

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 2/ 2024

DIVISION MEETING – STRATEGIC NEGOTIATIONS DIVISION (BRS)

Date : 24 January 2024 (Wednesday)
Time : 3.30 – 5.30 pm
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.• The Meeting recorded deepest condolences to Ms Cheah Fee Lian and her family for their lost.• The Meeting noted that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr Subramaniam and Encik Fajarazam will be attending MITI Retreat which will be take place on 2 – 3 February 2024 at Auditorium SIRIM, Shah Alam.- Ms Rozieyanahayu and Encik Hazrul are instructed to attend the <i>Majlis Pembukaan Pemukiman</i>- Encik Fajarazam to update the key achievements stocktake 2023 and to discuss with PKRS prior the submission to TKSU(P).	For Information	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson informed that TKSU(P) will schedule a breakfast session with all divisions under Trade Wing. BRS' session is on 23 February 2024, 9.00 am in WEF Meeting Room. 		
2.	UPDATES ON MANAGEMENT MEETING		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no issues related to BRS raised during the Management Meeting held on 24 January 2024. 		
3.	UPDATES ON POST-CABINET MEETING		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Post-Cabinet Meeting No. 3/2024 was held on 24 January 2024, and among the issues raised during the Meeting are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The Meeting is informed on 15th anniversary of Malaysia – China relation, on 23 January 2024. On this note, China will be expected to push her decision on CPTPP. ii) The Meeting also informed that there is a dedicated committee of Iron and Steel. The decision has been concluded in 19 January 2024. iii) For MITI's Trade and Investment Mission (TIM) in 2024, all TKSUs will play a critical role in each mission. TKSU (PP) will coordinate the submission of memo listing international events and engagements to YBM. 	For Information	

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4.	COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP)		
I.	<u>Follow-up from the 5th Senior Officials' Meeting / Retreat (SOM5)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson has instructed Ms Sara Hani to update CPTPP contact list for Malaysia and share the list to Canada accordingly. Chairperson instructed Mr Subra to attend MITI Brand Heart Workshop by Juno on 30 January 2024, 2.30 pm at MITI. 	For information / All BRS	
II.	<u>Outreach Sessions on CPTPP</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outreach Session with SIRIM will be held on 15 February 2024 at SIRIM HQ, Shah Alam. The Meeting was informed that the presentation is on the general overview of CPTPP and how to fully utilise the Agreement. PKRS advised that the presentation to also focus on technical barriers to trade (TBT) as it is related to SIRIM. PKRS will be a speaker for the Outreach. BRS has successfully participated in the Quantity Surveying International Convention on 22 January 2024. The target audience for this Convention are quantity surveyors and those from the construction and construction related industry. BRS has been invited to present on the CPTPP Agreement along with MOF which has deliver a presentation on Government Procurement Chapter of the CPTPP. Among issues raised by the participants and QS 	All BRS	Copy of the CPTPP MRA Guideline has been provided to the QS Board for their study.

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	Board is on whether MRAs under CPTPP could be used by Malaysia's QS service provider as a means to offer their services in CPTPP Parties. BRS advised that the QS Board would need to explore the matter with their supervising authority under Ministry of Works and to be guided with the recent MRA Guideline under CPTPP.		
III.	<p><u>Session with Embassies of CPTPP Parties</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session was scheduled on 26 January 2024 (Friday) and will take place at WIEF Meeting Room, level 22. Email invitation sent on 19 January 2024. All Embassies has confirmed their attendance. Only Canada is yet to confirmed their attendance. All BRS officers are advised to join the said session. On the same note, Chairperson has requested for Encik Fajarazam to identify a suitable date and time to organize an Outreach/ Joint venture with the CPTPP parties' embassies. 	Mr Fajar / Mr Danial	<p>So far, three Parties/ Members have shown interest to organize outreach programmes with BRS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UK – series of engagement with UK High Commission in 2024 proposed starting from 6 March 2. Chile – engagement between BRS, Customs and MOF with Chilean Embassy and alcohol importer association with dates TBC 3. Mexico – engagement with Mexican Embassy on exchange of experience on CPTPP implementation with dates TBC.
IV.	<p><u>Data Collection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the proposed discussion with DagangNet to acquire data of CPTPP utilisation by SMEs, Chairperson has requested for this matter to be finalized with DagangNet during the first quarter of the year. PKRS has tasked Mr. 	Mr. Fajar / Mr. Hazrul	Email to DagangNet for SME utilization for all FTAs was sent on 29 January 2024.

