

APEC Structural Reform Capacity Building Workshop
Singapore, 1-3 June 2016

Preparatory work part 1: Developing RAASR Individual Action Plans

Chinese Taipei

Instructions: *the purpose of this preparatory work is to provide material for participants to use during the workshop, most particularly during the breakout sessions when economies will work on developing their RAASR Individual Action Plan (IAP) on day two. Note: these instructions and italicised text in the tables can be deleted once the document is completed.*

*This activity should be completed by **Friday, 20 May 2016**, and submitted by email to: Ben Shepherd (Ben@developing-trade.com) and Rose Hunter (Rose.Hunter@dfat.gov.au). It is essential that the preparatory work is submitted on or before 20 May 2016.*

For this activity, participants should nominate one or two draft structural reform priorities their economy intends to include in its RAASR IAP. The draft priorities nominated should be dependent on the substantive expertise of your economies' workshop participants. If your workshop participants' expertise are focused in one area, only one priority should be listed. If broader expertise is available, two priorities can be listed.

In your response below, please refer to Ministers' directive under RAASR instructing officials to undertake structural reform measures in line with, but not limited to, the following pillars:

- 1. more open, well-functioning, transparent and competitive markets;*
- 2. deeper participation in those markets by all segments of society, including MSMEs, women, youth, older workers and people with disabilities;*
- 3. sustainable social policies that promote the above mentioned objectives, enhance economic resiliency, and are well-targeted, effective and non-discriminatory.*

Introduction/Overview

Provide a short narrative outlining key structural reform policy challenges and opportunities facing your economy for 2016-2020. Responses should be around ½ page and can include dot points or paragraphs (or a combination of both).

Structural Reform Priorities

Provide one or two examples of structural reform priorities and actions (policies, projects or measures) your economy envisages undertaking over the next five years. Participants only need to prepare a brief first or 'rough' draft, as the examples will be further developed during the workshop.

If you want to highlight multiple policies/actions under each priority, please add additional rows. In filling out the tables below, economies are encouraged to keep them S.M.A.R.T (specific, measurable, achievable, results-focused, and time-bound).

1. Competitive Regulatory Environment

APEC economies are facing an environment of slower global economic growth. In order to boost growth in such an environment, structural reform is especially critical for economies seeking to promote economic growth momentum.

Structural reform often involves making improvements to domestic institutions, regulations, and policies to enable more open, well-functioning, transparent and competitive markets. So Chinese Taipei is continuing to strengthen our regulatory reform mechanism for promoting business environment reforms and enhancing Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs).

Competitive Regulatory Environment	
Action A	To Promote Business Environment Reforms
Measures of progress for Action A	Chinese Taipei has undertaken EoDB reforms with structured programs since 2008. For 2016, actions on our reform agenda include: further simplifying the procedures for starting a business and for the “One-stop window for dealing with construction permits,” implementing paperless inspection of export filing, promoting floating lien system, and institutionalizing the online lawsuit filing system and the commercial court.
	<p><i>Qualitative:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ To align with international practices by adopting the smart regulation approach* to better Chinese Taipei’s business environment (note* : Chinese Taipei has been more proactive in inter-agency regulatory coordination, comprehensively taking stock of suggestions raised by foreign chambers of commerce and industrial and commercial organizations. Chinese Taipei will continue to pursue regulatory reforms and closer integration into the international trade system, making it more convenient for enterprises to do business.) ✧ To improve administration effectiveness
	<p><i>Quantitative:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ To improve World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Ranking Chinese Taipei’s ease of doing business ranking rose from 61th in 2008 to 11th in 2015. In seven years, Chinese Taipei has moved up 50 places in the rankings, which marked an impressive achievement. ✧ To reduce the number of procedures, time and cost in EoDB priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Starting a Business : To evaluate making a company seal is not a required procedure for company registration applications ✓ Dealing with Construction Permits : Taipei City Government set up the One-Stop Counter for Building Permits to issue building permits for factories, warehouses and office buildings of up to five stories. Chinese Taipei will continue to promote Taipei City’s successful experience to the other local governments. ✓ Getting Credit : To promote floating lien system ✓ Trading Across Borders : To implement paperless inspection of export filing ✓ Enforcing Contracts : To institutionalize the online lawsuit filing system and the commercial court. ✧ To promote investment

