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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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**APEC ELECTRONIC VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE (E-CERTIFICATE)  
APPLICATION WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

**SUBMISSION FROM THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN,  
PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU**

The following communication, dated 19 October 2022, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu.

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1. Chinese Taipei hosted an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) virtual workshop on the Application of Electronic Veterinary and Phytosanitary Certificate (e-certificates) on 13-14 October 2022, to share experiences and challenges from building electronic veterinary and phytosanitary certificate systems and discuss relevant alternative ways, security issues or concerns including digital technology like QR Code or an official website as equivalent to the paper/e-certificate. The virtual workshop proposed under the APEC Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group was funded by APEC and the organizer, the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ), Chinese Taipei, co-sponsored by Chile, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Peru and Thailand, was attended by 144 participants from 14 APEC economies including Australia; Canada; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States and Viet Nam.

2. An electronic veterinary or phytosanitary certificate system can reduce trade time, costs and fraudulent certificates. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the application of electronic veterinary or phytosanitary certificates minimizes the risk of physical contact. During this period, the Asia-Pacific region has expanded the application of digital trade facilitation measures to seek an improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of cross-border trade operations. The increased use of electronic veterinary or phytosanitary issuing and exchange systems among APEC economies has led to safer, faster, and cheaper global trade.

3. During the workshop, representatives and experts from relevant international organizations introduced the bilateral or multilateral development and application of e-certificates in the global and Asia-Pacific regions, including IPPC ePhyto Solution and e-certification of live animals and animal products. Some economies shared about the successful use and benefits of such technologies. Through the sharing of the speakers, participants were encouraged to discuss the challenges in the application of veterinary or phytosanitary e-certificate, in order to minimize the impact and make trade more stable. It also provided an opportunity for economies to discuss the feasibility and challenges of implementing alternatives to e-certificates, such as QR Codes or an official website which provides complete details of the certificates. Finally, future developments of e-certificates were discussed, and recommendations for further cooperation were also provided. A pre-workshop survey was conducted among APEC economies to gather information back-to-back on these issues. The main conclusion and pre-survey results include: (a) the desire for a multilateral veterinary e-certificate system; (b) the urgency of expanding the IPPC ePhyto solution to include more types of products and more economies, including non-IPPC members since ePhyto users still need to make separate bilateral agreements with them; and (c) the need to develop security measures to prevent repeated use of photocopy paper certificates.

4. As next steps, APEC economies will work together to build "an open, fair, transparent, productive, sustainable and resilient APEC food system" as the goal set in the APEC Food Security Roadmap

Towards 2030. Capacity building and best practice sharing programs will be developed for wider adoption and successful use of e-certification by all stakeholders from public and private sectors along the food supply chains. Moving forward, this will also help promote global trade towards a safer, faster and cheaper direction.

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