

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1.1 : ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE TRADE AREA

The Parties to this Agreement, consistent with Article XXIV of GATT 1994 and Article V of GATS, hereby establish a free trade area in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 1.2 : OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Agreement, as elaborated more specifically through its principles and rules, including national treatment, most-favoured-nation treatment and transparency, are to:

- (a) liberalise and facilitate trade in goods and services and expand investment between the Parties;
- (b) establish a co-operative framework for strengthening the economic relations between the Parties;
- (c) establish a framework conducive for a more favourable environment for their businesses and promote conditions of fair competition in the free trade area;
- (d) establish a framework of transparent rules to govern trade and investment between the Parties;
- (e) create effective procedures for the implementation and application of this Agreement; and
- (f) establish a framework for further regional and multilateral co-operation to expand and enhance the benefits of this Agreement throughout Asia, and thereby, to encourage economic integration of Asian economies.

ARTICLE 1.3 : RELATION TO OTHER AGREEMENTS

1. The Parties reaffirm their existing rights and obligations with respect to each other under existing bilateral and multilateral agreements to which both Parties are party, including the WTO Agreement.
2. In the event of any inconsistency between this Agreement and other agreements to which both Parties are party, the Parties shall immediately consult with each other with a view to finding a mutually satisfactory solution, taking into consideration general principles of international law.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, if this Agreement explicitly contains provisions regarding such inconsistency as indicated in paragraph 2, those provisions shall apply.

ARTICLE 1.4 : REFERENCE TO OTHER AGREEMENTS

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, any reference to articles in GATT 1994 or GATS includes the interpretative notes, where applicable.
2. Any reference in this Agreement to any other treaty or international agreement shall be made in the same terms to its successor treaty or international agreement to which both Parties are party.