

SINGAPORE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Recent International Legal Developments in Singapore (JULY–DECEMBER 2003)

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INTRODUCTION

The last six months have been a busy and fruitful period for Singapore on the international front. In the world trading arena, the collapse of the Cancun round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks brought to the fore the importance and significance of regional trading agreements. Singapore continued to forge ahead in her efforts to engage more of her trading partners in bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Past experience has been successful and the third quarter of 2003 saw the finalised Singapore–Australia Free Trade Agreement coming into force. Many others have been launched and are expected to be completed within the next year or two.

In the area of international settlement of disputes, land reclamation works carried out by Singapore in the Straits of Johor were pushed into the limelight when Malaysia initiated proceedings on the matter before an international body.

I. FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

A. *The Singapore–Australia Free Trade Agreement*

After 10 rounds, two years of negotiations and the signature of the Singapore–Australia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) on 17 February 2003, the Agreement finally came into force on 28 July 2003 after the completion of all the necessary internal procedures in both countries.²

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² Details of the text of the SAFTA are available at www.mti.gov.sg and www.fta.gov.sg.

The SAFTA is a WTO-plus agreement with a comprehensive coverage including Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Telecommunication and Financial Services, Movement of Business Persons, Investment, Competition Policy, Intellectual Property Rights, Government Procurement, Cooperation in Electronic-Commerce and Education.

Under the SAFTA, tariffs on all originating goods traded between Singapore and Australia have been eliminated. The agreement also provides for streamlining of clearance procedures for low-risk consignments. Assets of Singapore companies in Australia will also be given better protection. In addition, the two countries have committed to liberalising a wide range of services sectors and not imposing discriminatory barriers on the suppliers of the other Party, save for certain sensitive sectors.

B. *The Canada–Singapore Free Trade Agreement*

Discussions on the Canada–Singapore Free Trade Agreement (CSFTA) continued to progress as further rounds of discussion were held. The fifth round of negotiations took place from 21 to 25 July in Singapore while the sixth round of negotiations were conducted in Ottawa, Canada, from 29 September to 3 October 2003.

The negotiations covered a comprehensive range of issues such as Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Financial Services, Investment, Government Procurement, Institutional Provisions and Dispute Settlement. Substantial progress was achieved in most areas, especially in market access in goods, financial services and government procurement.

C. *The India–Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement*

Following from the report of the Joint Study Group, negotiations for the India–Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) started in May 2003 and a total of six rounds of negotiations has since been conducted thus far, alternately in New Delhi and Singapore. Further meetings are scheduled for January and February 2004 with a view to completion by April 2004.

Discussions for the comprehensive agreement have been wide-ranging and have covered Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, including Financial Services and Telecommunication Services, Investments, the establishment of a Singapore–India Fund, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs), Air Services and cooperation in various areas

such as Tourism, Science and Technology, Education, Intellectual Property and Media.

Negotiations in Trade in Goods dealt with tariff concessions, rules of origin, customs, anti-dumping and safeguard measures. The text of the framework agreement is largely settled and both sides are working on achieving agreement with respect to the tariff concessions given by each Party. Regarding the MRAs in goods sectors, both sides explored areas of cooperation in electrical and electronic equipment, telecommunications equipment and food products.

On Trade in Services, there were discussions on a framework text and cooperation in areas such as Financial Services, IT and Telecommunication Services and the Movement of Natural Persons. In addition, representatives from the accountancy and architecture professional associations of each Party have also engaged in talks to look into the prospects of entering into a mutual recognition agreement. At the same time, both sides have discussed the possibility of enhancing cooperation in education, science and technology, intellectual property and media. As for the Investment chapter, general agreement has been reached on a framework text and for an exchange of requests in different sectors.

India and Singapore have further agreed to establish a Singapore–India Fund which will provide a structure to realise substantial increases in investments in India. In September 2003, the US\$100 million Merlion Fund was set up by Standard Chartered Private Equity and Temasek Holdings. This was much welcomed by the Indian side and both parties have expressed keen interest to further promote investments in India for infrastructure, real estate and services under the Singapore–India Fund.

