

CHATTO CREEK

TRADE REPORT

A COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTER ON TRADE ISSUES IN ASIA PACIFIC

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WTO CHALLENGES AUSTRALIAN INTERPRETATION: A WTO Dispute Panel ruled this week Australia had not correctly followed some anti-dumping rules when imposing duties on A4 paper imported from Indonesia. The Panel recommended Australia bring its measures into conformity with global rules.

JAPAN'S PARLIAMENT APPROVES US TRADE AGREEMENT: The Japanese Diet (Parliament) voted this week in favour of the recently signed US-Japan Trade Agreement. USTR Lighthizer welcomed Japan's quick action saying he expected President Trump to sign an implementing proclamation next week.

AUSTRALIA TO PROTECT EXPORT WINE BRANDS: Legislation was introduced to Parliament this week to establish a public-facing online database of export wines in a bid to prevent copycat and fake labelling. Agriculture Minister McKenzie said the database would help build consumer confidence in export markets.

HONG KONG & THAILAND TO PURSUE FTA: Hong Kong and Thai officials agreed this week to commence exploratory talks on a free trade agreement. This followed a visit to Bangkok by Hong Kong Chief Executive Lam where she met with Prime Minister Prayut. Negotiations for an FTA could begin in 2021.

AUSTRALIA SCORES RECORD TRADE SURPLUS: Australia this week reported a record \$21.1 billion trade surplus in the quarter ended September 2019. Trade Minister Birmingham said the result demonstrated Australian exporters were reaping the benefits of increased market access delivered by the Government.

INDIA TO BOOST ONION IMPORTS: The Indian Government has announced a further series of country-specific and global onion tenders in a bid to address supply shortages and rising prices. The Government had earlier banned onion exports and directed states to ensure strict action against hoarding.

STADIUM ARCHITECT WINS AUSTRALIAN EXPORT AWARD: Populous, a global designer of sports and entertainment stadiums with its Asia-Pacific regional headquarters in Brisbane, was this week named as Australian Exporter of the Year 2019. Thirteen exporters were recognized in the annual awards.

NZ PUBLISHES TRADE-FOR-ALL REPORT: Trade Minister Parker expects the Government to respond in early 2020 to a Trade-for-All Advisory Board report. It says trade policy should avoid future governments having to choose between their election policies and remaining in existing international agreements.

MALAYSIA SEEKS TO BOOST TRADE WITH JAPAN: Trade Minister Leiking was in Japan along with 60 Malaysian companies this week in a bid to boost trade and investment in such sectors as aerospace, automotive, infrastructure, machinery, medical devices, green technology and the Halal industry.

TAIWAN FACES NEW ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES: The US Commerce Department has announced a final determination of anti-dumping duties of 32.26 per cent on imports of carbon and alloy steel threaded rod from Taiwan. A final ruling on the case is due in January.

CHATTO CREEK ADVISORY PTY LIMITED

ABN: 34 613 546 142

TRADE POLICY ADVISORS - GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGISTS

www.chattocreek.com.au

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