



4 November 2017

H.E. Bui Thanh Son

APEC 2017 SOM Chair

By email to: somchairafc@apec2017.vn

cc

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Your Excellency,

As you would be aware, the Asia Pacific Services Coalition (APSCo) is a key APEC business sector stakeholder and a strong supporter, from its inception in 2015, of the APEC Services Competitiveness initiative. You will recall that the Coalition has an official role, conferred by APEC Leaders, to monitor and evaluate progress towards the services targets adopted in the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap 2016-2025.

The Asia Pacific Services Coalition (APSCo) concluded its 3rd General Meeting on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Digital Technology Symposium held on 2-3 October 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The two-day event hosted by the Malaysian Services Providers Confederation also featured an APEC Group on Services Public-Private Dialogue on "New Technologies and the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap."

We attach for your information our detailed media statement issued following the meeting in Kuala Lumpur. We are encouraged that APEC economies are largely on track to spur growth of trade in services and achieve the roadmap targets by 2025. We consider the services targets of vital importance for the realisation of sustained and inclusive growth in the region, particularly given the role of services in this era of digitisation and transformation to the internet economy.

We note that much remains to be done. We urge a continued engagement by APEC with all services stakeholders including through dialogue and capacity-building programs with a focus on building services competitiveness. Priority must continue to be given to improving the availability and accessibility of useful and reliable data and metrics for Services, and to creating a regional environment that is open and adaptable to innovative, including disruptive, technology. We stress the need for developing principles on domestic regulation for a more harmonised regional approach to Services and a better connected regional business community.

On behalf of the respective industries and services sectors that we represent across the region, we would like to express our appreciation to APEC and all its instrumentalities, especially under your stewardship over the last year, for keeping Services as an ongoing high priority on the APEC agenda. We congratulate APEC on its efforts this year to develop a framework to effectively implement and monitor progress on the various aspects of the Services Roadmap.

We remain committed to working to support the SOM Chair's office, alongside other partners including the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), to achieve the Roadmap objectives. We wish you well for the forthcoming events.

Australian Services Roundtable, Australia
ABAC Brunei, Brunei Darussalam
Canadian Services Coalition, Canada
Federation of Korean Industries, Korea
Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries, Hong Kong, China
Indonesia Services Dialogue, Indonesia
Japan Services Network, Japan
Malaysian Service Providers' Confederation, Malaysia
Business New Zealand, New Zealand
Business Council of Papua New Guinea, Papua New Guinea
Lima Chamber of Commerce Services Committee, Peru
Philippine Services Coalition, Philippines
Singapore Business Federation, Singapore
Sociedad de Fomento Fabril de Chile FG, Chile
Taiwan Coalition of Service Industries, Chinese Taipei
Coalition of Services Industries, United States
Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC)