MONGOLIA'S DIGITAL TRADE WEEK

24-28 March 2025

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Co-organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (MFA), UNESCAP, EU-ITDM (International Trade Development in Mongolia Project) and UN Mongolia

Monday 24 March 2025

PREPARATORY MEETING

(Venue: MFA)

MFA, UNESCAP and consultants preparatory meeting

Tuesday 25 March 2025

NATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

(Venue: MFA's Consensus Hall)

8:30-9:00 **Registration**

9:00-9:15 **Opening**

L. Munkhtushig, State Secretary of MFA Mongolia

Jaap van Hierden, UN RC for Mongolia

Stefan Moser, EU ITDM project

9:15-12:00 **Session 1 Presentation and consultation on Mongolia's Digital Trade Integration Roadmap**

Moderator: Dr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, MFA

Objective: To gather multistakeholder feedback, refine the roadmap based on their inputs, and secure broad endorsement for its adoption.

Expected outcomes:

- Validate the roadmap's goals, priorities, and strategies with diverse stakeholders.
- Address concerns or gaps to ensure broad-based endorsement of the plan.
- Build consensus among policymakers, businesses, and civil society on the roadmap's implementation steps.

Targeted Participants:

- Paperless trade WG members
- Policy groups: Officials, Policy advisors, policy researchers
- Business groups:
  - Representatives of Digital tech sectors: investors in digital tech sectors, including digital platforms, e-commerce platforms, digital services provider (tech startups, digital payments, etc.)
  - Representatives of broader business sectors: investors in other businesses. They represent businesses using digital services for their operational excellence, such as for supplier-buyer matching, connecting with global value chains, reaching new markets, operating smart logistics, etc.
  - MSMEs, women-led businesses, other marginalized group business (if relevant)

Session structure:

A. Presentations

- **Time**: 9:15-10:15
- **Key Discussion Points:**
  - Putting Perspectives on Digital Trade and Regional Integration (20 minutes)
    Speaker: Dr. Witada Anukoonwattaka
  - Presenting draft national roadmap (40 minutes)
    Speaker: Prof. Batnasan Namsrai (National consultant)

(Photo session)

Break: 10:15-10:30

B. Roundtable consultation: Facilitated discussions and brainstorming with multi-stakeholders

- **Time**: 10:30-12:00
- **Lead discussant:** A. Ariunaa, Paperless Trade WG member

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12:00-13:30 Lunch at MFA "Nomin" Hall

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13:30-16:30 **Session 2 National Working Group on Paperless Trade Facilitation**

Moderator: Dr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, MFA

Objective: To prepare for Mongolia's individual action plan for the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA); and to discuss the plan and preliminary findings for the gap analysis and feasibility assessment for blockchain application for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness

Expected outcomes:

- Discuss the Mongolia's individual action plan for the CPTA.
- Presentation the plan for the gap analysis and feasibility assessment for blockchain for TF - address any concerns or gaps to ensure implementation of the plan.
- Build consensus among public and private sector stakeholders involved in trade facilitation activities for the Mongolia's individual action plan and the feasibility assessment for blockchain for TF

Targeted Participants:

Public and private sector stakeholders involved in trade facilitation including (not exhaustive):

- Paperless trade WG members
- National regulatory authorities and agencies
- Customs authorities
- Chambers of commerce (exporters and importers)
- Logistics-related stakeholders including transport companies, insurance companies and brokers

Session structure:

13:30-14:00	Presentation of the draft Mongolia's individual action plan (CPTA) Dr. U. Nomintsetseg (National consultant) Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, UNESCAP
14:00-15:15	Review and validate the draft Mongolia's individual action plan
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-15:50	Presentation of the plan for the gap analysis and feasibility assessment for blockchain for Trade facilitation Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, UNESCAP Mr. Desmond Tay, International Consultant
15:50-16:15	Review the plan for blockchain gap analysis
16:15-16:30	Conclusion and wrap-up Mr. G. Ulziisaikhan, Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, MFA

Wednesday 26 March 2025

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

(Venue: UN House)

NOTE: Capacity building sessions will employ a participatory and interactive approach, combining expert-led presentations with facilitated discussions and Q&A. In some sessions, p*articipants will be expected to* ***complete selected ESCAP e-learning courses prior to attending the training sessions.*** The prerequisites ensure a foundational understanding of concepts, enabling more in-depth engagement and meaningful contributions during the sessions.

9:00 -12:00 Session 3. Unleashing digital trade for sustainable development

Objective: To equip policymakers, advisors, and researchers with a comprehensive understanding of digital trade and its potential to drive sustainable development and to provide them with the opportunity to engage directly with experts through interactive discussions.

Targeted Participants: Policymakers, policy advisors, policy researchers, and relevant stakeholders.

Prerequisite: Participants are encouraged to watch video lectures of the following ESCAP e-learning courses **prior** to attending the training sessions:

> ***ESCAP e-learning course on "Unleashing Digital Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development"***

Session structure:

A. Basic Understanding of How Digital Trade is Changing Global Trade Environments

- **Time**: 9:00-10:30
- **Facilitator:** Dr. Witada Anukoonwattaka, UNESCAP
- **Moderator:** Dr. Enkhbold Vorshilov
- **Key Discussion Points**:
    - Definition and scope of digital trade.
    - How digital trade fosters economic growth, reduces inequalities, and promotes sustainability.
    - Required conditions
    - The interplay between digital trade and traditional trade policies.
    - Digital trade in trade agreements

Break: 10.30-10.45

B. Mongolia's Digital Trade Policy Environment

- **Time**: 10.45-12:30
- **Facilitators:**
    - Ms. A. Ariunaa, Paperless Trade WG member
    - Prof. Batnasan Namsrai, National consultant
    - Ms. Natnicha Sutthivana (UNESCAP consultant)
- **Key Discussion Points**:
    - Overview of the Regional Digital Trade Integration Index (RDTII) framework and data
    - Current state of Mongolia's digital trade policies, including regulatory and institutional frameworks

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12.30-13.30 Lunch at the UN-House

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13.30-16.30 **Session 4 Leveraging blockchain for cross-border paperless trade**

Objective: To increase Mongolia's preparedness to adopt and adapt blockchain for trade facilitation by presenting and discussing best practices and initial discussions on identifying the roadmap toward facilitating the development and adoption of blockchain for trade facilitation.

