**A COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTER ON TRADE ISSUES IN ASIA PACIFIC**

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**ALL TRADE EYES ON OSAKA:** With the G20 Summit underway in Osaka, all eyes will be on whether Presidents Trump and Xi can translate a reported truce in tariff battles into a more substantive trade deal. Officials from the US and China were engaged in telephone talks for much of the week.

**AUSTRALIA CONTINUES ADVOCACY:** On the eve of his flying out for the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Morrison said the rules-based trading system was in need of urgent repair if it was to respond to new challenges like the rise of large emerging economies, changing trade patterns and new technologies.

**ASEAN CALLS FOR RCEP PRIORITY:** As RCEP negotiators flew into Melbourne this week, they did so with a clear message from last weekend’s ASEAN Summit in Bangkok where leaders called on ASEAN partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea & NZ) to prioritise and work to conclude negotiations in 2019.

**AUSTRALIA GETS A SUGAR BOOST:** Australia has received a boost from a US reallocation of unused raw cane sugar quotas for the year ending September 30. It has received an additional 12,859 tonnes of the 100,071 tonnes reallocated. Fiji, India and Thailand have also received smaller additional allocations.

**CHINA CHOPS CANADIAN MEAT:** Canada’s fraught relations with China have taken a further tumble with China suspending meat imports from the North American economy following the discovery of 188 fake veterinary certificates linked to pork shipments.

**VIETNAM & EU TO SIGN FTA:** Vietnam and the EU will sign a trade and investment agreement in Hanoi at the weekend. It will be the EU’s second trade agreement in ASEAN following its Singapore FTA and will enter into force once the European Parliament has given its consent.

**INDONESIAN CHICKEN ROW CONTINUES:** A WTO Panel is to be established to decide if Indonesia has complied with an earlier ruling requiring an opening of its market for chicken products. Brazil argues that Indonesia has continued to maintain measures that are inconsistent with global trade rules.

**AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES MAJOR DUMPING INQUIRY:** Australia has launched an inquiry into the alleged dumping of high-density polyethylene, used widely in packaging and toys, imported from Singapore, Korea, Thailand and the US. This follows a complaint by Chinese-owned Australian manufacturer Qenos.

**PHILIPPINES LOOKS TO BOOST INDONESIAN TRADE:** Trade Secretary Lopez wants the Philippines to reduce its trade gap with Indonesia by exporting more farm products and auto parts. Trade between the two economies exceeds $US7 billion annually. However, Filipino exports total only $US866 million.

**ASEAN STUDY CALLS OUT BARRIERS:** A major study of non-tariff barriers in ASEAN, prepared by the Asian Trade Centre, has highlighted trade impediments in the auto, agri-food and healthcare sectors. EU-ASEAN Business Council executive director Chris Humphrey called for clearer action to remove NTBs.