

**Myanmar and Asia-Pacific:
Role of Policy Research in
Country's Economic and Trade Reform**
Yangon University of Economics, 19-21 February 2015

**Responding to the need for technical assistance
coordination in support of the ongoing trade
policy reform in Myanmar**

Denis Audet
International Trade Advisor
denis.audet@gmail.com

Table of Content

- I. Legacies of Decades of Economic Isolation;
- II. Key Trade-Related Reforms and Projects;
- III. Aid for Trade Coordination;
- IV. MOC's Capacity Building Needs;
- V. Concluding Remarks.

I. Legacies of Decades of Isolation

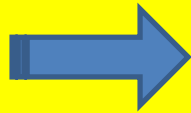
- Managed trade regime (1962-2011):
 - Artificial exchange rate and offsetting trade requirements;
 - State trading enterprises and Export taxes;
 - Export and Import licenses all products;
 - Low Customs Tariff (5.5% in 2013) and low revenues (4.7% in 2010/11);
 - Absence of Trade Remedy Laws (Safeguards, anti-dumping, countervail);
- High concentration of exports on primary commodities (80% in 2012/13) and unsophisticated manufacturing exports;
- Poor infrastructure (129/155 Logistics Performance Index, 2012);
- Poor business environment (182/189 Doing Business, 2014);
- Gaps in human skills; Absence of timely statistics;
- Obsolete body of laws and regulations;
- Fragmented trade policy regime without permanent coordination structures.

II. Key Trade Policy Reforms and Projects

- Managed float foreign exchange rate (April 2012);
- Myanmar asked WTO to be reviewed under TPR Mechanism;
- Framework for Economic and Social Reforms (FESR);
- Work towards the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC);
 - Take advantage of its strategic geographical position (GMS);
- “*Nay Pyi Taw Accord*” for Effective Development Cooperation (Jan 2013);
- Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum (MDCF);
 - 17 Sectoral Working Groups: Trade Sector Working Group (TSWG);
- Enhanced Integrated Framework (supply-side and policy coordination);
- ASEAN Rotating Chairmanship in 2014.

Key Trade Projects

WTO Trade Policy Review



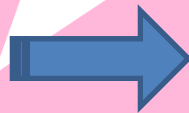
- Completed in March 2014
- Follow-up Workshop Jan 2015 identified 6 priority areas for technical cooperation

National Trade Facilitation Impl. Plan



- Draft stage. Required by WTO Bali Agreement
- Need to notify Trade Facilitation commitments to WTO
- Some ("type c") subject to receiving donor support

National Export Strategy



- To be launched in early 2015
- 5 year project with 7 priority sectors and 4 priority cross-sector functions

WTO Trade Policy Review of Myanmar

- Founding GATT Member in 1948 but 1st TPR in 2013-14;
- Periodic review for all WTO Members;
- Peer review process to increase the transparency and understanding of a member's trade regime;
- Secretariat Report and Government Statement;
- More than 200 Written Questions and Answers:
Foreign exchange regime; FDI and business environment; transparency/predictability of the trade and investment regime including WTO notifications; tariff bindings and discrepancies; the gap between applied and bound tariff rates; import/export licensing requirements; customs valuation; special economic zones; trading rights; State-owned economic enterprises and state trading arrangement; contingency measures; government procurement; SPS and TBT issues; IPRs protection; and financial sector reforms.

WTO Trade Policy Review of Myanmar

- WTO website:
www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp393_e.htm
- Strongly welcomed Myanmar's political and economic re-orientation;
- Encouragement in doing more reforms are needed:
 - Implement draft laws (IPR, Competition, Consumer Protection, Investment);
 - Trade Facilitation (Customs procedures, Customs Valuation);
 - Rationalization of tariffs and domestic taxes;
 - Improved competitiveness (business environment, privatization, agriculture, services, economic diversification).

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_4524

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：



TPR Follow Up, January 2015

ariat identified CB priorities in 6 areas:
tation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;
ons of trade-related regulations;
e to formulate TBT and SPS regulations;
al Property Right regulations;
ning Trade Statistics; and
e in the implementation of new trade-related