Asian Clearing Union

Experiences/Innovations on Cross-Border e-Payment
Asian Clearing Union

A multilateral clearing facility periodically offsetting debits and credits accumulated by members against each other

- Established by ESCAP in 1974
- Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- Transactions channeled through the ACU mechanism in 2021: USD 28,792.36 million
- www.asianclearingunion.org
Benefits

- Economizing FX reserves
- Addressing trade imbalance and facilitating trade & monetary cooperation
- Higher clearing efficiency
- Reducing transfer costs
Bangladesh Bank

- Using National Payment Switch Bangladesh (NPSB) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) mechanisms within Bangladesh while contemplating to use RTGS system in case of cross-border payment

Reserve Bank of India

- Launched in 2016, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) contributes over 70% of total retail digital payments in India
- Announcing a project with the Monetary Authority of Singapore to link their fast payment systems, UPI and PayNow
- RuPay, International cards are accepted by 195+ countries
- Expand SFMS and INFINET frameworks across Jurisdictions

Central Bank of I.R. of Iran

- SEPAM, a financial messaging system nationwide and worldwide
- CIMS, a financial messaging system by private sector
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maldives Monetary Authority</th>
<th>Nepal Rastra Bank</th>
<th>Central Bank of Sri Lanka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Conducting a national study on developing a CBDC with the technical assistance from UN-DESA and UNESCAP</td>
<td>- Opening the route for the international Fin-Tech companies and such innovative cross-border remittance/payment related product</td>
<td>- Using mobile phone based e-money and financial services and communications companies such as Western Union and MoneyGram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Discussion with the RBI on exploring the possibilities for the use of domestic currencies in cross border settlement</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Launching ‘LankaRemit’ in 2022 as the National Remittance Mobile Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Trying to join the Asian Payment Network (APN) to facilitate both inward and outward cross border payments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACU Future Plans

- Launching ACUMER, a Unified Financial Messaging System for ACU Member Countries
UNESCAP

- Helping Countries for Interconnectivity
- Capacity Building Programs & Standards Diffusing
- Developing Internal Payment Systems
- ACU as the Clearing House
Thanks for Your Attention

Contact us:

email: acusecret@cbi.ir

website: www.asianclearingunion.org