Online Course on Next Generation Trade Facilitation 2026

18 May-5 June 2026

The Online Course on Next Generation Trade Facilitation 2026, organized by ESCAP and UNCTAD, will explore trade facilitation measures that can enhance trade digitalization and support sustainable development. It will highlight good practices and recommendations for further progress.

The course is developed based on the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (www.untfsurvey.org) and relevant reports, particularly the latest Global Report 2025.[1] It will introduce trade facilitation measures that go beyond the basic compliance with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), including those promoting digital trade facilitation, as well as the inclusion of women and SMEs in international trade for inclusive and sustainable development. Moreover, the course will address emerging priorities in next-generation trade facilitation, such as green trade facilitation, facilitating cross-border e-commerce, and leveraging emerging technologies for trade digitalization.

Participants will be required to undertake the self-paced course before participating in live sessions. The self-paced course was developed by the United Nations Regional Commissions – ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, and ESCWA.

Part I: Self-paced learning on the ESCAP Community platform

Self-paced e-learning structure	
Available on the ESCAP Community e-learning platform *anytime*	**Course materials** Participants will have free access to all course materials, including pre-recorded video lectures, readings, quizzes, and others on the ESCAP Community e-learning platform. **Quizzes** Participants are required to take online quizzes on the course materials, with at least one attempt before the live sessions. To obtain the certificate, participants must pass all quizzes. **Discussion forum** Participants can ask questions and discuss with each other on the ESCAP Community platform. The course facilitator will also answer questions and collect questions to be addressed during the live sessions.
Suggested timeline for learning	
18-21 May	Complete the course overview (introduction) and Modules 1-3, including readings, videos, quizzes, and optional materials.
22-24 May	Complete Modules 4-5, including readings, videos, quizzes, and optional materials.
25-27 May	Complete Modules 6-8, including readings, videos, quizzes, and optional materials.
28-31 May	Complete Modules 9-11, including readings, videos, quizzes, and optional materials.
1-5 June	To obtain the certificate, participants must complete and pass all quizzes (with unlimited retakes before the deadline), **attend the live sessions (2-4 June)**, and complete the course evaluation survey.

[1] https://www.untfsurvey.org/report

Part II: Interactive live sessions

Tentative programme for expert presentation and discussion (2, 3, 4 June 2026)	
2 June 18:00-19:00 Bangkok time (UTC+7) 13:00-14:00 Geneva time (CET)	**Live Session 1: Harnessing Trade Digitalization for Next Generation Trade Facilitation** **Welcome remarks:** Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP Ms. Celine Bacrot, OiC Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Facilitator:** Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP **Expert presentation (15 min each):** • ***ePhyto for Digital Trade Compliance: Public–Private Partnerships for Regulatory Compliance in Plants and Plant Products*** Ms. Carmela Rivera, Area Manager of the Plant Quarantine Service at the Port of Subic, Focal Person for the ePhyto Implementation, the Philippines • ***Seamless and secure cross-border e-commerce*** Mr. Jian WANG, Director of Center for International Business Studies and Cross-border E-commerce, Professor, University of International Business and Economics, China • ***Frontier technologies for next generation trade facilitation*** Mr. John David, Information System Officer, ASYCUDA, UNCTAD **Q&A (15 min)** **Optional quiz explanation session** **Addressing selected quiz questions and Q&A (20 min):** • Ms. Runqiu Du, Course Facilitator, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP *After the session with experts, participants can stay in the meeting for another 20 minutes. We will explain selected quiz questions.*
3 June 18:00-19:00 Bangkok time (UTC+7) 13:00-14:00 Geneva time	**Live Session 2: Advancing Sustainable Development through Trade Facilitation** **Facilitator:** Ms. Clariesse Chan, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD **Expert presentation (10-12 min each):** • ***Trade facilitation for agricultural products*** Mr. Mischa Tripoli, Economist, FAO, on behalf of Mr. Salamat Ali, Senior Economist in the Markets and Trade Division of FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

(CET)	• ***Trade facilitation for SMEs*** Ms. Macarena Torres Rossel, Head, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, World Economic Forum • ***Trade facilitation to increase women's participation in trade*** Ms. Ingrid Huapaya, Customs and Trade Facilitation Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, Peru Mr. Benson Mutuku, Programme Manager, Inclusive Trade, TradeMark Africa **Q&A (15 min)** **Optional quiz explanation session** **Addressing selected quiz questions and Q&A (20 min):** • Ms. Runqiu Du, Course Facilitator, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP *After the session with experts, participants can stay in the meeting for another 20 minutes. We will explain selected quiz questions.*
4 June 18:00-19:00 Bangkok time (UTC+7) 13:00-14:00 Geneva time (CET)	**Live Session 3: Emerging Priorities in Trade Facilitation** **Facilitator:** Mr. Tengfei Wang, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP **Expert presentation (15 min each):** • ***Data-Driven and AI-Enabled Customs: Enhancing Trade Facilitation*** Ms. Miryang Kim, Senior Assistant Director of the AI Innovation Division, Korea Customs Service • ***Green trade facilitation: facilitation of legitimate trade in waste*** Ms. Carla Valle-Klann, Programme Management Officer, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions • ***Green trade facilitation: eCITES permit systems for sustainable trade in wildlife*** *Mr. Khan Salehin, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat* **Q&A (15 min)** **Optional quiz explanation session** **Addressing selected quiz questions and Q&A (20 min):** • Ms. Runqiu Du, Course Facilitator, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP *After the session with experts, participants can stay in the meeting for another 20 minutes. We will explain selected quiz questions.*