- **Facilitators:**
    - Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, UNESCAP
    - Dr. Nomintsetseg, National consultant
    - Mr. Desmond Tay, International consultant
- **Moderator:** Dr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, MFA

Expected outcomes:

- Increased knowledge and capacities of participants in adopting and adapting blockchain for trade facilitation

Targeted Participants:

Public and private sector stakeholders involved in trade facilitation including (not exhaustive):

- Paperless trade WG members
- National regulatory authorities and agencies
- Customs authorities
- Chambers of commerce (exporters and importers)

- Logistics-related stakeholders including transport companies, insurance companies and brokers

Session structure:

13:30-14:00 Introduction to the blockchain for trade facilitation – Mr. Desmond Tay, International consultant

14:00-15:15 Presentation of best practices – Singapore's experience and beyond (virtual presentations)

- Singapore's experience in implementing Blockchain for Cross-border Trade – Mr. Ren Yuh Kay, Assistant Director, TradeTrust, Digital Utilities Cluster, Sectoral Transformation Group, Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)
- Use case of Blockchain and Cryptos in Trade Finance for Cross-border Trade – Mr. Lionel Seet, Consultant, Dandem Labs Pte Ltd
- Implementing AI and Blockchain Cloud Infrastructure – Mr. Jose Darwin Lim, Founder, Raindea

15:15-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:30 Facilitated discussion on identifying challenges and priorities for development and adoption of blockchain for trade facilitation in Mongolia

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Thursday 27 March 2025

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP (Continued)

(Venue: UN House)

9:00-12:00 **(Hands-on) Session 5. International agreements and their implications to Mongolia's digital trade policies and negotiations: Focus on WTO E-commerce Agreement and RCEP Text**

Prerequisite: Participants are encouraged to watch video lectures of the following ESCAP e-learning courses **prior** to attending the training sessions:

- ***ESCAP e-learning course on "Online Course on Electronic Commerce and Digital Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements"***
- ***Legal TINA Demonstration video***

- **Speakers:**
  - Dr. Witada Anukoonwattaka, UNESCAP
  - A. Ariunaa, Paperless Trade NWG member
  - Ms. Natnicha Sutthivana, UNESCAP

- **Moderator:** Dr. Enkhbold Vorshilov
- **Key Discussion Points**:

- Key provisions under the WTO E-commerce Agreement (based on the WTO JSI E-commerce text, July 2024)[1] and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- Gaps in Mongolia's policy and regulatory frameworks that need to be addressed for compliance.
- Opportunities for Mongolia to leverage these agreements to strengthen its digital economy
- Institutional and technical capacity required to negotiate and implement digital trade commitments, and strengthen its digital economy
- Policy Recommendations

Activities: Group exercises and discussions using Legal TINA, and selected databases

(Break between 15:00-15:15)

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12:00-13:30 Lunch at the UN-House

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13:30-16:30 **(Hands-on) Session 6. Practices in digital trade policies: A comparative perspective on Mongolia**

This session provides participants with a comparative perspective on regional digital trade practices using interactive, hands-on exploration of policy dashboard tools. This session will help participants analyze Mongolia's digital trade policies in relation to regional peers, identify policy gaps, and draw implications for alignment with good practices

- **Facilitator:**
  - Dr. Witada Anukoonwattaka, UNESCAP
  - Prof. Batnasan Namsrai, National consultant
- **Moderator:** A. Ariunaa, Paperless Trade WG member
  - Key features of leading global and regional practices
  - Assessment of Mongolia's existing digital trade policies: Comparisons with selected regional practices

Activities: Group exercises and discussions using RDTII dashboards

(Break between 10:30-10:45)

9:00 - 16:30 [PARALLEL] Individual meetings with public and private stakeholders for gap analysis and feasibility assessment for blockchain for TF

[1] https://elplaw.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/WTO-Update-Stabilised-Text-of-the-Agreement-on-E-Commerce-released-by-the-Joint-Statement-Initiative.pdf

(Venue: visiting individual agencies and stakeholders)

Friday 28 March 2025

WRAP-UP AND WAY FORWARD MEETING

11:00 -12:30

(Venue: MFA's Consensus Hall)

Brief session for MFA's young diplomats on digital trade

- **Moderator:** Dr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, MFA

11:00 Presentation on the ESCAP APTIR 2024/25

Speaker: Dr. Witada Anukoonwattaka, UNESCAP

Q/A session

11:45 Presentation on CPTA & Mongolia's individual action plan

Speaker, Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, UNESCAP

Q/A session

Conclusion

12:30 Lunch at the MFA "Nomin" Hall

13:30 Wrap up and way forward meeting with members of the **National Working Group on Paperless Trade Facilitation**

Mr. G. Ulziisaikhan, Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, MFA

Dr. Witada Anukoonwattaka, UNESCAP

Ms. Soo Hyun Kim, UNESCAP

Mr. Stefan Moser, EU-ITDM project

Note: 9:00 - 16:30 [PARALLEL] Individual meetings with public and private stakeholders for gap analysis and feasibility assessment for blockchain for TF