



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

APEC's work on Trade Facilitation

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Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

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Introduction

- Trade facilitation is a priority area of APEC's work under its drive for free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.
- APEC's work on trade facilitation is led predominantly by the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) as well as several of its various sub-fora, including the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP).
- Trade facilitation is about the simplification and rationalisation of customs, border and other administrative procedures so that goods can move across borders in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.
- APEC 2019: 'Integration 4.0'
 - Single window interoperability
 - Authorised Economic Operators (AEO)

TFA Capacity Building

- Topics of focus for the capacity building have included advance rulings, publication and availability of information, expedited shipments as well as pre-arrival processing.
- The technical assistance has produced key changes across economies including Malaysia, Peru, the Philippines and Viet Nam.
- Advance rulings can be beneficial for both traders and customs authorities. For traders, knowing in advance how customs rules and regulations will be applied minimizes delays and costs. For customs authorities, informing traders of relevant import requirements encourages compliance and minimises complaints and subsequent appeals.
- APEC workshop on “Best Practices of TFA Implementation within APEC Economies: Opportunities and Challenges”, held on 19-20 June 2019 in Bali, Indonesia.



APEC Supply-chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan 2017-2020

- The goal of the SCFAP II is to reduce trade costs across supply chains and to improve supply chain reliability in supporting the competitiveness of business in the Asia Pacific region.
- Both physical and multiple inspections have increased by about 50 percent since 2016.
- Large decreases in clearance times with (7.1%) and without physical inspection (15.8%) were observed.
- Both border compliance cost and time to import and export have decreased substantially.
- Substantial improvements in the RMT shipping connectivity index as it increased by 5.8% since 2016.
- Reductions in import and export lead times by 3.6% and 2.8% respectively since 2016.
- Poor scores for internal and external border agency cooperation for APEC and OECD.
- Mobile and e-commerce are on the rise:
 - integrated postal development score dropped by 2%, and
 - B2C e-commerce index increased by 3.4%
- The negative performance of APEC economies in the UPU index call for more efforts within APEC to improve postal services and infrastructure. There is a good business opportunity from e-commerce to improve postal services.

Related events

- 16 August: Workshop on Integrating SMEs in AEO Programs in the Asia Pacific Region
- 18-19 August: SCCP plenary meeting
- 22 August: APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity
- 26-27 August: CTI plenary meeting (preliminary results of the study associated to the project on 'Promoting Single Window Interoperability: Best Technology Solutions')
- 29-30 August: Workshop on Single Window Systems (jointly organised with the Inter-America Development Bank)
- 30 August: The 5th APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Advancing Trade Facilitation & Supply Chain Connectivity through APMEN (Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network)



Way forward

APEC PSU Policy Brief: Customs Cooperation in APEC: Strengthening Regional Cooperation (2019)

<https://www.apec.org/Publications/2019/08/Customs-Cooperation-in-APEC--Strengthening-Regional-Cooperation>

Key issues in implementing Article 12:

- Trust among customs agencies: Trust between the various trade-related entities is necessary to facilitate reciprocal compliance in information exchange. E.g. SW, AEO, RTAs/FTAs
- Confidentiality of information: There is a need for information privacy protection rules to provide confidence to relevant parties to share sensitive information. E.g. APEC Cross Border Privacy Enforcement Arrangement
- Improving understanding on procedures for exchanging information: Economies may face challenges in implementing measures pertaining to the channel for exchanging of information and the provision of requested information.
- Strengthen regional cooperation: Economies should continue strengthening and deepening regional cooperation. E.g. work with World Customs Organization and Pacific Alliance



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