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| **Individual Action Plan Update for Chinese Taipei for 2016** |
| ***Highlights of recent policy developments which indicate how Chinese Taipei is progressing towards the Bogor Goals and key challenges it faces in its efforts to meet the Goals.*** |
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| **IAP Chapter (and Sub‐Chapter and Section Heading, if any)** | **Improvements made since 2014 IAP** | **Further Improvements Planned** |
| ***Tariffs*** | **Applied Tariffs**   1. Chinese Taipei has been using the HS 2012 version since 1 Dec 2013. 2. Tariff rates are 5% or lower on 5,637 items or 63% of the Schedule. Among these, 2,634 items or 29% of the Schedule are tariff free (updated 3 July 2015). 3. The average nominal tariff rate of all products is 6.35% (updated 3 July 2015). 4. The average nominal tariff rate of agricultural products is 14.66 %. 5. The average nominal tariff rate of industrial products is 4.23% (updated 3 July 2015). 6. The average trade-weighted tariff for all goods is 1.72% (updated 2014). 7. The average effective tariff rate for all goods is 1.20% (updated 2014).   **Tariff Quotas**   1. Agricultural products subject to tariff rate quotas include 32 tariff lines, including red beans, liquid milk, peanuts, garlic, dried forest mushrooms, dried daylilies, young coconuts, betel nuts, pineapples, mangoes, shaddock, rice and rice products, longans, deer velvet, fresh pears, bananas, and others. 2. The rate of tariff lines with tariff quotas to all lines is 0.4%.   **Tariff Preferences**   1. To enhance industrial competitiveness and rationalize the tariff structure, Chinese Taipei revised the tariff rates of six items, which went into force on 30 Nov 2012. 2. Chinese Taipei signed the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of TPKM on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC) with New Zealand on 10 July 2013. The tariff amendment went into force on 1 Dec 2013. | **Applied Tariffs**   1. Chinese Taipei is actively participating in the agricultural, non-agricultural, and ITA Expansion negotiations in the WTO. Further reduction of tariff rates is expected in accordance with the outcome of the WTO Doha Round negotiations. 2. Chinese Taipei has drawn up a Draft Amendment to the Customs Import Tariff of HS2007 Edition. The Draft Amendment is expected to finish the legislative process by the end of 2016, so that the HS 2017 Edition will be adopted on 1 Jan 2017. |
| *Website for further information:* | http://web.customs.gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=1  http://web.customs.gov.tw/np.asp?ctNode=13101 |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | 1. Tel: (02)2550-5500#1027   Email: 008303@customs.gov.tw   1. Tel: (02)2550-5500#2508   Email: 007775@customs.gov.tw |  |
| ***Non‐Tariff Measures***  Non‐tariff measures include but are not restricted to quantitative import/export restrictions/prohibitions, import/export levies, minimum import prices, discretionary import/export licensing, voluntary export restraints and export subsidies | **Current Non-Tariff-Measures Applied**  Quantitative import Restrictions : None (10-digit HS Code)  Import Prohibitions: 87 items (10-digit HS Code)  Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ): 88 items (10-digit HS Code)  Import Licensing: 37 items (10-digit HS Code)  **Automatic Import Licensing**  Chinese Taipei reduced the number of items for which import licenses are required from 130 to 38 (10-digit HS Code) after its accession to the WTO on Jan. 1, 2002 and further reduced the number to 18 in 2003. The items that are still restricted are those for which WTO rules permit restrictions, such as rough diamonds, methyl bromide, and Montreal Protocol restricted chemicals.  As of Dec. 31, 2015, the number of the items for which import licenses are required have been reduced to 37 (10-digit HS Code). |  |
| *Website for further information:* | http://www.trade.gov.tw |  |
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| ***Services*** | **General Policy Position**   1. To improve the internationalization of Chinese Taipei’s services industry, we are assisting services industries to grasp business opportunities in international markets, especially those of emerging economies. Also, we are speeding up negotiations with important trading partners on economic cooperation agreements so that we can maintain our status on the global economic and trade landscape while helping our industries obtain access to global markets. For example, the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC) and the Agreement between Singapore and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Partnership (ASTEP) were signed in 2013, which demonstrate the great efforts Chinese Taipei has made. 2. In 2013, Chinese Taipei launched the “Free Economic Pilot Zone” (FEPZ) policy, which focuses on deregulation and institutional innovation. Currently, seven existing Free Trade Zones, Pingtung Agri-biotech Park, and Changbing Industrial Park Lun-wei Zone are selected as FEPZs, where market entry and other trade-related regulations are significantly relaxed. Also, some services, such as smart logistics, international health care services, financial services as well as innovative education are chosen as target industrial activities. This policy is expected to create favorable conditions to facilitate Chinese Taipei’s participation in regional trade blocs such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and so on.   **Communications Services**  The National Communications Commission (NCC) has relaxed conditions that had been stipulated in the “Compliance Approval Regulations on Controlled Telecommunications Radio-Frequency Devices” and “Compliance Approval Regulations of Telecommunications Terminal Equipment.” The amended regulations allow the applicant importing radio-frequency devices or telecommunications terminal equipment to apply for compliance approval without an authorization letter of the brand manufacturer. These measures streamline the application process and allow equipment to enter the market easily.  **Securities and Futures Services--Creation of an open and efficient capital market**   1. The Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) has implemented several measures to encourage domestic and foreign issuers to issue international bonds in the Chinese Taipei securities market. On 4 June 2014 it allowed international bonds to be excluded from the calculation of overseas investment caps by insurance companies; on 26 June 2014, it broadened the qualified investor spectrum from professional institutional investors to professional investors; and in December 2015 it allowed qualified foreign banks to issue subordinated international bonds to professional institutional investors. 