



WTO TRADE FACILITATION

ESCAP – ADB Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) Meeting

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An update on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility and its 2019 Work Plan

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Some background

- The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) was created at the request of developing and least-developed country (LDC) Members to help ensure that they receive the assistance they need to reap the full benefits of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), and to support the ultimate goal of full implementation of this new Agreement by all Members.
- The Facility was formally launched on 22 July 2014, by WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo and became operational on 27 November 2014, when Members adopted the Protocol of Amendment to insert the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement. The TFAF is housed within the Market Access Division of the WTO.
- 4.5 FTE staff members.
- 9 Donors:



The TFAF will provide two types of grants to developing and LDC Members who have been unable to access support for their Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) commitments through regular channels and who meet the following criteria:

- The Member has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Protocol of Amendment and deposited its Instrument of Acceptance with the WTO
- The Member has officially notified its category C provisions, as defined in Article 14 of the TFA
- The Member is not subject to administrative measures

Project Preparation Grants

Project preparation grants will be available in circumstances where a Member requires additional support to successfully apply for assistance to implement their category C provisions. Assistance provided under the project preparation grant will be up to a maximum value of US\$30,000.

Project Implementation Grants

Project implementation grants will be available for implementation of applicants' specific category C provisions of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Assistance provided under the project implementation grants will be up to a maximum value of US\$200,000.

Primary goals

1. find assistance for implementation of the provisions of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA),
2. ratify the TFA,
3. submit TFA Section II notifications within agreed deadlines, and
4. enhance the operation of their national trade facilitation committees.

NB: Request driven

Activities to be funded in 2019

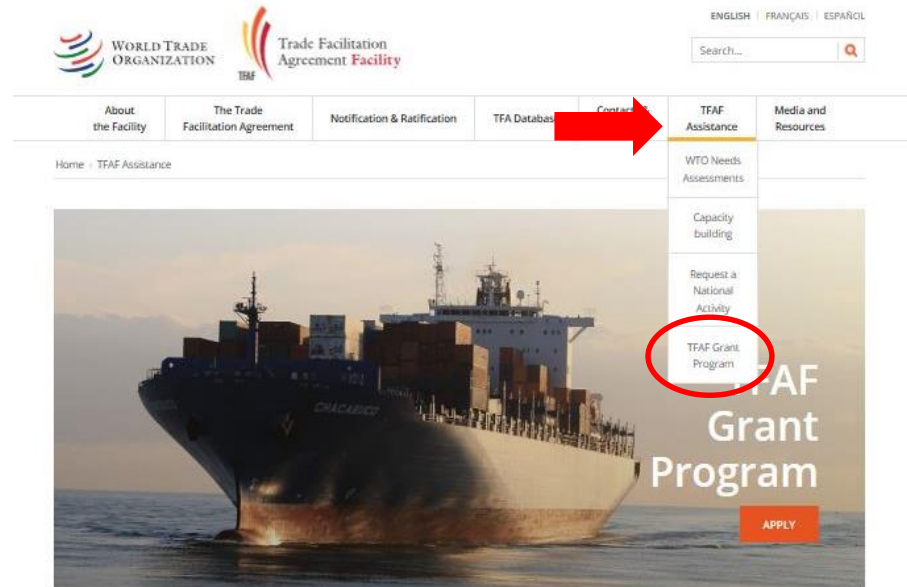
- A. Matchmaking and funding activities
 - 1. Matchmaking
 - 2. Grant Program
- B. Ratification, notification, implementation
 - 3. National Workshops
 - 4. Regional and sub-regional workshops
 - 5. National needs assessments...
- C. Implementation support and capacity building
 - 6. Dedicated thematic workshops
 - 7. TFAF Website
- D. Advocacy
 - 8. Advocacy

A.1. Matchmaking

- Notifications on www.tfadatabase.org
- Analysis of notifications on www.tfafacility.org
- Donor information (inc. Art 22) on www.tfafacility.org
- Dedicated sessions on accessing assistance included in all events
- Coordinate Annex D+
- Expression of Interest process

A.2. Grant Program

- Launched on 9 October at TF Committee meeting
- Expression of interest list in place
- Project Implementation Grants (PG) Selection Committee 2 donors and 2 developing country representatives
- Strong interest, but no eligible applications as yet



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<http://www.tfafacility.org/grant-program>

B.3. National workshops

Upon request, in the following areas:

- outstanding category A, B and C notifications;
- support national trade facilitation committees;
- workshops for Parliamentarians in countries that have not ratified;
- general national workshops (via requests made to TFAF or ITTC).
- Will include sessions on accessing assistance
- Will include introductions to TFAF grant program

B. 4. Regional and Sub-regional Workshops

- Upon request, in the following areas:
- Border Agency cooperation to strengthen the NTFCs
- Organized with the STDF, World Bank Group, IPPC, OIE, UN-OHRLLS
- Speakers from WCO, UNCTAD, regional orgs
- Will include sessions on accessing assistance
- Will include introductions to TFAF grant program

B.4. Recent examples

- Border Agency Cooperation – South Africa – 14-16 November, TFAF, STDF, World Bank Group, OIE, [IPCC, Codex, WCO]
- First African Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees – Ethiopia - 27 - 29 November, UNCTAD, TFAF, World Bank Group, ITC
- CARICOM – Saint Lucia – Last week January 2019

B.5. Needs Assessments

- We do not anticipate further requests;
- BUT will remain available in case needed in the context of preparing notifications.

