

Meeting Document Summary Sheet

Document Title: Architects Register's Program: Supporting cross- border mobility of professionals in APEC
Purpose: For circulation
Issue: Obstacles for architecture academic degrees validation as well as licensing and registration of architects in APEC developing economies that keep them from participating in APEC's Architects Register's Program.
Background: One of DIWG's priorities is to make progress in the implementation of the Services Competitiveness Roadmap (SCR). Chief in this scheme is to reduce barriers to services trade and promoting cross-border mobility for professionals. APEC's Architect Register's Program is one of the two initiatives APEC has advanced to support cross- border mobility of professionals and licensure recognition, which is aligned with what the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) establishes as to the free movement of natural people. Developing economies within APEC present difficulties at the national level regarding the process of foreign academic degrees validation and recognition, which in multiple cases does not allow them to meet with APEC's Architects Register Project framework, and thus participating in such scheme.
Proposals /Recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promoting common grounds for the validation and recognition of professional degrees and licenses within APEC economies, based on nondiscriminatory measures.2. Promoting Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) in developing economies.3. Developing economies may want to consider GATT's framework in SCR's blueprint moving forward, so to encourage the movement of natural people with the aim of extending the multilateral trading system regarding the services sector, and thus benefit from a more robust trade in services
Decision Points: Endorse the recommendations outlined above.

Architects Register Program: Supporting cross border mobility of professionals in APEC

Rosario Navarro
ABAC Chile

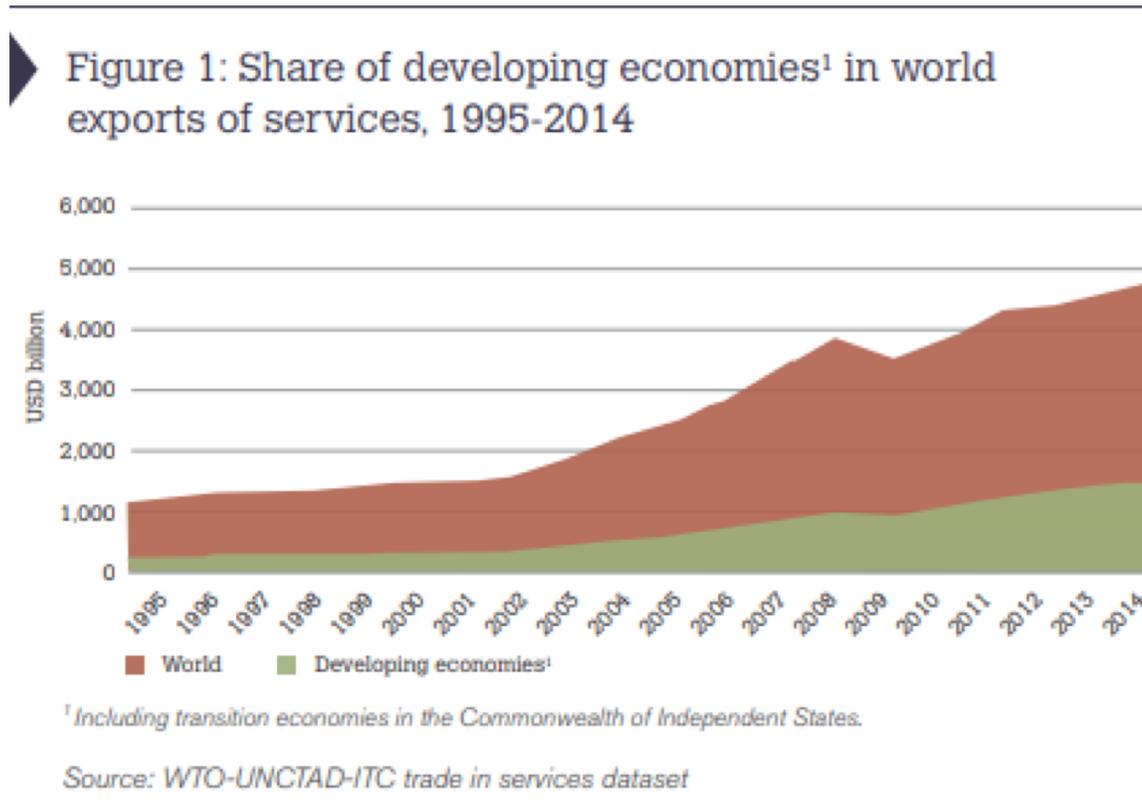


The importance of Trade in Services



- ▶ International trade in services is becoming more relevant to fuel growth in our region
- ▶ WTO (2014): Trade in services is the most dynamic segment of international commerce, growing at higher rates than trade in goods over the past 20 years

Expansion of trade in services



- ▶ Developing and in transition economies have **expanded their share in exports of world services** from a quarter to one-third over since 1995 (WTO, 2014)
- ▶ Developing economies normally choose FTAs of merchandises over trade in services
- ▶ 1995: **GATT** taken into force with the aim of extending the multilateral trading system to the services sector

Supporting Cross- border mobility for professionals in APEC

- ▶ ABAC should continue supporting the **APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap** agreed by Leaders in 2015
- ▶ Among other purposes, this roadmap is intended to achieve **cross- border mobility of professionals in APEC by 2025**
- ▶ GATT's 1995 framework evaluates four modes of supply:
 - ▶ Mode 1: Cross Border Transactions
 - ▶ Mode 2: Consumption abroad
 - ▶ Mode 3: Commercial Presence
 - ▶ Mode 4: **Movement of Natural Persons**

APEC's Architect Register Program

- ▶ **APEC's Architect Register Program:** supports cross-border mobility of professionals and licensure recognition that supports the movement of natural persons
- ▶ **Participating economies:** Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Republic of Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States of America
- ▶ **A Central Council** is accountable for the overall responsibility of the operation of APEC's Architect Register Program
- ▶ Composed of nominees from independent **Monitoring Committees** established in each economy
- ▶ Each Monitoring Committee takes responsibility for the **administrative part** of this project's framework with authorization of the Central Council.
 - Foresee **process of enrollment** of registered/licensed architects in the economy who meets APEC's Architect Register Program criteria

Obstacles for licensing and registration in APEC developing economies: Chilean case

- ▶ ABAC Chile has supported all initiatives of APEC's endeavors to promote and facilitate cross border mobility of professionals
- ▶ We are facing difficulties at the **national level** as to the **process of academic degree validations and recognition** we have in place
 - The existing process does not allow us to meet with APEC's Architects Register Project framework, so it is not facilitating the free movement of professionals

Suggested best practices for developing economies moving forward

- ▶ Promoting common grounds for the validation and recognition of professional degrees and licenses within APEC economies, based on **nondiscriminatory measures**
- ▶ Promoting **MRAs** in developing economies → path that simplifies the process of recognition, and thus helps reduce enter barriers into professional markets
- ▶ Developing economies may want to consider **GATT's mode 4 of supply** in **APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap's** blueprint moving forward, so to encourage the free movement of professionals with the aim of extending the multilateral trade system into the services sector, and thus profit from a more robust trade in services