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	<p>Fajar and Mr. Hazrul to work together with SSM, SMECorp, KUSKOP and DagangNet on this matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another issue is on the data for Trade in Services and Investment for CPTPP. The Meeting discussed that mechanism of data collection for services and investment is more complex and not as direct as trade in goods. Collaboration with MIDA and DOSM/ Statistician is necessary in order to develop the correct mechanism. On the same note, a separate session with MIDA will be held on 13 February 2024. The discussion aims to discuss on Investment Data as well as to focus on exploring strategies to acquire comprehensive data regarding investments from Malaysia's FTA partners. 		
5.	MALAYSIA-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (MKFTA)		
I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting was informed that Korea has agreed with Malaysia's proposal on the expansion of scope for the MKFTA. The Meeting noted that a session with the relevant ministries and agencies has took place on 23 January 2024. On the same note, a separate session with Halal Development Corporation (HDC) will take place on 25 January 2024. 	Ms Sara Hani	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson has instructed Ms Sara Hani to held a follow-up session with States and line ministries to discuss if there any collaboration and MoUs that has been tied between states and Korea. The meeting also noted that it is crucial to find a coordinator for MKFTA. 		
6.	MALAYSIA-EFTA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (MEEPA)		
I.	<p><u>14th Round of Malaysia-EFTA Economic Partnership Agreement (MEEPA) Negotiations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Nota Jemaah Menteri</i> (NJM) for 14th Round of MEEPA Negotiations and the accompanying memo were vetted and approved by TKSU(P) as well as KSU. The NJM for MEEPA has been submitted and expected to table in Cabinet Meeting on 31 January 2024. The Chairperson has instructed Ms Sara Hani to prepare the Speaking Notes for YBM MITI. 	Ms. Sara Hani	

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7.	OTHER MEETINGS / CLUSTER WORKSHOP AND TRAINING		
I.	<u>Cluster Meetings and Training / Workshop</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting noted that Investment Cluster Meeting was successfully held on 15 January 2024. The Chairperson has instructed others Cluster to organize their cluster meeting quarterly. The Chairperson also suggested Head of Clusters to conduct and organize their respective Cluster Workshop in Public Training Institution (ILA) as an austerity measure. The Meeting noted that Economic Cooperation Brainstorming Session (Workshop) will be held in February 2024. The exact date is yet to be decided. The Chairperson also requested Services Workshop to be conducted in February. The teaching scope for Trade in Services Negotiators should be covered the negative list. The Chairperson has requested Encik Hazrul to discuss further on the Workshop's content. Several relevant officer from Attorney General Chambers (AGC) should be invited as a speaker. 		
II.	<u>Session with FTA Coordinators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson has requested Encik Fajarazam to held a special meeting with FTA Coordinators. The Meeting should be discussed on FTA Repository and write-up for their 	Encik Fajarazam	Meeting with FTA Coordinators is on 9 February 2024. Proposed standardized format has been shared with teams of FTAs that have entered into force/ implemented.

