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ASEAN-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FREE TRADE AREA (AANZFTA)

THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE

ASEAN-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FREE TRADE AREA (AANZFTA) JOINT COMMITTEE (20TH FJC)

*15 & 17 February 2023, Bandung, Indonesia*

The Twentieth Meeting of the AANZFTA Joint Committee (20th FJC) and Related Meetings was held on 15 and 17 February 2023 via hybrid meeting in Bandung, Indonesia. Representatives from all ASEAN Member States (AMS); Australia; New Zealand; and staff members from the ASEAN Secretariat, attended the Meeting, which was co-chaired by:

1. Mr. Yusdiman Saman, Acting Assistant Director, Trade Division, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam, on behalf of the ASEAN Member States;
2. Ms. Juliana Nam, Assistant Secretary, FTA Policy and Implementation Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for Australia; and
3. Mr. Keawe Woodmore, Deputy Director General, FTA Implementation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for New Zealand.

The reporting session focused on subsidiary bodies (SBs) who are involve in the AANZFTA upgrade negotiations and/or have yet concluded their chapters/annexes. These SBs are:

1. *Committee on Trade in Services (CTS)*
2. *Sub-Committee on Financial Services (SC-FS)*
3. *Committee on Investment (COI)*
4. *Committee on Electronic Commerce (CEC)*

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN OUTCOMES

1. CONCLUDING AANZFTA UPGRADE NEGOTIATIONS

NOTED the conclusion of chapter-based negotiations, including negotiations on Trade in Services, Investment, and Electronic Commerce Chapters, as well as articles on Screening Regime and Security Exceptions under the General Provisions and Exceptions Chapter.

NOTED the status of submissions of final market access offers for Trade in Services (TIS), Movement of Natural Person (MNP), and Investment. URGED the concerned Parties to expedite their domestic consultation and to conclude negotiations of the offers for services and MNP as soon as possible. NOTED that all Parties have submitted their final investment offers and may provide technical updates and corrections to the measures listed in their final investment offers during the legal scrubbing.

1. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SIGNING OF THE SECOND PROTOCOL TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE AANZFTA

NOTED FJC’s inter-sessional approval on WGLII’s request on 8 February 2023, to start scrubbing the text of concluded Articles in the remaining upgraded chapters and annexes.

NOTED the possibility of the signing of the 2nd Protocol at the side-line of the 55th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Meeting in August 2023, considering the elections scheduled in New Zealand and some of AMS.

NOTED the following next steps towards the signing of the 2nd Protocol, upon conclusion of the legal scrubbing in March 2023:

* The ASEAN Secretariat will circulate the scrubbed text for technical verification by all Parties;
* All Parties to secure instruments of full power for the signing of the 2nd Protocol and send to the ASEAN Secretariat; and
* Signing of the 2nd Protocol at the sideline of 28th AEM-CER Consultation in August 2023.

1. 2023 AANZFTA ECONOMIC COOPERATION WORK PLAN

APPROVED: (i) the proposed approach and timeline for the *AANZFTA Strategic Directions and Priorities (ASDP) and Sectoral Strategic Directions and Priorities (SSDPs)*; and (ii) the development of SDPs for new chapters of the upgraded AANZFTA Agreement and chapters without specific implementing body, e.g., TSD and MSMEs, are to be conducted after signing of the 2nd Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA targeted in August 2023.

APPROVED: (i) the proposed process and timeline for the *2023 AANZFTA Implementation Support Programme’s Economic Cooperation Work Programme (AISP ECWP)*, which will provide opportunity for Subsidiary Bodies to propose and approve activities that support AANZFTA implementation in 2023, including the continuity of successful initiatives of the past AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP) and new areas identified in the upgraded AANZFTA Agreement; and (ii) the ECSC to oversee the 2023 AISP ECWP for TSD and MSMEs

AGREED to share output documents from government procurement component and general component of the past AECSP to RT4D Facility. NOTED that the RT4D Facility will undertake research, scoping and analysis to facilitate and inform the development of future directions of the program.

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