

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership – Negotiating Round 30, May 2020

The 30th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meeting was held virtually between 15 and 20 May. Fifteen RCEP parties attended the negotiation, with India being absent.

The meeting was chaired by Indonesia, with the Republic of Korea acting as Facilitator for ASEAN FTA partners, and was the second full round of negotiations for 2020. Negotiators continue to close the gaps on the few outstanding bilateral market access negotiations. Good progress was made on a number of technical issues. For example, the final un-agreed chapter in the agreement, the Institutional Provisions chapter, was concluded during round 30.

The legal verification process, being undertaken in parallel to the TNC meetings, continues to make progress via virtual meetings.

The next TNC meeting will be held virtually between 10 and 11 June and a virtual Ministerial meeting is likely to take place in mid-June.