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	<p>respective FTAs Portal. The meeting will be chaired by PKRS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson also instructed Ms Dalilah Ali to circulate the updated List of Negotiators to all FTA Coordinators. BETR office, BIEA office and all Chief Negotiators. 	Cik Dalilah Ali	
III.	<p><u>FTA Coordination Meeting No. 1/2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minutes of FTA Coordination Meeting No. 1/2024 has been circulated to KSU, TKSUs, Chief Negotiators and FTA Coordinators. 	Ms Rozie/ Ms Sara Hani	
8.	MITI DIALOGUE 2024		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meeting was informed that the MITI Dialogue will be held from 29 to 30 January 2024. The meeting noted that Puan Masita will be officer in charge for Trade Wing for MITI Dialogue 2024. All Directors are encouraged to attend the session. 	Ms. Masita Mat Isa/ All Directors	
9.	STUDY CONDUCTED IN 2024		
I.	<u>Final Draft Report "Impact Assessment of the RCEP Agreement for the Malaysian Economy: An Application of the GTAP Model"</u>	For information	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARISE+ Webinar has been successfully conducted on 23 January 2024 with the participation from Investment leads and BDPFP Officers. • The Meeting was informed that the final draft report of "Impact Assessment of the RCEP Agreement for the Malaysian Economy: An Application of the GTAP Model" has been circulated. • On this note, Ms Rozieyanahayu has submitted the feedback to Strategic Planning Division (BPS) for their onwards action. • For BRS, it is suggested that the above-mentioned study can be considered as study for this year but with no cost implication. 		
10.	ADMINISTRATIVE, HUMAN RESOURCE AND FINANCE MATTERS		
I.	<p><u>Administrative</u></p> <p>(i) Attendance and performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson reminded the meeting of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To notify and seek prior consent from PKRS before going anywhere, taking time off, or taking leave, including medical or emergency leave. 	For information / All BRS	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Officers who want to leave the office for more than 3 hours must submit their application through HRMIS and seek consent from PKRS rather than just notifying Ms Afiqah. – To fill in movement of officers in meetings in the Google form. Ms. Afiqah will send out the Google form every Friday. – To file every decision, be it coming from Whatsapp, email. To print and file to ease the tracking of black and white decision. <p>(ii) Human Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Meeting was informed that the continuation of <i>Tanggung Kerja</i> for Mr. Hazrul Imran Azahar will be not continued after January 2024. • The Meeting noted that Mr Joshua is in the middle of proses for his placements in BRS. Cik Roziyanahayu is requested to draft a memo to BPSM and discuss with PKRS on the said matter. <p>(iii) Budget for 2024</p>	<p>For information</p> <p>Cik Roziyanahayu</p> <p>Ms. Cheah Fee Lian</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was informed that for the year 2024, BRS has been allocated budget of RM1,828,400.00. As for OS 29000, the allocation is RM150,000.00. Meeting was also informed that BRS had submitted <i>Pelan Operasi Latihan</i> (POL) to BPSM comprising workshops to be organised by the Clusters amounting RM270,000.00 to be utilised under the OS29000. The meeting also noted the budget for the POL is to be covered under the respective Division as BPSM considers these as <i>Kursus Fungsional</i> and they are only responsible to organise <i>Kursus Generik</i> due budget constraint. The Chairperson requested all the Head of Clusters to review the budget for the POL and spend the allocation prudently. The meeting noted Malaysia will be hosting a MEEPA meeting in Sabah. Date and other logistical arrangements are yet to be confirmed. The 4th Quarter of Outcomes Based Budget (OBB) will be submitted upon obtain PKRS' endorsement. <p>(iv) Chinese New Year Leave</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All BRS officer are requested to seek PKRS' approval if they are planning to take leave during the Chinese New Year week. 		

The meeting was adjourned at **3.30 pm** with a note of thank you from Chairperson.

Prepared by :

Verified by :

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 MUHAMAMAD ZAHIN KARIM
MySTEP

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 FAJARAZAM ABDUL JALIL
Director

LIST OF ATTENDANCE

1. **Ms Sumathi Balakrishnan**
Senior Director
2. **Ms Masita Mat Isa**
Director
3. **Mr Subramaniam A/L Sandracasen**
Director
4. **Mr Ahmad Fajarazam Abdul Jalil**
Director
5. **Ms Rozieyanahayu Ab Rahman**
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 Danial Roslee**
Executive Officer (MySTEP)
13. **Ms Afiqah Azemi**
Office Secretary