2. To aid young people to achieve their dreams and provide more diverse sources of funding for innovative micro-enterprises, the FSC has allowed platform operators meeting certain qualifications to operate equity crowdfunding, which allows young people with innovative ideas to raise funds through more convenient network platforms. Issuance of the Regulations Governing Securities Firms, Regulations Governing Responsible Persons and Associated Persons of Securities Standards Firms, and Governing the Establishment of Securities Firms Related Regulations was completed by the FSC at the end of April 2015. 3. To make investing more convenient for foreign investors, encourage foreign investors’ participation in the bonds and mutual fund markets, and thereby expand the size of Taiwan’s securities market, specific provisions of the Regulations Governing Investment in Securities by Overseas Chinese and Foreign Nationals were amended on 11 Feb 2014. The amendments included: (1) Securities firms are allowed to serve as custodian institutions for offshore foreign investors. (2) Offshore foreign investors investing in foreign currency denominated bonds or mutual funds are exempt from the requirements for foreign investor registration and appointing a custodian institution. (3) The elimination of restrictions on investment in issuing companies by investment trust funds of securities investment trust enterprises that are issued and offered abroad. 4. To facilitate securities firms’ efforts to grow the business of their offshore securities units (OSUs) and develop distinctive products that will attract non-residents, the FSC, after consulting with the Central Bank, has issued regulations governing the establishment and management of OSUs, and amended the range of products that OSUs are allowed to handle. These measures are expected to increase the global competitiveness of securities firms, attract non-residents, and increase the vitality of our stock market. 5. A day trading mechanism was implemented. To provide more channels for hedging by investors and enhance the efficiency of trading, investors were allowed to execute long day trades in a total of 200 stocks (the component stocks of the TWSE Taiwan 50 Index, the FTSE TWSE Taiwan Mid-Cap 100 Index, and the GreTai 50 Index) beginning on 6 January 2014, and short day trades beginning on 30 June 2014. In addition, since 1 June 2015, the FSC has enlarged the scope of day trading subjects to include: (1) shares that can issue call warrants and have been announced by the TWSE or Taipei Exchange; (2) all listed exchange traded funds (ETF). 6. To make securities investment trust enterprises more competitive and to afford securities investment trust funds greater operational flexibility, the FSC allowed securities investment trust enterprises to issue leverage ETFs and reverse ETFs beginning 3 July 2014. On 31 Oct 2014, the first local leverage ETF and reverse ETF were listed in the Taiwan Stock Exchange. Currently there are four leverage ETFs and four reverse ETFs listed for trading. 7. Considering that futures commission merchants (FCMs) already possess specialized trading expertise and judgment competence, the FSC thought to provide them more flexibiliy to meet the needs of trading practice. The FSC thus issued an order on 6 June 2014 eliminating caps on FCMs’ use of proprietary funds for individual items, while retaining the cap on utilization for all investment items calculated in aggregate at no more than 40 percent of the FCM's net worth. In addition, to enhance efficiency and flexibility of futures trading by enterprises concurrently engaging in futures dealing operations, the FSC allowed such enterprises to use their proprietary funds to trade in stocks listed domestically on the TWSE (and the GTSM), call (put) warrants, and beneficial certificates for exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Furthermore, to increase flexibility in the utilization of proprietary funds by enterprises exclusively engaging in FCM businesses, the FSC allowed them to use proprietary funds for the purchase of ETFs, bond funds, and money market funds issued by securities investment trust enterprises or futures trust enterprises that have their own shareholder relationships. 8. In response to the offshore RMB market growing rapidly and vigorously in Taiwan, the FSC permitted the Taiwan Futures Exchange to launch two RMB FX futures contracts, USD/CNT FX futures (RTF) and USD/CNH FX futures (RHF) on 20 July 2015. The FSC continues to support Taiwan Futures Exchange to apply for the licensing of stock index futures and options from foreign exchanges and index providers, in order to diverse the product line and to enhance the internationalization of Taiwan’s futures market.   **Encouraging insurance product innovation**  To encourage product innovation and accelerate the product review process, the FSC has amended “Regulations Governing Pre-sale Procedures for Insurance Products” and related rules to shorten the prior-approval procedure, and extend exclusive selling period for innovative insurance products in July 2015. The FSC will allow faster review procedures for new insurance products according to differentiated supervisory principles for insurers that have demonstrated sound financial capabilities and good risk control.  **Foreign Exchange Control/Movement of Capital**   1. The issuance of foreign currency denominated international bonds from 1 Jan 2014 to 10 Dec 2015: 2. Domestic issuers issued: 3. 38 USD denominated bonds amounting to USD 7.43 billion. 4. 5 RMB denominated bonds amounting to RMB 1.72 billion. 5. Foreign issuers issued: 6. 120 USD denominated bonds amounting to USD 40.78 billion. 7. 52 RMB denominated bonds amounting to RMB 29.68 billion. 8. 8 AUD denominated bonds amounting to AUD 535million. 9. 1 ZAR denominated bonds amounting to ZAR 600 million. 10. Mainland China issuers issued 26 RMB denominated bonds amounting to RMB 19.3 billion. 11. Since 31 July 2015, domestic authorized banks have been allowed to issue foreign currency denominated negotiable certificates of deposit (NCDs) by following the “Directions for Issuance of Foreign-currency Denominated Negotiable Certificate of Deposit by Banks.”   **Energy Services**  The “Rising Green-Energy Industry Program” was passed by Administrative Yuan since August 2014, with 4 major industries are targeted: solar PV, LED lighting, wind power and energy ICT. The program will seek the harmonization of standards with international organizations and promote demonstration sites and financing mechanism to support the development of the industries. | **General Policy Position**  Chinese Taipei will continue its commitments on promoting relevant reform programs focusing on deregulation and institutional innovation to be in line with international best practices and standards. |