The next round of negotiations will take place in New Delhi from 5 to 7 January 2004.

D. *The ASEAN–China Framework Agreement*

In October 2003, ASEAN and China signed the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement (“the Protocol”). The Protocol contains two important rules concerning acceleration arrangements and agreements. The first rule is that if any ASEAN country and China commence negotiations to accelerate their commitments under the Early Harvest Programme, they must inform the rest of the ASEAN countries of their intention to hold such negotiations so that other ASEAN countries can also participate in those negotiations if they wish to do so. Further, even if an ASEAN country does not participate in those negotiations, it can accede to the acceleration arrangement

in the future, provided that it is able to commit to product and tariff reciprocity. The second rule is that if an ASEAN country and China conclude an acceleration agreement that is outside the scope of the Framework Agreement, the commitments under that agreement do not extend to the other ASEAN countries.

The Early Harvest Programme is a key liberalisation element in the ASEAN–China Framework Agreement and will commence on 1 January 2004. Under the Early Harvest Programme, ASEAN countries (except for the Philippines) and China will gradually eliminate their tariffs on fruits and vegetables and certain selected products. With the exception of the newer ASEAN countries which will eliminate those tariffs by 2010, the rest of the ASEAN countries and China will eliminate those tariffs by 2006. ASEAN countries and China have also commenced negotiations on a trade in goods agreement, which will encompass the remaining products not covered by the Early Harvest Programme. Also being negotiated simultaneously are agreements on Trade in Services, Investment and Dispute Settlement.

The following round of meetings for the ASEAN–China Free Trade Area is scheduled for 12 to 16 January 2004 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

E. *The ASEAN–Japan Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership*

During the 9th ASEAN Summit held in Bali, the leaders of ASEAN and Japan agreed to consolidate the cooperation between the countries by, *inter alia*, promoting a comprehensive economic partnership through capacity building, narrowing the development gaps, engaging in sustainable development and establishing a free trade area in the future. This resulted in the signing of the Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Economic Partnership between ASEAN and Japan on 8 October 2003.³

The Framework Agreement is expected to bring about a full-scale FTA by 2012. The Parties have agreed to adopt measures to implement activities that would provide immediate benefits on an accelerated basis. These include technical assistance and capacity building to ASEAN, particularly the newer ASEAN Member States,⁴ trade and investment promotion and facilitation measures, trade and investment policy dialogue, business sector dialogue, measures to facilitate the mobility of business people, and exchange and compilation of relevant data such as customs tariff and bilateral trade statistics.

3 Details of the ASEAN–Japan Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership are available at www.aseansec.org/15274.

4 The newer ASEAN Member States are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The Agreement further provides for the commitment of the Parties to conduct consultations on facilitation and cooperation in trade related procedures, business environment, intellectual property rights and other areas of cooperation such as energy, information and communications technology, human resource development and mutual recognition arrangements.

Under the Agreement, consultations on the liberalisation of trade in goods, trade in services and investment will commence in the beginning of 2004, with a view to launching negotiations for the FTA in the beginning of 2005. Implementation of measures for the realisation of the FTA is expected to be completed as soon as possible by 2012, with allowance of an additional five years for the newer ASEAN Member States.

F. The Jordan–Singapore Free Trade Agreement

The idea for the Jordan–Singapore Free Trade Agreement was mooted in June 2003 when Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong wrote to His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, proposing an FTA between the two countries. The proposal was endorsed by the Jordanian King who agreed that the FTA would serve to strengthen the economic ties and enhance the private sector cooperation between the two nations. The landmark Jordan–Singapore Free Trade Agreement (JSFTA) will mark the first FTA between Jordan and an Asian country and between Singapore and a Middle East country.

