

Fact sheet on Individual Efforts Made towards the Achievement of the Bogor Goals: Singapore

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
1. Tariffs			
(1) Import-weighted average of MFN applied tariff	(Number) 0	(Number) 0	
(2) Simple average of MFN applied tariff	0	0	
(3) Tariff average, based on import tariff revenue	(Number) 0	(Number) 0	
(4) Zero tariff lines as a percentage of all tariff lines	99.8	99.9	Since 1996, Singapore has eliminated tariffs on 7 more lines. There is hence a corresponding increase in the number of zero tariff lines.
(5) Zero tariff imports as a percentage of all imports	99.1	99.9	Since 1996, Singapore has eliminated tariffs on 7 more lines. There is hence a corresponding increase in the zero tariff imports.
(6) Standard deviation for applied tariff	(Number) 0.04	(Number) 0.04 (based on 2008 figures; rounding to 2 decimal places)	
(7) Transparency in tariff regime	(Description of illustrative measures) Singapore indicated that it will participate actively in APEC's computerised tariff database development project and update Singapore's tariff data on an annual basis.	(Description of illustrative measures) The complete list of dutiable goods and contact details can be found at http://www.customs.gov.sg . 1997-2009: Singapore has been updating the tariff data in the APEC Tariff Database on an annual basis.	
2. Non-Tariff Measures			
(1) Quantitative import restrictions/prohibitions	(Number of tariff lines applicable) Import bans and other import restrictions are applied for protection of public health, public security or environment or to meet Singapore's international obligations such as those under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Quantitative Import Restrictions	(Number of tariff lines applicable) Import bans and other import restrictions are applied for protection of public health, public security or environment or to meet Singapore's international obligations such as those under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Quantitative Import Restrictions (no changes since 1996)	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
	<p>Singapore does not maintain any quantitative restrictions other than on controlled Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) arising from Singapore's obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Hazardous Layer.</p> <p><u>Import Prohibitions</u></p> <p>Under the Regulation of Import and Exports Act 1995, Singapore applies import prohibition orders for protection of public safety, public health, environment, national security and to discharge its obligations under international agreements and United Nations Security Council resolutions. The import of rhinoceros horns (parts and products), ivory (commercial consignments) and tiger products is prohibited under prohibitions of the CITES. In accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, Singapore applies an import prohibition to all goods originating in or consigned to Iraq.</p>	<p><u>Import Prohibitions (Changes since 1996)</u></p> <p>2001: Prohibition on imports of volcanic rock of a size not exceeding 40mm under the Regulation of Imports and Exports Regulations (RIER) was lifted with effect from 8 May 2001.</p> <p>2003: Prohibition of imports and exports to Iraq lifted, except for the sale and/or supply of arms, arms-related materials and parts thereof.</p> <p>2004: Prohibition of import of chewing gum partially removed, permitting the import of chewing gum for therapeutic use, as of January 2004 under the US-Singapore FTA</p>	
(2) Import licensing	<p>(Number of tariff lines applicable)</p> <p>Number of tariff lines not available. Listing provided below.</p> <p><u>Non-Automatic Import Licensing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Artificial sweetening agents, food containing artificial sweetening agents and irradiated food 2. Specific plants, plant products and other materials (insects, micro-organisms and soil) 3. Fruit or jackpot machines 4. Hazardous substances (poisons) 5. Radioactive materials and irradiating apparatus 6. Medicines, poisons and drugs, medicated cosmetics 7. Controlled telecommunication equipment 8. Full colour copying machines 9. Rice 10. Poppy seeds (kaskas) 11. Arms and explosives <p><u>Automatic Import Licensing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fresh fruits and vegetables, plants and plants produce, meat and meat products, animals/ birds/ eggs/ biologies, medicaments, veterinary, endangered species, import, export or transshipment of fish other than ornamental fish, imports, exports or transshipment of ornamental fish, milk powder – skimmed (coloured for animal feed) 	<p>(Number of tariff lines applicable)</p> <p>Number of tariff lines not available. Listing provided below.</p> <p><u>Non-Automatic Import Licensing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Artificial sweetening agents, food containing artificial sweetening agent(s), and irradiated food 2. Specific plants, plant products and other materials (insects, micro-organisms and soil); Endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES products) 3. Fruit or jackpot machines 4. Hazardous substances 5. Ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and products containing ODS such as the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. fire extinguishers and fire protection systems using halon; b. air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment using Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs); c. vehicles with air-conditioners containing CFCs. 6. Petroleum and flammable materials 7. Radioactive materials and irradiating apparatus 8. Medicines, chinese proprietary medicines 9. Category 1 cosmetic products 10. Poisons/drugs 11. Controlled telecommunication equipment 12. Scheduled chemicals under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) 	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Amusement machines, coins or disc-operated, including pin-tables, shooting galleries and cinematography machines, scrambler or encryption hardware or software capable of re-arranging the signs, signals writing, sounds or intelligence for the purpose of secrecy 3. Articles of asbestos 4. Publications, gramophone records, paintings and prints, films, video tapes and video discs 5. Cellulose nitrates 6. Machetes 7. Axes 8. SOS shrill alarms 9. Handcuffs 10. Christmas crackers 11. Pocket lighters, pistol or revolver shaped, gas fueled, non-refillable 12. Table lighters, pistol or revolver shaped 13. Pocket lighters, pistol or revolver shaped other than gas 14. Articles of clothing intended as protection against attack, including bullet-proof vests, helmets, steel 15. Toy guns including pistols and revolvers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Rice 14. Poppy seeds (kaskas) 15. Controlled equipment, materials or substances used for the manufacturing of controlled drugs 16. Merchandise/products containing a photograph, drawing or design resembling or used in/on Singapore currency notes and coins 17. Rough diamonds 18. Arms, explosives and explosive precursors, swords, daggers, bayonets, spears, spearheads, nitro-cellulose 19. Articles of clothing intended as protection against attack, including bullet-proof vests; Steel helmets; Toy guns, including pistols and revolvers; Handcuffs 20. Amusement machines, coin- or disc-operated, including pintables, shooting galleries, and cinematography machines <p><u>Automatic Import Licensing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fresh fruits, vegetables, plants and plant products (other than those from the American Tropics) 2. Fish and fish products (except oysters, frozen cooked crabmeat, frozen cooked prawn meat and frozen blood cockle meat) 3. Animal feed, milk powder – skimmed (coloured for animal feed) 4. Veterinary medicaments 5. Tobacco products and related advertisements 6. Films, video tapes and video discs 7. Publications, gramophone records, paintings and prints 8. Mastering equipment and replication equipment for any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CD (compact disc); b. CD-ROM (compact disc-read only memory) c. VCD (video compact disc); d. DVD (digital video disc); and e. DVD-ROM (digital video disc-read only memory) 9. Biological agents that are capable of causing death, disease or other biological malfunction in a human 10. Certain microbial toxins 	
(3) Import levies	(Number of tariff lines applicable) <u>Singapore does not impose import levies</u>	(Number of tariff lines applicable) <u>Singapore does not impose import levies</u>	
(4) Export subsidies	(Number of tariff lines/ items applicable) Singapore has notified the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) the following export subsidies under Article 27 of the SCM Agreement:	(Number of tariff lines/ items applicable) <u>Changes since 1996</u> 1999: With effect from July, the subsidies of International Trade Incentive and	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
	<p>a. International Trade Incentive b. Double Tax Deduction c. Production for Export Incentive</p> <p>These subsidies are being progressively phased out by in accordance with our obligations.</p>	<p>Production for Export Incentive were discontinued while Double Tax Deduction was amended to conform to WTO Agreement on Subsidies & Countervailing measures</p>	
(5) Other non-tariff measures maintained	<p>(List of measures)</p> <p>Technical standards and labeling requirements are implemented for the purpose of protecting public health, public safety, and the environment.</p> <p><u>Technical Standards and Requirements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All imported second hand diesel vehicles are required to comply with the UN/ECE R24.03 emission standard - All new petrol-driven vehicles are required to comply with the UN/ECE R83, Consolidated Emission Directive, or the Japanese JIS 78 emission standards - Importers of bottled natural mineral water, drinking and spring water are required to submit to the Food Control Division of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore an original health certificate issued by the country of origin for every incoming consignment. The document should show the source where the water is obtained and to certify that the natural mineral water, drinking or spring water is genuine. - Importers of beancurd sheets/sticks, porcelain foodwares, flour/starch, nuts, corn, irradiated food, mineral water, whisky/brandy, preserved fruits and vegetables, agar agar or Eastern Europe foodstuff are required to contact the Food Control Division of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore or fax the import permit for inspection /sampling - Importers of brandy and whisky are required to submit documentary evidence furnished by the place of origin confirming that the products have been aged in wood for a period of at least 3 years. - Electronics, electrical and gas consumer products designated as controlled items are required to be registered with the SPRING Singapore based on type test report with supporting documents. These goods shall have a Safety Mark on the product or packaging and regular and random market surveillance are conducted to check that only registered goods with the Safety Mark are supplied in the local market. (Affected products are: components of LPG gas systems, gas cookers, electric cooking ranges, electric irons, microwave ovens, televisions, video cassette recorders, electric 	<p>(List of measures)</p> <p><u>Changes since 1996</u></p> <p>Technical standards and labeling requirements are implemented for the purpose of protecting public health, public safety, and the environment.</p> <p>2002: Excise duties for motor vehicles (excluding goods vehicles): 12% of OMV for motor cycles and scooters; 20% of OMV for other passenger motor vehicles, down from a range of 12%-31% previously</p> <p>2006: Requirement for importers of brandy and whisky to submit documentary evidence confirming products have been aged in wood for 3 years was lifted</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
	<p>fans, electric kettles, immersion water heaters, refrigerators, rice cookers, room air conditioners, vacuum cleaners, washing machines and hi-fi equipment.)</p> <p><u>Labeling and packaging requirements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meat and poultry must have a label containing the description of the product, name and designation number of the slaughterhouse and/or processing establishment, date of slaughtering and/or processing, the batch number, net weight and the country of origin. - Products with nutritional claim should have a nutritional information panel on the label - Date-marking is required for perishable and selected 'high-risk' products - Labeling requirements exist for paints containing red lead oxide in which the lead content is more than 0.06% by weight or for paints containing other lead components in which the lead content is more than 0.25% by weight. - Labeling requirements exist for medicines and poisons under the relevant legislation - Tobacco products must display stipulated health warning labels <p><u>Excise Duties</u></p> <p>Excise duties are charged on four categories of products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motor vehicles (excluding goods vehicles): ranging from 12% - 41% for all motor vehicles excluding goods vehicles - Petroleum products (motor spirits): \$3.70 - \$7.10/ dal - Alcohol: specific or mixed rates, ranging from \$0.80 - \$82/litre - Tobacco: specific or mixed rates, ranging from \$115 - \$255/ kgm <p>Singapore charges a flat 3% tax on most goods and services irrespective of whether domestically produced or imported, with the exception of the grant, assignment or surrender of any interest in, or right over, any residential properties, and financial services as listed on the Fourth Schedule to the GST Act.</p>	<p>The consumption tax has been increased to 7% since and is applied on most goods and services.</p>	
3. Services			
(1) Number of sectors out of 55 services sectors in which market access and/or NT are granted as a result of the commitments in the GATS	(Number of sectors as of 1995) 19	19	
(2) Number of sectors out of 55 services	(Number of sectors as of 1995)		

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
sectors in which MFN exemptions maintained as a result of the commitments in the GATS	6 sectors out of 55 services sectors in which MFN exemptions maintained as a result of the commitments in GATS	6 sectors out of 55 services sectors in which MFN exemptions maintained as a result of the commitments in GATS	
(3) Number of sectors out of 55 services sectors in which market access and/or NT are offered in the DDA under the GATS	NA – DDA's initial offer made in 2003	(Number of sectors) 31 sectors out of 55 services sectors in which market access and/or NT are offered in the DDA under the GATS	
(4) Number of sectors out of 55 services sectors in which MFN exemptions maintained in the DDA under the GATS	NA – DDA's initial offer made in 2003	(Number of sectors) Will consider lifting some of our MFN exemptions, subject to outcomes of DDA	
(5) Number of RTAs/FTAs in which more market access and/or NT are committed to services sectors than those in the commitments under the GATS	(Number of agreements) All Singapore RTAs/FTAs contain WTO-plus commitments for market access and NT.	(Number of agreements) All Singapore RTAs/FTAs contain WTO-plus commitments for market access and NT.	
