

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 8/2024
DIVISION MEETING – STRATEGIC NEGOTIATIONS DIVISION (BRS)

Date : 16 May 2024 (Thursday)
Time : 10.00 - 11.40 am
Venue : WEF Meeting Room, Level 15, MITI Tower
Chairperson : Ms. Sumathi Balakrishnan (PKRS)
Attendance : As per **Annex 1**

NO.	MATTERS DISCUSSED	ACTION	DECISION / FOLLOW-UP ACTION / FEEDBACK
1.	CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chairperson welcomed and thanked all officers for attendance.Chairperson welcomes Ms Rossilawati to BRS and expressed BRS' appreciation towards Ms Afiqah Azemi, former Office Secretary for her contribution throughout her tenure in BRS.The Meeting also welcomes Mr Muhammad Iskandar and Ms Umir Atirah to BRS. On the same note, the meeting acknowledge that Mr Iskandar will be posted under TIG/ ROO cluster and Ms Umir Atirah will be posted under Economic Cooperation cluster.	For Information	

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2.	UPDATES ON MANAGEMENT MEETING		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Meeting was informed on the issues raised during the Management Meeting No. 6/2024 held on 17 April 2024. Salient points are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Draft of the talking notes/briefs/related documents for meetings have to be prepared and cleared by respective TKSUs and KSU in timely manner to avoid last-minute submission to YBM/YBTM especially for Meetings chaired by YAB PM or YAB DPM. ii. KSU reminded all Heads of Divisions and Agencies need to prepare Ulasan Kewangan pertaining to travel matters i.e., overseas meeting. All Division and agencies also have to provide detailed cost (cost break down) on the Ulasan Kewangan. iii. All officers need to seek KSU's permissions prior to any events. In addition, he emphasized that all officers need to append the invitation to KSU office for any occasions. iv. KSU reminded all division to draft Peruntukan Tahunan for 2026 properly to avoid any last-minute amendments and appealing for extra budget in the future. 	For Information	

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	<p>v. Pertaining to budget screening 2025, BRS has to request the budget for feasibility studies related to FTAs assessment/ impact from Ministry of Economic and to keep Strategic Planning Division in the loop.</p> <p>vi. For consultation on RMK-13, KSU reminded the budget proposal for RMK-13 need to be aligned with NIMP, i-ESG and MADANI Framework.</p> <p>vii. Pertaining to MITI Strategic Plan, all Heads of Divisions and Agencies are expected to update their programmes until the Q4 of 2023 to the secretariat. MITI strategic plan is scheduled to be conducted on 19 – 21 May 2024.</p> <p>viii. PPSM informed that there are three (3) series of team building programme arranged tentatively to be held in May, July and September 2024. The first one will be held at Selama Inn Perak. KSU is expected to join the May 2024 programme. BRS' officers may be involved in this program.</p> <p>ix. Johor – Singapore Economic Zone. MITI is responsible to handle Talent, Governance, Economic and movement of Goods.</p> <p>x. The meeting noted there will be a Kursus Munsyi Bahasa in August. The Chairperson has requested Mr Hazrul to attend the said program.</p>		

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	xi. MITI has chosen a village in Sabak Bernam as Kampung Anak Angkat. The Chairperson emphasized that BRS will look forward to support this program.		
3.	UPDATES ON POST-CABINET MEETING		
	This agenda was not discussed.		
4.	FTA COORDINATION MEETING		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FTA Coordination Meeting No. 2/2024 is scheduled to take place on 17 May 2024. The invitation, together with the matrix of matters arising has been circulated for feedback. The meeting further noted that all TKSUs are unable to attend the meeting due to the conflicting commitments. The meeting took note that there will be 3 discussion papers that will be presented during this meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Implementation of Self-Certification. ii) Outstanding Notification Obligation within the Chapter of Trade in Goods. iii) FTA Feasibility Study on Africa. 	Mr Subra (Lead) / All BRS Officers	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Information Paper, the meeting further noted there are few pending updates from the FTA's Coordinators. The Chairperson has requested Ms Dalilah to finalise the Chief Negotiators List. The list will be shared during the meeting. It was suggested that the FTA Coordination Meeting Agenda start with the discussion papers instead of FTA updates. This would provide ample time for discussing the papers. FTA's Coordinators are compulsory to attend the meeting. 		
5.	CLUSTER MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS / OUTREACH PROGRAMMES		
(a)	<p><u>Services Cluster</u></p> <p>The Services Cluster Meeting was held on 25 April 2022. The key matters discussed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Updates on services chapters for all FTAs; ii) Database on services commitments according to sectors. This database can be used in determining 	<p>Ms. Rozieyanahayu / Ms. Dalilah</p>	

