



The revised GPA: global context, core principles, entry into force and policy considerations for Asian economies

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Contents of presentation

- The changing global context of the Agreement;
- Core principles of the Agreement;
- Significance of the recent entry into force of the revised Agreement;
- Policy considerations for Asian economies.



I. Changing global context of the GPA



Factors currently enhancing the importance of the GPA for the global economy (1): increasing membership of the Agreement worldwide

- Currently, the GPA covers 43 WTO Members including the EU and its 28 member States; most other traditional developed countries (the US, Canada, Japan, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland); plus Hong Kong (China); Iceland; Israel; Korea; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Aruba and Armenia.
- **Two more Parties (Montenegro and New Zealand) approved for accession in 2014.**
- **Eight more WTO Members currently seeking accession (Albania, China, Georgia, Jordan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Oman, and Ukraine).**
- **Five additional WTO Members have commitments to seek GPA accession (eventually), as part of their WTO accession protocols: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan.**



Factors currently enhancing the importance of the GPA for the global economy (2): the policy context

- Enhanced importance of the procurement sector in light of: (i) the global economic crisis; and (ii) emerging economies' infrastructure needs.
- Also greater emphasis on procurement and good governance as an underpinning of development.
- Increased pressures for policies potentially limiting access to important procurement markets.
- *GPA and/or bilateral/regional agreements embodying similar disciplines are the main tool of exporting economies to preserve market access rights in this crucial sector.*



Factors currently enhancing the importance of the GPA for the global economy (3): synergies with other international instruments, and national legislation

- GPA a distillation of best practices internationally, as seen by the participating WTO Member governments.
- An important benchmark for national procurement reforms.
- Carefully harmonized with the UNCITRAL Model Law.
- Of interest in current review of the World Bank Procurement Guidelines.
- The model for procurement chapters in bilateral FTAs and regional trade agreements worldwide.



II. Core Principles of the Agreement



Core principles of the Agreement (basis for legal elements)

- Three core principles:
 - Non-discrimination (especially between foreign and domestic suppliers);
 - Transparency of the procurement system and of individual procurements;
 - Procedural fairness for suppliers/potential suppliers

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