



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : The OIC Director
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **ASEAN TRADE IN GOODS NEGOTIATIONS**

DATE : 27 SEP 2023

This pertains to the ways forward and agreements during the conduct of the Small Group Meeting on ASEAN Trade in Goods Negotiations held on 22 September 2023 via Zoom.

Please be informed that the meeting was convened in preparation for the upcoming ASEAN TIG negotiations, i.e. the ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement Working Group on Trade in Goods (ACAFTA WGTIG) on 27-29 September 2023, ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement Trade Negotiating Committee (ATIGA TNC) on 03-06 October 2023, and the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) 3.0 WGTIG on the 4th week of October 2023, and was attended by the Bureau of Import Services (BIS), the Board of Investments (BOI), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Tariff Commission (TC), the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Below are the follow up actions of the Department regarding the ASEAN-Canada FTA, ATIGA Upgrade, and ASEAN-China FTA 3.0.

| Issues | Follow-up actions |
|--|---|
| ASEAN-Canada FTA | |
| Draft text for the ACAFTA Trade in Goods Chapter | To provide further comments on the latest draft ACAFTA TIG Chapter text by 26 September 2023 |
| ATIGA Upgrade | |
| Other Issues | To provide comments on the Trade and Environment Chapter text by 29 September 2023 |
| ASEAN-China FTA 3.0 | |
| Further liberalization of the Sensitive and Highly Sensitive Track | To provide position on the possible approach for the further liberalization by 13 October 2023. |

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liberalization of 95% of all TLs for all Parties (China Proposal)• Modality from AKFTA (ASEC's suggestion) |
| ACFTA TIG Chapter text | To provide further comments on the Proposed revised ACFTA TIG Chapter text by 13 October 2023 |

In this regard, we would like to request comments/inputs on the aforementioned TIG Negotiation Chapter texts, which can also be accessed thru the following link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xzLPtpO3zrArdtLI_JcOSdog4ZEP51I8?usp=sharing

In view of the deadline set, we would appreciate receiving your feedback by 29 September 2023.

For your information and appropriate action, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

19 September 2023

Please refer to the attached distribution list

Subject: Invitation to the Small Group Meeting on ASEAN Trade in Goods Negotiations, 22 September 2023

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

In preparation for the upcoming ASEAN Trade in Goods (TIG)-related Negotiations, the Bureau will be convening a Small Group Meeting on 22 September 2023, 1:00-4:00 PM via Zoom.

The Meeting will deliberate and/or finalize the Philippines' positions for the following ASEAN TIG-related negotiations:

- ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement Upgrade Negotiations
- ASEAN-Canada FTA Working Group on Trade in Goods
- ASEAN-China FTA Upgrade Negotiations Working Group on Trade in Goods


The meeting agenda is attached for your consideration. Other documents will be circulated in due course.

For confirmation of attendance or questions/clarifications, please directly coordinate with Ms. Ma. Monica M. De Guzman (MaMonicaDeGuzman@dti.gov.ph) or Mr. Cha Gyu Lim (ChaGyuLim@dti.gov.ph).

Your kind support and assistance in this endeavor would be of great value in securing key Philippine interests in ASEAN TIG negotiations.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Marie Sherylyn D. Aquia
OIC-Director

Enclosed: a/s

DTS No. IN00296619

BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS

Small Group Meeting on ASEAN Trade in Goods-related Negotiations
22 September 2023, 1:00-4:00 PM onwards
via Zoom Videoconference

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting may wish to adopt the provisional annotated agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 2 Preparations for upcoming ASEAN Trade in Goods Meetings

2.1 ASEAN-Canada FTA Working Group on Trade in Goods

The Meeting may wish to discuss the Philippines' position on the following issues:

- a) *Proposed modalities for tariff elimination, tariff reduction, and exclusion list under the ASEAN-Canada FTA*
- b) *Exchange of trade and MFN data for the market access negotiations*
- c) *Draft text for the ACAFTA Trade in Goods Chapter*

2.2 ATIGA Upgrade Negotiations

The Meeting may wish to discuss the Philippines' position on the following elements in the ATIGA Upgrade:

- a. *Remanufactured Goods*
- b. *Export Restrictions on Food and Agricultural Products*
- c. *Trade in Crisis Situations*
- d. *Trade and Environment*
- e. *National Treatment and Market Access Chapter*
- f. *Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) Treatment*
- g. *Special Consideration for Rice and Sugar*

2.3 ASEAN-China FTA Upgrade Negotiations 3.0 Working Group on Trade in Goods

The Meeting may wish to discuss the Philippines' position on the following issues:

- a) *Further liberalization of the Sensitive and Highly Sensitive Track*
- b) *Exchange of trade and MFN data for the market access negotiations*
- c) *Proposed revised ACFTA TIG Chapter text*
- d) *Trade Remedies provision in the ACFTA*

AGENDA ITEM 3 Other Matters

3.1 Transposition of Tariff Reduction Schedules under ATIGA and ASEAN+1 FTAs

The Meeting may wish to note the status and discuss the pending issues related to the transposition of Tariff Reduction Schedules under ATIGA and ASEAN+1 FTAs in HS 2022.