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	<p>the benchmark when negotiating new FTAs or upgrading the current FTAs; and</p> <p>iii) Proposed Malaysia's common definition for natural persons (including permanent residents).</p>		
(b)	<p><u>Investment Cluster</u></p> <p>The Investment Cluster Meeting was held on 23 April 2024 and discussed:</p> <p>i) Updates on investment issues under each FTA; and</p> <p>ii) Proposed Malaysia's common definition for 'key personnel' and 'entry of personnel'. iESG presented the implementation of the new and relevant policies.</p>	<p>Ms. Rozieyanahayu/ Mr. Joshua</p>	
(c)	<p><u>Session with FTA Coordinators for MITI FTA Website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting on Updates of the FTA Portal with Coordinators of Implemented FTAs was held on 9 February 2024. During this Meeting, BRS informed all Coordinators to provide regular updates on their respective FTAs in the MITI Portal. 	<p>Mr. Subramaniam</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> However, some coordinators, especially the newly-appointed, raised the issue that they are having difficulties in conveying the benefits of the FTA to Malaysia. 		
(d)	<p><u>Outreach Programmes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson requested Mr Muhammad Zahin to prepare a list of all BRS' participation in Outreach session/programmes since January 2024. All BRS officers are advised to update the list to Mr Muhammad Zahin accordingly. 	Mr Muhammad Zahin	The list has been updated accordingly as of 1 July 2024.
6.	COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP)		
(a)	<p><u>Briefing session with YBM on United Kingdom Ratification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting noted that there will be a briefing session with YBM MITI to update on UK ratification in CPTPP. The briefing will take place on 4 June 2024. 		
(b)	<p><u>Session with Embassies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> session with the Chilean Embassy will be held during the 2nd quarter of 2024. 		The Briefing session is scheduled to be held in 3Q/4Q of 2024 for Chile and Peru.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting agreed that the session with the Peruvian Embassy will be held during the 3rd quarter of 2024. 		
(c)	<p><u>Data on CPTPP SMEs and Bumiputera</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson has requested Mr. Hazrul to monitor the issue on the data collection for SMEs and Bumiputera that utilises the CPTPP Agreement. In addition, the database for Bumiputera's contribution in export and investment is now falls under iESG Division's purview. 	Mr. Fajar/Mr. Hazrul	Regarding data on CPTPP SMEs and Bumiputera, MITI is still awaiting the official publication of the Economic Census Data 2023 by DOSM.
(d)	<p><u>Outreach Sessions on CPTPP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting noted that MATRADE will organise an Export Day program, which is include several outreach sessions with stakeholders pertaining to CPTPP utilisation. The program will be taken place in KL, Sarawak, Penang and Perak. BRS's officer to attend/ represent the program is yet to be decided. The meeting noted that a joint Outreach session with MTI Singapore and Malaysia – Singapore Business Council Promoting stronger Malaysia – Singapore Business Cooperation through CPTPP utilisation is scheduled to be 	Mr. Fajar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malaysia – Singapore joint Outreach Session promoting stronger Malaysia – Singapore Business Cooperation through CPTPP utilisation was successfully held on 6 June 2024. Outreach with Soonicorn Collective on opportunities in Malaysia's Free Trade Agreements was held on 25 June 2024. Export Day MATRADE is expected to be held on 2-3 July 2024.

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	<p>held on 6 June 2024 in MITI Tower. The outreach will be conducted in hybrid mode.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the follow-up with SIRIM for the CPTPP outreach session, BRS to further discuss with SIRIM on their objectives. Pending feedback from SIRIM. As a follow-up from the Workshop organised by IDEAS, BRS to further engage IDEAS for a post-review study in the future. 		
7.	MALAYSIA-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (MKFTA)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting was informed that the 1st Round of MKFTA was successfully held on 8 May 2024. This round focused solely on stocktaking rather than full negotiations. The Meeting noted that the Chairperson has updated the KSU regarding the negotiations during the management meeting. A memo to the KSU detailing the outcomes of the stocktaking meeting (MKFTA) has been sent to the KSU's office. 	For Information	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next round of MKFTA negotiations is scheduled to take place from 20 to 23 August 2024. Preparations for hosting this round should commence promptly. 		
8.	MALAYSIA-SRI LANKA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (MSLFTA)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting discussed the proposal for a feasibility study on the benefits of establishing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Sri Lanka. The decision on whether to select the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) or the Asia School of Business (ASB) to conduct the study is yet to be made. The Terms of Reference (TOR) have been successfully submitted to both MIER and ASB for their feedback. 	Mr. Hazrul	
9.	MALAYSIA-EFTA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (MEEPA)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting was informed that Ms. Sara Hani is preparing a memo for the hosting of the 15th Round of MEEPA. The event is scheduled to take place in Kuala Lumpur from 28 to 31 May 2024. 	Ms. Sara	The hosting of 15 th Round of MEEPA Negotiations was held on 28-31 May in MITI Tower.

