year.

Therefore, it is timely for SAARC countries to develop economic policies harmonized guidelines and identical strategies to win ASEAN markets. In 2013, 1.56 million ISO standards certifications were issued across 95 countries.

“First Asia-Pacific conformity push takes off in Colombo.” Ceylon Today. Website, June 16, 2015.

<https://www.ceylontoday.lk/22-95657-news-detail-first-asia-pacific-conformity-push-takes-off-in-colombo.html>

Taiwan

Nation to continue promoting economic, trade liberalization: BOFT

Although trade ministers in the concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) meeting did not reach an agreement or consensus on the signing of a proposed regional trade pact, Taiwan will continue to promote economic and trade liberalization as part of its efforts to join the planned regional trade bloc, the Bureau of Foreign Trade (BOFT) said on August 2, 2015.

Based on the free trade agreement signed between South Korea and the United States, Taiwan has been making preparations for joining the TPP since last year.

Over the past year, the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) and other related governmental agencies have held some 130 meetings with different industrial organizations and trade unions at the national and local levels on Taiwan's participation in the TPP, aimed at hearing their opinions. The government will continue to make the general public more aware of the importance of the issue for Taiwan.

A total of 12 countries are now participating in the negotiations of TPP over the signing of the proposed agreement initiated by the U.S., including Brunei, Chile, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam and the United States of America.

“Nation to continue promoting economic, trade liberalization: BOFT.” CAN. Website, August 2, 2015.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/national/national-news/2015/08/02/442225/Nation-to.htm>

Tajikistan

Helping exporters in Tajikistan and Mauritius

As a result of the consultation process and ITC (International Trade Centre) support, Burkina Faso decided to re-evaluate the classification it had previously drafted, said Nazaire Pare, director general for foreign trade at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts. To make sure the measures adapted address real bottlenecks to trade, private sector participation in policy making has been key, he said.

‘ITC has played an instrumental role in Tajikistan’s timely submission of its Category A commitments, according to Saidrahmon Nazriev, the country’s deputy minister of economic development and trade.

Following a workshop in June, with the participation of representatives of the public and private sector, Tajikistan made its submission to the WTO in July. As a landlocked country, Tajikistan expects to draw important benefits from the TFA, Nazriev said that the agreement can reduce the lengthy and costly border delays and facilitate trade.

Mauritius in April 2014 was among the first developing countries to notify trade facilitation commitments to the WTO and believes it is important for ITC to work with as many countries as possible to hasten the implementation of the agreement, according to Ambassador Israhyananda Dhalladoo, permanent representative of Mauritius to the WTO.

ITC and UNCTAD assisted in building stakeholder awareness, particularly among the private sector, of the TFA and its implications, both with regard to categorizing TFA commitments and the establishment of the Mauritius National Trade Facilitation Committee which will oversee their implementation, Dhalladoo explained.’

Tajikistan is looking for support in strengthening the capacity of staff at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. In this way they can better oversee the implementation of TFA provisions, said Inoyatullo Kasimov, head of the Department of WTO Affairs at the ministry.

ITC will build on this work in 2015, with plans to assist more than 20 additional countries in scheduling their trade facilitation commitments.

“Developing countries submit WTO trade facilitation commitments with ITC support.” International Trade Centre. News. Website. June 15, 2015.

<http://www.intracen.org/news/Developing-countries-submit-WTO-trade-facilitation-commitments-with-ITC-support/>

United States

Congress legislating trade facilitation

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/09/business/international/trans-pacific-partnerships-potential-impact-weighed-in-asia-and-us.html?_r=0

CACCI

**Premier Business
Network in
Asia Pacific**

Uzbekistan

Does the one-stop-shop approach facilitate trade?

The huge demand for electronic document management system is evidenced by the compelling figures provided on the Single Portal of Interactive Public Services <https://my.gov.uz/>

To date, out of more than 250,000 applications, approximately 140,000 (55%) have been made by entrepreneurs. Is this an indicator of the need to diversify the delivery of public service to businesses? Definitely. Then how one should solve the problem of limited access to the Internet and lack of trust in online procedures and call-centers?

The introduction of the one-stop-shop (OSS) approach to public services for Uzbekistan's entrepreneurs is a universal solution.

In Uzbekistan, public service one-stop-shops have been launched with UNDP's assistance in the Sergeli District in 2009. The OSS operates in accordance with the principle of representation of all relevant public agencies in one place. Similar centers were established in Namangan and Jizzakh. There, applicants could solve mainly some social issues.

The mechanism of OSSs for businesses will be very simple. Along with personal request procedures, the OSS offices will also have an electronic lining system to set the order of requests to be made to the operator – a responsible OSS officer.

The operator will receive the clients, help them file the documents, if needed, and register their requests and applications. This will be followed by automatic transfer of the requests to the relevant public agency authorized to process and decide on such requests. All responses to requests will be given at the same OSS without the requester's direct approach to the public agencies that provide the services.

Business will also have the opportunity to make their requests or applications through the Unified Portal of Interactive Public Services (www.my.gov.uz) by filling in an application.

What are the benefits for the entrepreneur?

First, an opportunity to consult with a specialist remotely by calling, making an on-line request or coming personally to the front-office.

Second, a number of public services will be rendered exclusively through OSSs. It is also proposed to prohibit acceptance of direct requests made from entrepreneurs to public agencies and demand personal presence of or communicating to applicants during the consideration of the applications.