Action B	To Enhance Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs)
Measures of progress for Action B	<p>Chinese Taipei is actively working to enhance Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) in order to increase transparency of rule-making process. The implementation of RIA in particular is the key to advancing the regulatory quality. We will augment reporting the content of RIA from domestic agencies and enhance the skills of personnel responsible for such assessments. At the same time, we will continue to take stock of reform suggestions from foreign & local chambers of commerce and industrial and commercial organizations, so as to loosen regulations through consultation and internal coordination and strengthen the application of GRPs tools.</p>
	<p>Qualitative:</p> <p>To advance the regulatory quality and reduce unnecessary regulatory cost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ To Strengthen the implementation of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Enhance RIA capability : <p>Chinese Taipei has stepped up work to enhance the capability of government agencies by holding regular RIA training for civil servants since the latter half of 2014 and have incorporated RIA in regular civil servant training program starting in 2015.</p> • Chinese Taipei is in the phase of RIA capacity building. The scope of RIA adoption is to be decided after consensus reached. At present time, the short term goal is to encourage government agencies to implement RIA and fulfil related procedures. We look forward to establish the post-performance evaluation mechanism after the agencies accumulated sufficient operating experiences and templates, so that an excellent system of impact assessment could be built. ✧ To Advance the harmonization of regulations with international standards : <p>Chinese Taipei continues to strengthen regulatory harmonization with international practices through comprehensive stocktaking and research on suggestions by foreign and local chambers of commerce, as well as conducting inter-agency meetings for reaching innovative solutions to remove obstacles to business operations.</p> ✧ To strengthen mechanisms and tools for public consultation : <p>Chinese Taipei has established a new tool, the Public Participation Platform, to facilitate public consultation last year (2015). One of its key features is the early disclosure of draft policy content for public comments in the planning stage, that is, before the policy is actually formulated. In the future, we are to further enhance the mechanism of exploring how to use social media tools to notify stakeholders of regulatory activities, receiving and considering public comments on regulatory proposals, and explaining publicly how public comments on proposed regulations were taken into account, or why some public comments were not fully adopted.</p> ✧ Prospective Regulatory Planning <p>To show our determination for better regulatory practice, Chinese Taipei is to publicize the future plans for regulatory reform with regard to government policies and the needs of the key industries.</p>
	<p>Quantitative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ To lengthen the consultation period of draft regulations : <p>Chinese Taipei provides consultation period of draft regulations of 14 days at a minimum now.</p> ✧ To increase the number of users of the “Regulatory Reform Platform (RRP)” : <p>Chinese Taipei set up the RRP in 2010. The RRP collects regulatory</p>

	<p>suggestions from all sectors. However there are few people using the platform to propose suggestions.</p> <p>✧ To enhance the foreign chambers of commerce and industrial and commercial organizations' satisfaction with the handling of issues by the governments :</p> <p>Since 2008, Chinese Taipei collect relevant advice and suggestions made by the public, domestic and foreign chambers of commerce, and at the same time inviting each agency concerned to review each issue on a rolling basis.</p>
<p>Contribution/ impact to RAASR</p>	<p>✧ In2015, APEC ministers have adopted the following three pillars in RAASR (2016-2020), namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More open, well-functioning, transparent and competitive markets; • Deeper participation in those markets by all segments of society, including MSMEs, women, youth, older workers, and people with disabilities; and • Sustainable social policies that promote the above-mentioned objectives, enhance economic resilience, and are well-targeted, effective, and non-discriminatory. <p>✧ Regulatory reform plays a critical role in structural reform and is the basis for an economy's competitiveness. Chinese Taipei has, in recent years, engaged various measures of relaxing and reforming our laws and regulations as well as enhancing our business environment. This would further strengthen the economic and legal infrastructure of Chinese Taipei and promote economic growth momentum.</p>

