

Agreement on Trade in Goods
under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation among the Governments of the Member Countries of the
Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea

Article 8
Quantitative Restrictions and Non-Tariff Barriers and
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

1. Each Party undertakes not to adopt or maintain any prohibition or quantitative restriction on the importation of any goods of the other Parties or on the exportation of any goods destined for the territory of the other Parties, except in accordance with its WTO rights and obligations or other provisions in this Agreement.
2. Each Party shall ensure the transparency of its non-tariff measures that they are not prepared, adopted or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to trade among the Parties. The Parties shall identify non-tariff barriers other than quantitative restrictions for elimination as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Agreement. The timeframe for elimination of these non-tariff barriers shall be mutually agreed upon by all the Parties.
3. The Parties recognises the importance of transparency of TBT and SPS regulations as in the WTO Agreements on TBT and SPS, including notification procedures on preparation for regulations and standards on TBT and on any occurrences of SPS incident to reduce their negative effect on trade as well as to protect human, animal or plant life or health. Each Party shall designate its contact point for the purpose of responding queries related to this Article.
4. A working group on TBT and SPS (hereinafter referred to as the "WG on TBT and SPS") under the Implementing Committee shall be established to deal with issues relating to the implementation of this Article and to facilitate trade and protect human, animal or plant life or health through mutual cooperation and bilateral consultations. The WG on TBT and SPS shall comprise of government officials from agriculture, fisheries, livestock and industry agencies and other related agencies. The WG on TBT and SPS shall develop its scope of work and meet at least once a year or as mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

**Annex of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic
Cooperation Among the Governments of the Member Countries of the
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**Article 14
Standards and Conformity Assessment and
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

1. The Parties, recognising the important role of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures on industry, agriculture and plantation commodities in facilitating trade, shall cooperate in the areas such as:

- (a) exchange of views and information on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in areas of mutual interests;
- (b) exchange of laws and regulations on standards and conformity assessment procedures as mutually agreed;
- (c) exchange of experts and staff in areas of mutual interests;
- (d) explore possible mutual recognition arrangements and agreements to facilitate trade flows among the Parties;
- (e) development and implementation of technical cooperation and capacity building programmes on standards, technical regulations, metrology and conformity assessment, which include, among others, seminars, training and training attachments, exchange of staff and regulatory dialogues on agreed areas;
- (f) strengthening of cooperation among the Parties at relevant international and regional fora on standards and conformity assessment and promotion of the use of international standards and conformity assessment guidelines, as appropriate, as a basis for the development of national technical regulations;
- (g) development of testing laboratories and accreditation network as well as testing programmes, as appropriate, among the Parties;
- (h) exploration of technical assistance in the development of industrial standards in areas of mutual interests; and
- (i) other areas of cooperation as may be identified and mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

2. Recognising the importance of sanitary and phytosanitary (hereinafter referred to as "SPS") measures in minimising their negative effects on trade in agricultural, fishery, animal and food products, and plantation commodities, the Parties, on the basis of mutual benefits, shall cooperate in:

- (a) exchange of information concerning SPS measures;
- (b) exchange of information on any occurrences of SPS incidents;

(c) improvement of the distribution and packaging systems;

(d) human resource development in the concerned area that would be promoted, among others, by organising training and exchange of specialists;

(e) development and promotion of new technologies; and

(f) other areas of cooperation as may be identified and mutually agreed upon by the Parties.