Mongolia's Digital Trade Week
National Working Group on Paperless Trade Facilitation
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Advancing Paperless Trade in Mongolia

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Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

An enabling UN Treaty to accelerate trade digitalization

- Open to all ESCAP member states to become parties

Objective

- To facilitate cross-border paperless trade by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions

A young UN treaty: it entered into force in 2021

- But it has been growing fast: from 5 parties at the first meeting session in 2022 to 14 parties as of now, including Mongolia (joined in 2022)

CPTA Progress

- 100+% growth in ratification since entry into force in 2021
- More than a quarter of ESCAP member States now parties

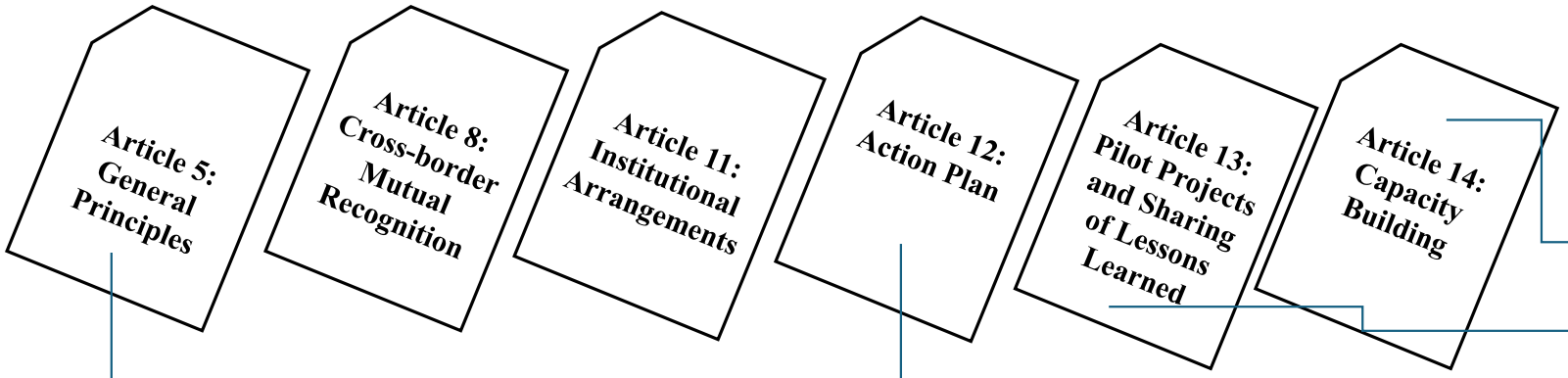


Participant	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)
Armenia	22 Sep 2017	
Azerbaijan		2 Mar 2018 a
Bangladesh	29 Aug 2017	13 Oct 2020
Cambodia	29 Aug 2017	
China	29 Aug 2017	22 Nov 2020 AA
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	29 Sep 2017	29 May 2020
Kyrgyzstan		20 Dec 2023 a
Mongolia		27 Jul 2022 a
Philippines		23 Dec 2019 a
Republic of Korea		28 Nov 2022 a
Russian Federation		18 Aug 2023 a
Tajikistan		8 Dec 2022 a
Timor-Leste		5 Apr 2022 a
Turkmenistan		4 May 2022 a
Tuvalu		8 Dec 2022 a
Uzbekistan		5 Nov 2024

Key Provisions of CPTA

Article 1: Objective
The objective of the present Framework Agreement is **to promote cross-border paperless trade** by enabling the exchange and mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form and facilitating interoperability among national and subregional single windows and/or other paperless trade systems, for the purpose of **making international trade transactions more efficient and transparent while improving regulatory compliance**.

- No requirement to exchange data and documents with (all) parties



- **Strong emphasis on capacity building and solutions testing**

- **Fully consistent with UNCITRAL model laws and the G20 trade digitalization principles**

- **Collective action plan + each party sets its own Individual action plan and timeline for implementation once onboard**
- No legal or regulatory changes required

https://www.unescap.org/projects/cpta

A UN treaty designed to be inclusive

- Each party sets its own national **Individual Action Plan** based on a self-assessment
  - Capacity building needs can be specified; timelines of actions can be revised and amended, as necessary.