Thus far, two rounds of formal negotiations have been completed, the first from 6 to 8 October 2003 in Jordan, and the second from 3 to 4 December 2003 in Singapore. Representatives from both sides met to discuss the framework text, and progress was made for the chapters on Trade in Goods and Trade in Services. The third round of negotiations will be held in Jordan in January 2004.

G. The Pacific Three (Chile–New Zealand–Singapore) Free Trade Agreement

The Pacific Three (P3) Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand, Chile and Singapore was launched at the sidelines of the APEC Leaders' Economic Meeting in Los Cabos, Mexico, in October 2002. If successful, the P3FTA will be the first agreement spanning three separate continents.

Initial general discussions on structure and modalities were carried out in July 2003. This was followed by the first formal round of negotiations held in Singapore from 24 to 26 September 2003.

H. *The Sri Lanka–Singapore Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement*

During his visit to Singapore in August 2003, the Sri Lankan Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, reached agreement with Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry, BG (NS) George Yeo to initiate exploratory talks on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Sri Lanka and Singapore (CEPASS). This eventually led to the inaugural discussions between the two countries held in Colombo from 20 to 21 October 2003.

The CEPASS will include an FTA providing for greater liberalisation of bilateral trade in Goods, Services and Investment. The next round of discussions is expected to be held in Singapore in January 2004.

I. *The Korea–Singapore Free Trade Agreement*

After three meetings, held alternately in Seoul and Singapore, the joint study on the Korea–Singapore Free Trade Agreement (KSFTA) was concluded in early September 2003. The Joint Study Group (JSG) report was submitted to the leaders of the two countries on 7 October 2003.

On 23 October 2003, at a bilateral meeting between Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and South Korea's President Roh Moo-Hyun, the two leaders announced that they would accept the recommendations of the JSG, which were that the two countries should quickly proceed to negotiate the mutually beneficial KSFTA with the aim of concluding within a reasonably short period of time. On the same day, the Trade Ministers of Singapore and Korea signed a joint declaration launching the negotiations for the KSFTA.

In its report, the JSG had recommended, *inter alia*, that the KSFTA should be a comprehensive and wide-ranging FTA that would cover substantially all trade. The KSFTA should not only be WTO-consistent but also aim to go beyond the existing commitments of both countries at the WTO. The JSG also recommended that the Agreement should provide for comprehensive liberalisation and facilitation of economic relations between Korea and Singapore. There should also be economic cooperation elements including but not limited to information and communication technology, trade and investment promotion and human resources development.

Formal negotiations on the KSFTA will begin in January 2004 and are expected to conclude within a year.

II. OTHER ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

A. *Singapore–Kuwait Double Taxation Agreement*

The Double Taxation Agreement between Singapore and Kuwait, signed in February 2002, came into force on 1 July 2003 after it was ratified by both countries. The tax agreement, aimed at strengthening economic links between the two countries, provides a framework to encourage cross-border flows of trade, investment and expertise between the two states. In particular, the agreement provides for the avoidance of double taxation, which could result from cross-border transactions between the two countries. The tax agreement will have effect on income earned on or after 1 January 2004.

With this new tax agreement, Singapore now has 46 comprehensive double taxation agreements.

B. *Singapore–Uzbekistan Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments*

The Singapore–Uzbekistan Investment Guarantee Agreement (IGA) was signed on 15 July 2003 and came into force on 24 September 2003. The Agreement is expected to boost the trade and investment relationships between the two countries.

Under the Agreement, each Party is required to encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of the other country to invest in its territory. Both countries are also required to accord the Most-Favoured-Nation⁵ status to each other with respect to approved investments made under the IGA. The IGA further provides for compensation, on a non-discriminatory basis, for any expropriation measure taken against investments made by the investors of the other Party.

C. *Singapore–Bahrain Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments*

At the invitation of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa,

⁵ The Most-Favoured-Nation provision requires a Party to the agreement to grant to the other Party treatment no less favourable than that which it accords to any third party State.

came to Singapore on an official visit from 26 to 28 October 2003. During the visit, the two Prime Ministers jointly witnessed the signing of the Singapore–Bahrain IGA, the second for Singapore with a Middle-East country.⁶

Like many other IGAs, this Agreement contains provisions on Most-Favoured-Nation treatment, expropriation and compensation, transfer of payments and investor-state as well as state-state dispute settlement mechanism.