| *Website for further information:* | 1. http://www.ncc.gov.tw/english/news\_detail.aspx?site\_content\_sn=69&is\_history=0&pages=0&sn\_f=566 2. http://www.ncc.gov.tw/english/news\_detail.aspx?site\_content\_sn=69&is\_history=0&pages=0&sn\_f=565 3. http://www.fsc.gov.tw/ 4. http://www.cbc.gov.tw/mp2.html 5. http://www.cbc.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=50491&ctNode=302&mp=1 6. http://www.moeaboe.gov.tw/ |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | 1. Email: ncc40@ncc.gov.tw 2. Email: international@fsc.gov.tw 3. Email: jschern@moeaboe.gov.tw |  |
| ***Investment*** | 1. The Negative List for Investment by Foreign Nationals was amended in 2010, 2012 and 2013. These amendments removed a considerable number of limitations or restrictions on foreign investors. In the latest review, more than 20 subsectors were removed from the list, including the manufacture of chemical products, the plantation and growing of fruits and flowers, land cargo transport, and certain financial intermediation services. Liberalization has reduced the list to less than 4% of manufacturing categories and less than 7% of service industries. The government will review and modify the list periodically or when the situation requires. 2. In addition, to facilitate the current approval process for FDI, Chinese Taipei submitted draft amendments of The Statute for Investment by Foreign Nationals to the Legislative Yuan for review. After these amendments take effect, most foreign investors will need only to notify the Investment Commission when they invest, instead of filing an application for approval in advance. 3. Chinese Taipei has set up an investment service center, the InvesTaiwan Service Center (ITSC), to provide customized, one-stop services for domestic and foreign investors who have concrete investment plans or face obstacles to investment. |  |

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| **IAP Chapter (and Sub‐Chapter and Section Heading, if any)** | **Improvements made since 2014 IAP** | **Further Improvements Planned** |
| *Website for further information:* | 1. http://www.moeaic.gov.tw/ 2. http://investTaiwan.nat.gov.tw |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | 1. Email: [dois@moea.gov.tw](mailto:dois@moea.gov.tw) 2. E-mail: [chenht@moeaic.gov.tw](mailto:chenht@moeaic.gov.tw) |  |
| ***Standards and Conformance*** | 1. Chinese Taipei has adopted WTO/SPS principles for the implementation of food sanitary regulations. 2. By late December 2015, Chinese Taipei established or revised the following food safety-related standards: 3. 5,640 Maxim Residues Limits (MRLs) for 365 pesticides; 4. 1,405 MRLs for 137 veterinary drugs; 5. Scopes, limits, and specifications of usage for 800 types of food additives; 6. 39 food sanitation standards. 7. For the 24 target international standards under SCSC’s Voluntary Action Plan 2014-2018 for alignment work, Chinese Taipei has aligned 18 of its national standards with the international ones. The work is scheduled to be completed by 2018. | 1. Chinese Taipei will continue establishing or revising food safety-related standards, including those on residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides, the scope and application standards of food additives, and sanitation standards for other products   2. Chinese Taipei will continue striving to align national standards with international standards in accordance with SCSC’s decisions. |
| *Website for further information:* | 1. <http://www.fda.gov.tw/> 2. http://www.bsmi.gov.tw/wSite/mp?mp=2 |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | http://faq.fda.gov.tw/Message/Default.aspx  E-mail: intl@bsmi.gov.tw  Tel: 886-2-23434560 |  |
| ***Customs Procedures*** | **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Certification and Management System**  Chinese Taipei already has established mutual recognition of AEO with the US, Singapore, Israel, and Korea. Chinese Taipei is working hard to establish mutual recognition of AEO with other economies in order to enhance supply chain security. There were 638 AEOs in Dec 2015 (306 General AEOs; 332 Security and Safety AEOs).  **Cargo Movement Security Project**   1. Chinese Taipei Customs has carried out the “Cargo Movement Security Project” since 2010. The project adopts passive and active RFID e-Seal and information and communication technologies to monitor the movement of import, export, transit and transshipment containers. Chinese Taipei Customs implemented RFID e-Seal systems at Keelung harbor, Taipei harbor, Taichung harbor, Kaohsiung harbor and Taoyuan International airport at the end of 2012. 2. RFID e-Seal systems can replace physical escorts for Customs and reduce operational costs for shipping companies. This project improves security control, enhances the efficiency of container transportation, and tangibly benefits Customs authorities, port authorities, and shipping companies.   **Customs-Port-Trade (CPT) Single Window**   1. Chinese Taipei’s Customs-Port-Trade (CPT) Single Window, established in August 2013, integrates the Customs Clearance System (managed by the Ministry of Finance), Maritime Transport Network System (managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications) and Facile Trade Network (managed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs) and serves as an exchange and sharing platform of economic and trade information for private/public sectors. It provides one-stop services such as Web-based and message-based applications, queries, operation services, etc. for all stakeholders, so they can more easily conduct import/export business operations. With regard to the message applications, the CPT Single Window offers 55 sets of import/export XML message implementation guidelines made by WCO Data Model Version 3.0, so that relevant industries can conduct import/export applications. It has set up a central database and has adopted business intelligence technology to provide versatile inquiry services for stakeholders to carry out application status queries, tracking and management, statistical analysis, etc. 2. The CPT Single Window also provides participating government agencies with a data exchange platform for message compliance checks, document verification, data sharing and cross-border information exchange so as to facilitate their governing duties. |  |
| *Website for further information:* | http://web.customs.gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=1  http://aeo.customs.gov.tw/aeo/HomeIndex.aspx  http://web.customs.gov.tw/np.asp?ctNode=13101  http://portal.sw.nat.gov.tw/PPL/ |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | 1. Tel: (02)2550-5500#2532   Email:007402@customs.gov.tw   1. Tel: (02)2550-5500#2962   Email:007260@customs.gov.tw   1. Tel: (02)2550-5500#2445   Email:008608@customs.gov.tw |  |