(6) Number of sectors in which licensing and qualification requirements apply specifically to foreign service providers	(Number of sectors out of 55 service sectors) N.A.	(Number of sectors or cases in which requirements are eliminated or relaxed since 1996) N.A.	
– Measures to improve transparency in services	(Description of illustrative measures) Information not available	(Description of illustrative measures) – Maintenance of enquiry point – Prompt publishing of relevant information, including changes in regulations, on the internet – Conducting of public consultations to review new and existing	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		regulations	
4. Investment			
(1) Restrictions on foreign investment	(Number of industries) 5	(Number of industries) 4	
(2) Investment by foreigners entails offsets (performance requirements, export requirements, local content requirements)	(Number of industries) 4	(Number of industries) 4	
(3) Restrictions on transfers of capital	(Existing, Not existing) Not existing	(Existing, Not existing) Not existing	
(4) Consistency with APEC Non-Binding Investment Principles	(All, Most, Some, None) Some	(All, Most, Some, None) Most	
(5) Number of BITs and FTAs/RTAs which NT and MFN are ensured in relation to foreign investment	(Number of agreements) 9	(Number of agreements) 21	
BITs and FTAs/RTAs with APEC member economies which NT and MFN are ensured in relation to foreign investment	(Number of agreements) 5	(Number of agreements) 10	
(6) Measures to	Singapore had a regulatory investment environment based on clarity, fair competition	Singapore has a regulatory investment environment based on clarity, fair	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
improve transparency in investment	and sound business practice. There were not many investment regulations. Relevant bodies and the public were usually consulted before regulatory changes were made. The Government gazetted the laws enacted. These became readily available in the market. The Ministry of Finance administered the Business Registration Act and the Companies Act. The Control of Manufacture Act set out a list of the products that required approval for manufacture. The Economic Expansion Incentives Act spelled out the incentive schemes available. Apart from the effort of the EDB, the Economic Promotion Club, an informal gathering of chief executive officers from a number of related government bodies, enhanced the facilitation of investment and communicated the Government's major strategies and programmes to the private sector.	<p>competition and sound business practice. There are minimal investment regulations. The APEC Leaders' Transparency Standards on Investment apply, as described below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Singapore's investment laws, regulations, procedures and administrative rulings of general application ("investment measures") are promptly published or made available online to enable interested persons and other economies to become acquainted with them. Investment measures apply to all investors irrespective of nationality. 2. The Singapore government promotes feedback and consultation with relevant bodies and the public. The government publishes in advance any investment measures proposed for adoption and provides a reasonable opportunity for public comment. There is a government online consultation portal where public agencies post consultation papers to seek feedback and ideas. 3. Upon request from an interested person or another economy, the Singapore government endeavours to promptly provide information and respond to questions pertaining to any actual or proposed investment measures. Suitable contact points including the Economic Development Board are in place to facilitate communications with the requesting party. 4. Singapore has in place appropriate domestic procedures to enable prompt review and correction of final administrative actions, other than those taken for sensitive prudential reasons, regarding investment matters covered by the transparency standards. The system provides: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) for tribunals or panels that are impartial and independent of any office or authority entrusted with administrative enforcement and have no substantial interest in the outcome of the investment matter; (b) parties to any proceeding with a reasonable opportunity to present their respective positions; (c) parties to any proceeding with a decision based on the evidence and submissions of record or, where required by domestic law, the record compiled by the administrative authority; and (d) assurance subject to appeal or further review under domestic law, that such decisions will be implemented by, and govern 	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>the practice of, the offices or authorities regarding the administrative action at issue.</p> <p>5. There is no need for screening, evaluation or scoring of projects for their approval in Singapore. The Control of Manufacture Act sets out the list of products that require approval and registration for manufacture. The list is applicable to all investors irrespective of nationality.</p> <p>6. The procedures for business registration of investment which is necessary and government licensing of investment if required under specific sectors are kept clear and simple. Explanation of steps regarding application and registration and criteria for license including information on standards, technical regulations and conformity requirements are published and made available online in Singapore. A central online business licence service has started operating and will be further developed.</p> <p>7. No prior authorization of investment is required in Singapore and hence no procedures for the purpose exist. The government has reviewed the procedures for business registration and licence application to ensure that they are simple and transparent.</p> <p>8. Singapore through the Economic Development Board makes available to investors all rules and other appropriate information relating to investment promotion programmes. These are also published under the Economic Expansion Incentives (Relief from Income Tax) Act available online.</p> <p>9. Free trade agreements negotiated contain investor/state dispute settlement mechanism and transparency provisions.</p> <p>10. Singapore participates fully in APEC-wide efforts to update the APEC Investment Guidebook.</p>	
5. Standards and Conformance			
(1) Number of domestic standards aligned with the target international standards for Voluntary Action Plan (VAP)	(Number of standards) For each priority sector as identified by APEC SCSSC, % of standards IDT/EQV with international standards is :- Electrical / electronic equipment : Air conditioner 100% aligned	(Number of standards) Under the new APEC Voluntary Alignment Programme (VAP) for 2006-2010 which targets 168 IEC standards that are covered under the IECCE CB Scheme, Singapore has fully aligned our domestic standards to international standards.	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
	<p>Television 100%</p> <p>Refrigerator 100%</p> <p>Radio and its parts 100%</p> <p>Video apparatus 100%</p> <p>Food labelling 100%</p> <p>Rubber gloves 100%</p> <p>Rubber condoms 100%</p> <p>Machinery 100%</p> <p>Alignment for international standards on electrical safety (IEC60335 standards) is 25% and that for electromagnetic compatibility (CISPR standards) is 50%.</p>		
(2) Description of conformity assessment process including participation in and implementation of mutual recognition arrangements	<p>(Description of illustrative measures and number of mutual recognition agreements)</p> <p>The APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment (APEC Tel MRA). Singapore has signed the APEC Tel MRA since May 1998.</p> <p>The APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (APEC Electrical MRA). Singapore participated actively in the development of the APEC Electrical MRA and is a participant to Part I (Information Exchange) of the MRA since December 1999.</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures and number of mutual recognition agreements)</p> <p>The APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment (APEC Tel MRA). Singapore has signed the APEC Tel MRA since May 1998.</p> <p>The APEC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (APEC Electrical MRA). Singapore chaired the Joint Advisory Committee of the APEC EE MRA from 2007-2009. During its term as Chair, two TILF-funded APEC seminars on understanding and implementing the APEC EE MRA were organized. Singapore participates in Part I (Information Exchange), Part II (Mutual Recognition of Test Report) and Part III (Mutual Recognition of Certification).</p>	
(3) Efforts to raise transparency and objectivity of standards	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Singapore (PSB) has established a transparent process for standards development disseminating information through the internet and newsletter promoting newly developed standards and their uses to our industry for their application and implementation.</p> <p>Latest updates on standards development are published in a bimonthly publication entitled "Standards and Testing News" disseminated to all stakeholders of the standardisation programme. Public access to our Standards Catalogue for purchase of standards and information on conformity assessment procedures is also available on PSB website address: http://www.psb.gov.sg.</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>SPRING Singapore has established a transparent process for standards development disseminating information through the internet and electronic alerts on their uses to our industry for their application and implementation. Latest updates on standards development can be found at http://www.spring.gov.sg/standards. Public access to our Standards Catalogue for purchase of standards, e copies of standards, and information on conformity assessment procedures are also available at the SPRING Singapore website address at http://www.spring.gov.sg/standards and http://www.singaporestandardseshop.sg.</p> <p>Quality and Standards news is made available through the softcopy publication 'Your Quality and Standards News' available at the SPRING</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		Singapore website address: http://www.spring.gov.sg/qsnews/Web/Default.aspx	
6. Customs Procedures			
(1) Adoption of HS2007 nomenclature	--	(Adopted, Not adopted) Adopted the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) 2007 in Oct 2007, which is a more-detailed implementation of HS 2007.	
(2) Conformity with the Revised Kyoto Convention	--	(Acceded, Not acceded) (If not acceded, specify the status of conformity: All, Most, Some, None.) Not acceded but our legal framework is in compliance with <u>most</u> of the principles of the Revised Kyoto Convention.	Singapore is in the process of studying the Revised Kyoto Convention with a view to aligning its customs procedures and practices with the provisions of the revised Kyoto Convention. In 2002, Singapore agreed to participate in Part A of the Revised Kyoto Convention pathfinder in SCCP to adopt the principles of the revised Kyoto Convention.
(3) Transparency	(Description of illustrative measures) Singapore's Customs laws, regulations and procedures were highly transparent and readily available to the public. The Customs Act and its subsidiary legislation, as well as the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act and its subsidiary legislation, were available for sale to the public. Administrative guidelines, regulations and procedures were also made available via brochures, circulars, guide books, automatic voice response system and the Internet. Courses on customs and trade documentation procedures were conducted for the public.	(Description of illustrative measures) (1998) Singapore Customs implemented the One-Call Centre to provide the trading community and public with a single telephone interface for enquiries on Customs matters. (1999) Singapore Customs conducted a survey on its business community to obtain feedback on its information dissemination instruments. (2000-2001) Online conversion of customs exchange rates, links to Controlling Agencies, International Organisations and revenue statistics were posted on the website. (1996 – 2001) The Website of Singapore Customs has been continuously enhanced to provide more information for the public. Printed publications on customs laws, regulations and procedures have also been updated regularly. (2002) A new Customs Call Centre system was implemented to better monitor and track incoming calls from public so that their enquiries could be answered in the shortest possible time. IE Singapore also launched a newly revamped website which provides a one-stop access to all import, export and Certificate of Origin procedures, among others. A new on-line search facility	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>for HS, Country and Port Codes was also included.</p> <p>(2003) Information regarding the reconstituted Singapore Customs were disseminated timely to the public in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Press releases were issued in the media; b) Circulars were sent to traders; c) Dialogue sessions were conducted with various trade associations and parties; d) Customs homepage on the Internet was constantly updated to provide interim information leading to the formation of Singapore Customs; and e) A new Singapore Customs homepage (http://www.customs.gov.sg) was launched on 1 Apr 03. <p>In addition, a Strategic Goods Control website (http://www.customs.gov.sg/stgc) was launched to inform the public about the new enhanced system to regulate trade in strategic goods and strategic goods technology with effect from 1 January 2003.</p> <p>(2004) Singapore Customs (SC) published a Customs Service Charter to better explain to traders our service standards and to provide contact points to facilitate traders in their communication with Customs. This Service Charter marks SC's quality service assurance and service commitment to our traders.</p> <p>SC also published a handbook to provide traders with more information on the strategic goods control system and Strategic Trade Scheme in Singapore.</p> <p>The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system at Customs Call Centre has been enhanced to provide more enquiry options for the public to obtain information on customs matters.</p> <p>(2005) In Oct 2005, Singapore Customs published the 'Guidebook on FTA'.</p> <p>(2006) The Trade Facilitation Kit was published to inform traders and the industry of the various trade facilitation schemes available. A dedicated helpline was also set up to handle more specific queries from traders on strategic goods control matters.</p> <p>(2007) The National Authority (Chemical Weapons Convention) website was subsumed under the Singapore Customs' website when Singapore Customs took over as the National Authority.</p>	
(4) Use of information technology and	(Description of illustrative measures)	(Description of illustrative measures)	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
<p>automation (e.g. Single Window, Harmonised Trade Data Elements, Paperless Trading, etc.)</p>	<p>Singapore utilises IT extensively in its customs and trade operations.</p> <p>Currently, nearly 100% of all customs and trade declarations are submitted electronically through the TradeNet® system, which complies with the UN/EDIFACT standards. When the declaration is approved by Customs, duties and GST assessed on the declaration will be electronically deducted via Inter-Bank GIRO (IBG).</p> <p>A paperless system has also been implemented for the clearance of containerised cargo at all checkpoints.</p>	<p>(1999) TradeNet® version 2.0 was implemented on 1 Jan 1999. The messaging specifications of TradeNet® had been upgraded to conform to the UN/EDIFACT standards.</p> <p>(2000) Singapore introduced paperless clearance of containerised cargo</p> <p>(1999 - 2002) Singapore introduced electronic filing applications on the Internet platform for a range of services to further reduce the use of paper documents. Applications launched in 2001-2002 included: E-filing for refunds, E-filing for application of customs supervision, E-submission of shipmaster's acknowledgement and E-file for release of Class II Yard Bonded Warehouse cargo.</p> <p>(2001 - 2002) Certain electronic-filing applications such as applications for Customs supervision and claiming of refund had been enhanced to include additional features to facilitate the traders.</p> <p>(2003) - Singapore Customs is in the process of streamlining and rationalising its permit requirements under the TradeNet® system.</p> <p>The scope for E-filing facility for refund has been enhanced such that all refund applications could now be e-filed over the Customs website.</p> <p>A new TradeNet® system Version 3.1 was launched on 1 Jan 2003 to take into account the new requirements under the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) and Strategic Goods (Control) Act, as well as the revision of GST rate.</p> <p>(2004) Singapore Customs is reviewing its TradeNet® system and will be enhancing it further to improve its efficiency.</p> <p>Singapore Customs is also in the midst of implementing an E-Customs Masterplan which aims to build a more open and robust IT architecture.</p> <p>(2007) In 2007, Singapore revamped the TradeNet® system, the national single window for trade declarations, to increase system efficiency and further simplify the trade permit application process. Companies enjoyed lower usage costs and a greater array of services.</p> <p>At the same time, Singapore implemented TradeXchange®, slated to be the foremost secure and trusted IT hub for the local trade and logistics industry to exchange and manage information in real time.</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>Singapore also concluded the implementation an E-Customs Masterplan which aims to streamline and rebuild critical operational systems. Processes are supported by a more open and robust IT architecture, resulting in more efficient service.</p> <p>(2008) TradeNet@ version 4.0</p>	
(5) Measures to secure trade (e.g. AEO, etc.)	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>No data available. Issue was not on APEC's agenda in 1996.</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>On 26 Sep 05, Singapore signed the Letter of Intent to implement the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade, on which the APEC Framework for Secure Trade is based.</p> <p>Singapore has most of the standards in place. For example, the recommendations in the Pillar 1 standards on Cargo Inspection Authority, Modern Technology in Inspection Equipment, Risk Management Systems, High-risk Cargo or Container, Security Assessments, and Employee Integrity have been met</p> <p>Singapore has also implemented standards under Pillar 2. On 25 May 07, Singapore Customs launched the Secure Trade Partnership (STP), which is a customs-business partnership to enhance the security of the supply chain. The STP has been further enhanced with a new tier known as STP-Plus in 2008.</p> <p>With the launch of the Secure Trade Partnership (STP) programme, Singapore conducts regular outreach seminars to the trade and visits to companies to raise awareness on the STP.</p> <p>Singapore is working with other customs administrations towards mutual recognition arrangements.</p>	
(6) Implementation of other customs measures to facilitate trade (e.g. Advance Classification Ruling System, Time Release Survey, etc.)	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Singapore had in place an advance classification ruling system. Singapore Customs had a Classification Section, which attends to verbal and written enquiries on the classification of goods. Classification certificates are also issued upon request.</p> <p>Singapore Trade Development Board (now known as the International Enterprise Singapore) also had a Harmonized System Team to advise traders on classification matters (This team now resides in Singapore Customs following a restructuring in Apr 2003).</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p><u>Advance Classification Ruling System:</u> Singapore has in place an advance classification ruling system. Singapore Customs has a unit which attends to requests for advance rulings regarding the classification of goods. Information on classification of goods is made via circulars and the customs website. The website also shows the procedures for the application of classification rulings and related information. Classification certificates are issued upon request.</p> <p><u>Time release survey:</u> Singapore has KPIs measuring the cargo clearance time and our checkpoints conduct periodic surveys on service standards on the clearance time.</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		There are regular dialogues with controlling agencies and stakeholders to fine tune and improve the existing procedures on release of cargo from our checkpoints.	
7. Intellectual Property (IP)			
(1) Ratification and implementation of the major multilateral agreements relating to IP rights	<p>(List of agreements)</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Budapest Treaty on 23 November 1994. It entered into force for Singapore on 23 February 1995.</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty on 23 November 1994 which entered into force for Singapore on 23 February 1995.</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Paris Convention on 23 November 1994. It entered into force for Singapore on 23 February 1995.</p>	<p>(List of agreements)</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Nice Agreement (which establishes an international norm for the classification of goods and services for the purposes of registering trademarks) on 18 December 1998. It entered into force for Singapore with effect from 18 March 1999. (1999 IAP)</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Berne Convention on 21 September 1998. It entered into force for Singapore on 21 December 1998.</p> <p>Singapore has completed implementing the TRIPS obligations one year ahead of the Year 2000 deadline. In fact, several of our IP-related provisions are TRIPS-plus.</p> <p>Singapore has acceded to the Madrid Protocol governing the international registration of trademarks on 31 July 2000. All the computerised processes for the new system of international registration of trademarks are in place for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol which came into force for Singapore on 31 October 2000. (2000 IAP)</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Brussels Convention on 27 January 2005. It entered into force for Singapore on 27 April 2005.</p>	
(2) Measures to ensure the expeditious granting of IP rights	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty on 23 November 1994 which entered into force for Singapore on 23 February 1995.</p> <p>The Patents Act 1994, which came into effect in February 1995, provides for an indigenous patents application system. It allows patent applications to be made directly in Singapore.</p> <p>In addition, the Patents (Amendment) Act 1995 was passed by Parliament on 1 November 1995 and came into force on 01 January 1996 to give effect to Singapore's obligations under the WTO Agreement on TRIPS. The main amendments to the Patents Act were related to the Compulsory Licensing and Government Use provisions.</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>The Copyright (Amendment) Act 1998 was passed by Parliament on 19 February 1998 to enhance Singapore's IPR regime. Together with 4 other accompanying regulations, the amendments came into force on 16 April 1998. The amendments brought our copyright legislation in line with the TRIPS Agreement. Some of the more significant provisions that were introduced included (a) allowing the seizure of documents if they evidenced of copyright offences and (b) widening the current provision that it is a criminal offence to possess equipment that is used to make infringing copies of sound recordings and audio-visual productions to include the possession of equipment used to make infringing copies of any copyright materials. (1998 IAP)</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>The Singapore Government has introduced three new Acts, namely the Trade Marks Act (which came into force on 15 January 1999), the new Geographical Indications Act (which also came into force on 15 January 1999), and the Layout Design of Integrated Circuits Act (which came into force on 15 February 1999). (1999 IAP)</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Nice Agreement (which establishes an international norm for the classification of goods and services for the purposes of registering trademarks) on 18 December 1998. It entered into force for Singapore with effect from 18 March 1999. (1999 IAP)</p> <p>The Registered Designs Act was passed on 25 August 2000. It came into force upon the passing of the Registered Designs Rules in November 2000. (2000 IAP)</p> <p>Singapore has acceded to the Madrid Protocol governing the international registration of trademarks on 31 July 2000. All the computerised processes for the new system of international registration of trademarks are in place for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol which came into force for Singapore on 31 October 2000. (2000 IAP)</p> <p>Our IP legislation was reviewed at the meeting of the WTO TRIPS Council during 26 – 30 June 2000. During the review, Singapore’s legislation and responses to questions posed by countries before the review were well received. (2000 IAP)</p> <p>The Patents (Amendment) Act was introduced in 2001 to streamline patent administration, strengthen the patent legal framework and introduced a patent agents’ regime. (2002 IAP)</p> <p>IPOS implemented a regulatory regime for patent agents with effect from January 2002 (2003 IAP).