

APEC 2019 Policy Outcomes for Trade Facilitation

APEC INITIATIVES & OUTCOMES IN 2019

APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2): The A2C2 is an advisory group including supply chain and customs experts, private sector, and government officials. The A2C2 met in August 2019 with more than 24 public and private sector representatives from APEC economies. Discussions on capacity building was a key focus, including U.S. projects being conducted in partnership with Peru and Viet Nam.

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Implementation: Measured progress on TFA implementation across APEC economies continues to receive high interest by the public and private sector. Indonesia hosted a workshop to highlight the importance of TFA implementation and best practices to help guide economies facing challenges in implementation. The United States partnered with the Institute of Trade Facilitation in Peru to study Peru's TFA compliance, as part of a project focused on TFA Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information. The United States also provided technical assistance to Viet Nam and Malaysia, with regards to TFA implementation. A workshop is scheduled for 2020 in Malaysia to highlight Malaysia's progress as a result of APEC technical assistance.

Single Window Interoperability: Chile's focus on Integration 4.0 helped fuel APEC's efforts to move forward on single window interoperability. Chile, China and Peru received endorsement for its 2019-2021 Action Plan on Supply Chain Integration 4.0 Through Single Window Interoperability. Chile and Peru led a project to promote single window interoperability aimed at identifying the best technology solutions across the APEC region.

2020 NCAPEC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MALAYSIA

To advance APEC's work on trade facilitation, NCAPEC recommends that Malaysia:

- Strengthen public-private sector cooperation on supply-chain connectivity through the A2C2 and other mechanisms to capitalize on private sector expertise for targeted, focused, and economy-specific capacity-building initiatives that will help economies adopt high-quality policies and best practices.
- Encourage the interoperability of legal and regulatory frameworks around digital documents used in trade, and support standardization of market practices.

- Continue efforts undertaken to establish a baseline *de minimis* threshold through an APEC Pathfinder.
- Make permanent the WTO moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions to further promote the facilitation of trade in the digital economy.
- Fully implement actions to address chokepoints identified in the Supply-Chain Facilitation Action Plan II and explore facilitative procedures and simplification of documents, taxation, clearance, and returns for low-value shipments, tying in work undertaken on the implementation of cross-cutting and emerging issues of the APEC E-Commerce Facilitation Framework.
- Build upon the use of GS1 standards in the five pilot projects covering cross-border shipments of wine, beef, durian, tequila and asparagus, and develop broader and longer term pilot(s) as proof of concept for the adoption of open and interoperable standards to improve visibility, traceability, risk management, responsiveness, collaboration and innovation. (The Retail and Trade Brands Advocacy is working with research partners, Deakin University and GS1 Australia to develop a National Consumer Goods Traceability Framework.)