

CHATTO CREEK

TRADE REPORT

A COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTER ON TRADE ISSUES IN ASIA PACIFIC

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BIG TRADE AGREEMENTS KEEP COMING: The European Parliament has cleared the way for the EU-Japan FTA to enter into force in February. The FTA, under negotiation since 2012, covers 635 million people and a third of the world's gross domestic product. Its entry into force will come only weeks after the TPP-11.

AUSTRALIA AIMS TO BE GLOBAL BATTERY PLAYER: Trade Minister Birmingham has launched a new strategy to help Australia become a leading lithium-ion battery manufacturer saying new overseas investment will be sought. Australia produces half the world's lithium but it is exported for processing.

THAILAND CHALLENGES AIR CONDITIONER DUTIES: Thailand wants the WTO to over-turn duties imposed by Turkey on Thai air conditioners. Turkey has imposed extra duties in protest at safeguard duties first imposed on steel products by Thailand in 2014. Thailand says the Turkish action does not meet trade rules.

INDIA & KOREA SEEK TO BUILD FTA: Negotiators from India and Korea met in Seoul during the week for a 7th round of talks to upgrade an economic partnership agreement first implemented in 2010. The key agenda issues included a further opening of goods and services markets and an easing of rules of origin.

JAPAN & EU WIN MAJOR INDUSTRY SUBSIDY CASE: Japan and the EU this week largely won a major tax appeal case against a suite of auto and ICT subsidies favouring local industry in Brazil. A WTO Appellate Panel supported an earlier ruling against the subsidies but relaxed a 90-day deadline for their withdrawal.

INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST AGRICULTURAL EXPORT POLICY: The Ministry of Commerce has unveiled its first agricultural export policy with a plan to double farm incomes by hiking produce exports to \$US60 billion by 2022. A range of policies are planned. New trade offices are planned in 15 cities including Melbourne.

AUSTRALIAN BEEF GAINS FROM NEW RULE: Agriculture Minister Littleproud says beef producers will be able to demand a price premium under a new standard to apply in local and overseas markets. They will be able to market cattle as "Grain Fed Finished" by feeding them grain for 35 days before sale or export.

EU TARGETS ASIAN COUNTERFEIT MARKETS: The European Union has sought to "name and shame" a number of physical markets in Asia Pacific selling counterfeit goods, often to tourists. They include markets in Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam.

US WINE PRODUCERS SEEK TARIFF ABOLITION: The US Wine Institute wants tariff-free entry for US producers in a bid to maintain competitive relativity with producers from economies that have concluded FTAs with Japan including Australia and the EU. It wants the abolition of tariffs under a US-Japan FTA.

INDIAN THINK TANKS TO THE RESCUE: India is looking for outside views as it seeks to finalize its strategies for the RCEP (ASEAN + 6) FTA. The Government has asked 3 think tanks to talk with industry and to advise on potential strategies. India has struggled to offer trade concessions that satisfy other RCEP participants.

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