</p> <p>IPOS launched eTrademarks, which allowed for e-filing of trademark applications in January 2002. The e-filing services will facilitate the electronic processing and examination of trademark applications and ensure the expeditious registration of trademarks. (2002 IAP) Further enhancements such as automated renewals and abandonment applications for trade marks have further improved efficiency. (2003 IAP)</p> <p>IPOS launched the ePatents system in August 2003, which is a fully computerised workflow system with full e-filing facilities and download capabilities for patent documents and a completely computerised electronic</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>register. (2003 IAP)</p> <p>Through the Patents (Amendment) Act 2004 and its corresponding amendment rules, provisions are now in place to allow for a patent term to be extended under certain circumstances.</p> <p>This round of amendments also provided for a default fast track timeline for patent applications to proceed to grant quickly and an optional slow track timeline for patent applications to proceed at a slower pace.</p> <p>In addition, the translation requirements for non-English priority documents were relaxed. In the Patents (Amendment) Rules 2004, the requirement for furnishing priority documents was relaxed as well. In brief, with the amendment, they need to be furnished only when required by the Registrar. (2004 IAP)</p> <p>The new Plant Varieties Protection Act came into force on 1 July 2004. The Act provides protection for new plant varieties. Singapore also deposited its instrument of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, 1991 or the UPOV 1991 Convention (Union internationale pour la Protection des Obstantions Vegetales) on 30 June 2004 and became a member on 30 July 2004. (2004 IAP)</p> <p>Amendments to the Trade Marks Act to enhance the protection for registered trade marks came into force on 01 July 2004. The enhancements to Singapore's trade marks regime include allowing for the registration of non-visual marks, enhanced protection for well-known marks and improved border measures to allow for more pro-active enforcement at the border against imports, exports out of Singapore and goods in transit that are consigned to a party with a local presence. Well-known marks are now protected against any use that would indicate a connection between the goods or services in question and the proprietor of the well-known mark. In addition, where the mark is well-known to the public at large in Singapore, the protection is as against any use that would cause dilution in an unfair manner of the distinctive character of the well-known mark. (2004 IAP)</p> <p>Singapore has fulfilled her obligations with respect to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)-Singapore Free Trade Agreement and deposited its instrument of accession to the Hague Agreement for the International Registration of Registered Designs on 17 January 2005. It entered into force for Singapore on 17 April 2005. The Registered Designs Act and Rules had been amended for Singapore's accession to the Hague Agreement. (2005 IAP)</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>The Registered Designs Rules were also amended in order to align procedures across the different IPOS registries; as well as to provide the procedures for electronic on-line filing of designs which were launched on 01 September 2005. (2005 IAP)</p> <p>Concurrently, IPOS launched the online publication of registered designs (e-Journal) on 01 September 2005 which facilitates search and monitoring of registered designs by applicants and agents; and gives broader public access to the registered designs. (2006 IAP)</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty on 17 January 2005. They entered into force for Singapore on 17 April 2005.(2005 IAP)</p> <p>Singapore deposited its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement concerning the International Registration of Industrial Design on 17 January 2005. It entered into force for Singapore on 17 April 2005. (2005 IAP)</p> <p>IPOS launched the online publication of its accepted trade marks on 30 September 2005. The online publication, e-Journals, will facilitate the search for and monitoring of accepted trade marks by trade mark applicants and trade mark agents. E-Journals will allow applicants and trade mark agents to take timely and appropriate action against conflicting trade marks. All these will in turn further enhance trade mark protection. (2005 IAP)</p> <p>The substantive amendments effected via two amendment acts (Copyright (Amendment) Act 2004 and Copyright (Amendment) Act 2005) expanded criminal liability for copyright infringements, in particular, wilful copyright infringement that are either to a significant extent or done for the purpose of obtaining a commercial advantage. In addition, the amendments also introduced new provisions against the circumvention of technological protection measures and provisions governing the limitation of liability for network service providers. Border enforcement measures similar to equivalent trade marks provisions were introduced, thereby enhancing border enforcement against infringing imports, exports and infringing goods in transit that are consigned to a party with a local presence. New rights encompassing all forms of communication had also been introduced to enhance the protection of copyright for some copyright owners. The fair dealing provision had also been expanded to become a generic one. (2005 IAP)</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>IPOS launched an online payment service, ePayment on 16 January 2006. It allows users to make payments to IPOS using internet banking, credit/debit card and flexipay payments. These modes of payment are applicable to paper filings of trade marks, patents, registered designs and plant varieties; trade marks and registered designs electronic filings; and IPOS invoices.</p> <p>Following the launch of the trade marks online publication, patents introduced its online version on 30 August 2006. Further, amendments to the Rules were made and they were largely procedural or technical in nature and relate in general to the simplification of filing procedures. (2006 IAP)</p> <p>More patents forms were made available for electronic filing in June 2006 and April 2007.</p> <p>Amendments to the Patents Rules to amend the First Schedule of the Patents Rules came into force on 01 February 2007. The fees for downloading information from the patent register and published patent specifications have been removed.</p> <p>Credit card payment was made available for patents electronic filings in March 2007.</p> <p>Amendments to the Patents Act, Patents Rules and Patents (Patent Agents) Rules came into force on 01 April 2007. The amendments aligned the Singapore patent system with two significant changes to the Regulations under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) to which Singapore is a party, namely incorporation by reference and restoration of claim to priority. IPOS also took into account the feedback of patent users wherever possible and introduced amendments that would clarify or simplify filing requirements and procedures, inter alia, priority claims and early national phase entry requirements. The amendments also clarified the circumstances in which an individual acting in his capacity as employee of his employer can perform patent agent work without contravening the legal requirements.</p> <p>Amendments to the Trade Marks (Amendment) Act 2007, Trade Marks (Amendment) Rules 2007 and Trade Marks (International Registration) Rules 2007 came into force on 02 July 2007. They were amended to allow for multi-class applications and to allow for division of applications. In addition, the amendments were also to align our trademark procedures with the provisions in the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (STLT).</p> <p>Singapore ratified the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks on 26</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>March 2007, making it the first country to have ratified the treaty.</p> <p>Our IP legislation was scrutinized by the WTO as part of Singapore's 5th Trade Policy Review in June/July 2008. The section of the TPR report on IP rights was positive.</p> <p>In 2008, amendments were made to the Trade Marks Rules to allow electronic communication with the trade mark agents and vice versa in relation to trade mark prosecution matters. This initiative worked well in its pilot run and the Trade Mark registry has continued with the initiative. There are future plans to extend this electronic communications facility in the Trade Marks Registry to other Registries. (2009 IAP)</p> <p>We are also committed to issuing certificates of registration or statements of grant of protection for objection-free and opposition-free trade marks within 4 months from the date of filing for national filings or 4 months from the date of notification from WIPO for applications filed through the Madrid Protocol. Applicants are thus granted rights expeditiously where possible. (2009 IAP)</p> <p>The Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2009 was introduced in Parliament in September 2009 to expand the jurisdiction of the Copyright Tribunal so that it is now able to hear disputes relating to the licenses for all types of copyright works. These include disputes concerning licence fees payable for the reproduction of sound recordings and music videos on hard disk drives. The Bill was passed, and came into force on 31 December 2009.</p>	
(3) Measures to provide for the effective enforcement of IP rights	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Singapore has adopted both legal and enforcement measures aimed at enhancing its intellectual property regime. The measures introduced include the following:</p> <p>a. The Board of Film Censors (BFC) has imposed new film licence conditions which require a video company, when submitting imported or locally produced video tapes/discs for censorship, to make a statutory declaration that they hold the copyright or have imported/made the products with the consent of the copyright holders or that the products in concern are parallel imports. The BFC has also installed a cross-pulse monitor to detect pirated videotapes submitted for censorship.</p> <p>b. In February 1995, a dedicated Police IPR Warrant Unit was established in the Criminal Investigation Department. The Unit centralizes and speeds up the execution of search warrants, thus assisting IPR enforcement officers to secure the needed evidence for prosecution.</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>In recognition of the increasing sophistication of pirate activities, the IPR Warrant Unit was restructured to form the Intellectual Property Rights Branch (IPRB) within the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in January 2000. The IPRB has an increased police strength and specialises in targeting software, music and film piracy distribution syndicates. Enforcement efforts have intensified since. In the first 9 months of its operations in 2000, the Police has conducted more than 1,300 raids and inspections island wide, seized \$13m worth of pirated products; smashed 4 syndicates and arrested 105 persons. This is more than the whole of 1999. (2002 IAP)</p> <p>In 2002, the IPRB smashed 4 pirate syndicates and seized more than \$9.4m worth of products, with a total arrest of 142 persons. In the same year, IPRB has received accolades from various trade mark holders for their enforcement</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
	<p>c. Backing these improved enforcement measures are the continued imposition of stiff penalties for copyright and trademark infringements by the courts.</p>	<p>efforts. (2003 IAP).</p> <p>In 2003, the IPRB of the CID smashed 4 pirate syndicates and seized more than S\$33m worth of products, with a total arrest of 166 persons. (2004 IAP)</p> <p>The IPRB of the CID has managed to contain the piracy and counterfeiting situation in Singapore for the year 2004. There was a sharp decline of more than 60% in the value of seizure from \$33 million in 2003 to \$12 million in 2004. The number of arrests also witnessed a fall of 48.8% from 166 in 2003 to 85 in 2004. (2005 IAP)</p> <p>The IPRB of the CID continued to take effective enforcement action against piracy and counterfeiting in Singapore for the year 2005. Compared against \$12 million in 2004, the value of seizure in 2005 increased to \$19 million. (2006 IAP)</p> <p>In 2006, the IPRB of the CID conducted about 200 raids with a total seizure of more than \$9 million. In April 2006, IPRB also successfully prosecuted an interior design firm for using pirated software and underlicensing. This was the first time a firm has been charged under the Copyright Act after amendments in January 2005, following the signing of the USS-FTA, to criminalise the use of unauthorised software for commercial advantage.</p> <p>In total, 250 raids were conducted in year 2007, with total seizure of more than S\$3.3 million.</p> <p>Year 2007 saw an increase in traditional 'pirates' using the Internet as a medium to peddle their wares. In the middle of 2007, IPRB mounted an operation targeting online offers of counterfeit luxury products and optical discs of computer games, movies and television drama serials. In a 12-hour island-wide operation conducted on 24 September 2007, IPRB raided several locations and arrested 5 persons who were established users and active online sellers of illicit goods. About 800 counterfeit luxury products and pirated optical discs with an estimated street value of about S\$24,000 were recovered.</p> <p>In year 2008, the IPRB of the CID mounted a total of 182 raids and seized more than S\$3.2million worth of pirated products.</p> <p>In year 2009, the IPRB of the CID mounted a total of 240 raids and seized close to S\$3.03 million worth of pirated products.</p>	
(4) Measures to harmonise IP rights	(Description of illustrative measures)	(Description of illustrative measures)	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
systems in the APEC region	See writeup on international cooperation on IP rights below.	See writeup on international cooperation on IP rights below.	
