

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) - Deadline: 7 July 2018

To carry out Business Process Analysis and Assessment of Legal and Technical Readiness in
Cross-border Paperless Trade in selected Asian countries

(Two Consultancy Positions)

Background

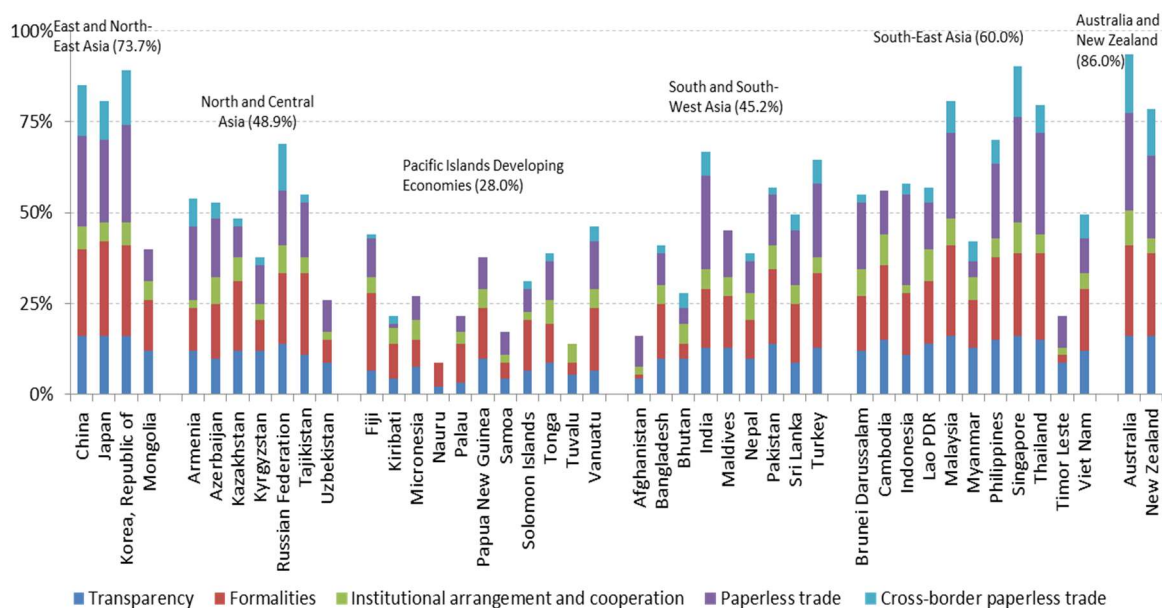
ESCAP, recognizing “importance of trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development” and further recognizing that “facilitation of cross-border paperless trade makes international trade transactions more efficient and transparent while improving regulatory compliance”, adopted the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (FA-PT) as its Commission resolution 72/4 in 2016. The resolution requests the Executive Secretary to “(c) Continue and further strengthen the secretariat’s support for capacity-building activities related to trade facilitation and paperless trade, particularly in connection with the implementation of the Agreement, especially with regard to least developed and landlocked developing countries.” With this specific and strong mandate on capacity building support given in resolution and designation as the secretariat of the UN treaty (FA-PT), ESCAP is committed to providing necessary support to ESCAP developing countries, within available resources.

More than 25 ESCAP member states at all levels of development actively participated in the negotiation of the FA-PT, showing strong interest in implementing cross-border paperless trade facilitation. Despite such interest, many developing ESCAP member states lag behind other countries in the region in implementation of trade facilitation and paperless trade, as illustrated in the outcome of the UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2017¹ (See Figure 1). Led by ESCAP and jointly conducted by five UN regional commissions once every two year, the UN Global Survey assess implementation level of countries in trade facilitation and paperless trade measures, including i) transparency, (ii) formalities, (iii) institutional arrangement, (iv) paperless trade, and (v) cross-border paperless trade. Indeed, many developing ESCAP member states, including the four tentatively selected target countries, are below the global average (60%) in trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation. Among the five areas surveyed, the least implemented area is cross-border paperless trade in most developing countries of the region.

In this context, the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of ESCAP seeks to hire individual consultants to carry out business process analysis (BPA) and assessment of legal and technical readiness in cross-border paperless trade in selected target countries. This is taking place as part of a larger project aiming to improve the capacity of developing countries in implementing cross-border paperless trade to support their effective participation in the FA-PT.