| ***Intellectual Property Rights*** | 1. On 1 Jan 2016, TIPO and KIPO commenced a mechanism for electronic exchange of priority documents. This mechanism significantly benefits both patent offices in terms of saving time and money on repeated production of paper documents, simplifying international application procedures, and enhancing administrative efficiency . 2. On 1 Jan 2016, the amendment to the Patent Attorney Act entered into force. The key revisions include allowing employment by a registered corporation, taking in-service training, and imposing heavier punishments for patent attorney malpractice. 3. On 1 Aug 2015, a new “SMEs’ IP Corner” information platform was launched on the TIPO website. It assembles information on all the available government supports and services to help SMEs struggling with IP issues to quickly locate relevant resources and services. 4. On 1 July 2015, TIPO launched a PPH Mottainai program with KIPO, allowing both offices to speed up patent examination. 5. On 18 June 2015, TIPO and JPO launched the “Cooperative Program on Mutual Recognition of Deposit of Biological Materials for the Purpose of Patent Procedure.” The mutual recognition thus established aims to lessen the burden on the part of patent applicants having to repeatedly make deposits in respective countries. 6. On 1 Jan 2015, the Executive Yuan approved the entry into effect of the latest IPR Action Plan (2015-2017). This Action Plan comprises seven major areas, including establishing a comprehensive regime of IPR policies and regulations, strengthening counterfeiting and piracy investigations, enhancing awareness education, and facilitating international and cross-strait exchanges and cooperation. 7. Starting 1 Jan 2015, the collective management organization MÜST (Music Copyright Society of Chinese Taipei) has been designated by TIPO as the single window collecting joint royalties for public performance using karaoke machines, users filing with the single window (MÜST) will simultaneously obtain authorization from all of the three designated collective management organizations. 8. On 1 May 2014, TIPO and JPO modified the PPH pilot program to PPH Mottainai and extended it for three years. This modified pilot program allows for greater convenience to applicants and further accelerates patent examination at both Offices. 9. On 24 March 2014, an amendment to the Patent Act entered into force. This amendment included the addition of 4 border protection provisions (Article 97-1 to 97-4) and a wording revision in Paragraph 2 of Article 143. Major points of this amendment relate to detention procedures, repeal of detention, and damages. 10. Online infringement uncovered by police offices around Chinese Taipei in 2014 totalled 2,929 cases, accounting for a 17.1% drop when compared to the 3,535 cases in 2013. Given the efforts to deter Internet infringement, we have not seen any worsening of Internet piracy in recent years. | Chinese Taipei will:   1. Enhance patent and trademark examination to stay abreast of international standards; improve examination efficacy and quality. 2. Stay aware of global IPR trends; draw up policies for industrial development. 3. Strengthen bilateral relations with the US, Japan, Korea, the EU, and other economies to enhance international cooperation. 4. Deepen interaction with mainland China’s competent authorities for IPR in order to strengthen IPR protection for our businesses. 5. Expect the number of pending patent applications to diminish each year, and to be reduced to 70,000 cases by the end of 2016, with an average examination time of less than 22 months. |
| *Website for further information:* | http://www.tipo.gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=2 |  |
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| ***Competition Policy*** | 1. In response to rapid economic change and the trend toward the development of international competition laws, the Fair Trade Act (FTA) of Chinese Taipei was amended twice in 2015. These amendments were the most extensive since the implementation of the FTA in 1992. Significant changes by the amendments, which were promulgated on 4 Feb 2015, are as follows: 2. Revision of the pre-merger notification threshold and extending review period of merger cases; 3. Recognition of circumstantial evidence for concerted actions; 4. Increase of the length of the period in which the competent authority can impose administrative penalties; 5. Empowerment of the FTC to suspend investigation if it accepts commitments offered by parties under investigation; 6. Differentiated administrative penalties for various violations; 7. Softened applicable standards for RPM; and 8. Stipulating that appeals are made directly to the Court rather than to the Executive Yuan (Cabinet).   Furthermore, to strengthen investigations and sanctions over concerted actions, the FTA amendments added Article 47-1 which was promulgated on 24 June 2015. This Article authorizes the FTC to set up an anti-trust fund and plan to provide rewards for the reporting of illegal concerted actions.   1. In line with the latest amendment on setting up the anti-trust fund to provide rewards for the reporting of illegal concerted actions, the FTC issued the “Regulations on Issuance of Rewards for Reporting Illegal Concerted Actions” in 2015. 2. At the end of 2014, Chinese Taipei handled 45,466 cases relating to the competition law. Among these, 32,159 were complaints filed by the public, 2,972 were investigations initiated by the FTC, 3,419 were law interpretation cases, and 6,916 involved applications or notifications for concerted actions or mergers. These figures demonstrate the government’s resolve in upholding fair trade in Chinese Taipei. 3. The FTC served officially as a Convenor of the APEC/CPLG from December 2012 to December 2014. 4. The FTC completed at least eight technical assistance activities, including training courses, for Mongolia, Vietnam, and Indonesia from 2012 to 2015. The FTC also organized regional seminars in collaboration with the MyCC (Malaysia) and the Department of Justice – Office for Competition (DOJ-OFC) (the Philippines) to implement capacity building programs in the Asia-Pacific region. 5. The FTC actively participated in various international conferences and activities organized by APEC, ICN, and OECD in relation to competition policy. In 2013 and 2014, the FTC hosted the “APEC regional seminar of ANSSR initiatives against anti-competitive practices for ensuring an open, well-functioning, and competitive market” and the “ICN Cartel Workshop” both in Taipei. 6. As of the end of 2015, Chinese Taipei FTC held many bilateral meetings with its foreign counterparts and signed cooperation arrangements or memorandums of understanding with the competition authorities of Australia, New Zealand, France, Mongolia, Canada, Hungary, Panama, Colombia, and Japan. 