(5) Public education about IP	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Need for a coordinated approach among government agencies to conduct IP education and awareness activities.</p> <p>Need for mediums that can reach out effectively to a wide audience and IP educational materials that can capture the interest of the masses.</p> <p>Need to conduct specialised training for officers and businesses involved in IP activities.</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>The Trade Development Board formed the IP Education Committee in 1998 to spearhead IP education in Singapore. The Education Committee comprises representatives from both government agencies as well as IP associations.</p> <p>Some of the initiatives implemented included a) the introduction of IPR education into the Civic and Moral Education curriculum of secondary school children; b) an extensive nation-wide anti-piracy campaign in 1999.</p> <p>The Registry of Trade Marks and Patents was restructured to form the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore in 1999 and IPOS was converted into a Statutory Board of the Ministry of Law on 1 April 2001. (2002 IAP)</p> <p>Besides its traditional regulatory role, IPOS was tasked with the responsibility of promoting IP awareness in Singapore. IPOS aims to promote greater IP awareness and education and enhance Singapore's international reputation as a location where IP rights are respected. (2002 IAP)</p> <p>Some of the initiatives implemented in 2003 include:</p> <p>(1) The celebration of IP month with various partners and industry associations through events and activities.</p> <p>2) Establishment of the IP Academy, officially launched in January 2003. The IP Academy is positioned to be a focal point for development of Singapore's IP capabilities by undertaking education and training for IP professionals, businesses and research organisations in Singapore and the region. It also aims to promote development in IP thought leadership.</p> <p>3) Development of the Intellectual Property Education and Resource Centre (iperc), a brand for IPOS' education and capability-building programmes. This includes a training facility cum resource library open to the public, designed to meet the information and training needs of users of all levels; development of school outreach programmes and various informative handbooks for different sectors of the public.</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>4) Development of programmes to facilitate IP exploitation – the IP Create, Exploit, Protect (IP-CEP) series of seminars aimed at encouraging local enterprises to effectively deploy IP concepts and strategies, and the IP Parade, a series of offline roving exchanges to create a marketplace for IP owners, services providers and investors. This effectively complements IPOS' online promotional platform, SurfIP. (2003 IAP)</p> <p>IPOS launched the IP-Create, Exploit, Protect (IP-CEP) series of business seminars aimed at encouraging local enterprises to effectively deploy IP concepts and strategies. In March 2003, IPOS launched IP Parade, a series of offline roving IP exchanges designed to complement IPOS' online promotional platform, SurfIP. (2004 IAP)</p> <p>To further build local enterprises capabilities in IP, IPOS launched SCOPE IP (Strategies for Creation, Ownership, Protection and Exploitation of IP) programme in late 2003. SCOPE IP is a national IP management framework developed to help businesses extract maximum value from their IP. (2004 IAP)</p> <p>Various IP Resource guides which include the Infopack, Infosheets and the IP Starter have been produced since 2003, to provide the general public with comprehensive IP information.</p> <p>In preparation for extensive changes to our IP regime as a result of a continuing review as well as obligations under the USSFTA, IPOS launched the "Say No to Piracy" initiative to prepare businesses and consumers for stronger IP laws expected to be fully in force by the beginning of 2005.</p> <p>IPOS reaches consumers via its HIP Alliance initiative through broad-based advertising and collaborations with like-minded partners to encourage the public to respect IP.</p> <p>In collaboration with IP Taskforce and other IP champions, IPOS organises seminars and public engagement sessions explaining the changes to the different IP laws. (2004 IAP)</p> <p>The Intellectual Property Education and Resource Centre (ipercc) was set up in 2002 to brand IPOS' education and capability-building programmes. This is a training facility cum resource library open to the public, designed to meet the information and training needs of users of all levels. Complementing this is Singapore's first multimedia website on IP for the schools sector. The website at www.iperckidz.gov.sg is a one-stop education resource to provide students and teachers with easy-to-comprehend IP information.</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>In addition, IPOS had published a series of informative handbooks on the various forms of IP, to assist the public with easy-to-understand and relevant information on IP. (2004 IAP)</p> <p>IPOS produced the “Copy Not Right” VCD to educate users on do’s and don’ts when using copyright materials in January 2005.</p> <p>The HIP microsite was launched in September 2005 to engage the HIPfriends community who had signed up to pledge their respect for IP. A IP awareness roadshow was also staged for students at the Singapore Management University (2005 IAP)</p> <p>IpercKidz introduced an e-learning module to allow students to learn about IP in interactive ways at their own pace. (2005 IAP)</p> <p>IPOS supported several artists’ showcases to hype up the HIP messages. There were also tie ups with blockbusters to bring home the message of respect for IP. (2006 IAP)</p> <p>Training programmes for teachers in schools and IHLs were launched. IP components were incorporated into business plan competitions and innovation programmes. Singapore’s IP Academy also rolled out capability development programmes to both business and professionals on application and management of IP. (2006 IAP)</p> <p>Awareness (2007 IAP to-date)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPOS commissioned a biennial public perception survey in 2006 to investigate young Singaporeans’ awareness of and attitude towards IP. It also investigated their awareness and perception of HIP alliance. The results of the survey was published in April 2007 and 2009. • The focus of 2007’s and 2009 IP awareness campaign is on educating the general public on responsible online behavior that respects and honors IP. • Aside from using the traditional media, the HIP Alliance also tapped on online platforms such as Google and Yahoo to engage Internet savvy youths. <p>Education (2007 IAP to-date) - Various business outreach programmes on specific IP topics were conducted to provide the business sector with the understanding and knowledge of business specific IP issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the growing importance of IP in the public sector, a regular IP Primer course is organized with our partner to educate public 	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>officers on IP and its application to the public sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An awareness drive, through career seminars and advertorials, was conducted to promote understanding of IP-related professions and stimulate interest in pursuing IP as a career. IPOS recently launched the Knowledge Kaleidoscope. This features a series of intellectual property (IP) management factsheets which provide businesses with an insight into the many facets of their intellectual assets. It serves to assist businesses to better incorporate intellectual property in their overall business strategy to help improve their competitiveness and strategic advantage 	
(6) International cooperation on IP rights	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Sharing of experiences and information on IP policy among APEC economies.</p> <p>Create a network of contacts among officers dealing with IP issues within APEC.</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>APEC has developed a list of contact points of public/business sector IPR experts and a list of law enforcement officers.</p> <p>APEC has conducted exercises to exchange information on IPR administration systems and studied measures, including the development of principles, for the effective enforcement of IPR. (2002 IAP)</p> <p>IPOS and the Japan Patent Office jointly organised OPTIMAL 2003: Optimising Intellectual Assets, a pioneer Conference cum Exhibition on 12 – 14 March 2003. The event provided a one-stop platform for business networking among key players in the IP industry and facilitated information exchange on developments in intellectual asset management. Over 120 exhibitors from Singapore and the region showcased their latest technologies and unique inventions.</p> <p>Singapore actively participates in regional workshops and seminars, including APEC IPEG meetings. (2003 IAP)</p> <p>Singapore regularly attends the APEC IPEG Meetings. Singapore had been the lead economy for 4 projects under the IP Expert Group, namely: (1) Best Enforcement Practice to Combat Optical Disc Piracy in APEC Economies, (2) Standardization of Trademark Application Form, (3) Nontraditional Trademark and (4) Plant Variety Protection Regimes.</p> <p>IPOS co-organised the APEC-IPEG Workshop on IP Public Education and Awareness in Hong Kong, in conjunction with Hong Kong Intellectual Property Department and Intellectual Property Australia in November 2006.</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>IPOS co-organised the APEC-IPEG Workshop on “Using Market Research to Develop Effective IPR Campaigns” in Singapore, in conjunction with Hong Kong Intellectual Property Department and Intellectual Property Australia in December 2007.</p> <p>IPOS co-organised the APEC-IPEG Workshop on “Conducting Effective IPR Public Education & Awareness Campaigns for SMEs” in Australia, in conjunction with Hong Kong Intellectual Property Department and Intellectual Property Australia in April 2009.</p> <p>Singapore has hosted and organized the 2 IPEG meetings in 2009, together with a technology transfer seminar, and the Trading Ideas 2009 symposium, both of which explored IP commercialization issues.</p>	
(7) Measures to promote transparency of IP rights requirement (for example, the APEC Leaders’ Transparency Standards)	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Information not available.</p>	<p>(Description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>All primary and subsidiary IP legislation in Singapore have been made publicly available on the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) website at www.ipos.gov.sg.</p> <p>Since 2003/2004, public consultations have been convened for all proposed changes to IP laws, with all relevant documentation (including any proposed draft laws) publicized via the IPOS website, so as to enable interested persons an opportunity for comment.</p>	
8. Competition Policy			
(1) Development of competition laws and establishment of competition authority	<p>(Existence or nonexistence of competition laws and authority)</p> <p>No generic competition laws or national competition authority</p>	<p><u>Competition Authority:</u> CCS was established on 1 January 2005 to administer and enforce the Competition Act. The CCS is a statutory board under the purview of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.</p> <p>An independent Competition Appeal Board (‘CAB’) was established on 1 September 2005 to hear appeals relating to decisions made by the CCS.</p> <p>In 2008, the International Affairs Unit and Strategic Planning Division were formed as a response to CCS’ increasing scope of activities both locally and abroad, as well as to enhance organisational and forward planning.</p> <p>The International Affairs Unit oversees policies on all international matters and is responsible for increasing CCS’ international profile.</p> <p>The Strategic Planning Division is responsible for the strategic planning of the organization to ensure that it achieves and exceeds its goals in line with its mission and vision.</p>	<p><u>Reviews of Competition Policies and/or Laws</u></p> <p>CCS enhanced its leniency programme and issued the revised Competition Commission of Singapore Guidelines on Lenient Treatment for Undertakings Coming Forward with Information on Cartel Activity Cases 2009 in January 2009.</p> <p>The revised leniency programme includes a Marker system and a Leniency Plus system to CCS’ current leniency</p>

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p><u>Competition Law</u> Singapore enacted a generic competition law, the Competition Act (“the Act”), in October 2004. The Act was implemented in phases, starting with the setting up of the Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS) on 1 January 2005.</p> <p>On 1 January 2006, the prohibitions against anti-competitive agreements, decisions and practices; and the abuse of dominance came into force.</p> <p>On 14 July 2006, the Minister for Trade and Industry issued the Competition (Block Exemption for Liner Shipping Agreements) Order 2006, exempting a category of liner shipping agreements from the section 34 prohibition.</p> <p>The provisions relating to anti-competitive mergers came into force on 1 July 2007.</p> <p>CCS issued a new set of guidelines on “Competition Impact Assessment for Government Agencies” in 2008. CCS currently has 13 guidelines.</p> <p>For more information on the CCS, the Act and its guidelines, please visit the CCS website at www.ccs.gov.sg.</p> <p>In addition to CCS, Singapore has sectoral regulators who deal with competition matters in the telecommunications and postal, media, energy and aviation sectors.</p> <p>Telecommunications and Postal The Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) publishes the Telecom Competition Code (“TCC”), PCC, guidelines and decisions issued pursuant to the Codes, promptly on the IDA website for access by all interested parties. Prior to any major regulatory reviews and before finalising any key decisions, IDA also conducts a public consultation to obtain comments from the industry and members of the public. IDA publishes the proposed revisions and decisions in advance on the IDA webpage (www.ida.gov.sg) under “Policies & Regulation” to provide interested persons a reasonable opportunity to comment on such proposed measures.</p> <p>In February 2007, the Government announced its decision to end SingPost’s monopoly in the basic mail services market, and to liberalise the market on 1 April 2007. In May 2008, the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) issued the Postal Competition Code (“PCC”), which provides the framework</p>	<p>programme to enhance the effectiveness of CCS’ enforcement action against cartels.</p> <p>The Marker system allows a potential leniency applicant to keep its place in the leniency queue for a given period of time, while it gathers the necessary information and evidence for the leniency application.</p> <p>The Leniency Plus system encourages cartel members under investigation for a cartel activity to report on involvement in another cartel activity, so as to obtain a discount on the financial penalty that may be imposed by CCS for its involvement in the first cartel activity, in addition to full immunity from financial penalty for the second reported cartel.</p> <p>Sectoral exclusions under the Competition Act are undergoing review in 2009.</p> <p>Telecommunications & Postal In February 2007, the Government announced its decision to end SingPost’s monopoly in the basic mail services market, and to liberalise the market on 1 April 2007. In May 2008, the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) issued the</p>

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>to promote and sustain competition in the provision of basic letter services. The PCC was developed in close consultation with the industry, and sets forth rules to facilitate entry of new operators and prevent abuse by operators not yet subject to constraints of market forces.</p> <p>Media The Media Market Conduct Code (MMCC) was issued by the Media Development Authority (MDA) on 15 April 2003 to promote fair market conduct and effective competition by laying out the ground rules for fair competition in the broadcasting and print sectors. The MMCC provided for the review of the MMCC at least once every three years. MDA commenced its first triennial review in 2005 and has since conducted two public consultations. MDA expects to gazette the revised MMCC by the end of 2009. Details of the review of the MMCC can be found at MDA's website at http://www.mda.gov.sg/wms.www/devnpolicies.aspx?sid=138</p> <p>Aviation On 1 July 2009, the Civil Aviation Authority Singapore (CAAS) was restructured into 2 entities: (i) a reconstituted CAAS and (ii) a corporatised airport operator which was duly licensed.</p> <p>The reconstituted CAAS took on new airport economic regulatory functions, covering both price and service regulation as well as competition matters in relation to the airport licensee.</p> <p>An Airport Competition Code (ACC) was introduced. The ACC which came into operation on 1 July 2009, prohibits anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance by the airport licensee.</p> <p>The ACC, and its Advisory Guideline which provides a summary of the key provisions of the ACC, are available from the CAAS website at: http://www.caas.gov.sg/caas/en/index.html</p>	<p>Postal Competition Code ("PCC"), which provides the framework to promote and sustain competition in the provision of basic letter services. The PCC was developed in close consultation with the industry, and sets forth rules to facilitate entry of new operators and prevent abuse by operators not yet subject to constraints of market forces.</p> <p>To ensure relevance of its regulatory instrument in a changing telecom market, IDA commenced the second triennial review of its TCC on 12 November 2008. IDA had identified several broad areas that could be fine-tuned, taking into account market developments over the past three years since the last TCC review and IDA's experience in implementing the TCC. As part of the review, IDA sought industry comments before proceeding to amend the TCC. Details of the proposed revisions and industry comments can be found on the IDA webpage at www.ida.gov.sg under "Policies & Regulation".</p> <p>While IDA reviews the TCC, the current TCC will continue to apply to telecom</p>

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
			<p>licensees. The TCC was first introduced in September 2000 as a comprehensive competition framework to govern the telecom sector following its liberalisation in April 2000, and was first revised in 2005.</p> <p>Media The MMCC provides for the review of the MMCC at least once every three years. MDA commenced its first triennial review in 2005 and has since conducted two public consultations. MDA expects to gazette the MMCC by the end of 2009. Details of the review can be found at MDA's website at http://www.mda.gov.sg/wms/www/devnpolicies.aspx?sid=138</p>
(2) Consistency with APEC Principles to Enhance Competition Policy and Deregulation and efforts to become consistent with the Principles	(All, Most, Some, None) Some.	(All, Most, Some, None) All.	
(3) International cooperation on Competition law/policy	(Description of illustrative measures) None.	<p>There are provisions in the Competition Act that enable the CCS to enter into co-operation arrangements with any foreign competition body.</p> <p>There are provisions for cooperation on competition issues with other Member Economies in the Competition Chapter of the following Free Trade Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement ▪ United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement ▪ Agreement between New Zealand and Singapore on a Closer Economic Partnership 	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreement between Singapore and Japan for a New-Age Economic Partnership ▪ Korea-Singapore Free Trade Agreement ▪ Peru-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Trans-Pacific SEP (Brunei, New Zealand, Chile & Singapore) <p>CCS was the inaugural Chair of the Asean Experts Group on Competition (AEGC), a sectoral body formalized under ASEAN and supported by the ASEAN Secretariat. CCS' term as Chair lasted from March 2008 to 2009. Under CCS, the AEGC accomplished the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • formation of various working groups to achieve the deliverables set out in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint. The CCS is leading a working group to develop a regional guideline on competition policy by 2010; • co-operation with various dialogue partners on technical assistance or capacity building activities; • Two AEGC meetings, two capacity building training sessions and one policy dialogue with the Chairman of the UK Office of Fair Trading, Philip Collins. <p>CCS continues to be actively involved in the work of the AEGC, and in promoting the development of competition policy in the ASEAN region.</p> <p>CCS also participates in the following fora:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD – OECD Global Forum and OECD-Korea training activities • APEC – Singapore representative at the Competition Policy and Law Group (CPLG) • East Asia Top Officials' Meeting on Competition Policy – participation in the annual meeting, and Conference on Competition Law And Policy • ICN – ICN Annual Meetings and activities of the various Work Groups. <p>Telecommunications</p> <p>IDA has collaborated with the International Telecommunication Union to organise three runs of executive training programmes in the area of information and communication technology policy and regulation (including competition policy). Attendees of the course included participants from APEC countries.</p>	
9. Government Procurement			
(1) Increasing transparency of	(Description of illustrative measures)	(Description of illustrative measures)	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
laws, regulations, bidding system, and how to determine bidding qualifications and bid winners	Enhancement of the transparency of the government procurement system and creation of database in line with the GPEG CAP.	The public sector's invitations for quotations and tenders are posted openly on GeBIZ (www.gebiz.gov.sg), which is the government's one-stop e-procurement portal. Suppliers can search for government procurement opportunities, download tender documents, and submit their bids online. Apart from tender notices, tender schedules and awards are also published in GeBIZ. In addition, information on Singapore's procurement regime can also be found on GeBIZ. GeBIZ is an end-to-end electronic procurement system and we will continue to enhance the system.	
(2) Restrictions on foreign goods, services or suppliers, or preferences to domestic suppliers	(All, Most, Some, None) Information not available.	(All, Most, Some, None) Some	
(3) Reciprocity requirements in providing access to government procurement markets	(existing, not existing) Not existing.	(existing, not existing) Not existing	
(4) Consistency with the APEC Non-binding Principles on Government Procurement	(All, Most, Some, None) Some.	(All, Most, Some, None) All	
(5) Introduction of electronic means for government procurement	(Introduced, Not introduced) Not introduced.	(Introduced, Not introduced) Introduced	
10. Deregulation/Regulatory Reform			
(1) Reviews of existing regulations	(All, Most, Some, None) All	(All, Most, Some, None) All	Singapore recognizes that deregulation is a continuous process if Singapore is to become and remain a principal Asian hub for business. The government of Singapore considers the goals of regulation to be the exercise

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
			of prudential supervision (e.g. the financial services sector), public safety, and the protection of consumer interests and national security. The Pro-Enterprise Panel solicits feedback on rules and regulations that hinder businesses and stifle entrepreneurship, and also responds to feedback on government rules to ensure that they remain relevant and supportive of a pro-business environment. The panel, which started operations in August 2000, has received more than 1,700 suggestions, of which more than half have been accepted.
(2) Reviews of new or proposed regulations	(All, Most, Some, None) All	(All, Most, Some, None) All	
(3) Consistency with APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform	(All, Most, Some, None) Some	(All, Most, Some, None) All	
(4) Improving transparency in regulatory regimes	(Description of illustrative measures) Transparency is covered in other specific sections	(Description of illustrative measures) Transparency is covered in other specific sections	
11. WTO Obligation/ Rules of Origin			
(1) WTO/UR Agreements not yet fully implemented	(Number of agreements or number/list of cases) Singapore has already implemented its WTO/UR agreements.	(Number of agreements or number/list of cases) Singapore has already implemented its WTO/UR agreements.	
(2) Ensuring application of rules of origin in an impartial, transparent and neutral manner	(Description of illustrative measures) Singapore's rules of origin already comply with the disciplines set out in Article II of the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin. Essentially, there are no rules of origin specifically applied to normal imports into Singapore.	(Description of illustrative measures) Singapore's rules of origin already comply with the disciplines set out in Article II of the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin. Essentially, there are no rules of origin specifically applied to normal imports into Singapore.	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		When the harmonised ROO are adopted, Singapore will participate in the review of the harmonised ROO, and implement the changes adopted by the WTO based on the review.	
12. Dispute Mediation			
Dispute mediation methods, process and bodies are available to foreign businesses	<p>(List of methods)</p> <p>Disputes between Governments</p> <p>Singapore follows the WTO dispute settlement procedures to settle trade disputes between governments.</p> <p>Under our bilateral investment guarantee agreements (IGAs) and other co-operative Memorandums of Understanding, there are general provisions for settling disputes through bilateral consultations, arbitration and/or mediation.</p> <p>Singapore is also a signatory to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention).</p> <p>Disputes between Governments and Private Entities</p> <p>Singapore's IGAs provide for private negotiations, consultations, mediation and/or arbitration for settling investment disputes.</p> <p>Singapore is also a signatory to the International Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (ICSID).</p> <p>Disputes between Private Parties</p> <p><u>The Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides facilities for international and domestic commercial arbitration and conciliation - Promotes arbitration and conciliation as alternatives to litigation for the settlement of commercial disputes <p>Services provided by the SIAC include:</p>	<p>(List of methods)</p> <p>Disputes between Governments</p> <p>Singapore follows the WTO dispute settlement procedures to settle trade disputes between governments.</p> <p>Under our bilateral investment guarantee agreements (IGAs) and other co-operative Memorandums of Understanding, there are general provisions for settling disputes through bilateral consultations, arbitration and/or mediation.</p> <p>Singapore is also a signatory to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention).</p> <p>Disputes between Governments and Private Entities</p> <p>Singapore's IGAs provide for private negotiations, consultations, mediation and/or arbitration for settling investment disputes.</p> <p>Singapore is also a signatory to the International Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (ICSID).</p> <p>Disputes between Private Parties</p> <p><u>The Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides facilities for international and domestic commercial arbitration and conciliation - Promotes arbitration and conciliation as alternatives to litigation for the settlement of commercial disputes <p>Services provided by the SIAC include:</p>	<p>1999: Millenium Accord Signing Ceremony between SMC and Accord Signatories of more than 60 public sector organisations and 370 private sector signatories. Accord signatories pledged to attempt amicable dispute resolution mechanisms for Y2K disputes.</p> <p>2000: SMC and SIAC developed a Med-Arb procedure allowing disputants to go through a seamless process from mediation to arbitration.</p> <p>2000: e@dr, a Singapore Subordinate Courts initiative, was launched for parties in an e-commerce transaction to resolve their disputes over the Internet. (2000 IAP)</p> <p>2000: The Electronic Filing System (EFS), an initiative to convert civil proceedings to the electronic medium, which was initially piloted in March 1997 was launched on 1 March 2000 and mandatory electronic filing was introduced.</p>

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
	<p>- Free information and advice on dispute resolution in Singapore. Through its international network of contacts, the SIAC also provides latest information on other international centres and their means and facilities for dispute resolution</p> <p>- Maintenance of a Panel of Accredited Arbitrators of local and international experts from which parties may appoint arbitrators for their disputes</p> <p>- Support and administrative services which include settling fees of arbitrators, providing accommodation for hearings, arranging dates for meetings between the tribunal and parties' representatives, and acting as the registry/ depository of pleadings, documents and correspondence. SIAC will also assist parties in arranging the registration of awards for enforcement in countries which have acceded to the New York Convention.</p> <p>Consumers in Singapore can seek mediation at minimal cost through the Consumer Association of Singapore.</p> <p>The Small Claims Tribunal and the Subordinate Courts also provide mediation services.</p>	<p>- Free information and advice on dispute resolution in Singapore. Through its international network of contacts, the SIAC also provides latest information on other international centres and their means and facilities for dispute resolution</p> <p>- Maintenance of a Panel of Accredited Arbitrators of local and international experts from which parties may appoint arbitrators for their disputes</p> <p>- Support and administrative services which include settling fees of arbitrators, providing accommodation for hearings, arranging dates for meetings between the tribunal and parties' representatives, and acting as the registry/ depository of pleadings, documents and correspondence. SIAC will also assist parties in arranging the registration of awards for enforcement in countries which have acceded to the New York Convention.</p> <p>Consumers in Singapore can seek mediation at minimal cost through the Consumer Association of Singapore.</p> <p>The Small Claims Tribunal and the Subordinate Courts also provide mediation services.</p> <p>Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC) under the auspices of the Singapore Academy of Law. It provides mediation and other alternative dispute resolution services, and is dedicated to promoting the amicable and fair resolution of disputes.</p> <p>Singapore Information Technology Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee (SITDRAC) under the SMC. Its functions are to complement the SMC's role with respect to information technology disputes, and to provide expert knowledge of the industry for the settlement of disputes.</p> <p>Advisory Committee on Construction Mediation (ACCOM), which comprises the major professional bodies and institutions in the construction industry. Its functions are to provide mediation services for the construction industry, and to provide expert knowledge of & connection with the industry.</p> <p>Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA) offers parties involved in maritime disputes an independent, efficient and reliable means of resolving their dispute through arbitration.</p>	<p>2004: In May 2004, an amendment to the Legal Profession Act was introduced in Parliament to allow foreign lawyers to appear without local counsel in arbitration proceedings concerning Singapore law issues.</p> <p>2005 : SMC launched the Asian Journal on Mediation which aims to advance the practice and development of mediation and mediation techniques in Asia.</p> <p>2007 : SMC, together with the Ministry of Health launched the Medical Mediation Scheme to help patients, their families and healthcare providers resolve healthcare disputes.</p> <p>2008 : The Framework for Alternative Dispute Resolution for Sports (ADR Sports) was launched by the Singapore Sports Council. ADR Sports was developed in collaboration with SMC, SIAC and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators to resolve sports disputes.</p> <p>2008: The Subordinate Courts collaborate with FIDReC for claims arising from minor motor accidents claims, often involving insurers to be resolved by FIDReC.</p>

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
			<p>2008: Procedures streamlined for easier entry of foreign arbitrators/mediators and legal counsel to conduct arbitration/mediation work.</p> <p>2009: The Subordinate Courts, in collaboration with Law Society and the Singapore Mediation Centre, launched the Associate Mediator Scheme where volunteer lawyers are trained and accredited, serve as volunteer mediators for civil disputes filed the Courts, increasing its capacity to deal with more cases through partnering with volunteers.</p> <p>2009: The Subordinate Courts set up an ADR Advisory Council to work together with local experts on ADR to grow the mediation sector in Singapore</p> <p>2009: The Subordinate Courts is implementing measures to strengthen early referral of cases to court mediation or the Law Society Arbitration Scheme ('LSAS').</p> <p>2009 – Maxwell Chambers, a dedicated and integrated dispute resolution providing best of class hearing facilities has been</p>

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices established.