Apart from the signing of the IGA, the Prime Ministers also agreed during their meeting to further develop the bilateral relationship and economic cooperation between the two countries by, *inter alia*, commencing negotiations to conclude an FTA and entering into talks for an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement.

D. *Singapore–Kazakhstan Agreement on Cooperation*

An agreement with the world's ninth largest country, Kazakhstan, to broaden economic cooperation in various sectors was inked in early November 2003 during the official visit of President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to Singapore. Noting the growing economic relations between the two countries and agreeing that there was scope of further development of cooperation, the respective Trade and Industry Ministries of both countries signed the Agreement on Cooperation which covers sectors such as info-communications, finance and insurance, civil aviation and marine engineering. Under the Agreement, the Parties will exchange information and experience on trade matters and also encourage private sector business collaboration in various fields.

III. INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

A. *Land Reclamation by Singapore in and around the Straits of Johor (Malaysia v. Singapore), Provisional Measures*

The second half of 2003 saw for the first time an international dispute involving Singapore being heard before an international court or tribunal. On 4 July 2003, Malaysia issued a diplomatic note stating that they were referring the dispute between the two States over land reclamation activities carried out by Singapore in and around the Johor Straits to arbitration in accordance with the

6 The first IGA was with Egypt.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), whilst at the same time serving their Statement of Claim on Singapore.⁷ In the same note, Malaysia notified Singapore that it would proceed to request for provisional measures from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) if Singapore did not suspend all her reclamation works pending the decision of the arbitral tribunal.

In its Statement of Claim, Malaysia alleged that Singapore's land reclamation activities has encroached into Malaysia's territorial waters, seriously affected Malaysia's rights to the natural resources within its territorial waters and violated Malaysia's rights to the integrity of the marine environment in the affected areas. Malaysia further alleged that Singapore had been acting unilaterally without prior consultation with Malaysia and that its rights of notification and consultation in respect of such projects with serious transboundary impacts had been violated. Malaysia contended that Singapore had thereby breached its obligations under international law.⁸

In an effort to resolve the dispute, Singapore hosted a meeting between the two countries on 13 and 14 August 2003 and provided presentations on the reclamation process undertaken by Singapore. The meeting, however, failed to yield a resolution to the dispute and Malaysia proceeded to file with ITLOS, on 5 September 2003, their request for provisional measures. In its application, Malaysia requested the following provisional measures from ITLOS:

- (i) that Singapore shall, pending the decision of the Arbitral Tribunal, suspend all current land reclamation activities in the vicinity of the maritime boundary between the two States or of areas claimed as territorial waters by Malaysia (and specifically around Pulau Tekong and Tuas);
- (ii) to the extent it has not already done so, provide Malaysia with full information as to the current and projected works, including in particular their proposed extent, their method of construction, the origin and kind of materials used, and designs for coastal protection and remediation (if any);

7 The dispute concerns the land reclamation works carried out by Singapore at Pulau Tekong and at the Tuas View Extension. Details of Malaysia's Statement of Claim can be found at the official website of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), http://www.itlos.org/start2_en.html, under "Case No. 12—*Case concerning Land Reclamation by Singapore in and around the Straits of Johor (Malaysia v. Singapore), Provisional Measures*".

8 More specifically, it was alleged by Malaysia that Singapore had breached Articles 2, 15, 123, 192, 194, 198, 200, 204, 205, 206 and 210 of UNCLOS.

- (iii) afford Malaysia a full opportunity to comment upon the works and their potential impacts having regard, *inter alia*, to the information provided; and
- (iv) agree to negotiate with Malaysia concerning any remaining unresolved issues.