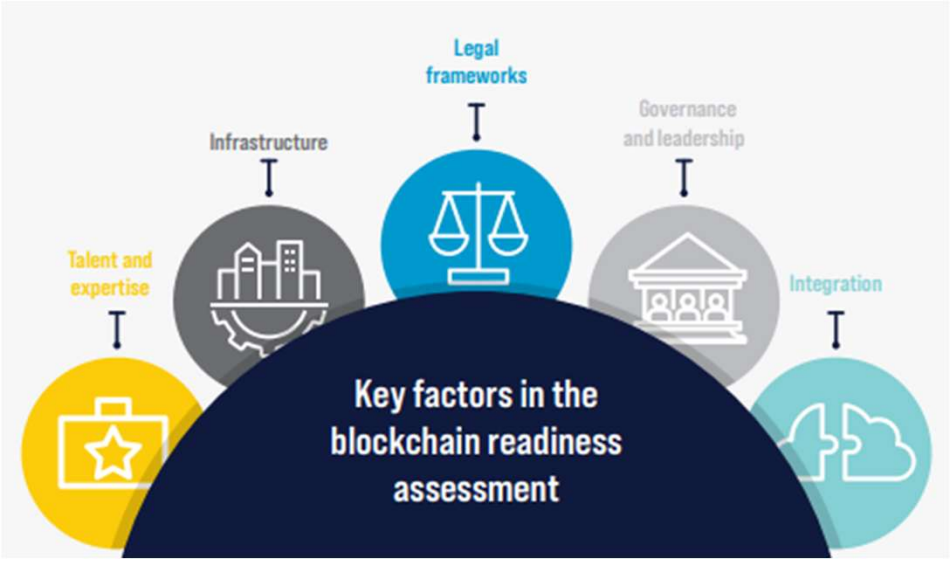
- Each party nominates a National Committee on Paperless Trade
  - In Mongolia, the **National Working Group on Paperless Trade Facilitation** is established.

- All meetings are hybrid and/or online – although physical attendance to regular annual sessions strongly encouraged.

Projects on trade digitalization & disruptive technologies

Cross-border paperless trade	• Readiness assessments for cross-border paperless trade • CBPT online tools
Leveraging emerging tech for CBPT in AP LDCs	• Feasibility studies on cross-border electronic exchange of trade data • South Asian Ad-Hoc Subregional Task Force
Blockchain for trade facilitation	• UN agencies' joint project on blockchain for facilitating trade and enhancing competitiveness • Online resources

Resources on blockchain in TF

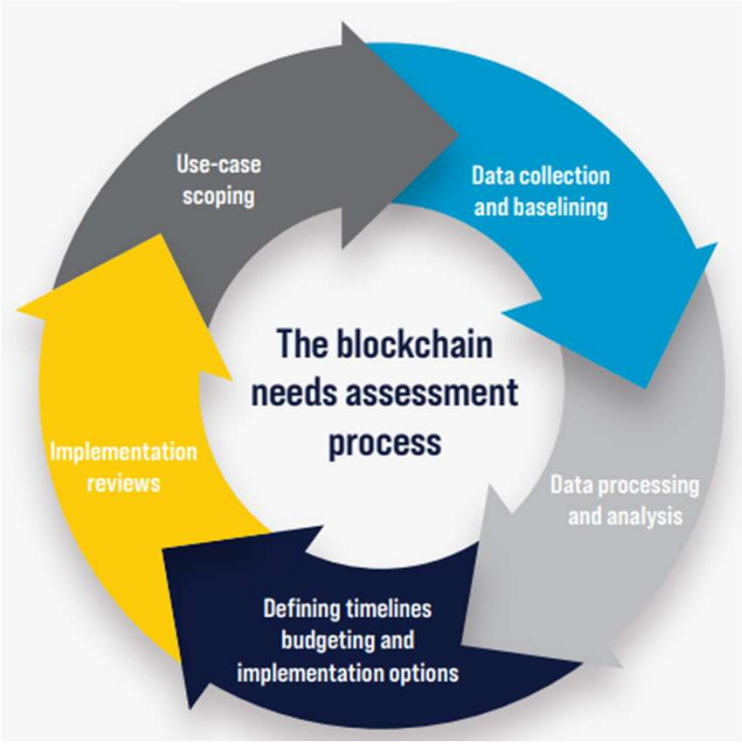




Blockchain for trade facilitation: a user implementation guide for Governments

Guidelines for assessing blockchain needs and readiness & technical, policy, regulatory guidelines for implementation