2. Perfection of Competition Policy and Law to Foster Competitive and Free Market

Competition is recognized as an effective tool that economies can use to implement successful structural reform. Implementing competition policy and law help to establish a transaction environment with free and fair competition and efficiency, enhance domestic consumer welfare, remove barriers to trade, and improve an economy's international competitiveness. Thus, by reviewing current competition law and policy to undertake a self-assessment of barriers to competition is the foundation to improve the regulatory framework, foster government, enterprises, and consumers' awareness of competition and align with the process of structural reform.

Chinese Taipei has devoted to the promotion of amendment of the Fair Trade Act (FTA) in the past decade and established competition advocacy plan in previous years. Although the FTA has been amended twice in 2015, it is necessary to continuously examine current competition law and policy in response to the international trends and industrial development so as to undertake structural reform.

In order to achieve the goal of RAASR and be in line with the pillar of "more open, well-functioning, transparent and competitive markets", Chinese Taipei's second structural reform priority is "Perfection of Competition Policy and Law to Foster Competitive and Free Market". The priority is divided into Action A: Comprehensive competition law structure, effective investigation of anti-competitive conduct and Action B: Advocacy of competition concepts to enhance the fairness and transparency of competition policy and law enforcement, create a level playing field, and fulfil quality growth in the APEC region.

Perfection of Competition Policy and Law to Foster Competitive and Free Market	
Action A	Comprehensive competition law structure, effective investigation of anti-competitive conduct A complete competition law system is the foundation of sustainable development for the economy. In response to the rapid economic change as well as the trend of international competition laws development, Chinese Taipei has devoted to the promotion of amendment of the Fair Trade Act of Chinese Taipei in the past decade. Although the FTA has been amended twice in 2015, considering the advance of economic globalization and the rise of the knowledge-based economy make it more important for Chinese Taipei to continuously take international trends and industrial development into account when designing competition policy and amending competition law to align with international standards and best practice guidelines in order to enhance the effectiveness, fairness, and transparency of law enforcement.
Measures of progress for Action A	<i>Qualitative:</i> In order to ensure the effectiveness of the amendment, during the amendment procedure, it is required to consider that (1) whether the amendment draft has been reviewed and consulted with related stakeholders (such as industrial representatives, trade associations, scholars, experts, competent authorities, and legislators); and (2) whether the amendment align with the trend of international competition laws development and industrial change.

	<p><i>Quantitative:</i> N/A</p>
Action B	<p>Advocacy of competition concepts By establishing a competition advocacy plan each year, the competition authority in Chinese Taipei (i.e. Fair Trade Commission, FTC) actively holds regular meetings and workshop with local governments, and organized regional promotion and training seminars for industrial, academic, government, and consumer organizations to foster awareness and promote the FTA through announcements and messages from propaganda, promotion materials, fixed-point billboards, magazines, video-sharing website, and online platform to enhance general public's awareness of the FTA and work together to protect free and fair competition.</p>
Measures of progress for Action B	<p><i>Qualitative:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Whether the advices provided by the FTC in respect of competition issues and concerns were adopted by the competent authorities. </p>
	<p><i>Quantitative:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Using survey questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of competition advocacy to enterprises and general public: a survey of enterprises and consumers who have been recipients of advocacy and analysed the ratio of the level of awareness of FTA. ✧ The number of meetings, workshops, promotion and training seminars for industrial , academic, government, and consumer organizations to foster awareness and communication each year (2016-2020). </p>
Contribution/ impact to RAASR	<p>This priority contributes to the pillar of “more open, well-functioning, transparent and competitive markets”. Perfection of Competition Policy and Law is an effective tool to tackle “behind-the-border” barriers for promoting APEC structural reform so as to raise economic efficiency, enhance the achievement of the results on free and open trade and investment, which promotes sustainable economic growth ultimately.</p>