

## Chile Initiated Meetings for FTA Feasibility Study with Thailand and Malaysia

On the 27 and 28 of February, Chile held the first meetings with Thailand and Malaysia and the corresponding joint feasibility study work groups with the purpose of achieving Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with these two Asian countries.

These studies were agreed by the Leaders of the three economies in the last APEC Leaders' Meeting in South Korea.

The first work sessions took place in the capitals of Thailand and Malaysia, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur respectively. Both meetings defined the scope of the analysis, revised the specific contents, and exchanged the first drafts of some of the study sections.

Based on the discussion of both meetings, it was agreed that the second meeting of the joint Chile-Malaysia study group would take place on May 25-26 in Santiago. The meeting of the Chile-Thailand study group was also agreed for that same week in our country.

A group of professionals of the different ministries involved, headed by Advisor Sergio Ramos of the General Directorate for International Economic Affairs (Direcon), attended both meetings on behalf of Chile.

Thailand was represented by officers of the Ministry of Trade and of the Trade Negotiations Department, headed by the Director of the APEC America Office, Misa Srisuworant.

In turn, Malaysia was represented by officers of the ministries related with the topic, headed by the Bilateral and Regional Affairs Director of the Ministry of International Trade and the Industry of Malaysia, Mohamed Shahabar.

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