**Agenda**

## **APEC Workshop: Technical Barriers to Trade: Recent Trends in FTAs**

## 28-29 July 2025 | Songdo Convensia

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DAY ONE: Monday, 28 July 2025 | |
| **8.30 – 9.00 am** | **Registration and Arrival** |
| **9.00 – 9.15 am** | **Welcome Remarks**  **Kent Shigetomi,** Director, Multilateral Non-Tariff Barriers, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative |
| **Session 1**  **9.15 – 10.00 am** | **The WTO TBT Agreement**  This session will provide an overview of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), including its structure, scope, and key obligations related to technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures. Workshop participants will gain a clearer understanding of how the TBT Agreement balances trade facilitation with the right of governments to regulate in pursuit of legitimate public policy objectives.  **Speaker #1**, WTO Secretariat (TBC)  *Questions and Answers* |
| **Session 2**  **10.00 – 10.45 am** | **Analysis of APEC Economies’ FTA TBT Chapters (Part 1)**  Building on the global foundation provided in Session #1, this session will highlight key provisions found in APEC economies’ individual FTAs, including domestic consultation and coordination, the use of regulatory impact assessment (RIA), and alignment with international standards. The session will also examine the relative convergence/divergence of these chapters, drawing on research conducted by the APEC PSU and others. This session will provide the context for deeper dives on individual good regulatory practices (GRP) in the TBT space.  **Roberto Zapata Barradas,** Senior Partner, Ansley International Consultants (Mexico) (Confirmed)  *Questions and Answers* |
| **10.45 – 11.15 am** | **Coffee Break** |
| **Session 2 (continued)**  **11.15 – 12.15 pm** | **Analysis of APEC Economies’ FTA TBT Chapters (Part 2)**  Building on the global foundation provided in Session #1, this session will highlight key provisions found in APEC economies’ individual FTAs, including domestic consultation and coordination, the use of regulatory impact assessment (RIA), and alignment with international standards. The session will also examine the relative convergence/divergence of these chapters, drawing on research conducted by the APEC PSU and others. This session will also feature a panel where economies can share individual good regulatory practices (GRP) in the TBT space.  **Speaker #1**, Economy  **Speaker #2**, Economy  **Speaker #3**, Economy  *Questions and Answers* |
| **12.15 – 1.30 pm** | **Lunch** |
| **Session 3**  **1.30 – 2.45 pm** | **Domestic Coordination and Review Processes**  Domestic consultations and interagency/interministerial coordination are key components of the WTO TBT framework. This session will explore how economies implement domestic coordination and review mechanisms to ensure regulatory quality and coherence. Economies will present practical approaches to whole-of-government consultation, oversight bodies, and regulatory planning processes that promote transparency, efficiency, and alignment with GRP, while accommodating differences in various APEC economy contexts. This session will also explore practical challenges and good practices related to notification and review of proposed TBT technical regulations, including the use of digital tools such as ePing.  **Speaker #1**, Chinese Taipei (TBC)  **Speaker #2**, The Philippines (TBC)  **Speaker #3**, Indonesia (TBC)  *Questions and Answers* |
| **2.45 – 3.15 pm** | **Coffee Break** |
| **Session 4**  **3.15 – 4.45 pm** | **Private Sector Perspectives on TBT: Making Consultation and Cooperation Work in Practice**  Industry plays a critical role in the effective implementation of GRP by providing technical expertise, identifying unintended trade impacts, and supporting the development of regulations that are both practical and aligned with international obligations. This session will explore how the private sector engages with regulatory processes under the WTO TBT Agreement and regional/bilateral FTAs—particularly through domestic consultation mechanisms. Building on earlier discussions of coordination and transparency, industry representatives will share experiences navigating technical regulations, submitting comments on draft measures and notifications, and flag trade risks to help governments facilitate trade.  **Speaker #1**, Japan (TBC)  **Speaker #2**, Korea (TBC)  **Speaker #3**, Indonesia/Malaysia (TBC)  *Questions and Answers* |
| **4.45 – 5.00 pm** | **Wrap-Up of Day 1**  **Speaker,** Economy |
| DAY TWO: Tuesday, 29 July 2025 | |
| **8.30 – 9.00 am** | **Registration and Arrival** |
| **9.00 – 9.15 am** | **Overview of Day 2**  **Kent Shigetomi**, Director, Multilateral Non-Tariff Barriers, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative |
| **Session 5**  **9.15 – 9.30 am** | **Regulatory Impact Assessment in GRP: Overview**  A key element of GRP under the WTO TBT framework, regulatory impact assessment (RIA) supports transparent and evidence-based rulemaking. This session will explain the role of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in promoting transparency, evidence-based policymaking, and regulatory coherence.  **Nathan Frey** (TBC) |
| **Session 6**  **9.30 – 10.45 am** | **Regulatory Impact Assessment in GRP: Economy-Level Perspectives**  In this session, panelists from APEC economies will explain how RIA processes are designed and implemented in their economies, including when RIAs are triggered, how trade impacts are considered, and how stakeholders—including the private sector—are consulted. The session will highlight good practices and practical challenges in making RIA an effective part of domestic regulatory systems and international trade commitments.  **Speaker #1**, Peru (TBC)  **Speaker #2**, Economy (TBC)  **Speaker #3**, Economy (TBC)  *Questions and Answers* |
| **10.45 – 11.05 am** | **Coffee Break** |
| **Session 7**  **11.05 – 12.35 pm** | **Regulatory Impact Analysis in Practice: Interactive Exercise**  This interactive session will introduce participants to the core elements of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) through a hands-on group exercise. Participants will work in small teams to analyze a hypothetical regulatory proposal, considering policy objectives, regulatory alternatives, stakeholder views, and potential trade impacts. The session will provide participants with a practical understanding of how simplified RIA processes support good regulatory practices and regulatory coherence.  **Moderators/Facilitators**: Kent Shigetomi, Nathan Frey (TBC) |
| **12.35 – 1.35 pm** | **Lunch** |
| **Session 8**  **1.35 – 2.50 pm** | **International Standards: Promoting Alignment and Reducing Barriers**  This session will explore the importance of internationally recognized standards in removing technical barriers to trade. Panelists will share their experiences in adopting international standards and how this has positively impacted market access, interoperability, and regulatory alignment. The session will demonstrate how adopting international standards eliminates the need to develop economy-specific standards and supports a more predictable and inclusive trade environment in APEC.  **Speaker #1**, Economy  **Speaker #2**, Economy  **Speaker #3**, Economy  *Questions and Answers* |
| **2.50 – 3.20 pm** | **Coffee Break** |
| **Session 9**  **3.20 – 4.20 pm** | **WTO TBT Jurisprudence/Dispute Settlement**  This session will examine recent WTO cases involving dispute settlement in technical barriers to trade. Government and industry speakers will discuss how these rulings have influenced regulatory decisions, trade relationships, and business operations, to help workshop participants better understand how to design rules that achieve public policy goals while avoiding trade conflicts.  **Speaker #1**, United States (Speaker TBC)  **Speaker #2**, Economy  **Speaker #3**, Economy  *Questions and Answers* |
| **4.20 – 4.30 pm** | **Feedback Form**  Please take 10 minutes to fill out the workshop feedback form at the link provided. |
| **4.30 – 4.45 pm** | **Wrap-Up and Closing**  **Kent Shigetomi**, Director, Multilateral Non-Tariff Barriers, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative |