



**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FTA JOINT COMMITTEE  
25-26 May 2010, Makati City, Philippines**

The Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), signed on 27 February 2009, entered into force on 1 January 2010 for the following Parties: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam. For Thailand, the AANZFTA entered into force on 12 March 2010.

Article 1 in Chapter 16 of the AANZFTA established the FTA Joint Committee to be the main body responsible for overseeing the implementation and operation of the AANZFTA.

The First Meeting of the FTA Joint Committee was held in Makati City, the Philippines on 25-26 May 2010. Representatives from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia and New Zealand attended the Meeting, which was co-Chaired by:

- (a) Mr. Nazmi Mohamad, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam, on behalf of the ASEAN Member States;
- (b) Mr. Michael Mugliston, Special Negotiator, Free Trade Agreement Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for Australia; and
- (c) Mr. Peter Lund, Head, FTA and Economic Unit, Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for New Zealand.

**Summary of Main Outcomes**

- ADOPTED** the Rules and Procedures for the FTA Joint Committee. The Rules and Procedures for the subsidiary bodies under the FTA Joint Committee, when deemed necessary, shall be drafted consistent with the Rules and Procedures for the FTA Joint Committee.
- NOTED** that Cambodia, Indonesia and Lao PDR are doubling efforts to complete their respective domestic ratification process for the entry into force of the AANZFTA for them.
- NOTED** that the AANZFTA has been notified to the WTO pursuant to GATT Article XXIV and GATS Article V.
- CONSIDERED** the report of two (2) subsidiary bodies under the FTA Joint Committee: (i) Committee on Trade in Goods (CTG); and (ii) Committee on Intellectual Property (CIP).
  - **NOTED** that legal enactments to implement Parties' tariff commitments would be posted in the AANZFTA website, which would be launched on 28 May 2010.

- **AGREED** to the establishment of the SPS Sub-Committee under the Committee on Trade in Goods to look into the implementation of the provisions in the SPS Chapter in the AANZFTA.
  - **AGREED** to maximize use of contact points in raising and addressing practical implementation issues related to trade in goods.
  - **NOTED** that: (i) in aid of implementing the built-in agenda on Rules of Origin, in particular the review of chemicals and plastics production process rules, consultations with domestic chemicals and plastics industry will be undertaken by Parties to better understand their needs with regard to trade facilitation; and (ii) Australian issuing authorities and bodies would commence issuing Certificates of Origin using electronic signatures and seals within the next two (2) months.
- Approved the 2010 budget for the AANZFTA Support Unit to be established at the ASEAN Secretariat on 1 July 2010.
  - Endorsed four (4) project proposals under the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Programme: (i) Seminar/Workshop on Chemicals and Plastics Production Process Rules for the AANZFTA Rules of Origin (Chemical Reaction Rules); (ii) Capacity-building on Monitoring the Utilization of the AANZFTA Tariff Preferences; (iii) Intellectual Property Crime Conference; and (iv) Workshop on Accession to the Madrid Protocol.
  - Agreed to work out details for a strategic approach to economic cooperation.

**Next FTA Joint Committee Meeting**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> FTA Joint Committee Meeting will be held either in Australia or New Zealand in November 2010. The exact date and venue of the said meeting will be posted in the AANZFTA website once determined.