

Survey on MSME/MSME-related Provisions in APEC Economies' FTAs/RTAs

the Philippines

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Background

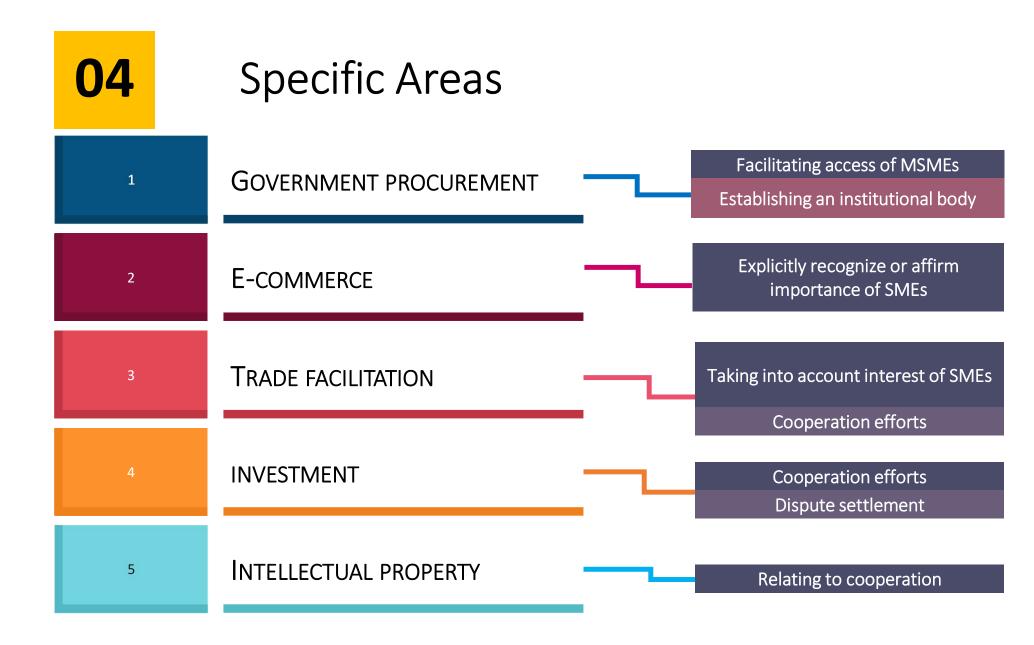
- Increase over the years in the inclusion of provisions and elements that support SMEs
- Evolution of RTAs/FTAs and international trends that impact development and implementation

Background

- FTAAP MSME Work Programme (Philippines & Malaysia)
- Stocktake of MSME/MSME-related provisions: 33 RTAs/FTAs
- The survey was successfully completed and noted by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in 2019

General Observations

- Reference to SMEs, including micro businesses, is often direct/explicit
- Chapter on cooperation: contain broad commitment to promote a favorable environment for MSMEs development
- Scope of the MSME-cooperation provisions vary
- Do not provide further elaboration and only list MSMEs as a general area of cooperation
- Others specify forms of cooperation activities related to SMEs
- Others have cooperation provisions or clauses in a specific context
- Some provisions only refer to MSMEs that are limited to one sector



Summary

- Commonly housed in chapters on cooperation (have explicit provisions in dedicated articles or in chapters on SMEs)
- Do not follow a specific format or structure
- Best endeavor approach, but recent mega trade agreements provide for newer ways of thinking
- Focus on improving the capacity of MSMEs to trade
- A range of options exist for policymakers and trade negotiators to incorporate MSME-related provisions in FTAs/RTAs
- Provisions address a host of members' objectives for their MSMEs
- Useful follow-up: study the effectiveness of the MSME provisions and to identify what provisions are most effective in addressing members' particular objectives

Developments in the Philippines

Philippine experience in FTAs with MSME Chapter:

- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement (in effect)
- ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA) (negotiations concluded, for signing)
- ASEAN-China FTA (under negotiations)
- ASEAN-Canada FTA (under negotiations)
- ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) (under negotiations)

Thank you.

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