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Emne: FW: USITO Weekly Newsletter 2015 04 23 - State Council Releases New FTZ Policies

FYI-re Free trade in China.
Jim

From: USITO [mailto:usito@usito.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 11:57 AM
To: Jim Poisant
Subject: USITO Weekly Newsletter 2015 04 23 - State Council Releases New FTZ Policies



USITO Weekly Newsletter

23 April 2015

EVENTS

The inaugural **International CES Asia** conference and exhibition will be held in Shanghai from **May 25-27**, featuring the world's most forward-thinking entrepreneurs, brands and organizations showcasing innovations in the Asian marketplace. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



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State Council Releases New FTZ Policies

On April 20, the *State Council* released six important new policies and plans related to China's Free Trade Zone (FTZ) strategy. The new policies include detailed plans for the existing pilot FTZ in [Shanghai](#) and the new FTZs in [Guangdong](#), [Tianjin](#) and [Fujian](#), which were officially approved in late March. In addition to broader policy plans for the four FTZs, the *State Council* also released an updated "[negative list](#)" and foreign investment [national security review trial policy](#).

The new "negative list," which will be applied to all four FTZs, now includes 122 business areas in which foreign investment is restricted, a slight reduction from the 138 business areas that were restricted in the previous "negative list."

According to the *State Council* [press release](#), the Guangdong FTZ will focus primarily on accelerating economic integration with Hong Kong; the Fujian FTZ will focus on enhanced collaboration with Taiwan, aiming to serve as a cooperation platform for implementing the "21st century maritime silk road"; and the Tianjin FTZ will be directed at integrating the

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city with neighboring Beijing and Hebei province.

The *State Council* also unveiled a new foreign investment national security review policy that will be initiated when foreign companies apply for investment in "sensitive industries, technologies or locations." The policy, which will be implemented from May 20, is under the joint enforcement of the *Ministry of Commerce* and the *National Reform and Development Commission*.

State Council Urges Better Port Work to Support Foreign Trade

On April 14, the *State Council* issued the [Notice on Improving Port Work to Further Develop Foreign Trade](#). The Notice required an overall improvement of port work in service, infrastructure and collaboration, including:

- Optimized service at ports with decreased administrative approval requirements on export, import and customs clearances
- Reduced on-the-spot inspection enforcement to improve clearance efficiency
- The "single window" service to be provided at all ports by 2017
- Tax rebate procedures to be facilitated through online paperwork clearance
- Customs clearance systems nationwide to be integrated to strengthen cooperation among ports

National Energy Administration Sets Energy Internet Action Plans

On April 17, the *National Energy Administration (NEA)* held its energy Internet work meeting in Beijing, discussing the establishment of **National Energy Internet Action Plans** and a **China Energy Internet Alliance**.

According to domestic online news source [Sina.com](#), *NEA* plans to complete the Action Plans by the end of 2015, if not earlier. As part of the "Internet Plus" and Industry 4.0 strategies, the Action Plans will be the first official top-level designs for

integration of the Internet in the energy industry, with the aim of optimizing energy demand and the efficient use of clean energy.

According to the online report, the China Energy Internet Alliance, incorporating large power groups, power grid corporations, private internet companies, research institutes, new energy car enterprises and universities, will lead drafting of the Action Plans.

The USITO Weekly Newsletter provides updates on ICT policy developments in China. For further information on any of the information in this update, please contact us at info@usito.org.

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