

Forum on Trade Digitalization for Sustainable Regional Integration

14 – 15 March 2019
United Nations Conference Centre Bangkok

Member States of the United Nations have identified trade as the key among a few essential means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Continuous efforts to streamline trade procedures are essential to make it easier for all to participate and benefit from international trade. Trade digitalization, i.e., the application of existing and emerging information and communication technologies (ICTs) to trade procedures, can go a long way towards reducing trade costs and making trade more inclusive and sustainable.

Building on a growing number of bilateral and subregional cross-border paperless trade initiatives, Asia and the Pacific countries adopted the world's first treaty dedicated to the digitalization of trade procedures in 2016. Entitled the *Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific*, this UN treaty supports and complement the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and aims to facilitate the cross-border electronic exchange and legal recognition of electronic trade-related data and documents across borders.

In support of implementation of the *Framework Agreement*, this Forum provides a platform for public and private sector experts from the region and beyond to share their experiences in enabling cross-border paperless data exchange.

Annotated tentative programme

Time	Programme
14 March 2019	
0830 - 0900	Registration
0900 - 0910	<p>Opening</p> <p><i>Ms. Mia Mikic, Director, Trade Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP</i></p>
0910 - 1000	<p>Session 1: The role of cross-border trade digitalization in sustainable regional integration</p> <p>The session will review current state of play of countries in the region in their implementation of trade digitalization. The session will also introduce why mutual recognition in cross-border electronic data exchange is important as well as relevant initiatives for facilitating it, including the FA-PT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP ESCAP</i> • <i>Prof. Somnuk Keretho, Director, Institute for Information Technology Innovation, Faculty of Engineering, Kasetsart University</i>
1000 - 1020	Networking Break
1020 - 1200	<p>Session 2: Emerging digitalization practices in B-to-B transactions</p> <p>In this session, selected private sector experts will share their experience in cross-border electronic data exchange for commercial trade transactions. Discussion will include business model, regulatory challenges and implications for policy makers and regulators, application of frontier technologies, and ways to further innovate current practices.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Duangthip Chomprang, Director, Office of International Cooperation, International Institute for Trade and Development</i>

	<p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blockchain for trade - becoming real: Lessons from real world implementation initiatives <i>Mr. Shantanu Godbole, Senior Manager – Industries Research, IBM Research India</i> • Digital exchange of trade documents across borders <i>Mr. Shawn Chen, Section Manager of Marketing and Industry Engagement, GS1 Thailand</i> • Pan Asian e-Commerce Alliance (PAA) experience in facilitating cross-border paperless trade data exchange <i>Mr. Ng Chee Keong, Vice President, Global Sales and Business Development, GeTS Asia Pte Ltd</i> • WCO Framework of Standards on cross-border e-commerce <i>Mr. Armen Manukyan, Technical Attache, Directorate of Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization</i> <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Donald Lewis, Adjunct Professor, Department of Economics, Law and International Business, School of Management, University of San Francisco</i> • <i>Ms. Cecilia Reyes, ESCAP Consultant and UNNEX T expert</i> <p>Q&A</p>
1200 - 1400	<p>Lunch Break</p> <p>Special Learning Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia Pacific Model e-Port Network (APMEN) <i>Mr. Huang Feng, Director-General, Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network (APMEN) Operational Center</i> • Blockchain Basics <i>IBM Research</i> • Globally Networked Customs (GNC) <i>World Customs Organization</i>
1400 – 1520	<p>Session 3: Emerging digitalization practices in shipping and logistics</p> <p>This session will introduce current electronic data exchange initiatives and projects related to facilitation of logistics, shipping and transit trade. Discussion will include operational arrangement, lessons learnt from implementation including challenges and success factors, and remaining issues in moving them forward.</p>

	<p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Ali Rahbari, Acting President, Iran Center for e-Commerce Development (ICeCD), Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade</i> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing supply chain and logistics management through the Physical Internet <i>Professor Eric Ballot, Supply Chain and Logistics, Scientific Director of the Physical Internet Chair, MINES-ParisTech</i> • E-TIR for facilitating transit in road transport <i>Mr. André SCEIA, Information Systems Officer, TIR secretariat Sustainable Transport Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</i> • Experience from cross-border tracking and tracing of consignments in South Asia <i>Mr. Masato Nakane, Senior Economist, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i> <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Alvin Mah, ESCAP consultant and UNNExT expert</i> • <i>Mr. Harm Jan van Burg, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance, the Netherlands</i> <p>Q&A</p>
1520 – 1540	Networking Break
1540 - 1700	<p>Session 4: Emerging digitalization practices in B-to-G and G-to-G interactions</p> <p>This session will focus on government initiatives to simplify regulatory compliance through electronic data exchange. Discussion will include scope of the initiatives and implementation models, use of emerging technologies, benefits gained in terms of both trade facilitation and regulatory compliance, and plans for further development.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Rama Dewan, Joint Chief, Bangladesh Tariff Commission</i> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of Pacific Alliance in Cross-border electronic Data Exchange in Latin America <i>Mr. Joaquin Galvan, Administrator of Customs Modernization & Mexican Single Window (VUCEM)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East African Community (EAC) Single Customs Territory Ms. Caroline Tabitha, Assistant Manager, Customs Business Transformation office, Kenya Revenue Authority • ASEAN Single Window Mr. Muwasiq Noor, Deputy Head, Operation and Development, Indonesia National Single Window Operating Agency • Experience of China Customs in cross-border electronic exchange of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary certificate Ms. Lin Jing, Vice Director General, Tianjin Customs <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bryan Suan Tiu Tan, Partner, Pinsent Masons LLP • Mr. Jonathan Koh, Senior Advisor, Nuctech Company Limited <p>Q&A</p>
15 March 2019 (Morning)	
0900 - 1030	<p>Session 5: Enabling mutual recognition of electronic data in cross-border paperless trade transactions</p> <p>In this session, experts will identify both legal and technical issues and challenges related to enabling cross-border mutual recognition of electronic data in paperless trade transactions and share their perspectives on what approaches can be taken to effectively address them.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sangwon Lim, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations ESCAP <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tahseen Khan, UNNExT Advisory Committee member and UN/CEFACT Vice-chair • Prof. Hong Xue, Director, Beijing Normal University Institute for Internet Policy & Law • Mr. Sung Heun Ha, Director of International Business and Cooperation, KNET • Mr. Luca Castellani, Secretary of Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) • Mr. Henrik Hvid Jensen, Advisor, TrustWorks A/S <p>Q&A</p>
1030 - 1050	Networking Break
1050 - 1120	Session 6: Panel discussion on trade digitalization for sustainable development

	<p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Yoon Jee Kim, Fishery Officer (Trade and Regulatory Affairs), Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</i> • <i>Ms. Lisa McAuley, Chief Executive Officer, Global Trade Professionals Alliance</i> • <i>Mr. Patrik Jonasson, Director, Public Policy Asia-Pacific, GS1 Global Office</i>
1120 - 1140	<p>Special Session: Lessons from operation of the UNNExT Task Force on Cross-border Electronic Data Exchange: Northeast Asia and demonstration of pilot-based cross-border data exchange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Kyeongrim Ahn, UNNExT expert and ESCAP consultant on cross-border electronic data exchange</i> • <i>Mr. Sung Heun Ha, Director of International Business and Cooperation, KTNET</i> • <i>Ms. Munkhzul Nergui, Customs Officer, Information Technology Center, Mongolia Customs General Administration</i>
1140 - 1200	Forum recommendations and way forward
1200	Closing

* All speakers are to be confirmed, unless specified otherwise.