Third, the absence of direct contact with public officers will help prevent corruption and red tape.

Fourth, the introduction of the electronic interaction mechanism between public agencies will help cut accelerate public.

Today, the World Bank's Doing Business ranks Uzbekistan 141. The introduction of one-stop-shops for businesses will open real shops of convenient opportunities for business.

**“Does the one-stop-shop approach open new opportunities for local entrepreneurs?”
Press service of Business Forum of
Uzbekistan. Website. July 28, 2015.**

<http://www.chamber.uz/en/news/764>

Vietnam

Entry into TPP Helps Vietnam integrate internationally: U.S Ambassador

In August 4th of this year, during a press roundtable in Hanoi to brief on Communist Party of Vietnam General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong's visit to the U.S. and bilateral relations during the 20th anniversary of the normalization of US-Vietnam relations, the U.S. Ambassador said that all the 12 countries negotiating the TPP have some tough decisions to make, but that TPP will help Vietnam internationalize,.

The American Ambassador's remarks were underscored by a Peterson Institute for International Economics that concluded Vietnam's entry into TPP will boost its GDP growth significantly.

The trade ministers of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States, and Vietnam announced that, after more than a week of productive meetings during the last week of July 2015, they made significant progress and will continue work on resolving a limited number of remaining issues, to conclude of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations.



U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius noted: "Vietnam's entry into the TPP helps it reach its goal of comprehensive international integration. Of all the member countries, Vietnam stands to benefit the most."

Ministers and negotiators left Hawaii around July 31st 2015 committed to build on the momentum of their meeting by staying in close contact as negotiators continue their intensive engagement to find common ground. In this last stage of negotiations, the negotiators were more confident than ever that TPP is within reach.

Pham, Nam. "Entry into TPP Helps Vietnam Reach Goal of Comprehensive Int'l Integration, U.S Ambassador." Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Website. August 4, 2015.

http://vccinews.com/news_detail.asp?news_id=32415

Message from CACCI Vice President Pradeep Shrestha

First of all, thank you for allowing me to express my views about CACCI's Asian Council on the Trade Generation (ACTG) and the Asian Council on Trade Facilitation (ACTF) as we draw closer to celebrating the 50th anniversary of CACCI establishment during our gathering at the 29th CACCI Conference in Hong Kong in October 29-30 of this year.

Since their formation in 2012 in Kathmandu (ACTF) and in 2013 in Cebu (ACTG), the two councils, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. B. Rauniar, and Mr. Stewart Forbes, respectively, have been active and enlightening their members through the regular publication of newsletters and other forms of information exchange.

My hearty congratulation goes to both chairmen, Mr. R. B. Rauniar and Mr. Stewart Forbes, and their team for outstandingly contributing to their respective councils, and finding the way forward to address the issues on trade facilitation and trade generation to achieve a smooth flow of goods and services.

These councils will certainly set a milestone among countries and will certainly benefit their members. My sincere appreciation and good luck wishes to both councils and hope that every CACCI member country will immensely benefit from their regular publication of joint newsletters.

Thank you.

Pradeep K. Shrestha
CACCI Vice President

Joint message from two Chairmen: “Easier trade means profits”

With great pleasure we present to you the first joint issue of the “Asian Council on Trade Facilitation” and “Asian Council on Trade Generation” newsletters for 2015. This new volume is a compendium of relevant news, reports, and analysis on recent trends and developments on trade facilitation and trade generation in the Asia Pacific region.

The articles contained in this newsletter indicate that our Asia Pacific region is moving steadily toward freer trade.

Nowadays, businessmen and trade experts know that trade obstacles comprise more than traditional tariff and non-tariff barriers. Trade faces seemingly invisible blocks, insidious modus operandi and cultural traditions that hurt it.

Despite these obstacles, we see a dynamic business community eager to trade with new markets and governments acknowledging its vital importance. From China to some Pacific islands, everybody recognizes that foreign trade is fundamental to economic growth.

CACCI advocates foreign trade solution to economic growth; and to make its benefits stand, all types of companies, and most importantly small and medium enterprises, should be able to trade in international market directly and easily.

CACCI's goal is fundamental because, while many SMEs are capable of producing world class products, they are not yet integrated into the Global Value Chain (GVC). But they must be so because SMEs employ most of our workforce.

Fortunately, the region is indeed progressing; “Trade Facilitation” and “Trade Generation” have become buzz words, a priority policy for many Asia Pacific countries because trade facilitation and trade generation mean profits.

Many independent studies as well as those sponsored by the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank (WB), show that trade facilitation can increase and its cost reduced by over 17.5% on both counts.

Thus CACCI advocates trade facilitation to tackle tariff and non-tariff barriers, red tape, bottlenecks, corruption and mismanagement, and for the simplification of procedures and containment of bureaucracy. Consequently, CACCI equally advocate trade generation as opportunities abound but they must be set free.

Enjoy reading this volume and we hope that you join us at this year's CACCI Conference in Hong Kong on October 29-30, where we will be able to discuss trade facilitation and generation issues fruitfully. Thank you.



*R. B. Rauniar
Chairman
Asian Council on Trade Facilitation, CACCI*



*Stewart Forbes
Chairman
Asian Council on Trade Generation, CACCI*

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