Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) was signed in 1975 as an initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). APTA aims to promote economic development through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures that will contribute to intra-regional trade expansion and provides for economic integration through coverage of merchandise goods, services, investment, and trade facilitation. APTA is the only operational trade agreement that links China and India, two of the fastest growing markets in the world.

Number of member countries: 7
Region(s): Asia
Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand
Composition: Plurilateral
Coverage: Goods & Services
Signed: July 31, 1975
Entry into force: June 17, 1976
Web Site: http://www.unescap.org/apta

Member Countries

Bangladesh
China
India
Laos
Mongolia
South Korea
Sri Lanka

History

1975 - Bangkok agreement is signed as an initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The six founding nations are Bangladesh, India, the Republic of Korea, Laos, and Sri Lanka.

2001 - China becomes a member to the Bangkok Agreement.

2005 - Bangkok agreement formally renamed the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA).

2013 - Mongolia becomes a member of APTA.