¹ <https://unnex.unescap.org/AP-TFSurvey2017/>

Figure 1. Overall Implementation of Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific



Source: UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation (2017)

1. Consultant on business process analysis and assessment of technical readiness in cross-border paperless trade

- Carry out business process analysis (BPA), using the UNNExT Business Process Analysis Guide,² against selected corridors of four target countries (Armenia, Myanmar, Mongolia and Uzbekistan). The consultant is expected to take one mission travel to each target country in carrying out the assignment (for those target countries that both BPA and assessment of technical readiness are conducted, a combined mission may be arranged to carry out the tasks). National consultants in each target country would support collection of information and interview with stakeholders;
- Participate in national consultations organized in four target countries, present findings from the BPA, and collect comments and suggestions from participating stakeholders (for those target countries that both BPA and assessment of technical readiness are conducted, national consultations may be organized in combination for both);
- Prepare four BPA reports, one for each target country, by incorporating comments/suggestions received from national consultations;
- Carry out assessment of technical readiness in cross-border paperless trade, using the current technical gap checklist of ESCAP³, against eight target countries (Armenia,

² <http://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation/bpa-course>

³ See: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Technical%20gap%20checklist_17%20January%202018_0.pdf

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan). The consultant is expected to take one mission travel to each target country in carrying out the assessment. *National consultants in each target country would support collection of information and interview with stakeholders;*

- Participate in national consultations organized in each target country, present findings from the assessment of technical readiness, and collect comments and suggestions from participating stakeholders;
- Prepare eight technical readiness assessment reports, one for each target country, by incorporating comments/suggestions received from national consultations; and
- Prepare a suggestion note on improvement of the current technical gap checklist of ESCAP, based on experience of using it during the assignments.
- The consultant is expected to carry out the assignments for 6 work months with consultancy rate of 6 - 8,000 USD/month in the period of August 2018 – May 2019.
- A minimum 7-year work experience in trade facilitation and/or e-commerce/paperless trade is required. The consultant should have experience in developing or implementing trade facilitation and/or e-commerce/paperless trade measures at national, regional or international level. He/She should have a good knowledge of trade facilitation and e-commerce/paperless trade in general. He/She should have completed BPA online training course at <http://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation/bpa-course> and obtained a certificate by the time of EOI submission. Previous work experience in carrying out BPA and/or technical assessment for e-commerce or single window development would be an advantage. Previous work experience in Asia preferred.

2. Consultant on assessment of legal readiness in cross-border paperless trade

- Carry out assessment of legal readiness in cross-border paperless trade, using the current legal gap checklist of ESCAP⁴, against eight target countries (Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Uzbekistan). The consultant is expected to take one mission travel to each target country in carrying out the assessment. *National consultants in each target country would support collection of information and interview with stakeholders;*
- Participate in national consultations organized in each target country, present findings from the assessment of legal readiness, and collect comments and suggestions from participating stakeholders; and
- Prepare eight legal readiness assessment reports, one for each target country, by incorporating comments/suggestions received from national consultations.
- Prepare a suggestion note on improvement of the current legal gap checklist of ESCAP,

⁴ Available at: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Legal-Gap-Checklist-v06-17-January-2018_0.pdf

based on experience of using it during the assignments.

- The consultant is expected to carry out the assignments for 4 work months with consultancy rate of 6 - 8,000 USD/month in the period of October 2018 – May 2019.
- A minimum 7-year work experience in trade and/or e-commerce law is required. The consultant should have experience in developing or implementing national/regional/international legal instruments in trade facilitation and e-commerce/paperless trade. He/She should have a good knowledge of trade facilitation and e-commerce/paperless trade in general. Previous work experience in carrying out legal assessment on e-commerce would be an advantage. Previous work experience in Asia preferred.

EOI Submission (Please apply as soon as possible; deadline: 7 July 2018)

Individuals with relevant expertise are invited to submit EOIs to Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, a.i., Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, United Nations ESCAP (duvaly@un.org) with a copy to Mr. Sangwon Lim (lim6@un.org)

The EOIs should include:

- (1) An email expressing interest in one of the position, highlighting previous work experience, other related assignments, training or any useful experience relevant to the assignments;
- (2) Proposed work plan on how to carry out the assignments;
- (3) Curriculum Vitae (CV), and any other evidence of relevant work.

Consultants Selection

The criteria used to evaluate the consultants will be:

- (1) previous work experience in the areas related to the assignments, and
- (2) quality of the proposed work plan

Please note that only selected candidate(s) would be contacted.

For further information:

Please email Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, a.i., Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, United Nations ESCAP (duvaly@un.org) with a copy to Mr. Sangwon Lim (lim6@un.org), should you have any questions.