



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

# APEC GOS Trade Policy Dialogue: The COVID 19 Effect

19 May 2021 2:00pm - 4:30pm NZ time

## Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many services sectors, whose operations generally involve face to face interaction of businesses and their customers. The tourism sector is the leading example. On the other hand, many services business have been found new ways of operating, accelerating the transition to digital delivery. But their efforts to do so may at the same time have been slowed rather than facilitated by policy environments at home and in international markets. The extent of innovation has been impressive, but with restrictions on the capacity for face-to-face interaction there may also be constraints on development of new ways of doing business.

APEC members remain committed to the pursuit of the Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ACSR). The ACSR offers a valuable framework for guiding the response to recent events. In the current context, how can the Roadmap support the adjustment of business in the service sector across the APEC membership? What policy change will accelerate the adjustments involved? What capacity building projects will support these changes? How can the Roadmap evolve to reflect these developments?

A discussion of these questions is timely, since the ACSR is now in the process of a mid-term review. The APEC GOS Trade Policy Dialogue – The COVID 19 Effect, involving officials, researchers and the business community, is proposed, first, to drive ambition for and engagement with the mid-term review and, second, to ensure that future work in the sector and the ACSR Implementation Plan appropriately captures the impact of COVID-19.

The purpose is to identify targets and initiatives that will continue to reduce barriers to trade in services, including as a means to better recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The TPD can then also identify examples of new areas of cooperation especially relevant to the response of the service sector to COVID-19 that might be developed, eg new regimes applying to the movement of people, the equivalence of regulation and to intellectual property, and discuss how these new areas of cooperation be supported by capacity building programs. Also on the agenda are new directions of cooperation, especially relevant to the response of the service sector to COVID-19, that might be developed, eg more extensive interaction with the European Union.



THE AUSTRALIAN  
APEC STUDY CENTRE  
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## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

### Introduction and housekeeping

Bonnie Rivendell, Program Director, The Australian APEC Study Centre, RMIT University

2:00pm -  
2:10pm  
NZ Time

### Official Welcome

Symposium Facilitator Dr Craig Emerson, Director, The Australian APEC Study Centre, RMIT University will outline the objectives and outcomes for the session

## TRADE IN SERVICE IN APEC – CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

### Review of the ASCR – The impact of Covid19

Ben Shepherd, Principal, Development Trade Consultants

2:10pm -  
2:55pm  
NZ Time

### Review of the ASCR - Preliminary Findings

Andre Wirjo, Analyst, APEC Policy Support Unit

### ABAC views on the ongoing implementation of the ASCR

Jane Drake-Brockman, Founder & Director, JDB Solutions

### Pandemic and the international trade in Services

John Drummond, Head of Division, Trade in Services, OECD

### Q&A session

## BARRIERS, TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Session overview & Panel Introduction

Symposium Facilitator Dr Craig Emerson will outline the objectives and outcomes for the session

2:55pm -  
3:35pm  
NZ Time

### Industry Panel

Industry speaker from the Philippines (TBC)

Hanim Hamzah, Regional Managing Partner, ZICO Law Network

Dr George Lever, Director of The eCommerce Committee, Santiago Chamber of Commerce

### Q&A session

## PATHWAYS FORWARD IN APEC

### Session overview & Panel Introduction

Symposium Facilitator Dr Craig Emerson will outline the objectives and outcomes for the session

3:35pm -  
4:20pm  
NZ Time

### Pathways Forward Panel

Eunice Huang, Head of APAC Trade Policy, Google

Dr Narongchai Akrasanee, Independent Non-executive Director, AIA

Stuart Fuller, Head of Global Legal Services, KPMG International

### Q&A session

### Wrap up & close

Helen Stylianou, Australian SOM

