12th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum x Paperless Trade Week 2026
8-12 June 2026, Bangkok
Next Generation Trade Digitalization – Advancing Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

Co-organized by ADB and ESCAP

Draft Programme for Plenary Sessions

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) 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 wide range of international organizations and partners, since 2009.

The 12th APTFF will feature a special joint edition with the Paperless Trade Week (PTW) 2026, which includes the fifth session of the Paperless Trade Council (PTC) under the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA). APTFF x PTW 2026 will explore how next generation trade digitalization can advance digital and sustainable trade facilitation by harnessing innovation, enabling green and inclusive transformation, and building robust institutional partnerships for the future of trade.

Throughout the event, participants will engage in high-level panels, interactive sessions, and knowledge-sharing dialogues aimed at inspiring fresh perspectives and practical solutions across key areas of trade facilitation and digitalization. The event will also feature the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Innovation Awards, along with an exhibition and capacity building sessions for more in-depth exploration of key issues and best practices. Please refer to the event page for full details: https://www.unescap.org/events/2026/ptw2026

9 JUNE 2026 (Tuesday) – CR-2, UNCC	
09.30-10.10	**Opening Session** Opening remarks • H.E. Mr. Chaichanok Chidchob, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand • Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP • *Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Vice-President for Sectors and Themes, Asian Development Bank (*Pre-recorded message) Launch of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2026 & Photo Session
10.10-10.30	Coffee Break
10.30-12.00	**High-level Panel Discussion: Next Generation Trade Digitalization – Advancing Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation**

	• The role of next generation trade digitalization in accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, including enhancing support mechanisms for groups with special needs • Enabling environments for increasingly complex cross-border digital trade facilitation systems and procedures Moderator: Ms. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP • Mr. Sultan Akhmatov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyzstan • Mr. Chaichana Mitrpant, Executive Director, Electronic Transactions Development Agency • Ms. Marlynne Hopper, Head, a.i., Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), World Trade Organization (WTO) • Mr. Thomas Sim, President, FIATA International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations • Mr. Sung Heun (Rama) Ha, Director, Korea Trade Network (KTNET)
12.00-13.30	Lunch
13.30-15.00	**Plenary 1: Artificial Intelligence in Trade Facilitation: State of Play and Way Forward** • State of Play: Insights from the Asia-Pacific results of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation • Key findings from the ADB–ESCAP Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2026 on the role of artificial intelligence in trade facilitation • Panel discussions with policymakers, practitioners, and experts on practical applications, implementation challenges, and future priorities **Moderator:** Mr. Edimon Ginting, Senior Advisor, Climate Change and Sustainable Department, ADB **Presenters:** • Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP • Mr. Kijin Kim, Senior Economist, ADB **Keynote address:** Mr. Natig Shirinov, Deputy Chairman, State Customs Committee, Azerbaijan **Panelists:** • Ms. Hong Xue, Director, Institute for Internet Policy and Law, Beijing Normal University • Mr. Ken Wei Chng, Deputy Director, Digital Identity and Document Attestation, Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), Singapore • Mr. Byeongjo Kong, Senior Digital Transformation Specialist (AI and Data Analytics), ADB
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break

15.30-17.00	**Plenary 2: Harnessing Digital Innovation for Smarter Trade Facilitation** • How digital innovation is transforming trade facilitation by making cross-border trade faster, more transparent, and more efficient **Moderator:** Ms. June Ghimire, Trade Specialist, ADB **Keynote address:** Mr. Syed Hamid Ali, Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan **Panelists:** • Ms. Lin Jing, Deputy Director General, Tianjin Customs, China • Mr. Hiroyuki Kato, Director, Digital Agency and Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan • Mr. Aji Bhaskara, Senior Officer, Trade Facilitation Division, ASEAN Secretariat (TBC) • Mr. Steve Capell, Vice Chair, The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

10 JUNE 2026 (Wednesday) – CR-3, UNCC	
09.30-11.00	**Plenary 3: Enabling Green and Inclusive Trade Facilitation through Digital Transformation** • Key practices and examples of digital transformation on (1) reducing the environmental footprint; and/or (2) enhancing equitable access and participation of groups with special needs in international trade **Moderator:** Mr. Yern Fai Lee, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP **Presenters:** • Ms. Celine Bacrot, Officer-in-Charge, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD • Mr. Pierre Bonthonneau, Chief, Business-driven Trade and Investment Facilitation, ITC **Panelists:** • Ms. Elif Berrak Taşyürek, Head of Department of EU Single Market and Green Deal, Ministry of Trade, Türkiye • Ms. Parnkae Nandavisai, Advisor to the Digital Trade Working Group of Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) • Mr. Anthony Watanabe, Chair of ESBN Task Force on Circular Economy and Chief Sustainability Officer, Indorama Ventures PCL • Mr. Patrik Jonasson, Senior Director, Public Policy, GS1 • Mr. Jacque Hu, Senior Executive, International Business & Marketing Department, Shanghai E&P International, Inc.

11.00-11.30	Coffee Break
11.30-13.00	**Plenary 4: Building the Future – Institutional Pathways and Partnerships for Next Generation Trade Facilitation** • Public-private partnership initiatives and the support of international and development organizations in advancing next generation trade digitalization **Moderator:** Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP **Keynote address:** Mr. Joanico Pinto, Commissioner, Timor-Leste Customs Authority **Presenters:** • Mr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia • Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB Central and West Asia Department • Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser - Economic Cooperation and Integration, UNECE • Mr. Qazi Yawar Naeem, Trade Competitiveness Adviser, Economic Development, Investment and Trade Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat • Ms. Pamela Mar, Managing Director, Digital Standards Initiative (DSI), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-14.45	**Trade Facilitation Innovation Award & Closing** • Showcase and recognize award-winning innovative trade facilitation initiatives **Closing Remarks:** • Mr. Edimon Ginting, Senior Advisor, Climate Change and Sustainable Department, ADB • Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP
14.45-15.15	**Guided Exhibition Experience** & Coffee Break
15.15-16.35	**Capacity-building events run through 12 June 2026; see the event page for details:** https://www.unescap.org/events/2026/ptw2026