

**Economic and Technical Co-operation Work Programme  
Pursuant to Chapter 9 of the  
ASEAN-Hong Kong, China Free Trade Agreement**

**Introduction**

This Economic and Technical Co-operation Work Programme (hereinafter referred to as “Work Programme”) is developed pursuant to Chapter 9 (Economic and Technical Co-operation) (hereafter “ECOTECH”) of the ASEAN-Hong Kong, China Free Trade Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”).

2. The Work Programme is a reference document which aims to provide guidance for the effective implementation of ECOTECH activities within the scope of the Agreement. The Work Programme is to be implemented, through annual programmes, over five years from the date of the entry into force of the Agreement. Pursuant to Article 3 (Resources) of Chapter 9, the Parties shall contribute appropriately to the implementation of the Work Programme under Article 4 (Implementation of Economic and Technical Co-operation) of Chapter 9. In this regard, the total amount of funds for implementation of the annual programmes is HKD 25 million, to be contributed in five equal installments by Hong Kong, China.

3. The AHKFTA Joint Committee (hereafter “Joint Committee”), established pursuant to Chapter 12 (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement, will approve the annual programmes and the funding for implementing the annual programmes including the administrative support as detailed in paragraph 6.

4. Notwithstanding the list of ECOTECH activities set out in paragraph 7, the Parties may initiate an amendment of the Work Programme with a view to improving the effectiveness of the Work Programme after the implementation of the Agreement. The revised Work Programme, to be mutually agreed, will take effect upon the endorsement by the Joint Committee.

5. A joint review will be conducted towards the end of the five years upon the entry into force of the Agreement to assess the effectiveness of the Work Programme in fulfilling the objectives under the Agreement and make recommendation to the Joint Committee on the way forward.

### **ECOTECH Support Unit**

6. An AHKFTA ECOTECH Support Unit (hereinafter referred to as “Support Unit”) will be established in ASEAN Secretariat to assist the Joint Committee in the implementation of the Agreement. The Support Unit shall seek the endorsement of the Joint Committee of an annual budget for its operation and the implementation of the annual programmes as well as an annual report for reviewing the progress of work under the Work Programme. The Terms of Reference setting out the functions of the Support Unit shall be endorsed by the Joint Committee at its first meeting.

### **ECOTECH Activities**

7. The Parties noted the discussions at the 4<sup>th</sup> SEOM-Hong Kong, China Consultations conducted on 1 July 2016, and agreed to conduct the following ECOTECH activities in pursuit of their mutual benefits subject to their respective laws and regulations:

a) Customs Co-operation

Programmes will be organized to foster better understanding and closer rapport among customs authorities.

Indicative Activities :

- experience-sharing workshops/seminars, covering the following:
  - (i) customs risk management system;
  - (ii) advance ruling on classification;

- (iii) customs valuation system by using customs value database and electronic commerce technology;
  - (iv) customs post clearance audit according to auditing standards;
  - (v) authorized economics operators;
  - (vi) automatic customs clearance system;
  - (vii) customs enforcement and mutual assistance; and
  - (viii) tax collection from electronic commerce website by linking customs automatic clearance system;
- workshop, seminar or study mission on customs procedures or trade facilitation related to trade in transit; and
  - sharing awareness and good practices on the implementation of self-certification system to facilitate trade, reduce transaction cost and enhance participation in global market.

b) Professional Services

Programmes will be organized to facilitate experience sharing and foster closer partnership in various sectors of professional services.

Indicative Activities :

- symposiums, information sharing seminars or training such as internship programmes for building capacity in selected services sectors where the Parties to the Agreement have a competitive edge.

c) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Co-operation

Programmes will be organized to facilitate networking and closer partnership with the business community.

Indicative Activities :

- exhibitions and thematic seminars and networking events for SMEs, including raising awareness of competition laws in the region, technical assistance on specific specialty; and
- trade and investment promotion missions to ASEAN Member States and/or Hong Kong, China to identify investment, business and networking opportunities.

d) Trade Facilitation / Logistics

Programmes will be organized to promote communications amongst service providers and authorities involved in customs clearance to provide opportunities for business matching.

Indicative Activities :

- trade and investment promotion and events encompassing conferences, exhibitions and business matching programmes;
- trade missions to ASEAN Member States and/or Hong Kong, China to explore business potentials;
- workshop on trade facilitation and logistics to enhance the trade between ASEAN and Hong Kong, China; and
- workshop on rules of origin, including operational certification procedures (OCP) and product specific rules (PSR).

e) E-commerce Co-operation

Programmes will be organized to provide capacity building opportunities for SMEs as well as policy-makers on SMEs on the benefits and latest development in e-commerce.

Indicative Activities :

- trade promotional activities on products and solutions in information, communication and technologies;
- thematic symposiums and/or workshops on digital development and e-commerce;
- workshop/seminar to share experiences on good practices with regard to e-commerce promotion, legislation and regulation, policies and guidelines; and
- feasibility study on support to the SMEs and start-up companies in e-commerce.

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