

## Minister John Deng's intervention at 2022 APEC MRT

### Session I: Supporting the Multilateral Trading System

*How can APEC support the WTO and what are the key areas for a successful MC12? (14:30-17:00, May 21, 2022)*

Thank you, Chair. Colleagues,

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Chinese Taipei's export and import expanded 29% and 33% in 2021 respectively. We continue to outperform the global average because we keep doing two things:

- **First, we have been a strong supporter of the rule-based multilateral trading system.**
  - In 2021, we lifted the import ban on pork with ractopamine.
  - In 2022, we lifted the import ban on food products from Fukushima and surrounding prefectures.
  - These decisions are integral parts of our efforts to further harmonize our trade regime with international standards and remove long-standing barriers to our trading partners.
  - Through these examples, we are demonstrating a pattern of complying with international trade rules and

commitments that we made.

● **Secondly, we are determined to safeguard a free, fair, open, transparent, and predictable trade and investment environment.**

- In 2015, we are one of the earliest Members that ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which took effect in 2017.
- In 2021, we further started our intelligent, e-customs program by using artificial intelligence (AI) to assist our tariff classification, so as to streamline the customs process and facilitate trade with new technology.
- We actively engaged in the discussions of minimizing the disruption of supply chains, and call for meaningful outcomes to keep WTO relevant. For instance,
  - ✓ “The Trade and Health Initiative” and the “Waiver from TRIPS agreement for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19” are both crucial to mitigate the impact from the COVID-19.
  - ✓ Supply chain disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic has become more fragile because of the regional conflict in Europe. Unprecedented pressures on global food systems has made food safety crucial to everyone. Chinese Taipei co-sponsored with some

Economies to support for maintaining open and predictable agricultural markets and trade to ensure the continued flow of food.

- ✓ Conserving and sustainably using the marine resources is vital. We call for a concrete progress through the conclusion of fisheries subsidies negotiations, with a view to accommodating different development needs.
- Transparency is key to the faithful implementation of the WTO Agreement. Chinese Taipei has been working with several Economies to raise the issue in the WTO, and I urge all my colleagues to pay attention to arbitrary, untransparent measures which restrict trade and harm the rules-based system. Such as:
  - ✓ excessively large subsidies, public aid to state-owned enterprises and uncompetitive firms that create massive manufacturing capacity
  - ✓ sudden, unjustified and unprovoked SPS, registration measures against foreign imports

Finally, I would like to reiterate that Chinese Taipei will continue to work with all Economies to make WTO MC 12 successful. Thank you.

## **Session II: Living in the COVID-19 and beyond**

*In the COVID-19 pandemic era and beyond, how can APEC help reconnect people, trade, and investment to create a resilient and prosperous Asia-Pacific region for the sustainable and inclusive growth of our future generation? (09:25-11:00, May 22, 2022)*

Thank you, Chair. Dear colleagues,

The GDP growth rate of Chinese Taipei in 2021 reached 6.45%, exceeding the global average of 6% (IMF data).

We are also on the top in this year's Nikkei Asia's COVID-19 Recovery Index, which shows that our efforts to return to normal life are affirmed, but we are not complacent.

Because Chinese Taipei can get out of the negative impact of the pandemic only when we APEC Economies walk out of this all together.

- **Reconnect people**

- In IMD World Talent Ranking 2021, Chinese Taipei was No 5 in Asia Pacific region. Apparently, what we did through the New Southbound Policy Initiative has borne fruit in people to people connection.
- We are committed to safe and seamless cross-border travel without undermining efforts to prevent the spread

of COVID-19. For instance:

- ✓ In 2021, college students from ASEAN countries reached 57,695, which is a 10% growth comparing to 2020.
- ✓ Since April 2022 under the new Retention of Foreign Intermediate Skilled Workforce Program, foreigners who have worked in Chinese Taipei for more than 6 years or foreign students who have obtained an associate degree or above, can acquire entry permits for a maximum of 3 years with multiple extension without the limitation of working years.

- **Reconnect trade and investment**

- On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Chinese Taipei has formally requested to commence negotiations on accession to the CPTPP, to further connect trade and investment with Asia Pacific partners.
- ✓ After a series of amendments of laws, most notably the IPR related ones in 2022, Taiwan's regulatory regime is fully in compliance with the CPTPP rules. Taiwan, as a worthy aspirant, is ready to work with all Parties of CPTPP by demonstrating our determination to meet the high standards of the Agreement.
- ✓ This year 2022, we also based on scientific evidence

and international standards to adjust our food import management system. We lifted the import ban on food products from Fukushima and surrounding prefectures.

- We are also in the process of signing Mutual Recognition Agreements on standards and conformity assessment procedures with some of the APEC Economies, in an effort to reduce costs for the business from both sides.

- **For a more sustainable and inclusive growth**

- Chinese Taipei is also pursuing sustainable growth, and is willing to further deepen cooperation with all Economies in the discussion on the next generation issues to achieve a more balanced, sustainable development goal.
- In this regard, we have put forward the "Net-Zero Emission in 2050" and in April, the Cabinet passed a draft revision of "Climate Change Response Act", introducing a carbon levy for domestic emission sources. The levy will contribute to R&D for greenhouse gas reduction and low-carbon economic development.
- We are open to the idea of developing a voluntary, non-binding reference list of emerging environmental goods that would further our future discussions on addressing climate change and reducing non-tariff measures on trade

in environmental goods.

- We also welcome the progress of the discussions on how to increase trade in environmental goods and environmentally related services and instruct officials to continue this work.

Finally, Chinese Taipei would like to thank Thailand for such a meaningful theme of "Open, Connect, and Balance" and also commend Thailand's leadership this year in the discussions on the "Bangkok Goal on BCG Economy" at CTI and SOM.

Current discussions pave way to accelerated recovery in the APEC region from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we deeply hope that experts and senior officials can keep up the excellent work until the BCG initiative become a concrete deliverable for the AMM/AELM.

Thank you.