

State of Play of the EGA Negotiations

Singapore's Perspective

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Outline of Presentation

- Background to the EGA negotiations
- Getting started on a list of Environmental Goods (EGs)
- Where we are now
- Other possible aspects
- Singapore's interests

Background to the EGA Negotiations

- Pre-existing mandate under the Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

With a view to enhancing the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment, we agree to negotiations, without prejudging their outcome, on:

...

(iii) the reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services.

...

Para 31 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration

Background to the EGA Negotiations

APEC's contributions

2007 APEC MAG

- new approach identified to move away from then WTO impasse at CTESS

2007 Sydney Action Agenda on Climate Change

2009 APEC Leaders affirmed key thrust in APEC Environment Goods and Services WP to address climate change

- Identification of package of goods and services for which, via increased utilization, an economy would be able to contribute towards climate change

Background to the EGA Negotiations

2010 Green Growth part of **APEC Yokohama Vision**

2011 APEC Leaders mandate to

“..... develop an APEC list of environmental goods that directly and positively contribute to Green Growth and sustainable development objectives on which we are resolved to reduce by the end of 2015 our applied tariff rates to 5% or less”

2012 APEC Leaders welcomed and endorsed the APEC List of Environmental Goods that *“....directly and positively contribute to our green growth and sustainable development objectives.”*

Background to the EGA Negotiations

2012 APEC Leaders affirmed that “*..by reducing tariffs on environmental goods, we will help our business and citizens to access important environmental technologies, which will facilitate their deployment, and use contributing significantly to our green growth and trade liberalization objectives....*”

2014 APEC Leaders in Beijing “*..welcomed the launch of negotiations on Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) in July 2014 in Geneva and encouraged participants of the above initiative to seek expanded membership.*”

Getting Started on a List of EGs

APEC initiative enabled movement on EG at WTO

- Built on approach of listing out nominations based on agreed broad EG categories
 - Open nominations; Use-based Egs
 - Avoided complication of “defining” EGs
 - Allowed for systematic process of nomination and clarifying environmental fit
 - No a priori exclusion, but parties must defend environmental credentials

Expectations for 2015

- Positive developments in run up to Paris UNFCCC
 - Synergies in tackling of Climate Change concerns and push for increase use of Environmental Goods eg alternative energy products with lower carbon emissions
 - INDC linkages
- WTO Ministerial Meeting in Nairobi

Getting there is not easy

Where we are now

- Issues in agreeing on a common list
 - Multiple-use products
 - Trade-off between environmental credibility and industry sensitivity
 - “Environmentally preferable products”
 - Homogenising ex-outs and descriptions (avoiding APEC-like outcome)
- Living Agreement
 - Opportunity for expansion of list

Other issues for holistic outcome

- Environmental Services
- Non-Tariff Barriers
 - 2014 APEC Ministerial Meeting agreed to
 - establish the APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain to strengthen the capacity building and information sharing on green supply chain and to promote green supply chain cooperation
 - Endorsed the establishment of the first pilot center of the APEC Cooperation Network on Green Development held in Tianjin , China
- Institutional Provisions

Singapore's Interests

- Potential benefits for environment and economy
 - Positive contribution to UNFCCC objectives
 - Encourage use of clean, green energy
 - Economic benefits for companies dealing with solar and alternative energy products
 - Promote sustainable green development
 - Wider take up of wastewater management products and services
 - Economic benefits for SMEs with niche environmental products (E.g. biomass conversion, energy-efficient electrical systems)
 - Encourages integration of regional and global supply chains
 - Builds on AEC objectives