7. To enhance the administration and supervision of multi-level marketing businesses and perfect multi-level marketing regulations, the FTC made efforts to have a special law on multi-level marketing established, The Multi-level Marketing Supervision Act was thus promulgated and went into effect on 29 Jan 2014. Its implementation facilitates perfection of multi-level marketing trading order and protection of the rights and interests of participants. 8. The new “Organic Act of the Fair Trade Commission” (Organic Act) became effective in February 2012. Taking advantage of organization restructuring, the FTC established the Information and Economic Analysis Office to conduct industry surveys and economic analysis. To date the office has compiled information and offered its professional opinions on a number of cases including market positioning, market share calculation, and economic analysis of competition law, helping boost the legitimacy of administrative decision-making. 9. The FTC has assisted government departments to review all laws and regulations under their respective jurisdictions in order to provide an environment for fair market competition and more effectively carry out competition policy. 10. The FTC actively held regular meetings and workshop with local competent authorities, and organized regional promotion and training seminars for industrial, academic, government, and consumer organizations to foster awareness and communication. 11. The FTC consistently promoted the Fair Trade Act through announcements and messages, promotional materials, fixed-point billboards, magazines, blogs, a video-sharing website, and online platforms to enhance general public’s awareness of the FTA. | 1. The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) will actively investigate anti-competitive and unfair practices to maintain the orderliness of competition and business transactions in industries; it will conduct economic analyses on violation cases to enhance the quality of investigation and rigor in law enforcement. 2. The FTC will strengthen the transparency of information relating to competition policies and laws by: 3. Comprehensively reviewing and modifying the administrative regulations of the FTC to accommodate the amendments to the FTA. 4. Conducting statistical surveys on market structures and industrial activities; 5. Continuing to revise and update the FTC’s network and information systems; 6. Expanding current channels and adopting new media tools for advocating competition policy and law, in order to foster the transparency of the relevant laws and regulations; and 7. Improving and expanding the APEC Competition Law and Policy Database, and ensuring the integrity of its data. 8. The FTC will establish positive communication and interaction with different sectors and monitor select industries so as to create a fair competitive environment in the market. 9. The FTC will continue participating actively in APEC and will seek to sign multilateral agreements with relevant APEC member economies in order to improve mutual cooperation in competition law and work toward the liberalization of regional trade. 10. The FTC will continuously support APEC/CPLG-related missions and promote regional cooperation on competition laws and policies. 11. The FTC will continue to expand the international competition policy database by: 12. Compiling information on competition policy and laws; 13. Routine maintenance and updates of the database; 14. Publishing the Competition Policy Newsletter regularly. 15. The FTC will continue to offer technical assistance in competition policy/law to developing member economies by organizing regional technical exchange activities or offering competition law training courses. It is committed to contributing as much as possible to the APEC objective of creating a free and open environment for trade and investment. |
| *Website for further information:* | http://www.ftc.gov.tw/internet/main/index.aspx |  |
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| ***Government Procurement*** | 1. The revised Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) entered into force for Chinese Taipei on 6 April 2014. 2. The Agreement between Singapore and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu on Economic Partnership (ASTEP) covering government procurement chapter entered into force on 19 April 2014. |  |
| *Website for further information:* | http://www.pcc.gov.tw |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | Email: hychen@mail.pcc.gov.tw |  |
| ***Deregulation/Regulatory Review*** | **General policy**   1. To create a better, competitive regulatory environment for business and quicken the pace of our integration into the region, Chinese Taipei actively promotes the harmonization of regulation with international practices. Chinese Taipei collects relevant advice and suggestions from domestic and foreign chambers of commerce that relate to existing structural problems in the private sector, and we conduct reviews through an inter-agency mechanism. Starting in late 2013, Chinese Taipei has further strengthened the inter-agency coordination, arranged timely inter-agency meetings, and discussed important issues project by project in order to break through current obstacles to business. 2. To improve the business environment and implement the APEC Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Action Plan, Chinese Taipei established a cabinet-level taskforce in April 2010, and has since conducted self-diagnoses annually. These diagnoses make reference to the World Bank Doing Business and APEC study reports, examine our relevant regulations and administrative procedures, identify areas where improvements can be made, and draw up comprehensive reform plans. The taskforce also coordinates agencies for the implementation of reforms. Currently, Chinese Taipei is planning to launch reform programs for improving the business environment for the 8th consecutive year. 3. In response to emerging technological trends and new business models being developed around the world, Chinese Taipei has launched the Regulatory Adjustment Project for Virtual World Development and HeadStart--the project to create an ecosystem for innovation and startups. These readjust earlier legal frameworks that were limited mainly from the perspective of manufacturing. Policy measures are evaluated on a rolling basis, and implementation outcomes are put forward annually.   **Review of Existing Regulations**   1. Between 2014 and 2015, Chinese Taipei completed the review of more than 1,500 suggestions made by domestic and foreign chambers of commerce by coordinating government responses with respect to food labeling, human resources, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, chiropractic, and toxic chemicals and holding over 40 consultation meetings. The main results are as follows: 2. Finance: Allowing domestic banking units (DBUs) to engage in RMB derivative financial products, abolishing the 60% required ratio of RMB-denominated securities of the portfolio of RMB-denominated funds, and relaxing the online insurance application ID verification mechanism. 