

**THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN,
PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU**

**Statement by HE Dr. Chia-Juch Chang
Minister of Economic Affairs**

At this crucial time when the global economy is facing great uncertainty that requires a global effort to resolve, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu welcomes the opening of the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference.

Since the establishment of GATT in 1947, the multilateral trading system of GATT/WTO has been contributing significantly to global economic development. It also played a critical role in curtailing protectionism during the 2008 financial crisis.

It is our belief that the multilateral trading system of WTO must continue to be strengthened in order to respond to the ever-changing global trade environment. In addition, we recommend taking a practical and gradual approach to achieve an acceptable package based on the existing consensus among Members, and thereby steadily improve the WTO system.

We are concerned about the impasse of the Doha Round. The Bali-package covers only a small fraction of the DDA negotiations. We are disappointed by the outcome of the

Bali-package negotiations and urge Members to re-double their efforts. Future negotiations must take into consideration ambitious and balanced outcomes while adequately responding to the special flexibility needs of developing countries and newly acceded Members.

The WTO system and regional trade agreements must complement each other. In addition, effectively operating the transparency mechanism will enable regional trade agreements to help strengthen the multilateral system for the benefit of the global economic community.

I urge all Members to make further efforts in enhancing transparency and take concrete steps in implementing all WTO agreements related to transparency rules. This will help improve global trade by greatly reducing costs and forging a predictable and stable environment for the business sector.

The WTO is a global organization with a global vision. It must continue enhancing cooperation with relevant international organizations, seek compatible solutions to related economic and trade issues under the common framework of global governance, and work together in making full use of the functions for managing global trade matters.

The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu fully recognizes the importance of the WTO's contributions toward global food security and reiterates the significance of the Doha Round as a milestone in

safeguarding and advancing food security.

As a developing member, we urge all Members to actively respond to the needs of developing countries and LDCs by helping them integrate further into the multilateral trading system. In this spirit, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu hereby announces that we have donated US\$80,000 to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and will donate another US\$ 200,000 to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF) for the use of WTO's various development programs.

Finally, as a newly acceded member who made a comprehensive commitment during the accession process, we fully understand the challenges along the way and the efforts that all new Members have to make in their accession procedures. Let me take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate Yemen as the newest member of the World Trade Organization.