

CHAPTER 11

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Article 11.1: Objectives

1. The Parties agree to establish a framework for collaborative activities as a means to expand and enhance the benefits of this Agreement for building a strategic economic partnership.
2. The Parties will establish close economic cooperation aimed, *inter alia*, at:
 - (a) strengthening and building on existing cooperative relationship between the Parties, including a focus on promoting economic and technological development, fostering innovation and encouraging research and development;
 - (b) stimulating productive synergies, creating new opportunities for trade, investment and tourism, and promoting competitiveness and innovation;
 - (c) supporting the important role of the private sector in promoting and building strategic alliances to encourage mutual economic growth and development;
 - (d) encouraging the presence of the Parties and their goods and services in their respective markets of Southeast Asia and South Asia;
 - (e) reinforce and expand cooperation, collaboration and mutual exchange in the areas of trade, investment and tourism; and
 - (f) increasing the level of and deepening cooperation activities between the Parties in areas of mutual interests.

Article 11.2: Scope

1. Cooperation between the Parties should contribute to achieving the objectives of this Agreement through the identification and development of innovative cooperation programmes capable of providing added value to their relations.

2. Cooperative activities will be agreed between the Parties and may include, though not limited to, encouraging the exchange of information and technical expertise, and working on joint research and collaboration in those areas.
3. Cooperation between the Parties under this Chapter will complement the cooperation and cooperative activities between the Parties set out in other Chapters of this Agreement.
4. The Parties affirm the importance of all forms of cooperation, including, but not limited to, the areas of cooperation listed in Article 11.3 (Areas of Cooperation) and other areas that the Parties may agree.

Article 11.3: Areas of Cooperation

1. The areas of cooperation may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (a) Trade and Investment Promotion (including Export Development);
 - (b) Infrastructure (including Transport and Port sector);
 - (c) Agriculture and Agro Industry;
 - (d) Fisheries;
 - (e) Gems and Jewellery;
 - (f) Tourism;
 - (g) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and MSMEs;
 - (h) Financial Cooperation;
 - (i) Packaging Industry;
 - (j) Information and Communication Technology (ICT); and
 - (k) Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

Article 11.4: Implementation of Cooperation

1. The Free Trade Commission established under this Agreement shall be the mechanism to facilitate the effective implementation of this Chapter. The Free Trade Commission may agree to establish ad hoc working group in accordance with the Free Trade Commission's term of reference.

2. The implementation of cooperation under this Chapter shall be subject to the availability of resources and the applicable laws, regulations and policies of each Party.
3. Costs of cooperation under this Chapter shall be borne by the Parties within the limits of their own capacities and through their own channels, in an equitable manner to be mutually agreed by the Parties.
4. The Parties shall designate a focal point for all matters relating to the implementation of proposed cooperation activities and shall keep the other party updated on its focal point's detail.

Article 11.5: Revision, Modification or Amendment

Proposals for review, expansion and update of this Chapter, may be submitted by either Party to the Free Trade Commission established under Chapter 14 (Institutional and Final Provisions) for consideration. Implementation of cooperation in such new areas shall proceed in accordance with and subject to the fulfilments of the requirements outlined in Article 11.4 (Implementation of Cooperation).

Article 11.6: Dispute Settlement

1. The dispute settlement mechanisms in this Agreement shall not apply to any matter arising under this Chapter.
2. Any dispute concerning the interpretation, implementation or application of this Chapter shall be resolved through consultations by the Free Trade Commission established under this Agreement.

Article 11.7: Relation to Other Agreements

1. Any Memorandum of Understanding, Agreements or Protocols on economic cooperation concluded between the Parties that exist before the entry into force of this Agreement shall continue to be valid.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Economic Partnerships, signed on 12 July 2018, shall be superseded by this Agreement six months after

the date of entry into force of this Agreement. The cooperation activities under the Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Economic Partnerships will be transferred to the Agreement and carried out under Article 11.4 (Implementation of Cooperation).

3. Cooperation under this Chapter shall be carried out alongside cooperation under other relevant Memoranda of Understanding, Agreements or Protocols that have been concluded by the Parties and are still in force.