Outcomes of the Global MSME Forum 2021 and Updates on the APEC Boracay Action Agenda

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01 Boracay Action Agenda: An Overview

02 Taking Forward the BAA Agenda

03 APEC Global MSME Forum 2021
The Philippines’ Hosting of APEC 2015 and Presenting the MSME Agenda in the WTO

APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade 2015

Where the BAA was born and endorsed by Ministers

Former DTI Secretary Mr. Gregory L. Domingo presenting the BAA at the MRT Meeting

The MSME agenda was presented in the WTO Public Forum in 1 October 2015 and the BAA objectives were shared to WTO members
BAA Priority Actions, in sum:

- **PA1,2,3,4** Trade Facilitation: Nine (9) workstreams
- **PA5** Financing: Five (5) workstreams
- **PA6** Digital Economy: Four (4) workstreams
- **PA7** Capacity Building and Institutional Support: Six (6) workstreams
- **PA8** Women MSMES: Three (3) workstreams
Final Review of the BAA Study Report

Published in the APEC Website in October 2021
Can be accessed through:
Findings of the Final Review of the BAA Study Report

Initiatives were concentrated in Digital Economy, Capacity Building and Women MSMEs

BAA initiatives and projects

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Top 7 Economies that supported the BAA in terms of projects and co-sponsorships

1. Chinese Taipei
2. Philippines
3. Mexico
4. Malaysia
5. Australia, Japan and Republic of Korea
6. Hong Kong, China and Peru
7. Chile, Papua New Guinea and the United States

Key Initiatives of the BAA

- APEC MSME Marketplace
- APEC Trade Repository
- APEC Authorized Economic Operator Compendium
- APEC Strategy for Green Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs
- La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth

- 95 workshops/events related to the BAA
- Over 4,000 have participated in the BAA events.
Issues that still needs to be addressed for MSMEs

• Joint efforts in promoting a favorable regulatory and business environment for MSMEs in GVCs in services, in general, and in logistics, in particular.

• Capacity building: e-learning programs, skills standards and skill certification programs.

• Address limited access to financing for MSMEs through supply chain financing and secured transactions reform.

• Establishing a common standard for Intellectual Property (IP) evaluation for APEC economies as IP is a common intangible asset of MSMEs.
Issues that still needs to be addressed for MSMEs

- A common definition of MSMEs for the region may be useful to support trade negotiations that include MSME chapters.
- Promote green, SMART (utilizes SMART factory production), and interconnected MSMEs as enterprises of the future.
- Promote MSME competitiveness in the digital age. Business plays a critical role in this regard as it is able to serve as the conduit for private sector representatives and the public sector.
APEC Global MSME Forum 2021
(28-30 June 2021)
• Strengthening international cooperation to build global MSMEs

• Supporting MSMEs is critical for COVID-19 recovery

• Importance of digitalization to MSMEs

• Technical support from government such as capacity building and business development services are essential for MSMEs to survive and thrive during the pandemic.
Governments to provide effective programs to develop MSMEs in the region, such as access to finance and digitalization.
MSMEs encounter barriers to trade such as:
• access to market information and distribution networks,
• logistics costs,
• customs procedures,
• foreign regulations,
• tariffs,
• competition, and
• how digitalization was a key factor to their businesses’ survival.
Thoughts to ponder on from the BAA implementation

• Information and knowledge can be seen as key resources for improving the internationalization processes of MSMEs.
• Providing timely and accurate information on export and import procedures and requirements will help reduce operating costs and cut processing time of MSMEs.
• Collaboration through capacity building is considered as an important facilitator of these processes, particularly by nurturing information and knowledge sharing.
• Skills training especially in e-commerce and trade digitalization is important.
WTO’s MSME Agenda

• The Philippines will pursue its work of advancing the MSME agenda in all trade fronts. The Philippines will continue to share its best practices with the WTO Informal Working Group.

• Collaborate with WTO members on the common areas of cooperation in the priority actions of the Boracay Action Agenda and the various agenda of the WTO Informal Working Group such as areas in:
  o Transparency and information sharing,
  o Trade facilitation and electronic commerce,
  o Participation in regulatory development,
  o Gender equality and women’s economic empowerment,
  o Aid-for-Trade, and technical assistance and capacity building, and
  o Access to finance.
Thank you.

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