https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/pubs/pdf/blockchain-trade-facilitation-guide-english.pdf

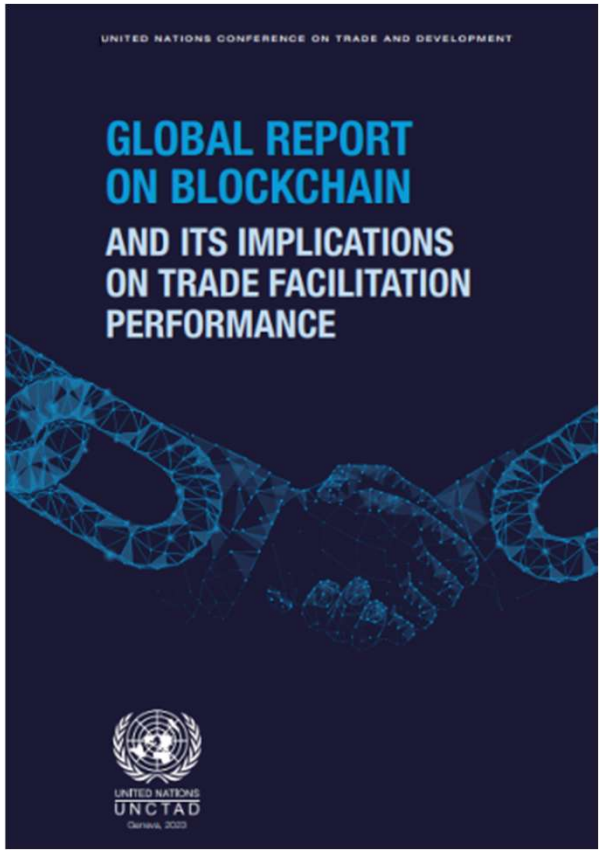


Resources on blockchain in TF

Covering potential blockchain use cases in international trade for:

- Cross-border clearances
- Stakeholder coordination
- Payment processing and trade finance
- Trade-risk management
- Supply chain transparency and value chain traceability

Plus, on enabling environment for blockchain adoption & policy considerations



https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tcsdtlinf2023d1_en.pdf

Resources on blockchain in TF



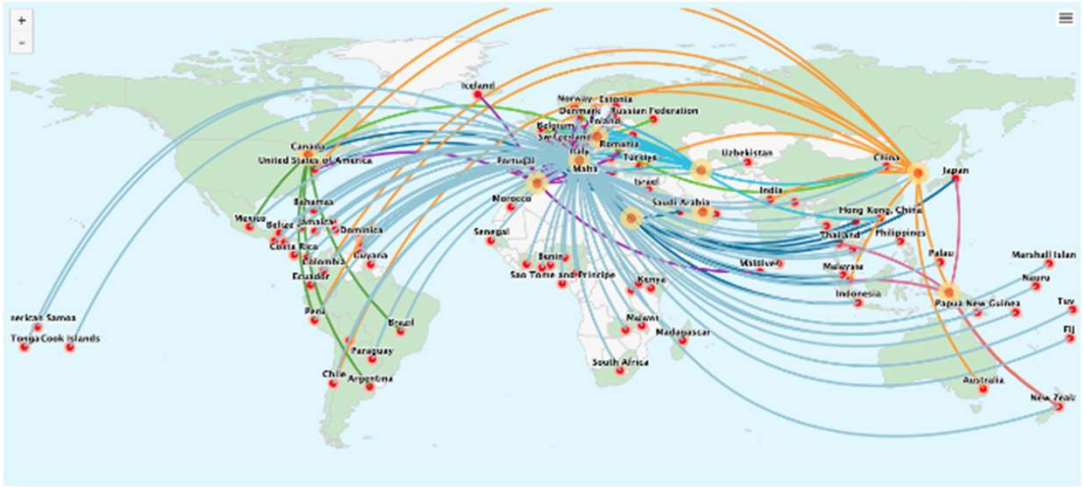
https://unctad.org/project/blockchains-facilitating-trade-and-enhancing-competitiveness

