

Seminar on the Prospective Benefits of Membership in the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) for the Pacific Island Countries

16-17 May 2014, Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in collaboration
with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the University of the South Pacific**

Tentative Programme

Thursday, 15 May 2014	
At the close of the WTO meeting (p.m.)	Arrival and Registration of the Seminar Participants <i>(Invited Pacific Island Countries and Participating States of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement)</i>
Friday, 16 May 2014	
0900 – 0930	Opening Session Welcoming Statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations ESCAP Pacific SRO: <i>Iosefa Maiava</i>, Head • Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat: <i>Shiu Raj</i>, Director • H.E. Mr. <i>Kim Seong-In</i>, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Fiji. Opening Statement by <i>Ravi Ratnayake</i> , Director, Trade and Investment Division (TID), United Nations ESCAP
0930 – 1100	The Emerging Role of APTA in Forging Asia-Pacific Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of RTAs in Asia and the Pacific Presenter: <i>Ravi Ratnayake</i>, Director, TID/UNESCAP • Overview of APTA • Role of APTA in promoting trade and regional integration • Accession procedures of APTA Presenter: <i>Joong-Wan Cho</i>, Chief, APTA Secretariat, TID/UNESCAP • Market access: results of the fourth round concessions under APTA • Recent developments on Rules of Origin (RoO), including the APTA RoO Presenter: <i>Rajan Sudesh Ratna</i>, Economic Affairs Officer, TID/UNESCAP Interactive discussions among participants

1100 – 1115	Coffee/Tea break
1115 – 1230	<p>The Pacific Island Countries' Accession to the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement: An Analysis of Opportunities and Challenges</p> <p>Presenter: <i>Biman Prasad</i>, Professor of Economics and Trade & Research Faculty, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji & <i>Hong Chen</i>, Research Faculty, University of the South Pacific</p> <p>Interactive discussions among participants</p>
1230 – 1400	Lunch break
1400 – 1445	<p>ESCAP Resolution 68/3 for Paperless Trade and the Issuance of the Electronic Certificate of Origin</p> <p>Presenter: <i>Jun Ho Shin</i>, Expert on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation, TID/UNESCAP</p>
1445 – 1530	<p>Future developments in cooperation between APTA and PICTA Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biman Prasad / Hong Chen</i>, University of the South Pacific • <i>Shiu Raj</i>, PICTA/Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat • <i>Joong-Wan Cho & Rajan S. Ratna</i>, UNESCAP • Invited Participants
1530 – 1545	Coffee/Tea break
1545 – 1700	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Wrap-up discussion: Participants may bring up for discussion any of the points raised during the Seminar</p> <p>Concluding remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat: <i>Shiu Raj</i> • UNESCAP-APTA Secretariat: <i>Joong-Wan Cho</i>
Saturday, 17 May 2014	
0900 – 1200	Bilateral consultations on the way forward between the APTA Secretariat and the PICTA/Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

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