

CHAPTER 16

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Article 16.1: Objectives

1. The Parties agree to establish a framework for cooperation between themselves to expand and enhance the benefits of this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall establish close cooperation aimed *inter alia* at:
 - (a) strengthening and building on existing cooperative relationships, including a focus on innovation, research and development;
 - (b) creating new opportunities for trade and investment; and
 - (c) promote and foster technical and scientific cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Article 16.2: Scope

1. The Parties affirm the importance of all forms of cooperation, with particular attention given to economic, scientific and technological cooperation in contributing towards implementation of the objectives and principles of this Agreement. Cooperation may be extended to other areas as mutually agreed between the Parties.
2. Possible areas of trade and investment cooperation and technical and scientific cooperation are set out in Annex 16.2.
3. Such cooperation 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 relationships.
4. Cooperation between Parties under this Chapter will supplement the cooperation and cooperative activities set out in other Chapters of this Agreement.

Article 16.3: Trade and Investment Cooperation

1. The Parties shall :
 - (a) develop a program of mutually agreed cooperative activities so as to pursue the areas of cooperation described in Annex 16.2;
 - (b) develop other mutually agreed cooperation activities between the Parties to assist the private sector in both Parties to better

understand business and investment opportunities in the other Party; and

- (c) undertake such other mutually agreed activities in furtherance of the object of this Agreement.

2. The areas of cooperation between the Parties shall reflect their respective national priorities for the promotion and attraction of investment related cooperative activities and shall be agreed upon in writing by the Parties. The program for cooperation may include long, medium and short-term activities related to:

- (a) building capacity for investment, job creation and workers' well-being;
- (b) organizing joint investment promotion activities, e.g., conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, outreach / education programs, and joint promotion of specific projects of interest;
- (c) exchanging lists of sectors / industries where one Party could encourage investments from the other Party and initiate promotional activities; and
- (d) the facilitation of partnerships, linkages or other new channels for the development of investments in such sectors.

Article 16.4: Technical and Scientific Cooperation

1. The Parties shall :

- (a) develop a program of mutually agreed programs and projects so as to pursue the areas of cooperation described in Annex 16.2; and
- (b) support, where appropriate, the participation of public, private and social organizations, including the participation of universities, institutions dedicated to research and non governmental organisations, in the execution of these programs and projects

2. Provided both Parties agree, the technical and scientific cooperation Parties may, apart from what has been provided for in Annex 16.2, take the following between the forms:

- (a) exchange of specialists, researchers and university professors;
- (b) apprenticeship programs for professional training and instruction;

- (c) joint or coordinated implementation of research and/or technological development programs and projects that link centres for research industry;
- (d) information exchange on scientific and technological research;
- (e) development of joint cooperation activities in third countries, as may be agreed by the Parties;
- (f) granting scholarships for studies of professional specialization and intermediate studies of technical instruction;
- (g) organising seminars, workshops and conferences; and
- (h) any other form of cooperation agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 16.5: Contact Point

1. The Parties shall designate a contact point to facilitate communication concerning the interpretation of implementation of the Chapter

2. The contact points for the Parties are as follows:

(a) For Panama:

Ministry of Trade and Industries
 Edison Plaza, Ave, Ricardo J. Alfaro, El Paical, 2nd Floor
 Panama, Republic of Panama
 Tel: (507) 360-0690
 Fax : (507) 360-0691
 Email: admtratados@mici.gob.pa; and

(b) For Singapore

Ministry of Trade and Industry,
 Trade Division,
 100 High Street # 09-01, The Treasury,
 Singapore 179434, Republic of Singapore
 Tel: (65) 6225 9911
 Fax: (65) 6332 7260
 Email: mti_fta@mti.gov.sg

or their successors or designated contact points.

3. The Parties will make maximum use of diplomatic channels to promote dialogue and cooperation consistent with this Agreement.

Article 16.6: General

Any cooperative activity agreed to between the Parties pursuant to this Chapter shall be in writing and shall specify the objectives, financial and technical resources required, work timelines, as well as the tasks that must be performed by each Party.

ANNEX 16.2

POSSIBLE AREAS OF PROMOTION AND ATTRACTION OF INVESTMENT AND COOPERATION

TRADE AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

1	Enhancement of Panama-Singapore internet linkages to enable better exchange of information on investment rules and regulations Identifying specific investment sectors of interest to the respective private sectors in Singapore and Panama
2	Trade and investment promotions activities in Panama and Singapore via seminars, workshops and trade and investment missions. Educating enterprises from both Parties about business opportunities in Panama and Singapore;
3	Cooperation in the marketing and trading agro-products.
4	Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and family-owned businesses, including training in entrepreneurship and information and communications technology (ICT).
5	ICT and e-commerce.
6	Cooperation between tourism agencies of Panama and Singapore to boost travel between two regions.
7	Business process outsourcing.
8	Media and entertainment services.
9	Environmental services.
10	Manufactures, assembling, technology of information. Manufacturing: automotive, drugs and pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, food processing, light engineering goods.
11	Electric Power.
12	Port Construction and Operation and related maritime services.
13	Maritime Industry: shipyards, floating docks and dry docks.

POSSIBLE AREAS FOR TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PROMOTION AGENDA

1	Quality assurance processes.
2	Online and distance education at all levels.
3	Higher education.
4	Technical education and vocational training.
5	Industry collaboration for technical and vocational training.
6	Teacher training and development.