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 (AP TFF) 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:
    ▪ H.E. 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
    ▪ Mr. Ashish Shah, Director of Country Programmes, 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
Moderator: Ms. Rupa Chanda, Director, ESCAP

Panelists:
- H.E. Mr. Ahliddin Nuriddinzoda, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
- H.E. Mr. Penn Sovicheat, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia
- Mr. John Denton, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce *
- Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, EIF Executive Secretariat, WTO
- Ms. Sue Probert, Chair, UN/CEFACT
- Mr. Ibrahima Nour Eddine Diagne, CEO, GAINDE 2000

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
  o Highlights from the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, and key findings from the ADB-ESCAP report 2024
  o Panel with the top UNTF Survey performers

Moderator: Mr. Yann Duval, Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP

Presentations:
- Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP
- Mr. Kijin Kim, Senior Economist, ADB

Panelists:
- Mr. Khakimov Elyor Ilkhomjonovich, Head of Department of the Customs committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Mr. Surjit Bhujabal, Member Customs, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, India
- Mr. Don Lee, Director General, Korea Trade Network (KTNET)
- Ms. Jamaliah Binti Hamzah, Director, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysia

15:30 – 15:45  Break

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

Moderator: Mr. Pierre Bonthonneau, Head of Trade Facilitation Unit, International Trade Centre

Panelists:
- Mr. Cuong Ba Tran, Head of Trade Facilitation, ASEAN Secretariat
- Mr. Sanjeewa Pattiwila, Deputy Director of Commerce, Department of Commerce of Sri Lanka
- Mr. Aftab Haider, CEO, Pakistan Single Window
- Mr. Azamat Usenbayev, CEO, Single Window of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Mr. Shukurullo Muminov, Deputy Head of Department, State Customs Committee, Uzbekistan

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
   o Good practices in the implementation of transport and transit digitalization and opportunities for the way forward

Moderator: Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of East and North-East Asia Office, ESCAP

Presentations:
   • Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP
   • Ms. Yanying Li, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL
   • Mr. Dmitry Godunov, ASYCUDA Regional Coordinator, UNCTAD
   • Country representative(s) [TBC]
   • Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB

Panel discussion

10:45 – 11:00 Break

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

Moderator: Mr. Kijin Kim, Senior Economist, ADB

Presentations:
   • Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief of Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD
   • Mr. Tejo Kusuma, Technical Officer, WCO
   • Mr. Yern Fai Lee, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP

Panelists:
   • Ms. Kamola Khusnutdinova, Secretary of UN/CEFACT, UNECE
   • Ms. Ankita Pandey, Uzbekistan Relationship Manager of Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program, ADB
   • Mr. Paul Tae-Woo Lee, Director, Maritime Logistics and Free Trade Islands Research Center, Zhejiang University *

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

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

Moderator: Ms. Pramila Crivelli, Economist, ADB

Short Presentations:
   • Mr. Vahagn Ghazaryan, Director, EEC
   • Mr. Salamat Ali, Economic Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat
   • Mr. Houssem Gharbi, Expert in Trade Inclusion, UPU
• Mr. Simon Padilla, Economic Affairs Officer, Standards and Trade Development Facility, WTO *
• Ms. Judith Blank, Programme Manager, GIZ
• Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE
• Mr. Ghulam Samad, Senior Research Specialist, CAREC Institute

15:30 – 15:45  Break
15:45 – 16:45  Session 6: APTFF Trade Facilitation Innovation Awards
  o Showcase and award the winning cases of innovative trade facilitation
16:45 – 17:15  Closing session

(* video message)