

ESCAP-ARTNeT-ITD Online Course on Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development

1 November – 3 December 2021

Overview

The 5-week online course intends to raise awareness of stakeholders from public and private sectors on trade facilitation, build their in-depth capacity on using selected trade facilitation instruments, and enable them to more effectively support or participate in implementing trade facilitation measures.

The course combines video presentations, online exercises, group work and interactive sessions with experts. It covers several key trade facilitation topics, including two workshops dedicated to specific practical implementation measures:

- Introduction to digital and sustainable trade facilitation
- Workshop 1: Enhancing online Trade Information Portals (TIPs)
- Workshop 2: Business Process Analysis (BPA) to streamline and automate trade procedures, and also to enhance trade resilience
- Conclusion and wrap up

After completing the course, participants should be able to understand what digital and sustainable trade facilitation is and available key trade facilitation measures and instruments, as well as apply selected techniques to analyze and improve trade facilitation performance.

Participation in the course is free of charge. Upon successfully completing the course workshops, participants would receive two certificates of the two workshops.

Format

Participants are expected to allocate about 2 hours and a half of study time per day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (three times per week) during the course duration. Each 2 hours and a half study per day includes an approximate 1-hour session of self study (studying online lectures, taking online exercises and engaging on groupwork), and a 1-hour and a half live online session for interaction and workshop with instructors and guest experts. The 90 minutes live session will be held from 14.00 to 15.30 (Bangkok time) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the course. All participants are expected to study the online lectures, complete the exercises and the individual/group assignments; and attend the online live session.

A virtual classroom will be created in Edmodo, in which all relevant announcement and learning materials will be posted and shared by the course instructor. MS Teams will be used for live sessions.

Topics covered

- Introduction to digital and sustainable trade facilitation
- State of play in the region and beyond
- Assessing trade facilitation performance using indicators
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)
- Roles of National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)
- Enhancing online Trade Information Portals (TIPs)
- Business Process Analysis (BPA) to streamline and automate trade procedures

Tentative course outline and schedule

1 Nov 2021	<p>Orientation and introduction to the course</p> <p>On the first day of the course, an orientation will be held. The participants will be introduced to the objective and expectation of the course, and get familiarized with the tools used in the course, such as Edmodo and Webex.</p>
3 Nov 2021	<p>WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and Its Implementation, and Roles of National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)</p> <p>The participants will learn provisions of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and its implementation, as well as the roles of National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)</p>
5 Nov 2021	<p>Introduction to Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation</p> <p>The participants will learn basics of trade facilitation and sustainable development, including its concept and definition, and how to assess performance in digital and sustainable trade facilitation. In the process, they will learn different indicators used for assessing trade facilitation performance.</p>
8, 10, 12, 15, 17 Nov 2021	<p>Workshop 1: Enhancing Trade Information Portals (TIPs)</p> <p>The participants will learn and apply a methodology, tips and techniques on how to assess and enhance national trade information portals so that they provide more relevant and up to date information to the trade community. They will practice those techniques for enhancing countries' TIPs.</p>
19, 22, 24, 26, 29 Nov & 1 Dec 2021	<p>Workshop 2: Business Process Analysis (BPA) for streamlining and automating trade procedures, and enhancing trade resilience.</p> <p>The participants will learn and apply a methodology and techniques on how to carry out business process analysis (BPA) to identify bottlenecks in trade, streamline and automate trade procedures, including analysis and modeling. They will also have a chance to carry out a mini-BPA project to practice skills that they've learned.</p>
3 Dec 2021	<p>Conclusion and wrap up</p> <p>Participants will join the closing session, which includes course evaluation and conclusion.</p>