C.6. Dedicated thematic workshops

- Organize and fund capital based officials at TFC meetings/dedicated session;
- Possible side events such as experience sharing;
- Need 3 months + for logistics
- Will include sessions on accessing assistance
- Will include introductions to TFAF grant program
- Recent example – October TF Committee – Positive feedback

C.7. TFAF Website

www.tfafacility.org

- Continuous maintenance
- News and events to support stakeholder coordination
- Tools and resources to share best practices and provide practical assistance
- Activity requests and grant applications to ensure transparency and accessibility
- Supports delivery of activities:
www.tfafacility.org/workshops

D.8. Advocacy

- Continue advocacy on TFA implementation and TFAF by participating in events that are organized by:
 - international or regional organizations,
 - industry/business groups
 - national governments,
 - aid organizations,
 - private sector or
 - academia

Activities in Asia Pacific since entry into force: summary

- Since the entry in force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in February 2017, TFAF has organized and participated in:
 - sixteen activities in Asia / Pacific,
 - delivering training to in the region of 5000 participants and,
 - supporting 6 WTO Members to submit TFA-related notifications to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee.
- In addition to these activities, more than 50 participants from Asia / Pacific attended meetings and participated in training at the WTO in Switzerland with support from TFAF.
- Including specific events for land-locked countries with notable attendance from Asian Members and specific workshops for Pacific Islands

Activities in Asia Pacific since entry into force 1

Event	Dates	Venue	Participants
UN-OHRLLS - High Level Meeting for the Euro-Asia Region on Improving Co-operation on Transit	7 - 9 March 2017	Hanoi, Viet Nam	Approximately 100 participants comprising Ministers and senior government officials from LLDCs, transit countries, development partners, United Nations organizations and relevant international, regional and national organizations, the private sector, and NGOs
IATA 11 th World Cargo Symposium	14 – 16 March 2017	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	Approximately 800 (376 women/424 men) key stakeholders from the entire air cargo supply chain
ADB, KCS, WTO, & KODAC Regional Workshop on Promoting Connectivity through Trade Facilitation and Aid for Trade	27-29 March 2017	Seoul, Republic of Korea	WTO was co-organizer but participants were funded by the Republic of Korea's Customs Service; 18 men and one woman.
APEC Workshop on Enhancement of Stakeholder Engagement in the Implementation of WTO TFA	16 August 2017	Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam	Approximately 100 Vietnamese officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Information and Communication
National Needs Assessment	13-14 June 2017	Ulan Bataar, Mongolia	N/A
National Needs Assessment	15-17 October 2017	Bahrain, Bahrain	N/A
8 th Edition Global Trade Development Week, Customs	30 October – 1 November 2017	Dubai, UAE	Approximately 200 participants (70% from the private sector and 30% government officials) (50 women /50 men)

Activities in Asia Pacific since entry into force 2

Event	Dates	Venue	Participants
International Seminar on Origin – Trade Facilitation Agreement and the current work of the WTO	14 November 2017	Seoul, Republic of Korea	Approximately 200 government officials (50 women/50 men) from customs/trade
UNESCAP International Seminar on Trade Facilitation in NE Asia	16–17 November 2017	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Approximately 60 participants (15 women/32 men) total for the TF session
High Level Informal Regional Meeting of the General Directors of Customs Administrations International Conference	5 December 2017	Istanbul, Turkey	Approximately 200 participants. Customs experts from international, regional and national organizations and institutions, and business representatives. Organized by Turkey International Chamber of Commerce
3rd International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Global E-Phyto and Trade Facilitation Symposium	22 – 26 January 2018	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	WTO officials gave a detailed presentation on the TFA focusing on provisions relevant to SPS agencies, its background and implementation, focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members to over 90 participants representing 36 countries.
Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) Trade Working Group: Facilitating Trade Improving Customs Risk Management Systems	7 - 8 March 2018	Istanbul, Turkey	74 participants from 28 countries. Outcome: Within six weeks of the activity, hosts Turkey and participants Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Morocco submitted notifications to the WTO TF Committee.

Activities in Asia Pacific since entry into force 3

Event	Dates	Venue	Participants
National Workshop on TFA.	25-26 April 2018	Kuwait City, Kuwait	Outcome: 40 government representatives received in-depth training on all aspects of the TFA in a WTO Member that had not completed its notifications and had not established a National Trade Facilitation Committee.
Global Trade Development Week on Customs Compliance and Trade Facilitation.	2-4 July 2018	Shanghai, P.R. China	WTO officials gave a presentation focused on enhancing the operation of National Trade Facilitation Committees in developing and LDC WTO Members, reaching 2,000 participants. A presentation on one of the TFAF's primary goals was delivered to large numbers of key TFA stakeholders, notably from the private sector.
Asian Development Bank (ADB) Inter-sub-regional Forum on Enhanced Implementation of TFA.	30-31 October 2018	Bangkok, Thailand	WTO officials delivered a presentation on the implementation status of the TFA, focusing on the notifications under section II of the TFA for developing and LDC WTO Members to over 64 participants from 26 countries, representing customs administrations, Ministries of Commerce, and trade and private sector organizations. Outcome: Within 10 weeks of this activity, Viet Nam and Lao PDR submitted notifications to the WTO TF Committee.
National Workshop on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement	27-28 March 2019	Kathmandu, Nepal	A WTO Official working with colleagues from the World Bank delivered sessions on the TFA to officials from the Government of Nepal, including work to verify the designations of Nepal's TFA commitments.