

**CPTPP Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

**Committee Report**

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) was held virtually on 26 August 2021. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam.

Mr. Hideyasu Tamura, Senior Director, Economic Partnership & Regional Integration Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, chaired the Committee.

2. The summary of the Committee's discussion is as follows.

3. AGENDA ITEM 1:

The Committee adopted the agenda as attached in ANNEX A.

4. AGENDA ITEM 2.-1:

- Chair shared that 8 CPTPP member countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and Singapore) have submitted their "Information Exchange Templates" and urged other countries yet to submit to provide their "Templates".
- Canada briefed the background of this document and proposed the next step of the "Templates". Main contents are:
  - (1) Committee agrees that the deadline for countries yet to submit their "Templates" is December 31, 2021.
  - (2) Committee decides on a path forward on the "Framework to facilitate information exchange on how parties are implementing relevant provisions of the Chapter" as decided by the Committee in NZ 2019.
- Chair suggested to share the "Templates" from 8 countries to Canada in order to discuss how to utilize them, because each country's "Template" have diversification in terms of the information. No objection was expressed to this suggestion.

5. AGENDA ITEM 2.-2:

- Chair mentioned that there were several proposals in the previous committee's meetings such as workshop, government-business dialogue, and the role of CPTPP's TBT Chapter in the context of Post COVID-19 as future activities, but no specific activities have been conducted so far.
- New Zealand shared that it is now working internally for identifying the sector which should be discussed for future activities and will report back on their findings once it is ready.
- New Zealand also noted the importance of working closely with the relevant subsidiary committees, namely the SPS Committee; with a view to better integrate and coordinate cooperation initiatives that are cross-cutting SPS and TBT issues. New Zealand hopes that such working practices can help to promote strategic coherence in addressing NTMs. This idea was supported by Canada during the meeting.
- Malaysia shared the lesson learnt on the survey conducted to the local pharmaceuticals and medical devices industries and of the opinion that the issues consolidated are diverse and may require coordination both at national and TBT committee level to scope in the workable cross cutting issues among members.
- Members welcomed New Zealand and Malaysia's comments and expressed that they look forward to the report back from New Zealand on their findings at the next Committee meeting.
- As for unnecessary technical barriers to trade in medical devices or pharmaceutical products, Japan mentioned that there is no particular technical barriers vis-à-vis CPTPP members. Japan also mentioned that the Committee should carefully discuss what we can do because COVID-19 pandemic has not yet ceased in most of the CPTPP member countries.

6. AGENDA ITEM 3:

There was no comments and inputs.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4:

There is no concrete details of the next CPTPP TBT Committee. Singapore, as next chair, will communicate with members in due course.

## **ANNEX A**

### **CPTPP Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**

<b>AGENDA</b>	
Date and Time:	26 August 2021, 9:00 am(Tokyo Time)
Venue:	Video-Conference
ITEM 1:	Adoption of the Agenda
ITEM 2-1:	“Information Exchange Templates” for Implementation Updates
ITEM 2-2:	Possible Future Activities
ITEM 3:	Other issues
ITEM 4:	Next Meeting
ITEM 5:	Committee Report