

Introduction to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership(CPTPP)

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Bureau of Foreign Trade

1 Basic Information

- 1.1 CPTPP members include 11 countries, namely Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam, with a population size of nearly 500 million (accounting for 7% of the world); total GDP exceeding USD 11 trillion (13.1% of the world); and trade accounts for over 24% of our country's total trade value.
- 1.2 CPTPP's signature and entry into force: It was signed in Chile on 8 March 2018 and entered into force on 30 December of the same year. Among them, Mexico, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, Australia and Vietnam have completed the domestic procedures and started implementation. Peru, Chile, Malaysia and Brunei have, however, not yet completed the domestic procedures.
- 1.3 CPTPP Agreement details: In addition to trade in goods, it includes trade in services(including telecommunications, financial services), environment, e-commerce, government procurement, competition, state-owned enterprise, small and medium-sized enterprises, intellectual property, labor, transparency and anti-corruption, investment, and so on, a total of 30 chapters: following the withdrawal of the U.S.A, the implementation of 22 provisions related to intellectual property rights protection and investment was suspended.

2 Latest developments

- 2.1 The CPTPP Commission
 - 2.1.1 In January 2019, the 1st CPTPP Commission Meeting

(Ministerial Level) was convened in Japan: A Joint Ministerial Statement was issued. Ministers reiterated that the Agreement is open to all economies which accept the principles of an effective, open, inclusive and rules-based trading system, and are willing to meet the high standards of the Agreement.

2.1.2 In October 2019, the 2nd CPTPP Commission meeting (Senior Official Level) was held in New Zealand: A Concluding Joint Statement was issued to encourage members who are still in the process of undertaking their domestic processes, and reaffirmed the interest CPTPP members have in expanding the Agreement over time through the accession of those economies willing to meet the CPTPP's high standards.

2.1.3 The 3rd CPTPP Commission meeting is expected to be held by Mexico in mid-2020.

2.2 Accession process:

2.2.1 Informal Engagement: Before each member makes an official request, it shall interact with CPTPP members to express their interest.

2.2.2 Aspirant economies must notify New Zealand, as CPTPP depositary ('Depositary') of their formal request to commence negotiations on acceding to the CPTPP. The Depositary will promptly acknowledge receipt and share the Accession Request with the other CPTPP Signatories.

2.2.3 Members consultation: Consultations with each member to address questions or concerns on interested areas. These consultations will not constitute a negotiation process.

2.2.4 The CPTPP Commission will decide whether to commence the accession process and establish an Accession Working Group to negotiate.

2.2.5 The CPTPP Commission will make the decision by consensus.

3 Taiwan's preparations:

3.1 Regulations Adjustment: In the past, our country had continuously promoted the work related to liberalization linked in connection to international regulations. In the past, we have made institutional adjustments regarding the high standards of the TPP and proposed 12 amendments to the law in the Legislative Yuan. Out of these 12 drafts, 8 have already been amended and the Administrative Departments will reintroduce the remaining 4 (namely the Patent Act, the Copyright Act, the Trademark Act, the Digital Communications Act) at the new sessions of the Legislative Yuan to review the initiative.

3.2 Domestic Consultation: To maintain communication with stakeholders in the country and to strengthen communication with the public through digital platforms to reach a consensus.

3.3 External Lobbying: CPTPP members are widely addressed through the various channels of economic and trade dialogue, such as the WTO, the APEC, and other international venues. These members are informed that our country is ready to join in to gain support. We also cooperate with private sectors to strengthen exchanges with industry opinion leaders of the target countries through the trade and investment missions, to create public support of our country's participation to CPTPP.