Self-paced course available - contact: clariesse.chan@unctad.org

Cross-Border Paperless Trade Database

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ICC Digital Standards Initiative



digitalizetrade.org

Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise gained from previous and on-going ***projects and services*** *on cross-border trade digitalization with experts, international organizations, and stakeholders from private and public sectors.*

Operating project
Pilot project
Terminated project

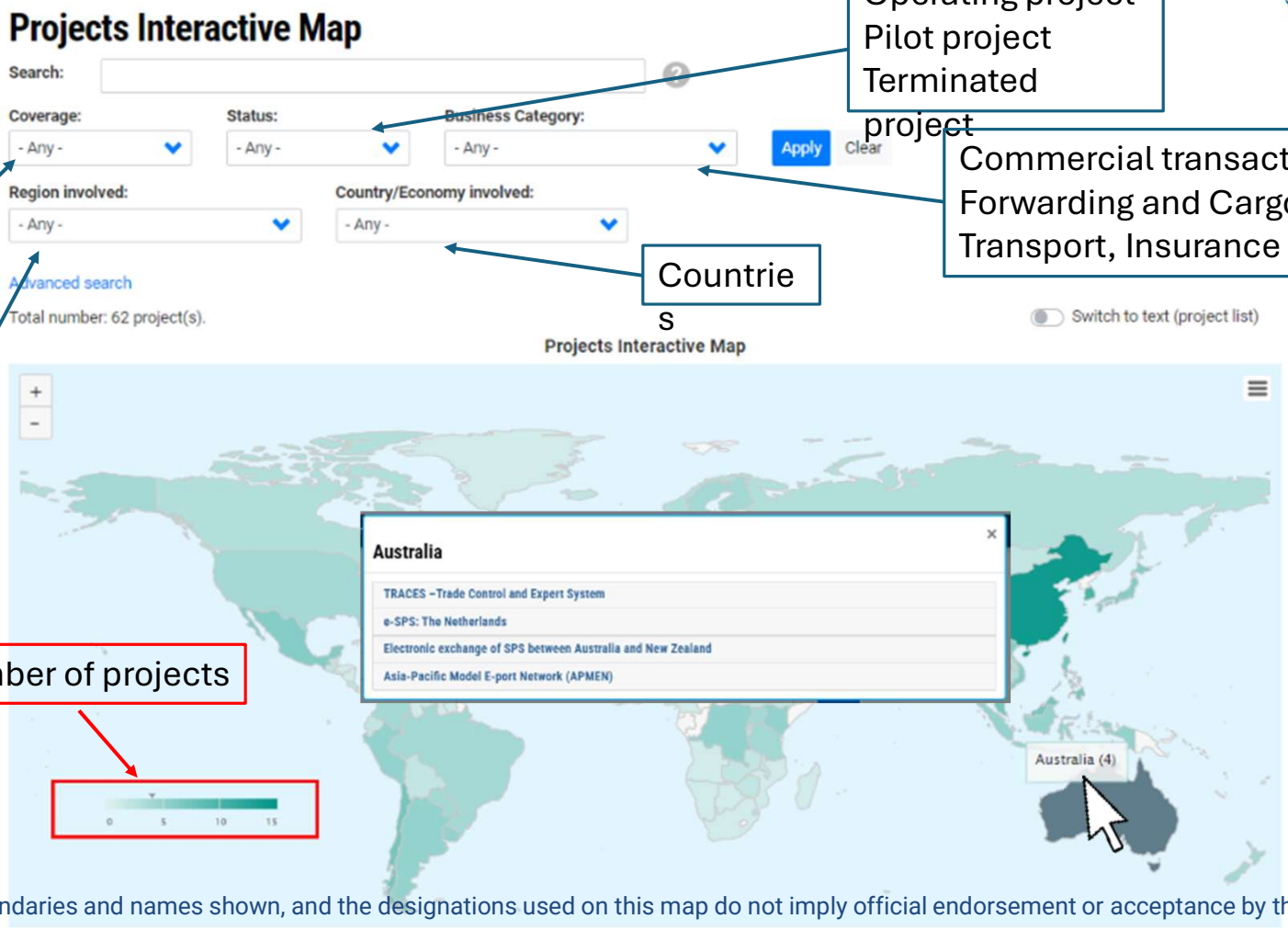
Commercial transactions
Forwarding and Cargo handling
Transport, Insurance ....

