



Asia Pacific
Trade
Facilitation
Forum
2019

MAKING TRADE FACILITATION HAPPEN THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

ROLE OF NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

09.00 – 12.30

19 September 2019,

Hyatt Regency, New Delhi, India



International
Trade
Centre



Background:

The National Trade Facilitation Committees in their various forms have been at the centre of the trade facilitation reforms since the trade facilitation agenda came to focus in the nineties. The importance of the committees was once again reinforced after the adoption of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in February 2017. All WTO members which ratified the Agreement, are required to establish a national trade facilitation body. Developing and developed countries alike have highlighted the importance of establishing and having a fully-functional committee.

The committees are structurally different and so are their operational strategies. Some of these institutions go beyond meeting the requirement of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and act as leaders for overall trade facilitation reforms in their respective countries. These committees are often the main national platform for the public and private sector consultation. The key(s) to successful committees could be different depending on the national context. The experiences are wide-ranging which includes coordination mechanism, trade facilitation strategies, capacity-building or even infrastructure or logistics projects. As the committees stand at various stages of their establishment or reforms, it is worthwhile to make some of the lessons available to policy makers, private sector and international practitioners.

Objective:

With the above in view, UNECE, ITC and UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank and ESCAP, will co-organize a half-day event on 19 September back to back with the Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2019. The event will bring together representatives of various National Trade Facilitation Committees and facilitate a discussion on the lessons learned at various stages of their operations. The discussion is expected to contribute towards enhanced understanding of the policy makers about the functioning of the national trade facilitation committees and role of various stakeholders and lessons learned.

Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks – ESCAP, UNECE, ITC, UNCTAD
09:30 – 10.15	Organization/Operational strategies of NTFC – Examples of good practices Moderated by Ms. Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNECE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Abdurakhmon Abdurakhmonov, Head WTO Affairs Dept., Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan - Mr. Hardeep Batra, Additional Commissioner, WCO CELL, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, India
10.15 – 11.00	Role of the Private sector – Effective engagement Moderated by Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business Section, ITC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Devinda Kariyawasam, Project Officer, NTFC Secretariat, Assistant Superintendent of Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka - Harm Jan Van Burg, Senior Policy Advisor Ministry of Finance, Directorate General Taxation and Customs, The Netherlands
11.00- 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.00	Planning and monitoring trade facilitation implementation Moderated by Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Gugu Treasure Dlamini-Zwane, Lead Customs Modernisation, Reform and International Liaison, Eswatini Revenue Authority, Eswatini - Ms. Battsetseg Tuvshintugs, Deputy Director-General, Foreign Trade, Economic Cooperation Department, Mongolia
12.00 – 12.20	Role of the donor community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Hannah Mayer, Head of Economics & Finance, British High Commission, United Kingdom
12.20 – 12.30	Closing Remarks