13. Mobility of Business People			
(1) Number of visa free or visa waiver arrangements	(Number of arrangements) Only 15 countries required visa in 1996	(Number of arrangements) Most foreigners visiting Singapore are not subject to visa requirements and hence do not need entry visas. Currently, visas are only imposed on 21 countries to enter Singapore.	
----- Visa free or visa waiver arrangements with APEC member economies	(List of economies) Except for Vietnam, PRC and Russia, the other APEC economies do not require visa to enter Singapore	(List of economies) Except for PRC and Russia, the other APEC economies do not require visa to enter Singapore (some of them are granted 30 days visa free facility while other economies are totally visa –free)	
(2) Participation in the APEC Business Travel Card scheme	(Yes, No) No	(Yes, No) Yes (2005)	
(3) Other efforts to facilitate mobility of business people than the above	(Description of illustrative measures) NA	(Description of illustrative measures) (Description of illustrative measures) <u>Technical Cooperation and Training</u> – Singapore organised and participated in training workshops and seminars to build internal and external capacity in the area of enhancing business mobility. <u>Internal measures –</u> (1999/IAP) -- Application for Business Visa made easier by providing visa application form in ICA's website since 1 Apr 1999. (2000/IAP) -- Genuine business people who are interested in starting up entrepreneurial and technopreneurial businesses in Singapore are allowed to remain here for up to six months in the first instance to explore business opportunities and firm up business plans. They could be allowed to stay up to a year if they have the support from the Economic Development Board or the Agency For Science, Technology & Research (A*STAR). (2000/IAP) -- Made visa information/applications available on the internet. (2001/IAP) – Updated visa information on the APEC Business Travel Handbook and the internet.	Streamlined visa processing Visa applications can be downloaded over the net

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>(2001/IAP) -- Visa processing time for APEC business persons have been reduced from 14 working days to 3 working days.</p> <p>(2001/IAP) -- Instead of single entry visas, multiple journey visas with validity of up to 5 years have been issued to business persons to facilitate their travels to Singapore.</p> <p>(2001/IAP) -- There is no longer a need for the Singapore registered company to sponsor a business person's visit to Singapore. Business persons who apply for entry visas will only need to submit a Letter of Introduction (LOI) from a Singapore-registered company. The LOI makes a request that Singapore Immigration authorities grant the visiting business person a visa.</p> <p>(2002/IAP) -- Business persons can download application forms for visas and extension of stay from the ICA website.</p> <p>(2003/IAP) -- Waived visa requirement for citizens of the PRC and the CIS holding Diplomatic, Official, Service or Public Affairs passports if their stay in Singapore is for a period not exceeding 30 days</p> <p>(2003/IAP) -- Waived visa requirements for citizens of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam holding ordinary passports if their stay in Singapore does not exceed 30 days.</p> <p>(2003/IAP) -- Independent PRC travellers can submitted visa applications through appointed China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) authorised travel agents with branches located in major cities across China.</p> <p>(2004/IAP) -- Obtaining long-term MJVs (with a validity period of up to 5 years) by business travellers from Assessment Level 1 countries made easier. Singapore will consider granting long-term MJVs if the applicant furnishes a Letter of Introduction (LOI) from a Government agency or a business associate in Singapore or from reputable companies.</p> <p>(2004/IAP) - Joined the APEC-funded feasibility study on the Advance Passenger Information (API) system.</p> <p>(2004/IAP) - Developed standards for travel document security and issuance systems</p> <p>(2005/IAP) - To further facilitate the travel of business persons between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies Singapore</p>	<p>Visa processing time was shortened.</p> <p>Multiple Journey visas introduced to facilitate business travel</p> <p>e-lodgement of ABTC Applications introduced</p>

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>implemented the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) on 1 October 2005. The ABTC is a multiple journey visa where cardholders enjoy visa free entry and expedited immigration clearance through designated ABTC lanes in ABTC participating economies. Applications are currently open to Singaporeans online</p> <p>(2006): Since 1 December 2006, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) has implemented e-XTEND, an on-line system that allows eligible foreign visitors to apply for extension of the short-term social visit pass via the ICA website (http:// www.ica.gov.sg). Applicants may check the application outcome after one working day via the ICA Call Centre or by checking online via e-XTEND. Comprehensive and updated information on ICA's services is regularly uploaded onto ICA's website. It is accessible by the public, including persons from Member Economies. The ICA also provides a feedback system, available on the ICA website, which allows members of the public, including the business community, to provide feedback.</p> <p>(2008) - BMG agreed to introduce the priority ABTC processing at SOM III in 2008. Through this feature, economies will modify their application forms to enable home economy applicants to nominate the foreign economies they need to visit as a priority and the pre-clearance will be expedited for these applicants by the foreign economies that have been selected as priority economies by these applicants. Singapore introduced it on 1 Nov 2008. This has generally resulted in faster pre-clearance.</p> <p>(2008) With the introduction of e-Visa from 26 Aug 2008, foreign nationals from some of the visa required countries are no longer be issued with the physical visas. Instead, the sticker visas have been replaced by an electronic visa. Local contacts or trusted partners will continue to submit visa applications via the user-friendly SAVE system</p> <p>(2008): From 1 Feb 2008, foreigners have also had the flexibility to enter Singapore and perform certain activities for short durations without a Work Pass. Foreigners performing such Work Pass Exempt Activities can do so for the duration of their Social Visit Passes subject to a maximum of 60 days, and will need to e-notify MOM via our website before performing these activities.</p> <p>(2008): The enhanced Employment Pass Online (EPOL) system was recently launched on 1 March 2008. Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has been constantly augmenting the EPOL system to make it more user-friendly. Companies may now check their existing pool of Employment Pass/S pass</p>	<p>Electronic extension of visit pass. Travellers can extend their stay over the internet without having to make a visit to ICA with they meet the requirements.</p> <p>e-visa introduced. Applicants can print their visa at the convenience of their office all over the world without having to go to a Singapore overseas mission. Visa details can be checked and airline companies can verify records with ICA's site.</p>

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>holders via EPOL. Employers who submit their applications online would be informed of the outcome within 7 days. In addition, for applications rejected by the MOM, the Ministry will disclose the rejection reason to the employer where possible. This is to provide greater transparency.</p> <p>MOM also has an online self-assessment tool that provides employers with a preliminary indication of the likelihood of an applicant obtaining an Employment Pass or S Pass. This will guide employers to decide if they should put in an Employment Pass or S Pass application for the worker.</p>	
(4) Average time to approve for short term business visit visa	<p>(Days and description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Between 2 weeks to a month</p>	<p>(Days and description of illustrative measures)</p> <p>Between 1 to 3 days</p>	Significant cut in the processing time
14. Trade Facilitation			
(1) Consistency with APEC Principles on Trade Facilitation	--	<p>(All, Most, Some, None)</p> <p>All</p>	
(2) Implementation of Trade Facilitation Action and Measures (approved in 2002)	<p>(Number of items implemented as of 2004)</p> <p><u>Movement of Goods (60 actions)</u></p> <p>Implemented Actions – 37 In Progress - 3</p> <p><u>Standards (20 actions)</u></p> <p>Implemented Actions – 13 In progress - 1</p> <p><u>Business Mobility (6 actions)</u></p> <p>Implemented Actions– 4 In progress - 1</p> <p><u>Electronic Commerce (11 actions)</u></p> <p>Implemented Actions– 5 In progress – 4</p>	<p>(Number of items implemented)</p> <p><u>Movement of Goods (60 actions)</u></p> <p>Implemented – 39 In progress – 2</p> <p><u>Standards (20 actions)</u></p> <p>Implemented Actions– 13 In progress - 1</p> <p><u>Business Mobility (6 actions)</u></p> <p>Implemented Actions – 5 In progress – 1</p> <p><u>Electronic Commerce (11 actions)</u></p> <p>Implemented Actions– 11</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
15. Promotion of High-Quality RTAs/FTAs			
(1) Number of RTAs/FTAs concluded/signed	(Number of agreements) 1	(Number of agreements) 18 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) 2. ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) 3. ASEAN-China (ACFTA) 4. ASEAN-India (AIFTA) 5. ASEAN-Japan (AJCEP) 6. ASEAN-Korea (AKFTA) 7. Australia (SAFTA) 8. China (CSFTA) 9. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (SJFTA) 10. India (CECA) 11. Japan (JSEPA) 12. Korea (KSFTA) 13. New Zealand (ANZSCEP) 14. Panama (PSFTA) 15. Peru (PeSFTA) 16. Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland (ESFTA) 17. Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPSEP - Brunei, New Zealand, Chile, Singapore) 18. United States (USSFTA) 	
RTAs/FTAs concluded/signes with APEC member economies	(List of agreements) (1) ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)	(List of agreements) (1) ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) (2) ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) (3) ASEAN-China (ACFTA) (4) ASEAN-Japan (AJCEP) (5) ASEAN-Korea (AKFTA) (6) Australia (SAFTA) (7) China (CSFTA) (8) Japan (JSEPA) (9) Korea (KSFTA) (10) New Zealand (ANZSCEP) (11) Peru (PeSFTA) (12) Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPSEP - Brunei, New	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		Zealand, Chile, Singapore) (13) United States (USSFTA)	
(2) Number of RTAs/FTAs under negotiation	(Number of agreements) Nil	(Number of agreements) 7 (1) Canada (2) Mexico (3) Costa Rica (4) EU (5) Ukraine (6) Pakistan (7) Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPP - Brunei, New Zealand, Chile, Singapore, US, Australia, Peru, Vietnam)	
RTAs/FTAs being negotiated with APEC member economies	(List of agreements) Nil	(List of agreements and date of last round of negotiations) (1) Canada (2007) (2) Mexico (2007)	
(3) Consistency with APEC Model Measures for RTAs and FTAs	(Description of Consistency with APEC Model Measures) NA. Model Measures were not in place in 1996.	(Description of Consistency with APEC Model Measures) All RTAs/FTAs generally consistent with APEC Model Measures	
16. Voluntary Self-Reporting			
