

CHAPTER 16

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Article 16.1: Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter, **primary industry** encompasses activities in the agriculture and fisheries sectors (including activities in production, harvesting, processing and manufacturing of food products and their derivatives) and the forestry sector.

Article 16.2: Objectives

1. The Parties agree to establish a framework for cooperation between two or more of the Parties as a means to expand and enhance the benefits of this Agreement for building a strategic economic partnership between them.
2. The Parties will establish close cooperation aimed *inter alia* at:
 - (a) strengthening and building on existing cooperative relationships among the Parties, including a focus on innovation, research and development;
 - (b) creating new opportunities for trade and investment, promoting competitiveness and innovation including the involvement of public and private sectors;
 - (c) supporting the important role of the private sector in promoting and building strategic alliances to encourage mutual economic growth and development;
 - (d) encouraging the presence of the Parties and their goods and services in the respective markets of Asia, Pacific and Latin America; and
 - (e) increasing the level of and deepening cooperation activities among the Parties in areas of mutual interest.

Article 16.3: Scope

1. The Parties affirm the importance of all forms of cooperation, with particular attention given to economic, scientific, technological, educational, cultural and primary industry cooperation in contributing towards implementation of the

objectives and principles of this Agreement. Cooperation among the Parties may be extended to other areas as agreed by the Parties.

2. Possible areas of cooperation will be developed through Implementing Arrangements.

3. Cooperation among the Parties should contribute to achieving the objectives of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement through the identification and development of innovative cooperation programmes capable of providing added value to their relationships.

4. Cooperation among the Parties under this Chapter will supplement the cooperation and cooperative activities among the Parties set out in other Chapters of this Agreement.

Article 16.4: Economic Cooperation

1. The aims of economic cooperation will be:

- (a) to build on existing agreements or arrangements already in place for trade and economic cooperation; and
- (b) to advance and strengthen trade and economic relations among the Parties.

2. In pursuit of the objectives in Paragraph 1, the Parties will encourage and facilitate, as appropriate, the following activities, including, but not limited to:

- (a) policy dialogue and regular exchanges of information and views on ways to promote and expand trade in goods and services among the Parties;
- (b) keeping each other informed of important economic and trade issues, and any impediments to furthering their economic cooperation;
- (c) providing assistance and facilities to businesspersons and trade missions that visit each other's country with the knowledge and support of the relevant agencies;
- (d) supporting dialogue and exchanges of experience among the respective business communities of the Parties;
- (e) establishing and developing mechanisms for providing information and identifying opportunities for business cooperation, trade in goods and services, investment, and government procurement;

- (f) stimulating and facilitating actions of public and/or private sectors in areas of economic interest, including to explore opportunities in third markets; and
- (g) working together to promote the use of English and other languages as tools for small and medium enterprises, and in the use of information technology tools to assist the learning process, as agreed by the APEC Economic Leaders at their 12th meeting.

Article 16.5: Cooperation in Research, Science and Technology

1. The aims of cooperation in research, science and technology, carried out in the mutual interest of all Parties and in compliance with their policies, particularly as regards the rules for use of intellectual property resulting from research, will be:

- (a) to build on existing agreements or arrangements already in place for cooperation in research, science and technology;
- (b) to encourage, where appropriate, government agencies, research institutions, universities, private companies and other research organisations in each other's country to conclude direct arrangements in support of cooperative activities, programmes or projects within the framework of this Agreement; and
- (c) to focus cooperative activities towards sectors where mutual and complementary interests exist.

2. In pursuit of the objectives in Paragraph 1, the Parties will encourage and facilitate, as appropriate, the following activities, including, but not limited to:

- (a) identifying strategies, in consultation with universities and research centres, that encourage joint postgraduate studies and research visits;
- (b) exchange of scientists, researchers and technical experts;
- (c) exchange of information and documentation;
- (d) promotion of public/private sector partnerships in the support of the development of innovative products and services; and
- (e) cooperation in regional and other governmental and nongovernmental forums in areas of mutual interest.