3. Pharmaceuticals and medical devices: Promoting a new drug patent linkage system and establishing a payment tracking system for the national health insurance system. 4. Retail: Easing food labeling regulations for foods that are made with highly refined ingredients and resolving doubts about cosmetic inspection registration and advertisement management rules. 5. Chemicals: Establishing a single registration window for chemical substances and coordinating related regulatory adjustments to avoid double regulation, adding industrial and commercial secret protection regulations to existing regulations on chemical substances registration, making reference to international practices and planning for a good registration system for chemical substances, and adopting management registration according to quantity grade or registration exemption for manufacturing or importing of “Polymers of Low Concern.” 6. Agricultural chemicals: Simplifying the review standards for overseas field trials on chemical performance and residual levels, the acceptance of overseas test reports and acceleration of pesticide examination. 7. Human resource: Easing restrictions on entry of foreigners, establishing an evaluation system for foreign technical talent, and making flexible arrangements for recording work time. 8. Automobile industry: Establishing incentives and subsidy measures for vehicles with lower carbon emissions. 9. Highlights of business environment reforms in Chinese Taipei are: elimination of the minimum capital requirement for business startup, the scrapping of the united certification system for profit-seeking enterprises, reduction of the administrative procedures and time for company registration, installation of electronic filing and payment of business income tax, simplification of the application procedures for obtaining electricity, establishment of the Customs-Port-Trade (CPT) Single Window, and amendment of investor protection provisions to the Company Act and the Securities Exchange Act. 10. The main results of Headstart and Virtual World Development Regulatory Adjustment Program phase one (1.0) are as follows: 11. More flexibility given to startup fund raising and right of shareholders arrangement: adding a special section on closely-held corporations, and allowing the private sector to engage in equity crowd funding. 12. Revision of related regulations in response to the developing trend of telework. 13. Easing restrictions on the online sale of drugs and medical equipment. 14. Issuing “start-up visas” granting one-year residence to overseas entrepreneurs with innovative know-how and technology, with possible extension of staying visa depending on the actual business needs. 15. Easing requirements on employers for hiring foreign white-collar workers and on the education and work experiences of foreign white-collar employees. 16. Allowing university incubation centers to register their businesses on campuses. 17. Simplification of bank opening procedures for foreign companies. 18. Allowing online company registration by an agent. | **General policy**   1. Chinese Taipei will adopt the “smart regulation” approach to move in line with international norms and conduct regulatory reviews to increase overall benefits. 2. Chinese Taipei will continually work to strengthen Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs), and plan regulatory reform from a whole-of-government perspective while referring to the recommendations by international organizations and experiences of other countries.   **Reform of Industry/Sector Specific Regulation**   1. To achieve the 10% improvements target set out in the APEC EoDB action plan (2016-2018), Chinese Taipei is planning reform programs to improve the business environment for the 8th consecutive year. For 2015, our reform agenda included: setting up the online work rules automatic checking system website, implementing the paperless application for construction permits, promoting the floating lien system, drafting the Intangible Asset Secured Transaction Act, implementing the paperless inspection of export filing, institutionalizing the online lawsuit filing system, and establishing the Commercial Court. 2. Chinese Taipei will continue to conduct reforms to eliminate barriers to industrial development in the virtual world. The Virtual World Regulatory Adjustment Plan 2.0 is being implemented by reviewing taxation for online transactions, drafting digital asset guarantee regulations, evaluating a proposal to allow company registrations with English names, adjusting telework regulations, formulating a sharing economy policy, examining the legitimacy of all information asked for online transactions, stepping up work on online crime prevention, promoting open government data and personal data de-identification, studying issues related to the registration of businesses that have no fixed business premises, and so on. |
| *Website for further information:* |  |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* |  |  |
| ***Implementation of WTO Obligations/ROOs*** | 1. To promote transparency and provide the public with better access to basic information, Chinese Taipei Customs has posted up-to-date ROOs information on the following website: <http://eweb.customs.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=42658&CtNode=12640>. 2. The information on the website includes “Regulations Governing the Determination of Country of Origin of Imported Goods,” “Rules of Origin for Least-Developed Countries,” and “Rules of Origin for Free Trade Agreements.” Chinese Taipei will update this information on a timely basis and ensure predictable and consistent application of rules of origin. |  |
| *Website for further information:* | http://eweb.customs.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=46243&Ct Node=12880 |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | Tel: (02)2550-5500#2566  Email: 007126@ customs.gov.tw |  |
| ***Dispute Resolution*** | **Disputes between Governments**   1. Chinese Taipei became a member of the WTO on 1 Jan 2002. Disputes between the governments of Chinese Taipei and other WTO members, therefore, can be settled through the WTO’s dispute settlement mechanism. 2. The BIAs and FTAs signed by Chinese Taipei contain general provisions for settling disputes through bilateral consultations, arbitration or mediation. For disputes that involve both the provisions of FTAs and those of WTO agreements or other agreements negotiated in accordance with WTO agreements, the complaining Party may select the dispute-settlement procedures provided in one of those agreements for settlement of the dispute.   **Disputes between Governments and Private Entities**  Chinese Taipei’s BIAs or FTAs provide for consultation, litigation, and/or arbitration for settling investment disputes between governments and foreign investors. If an investment dispute has been submitted to arbitration, the decision or the award rendered by the arbitral tribunal shall be recognized and executed by Chinese Taipei in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations as well as relevant international law.  **Disputes between Private Parties**   1. Private parties can choose to submit their disputes to litigation in the courts in accordance with the domestic laws and regulations of Chinese Taipei. 2. Chinese Taipei has not acceded to the New York Convention, but the “Arbitration Law” promulgated by Chinese Taipei on 20 Jan 1961 provides a channel for the arbitration of disputes with foreigners. Arbitration awards will be recognized and executed by Chinese Taipei. |  |