(1) Other Efforts in Support of the Bogor Goals: (Description)	(Description of illustrative measures)	<p>SERVICES</p> <p><u>Transport Services</u></p> <p>Singapore's taxi industry was fully liberalized in 2003, when controls on the number of taxi companies and the fleet size quota for each company were lifted. Operators can then respond freely to market conditions.</p> <p><u>Telecommunications Services</u></p> <p>Singapore made its GATS commitments on basic telecommunications in 1997 and lifted its foreign ownership restriction in April 2000. The telecommunications market since has been fully liberalised. As of 1 April 2010, there are 45 Facilities-based Operations (FBOs) licensees, and over 1000 Services-based Operations (SBO) licensees. This compares with 13 FBOs and 414 SBOs in 2000. The prices of international calls have also fallen by more than 90% since 2000. Prices of international leased line and backhaul services also fell by up to 99% and 80% respectively, over the same period.</p> <p>The current licensing framework was formulated to facilitate quick entry of new entrants into the market. On average, new entrants have been able</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>to receive their FBO licences within 4 weeks and SBO licences within 2 weeks. The majority of SBO licensees are currently class licensees which either do not have to pay licence fees, or pay a nominal one-time sum of \$200 for a lifetime licence.</p> <p>Singapore has also put in place a Telecommunications Competition Code (“Code”) to promote and maintain fair and efficient market conduct and effective competition between telecommunications licensees in Singapore. The Code imposes obligations on telecommunications licensees, particularly those which have been deemed to be dominant, in order to prevent anti-competitive conduct such as abuse of dominant position, especially in telecommunications markets which are not competitive. For competitive markets, IDA only imposes minimum rules on consumer protection and to prevent anti-competitive behaviour. Since liberalisation, more telecommunications markets in Singapore have become competitive such as the International Telephone Services, Terrestrial International Private Leased Circuit, and Backhaul Services markets.</p> <p><u>Postal Services</u></p> <p>The postal services market was fully liberalised in April 2007. The current licensing framework in place removes all licensing requirements for conveyance of letters that exceed 500g each. For provision of standard letter mail services not exceeding 500g each, a Postal Services Operations licence is required. There is no foreign equity limit imposed for the application of a postal licence in Singapore and there are no restrictions on the number of licences that may be issued by the postal regulator.</p> <p>A Postal Services Operator can be designated as a Public Postal Licensee and will be required to provide Universal Service Obligation services for the conveyance of letter mail. There are currently 1 Public Postal licensee and 4 other Postal Services Operators licensed in Singapore.</p> <p><u>Environment Services</u></p> <p>In general there is no discriminatory treatment of environment service providers between local and foreign providers.</p> <p>The Environmental Services regulations in Singapore have ensured that economic and industrial activities are conducted in an environmentally friendly manner to promote clean air, clean water, clean land and a high standard of environmental public health. Singapore wants to grow and nurture a vibrant environmental and water industry to contribute to sustainable economic growth in Singapore.</p> <p>MEWR has two statutory boards, the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Public Utilities Board (PUB), whose purpose is to deliver and sustain a clean and healthy environment and water resources for all in Singapore. Under the legal framework of the Environmental Protection and Management Act (Cap 94A) and its Regulations, NEA implements programmes to monitor, reduce and prevent environmental pollution. Furthermore, NEA is responsible for the overall cleanliness in Singapore and a high standard of hygiene in our food retail industry, both of which are governed by Environmental Public Health Act (Cap 95) and its Regulations. NEA also protects the population from dangerous vector-borne diseases under legal frame work of Control of Vectors and Pesticides Act (Cap 59) and its Regulations.</p> <p>In early 2007, the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC) identified the clean energy industry as a strategic key growth industry for Singapore. A total of \$170 million was dedicated to develop this industry. Together with funding from other governments, this forms a total of \$350 million of funds for research and development, test-bedding and pilot projects in Clean Energy.</p> <p>To build up private sector capability in the provision of waste collection and disposal services, NEA fully privatised the public waste collection services under its portfolio in 2001 and increased the participation of the private sector in the provision of waste incineration services. Singapore’s newest waste-to-energy (WTE) incineration plant was designed, built, owned and operated by a private sector operator, as will all future WTE plants. In 2009, the government also divested one of its three WTE incineration plants to a private sector operator. Together, the two private WTE</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>plants provide about 40 percent of WTE capacity in Singapore. Recycling services and special waste treatment are carried out by private companies.</p> <p>Leveraging on the strengths of various government agencies for a comprehensive approach, Singapore strives to create a conducive business environment to grow and attract clean environment investment by strategic companies, as well as promote Singapore-based environmental companies and their urban environmental solutions overseas. Hence, an industry development and promotion office was set up in April 2009 under the NEA to drive the development of a vibrant environmental industry.</p> <p><u>Energy Services</u></p> <p>The Singapore electricity industry had traditionally been vertically integrated and government-owned. The monumental development that occurred in 1995, which involved the liberalization of electricity industry, aimed at enhancing efficiency and innovation. The liberalization process is on course to create a contestable market.</p> <p>The deregulation process established the National Electricity Market of Singapore (NEMS) which commenced operation on 1 January 2003. Generation companies bid every half-hour to sell electricity into the new wholesale electricity market. On 1 June 2003, phase 1 liberalization of the electricity retail market commenced. Phase 2 commenced on 21 December 2003, and on 1 January 2004, vesting contracts were introduced to curb the exercise of market power by generation companies in the wholesale electricity market. Finally, on 12 February 2006, phase 2 liberalization in the electricity retail market was completed, bringing 10,000 large consumers who account for about 75% of Singapore total electricity demand opened for retail competition. The final phase of retail market liberalisation (Full Retail Contestability) is under review, and will involve the remaining 25% of consumers, i.e. small businesses and household consumers, who currently continue to buy their electricity from Singapore Power Services Ltd at regulated tariff rates.</p> <p>There has been a significant effect on market performance in terms of lower prices and higher operational efficiency. Liberalization has encouraged generation companies to switch from using fuel oil to natural gas, which is more efficient and friendly to the environment. Electricity generated from natural gas increased from 43 percent in 2002 to 83 percent by December 2007. Electricity generated from fuel oil has been reduced from 54 percent in 2002 to around 14 percent by December 2007.</p> <p><u>Financial Services</u></p> <p>Singapore has an open financial services market, and is fully liberalised in the insurance and securities sectors. As part of the measures to facilitate greater market access by foreign representatives of Capital Market Services and Financial Advisers licencees, Singapore has further expanded the list of foreign qualifications that may be exempted from the Capital Markets and Financial Advisory Services exams in 2009. Foreign competition in the retail banking sector has been managed so as to nurture strong and competitive local banks for financial stability reasons. In general, foreign banks use Singapore as a base to serve regional clients, and capital and prudential requirements are applied on a non-discriminatory basis to all financial institutions operating in Singapore. In 2009, there were 113 foreign banks and seven domestic banks in Singapore.</p> <p><u>Legal Services</u></p> <p>In 2009, changes were made to requirements for admission to the Singapore Bar. Legislative changes to the Legal Profession Act, Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules and Legal Profession Rules were made to effect these changes.</p> <p>These changes are listed as follows:</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
		<p>(a) The Diploma in Singapore Law (DipSing) applicable to overseas-trained Singaporean/ Permanent Resident (PR) law graduates from Scheduled Universities has been truncated into a three-month optional conversion course on Singapore law, culminating in Part A of a Bar Examination with effect from August 2009;</p> <p>(b) The Practical Law Course (PLC) will be revamped into Part B of the Bar Examination, targeted to start from July 2010, and applicable to both local law graduates and Singaporean/PR overseas-trained graduates from Scheduled Universities. The five-month revamped PLC will comprise more practical-based modules that will better prepare graduates for legal practice.</p> <p>(c) Singaporean/PR overseas-trained graduates from Scheduled Universities who obtained lower second class honours who were not previously eligible for admission unless they satisfied the Board of Legal Education that they had obtained at least two years' relevant legal work experience (ie. the 2-2 scheme) would now be eligible for admission without having to fulfill the 2-2 scheme requirements.</p> <p>(d) The current pupillage system has been replaced with Training Contracts, which provides for more constructive and structured training of trainees. For local graduates the Training Contract would remain at six months (as with pupillage); while overseas-trained Singaporean/PR graduates who did the Part A examinations in 2009 and subsequent years, would do a total period of one year. The rationale for the additional six months for overseas-trained graduates, was that "on-the-job" learning at a Singapore Law Practice would be more beneficial than the academic one year DipSing. As a concession to those who wished to gain overseas experience, up to six months of overseas legal training or work experience would count towards the one year training requirement.</p> <p>(e) Singapore/PR lawyers who are "qualified persons", qualified in a common law jurisdiction and who have gained at least two years of legal experience would be admitted to the Singapore Bar after passing Part A of the Bar Examination. They would not be required to take the Part B examination or fulfill any Training Contract requirements.</p> <p>Singapore will continue to review the licensing requirements and criteria to ensure that they remain objective.</p> <p>Foreign Entry</p> <p>The Legal Profession Act was significantly amended in 2008 in relation to the scope of services that may be provided by foreign law practices in Singapore.</p> <p>A new vehicle known as the Qualifying Foreign Law Practice (QFLP) was created. The QFLP is a foreign law practice that originates from a jurisdiction other than Singapore. It is permitted to provide legal services in most areas of Singapore law, save for certain specified areas of a more domestic nature e.g. litigation in the Singapore courts, criminal law, family law, constitutional and administrative law and conveyancing (sale and transfer of land).</p> <p>Joint Law Ventures (JLVs) are now allowed to provide legal services in the same areas of Singapore law as QFLPs.</p> <p>Licensed foreign law practices other than QFLPs (LFLPs) may practise Singapore law in relation to agreements where it is contemplated that any disputes will be resolved by arbitration in Singapore under Singapore law.</p> <p>The practice of Singapore law by QFLPs, JLVs and LFLPs is only permitted when it is done through Singapore-qualified lawyers who are specifically registered with the Attorney-General for this purpose. This privilege is in addition to the existing ability of such entities to practise foreign law in or from Singapore through both foreign lawyers and Singapore-qualified lawyers.</p>	

	Status in 1996	Status in 2009	Major Achievements incl. Significant Progress after the Mid-term Stocktake and Example of Best Practices
(2) <i>As needed for other actions</i>		<p>INVESTMENT</p> <p>As of 2010, Singapore has signed investment guarantee agreements (IGAs) with 40 Economies. Besides bilateral IGAs, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) which Singapore joined in 1998 provides guarantees at the multilateral level against certain non-commercial risks for eligible investors.</p> <p>With exceptions for national security purposes and in certain industries, no restrictions are placed on foreign ownership of Singapore operations. Applicable to both foreign and local investors, only a few specific products require government approval for manufacture under the Control of Manufacture Act (COMA). The list of items under COMA was lessened by removing air-conditioners, pig iron, sponge iron, refrigerators, rolled steel products and steel ingots, billets, blooms, slabs and firecrackers. Compact disc (CDs), compact disc-read only memory (CD-Roms), video compact disc (VCDs), digital video disc (DVDs), and digital video disc-read only memory (DVD ROMs) were removed from the COMA list and came under the Manufacture of Optical Discs Act (MODA) in July 2004. Under the MODA, a licence would be required for the manufacture of these products as well as master discs and stampers used in the production of optical discs. Investment liberalization efforts include removal of limits on foreign shareholders' stakes in domestic banks and telecommunications companies and the enabling of foreign/local joint ventures in the legal profession with approval from the Attorney General.</p> <p>To mitigate the effects of international double taxation on its residents deriving foreign sourced income, Singapore has concluded agreements for the Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTA) on a bilateral basis with other economies. As of 2010 Singapore has signed comprehensive DTAs with 61 economies.</p> <p>Singapore follows an "open-door" policy for foreign talent. Various entry schemes to meet business needs have been developed. For example, foreign entrepreneurs who are ready to start a new company/business and will be actively involved in the operation of the business can now apply for an employment pass with an initial validity period of up to 2 years under the EntrePass Scheme.</p>	