

Intervention of The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu in PCTF

Thank you, chair, for giving me the floor to share our experience on the completion of ratification process.

Since WTO members had reached consensus on the TFA in Bali, The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu has committed to the completion of its ratification process as soon as possible. After review our domestic regulations, we were very confident that our domestic regulations were fully consistent with the TFA and there was no need to modify them. Therefore, in our experience, the most important part in the process of ratification was to conclude the approval process in the Congress. After our administrative authority submitted TFA to the Congress, the administrative authority had taken some actions to work closely with Congress to facilitate the approval process.

First of all, the administrative authority made TFA as a priority issue for Congress to discuss, and urged the Congress to pass TFA as soon as possible. Secondly, the administrative authority organized a working unit to regularly communicate with the legislators. If legislators had any concerns about TFA, the unit would immediately provide the necessary information for the legislators. Last but not the least, in order to show the administrative authority's will to conclude the process of ratification, the Ministers of related authorities frequently visited the Congress to seek the supports from legislators. By taking above-mentioned actions, we finally completed our approval process in three months. On 17 August, we notified our

acceptance of Protocol to WTO, and WTO circulated our notification of acceptance to the membership on 3 September this year.

Regarding the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement, you might know that we had notified this Committee that we would implement all provisions contained in Articles 1 to 12 of the Agreement under Category A in June 2014. To fully fulfill our commitment, we had conducted the process to review our domestic regulations. In the mean times, we also held a national workshop on trade facilitation in August this year. Over 100 Customs and other trade related agencies officers participated in this workshop to have a better understanding of TFA, and hopefully we could appropriately implement the TFA at the border in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to WTO Secretariat for supporting this workshop by assigning Mr. Alejandro Gamboa as a speaker. The information he shared with us is very helpful and useful for our implementation of TFA.

I hope our experience can be useful for the Members who still are in the process of ratification.

Thank you.