

# Enhancing Private Sector Engagement in TBT Notifications: Experiences from Chinese Taipei

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## The objectives of the TBT notification obligation

- To offer Members ex-ante knowledge of technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures other Members are planning to introduce/amend.
- To reduce potential technical barriers to trade by providing the opportunity for other Members to assess the impact and identify possible WTO in-consistency issues.
- To allow manufactures and exporters prepare their products and services for new technical requirements in advance.

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## The reality: private sector participation is limited

(An average of 2 comments received in the last 5 years)



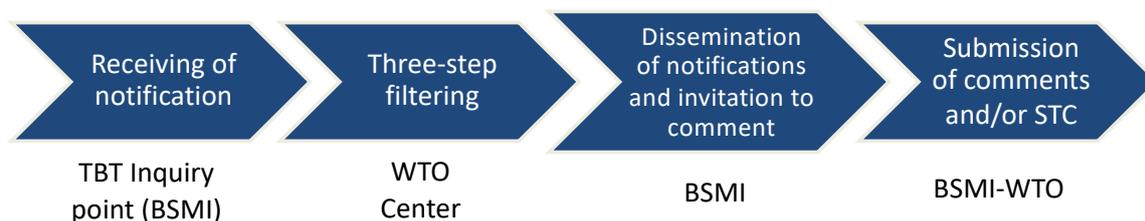
- Information overload issue renders domestic stakeholders unable to apprehend: a total of **3,090 notifications** from all Members in 2020 (until Nov.), **281 per month**.
- Information illiteracy\*: The WTO formality difficult for private sector to understand the scope and implications of the potential issues to be considered, especially for MSMEs

\*The requirement for information remediation to best understand resources

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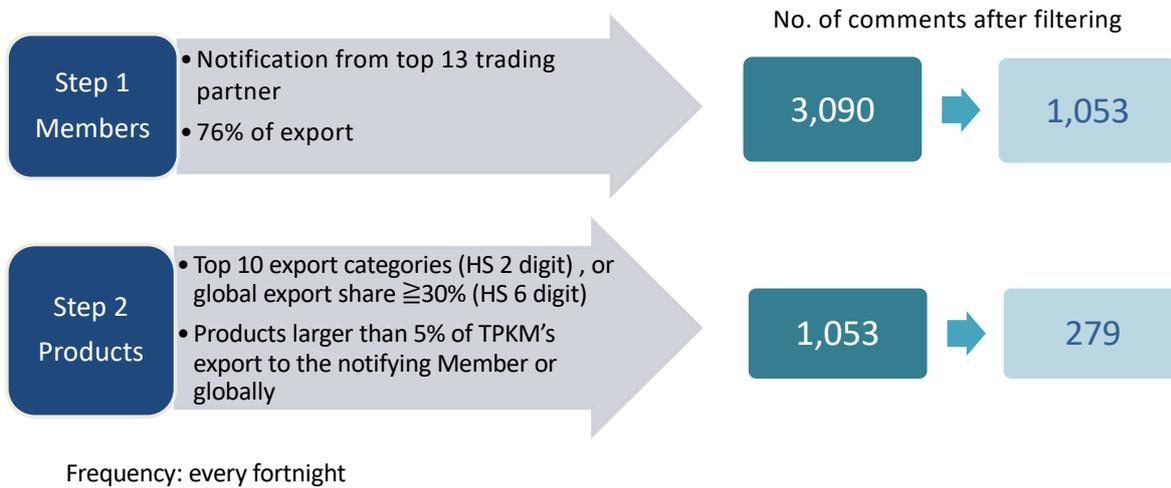
## Introduction of the Information filtering and 'interpretation' system to facilitate private sector participation in Chinese Taipei



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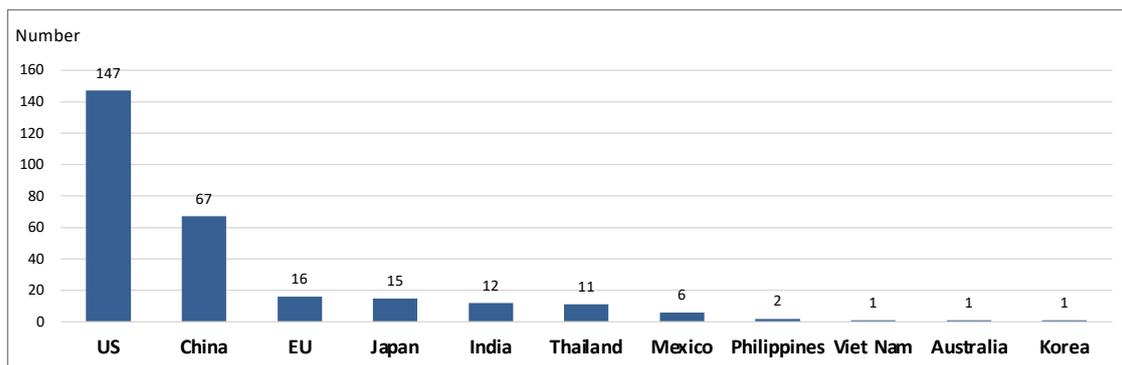
### The 3 steps of the system



