

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS MOVE FORWARD IN PERU

- The 17th round of Trans-Pacific (TPP) negotiations concluded today in Lima, Peru, following 10 days of negotiations, involving more than 700 delegates from the 11 TPP member countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the United States, Singapore, Vietnam and Peru.
- During this Round, the chief negotiators and working groups met in Lima in order to advance towards the shared goal of concluding the negotiations in 2013.
- TPP countries came to this round with the renewed support from TPP Ministers for a prompt conclusion of these discussions, following their meeting on the margins of APEC meetings in April. Ministers met there to map out a plan that would allow negotiators to successfully conclude the negotiations this year.
- During the Lima Round, negotiators have worked through the outstanding issues in many areas and significant progress has been made in chapters such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures, trade remedies, e-commerce, cross-border trade in services, rules of origin and legal and institutional issues.
- The other working groups also have had constructive discussion on these areas during this round, both in formal meetings and informally. Continued progress is expected intersessionally.
- TPP countries recognize that challenges remain in areas such as intellectual property, environment and competition, and that additional time will be required for market access issues for goods, government procurement and services and investment, which for their nature and complexity require additional attention from negotiators.
- Despite the heavy workload related to negotiations, the negotiators participated in different meetings to engage with local and international stakeholders, who have numbered over 300 during the Lima Round and included representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, labor unions and academia.
- A stakeholder forum was held in the morning of May 19th, where stakeholders from participating countries had the opportunity to present their interests and concerns to TPP negotiators in relation to different issues discussed in the agreement, with over 50 presentations made that day.
- In the afternoon of May 19th, the chief negotiators of the 11 TPP countries met for a briefing session with interested stakeholders,

providing information on the progress being achieved during the round, as well as answers to the numerous questions posed to us.

- We are aware that Japan would like to take part in the July round in a substantively meaningful manner and we believe that can be arranged. It has been agreed among the members that as soon as all the members have completed their respective domestic procedures and Japan formally joins the negotiations, Japan's participation in the July round will be appropriately arranged. However, we cannot announce the details until Japan formally joins the negotiations.
- The 18th Round of Negotiations will take place in Malaysia, from July 15th through 25th. In addition, intersessional work will be undertaken in order to further advance the process.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND TOURISM
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