



REGIONAL TRADE AND EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS SESSION

‘UPDATE ON BILATERALISM AND DEVELOPMENT: EMERGING TRADE PATTERNS IN THE PACIFIC’

2016 UPDATE CONFERENCE: INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR ENHANCED
RESILIENCE, 18–19 JULY 2016,
JAPAN–PACIFIC ICT CENTRE, USP

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STRATEGIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- In view of the likely implications of these new RTAs, the strategic policy recommendation for Pacific Island Countries are as follows:
- Build a cohesive region/sub-regional mechanism to assist the PICs conform to international quality standards by building their capacity through mobilised Aid for Trade resources;
- Build a cohesive regional/sub-regional framework for coherent mobilisation of trade facilitation packages to support the implementation of the WTO Bali decision on Trade Facilitation to address high trade cost inhibiting further market access for products into international markets, including into other Asia-Pacific economies;
- Strengthen trade-related infrastructure to facilitate movement of goods at the border thus increasing the competitiveness of firms in Pacific Island Countries;
- Lower domestic tariffs and non-tariff barriers inhibiting access to primary and intermediate inputs for further processing and re-exports as well as securing less restrictive cumulation of ROO with TPP, TTIP and RCEP members for externally sourced inputs; thus facilitating consequent integration into RTA-based value chains;
- Seek support for the establishment of a monitoring and information dissemination platform to facilitate awareness raising on approaches for ratifying global rules on new generation trade issues pertaining to labor, environment, procurement and environment (new generation issues in mega FTAs).
- Consider strategic approach to establishment of multilateral rules on investment which produces equitable outcomes for Pacific Island Countries.