In its response to Malaysia's request, Singapore argued, on a preliminary basis, that the Annex VII Arbitral Tribunal, and consequently ITLOS, lacked the *prima facie* jurisdiction to prescribe provisional measures as the precondition to the commencement of the proceedings—exchange of views between the parties regarding the settlement of the dispute by negotiation or other peaceful means—had not been satisfied. It was further submitted that Malaysia's claim was inadmissible as it failed to comply with the ITLOS rules on the specificity of the details required to be set out in a request for provisional measures. Singapore also contended that, based on the applicable timelines, the Annex VII Tribunal would be constituted no later than 9 October 2003 and therefore ITLOS did not need to order provisional measures given the short time period remaining before that date.

On the territorial claim made by Malaysia, Singapore submitted that no arguable case had been made out and that in any event, provisional measures could not predetermine questions of title to territory, which had to be settled on the merits. On the other substantive issues, Singapore argued that Malaysia had not shown that the circumstances were so urgent as to warrant the prescription of provisional measures in order to prevent irreversible and uncompensable harm. As for Malaysia's other requests, Singapore argued that these were unnecessary as Singapore had in fact provided Malaysia with substantial information on its reclamation works and remained willing to do so. Singapore also reaffirmed its position that it remained willing to afford Malaysia a full opportunity to comment and also to engage in negotiations with Malaysia over the land reclamation works carried out by Singapore.

The proceedings before ITLOS took place in Hamburg⁹ from 25 to 27 September 2003 and marked the first time Singapore had a case before an international tribunal. Judgment was delivered by ITLOS on 8 October 2003.¹⁰ It was a unanimous decision by all 23 judges hearing the case, including the two Judges *Ad Hoc* who were each appointed by Malaysia and Singapore. ITLOS rejected the preliminary objections raised by Singapore and held that the Annex VII Tribunal

⁹ The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg is designated as the seat of ITLOS.

¹⁰ Details of the ITLOS Order and other relevant documents used in the proceedings are available at the ITLOS official website at www.itlos.org.

and itself had jurisdiction over the dispute. It also did not accept the arguments on the time limits for the provisional measures and ruled that in determining the urgency of the situation, it could take into account how long it would take the Annex VII Tribunal to be in a position to make its own rulings on provisional measures.

With respect to the land reclamation being carried out at Tuas, ITLOS held that there was no need to prescribe provisional measures. It found that Malaysia's territorial sea claim was not, on its own, sufficient to warrant provisional measures. On requests (ii) (provision of information), (iii) (affording Malaysia opportunity to comment) and (iv) (negotiation), ITLOS noted that Singapore had, in its earlier correspondence and at the ITLOS hearings, given express undertakings to that effect. Malaysia had in fact, during the oral hearings, stated that it was prepared to accept the undertakings given by Singapore if ITLOS made them a matter of formal record. Consequently, ITLOS did not make the orders sought by Malaysia in its requests (ii), (iii) and (iv).

More significantly for Singapore, ITLOS did not grant Malaysia's request for an order suspending the reclamation works. The Tribunal took into account Malaysia's statement that it did not claim a veto over Singapore's reclamation activities and that its main concern was over infilling works at a specific area of the reclamation in Pulau Tekong, called Area D. ITLOS also noted the commitments given by Singapore, which included the commitment to consider taking necessary and proper steps, including a suspension, if compelling evidence showed any adverse effects from the land reclamation. Singapore had also stated that it was prepared to jointly sponsor and fund with Malaysia a scientific study by independent experts on the effects of the land reclamation works.

On the basis of the duty of states to cooperate in the protection of the marine environment, ITLOS issued the following directions to the parties:

- (i) that Malaysia and Singapore set up a group of independent experts to conduct a study, on terms to be agreed by both sides and to be completed within one year, on the effects of the land reclamation and to propose, as appropriate, measures to deal with any adverse effects;
- (ii) that the group of experts issue an interim report on the issue of infilling works at Area D as soon as possible;
- (iii) that both sides exchange information regularly on the risks or effects of the works and that both sides assess such risks and effects;
- (iv) that both sides implement the commitments they had made;

- (v) that both sides reach an early agreement on temporary measures to ensure that any infilling works at Area D pending the completion of the expert study do not affect Singapore's ability to take steps to deal with any adverse effects which may be identified by the study or any other evidence; and
- (vi) that Singapore should not conduct its reclamation in ways that might cause irreparable prejudice to Malaysia's rights or serious harm to the marine environment, taking into account, in particular, the findings of the expert study.