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### Summary of the 2020 result: Members

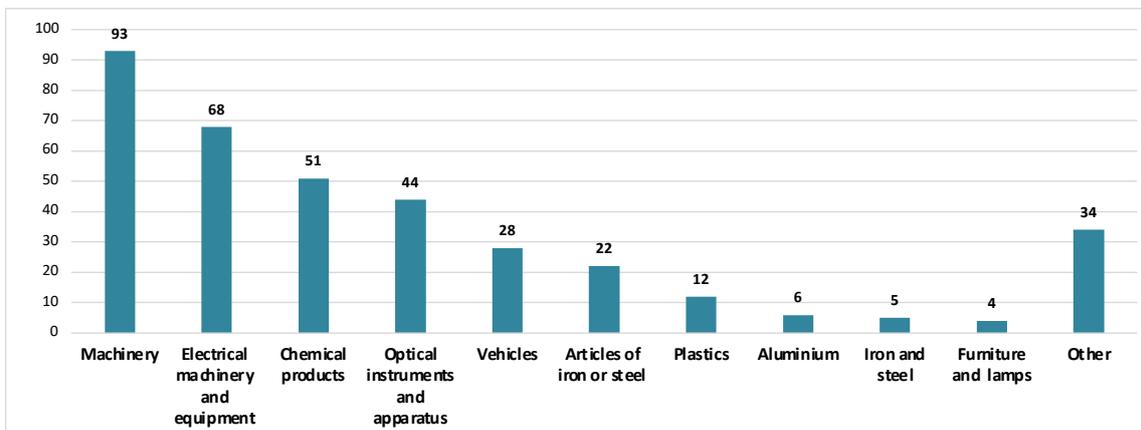


- A total of 279 notification from 11 Members
- Notifications from two members (Malaysia and Indonesia) did not pass the filter.

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## Summary of the 2020 result: Products



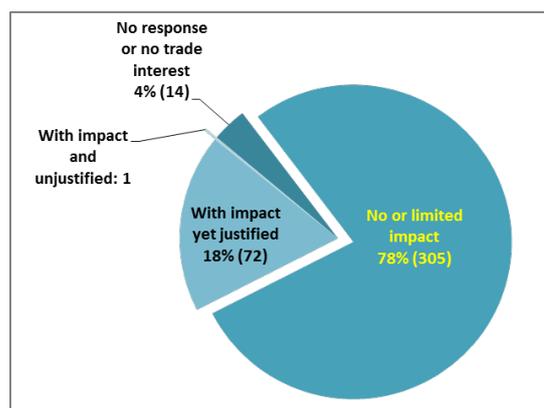
- Machinery and Electrical machinery and equipment account for almost 60% of the notification
- Notification involving chemical products mainly by US, India and EU (over 60%)

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## Step 3: Dissemination and Invitation to comment

- A total of over 600 invitation to comment were sent to relevant industrial associations or individual firms.
- 392 responses were received, an increase of 200%.
- Only 1 response indicated the notified regulation has unjustified major impact on export
  - Comments and subsequently STC were delivered at the TBT Committee



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## Summary of experiences

- The filtering system proves to be effective in elevating the interest for private sector to review and provide comments: especially for MSMEs.
- The key to success is the **refinement in ascertaining appropriate private stakeholders** (e.g. corresponding sub-sectors and relevant associations) by way of **identifying products** potentially impacted by notified measures.
- Challenges:
  1. Lack of corresponding HS codes restricts the identification of appropriate private stakeholders.
  2. Description of content is too abstract and lack of clarity

### Recommendations:

1. Provide maximum specific information on the products potentially impacted (8<sup>th</sup> Triennial Review, G/TBT/41): Preferably, to provide **corresponding HS codes** in the “Products covered” column, at least as a supplementary reference to ICS or other classification system.
2. Members should endeavor to provide the **legal implication and changes** associated with the notified draft regulation, not just the title of the new regulation.

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Thank you!

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