

**MARKET ACCESS FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Communication from APEC Member Economies<sup>1</sup>

The following communication, dated 20 September 2005 is being circulated at the request of the APEC Member Economies.

**Introduction**

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. This communication is from APEC's 21 Member Economies which are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Republic of the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam. Among the APEC Member Economies, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam, though not yet WTO members, are actively engaged in negotiations to join the WTO at the earliest possible dates.

**APEC's Commitment to the WTO/DDA Negotiations**

3. Recognizing that the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations will offer a unique opportunity to significantly expand trade, promote global economic growth and foster development, the APEC Member Economies are fully committed to strengthening the multilateral trading system of the WTO and, in particular, to successfully concluding the DDA negotiations by 2006.
4. It is for this reason that the APEC Member Economies have been exerting and will continue to exert collective efforts to make constructive contributions to the success of the DDA negotiations.

**IT Products for Consideration of Tariff Elimination**

5. The APEC Member Economies recognize that substantial liberalization of information technology (IT) products would not only facilitate trade and investment in the IT sector, but also would help address the digital divide in a rapidly digitalizing world.
6. At the sixteenth APEC Ministerial Meeting held in Santiago, Chile, on 17-18 November 2004, APEC Ministers agreed, *inter alia*, to forward to the WTO a list of three IT products (multi-chip integrated circuits, digital multifunctional machines and modems) for consideration and possible tariff elimination as part of a balanced outcome of the negotiations, including comparable liberalization of

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<sup>1</sup> This communication was circulated at the meeting of the Negotiating Group held on 21-22 September 2005.

other products of interest to the APEC Member Economies. Economies take this action without prejudice to the positions they may adopt in relevant WTO negotiations and accessions.

7. The APEC Member Economies request that WTO members pay due attention to the above three IT products as relevant discussions proceed.

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