



Department of Commerce
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Government of India



Confederation of Indian Industry



Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2019

17-18 September 2019, New Delhi, India

Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation for Regional Prosperity

Co-organized by ADB, ESCAP, Ministry of Commerce, India and Confederation of Indian Industry

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APFFF) is the leading regional platform for the exchange of information, experiences and practice on trade facilitation. The APTFF has been organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and growing number of partners since 2009. The Forum attracts over 250 participants from over 30 countries.

The 9th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum will focus on how digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures and practices can bring prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The Forum will investigate opportunities from trade digitalization for sustainable progress of the region, and challenges ahead in materializing such opportunities. The Forum will feature panel discussions, interactive and informative sessions allowing the participants to share experiences and perspectives on different aspects of trade facilitation, including trade finance, cross-border e-commerce and paperless trade, transit, innovative application of emerging technologies, etc. The Forum will bring relevant regional initiatives and implementation cases to each session to make it a unique opportunity to share knowledge and practical lessons. The Forum will also include a number of side-events providing more in-depth exploration of the pertinent trade facilitation issues.

Day 1: 17 September 2019

10:00 –10:30 **Registration and Coffee/Tea**

10:30 – 11:30 **Opening Session**

Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General

Confederation of Indian Industry

Mr. Bambang Susantono

Vice-President

Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

and **Executive Secretary** of ESCAP

Launch of the ADB-ESCAP Joint Publication

Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Report 2019 with a theme chapter of “Bridging Trade Finance Gaps through Technology”

Mr. Piyush Goyal

Minister

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

11:30 – 11:35 **Break**

11:35 – 13:05 ***High Level Panel Discussion: Leaving no one behind in trade facilitation: Identifying challenges, priorities and solutions***

Moderator: Ms. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP

Panelists:

- Mr. Pranab Kumar Das, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, India
- Mr. Madhav Ragam Vice President of Govt. sector for Asia Pacific, IBM
- Ms. Deborah Elms, Vice Chair, Asia Business Trade Association (ABTA)
- Mr. Ali Ahmed, CEO, Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI)

13:05 - 14:10 **Lunch**

14:10 – 15:50

Session 1: Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific – State of play and prospect

Moderator: Ms. Manamaya Pangeni Bhattarai, Deputy Director General, Department of Customs, Ministry of Finance, Nepal

Presentations:

- Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP
- Ms. Aileen Pangilinan, Senior Regional Cooperation Officer, South Asia Regional Cooperation Division, ADB

Panelists:

- Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD
- Mr. Ying Qian, Advisor, East Asia Department, ADB
- Ms. Jill Atieno Juma, Trade Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
- Mr. S.P. Sahu, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank

15:50 – 16:10

Break

16:10 – 17:40

Session 2: Digital implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation - Lessons from implementation

Moderator: Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, ESCAP

Presentations:

- Mr. Xiaobing Tang, Counsellor, WTO
- Mr. Tahseen Khan, member of UNNExT Advisory Committee and UN/CEFACT Vice-chair

Panelists:

- Mr. Jihoon Park, Director, Customs Cooperation Division, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Republic of Korea
- Mr. L Satya Srinivas, Joint Secretary (Customs), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, India
- Ms. Battsetseg Tuvshintugs, Deputy Director-General, Foreign Trade, Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia
- Mr. Mohammed Mostaba Ali, Commissioner, Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Khulna, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Bangladesh
- Mr. Akhmad Bayhaqi, Senior Analyst, Policy Support Unit, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) secretariat

Day 2: 18 September 2019

09:00 – 10:40

Session 3: Aligning trade facilitation with sustainable development goals: Good practices in trade facilitation for agriculture, SMEs and women

Moderator: Ms. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP

Presentations:

- Mr. Melvin Spreij, Head, Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Secretariat
- Mr. Mohit Sippy, Senior Programme and Policy Manager, DFID Asia Regional British High Commission
- Mr. Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary and Additional CEO, Government e-Market place (GeM), Department of Commerce, India

Panelists:

- Mr. Bipul Chatterjee, Executive Director, CUTS International
- Ms. Evdokia Moise, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Emerging Policy Issues Division, OECD
- Ms. Maria Cecarelli, Chief, Trade Facilitation, UNECE
- Ms. Ally Spinu, CEO, Export Portal

10:40 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 12:30

Session 4: Facilitating trade finance for inclusive growth: Bridging gaps through technology

Moderator: Mr. Jong Woo Kang, Principal Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, ADB

Presentations:

- Mr. Kijin Kim, Economist, ADB
- Ms. Emily Chin, Chief Product Officer, Capital & Credit Risk Manager (CCRM)

Panelists:

- Mr. Santosh Pokharel, Investment Specialist, Trade Finance Unit, ADB
- Mr. David Rasquinha, Managing Director, EXIM Bank of India
- Mr. Ian Sayers, Head, Access to Finance and Enterprise Sustainability, International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Ms. Urachada Ketprom, Director of Standard Office, Electronic Transaction Development Agency (ETDA), Thailand

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

Session 5: Trade facilitation for e-commerce: Emerging innovations for seamless cross-border transactions

Moderator: Prof. Somnuk Keretho, Director, Institute for Information Technology Innovation, Kasetsart University, Thailand

Presentations:

- Mr. Jong Woo Kang, Principal Economist, ADB
- Mr. Guan Chengzhu, General Administration of China Customs

Panelists:

- Mr. Ashutosh Bajpai, Vice President, DHL India
- Ms. Hong Xue, Director, Institute for the Internet Policy & Law (IIPL)
- Mr. Paul Donohoe, Manager, Digital Economy and Trade Programme, Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- Mr. Patrik Jonasson, Director, Public Policy Asia-Pacific, GS1

16:00 – 16:20

Break

16:20 – 17:10

Session 6: APTFF Trade Facilitation Innovation Awards

Moderator: Mr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP

Presentations:

- IPPC ePhyto Solution: Implementing the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) in the Asia Pacific region
Mr Craig Fedchock, IPPC Senior Advisor and ePhyto Project Director, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- CoDEX: Container Digital Exchange
Mr. J David Raja, President, Tuticorin CFS Association, India
- Enhancing Digital Connectivity for China-ASEAN Trade
Mr. LOO Leong Seng, Chief Technology Officer, GeTS

17:10 – 17:30

Closing session

- Mr. Shri Rajneesh, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, India
- Ms. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP