

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.

CPTPP Committee on Cooperation and Capacity Building and Committee on Development

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Cooperation and Capacity Building and Committee on Development were held virtually on 6 and 7 July 2021. 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: Based on New Zealand's proposal, the Committee discussed and adopted a template to be used for proposing cooperation. The template (**ANNEX B**) will be used in case any Party requests for capacity building or any other assistance in accordance with Article 21.4, bearing in mind that this provision is not linked to any bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) schemes, and there's no dedicated funding for the implementation of this provision. It envisages that the ways to implement future cooperation and capacity building activities are subject to further discussion and consideration at the Committee. The template can also be used in case any Party wishes to offer a proposal of assistance for specific activities. The form filled out by a requesting Party will be sent to the Chair and the contact points of the Committee, taking into account the priorities and the limitation of the scheme, and will be circulated by the Chair among the contact points of the Committee so that the Committee will discuss and consider how to proceed with the request.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3: The Committee exchanged information regarding the implementation of subparagraph 2(a) and (b) of Article 21.4.
 - New Zealand shared their experience of offering capacity building to Viet Nam on government procurement in 2019. Peru shared their experience of utilizing the training program of Canada's Expert Deployment Mechanism (EDM) on impact assessment and trade policy development. Viet Nam also appreciated the technical supports provided under Canada's EDM.
 - Viet Nam also express their thanks to Australia for their great support to build up the Viet Nam Portal of Free Trade Agreement (FTAP). Viet Nam hopes to receive support from the other countries and their support would be more meaningful if it can come promptly.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4: The Committee exchanged information regarding the implementation of Article 23.7.
8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Canada, New Zealand and Chile jointly made presentation on Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA). The Committee appreciated their presentation and recognized the importance of inclusive trade, especially integrating gender perspective more fully into trade activities in the post-COVID world.
9. AGENDA ITEM 6: Nothing was raised.
10. AGENDA ITEM 7: Singapore, as the Chair for the 2022 CPTPP Commission, will internally discuss and update members regarding the next meeting of the CPTPP Committee on Cooperation and Capacity Building and Committee on Development.
11. AGENDA ITEM 8: Its report will be finalized after confirmation by correspondence.

CPTPP Committee on Temporary Entry for Business Persons

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Temporary Entry for Business Persons (TEBP) was held virtually on 16th July 2021. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. Mr. Toru Kajiwara 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: Countries of Chair and Vice-Chairs made initial remarks.

5. AGENDA ITEM 2: The Committee agreed to adopt the agenda.

6. AGENDA ITEM 3: The Committee agreed to adopt the CPTPP Commission's Rules of Procedure (CPTPP/COM/2019/D005).

· Regarding the frequency of meeting (the first paragraph of the Rules of Procedure), the Committee confirmed that these rules will be applied mutatis mutandis, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 12.7.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4: Members shared and explained their own experience and border control measures under COVID-19 situations.

- New Zealand shared updates and efforts on resumption of cross-border travel at APEC, including discussion at roundtable on safe passage in May 2021 and virtual APEC Business Travel Card.
- Mexico explained the impact of COVID-19 on the movement of business persons, including procedures for preventing the transmission of the virus, as well as new measures to facilitate immigration formalities, such as the possibility to complete and obtain the Multiple Immigration Form online.
- Singapore presented the overview of their arrangements for entry to the country, such as the immigration measures, "Reciprocal Green Lanes" and "Air Travel Pass."
- Australia underscored economic benefits of reopening the border as soon as it is safe to do so, referring to its ongoing consideration regarding possible requirements for inbound travelers, including digital vaccination authentication.
- Canada explained its changes and refinements with regard to COVID-19 related border measures, adapting to the situation.
- Chile offered to make a brief presentation on its new legislation concerning immigration measures for temporary entry of business persons at the next

meeting.

- Japan presented cross-border travel restrictions and its exceptions for the pandemic of COVID-19, efforts for easing of the restrictions, and quarantine measures.
- Malaysia explained about its quarantine requirements after entering the country such as installing mobile app to keep track on the movement of people.
- Peru presented outlines of the cross-border travel restrictions and efforts to reopen the border, as well as of its measures for ABTC holders.
- Viet Nam explained its quarantine measures after entering the country.

8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Members discussed when the next Committee should be convened.

- Mexico expressed their interest to continue to discuss COVID-19-related measures in the Committee.
- Singapore added their views that the next meeting would depend on substantive agenda items to be discussed in the Committee.
- Japan as the Chair of this year proposed to continue intersessionally consultation among the members regarding a next meeting to keep under review the situation of COVID-19 and to solicit possible agenda items from interested Members.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: The Committee agreed to finalize its report by correspondence.

CPTPP Environment Committee

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Environment Committee (ENV) was held virtually on 15 June 2021 (Tokyo Time). Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, and Singapore. Ms. Yuko Watanabe, Director of International Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) 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 as attached ANNEX A.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2:
 - The Committee reviewed the final version for "Procedures for Discussing Submissions and Responses". At the request by some CPTPP Members for a little more time for confirmation, the Committee agreed to extend a brief period for the final confirmation of the document. The Committee eventually established the Procedure set out in ANNEX B through communication via e-mail.
 - The Committee discussed a draft "Report on Implementation of Article 20.9", which is to be reported to the CPTPP Commission according to Article 20.9.6. After clarifications and exchange of views, the Committee made some revisions and agreed on finalising the report through email. The final Report is set out in ANNEX C.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3:
 - Canada and Mexico reported a summary of *CPTPP Workshop on Combating Illegal Trade of Wildlife Species: Illegal Trade of Turtles and Tortoises*, held virtually on 3-4 March, 2021, underscoring the highlights and takeaways of the activity, including a plan for a second round of the workshop to be held in 2022.
 - Japan introduced its plans for a series of webinar sessions that it is going to organise in the coming months. The planned four sessions will respectively focus on the areas of; prevention of the spread of invasive alien species, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, circular economy and resource efficiency, and climate change and decarbonisation. CPTPP Members agreed on regarding these sessions as this year's public sessions set forth in CPTPP Article 20.19.8, provided that live streaming of these sessions is made available to the public.
 - The Committee shared experiences on cooperation activities that have been undertaken under other bilateral or regional trade agreements, as agreed in the

previous meeting, while referring to the updated list of areas of interest for cooperation.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4:

- The Committee noted that Canada's proposal on "Standard Operating Procedure for Inter-Committee Cooperation" has been shared with Senior Officials for further guidance and discussion.
- Japan reported the state of play of Information management. The Committee shared the view that the website for document management is useful, in particular, to share the Contact Points among CPTPP Members to ensure smooth communication. Committee Members agreed to submit any suggestions to the Chair.
- New Zealand underlined the importance of the review of the fisheries subsidy disciplines under Article 20.16.8. It also reported the state of play of their proposal for "Guidelines for Subsidy Notifications" and expressed their willingness to continue their work on the document. The issue is expected to be discussed in the next meeting of the Committee.
- New Zealand reminded CPTPP Members that the general review of the CPTPP in Article 27.2 will be discussed at the Commission later this year or early next year. Committee Members took note of the possibility of inputs to this process from the Environment Committee.

8. AGENDA ITEM 5:

- While the meeting requirement is biennial, no objection was expressed to the suggestion for the next CPTPP Environment Committee meeting to be held in 2022, hosted by Singapore.

9. PUBLIC SESSION:

- As was agreed by the CPTPP Members under AGENDA ITEM 3, the webinar sessions organised by Japan, which can be summarised as follows, are regarded as this year's public sessions of the Committee.

- Session on international cooperation to prevent the spread of invasive alien species (24 June):

During this session, the participants (representatives from CPTPP Member governments, international organisations and a global shippers' association, as well as invited experts) mutually introduced the relevant efforts being made in preventing the spread of invasive alien species (IAS) through unintentional introduction pathways. The participants broadly shared the view that sea containers cleanliness is a priority to prevent environmental and economic damage caused by IAS and developed a common understanding on the need to further strengthen international cooperation to promote effective measures. The participants agreed to submit the summary of this session to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to make a contribution namely to the discussions related to the post-2020

Global Biodiversity Framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD-COP15).

- Session on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (1 July):

During this session, the outline of the recently published “Dasgupta Review” was first introduced, revisiting the importance of sustainable use of natural assets. The participants (representatives from CPTPP Member governments, international organisations and an NGO, as well as invited experts) fruitfully shared the progress of Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the status of policy measures/practices aimed to achieve sustainable management of socio-ecological production landscapes/seascapes, among which was the example of “other effective area-based conservation measures” defined under the CBD. The overview of “Satoyama Initiative” and its related projects was also highlighted in this context.

The participants further discussed the need of a holistic approach, including but not limited to utilising traditional/indigenous knowledge and raising awareness of multi-stakeholders. It was acknowledged that the exchanges of views at this session were very much in line with the discussions towards CBD-COP15 and the UN Food Systems Summit.

- Session on circular economy and resource efficiency (13 July):

During this session, the participants (representatives from CPTPP Member governments and an international organisation, as well as an invited expert) respectively introduced the global state of play regarding circular economy and resource management, and relevant national policies/initiatives in several CPTPP Members including those to reduce plastic waste. The need for developing plans to redesign socio-economic system, based on indicators and governments’ collaboration with business sectors and citizens, were underlined there.

The participants shared a common understanding that the implementation of circular economy policies, addressing challenges such as decarbonisation at the same time, is needed for achieving sustainable growth. It was reminded that “World Circular Economy Forum 2021” and “11th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific” were scheduled to take place later this year, to further promote international cooperation in this regard.

- Session on climate change and decarbonization (27 August):

During this session, the participants (representatives from CPTPP Member governments, as well as speakers invited from business associations and academic sector) first shared the overview of global circumstances related to climate change policy, including the efforts made in the context of achieving net-zero emission by 2050. The expectation towards elaboration of rules on carbon pricing was expressed there.

The participants further exchanged their views and coincided in opinion that addressing climate change should be compatible with economic growth, and

thus the business sector's continued cooperation based on dialogues between governments and industry is crucial. The importance of technological innovation was also reiterated in this connection. In addition, it was broadly shared by the participants that in introducing decarbonization measures which may affect trade, carbon border adjustment mechanisms in particular, sufficient international/regional consultations are an important component in designing them, while ensuring fair competitive conditions duly taking into account the WTO rules and inputs from the business sector.

CPTPP/FS/2021/R001

CPTPP Committee on Financial Services

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Financial Services was held virtually on 19th May 2021. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. Ms. Saiko Nakagawa of Financial Services Agency 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: As the chair of the Committee on Financial Services Japan proposed the Agenda for the session and requested to other members for any additional point of discussion. The approval of the Agenda took place by consensus with no amendments.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2: Japan suggested to apply the CPTPP Commission's Rules of Procedures to the Committee on Financial Services and asked members if any modification or specific rules are necessary. Upon a question from Canada regarding the preparation process of the Committee Report, Japan clarified that members will be able to comment on the draft before it is finalized. The Committee agreed to adopt the CPTPP Commission's Rules of Procedures (CPTPP/COM/2019/D005).
6. AGENDA ITEM 3: For common understanding among members, as the chair, Japan introduced the existing CPTPP provisions (ANNEX 11-B SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS, Section B: Transfer of Information and CHAPTER 14 ELECTRONIC COMMERCE (Article 14.1, 14.11 and 14.13)) and also drew an example of recent international initiatives, noting that this discussion is intended to shed light on the current CPTPP provisions and not to propose any new disciplines to the agreement.

Subsequently, Japan expressed its idea that the recent trend of globalized business of financial institutions and increasing risk to customer protection requires appropriate regulation and supervision. To achieve that, Japan stressed the importance of balanced discipline and implementation of the rules as well as cooperation among members' authorities in managing their regulatory frameworks in a transparent manner.

During the session, members shared the following views:

- Canada mentioned that a commitment to transfer of information is important for financial institutions to operate globally and for regulators to fulfill their supervision responsibilities. Moreover, Canada pointed out that they support appropriate measures to protect personal information and privacy, but these should not be used as a means to circumvent the obligations of commitments on the transfer of financial institution information in trade agreements. Finally, Canada flagged the importance of regulator access to financial data on the type and volume of international activities of a financial institution for prudential supervision, under

appropriate safeguards that balance the privacy and confidentiality of account and policyholders.

- Emphasizing that the Transfer of Information (TOI) provision was an important commitment for the CPTPP, as a forward movement, Singapore introduced its initiation of the process of including TOI provisions into its Digital Economy Agreements (DEAs), such as with Australia. With access to cloud computing as a viable alternative, Singapore observed that data localization requirements unduly increased business costs to Financial Institutions (FIs). Hence, Singapore discussed the importance for FIs doing business in Singapore to have the freedom and flexibility to store data externally with the appropriate safeguards, and further explained its relevance to a small country like Singapore because the TOI would help the continuation of FIs' business operations even if an unlikely scenario of serious power failure occurs. With regards to the TOI provision within the CPTPP FS text, Singapore presented its domestic understanding that almost all activities listed in the definitions of the FS chapter were considered "ordinary course of business".

Finally, Japan expressed appreciation for members' opinions and experiences and concluded that it would look forward to further discussions on this topic in the future.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4: No other issue was raised.

8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Singapore expressed that, as the chair of the Commission in 2022, it will consider and contact other members about the schedule of the next meeting.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: Japan explained that it would prepare the draft report of the Committee on Financial Services and send it to other members for comments and feedbacks. The Committee agreed to finalize the report by correspondence.

CPTPP Labour Council

Council Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Labour Council was held virtually on 3rd March 2021. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. Ms. CHIYA Mamiko of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, chaired the Council.
2. The Council agenda is attached at **ANNEX A**.
3. A summary of the Council's discussion and any outcomes agreed under the respective agenda items is set out below.
4. AGENDA ITEM 1: The Council agreed to adopt the Agenda.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2: The Chair provided welcome remarks, and briefed the Council on business arrangements.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3: Council members provided updates on their respective Contact Points for the Labour Chapter pursuant to Article 19.3.
7. AGENDA ITEM 4: The Council discussed its obligation to "provide a means for receiving and considering the views of interested persons on matters related to this Chapter", pursuant to Article 19.14.1. The Council agreed that each member will receive submissions from the interested members of its public and share them with other Council members. The Council also agreed that the Chair hosting the Council meeting can decide whether to organize a public session based on the agenda of the meeting. The Council noted the importance of holding the public session and each member recognized the necessity of ensuring public engagement and transparency when they chair the Council. Details on the specific method of sharing the received views of interested persons and how to hold the public sessions, will be considered in the following Labour Council meetings.
8. AGENDA ITEM 5: The Council adopted four priority areas for cooperation: (1) Responding to the changing nature of work and employment, (2) Promoting occupational safety and health, (3) Promoting gender equality, (4) Promoting ethical and sustainable supply chains. Members exchanged information including issues to be improved, goals to be achieved, what role each members can play and expected support in these priority areas. Japan will summarize the information shared by the members and circulate in order to make use of the future discussion to progress General Work Programme.
9. AGENDA ITEM 6: Members were of the view that they finalize the Council report by correspondence. The Council has tentatively agreed that the next formal meeting of the CPTPP Labour Council will be held alongside the 2023 CPTPP Commission chaired by New Zealand.

CPTPP Professional Services Working Group

Working Group Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Professional Services Working Group (PS) was held virtually on 21st July 2021. Delegates from the following CPTPP Members participated: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. Mr. Toru Kajiwara of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chaired the Working Group.
2. The Working Group agenda is attached at **ANNEX A**.
3. A summary of the Working Group's discussion and any outcomes agreed under the respective agenda items is set out below.
4. AGENDA ITEM 1: Countries of Chair and Vice-Chairs made initial remarks.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2: The Working Group agreed to adopt the agenda.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3:
 - New Zealand made a presentation about its compilation work on the questionnaire on the regulatory systems for professionals across Members and suggested that further questions be added to the existing questionnaire to help establish a MRA negotiation framework.
 - Australia agreed to New Zealand's proposal and suggested that, because of the diversity of professional services, the questionnaire should focus on specific professions and solicit more detailed responses from Members, and encouraged those Members who have not submitted answers to the existing questionnaire to do so.
 - Mexico and Canada appreciated the work of New Zealand, and supported the suggestion from Australia.
 - The Chair encouraged any Members who have not submitted their answer to do so and thanked New Zealand and interested Members for continuing this work.
7. AGENDA ITEM 4:
 - Canada presented the outline of its proposal on non-binding MRA guidelines, emphasizing that these guidelines are non-binding, voluntary, illustrative and aiming to support MRA negotiations between competent authorities. Canada also explained the difference between their draft MRA guidelines and the Guidelines for Mutual Recognition Agreements or Arrangements in the Accountancy Sector, which were adopted by the WTO's Council for Trade in Services in May 1997; and welcomed further comments from other Members by August 31 as an indicative deadline.
 - Australia fully supported the Canada's proposal and proposed to add a description on the impact of MRA in the Introductory Notes in order to improve the context and also introduced their APEC projects including an inventory of existing MRAs.

- Brunei welcomed this initiative, commenting that there are MRAs which have been adopted under the ASEAN umbrella.
- Chile welcomed Canada's initiative and looked forward to continuing discussions.
- Japan agreed to this initiative, stressing that a single guideline will allow Members to have a common understanding among the wide segment of the stakeholders, including regulatory bodies and authorities.
- Malaysia proposed to add time frame of negotiations in the Paragraph 1 (d).
- Mexico asked about comparison between this draft MRA guidelines and the one which is included in the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.
- New Zealand expressed its general support and noted that they needed to circulate the draft to its regulatory bodies for detailed comments.
- Peru welcomed Canada's initiative and looked forward to engaging in the discussion.
- Singapore asked how the paragraph regarding "Single Negotiating Entity" has been implemented in practical terms.
- Viet Nam observed that, as Members have different regulatory systems on professional services and recognition, it would be desirable to advance efforts to ensure common understanding among countries on related terminologies and definitions. Viet Nam also proposed Australia to share the experience on their APEC projects including an inventory of existing MRAs.

8. AGENDA ITEM 5:

- The Chair proposed to continue intersessional consultation among the bureau Members regarding the possibility of holding a second meeting within this year.
- The proposal was accepted by Members, and Australia expressed its support to hold a second meeting before the end of this year.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: The Working Group agreed to finalize its report by correspondence.

CPTPP Committee on Regulatory Coherence

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Regulatory Coherence was held virtually on 11 May 2021. 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 agreed to adopt the agenda.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2: The Committee agreed to adopt the Commission's Rules of Procedure.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3: New Zealand and Singapore updated on their preparation and agreed to determine their scope of covered regulatory measures at their early convenience.
7. AGENDA ITEM 4: The Committee exchanged information. Singapore updated on its preparation and agreed to provide their notification at their early convenience.
8. AGENDA ITEM 5: The Committee recognized that it has not used any common database where members post the notifications required by this chapter and maintain them for easy and future reference among members. Japan has offered to make use of its website for document management. The Committee acknowledged that the database management is an important issue which is needed to be discussed in cross cutting manner. The Committee agreed to continue the discussion on data management by consulting senior officials.
9. AGENDA ITEM 6: In connection with each member's opinion of the last committee's follow-up, members exchanged their views about this article. The Committee discussed its obligation to "establish appropriate mechanisms to provide continuing opportunities for interested persons of the Parties to provide input on matters relevant to enhancing regulatory coherence", pursuant to this article.

Members agreed that government to government deliberations would remain closed to external participation. Canada suggested to keep the Committee among the government representatives while separate occasions such as workshop including the non-governmental experts and stakeholders can be organized. Japan suggested that each member will receive submissions from the interested persons of its public and share them with other members in the Committee, like Labour Council's decision pursuant to Article 19.14.1. Some members echoed Canada's suggestion, while some members were open to having non-governmental parties participate for specific items

during the Committee meeting, where appropriate. The Committee recognized that the definition of the “interested persons” referred in Article 25.8 must be clarified in order to make further consideration on this article.

To follow up, the Committee agreed that Japan will intersessionally conduct a survey, which requests all members to share each view on i) definition of the “interested persons” referred in Article 25.8, ii) appropriate mechanisms for involvement of interested persons in the Committee.

10. AGENDA ITEM 7: NZ suggested that the Committee should spend more time on cooperation matters and learning session of good regulatory practices, and Canada also suggested to have more interactive learning session with non-governmental experts. Singapore, which will chair the Commission next year, may coordinate with NZ and Canada in planning the next Committee.

11. AGENDA ITEM 8: Singapore, as chair for the 2022 CPTPP Commission, will internally discuss and update Members regarding the next meeting of the CPTPP Committee on Regulatory Coherence.

12. AGENDA ITEM 9: Japan prepared and sent for comments a draft report of the session. Comments and suggestions were consolidated in order to have the report ready before the fourth CPTPP Commission Meeting.

CPTPP Committee on Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures (ROO) was held virtually on 29th – 30th June 2021. 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 Agenda of the Committee was adopted as **ANNEX A**.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2: The Committee decided to adopt the CPTPP-Commission's Rules of Procedure (CPTPP/COM/2019/D005) as applicable to Committee on ROO. The Committee noted that a report may be confidential if so agreed by the Parties in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Rules of Procedure.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3: Members exchanged views and their experiences in the implementation of the ROO Chapter.

(1) Certification of Origin implementation

Members discussed the administration of the (Origin Criterion) field of the Certification of Origin. It appears that the members' applications of the origin criterion field are at varying degrees of flexibility. Furthermore, some members confirmed that this could result in a claim for preferential tariff treatment being denied if the origin criterion noted is not specific enough. Considering this, in order to promote acceptance of the Certification of Origin by the importing Party, some members recommended that the certifier be as specific as possible in completing this element when certifying the origin of the good. Despite variances in application of the "origin criterion" element, the Committee agrees on the importance of transparency in accordance with domestic laws and regulations relating to the certification of origin. The Committee will continue discussion on this issue.

(2) Electronic Certification of Origin

Members exchanged their practices regarding the acceptance of electronic Certification of Origin.

All Members who shared their information have already accepted, or are ready to accept, the electronic Certification of Origin under CPTPP in such manners as scanned copies in PDF format and electronic signature. For the sake of transparency for business, members further confirmed to share a

summary of information on each member's administration of electronic Certification of Origin, as attached hereto as **ANNEX B**.

(3) The implementation of verification procedure

For those members that apply Annex 3-A, and that request assistance of the exporting Party under paragraph 9 of Annex 3-A during a verification of origin, a request was made to identify the communication channel used for this practice. The Committee decided to exchange additional information concerning those members that apply that provision.

(4) Other issues

A member shared its experience where a customs authority of a Party mistakenly denied the claim for preferential tariff treatment under CPTPP due to insufficient knowledge of the Agreement. In order to avoid claims for preferential tariff treatment being denied in error, a member emphasized the importance of promoting understanding of the Agreement for all relevant officers administering the Agreement and that Parties continue to consult quickly to resolve these issues when they arise.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4: The Committee shared the understanding that PSR transposition is a neutral, technical update that does not represent a substantive change to Annex 3-D. Some members indicated a preference that the PSR update be undertaken in accordance with subparagraph 2(c) of Article 27.2. Others noted that this would necessitate the use of complex and time-consuming domestic procedures and therefore suggested that the members rely upon subparagraph 2(d) of Article 27.2. The Chair asked members to consult internally on these alternatives with a view to reaching a solution at the next intersessional meeting.

Apart from the issue on the implementation procedures, members confirmed to have informal meetings intersessionally to discuss and finalize the transposition work.

8. AGENDA ITEM 5: No issues were raised.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: The next meeting will be held in 2022 under the Chair by Singapore, and the timing is to be communicated and determined via emails.

10. AGENDA ITEM 7: The Committee agreed to finalize its report by correspondence.

CPTPP Committee on State-Owned Enterprises and Designated Monopolies

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on State-Owned Enterprises and Designated Monopolies (SOEs Committee) met virtually on July 14, 2021 (Japan Standard Time, GMT+9). Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam (Brunei Darussalam was absent). Ms. AKITA Yuko, Negotiator for Economic Partnership Agreements 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: Adoption of the Agenda

The Committee adopted the draft agenda without any amendment.

5. AGENDA ITEM 2: Transparency

Members shared information regarding new updates on their respective SOEs list notifications.

The Committee had a broad discussion on timing and methods of the SOEs list notification.

i. The Committee recognized the requirement under Article 17.10 for members to update their respective SOEs list annually.

ii. The members that have not notified their respective SOEs list in 2021 expressed the intention to notify their respective lists as soon as possible.

iii. To ensure a fruitful discussion, members were encouraged to provide their future notifications prior to the annual meetings of the Committee.

Members exchanged information and their views on publication of their respective SOEs lists. Japan publishes its SOEs list on its official website. Canada expressed that they were willing to publish their respective SOE notification lists on a reciprocal basis.

6. AGENDA ITEM 3: Threshold Calculation

The Committee recognized the requirement under Annex 17-A to adjust the SDR threshold every three years, and for members to notify the applicable threshold in their respective national currencies in line with paragraph 4. The members that have not notified their converted threshold yet shared their plan to notify the amount as soon as possible.

No members reported a major change in their national currency vis-a-vis the SDR according to the Annex 17-A paragraph 6.

The Committee had a broad discussion on the approaches for adjustment of the threshold calculation in 2022.

- i. Members considered the risk of a one-year delay for the next adjustment due to the likelihood that the IMF would not publish the base data required for the adjustment until after July 2022.
- ii. Members agreed on the necessity to initiate the adjustment of the threshold immediately after publication of the base data, and on the importance of the role of the Chair in 2022 (Singapore) on this matter. Singapore expressed its intention to take initiative on this adjustment by providing the threshold calculation during the intersessional period in 2022 after the IMF's publication of the necessary data, including the updated SDR valuation basket.
- iii. Prior to the 2022 meeting of the Committee, members will endeavour to complete the adjustment of the threshold and notification of the SOEs list based on the updated threshold in their respective currencies. In this regard, members shared the view that it would be preferable to schedule the date of the Committee in or after August 2022.

7. AGENDA ITEM 4: Technical Cooperation

Some members shared information regarding their technical cooperation activities on promoting SOEs disciplines within multilateral fora like the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Members are invited to follow up and get involved in promoting SOEs disciplines under other frameworks.

8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Operation and Implementation

Some members (Chile, Malaysia and Peru) that are undergoing the process of CPTPP ratification, updated the Committee on the status of their internal procedures.

Canada shared its concerns that changes to Mexico's energy sector are harming Canadian investment and requested clarifications in relation to the CPTPP SOE obligations. Mexico asked Canada to send its concerns by e-mail and expressed its willingness to respond by e-mail, after confirmation with competent authorities.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: Cooperative Efforts

Some members shared information on their current, under review, prospective and finalized Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with SOE disciplines. FTAs containing SOE provisions that came into force recently were mentioned.

10. AGENDA ITEM 7: Committee Report

Members were of the view that they finalize the Committee report by correspondence.

The Committee has tentatively agreed that the next meeting of CPTPP SOEs Committee will be held in or after August 2022. The details will be coordinated by the incoming Chair (Singapore).

CPTPP Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Committee Report

1. The third meeting of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures was held virtually on 22nd and 23rd June 2021. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam; Brunei Darussalam was absent. Dr. Tomoko Ishibashi of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 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 agreed to adopt the agenda.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2: There was no update on contact points. Singapore shared that there was some organizational restructuring within the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and would update CPTPP members if there were any changes to the CPTPP contact points once the restructuring is finalized. Malaysia advised that the name of their ministry and email addresses had changed. Japan also advised about their organizational restructuring that would take place on 1st July 2021.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3: New Zealand as the Chair and Canada as the co-Chair reported the progress by the ad hoc Certification Working Group since the 2nd SPS Committee meeting. Members agreed that the Working Group should continue its work using the results of the survey and the developed certification principles to (1) develop some potential model certificates, and (2) work on ways of further promoting the uptake of electronic certification amongst the Members. Members also agreed to the proposal made by New Zealand and Canada to hold a virtual meeting later in the year, in addition to working electronically, to develop model certificates for harmonization and discuss uptake of electronic certification, including a stocktake of progress and barriers to further progress. To help progress this work all Members are invited to join the Working Group and are also encouraged to ensure their relevant technical experts attend the virtual meeting. Apart from the work of the Working Group, Australia advised the Committee that it would soon be hosting a series of webinars about electronic certification and will provide details in due course.
7. AGENDA ITEM 4: Canada, Singapore and Australia shared their experiences with adaptation to regional conditions on African Swine Fever. Canada thanked Singapore for recently finalizing an ASF zoning arrangement with Canada to allow for safe trade of swine products from disease free zones in Canada the event of an outbreak. The chair invited other members to share similar information at the next meeting.
8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Japan, Canada and Australia shared their experiences and activities regarding equivalence. Japan advised about the progress in negotiation about

Thailand's SPS measures with regard to Sweet Orange Scab. New Zealand introduced the Codex activities on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems and encouraged CPTPP members to participate in an electronic working group if they were interested in it. Japan and Canada expressed their interest in the activity.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: Some members shared information about their activities at the WTO SPS Committee, Codex, OIE and IPPC and invited other CPTPP members to work jointly in these fora. Japan and Australia introduced the activities of Codex CCFICS regarding tackling food fraud in the context of food safety. Canada reported that at upcoming WTO SPS Committee it will be making a statement informing members that Canada was officially recognized as a BSE negligible risk country at the May 2021 OIE General Session. In addition, some members advised that at the next WTO SPS Committee, they would raise specific trade concerns. Canada announced that it would encourage WTO members to participate in a possible SPS Declaration for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference at the next WTO SPS Committee and also invited members to participate in the WTO Working Group on Approval Procedures. Australia shared information about IPPC activity on the development of commodity standard and auditing standards and gave an update on the outcomes of CCFICs. New Zealand shared information about the OIE General Session meeting held in late May 2021, including activities of the OIE Observatory and OIE Codes. New Zealand congratulated Canada on its recent recognition as a BSE negligible risk country and also noted that the draft OIE BSE Chapter would be available shortly and advised that CPTPP members should carefully study the draft Chapter.

10. AGENDA ITEM 7: Canada presented a work proposal of recommended procedural guidance for implementation of transparency measures. Members confirmed support for a non-binding guidance that would respect members' confidentiality and privacy requirements and not be overly prescriptive. The Committee agreed to further discuss this matter through an ad hoc working group. Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Japan supported the work and expressed willingness to participate in it. The ad hoc working group will be open to all CPTPP members.

11. AGENDA ITEM 8: Canada discussed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on SPS measures has been signed with Viet Nam. Australia shared information regarding the working group on remote audit of CCFICS, and suggested to consider cooperating on remote auditing among CPTPP members. Australia also introduced that it intends to hold webinars on remote audit. Mexico, Canada and New Zealand were interested in cooperation on remote audit, and New Zealand shared experiences on remote audit. Australia also advised about the usefulness of the Import Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Guideline for Pesticides prepared by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Mexico and Canada expressed interest in cooperation in this field. The Chair suggested that, noting the growing importance of remote audit under the COVID-19 environment, the CPTPP members exchange their experiences about remote audit at the next meeting. Australia also proposed to share more information about the APEC MRL guidelines at the next meeting.

12. AGENDA ITEM 9: Some members shared their experiences on trade during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some members also raised concerns that some countries are not

basing their measures on science and unnecessarily restricting trade without scientific justification, and will be raising as specific trade concerns at the upcoming WTO SPS Committee. CPTPP members reconfirmed that COVID-19 response measures should be science-based and consistent with WTO SPS obligations and the standards and guidelines of related international organizations. CPTPP members agreed to work jointly in international arena to advocate this message.

CPTPP members shared perspectives on possible future accession to the CPTPP. CPTPP members reiterated that any future accession must respect and abide by the science-based rules of the SPS chapter of the CPTPP agreement.

13. AGENDA ITEM 10: The Committee noted the intention to hold the 4th CPTPP SPS Committee meeting in conjunction with the Commission meeting in 2022. Pending direction from the Commission, the chair of the following CPTPP SPS committee meeting is expected to be Singapore, supported by Japan and the next host as co-chairs.

14. AGENDA ITEM 11: The Committee agreed to finalize its report by correspondence.

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.

CPTPP Committee on Trade in Goods and Committee on Agricultural Trade

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Trade in Goods and Committee on Agricultural Trade were held virtually on 2nd June 2021. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. Mr. Takuro Tasaka, Director of Economic Partnership Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, chaired the Committee.
2. The summary of the Committee's discussion is as follows.
3. AGENDA ITEM 1:
 - The Committees adopted the agenda as attached **ANNEX A**.
4. AGENDA ITEM 2:
 - No changes regarding import licensing procedures since the last Committee were reported.
5. AGENDA ITEM 3:
 - No changes regarding export licensing procedures since the last Committee were reported.
6. AGENDA ITEM 4:
 - Canada and Vietnam updated information contained in the "CPTPP- Goods- Location of published information" and would share further details shortly after the Committee.
7. AGENDA ITEM 5:
 - Respective correlation tables of the members based on HS 2022 nomenclature are expected to be exchanged by the end of September 2021. If a member can't meet the deadline under unavoidable circumstances, such member should accelerate its work and share its table as soon as possible within this year.
 - The Committee took note of the difficulty ASEAN-members are facing to meet the deadline, as they have to undertake multilateral coordination among the ASEAN countries to finalize respective national nomenclature from the perspective of harmonization.
8. AGENDA ITEM 6:
 - No export restrictions on foodstuffs since the last Committee were reported.
9. AGENDA ITEM 7:

- Some members noted that CPTPP contains comprehensive and detailed provisions requiring Parties to ensure TRQ administration procedures are available to the public; are fair and equitable; are no more administratively burdensome than necessary; are responsive to market conditions and allow importers the opportunity of full utilization in the TRQ administration.
- Australia and New Zealand raised several specific concerns relating to the administration of TRQs by some countries. Those concerned members would continue to discuss further online and/or on a capital basis, as appropriate.
- Some members expressed interests in compiling TRQ utilization data of all applicable members as a way to further inform this agenda item, while others expressed their concerns or reservations. Hence, the members will continue to discuss this matter further in future meetings.

10. AGENDA ITEM 8:

- Canada proposed establishment of Data Exchange Working Group and discussed the potential preliminary terms of reference. The members would further consider its proposal based on today's discussion, including the possibility to have an informal dialogue among technical experts instead of establishing the formal Working Group, and submit their official inputs on the Canadian proposal to Canada by 18th June 2021. Canada will circulate the relevant email address for input on this proposal and coordinate next steps as appropriate.
- In terms of promoting preferential tariff utilization, Japan reported an incidence of initial denial of valid self-certificate and eventual grant of preferential treatment after bilateral talks, and underscored the importance of precise understanding of relevant procedures on the part of customs personnel and prompt cooperation between Parties when a problem arises.

11. AGENDA ITEM 9:

- Most members appreciated Canadian contributions to finalize the draft terms of reference (TOR) of the Working Group on Products of Modern Biotechnology, which is expected to be established under Article 2.27 of the CPTPP agreement. The Committee decided to endorse the TOR unless Mexico states otherwise by the end of June 2021. The Committee endorsed the TOR on 13th July 2021 as attached ANNEX B.