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| **IAP Chapter (and Sub‐Chapter and Section Heading, if any)** | **Improvements made since 2014 IAP** | **Further Improvements Planned** |
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| *Website for further information:* | Website: http://investTaiwan.nat.gov.tw |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | Department of Investment Services;  Tel:+886-2-2389-2111  Email: dois@moea.gov.tw |  |
| ***Mobility of Business People*** | 1. Chinese Taipei established the API (arrivals) and APP (departures) system at end of July 2011. Since 1 Sep 2011, all air carriers flying to and from Chinese Taipei have transmitted API information to the National Immigration Agency. 2. Chinese Taipei launched the Automated Immigration Inspection System (E-Gate) for R.O.C. residents on 1 Jan 2012 and for foreign residents on 3 Sep 2012 for immigration clearance. E-gate uses facial images and fingerprints to verify travelers’ identity. 3. Chinese Taipei launched the Biometric Verification System from 1 March 2015 at main airports and seaports to collect, store, and authenticate biometric data of foreigners to prevent travelers with invalid travel documents from entering the borders. 4. Chinese Taipei introduced its e-passport on 29 Dec 2008; as of 30 Nov 2015, 9.99 million e-passports (82.81% of the total passports in circulation) were issued. 5. Nationals of 45 countries, including eight APEC economies, are eligible for Chinese Taipei’s Visa-Exempt Entry program for a stay of 30 days or 90 days. 6. Chinese Taipei joined the ABTC scheme in August 2001 and started issuing ABTC in May 2002. By 30 Nov 2015, Chinese Taipei had approved more than 10,000 APEC Business Travel Cards and completed the pre-clearance processing for 339,000 applications from the other APEC economies. 7. Citizens of Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are eligible to apply for Chinese Taipei’s Travel Authorization Certificate online if the duration of stay is less than 30 days and provided that the applicant possesses a valid (1) Permanent Resident Card, or (2) Entry visa of the U.S., the U.K., Japan, Australia, New Zealand, or one of the signatories of the Schengen Agreement. 8. Chinese Taipei is scheduled to launch its eVisa Program in early 2016. This Program will greatly streamline the visa application process and will be applicable to nationals of 27 countries in its first stage of implementation. |  |
| *Website for further information:* | http://www.boca.gov.tw |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | Email: llhung@boca.gov.tw |  |
| ***Official websites that gather economies’ information*** | Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics:  http://eng.dgbas.gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=2  Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Affairs:  http://www.moea.gov.tw/Mns/dos\_e/home/Home.aspx  http://www.cbc.gov.tw/ct.asp?xItem=856&CtNode=480&mp=2  http://www.cbc.gov.tw/np.asp?ctNode=507&mp=2 |  |
| *Website for further information:* | http://eng.dgbas.gov.tw |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | Email: ren2ren@dgbas.gov.tw |  |
| ***Transparency*** | **Promoting the internationalization of accounting information and enhancing its transparency**   1. Upgrade of the IFRSs version: The Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) fully adopted IFRSs version 2013 in 2015 (excluding IFRS 9 “Financial Instruments”). All public companies are now required to prepare their IFRSs financial reports in traditional Chinese IFRSs version 2013. The FSC plans to endorse IFRSs standards by 2017. 2. Preparation for implementing new accounting standards: On 6 Feb 2015, the FSC instructed TWSE to form a task force focusing on the newly issued IFRSs. In 2015, IFRS 15 ([Revenue from Contracts with Customers](http://eifrs.ifrs.org/eifrs/bnstandards/en/2015/ifrs15.pdf)) has been translated into its traditional Chinese version, and the interrelated major difference identification, questionnaire survey, and practical guidance (IFRS 9 and IFRS 15) have also been completed. 3. Promotional activities: Sixteen promotional events were held in 2015 focusing on IFRS15, IFRS 9, improving the process of preparing consolidated financial reports, and so on. Questions and answers during the events have already been published on the website for reference. 4. Developing a mechanism for enhancing enterprises to prepare financial reports: The FSC has instructed TWSE and OTC to initiate solutions to increase the ability for enterprises to prepare financial reports. TWSE and OTC have asked listed companies to make “a proposal of self-preparing IFRS financial reports”. Listed companies shall submit the proposal for approval by the board of directors and monitor the process quarterly. 5. Compiling and researching the accounting treatments of business mergers: Since business mergers are common in Taiwan, the FSC has asked the Accounting Research and Development Foundation (ARDF), TWSE and OTC to form an ad hoc group to compile information on and research relevant merger cases. The final results have been published on the FSC website. 6. To enhance the comparability and usability of financial information, the FSC has made it mandatory for listed companies to use XBRL format beginning with their semi-annual financial reports for 2010. In addition, to ensure that financial information is compatible with international practices, the FSC has already signed an agreement with the IFRS Foundation to translate the IFRS Taxonomy. The listed companies adopting IFRSs have used XBRL format to disclose their IFRSs financial reports started in 2013, and unlisted companies started in 2015. | 1. Evaluating the IFRSs to be endorsed in 2017: The decision on which will be endorsed will be based on the issuance and amendments of IFRSs. The policy will be published in first quarter of 2016. 2. Evaluating the adoption of IFRS 15: The FSC will make its final decision after collecting all the replies of the impact evaluations of companies. 3. Initiating the preparation of adopting IFRS 9: The difference identification and questionnaire surveys are scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2016. 4. The FSC is reviewing the necessity of revising the regulations in coordination with the endorsement and adoption of new standards. 5. The FSC continually promotes new standards and regulations. |
| *Website for further information:* | http://www.fsc.gov.tw/ |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | Email: international@fsc.gov.tw |  |

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| **RTAs/FTAs** | | |
| ***‐ Description of current agreements*** | | 1. Chinese Taipei and New Zealand signed an economic cooperation agreement known as the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC) on 10 July 2013. Chinese Taipei and Singapore signed an economic partnership agreement known as the Agreement between Singapore and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Partnership (ASTEP) on 7 November 2013. 2. The ANZTEC was notified to the WTO on 25 Nov 2013 and entered into force on 1 Dec 2013. The ASTEP entered into force on 19 April 2014 and was notified to the WTO on 22 April 2014. 3. The Straits Exchange Foundation (Chinese Taipei) signed the Cross-Strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) with the Association for Relations Across Taiwan Straits (China) on 29 June 2010. The ECFA went into effect on 12 Sep 2010. The ECFA includes the Early Harvest Programs for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services, which were implemented on 1 Jan 2011. Chinese Taipei and China made the early announcement of the ECFA to the World Trade Organization. According to the terms of the ECFA, the follow-up agreements include Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, and Dispute Settlement. The Investment Agreement was signed on 9 Aug 2012 and went into effect on 1 Feb 2013. The Trade in Services Agreement was signed on 21 June 2013 and is still pending review by the legislature. |
| ***‐ Agreements under negotiation*** | |  |
|  | ***Agreement #1*** |  |

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|  | ***Agreement #2*** |  |
| ***Agreement #3*** |  |
| ***Agreement #4*** |  |
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|  | ***Agreement #14*** |  |
| ***Agreement #15*** |  |
| ***Agreement #16*** |  |
| ***Agreement #17*** |  |
| ***Agreement #18*** |  |
| ***Agreement #19*** |  |
| ***Agreement #20*** |  |
| ***‐ Future plans*** | |  |
| *Website for further information:* | | 1. http://www.ecfa.org.tw 2. http://www.moea.gov.tw/Mns/otn/home/Home.aspx 3. http://fta.trade.gov.tw |
| *Contact point for further details:* | | Email: phtsai@moea.gov.tw |

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| ***Other voluntary reporting areas*** | **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)**   1. To improve the business environment and to implement the APEC Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Action Plan, Chinese Taipei established a cabinet-level taskforce in April 2010 and has since conducted self-diagnoses annually. The diagnoses make reference to the World Bank Doing Business and APEC study reports to examine relevant regulations and administrative procedures in Chinese Taipei, to identify areas where improvements can be made, and to draw up comprehensive reform plans. The taskforce coordinates relevant agencies for the implementation of reforms. Currently, we are planning to launch reform programs for improving the business environment for the 8th consecutive year. 2. Chinese Taipei's Ease of Doing Business ranking rose from 61 in 2008, to 11th in 2015, i.e., in seven years Chinese Taipei moved up 50 places in the rankings. 3. The main highlights of business environment reforms carried out by Chinese Taipei over the past seven years are as follows: 4. Starting a business: Elimination of the minimum capital requirement for business startup, scrapping of the uniform certification system for profit-seeking enterprises, and the creation of a one-stop internet portal for starting a business online. 5. Dealing with construction permits: The setting up of a one-stop window for construction permit applications, and simplification of building permit application process. 6. Getting credit: Establishment of the Property Secured Transaction Online Registration and Public Inquiry website, and the Reform Plan to Enhance Joint Credit Information Center (JCIC) Database Sources was also completed. 7. Trading across borders: Establishment of Customs-Port-Trade (CPT) Single Window, introduction of the web-version (paperless) of terminal handling receipts and connection with CPT Single Window services. 8. Enforcing contracts: Establishment of the Online Lawsuit Filing System and Lawyer Single Login Window to promote digitalized courts.   **Supply Chain Connectivity**  To enhance supply chain security, Chinese Taipei has already established mutual recognition of AEO with the US and Singapore, thus improving the benefits from trade facilitation, supply chain security, and connectivity.  **Enhancing logistics services**   1. The logistics services capability of Free Trade Zones (FTZ) was enhanced by developing logistics resources integration and warehousing management platform to support the “Store in the Front, Factory in the Back” goods processing and transshipment model. There are now four FTZ logistics service providers using the platform to integrate a total of 45 suppliers and carrying out six “Store in the Front, Factory in the Back” cases in Keelung Port, Taoyuan Airport, Taichung Port and Kaohsiung Port in Taiwan, 2015. 2. Given the increasing use of e-commerce in cold-chain logistics, Chinese Taipei developed a new cold-chain transportation technology and service to resolve cost issues of small-patch frozen goods shipped by freezer containers or jointly distributed by trucks. Over 57 domestic companies have carried out the proof of concept and reduced initial costs by 6%. | **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)**  To achieve improvements of 10% with respect to time, costs and process in response to the APEC EoDB action plan (2016-2018), we are planning to launch reform programs to improve the business environment for the 8th consecutive year. For 2015, our reform agenda includes: setting up the online work rules automatic checking system website, implementing paperless application for construction permits, promoting the floating lien system, promoting the draft Intangible Asset Secured Transaction Act, implementing paperless inspection of export filing, and promoting the institutionalization of the online lawsuit filing system and the commercial court. |
| *Website for further information:* | http://web.customs.gov.tw/mp.asp?mp=1  <http://web.customs.gov.tw/np.asp?ctNode=13101> |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | Tel:(02)2550-5500#1027  Email:008303@ customs.com.tw |  |