**UN ESCAP Programme on Trade Facilitation**

Tengfei Wang
Economic Affairs Officer
Trade Facilitation Unit
Trade, Investment and Innovation Division
UNESCAP
wangt@un.org

Myanmar Capacity Building Programme
Training Workshop on Trade Facilitation:
Global Agenda and Regional Priorities
Yangon, 12-13 May 2016

**Outline**

- General principles on trade facilitation implementation
- UNESCAP’s work on trade facilitation

**Introduction to ESCAP**

- Regional development arm of the United Nations for Asia-Pacific region
- 53 member countries and 9 associate members covering Central, South, Southeast, East and South Pacific countries
- Areas covered: Trade and Investment, Transport, Macroeconomic Policy, Environment, Emerging Social issues, Information and Communication Technologies…
  - Trade and Investment: (1) Trade Facilitation (2) Trade Policy (3) Investment and Enterprise Development
  - A new dimension “Innovation” has been added recently

**Factors which may have impacts on implementation of trade facilitation measures**

- Interventions of other organizations, partners and donors
- National financial resources
- National trade facilitation policy
- Policy formulation and/or implementation of a particular trade facilitation measure
- Priorities for implementing different trade facilitation measures
- Human resource capacity (and institutional capacity)
- Regional community of knowledge and practice

**Trade facilitation measures: a non-exhaustive list...**

- **Core principles in the implementation of national trade facilitation strategies/measures**
  - High-level political commitment
  - Public and private consultation and partnership
  - Early identification of legislative requirements
  - Identification of financial requirements and funds availability
  - A systematic and integrated approach
  - Pilot and phased implementation
  - Transparency
  - Built-in training and technical support
  - Performance and progress monitoring
25/05/2016

A step-by-step Framework for Trade Facilitation

- Impact analysis of trade facilitation measures
- Implementation of single window and paperless trade
- Trade facilitation policies and practices
- Resources for trade facilitation
- Governmental and non-governmental bodies
- Support for implementation of trade facilitation

Trade Facilitation? → Reducing Trade Transaction Costs

1. **Commercial Procedures**
   - Establishment
   - Quality Control
   - Certification
   - Packaging
   - Clearance
   - Status Reports
   - Other legal requirements

2. **Transport Procedures**
   - Establishment
   - Quality Control
   - Certification
   - Status Reports
   - Other legal requirements

3. **Regulatory Procedures**
   - Establishment
   - Quality Control
   - Certification
   - Status Reports
   - Other legal requirements

Community of knowledge and practice to facilitate the implementation of single window and paperless trade in the region

- Tools and guides development activities
- Advocacy and Technical Training Workshops
- Knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer support
- Secretariat provided by ESCAP, in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

UNNExT*

Regional Cooperation platforms and mechanisms: ISG-CBPT: Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade; UNNExT: United Nations Network of Experts ... on Trade; APTFF: Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum; ROC-TF: Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation

7th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum
Wuhan, China 20-21 October 2015

- Over 300 participants from 62 countries
- 17 organizations
- Discussions were focused on trade facilitation and paperless trade for SMEs and agricultural sector, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and cross-border electronic commerce
- A key recommendation of the Forum was the need to prepare and tap opportunities associated with cross-border e-commerce given the potential benefits for SMEs in particular.

UN ESCAP Trade Facilitation Programme

Legislative
- Creating paperless trade (Res. 68/3)
- Regional Arrangement on cross-border paperless trade facilitation (Res. 70/6)

Analysis
- ESCAP Trade Cost Database
- WTO TFA implementation

Capacity Building
- Business Process Analysis
- Single Window & Paperless Trade Implementation
- Trade & Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism
- Agricultural & SME
- WTO TFA support

*Regional Cooperation platforms and mechanisms: ISG-CBPT: Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade; UNNExT: United Nations Network of Experts ... on Trade; APTFF: Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum; ROC-TF: Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation
UN ESCAP Trade Facilitation Programme

Analysis

• ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database
• Paperless Trade Guides & Impact analyses
• Global Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade Implementation Survey
• Trade Process Analysis Database

“Without data you’re just another person with an opinion.”


Intra- and extra-regional comprehensive trade costs in the Asia-Pacific region (excluding tariff costs), 2008-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>ASEAN-4</th>
<th>East Asia-3</th>
<th>Central Asia-4</th>
<th>Pacific Islands Developing Economies</th>
<th>SAARC-4</th>
<th>AUS-NZL</th>
<th>EU-3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN-4</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia-3</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Asia-4</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islands Developing Economies</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAARC-4</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUS-NZL</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-3</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


UNRC Joint Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2015

Objective: to assess the progress made in implementing trade facilitation and paperless trade measures in Asia and the Pacific.
- Covers implementation of 38 Trade Facilitation Measures in 119 economies; 44 in Asia-Pacific
- Main components of the survey includes
  - Key WTO related trade facilitation measures
  - Paperless trade measures

http://unnext.unescap.org/UNTFSurvey2015.asp

Global Trade Facilitation Survey report launched at Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2015

UN ESCAP Trade Facilitation Programme

Legislative

- Enabling paperless trade (Res. 68/3)
- Regional Arrangement on cross-border paperless trade facilitation (Res. 70/6)

Analysis

- ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database
- Paperless Trade Guides & Impact analyses
- Global Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade Implementation Survey
- Trade Process Analysis Database

Capacity Building

- Business Process Analysis
- Single Window & Paperless Trade Implementation
- Trade & Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism
- Agricultural & SME trade facilitation

UNNExT, APTFF, ARTNeT

Regional Cooperation platforms and mechanisms

ISG-CBPT: Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade; UNNExT: United Nations Network of Experts... on Trade; APTFF: Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum; ROC-TF: Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation

ROC-TF*
UN ESCAP Trade Facilitation Programme

**Capacity Building**
- Business Process Analysis
- Single Window & Paperless Trade Implementation
- Trade & Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism
- Agricultural & SME trade facilitation
- WTO TFA implementation support

**UNNExT Tools, Guidelines and Studies**
- Integrated and sustainable Trade and transport facilitation performance monitoring mechanism: BPA*
- Developed in cooperation with ADB
  - New UNNExT Training Guide on paperless transit and UNNExT Guide on Trade Facilitation for SMEs

**Capacity Building Activities and Resources**
- **Publication:** Information Management in Agrifood Chains: towards an Integrated Paperless Framework for Agrifood Trade Facilitation
  - UNNExT publication jointly produced by ESCAP, FAO and UNECE, outlines a framework for integrated paperless information management to facilitate the trade of agricultural goods. It looks how policymakers may utilise and integrate paperless systems for agrifood trade to, for example, issue electronic sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) certificates as well as to establish food traceability systems. Available here: [http://unnext.unescap.org/pub/agriguide15.pdf](http://unnext.unescap.org/pub/agriguide15.pdf)
- **UNNExT Briefs:**
  - Electronic Traceability of Agriculture Products in India: the Case of GrapesNet, Brief No. 15
  - Electronic Traceability of Aquaculture Products: the Case of TraceVerified in Vietnam, Brief No. 16

**UN ESCAP Trade Facilitation Programme**

**Summary**
- ESCAP has been working on different areas of trade facilitation, especially in the areas of promoting inter-governmental cooperation, research and analysis and capacity building.
- UNNExT is a very useful and relevant regional community of experts in trade facilitation, and you are all encouraged to join it.