

AUSTRALIA'S DOHA ROUND AGENDA

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TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- briefly, the WTO and Australia
- what was decided at Doha
- what has happened since Doha
- Australia's negotiating objectives
- issues for the IT industry

AUSTRALIA'S TRADE POLICY

- Multilateral e.g. (WTO)
- Bilateral e.g. FTAs
- Regional eg APEC AFTA/CER



A strong rules-based
multilateral trading
system

Securing more open
markets for agriculture,
services and industrial
products

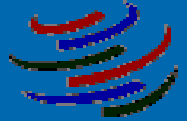
AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS IN THE WTO

Raising Australian
living standards
(exports account for
20% of GDP)

Creating new jobs
in cities and
regions (1 in 5 jobs
rely on exports)

DOHA OUTCOME

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- 14 agreed or prospective negotiations
- overseen by Trade Negotiations Committee, first meeting 28 January
- 5th Ministerial, end 2003, a critical point
- all against deadline of 1 January 2005

STRUCTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS (1)



GENERAL COUNCIL

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: WTO Director General, ex officio

Committee on Agriculture in Special Sessions (agriculture)

Negotiating Group on Market Access (industrials)

Negotiating Group on WTO Rules (trade remedies, fisheries subsidies, regional trade arrangements)

Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (WTO rules and Multilateral Environment Agreements, environmental goods and services)

Council for Trade in Services in Special Session (services)

TRIPs (Intellectual Property) Council in Special Session (wine and spirits register)

Special Sessions of the Dispute Settlement Body (Dispute Settlement Understanding)

Committee of Trade and Development in Special Session (review of all special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries)

STRUCTURE OF NEGOTIATIONS (2)



- other issues to be addressed in existing committees and/or working groups
- “so-called” Singapore issues
 - Investment, Competition, Government Procurement, Trade Facilitation
- other elements in work program
 - e.g. electronic commerce, technical cooperation and capacity building, trade and transfer of technology

DOHA ROUND: KEY AUSTRALIAN OBJECTIVES

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- move market access negotiations ahead quickly
 - Agriculture
 - modalities agreed by 31 March 2003, draft schedules submitted by 5th Ministerial
 - Services
 - initial requests by 30 June 2002, initial offers by 31 March 2003
 - Industrials
 - no agreed deadlines yet, need to agree quickly on negotiating objectives)

BUILDING ALLIANCES

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- Cairns Group and agriculture
 - Effective and cohesive, a genuine third force
 - outreach efforts to DCs need to continue
- Environment: MEAs
 - helpful: Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Thailand and Uruguay. Also, U.S, N.Z and Canada
- Geographic indications
 - allies include Argentina, Canada, Chile, N.Z, Paraguay
- Services
 - allies include U.S, EU, Canada, Japan, Switz, Norway, Singapore, N.Z, Hong Kong, China, Chile, Korea
- Industrials
 - allies include N.Z, Singapore, Hong Kong, Switz., Thailand, Indonesia, Chile, Pakistan, South Africa, Norway, Malaysia

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE NEW ROUND



- Australia a niche player – expects major economies to take a lead role in defining objectives
- reduction of barriers in IT Sector a priority
 - IT goods, computer and related services, and e-commerce key priorities
- work likely to be pursued across a range of negotiations e.g. industrials, services, intellectual property

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – GOODS AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT



- tariff and non-tariff measures remain a problem
- possible moves to extend product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement
- also an opportunity, for countries which have not scheduled commitments under the ITA to do so as part of the new round
- support Agreement on Transparency in Government Procurement

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – SERVICES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- renewal of moratorium on customs duties for electronic transmissions a key Doha outcome
- cross cutting nature of information technology services across the negotiations
- priority sectors for Australia include financial services, telecoms, professional services, education services
- protection and enforcement of intellectual property –
 - Australia an active player in the TRIPS Council
 - World Intellectual Property Organisation
 - APEC – regional cooperation and enforcement

SUMMARY



- round launch with a strong market access focus
- structure of negotiations decided – now hard work begins
- continuing attention to development agenda
- ongoing consultation with Industry, State Government and other interested groups



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