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10.	OTHER MATTERS		
(a)	<p><u>Feasibility Studies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An email should be sent to the Strategic Planning Division requesting project proposal funding for feasibility studies on FTAs. The meeting noted three areas for these studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pre-FTAs to identify new markets; ii. Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) for identified markets, including MERCOSUR, Sri Lanka, and Korea; and iii. Post-FTAs Implementation. The meeting also noted that the allocated budget for each study is below RM 500,000. ERIA will conduct an impact assessment on FTAs for Malaysia and explore new areas in FTAs. The Chairperson instructed Mr. Nik Mohd Salihin to send an email to Dr. Intan from ERIA regarding this matter. The institutions to conduct feasibility studies on Pre-FTAs to identify new markets and perform CBAs for identified markets have yet to be decided. These studies need to be completed within six months. 	<p>Ms Rozieyanahau</p> <p>Mr Nik Muhammad Salihin</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact assessment for CPTPP should commence this year. 		
(b)	<p><u>Collaboration with Microsoft and Google</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting noted that Microsoft could offer to assist MITI to develop a Customs program to read the raw data PDK, analysis trade data etc. However, such a programme would be a proof of concept only and MITI has to later purchase in order to obtain the full programme package. The meeting further noted, BPM has acquired ten (10) licenses for BRS from Google Gemini. 	Mr. Fajar	
(c)	<p><u>MITI FTA Portal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting acknowledges that MATRADE will be in charge for the portal as it falls under one of the NIMP utilisation components. The further decision pertaining this matter will be discussed in FTA Coordination Meeting. Further discussion will be done with MATRDAE (Mr Raja Badrolzaman and Mr Jai Shankar) 		

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(d)	<p><u>Farewell Party</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson requested Ms Cheah to organise a farewell party for Ms Afiqah Azemi and Mr Danial Roslee. The date for the occasion is yet to be decide. 		
(e)	<p><u>Trade Wing's Meeting with TKSU(P)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was informed that there was a Trade Wing's Senior Directors meeting on 13 May 2024. Among the key advice from the meeting are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Officers were reminded to ensure that all pertinent information related to meetings/TIMs attended by YBM is promptly shared with YBM/YBMO. ii. Officers accompanying YBM to meetings/TIMs must ensure compliance with the above directive. iii. All drafts requiring TKSUP's clearance must be submitted to her at least 24 hours prior to further submission/approval to KSU for YBM. iv. All requests from YBMO should be treated as urgent, including the necessity to work on weekends if required to provide the necessary inputs to YBM. 		

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	v. If any request from YBMO is unclear, officers are instructed to contact YBMO to seek the necessary clarification, ensuring accurate information is conveyed to YBM/YBMO.		
11.	ADMINISTRATIVE, HUMAN RESOURCE AND FINANCE MATTERS		
(a)	<p><u>Administrative</u></p> <p>(i) SKU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All BRS Officers are requested to update their <i>Pencapaian Sebenar</i> in SKU started from April until December. <p>(ii) EKSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an EKSA Workshop on Sunday until Tuesday. Mr Rifaat and Ms Cheah will attend the said workshop accordingly. Audit Dalaman for BRS as well Opening Meeting for EKSA will be held on 4 June 2024, Thursday. Ms Cheah will attend the meeting. The second Audit for EKSA, which will be conducted by MAMPU will be take place on 25-27 June 2024. <p>(iii) ABMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABMS Audit has been successfully conducted and there were none issues found. 	All BRS Officers	

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(b)	<p><u>Human Resource</u></p> <p>(i) BRS Post/Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) post JUSA C is 'borrowed' by the BIEA for the Malaysia Chairmanship in 2025. BPSM retrieved (1) post M44, which was 'borrow' to BRS. All BRS Officers are reminded to record their training in Malaysia Training System including the Overseas Meeting. Ms Cheah is required to check the officers' training record to ensure all the trainings is well updated. 		
(c)	<p><u>Division's Budget</u></p> <p>(i) Outcome Based Budget (OBB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting decided that Sasaran in OBB has need to maintain. 		

The meeting was adjourned at **11.40 am** with a note of thank you from the Chairperson.

Prepared by:

Muhammad Zahin Karim
Executive Officer (MySTEP)

Verified by:

Ahmad Fajarazam Abdul Jalil
Director

LIST OF ATTENDANCE

1. **Ms. Sumathi Balakrishnan**
Senior Director
2. **Mr. Subramaniam Sandracasen**
Director
3. **Mr. Ahmad Fajarazam Abdul Jalil**
Director
4. **Ms. Roziyanahayu Ab Rahman**
Director
5. **Mr. Joshua Ngooi Teck Hwa**
Senior Principal Assistant Director
6. **Mr. Hazrul Imran Azahar**
Senior Principal Assistant Director
7. **Mr. Nik Mohd Salihin Nik Mustafa**
Principal Assistant Director
8. **Ms. Nurul Dalilah Ali**
Principal Assistant Director

9. **Ms. Sara Hani Mohd Zin**
Principal Assistant Director
10. **Mr. Rifaat Hussain**
Assistant Director
11. **Mr. Muhammad Zahin Karim Md Ziaul Karim**
Executive Officer (MySTEP)
12. **Mr. Muhammad Iskandar Muhammad Haizar**
Executive Officer (MySTEP)
13. **Ms. Umir Atirah**
Executive Officer (MySTEP)
14. **Ms. Cheah Fee Lian**
Assistant Administrative Officer
15. **Ms. Rossilawati Abd Rashid**
Office Secretary