South-East Asia Breakout Session:

“Progress in Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade and the Role of Public Private Collaboration”

Summary report by session chairperson

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Summary of Discussions and Recommendations, APTFF 2012
Highlights of Discussion

- Public Private Partnership in TF (*consolidating TF into single authority or inter-agency collaboration)
- Various levels of progress in TF
- Governance
- Appropriate methodology to measure improvements
- TF in region an active priority for Development Partners
Tangible Progress in Trade Facilitation

• Subregional
  – ASEAN Economic Community – ASEAN SW – NSW Development
  – Subregional TF platforms providing building blocks e.g. GMS, BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT

• National
  – Development of Trade Information Portal to become transactional
  – Review of regulatory framework towards e-trade
  – Road Maps being developed or implemented
  – Substantial Progress (e.g. NSW, AEO) with lessons to be learned
Main Challenges Shared

- Legal environment not ready for TF – inadequate venue for Public-private collaboration + “Trust” factor
- Physical Infrastructure and transport linkages (easing cost of doing business)
- Government Balancing Act (perceived loss of revenue vs. TF)
- Readiness for adoption of modern technology
- Weak financial support systems
- Human Resources Development (public and private) and Optimization
- Poor coordination between public and private sector
- Extending inclusiveness of TF Frameworks to SMEs
Recommendations (National and Subregional)

- Continuous strengthening of legal framework and improved implementation of existing laws
- Encourage public-private investment for necessary infrastructure to facilitate trade
- Knowledge transfer or technology exchange through TA
- Consider special needs of SMEs, for both TF and for value chain participation - encourage DPs to help address SME concerns
- Provide targeted training for both public and private sectors
- Strengthening of trade related information portal and make them accessible to public
- Encourage integration into value chains and production networks (subregional level) -> AEC
Conclusions and Final Remarks

• Southeast Asian agree and recognize
  – the importance of TF
  – varied readiness in TF – subregional knowledge sharing of best practices, supported by appropriate TA
  – the need to work towards full interoperability for NSW platforms