

CHAPTER 9

ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Article 1

Objectives

1. The Parties, in pursuit of their mutual benefits, agree to undertake economic and technical co-operation under this Chapter in order to enable the Parties to facilitate, implement, expand, and enhance the benefits of this Agreement, taking into account the different levels of economic development of the Parties, especially the least-developed ASEAN Member States.
2. The economic and technical co-operation under this Chapter shall aim, *inter alia*, at:
 - (a) supporting the effective and efficient implementation and utilisation of this Agreement;
 - (b) creating new opportunities for trade and investment and promoting competitiveness and innovation through the involvement, where appropriate, of the private sector including the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by, *inter alia*, facilitating the integration of SMEs into Global Value Chains, and encouraging SMEs to organise or participate in trade promotion events;
 - (c) promoting and deepening the level of economic and technical co-operation among the Parties by implementing the Work

Programme under Article 4 (Implementation of Economic and Technical Co-operation); and

- (d) enhancing the capabilities of the Parties through capacity building activities to enable the Parties to take full benefit of this Agreement.

Article 2

Scope

The economic and technical co-operation under this Chapter shall support the implementation of this Agreement through economic and technical co-operation activities which are related to trade in goods, trade in services, investment, and other areas, as mutually agreed by the Parties.

Article 3

Resources

1. Taking into account the different levels of economic development of the Parties, the Parties shall contribute appropriately to the implementation of the Work Programme under Article 4 (Implementation of Economic and Technical Co-operation).

2. In determining the appropriate level of contribution to the Work Programme, the Parties shall take into account:

- (a) the different levels of development and capacity of the Parties;

- (b) the funding or in-kind contributions for implementing the Work Programme made by the Parties; and
- (c) that the appropriate level of contribution enhances the relevance and sustainability of co-operation, strengthens partnerships among the Parties, and builds the Parties' shared commitment to the effective implementation and oversight of the Work Programme.

Article 4

Implementation of Economic and Technical Co-operation

1. Economic and technical co-operation activities shall involve Hong Kong, China and at least two ASEAN Member States.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, economic and technical co-operation activities may involve Hong Kong, China and only one ASEAN Member State, provided that those activities are regional in nature and of benefit to other ASEAN Member States. Such activities shall aim at, *inter alia*, narrowing the gaps of economic development among ASEAN Member States or promoting the well-being of the people of ASEAN Member States towards further integration of ASEAN.
3. The AHKFTA Joint Committee shall decide on matters relating to the implementation of this Chapter, including the development of a Work Programme for economic and technical co-operation activities.

4. The Parties may consider co-operation with external parties as deemed necessary to support the implementation of economic and technical co-operation activities under this Chapter.

5. The Work Programme shall be a reference document for implementing economic and technical co-operation activities and shall include:

- (a) guidelines to implement economic and technical co-operation activities;
- (b) a list of economic and technical co-operation activities; and
- (c) other aspects mutually agreed by the AHKFTA Joint Committee.

Article 5

Non-Application of Chapter 13 (Consultations and Dispute Settlement)

Chapter 13 (Consultations and Dispute Settlement) shall not apply to any matter arising under this Chapter.