Draft Programme

11th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum
1 - 5 April 2024, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Leveraging Digitalization for Sustainable Supply Chains
Co-organized by ADB, ESCAP, & Uzbekistan Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade
in cooperation with ITC

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of good practices and knowledge on trade facilitation. The APTFF has been organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with a growing number of partners, since 2009. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30 countries and offers extensive opportunities for capacity building and cooperation.

The 11th APTFF will focus on how digitalization can be leveraged to enable sustainable supply chains in the Asia-Pacific region. The Forum will feature panel discussions, and interactive and informative sessions allowing participants to share experiences and perspectives on different aspects of trade facilitation and digitalization, including cross-border paperless trade and transport, and greening the trade process. Relevant regional initiatives and implementation cases will be discussed in the sessions. The Forum will also include the presentation of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Innovation Awards, as well as an exhibition and side events for more in-depth exploration of pertinent issues and tools.

Day 1: 1 April 2024

09:30 – 10:00  Registration and Coffee/Tea

10:00 – 10:50  Opening Session
   o  Opening remarks by:
      ▪  Mr. Kudratov Laziz Shavkatovich, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade, Uzbekistan
      ▪  Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
      ▪  Mr. Yingming Yang, Vice-President, ADB
      ▪  International Trade Centre (ITC)
   o  Launch of Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2024

10:50 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:30  High Level Panel Discussion: Leveraging Digitalization for Sustainable Supply Chains
   o  The role of digitalization and emerging technologies and how they can be leveraged in trade and transport to enable sustainable supply chains
12:30 – 14:00  
*Lunch*

14:00 – 15:30  
**Session 1: Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific – Maximizing Impact for Development**  
- Highlights from the *UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation*, and key findings from the ADB-ESCAP report 2024  
- Panel with the top UNTF Survey performers

15:30 – 15:45  
*Break*

15:45 – 17:15  
**Session 2: Taste for Innovation – Essential Ingredients for Digital Trade Facilitation**  
- Key trends and ingredients for the success of digitalization initiatives, and innovative solutions from implementing countries across the region

*Evening  
Dinner Reception*

**Day 2: 2 April 2024**

08:45 – 09:15  
*Coffee/Tea*

09:15 – 10:45  
**Session 3: Digitalization of Transit and Transport – Good Practices and Lessons Learned**  
- Good practices in the implementation of transport and transit digitalization and opportunities for the way forward

10:45 – 11:00  
*Break*

11:00 – 12:30  
**Session 4: Fostering Green and Inclusive Trade Facilitation and the Circular Economy through Digitalization**  
- Recent digitalization developments and prospects that enable trade to be more efficient and better able to safeguard the environment

12:30 – 14:00  
*Lunch*

14:00 – 15:30  
**Session 5: Advancing Digitalization for the Way Forward – Institutional Initiatives and Support**  
- Innovations, initiatives and available support from developmental organizations to implement and further advance digitalization for sustainable supply chains

15:30 – 15:45  
*Break*

15:45 – 16:45  
**Session 6: APTFF Trade Facilitation Innovation Awards**

16:45 – 17:15  
Closing session