

**CPTPP Committee on Competitiveness and Business Facilitation and
Committee and Committee on Small and Medium Enterprise**

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Competitiveness and Business Facilitation and Committee on Small and Medium Enterprise were held virtually on 24 and 25 August 2021 (Japan time). Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. Ms. ONISHI Tomoko of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, chaired the Committee.

2. The Committee agenda is attached at **ANNEX A**.

3. A summary of the Committee's discussion and any outcomes agreed under the respective agenda items is set out below.

4. **AGENDA ITEM 1:** The Committee adopted the agenda.

5. **AGENDA ITEM 2:** With sincere appreciation for its initiatives of Canada following the workshop held last September, the Committee discussed on how to process the review of the CPTPP's impact on regional supply chains as required in Article 22.3.5. Canada offered that it could lead the empirical evaluation contained in the review, indicating that the evaluation would only be fruitful to the extent that other members are able to provide the information required for the analysis. All members in general supported the Canadian approach. Canada looks forward to receiving comments and questions from other members in order to assist with the drafting of a more detailed outline of its report proposal. Japan pointed out that the content should be carefully assessed by the members in case the report is published.

6. **AGENDA ITEM 3:** The Committee actively exchanged information regarding Article 24.2.2, especially sharing each member's practice and experience of assisting SMEs to join the global supply chain, particularly in the middle of a pandemic. Many members highlighted the importance of providing capacity building and digitalization.

- Australia shared its initiatives to maintain market resilience amid COVID19.
- Japan shared their efforts to promote utilization of FTAs by SMEs such as holding seminars, creation of casebooks, manual books, database and e-learning program, and establishment of consultation desk.

- Singapore shared its efforts of assisting SMEs with focus on digital solution and capacity building.
- Mexico shared its experience of facilitating capacity building in digitalization and e-commerce in supply chain transactions, and also networking between large corporations and SMEs by utilizing FTAs.
- Canada made presentation on its inclusive approach to trade, highlighting the importance of role of FTAs and Canada's dedicated activities in order to enhance participation of the underrepresented segments such as SMEs, women and indigenous people.
- Peru shared its Economy Rescue Plan focusing on SME's innovation, digitalization, government procurement and finance.
- Malaysia shared its various measures in post COVID19 Entrepreneur Recovery Plan and Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4: Japan proposed to hold CPTPP Industry-Government-Academia Forum in late October and commented that the discussion of this forum could be a useful input to case studies in the report which Canada proposed in Agenda Item 2. Most of members expressed their supports for Japan's proposal and no objection was heard. Some members indicated that they would be circulating the proposal internally to their respective leads and subject matter experts before submitting additional comments and questions to Japan. Japan will seek the members' cooperation in terms of nomination of speakers from industry and academia as well as government representatives.

8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Nothing was raised.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: Singapore, as the Chair for the 2022 CPTPP Commission, will internally discuss and update members regarding the next meeting of the CPTPP Committee on Competitiveness and Business Facilitation and Committee on Small and Medium Enterprise.

10. AGENDA ITEM 7: Its report will be finalized after confirmation by correspondence.

ANNEX A

CPTPP Joint Committee on CBF (Competitiveness & Business Facilitation) and SME

AGENDA

Date and Time: 24th -25th August 2021, 10:00am (Tokyo Time)

Venue: Video-Conference

Day 1

- ITEM 1: Adoption of the Agenda
- ITEM 2: Review of regional supply chains related to Article 22.3

Day 2

- ITEM 3: Information Exchange (Article 24.2.2)
- ITEM 4: Proposal of the forum by Japan
- ITEM 5: Other Issues (if any)
- ITEM 6: Next Meeting
- ITEM 7: Committee Report