Session 3
Capacity Building Workshop on the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

Experience in facilitating interoperability of ASEAN Single Window

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Outline

- ASEN Single Window Approach in cross-border data exchange
  - Overview connectivity
  - Data harmonization towards interoperability
- Challenges
- Lessons learned
- Implication
Each Member State to implement a National Single Window (NSW) that serves as the single point of connectivity and communication with other ASEAN Member States’ NSWs, enabling direct data exchange among Member States in a closed secure network via the ASW Gateway.
Communication takes place in three distinct stages:
- Local NSW to local ASW gateway;
- Local ASW gateway to remote ASW gateway;
- Remote ASW gateway to remote NSW.
Source: ASEAN (ASW Pilot Project)
Regional Interoperability

• deployment of a common ASW gateway software at each Member State.
• Regional message standard (preferably international standard)

Establishment of interoperability specifications at Member State level

• Technical interface specifications between NSW and ASW Gateway
• ASW Specific Web Services (SOAP/REST) Message Exchange Protocol Specification for communication between NSW and ASW
Data harmonization and standardization enables interoperability of heterogeneous systems/SWs

Example of step by step development of a master data set for an identified business process (international transit)

- Identify data requirement in country of departure, in country of transit and country of destination
  - Submission
  - From system
- Identify data requirement for electronic data exchange
  - From country of departure to country of transit and country of destination
  - From country of transit to country of departure and country of destination
  - From country of destination to country of departure and country of transit
- Harmonized data name and description to be used at regional level
- Standardized data format and structure by adopting existing international standard to the best possible.
- Standardized paper-based document (Transit Accompanying Document)
Planning and preparation costs could be high and financial constraints remain an issue.

Parties at different levels of economic development - the interest and expectations on the regional SW are relatively diverse. As a result, commitment to share regional cost differ.

Functional integration of NSW with ASW

Information systems vary greatly in terms of architectures, mix of messaging enablers, and differences in business mandates of participating entities (government, trade, service providers) at the national level.

Business process reengineering needs to be carried out to streamline the cross-border processes, followed by data harmonization.

Cross-border information exchange in the regional domain is dependent on national business process.

ASEAN’s decision making based on consensus and compromise solutions takes time.
Security of cross-border exchange of data
- functional equivalence of paper and electronic documents
- acceptance of electronic signatures including mutual recognition of digital signatures
- electronic data retention and archiving
- data confidentiality and protection
- use of electronic data in judicial proceedings
- liability and dispute resolution issues

Regional data requirement vs National data requirement
The ASEAN Secretariat has played a critical role in coordinating the work of ASW working groups and steering committee.

- Intellectual leadership is important to provide fresh ideas and learn from others’ experiences.
- Focus on regional activities and assist in national activities.
- Common understanding must be ensured on terminology used and decision made.
- Engagement in inter-sessional discussion is crucial to meet deadline (dedication and commitment).
- Business model and governance for sustainability, if required, should be identified as early as possible.
- Capacity building for technical officials and awareness program for decision makers is very important and useful.
Implication
- To operationalize the Framework Agreement

Technical readiness:
- Understanding of technical issues
- Self-assessment of technical gaps
- Identification of the most feasible business transaction for pilot project
- Realistic plan of action

Implication on domestic laws
- Legal gap analysis
- Action plan to address domestic legal issues, if any.