

CLIENT UPDATE 2015 MAY

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Cambodia Seeks New Trade Policy on Market Access

On 08 - 10 April 2015, Cambodia conducted a National Workshop on New Trade Policy on Market Access for Cambodia, aiming to reformulate the Cambodian trade agenda in a proactive manner. The initial draft of the paper entitled *“Towards a new trade policy on market access for Cambodia: Identifying a positive agenda among challenges and opportunities”* was discussed.

The workshop provided the opportunities for Cambodian officials and private sector participants to meet with representatives from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (“**UNCTAD**”) to discuss the draft paper analyses trade effects that may arise from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“**ASEAN**”)-European Union (“**EU**”) free trade agreements, as well as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (“**TPP**”). Cambodian government has sought UNCTAD’s help in guiding it through the changing landscape of trade agreements.

Cambodia has been quite successful in integrating into the global economy through trade and investment since mid-2000s. These successes may have been arisen from improved market access, strengthened domestic business environment, rising total factor and labour productivity, and increasing domestic value added. However, some significant challenges still remain due to the changes in its trading environment and other trade agreements being negotiated where Cambodia is not involved, for instance the TPP.

This workshop aims to improve Cambodia’s capacity to negotiate free trade agreements with the EU, as well as to strengthen its understanding of challenges and opportunities from the TPP.

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