Apart from the main judgment given by ITLOS, nine of the judges also issued separate opinions or declarations, expressing their own views and positions on various aspects of the case.

Following the judgment by ITLOS, representatives from Malaysia and Singapore met again to discuss future cooperation between the two sides on this matter, in particular, the implementation of the ITLOS Order. The first meeting, which took place from 20 to 22 November 2003, achieved substantial progress and general agreement was reached on the structure of the group of independent experts to be appointed to conduct a joint study on the effects of Singapore's land reclamation. A subsequent meeting in mid-December between members of a working group formed between the two countries saw more issues being ironed out as technical details of the joint study were confirmed.

B. *Sovereignty over Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge (Malaysia/Singapore)*

Earlier in 2003, Singapore and Malaysia signed and subsequently ratified the "Special Agreement for Submission to the International Court of Justice of the Dispute between Malaysia and Singapore, Concerning Sovereignty over Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge", referring the dispute for adjudication by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

On 24 July 2003, the ICJ became seised of the dispute when Malaysia and Singapore jointly notified the Court of the Special Agreement signed and ratified by the two countries. By an Order dated 1 September 2003, the President of the ICJ fixed the time-limits for the filing of the first written pleadings in the case concerning "*Sovereignty over Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge (Malaysia/Singapore)*". It was ordered that the Parties would each file a Memorial no later than 25 March 2004 and a Counter-Memorial no later than 25 January 2005.

The proceedings before the ICJ will comprise two phases, a written phase and an oral phase. Public oral proceedings are held after the end of the written phase.

C. *Points of Agreement between Malaysia and Singapore*

With a view to resolving the ongoing dispute over the legal interpretation of when the Points of Agreement (POA)¹¹ became operative, the Singapore Government offered to have the dispute resolved by international adjudication at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) or through international arbitration at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). In this regard, a Third Person Note was sent to Malaysia on 26 September 2003 proposing such an approach on this issue.

IV. LIST OF TREATY ACTION

The following is a list of some other treaty actions taken by Singapore from 1 July to 31 December 2003:

Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income between Singapore and Kuwait

Signature: 21 February 2002

Entry into force: 2 July 2003

Singapore–Australia Free Trade Agreement

Signature: 17 February 2003

Entry into force: 28 July 2003

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Promotion and Protection of Investments

Signature: 15 July 2003

Entry into force: 24 September 2003

Agreement between Singapore and Hong Kong Concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

Signature: 23 July 2003

Protocol Governing the Implementation of the ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature

Signature: 7 August 2003

Entry into force: 7 August 2003

¹¹ The Points of Agreement (POA) is a Government-to-Government agreement signed between Malaysia and Singapore on 27 November 1990 and concerns railway lands in Singapore.

Memorandum of Understanding between Civil Service College, Singapore and Dubai Institute for Human Resource Development, Government of Dubai United Arab Emirates

Signature: 9 August 2003

Entry into force: 9 August 2003

Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of National Development of the Republic of Singapore and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Export of Heat Processed Pork Products from Thailand to Singapore

Signature: 27 August 2003

Entry into force: 27 August 2003

Memorandum of Understanding between the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and the Rotterdam Municipal Port Management of the Netherlands on Cooperation in the Organisation of the Singapore–Rotterdam Port and Maritime R&D and Innovation Conference

Signature: 10 September 2003

Entry into force: 10 September 2003

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of Joint Council for Bilateral Cooperation

Signature: 18 November 2003

Entry into force: 18 November 2003.