



## **Tentative Programme DA11<sup>th</sup> Online Capacity Building Workshop**

### **Asia-Pacific Regional Integration: Measuring, Monitoring and Improving Performance for Sustainable Development**

**22-23 April 2020  
ONLINE**

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**WEDNESDAY 22 April 2020**

**09:00-09:20      Welcome remarks and workshop overview**

This session gives an overview of the project and the objective of the workshop. The session also briefly introduces the Development Account project on “Measuring, monitoring and improving performance in regional integration within ECA, ESCWA and ESCAP regions” and the project activities.

Mia Mikic, Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), ESCAP  
Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section (TPFS), TIID, ESCAP  
Simon Mevel, ATPC, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

**09:20 – 10:50      Session 1   Regional integration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: what are major trends and challenges for sustainable development?**

This session introduces the important issues of regional integration in the current economic environment. Through panel discussions and Q&A, the session will address the range of considerations that policymakers must consider when using regional integration as a modality to achieve sustainable development.

- Regional Integration in Asia and the Pacific (based on *Asian Economic Integration Report 2019/2020*), Cyn-Young Park and Rolando Avendano, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, ADB
- Trade sustainability, Stephen Olson, Research Fellow, Hinrich Foundation
- Regional integration in the era of digital economy, Yann Duval, TPFS, TIID, ESCAP

10:50 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00 – 12:15	<p><b>Session 2 Measuring and monitoring regional integration: where do we stand?</b></p> <p>This session presents existing approaches to monitor regional integration, and examples of how regional integration indices can be used to make integration policies more development effective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon Mevel, ATPC, ECA</li> <li>• Witada Anukoonwattaka, Economic Affairs Officer, TPFS, TIID, ESCAP</li> </ul>
12:15 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Session 3 ESCAP Digital and Sustainable Regional Integration Index (DigiSRII)</b></p> <p>This session introduces conceptual frameworks developed by ESCAP secretariat. It will familiarize the participants with indicators and interpretation of indicators inside each dimension. Where possible, it will introduce data sources and methodology in constructing the indices and discuss pros and cons of the measurements to better interpret the results.</p> <p>Witada Anukoonwattaka, Economic Affairs Officer, TPFS, TIID, ESCAP Richard Lobo, Consultant, TIID, ESCAP.</p>
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Break</i>
15:45 -17:00	<p><b>Session 4 Digital trade integration: barriers, measurement and policy implications</b></p> <p>This session provides a background understanding on the definition, measurement of digital trade integration, its barriers and policy implication.</p> <p>Javier Lopez Gonzalez, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, OECD</p>
*END OF DAY1	Participants will be invited to prepare for a discussion on strategies and steps that their countries are taking to integrate smoothly into regional and global economy (e.g. the progress and challenges, what kind of strategies and measures are being considered, what kind of supports needed from development partners including ESCAP, etc.).

#### THURSDAY 23 April 2020

09:00-10.15	<p><b>Session 5 Digital trade integration: The Roles of WTO and RTAs</b></p> <p>This session gives an overview of WTO rules and the types of provisions found within RTAs that impact e-commerce and digital trade. It also highlights policy recommendations on how to ensure the gains from digital integration are inclusive, within and across countries.</p>
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10:15-10:30 *Break*

10:30-12:00 **Session 6: Toward a digital Asia-Pacific Integration**

This session gives an overview of existing models of regional initiatives related to enhancing digital integration. The progress and challenges of regional initiatives addressing digital trade integration, such as agreements in the US EU, ASEAN, APEC and COMESA, are discussed to draw lessons and recommendations for regional-integration policies in the Digital Era for developing Asia-Pacific countries.

Henry Gao, Associate Professor Singapore Management University  
 Andrew Mitchell and Neha Mishra  
 Paul John Mendoza Peña, PhD candidate, De La Salle University

12:00-13:30 *Lunch Break*

13:30-15:00 **Session 7 Regional digital-trade regulatory integration – part 1: concepts and measurements**

This session introduces the concept underlying the measurement of digital trade regulatory similarity in Asia and the Pacific. The session will outline important pillars of digital trade regulatory similarity, and indicators inside each regulatory pillar. It will also discuss possible approaches to monitor digital trade integration. Data sources and methodology will be discussed.

Martina Ferracane, Consultant, TIID, ESCAP

15:00 – 16:00 **Session 8 Regional digital trade Integration – part 2: results and policy implications**

This session continues to show how to assess digital-trade integration policies and apply the information obtained from the monitoring system in policy formulation.

Martina Ferracane, Consultant, TIID, ESCAP

16:00-17:00 **Session 9 Country discussions, workshop wrap-up**

This session will hear the views/perspectives from the participating countries on their progress, strategies, and the technical assistance needed to support their smooth integration into regional and global economy and achieve the SDGs. The participants will also be asked to fill out the online evaluation forms.

Yann Duval, TPFS, TIID, ESCAP