

Bangkok Agreement (now the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)) – ACCESSION OF CHINA

Summary Fact Sheet

Table 1: Background Information

Parties	China and previous members (Bangladesh, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Sri Lanka)	
Date of signature	China's accession: 12 April 2001 Signature of the Bangkok Agreement: 31 July 1975	
Date of entry into force	China's accession: 1 January 2002 Entry into force of the Bangkok Agreement: 17 June 1976	
Transition period for full implementation	Not applicable	
Date of full implementation	Not applicable	
Website addresses or points of contact	http://www.unescap.org/tid/apta.asp	
List of related GATT/WTO documents	L/4418 WT/COMTD/N/19 WT/COMTD/M/65 WT/COMTD/62/Add.1-2	Notification of the Bangkok Agreement Notification of China's accession Minutes Questions & Replies

Table 2: Internal trade liberalization provisions

Import duties and charges	Chapter II: Programme of Trade Liberalization Annex I: National List of Concessions Chapter III: Trade Expansion
Export duties and charges	None
Non-tariff measures	Article 4
Sector-specific rules	None
Product exclusions	Yes

Table 3: Common External Tariff

Provisions	Not applicable
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Table 4: General trade-related provisions

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
Rules of Origin	Article 6 & Annex II	Products contained in the National Lists of Concessions annexed to the Agreement shall be eligible for preferential treatment if they satisfy the Rules of Origin set out in annex II.
Standards-related measures	None	
SPS measures	None	
Safeguard mechanisms (intra-trade)	Chapter IV	The Chapter permits the use of emergency measures in the case of imports of a particular product, included in the National List of Concessions of a party and originating in another party, increase in such a manner as to cause or threaten to cause serious injury to specific sectors. In such cases, the importing party may suspend, provisionally, and non-discriminately, concessions included in its National List of Concessions and shall simultaneously notify the Standing Committee and enter into consultations with the other party or parties concerned to reach an agreement to remedy the situation (Article 17). Measures taken for balance of payments reasons on products included in the National Lists of Concessions must similarly be non-discriminatory and be notified immediately to the Standing Committee. They must also be provisional and should be progressively relaxed as and when the balance of payments situation improves.
Anti-dumping and countervailing measures	Article 9	Article 9(f) calls for the Parties to establish appropriate regulations to offset or prevent dumping and other unfair trade practices and to ensure that the provisions of the Agreement are harmoniously applied
Subsidies and state aid	None	
Customs-related procedures	Article 9	Article 9(d) calls for Parties to take appropriate measures for cooperation, especially in customs administration, to facilitate implementation of the Agreement and to simply and standardize

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
		procedures and formalities relating to reciprocal trade. The Standing Committee is authorized to take the required administrative action for this purpose.
IPR	None	
Government procurement	None	
Competition	None	
Investment	None	
General exceptions	Article 30	Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent any Participating State from taking action and adopting measures which it considers necessary for the protection of its national security, the protection of public morality, the protection of human, animal and plant life and health, and the protection of articles of artistic, historical and archaeological value.
Accession	Articles 25 & 33	The Agreement is open for accession by any country member of the ESCAP Trade Negotiations Group. After negotiations, the applicant country may accede to the Agreement if at least two-thirds of the participating states recommend its accession. If any of the Participating States objects to such accession, the provisions of the Agreement shall not apply as between that country and the acceding country. This Agreement shall come into force for an eligible acceding State 30 days after the date of deposit of its corresponding instrument of accession.
Dispute resolution	Article 16	Article 16 stipulates that in the event of the failure of the Parties to settle a dispute among themselves, the dispute will be brought to the Standing Committee, which may, by majority vote, make appropriate recommendation to any Participating State. If the Participating State concerned does not comply with the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the latter may, by majority decisions authorize any Participating State to suspend, in relation to the non-complying State, the application of such obligations under this Agreement as the Standing Committee considers appropriate.
Transparency	None	
Relation with other trade agreements	Article 11	Article 11 stipulates that the provisions of Article 10, which requires all benefits applied by one party to be extended to like products from all other parties, do not apply to preferences granted by Participating States (a) through bilateral trade agreements, to other Participating States and to third countries; (b) exclusively to other developing countries prior to the entry into force of this Agreement; (c) to other Participating States which may be classed by the Participating States as at a relatively less advanced stage of economic development, provided that such preferences are accorded without full reciprocity from the relatively less advanced country; (d) to any other Participating State(s) and/or other ESCAP developing countries with which the Participating State engages in the formation of an economic integration groupings; (e) to any other Participating State(s) and/or other developing countries with which the Participating State enters into an industrial co-operation agreement or joint venture in other productive sectors, within the purview of article 12. Notwithstanding the above exceptions, each Participating State shall take the necessary steps to reconcile, to the extent possible, the provisions of agreements entered into with third countries with the provisions of this Agreement.
Institutional provisions	Chapter V	Article 22 establishes a Standing Committee of the Participating States, consisting of the representatives of the parties to the Agreement. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year and is responsible for reviewing the application of the Agreement, carrying out consultations, making recommendations and taking decisions as required to meet the objectives and provisions of the Agreement. Article 19 stipulates that the Standing Committee shall, by a two-thirds majority votes, adopt such rules of procedure as may be required for the performance of its functions. Except as otherwise

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		provided for in this Agreement, decisions by the Committee shall be taken by a majority of votes cast by members present and voting, provided that at least two thirds of the Participating States are present.

Trade and tariff data are not available.