Global project
Regional project
Bilateral project

Countries

Europe
Asia – Pacific
North America
Latin America
Africa

Number of projects



Disclaimer: boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Project

A. General Information

1. Title

Thailand's JSCCIB pilots blockchain-based National Digital Trade Platform (NDTP)

2. Status of the project
Pilot

3. Implementation period of the project/service:

From
Nov-2022

To
Present

4. Website
https://www.ledgerinsights.com/blockchain-thailand-trade-tradewaltz-singapore-n...

5. Geographical coverage
Regional: *Asia and the Pacific*
Participating countries: *Japan, Singapore, Thailand*
Hub Point: *Thailand*

6. Participating agencies/entities of the project/service:

a. Development stage

Lead agencies/entities
The Thai Bankers Association, the Federation of Thai

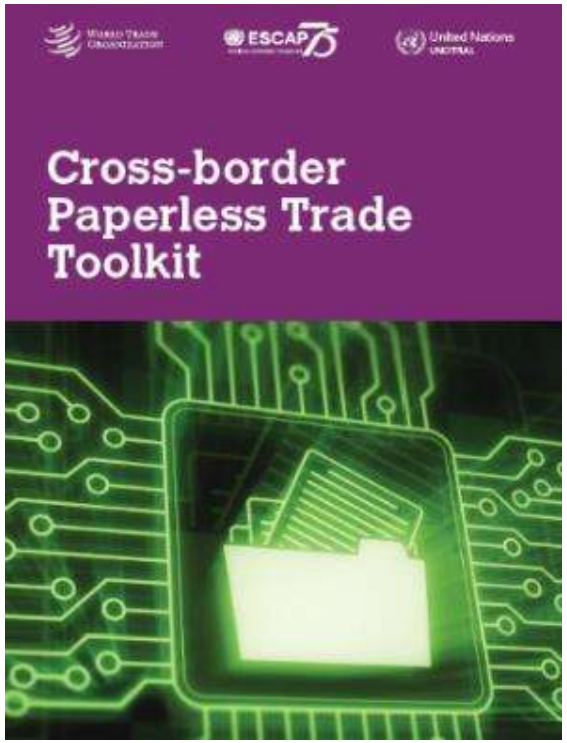
Other participating agencies/entities
The government has involvement through the Office of the Public

b. Operational stage

Lead agencies/entities (op)
The Thai Bankers Association, the Federation of Thai

Other participating agencies/entities (op)
The government has involvement through the Office of the Public

Cross-border Paperless Trade Toolkit



https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/paperlesstrade2022_e.htm

Published by WTO in collaboration with ESCAP & UNCITRAL

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Trade digitalization resources



Online Guide

Interactive guide incl. explanatory notes, good practices by ESCAP-UNCITRAL-EIF

https://readiness.digitalizetrade.org/



Readiness Assessment

18 national readiness assessment studies completed

- Assessments of legal and technical readiness to identify where the country stands and analyze the gaps
- Leading to recommendations and individual action plans

https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation-digital-trade/paperless-trade

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THANK YOU



Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Paperless Trade



UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation



United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)



E-Learning Series on Business Process Analysis for Trade Facilitation



Cross-Border Paperless Trade Readiness Assessment



Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF)

https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation-digital-trade