Article 16.6: Education

1. The aims of education cooperation will be:
 - (a) to build on existing agreements or arrangements already in place for cooperation in education; and
 - (b) to promote networking, mutual understanding and close working relationships in the area of education among the Parties.
2. In pursuit of the objectives in Paragraph 1, the Parties will encourage and facilitate, as appropriate, exchanges between and among their respective education-related agencies, institutions, organisations, in fields such as:
 - (a) education quality assurance processes;
 - (b) on-line and distance education at all levels;
 - (c) primary and secondary education systems;
 - (d) higher education;
 - (e) technical education and vocational training;
 - (f) industry collaboration for technical and vocational training; and
 - (g) teacher training and development.
3. Cooperation in education can focus on:
 - (a) the exchange of information such as teaching and curriculum materials, teaching aids, and demonstration materials, as well as the organisation of relevant specialised exhibitions and seminars;
 - (b) joint planning and implementation of programs and projects, and joint coordination of targeted activities in agreed fields;
 - (c) development of collaborative training, joint research and development, across graduate and postgraduate studies;
 - (d) the exchange of teaching staff, administrators, researchers and students in relation to programmes that will be of mutual benefit;
 - (e) gaining understanding of each Parties' education systems and policies including information relevant to the interpretation and evaluation of qualifications, potentially leading to discussions between institutions of

higher learning on academic credit transfer and the possibility of mutual recognition of qualifications;

- (f) collaboration on the development of innovative quality assurance resources to support learning and assessment, and the professional development of teachers and trainers in training and vocational education; and
- (g) encouraging and facilitating the development of public and / or private ventures in education.

Article 16.7: Cultural Cooperation

The aims of cultural cooperation will be to:

- (a) build on existing agreements or arrangements already in place for cultural cooperation; and
- (b) promote the exchange of information and practice among the Parties.

Article 16.8: Primary Industry

1. The aims of cooperation in primary industry, carried out in the mutual interest of all Parties and in compliance with their policies, will be:

- (a) to build on existing Agreements or Arrangements already in place for cooperation in agriculture and forestry;
- (b) to encourage and promote better understanding between the primary sectors in each country;
- (c) to encourage, where appropriate, the development of scientific knowledge and technical cooperation among government agencies, research institutions, universities, private companies and other research organisations in each others' countries and to conclude direct arrangements in support of cooperative activities, programmes or projects within the framework of this Agreement;
- (d) to direct cooperative activities towards sectors where mutual and complementary interests exist; and
- (e) to promote international trade liberalisation in the primary industry sectors, develop trade and promote commercial partnerships, including common projects in third countries.

2. In pursuit of the objectives in Paragraph 1, the Parties will encourage and facilitate, as appropriate, the following activities in the primary industry sectors including, but not limited to:

- (a) encouraging the expansion of opportunities for contact;
- (b) promoting the exchange of information, ideas and research;
- (c) encouraging specific industry exchanges and joint ventures, including in relation to research, to develop the primary industry sectors;
- (d) encouraging universities in their countries to strengthen their links in the area of primary industry sectors including through the exploration of multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional degree courses; and
- (e) encouraging the promotion of primary industry sectors related education services and other activities.

3. To facilitate cooperation in the primary industry sectors, the Parties will also work towards:

- (a) promoting compliance with, and enforcement of, international rules relating to trade in primary industry sectors products;
- (b) promoting transparency and public participation in decision-making relating to the Parties' primary industry sectors; and
- (c) identifying and resolving issues that hamper the effectiveness of cooperation in the primary industry sectors.

Article 16.9: Mechanisms for Cooperation

1. The Parties will designate a contact point to facilitate communication on possible cooperation activities. The contact point will work with government agencies, private sector representatives and educational and research institutions in the operation of this Chapter.

2. The Parties agree that the mechanisms for cooperation will take the form of:

- (a) regular meetings of the Commission to discuss cooperative areas of interest; and
- (b) meetings as required between the relevant institutions (including, but not limited to, the relevant government agencies, Crown Research

Institutes, and universities) of the Parties to help foster closer cooperation in thematic areas.

3. The Parties will make maximum use of diplomatic channels to promote dialogue and cooperation consistent with this Agreement.

Article 16.10: Cooperation with Non-Parties

The Parties recognise the value of international cooperation for the promotion of sustainable development and agree to develop, where appropriate, projects of mutual interest, with non-Parties.

Article 16.11: Resources

With the aim of contributing to fulfilling the cooperation objectives of this Agreement, the Parties commit themselves to providing, within the limits of their own capacities and through their own channels, the appropriate resources, including financial resources.

Article 16.12: Specific Functions for the Commission in Cooperation Matters

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 17.2 (*Functions of the Commission*) the Commission shall have, in particular, the following functions:

- (a) oversight of the implementation of the cooperation framework agreed by the Parties;
- (b) encouraging the Parties to undertake cooperation activities under the cooperation framework agreed by the Parties;
- (c) making recommendations on the cooperation activities under this Chapter, in accordance with the strategic priorities of the Parties; and
- (d) review, through regular reporting from each Party, the operation of this Chapter and the application and fulfillment of its objectives.