

**Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation
(ROC-TF) Meeting on 4 September 2017
*as a side event of Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2017***

**Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation:
an update**

**Tengfei Wang
Trade, Investment and Innovation Division
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

wangt@un.org

Outline

- What is ROC-TF?
- Recommendations from 2015
- ROC-TF Activities
- Modalities for Improving the Mechanism



What is ROC-TF?

- **Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism or ROC-TF** is a cooperation mechanism for the sub-regional, regional, UN and other international organizations involved in Trade Facilitation activities in the Asia Pacific region.
- **Objective:** To facilitate exchange of information, identify synergies and collaborate for effective implementation of Trade Facilitation initiatives.
- It was established following up on the explicit recommendation of the ESCAP Member States to the Secretariat in July 2011 to support the creation of a region-wide coordination mechanism, bringing together representatives of key regional organizations active in trade facilitation.
- Previous ROC-TF meetings took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka (2012), Beijing, China (2013), and Bangkok, Thailand (2014) and Wuhan, China (2015).



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



7 YEARS OF CONNECTING
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



About

Commission

2030 Agenda

Our Work

Subregional Offices

Partners

Research & Data

Media Centre

Events

Home

Trade, Investment & Innovation

ROC-TF

Home

ROC-TF Meetings

RELATED LINKS

UNNExT

Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation



The Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism, or ROC-TF, is a cooperation mechanism between the subregional, regional, United Nations and other international organizations involved in trade facilitation activities in the Asia and Pacific region. The overall goal of the mechanism is to facilitate the exchange of information, identify synergies and promote collaboration for effective implementation of trade facilitation initiatives. The informal mechanism was established on the recommendation of ESCAP member States in July 2011.

As an initial step ESCAP, with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), invited relevant regional/sub-regional organizations to take part in a dialogue on regional cooperation for trade facilitation, held on the side of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2011. This meeting was attended by representatives of both ESCAP and ADB as well as, among others, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat, the World Customs Organization Regional Office and the Asia-Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and e-Business (AFACT).

Following the recommendations made at the dialogue in 2011, electronic newsletters are published bi-annually and annual meetings are organized back to back with the annual Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum

ROC-TF E-Newsletter

The ROC-TF electronic newsletter contains information, articles and briefs about projects, past and future activities, knowledge products of participating organizations and news related to trade facilitation.

- Issue XI - February 2017
- Issue X - August 2016
- Issue IX - January 2016
- Issue VIII - July 2015
- Issue VII - January 2015
- Issue VI - August 2014
- Issue V - January 2014
- Issue IV - July 2013
- Issue III - January 2013
- Issue II - June 2012
- Issue I - March 2012

ROC-TF Annual Meetings



ROC-TF Activities since 2015

Bi-annual Newsletter



The ROC-TF newsletter is a biannual publication, which features updates, publications and forthcoming activities of regional and international organizations working on trade facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region.

PROJECT/ACTIVITY UPDATES..... 2

ANALYSIS..... 11

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS..... 14

UPCOMING EVENTS..... 20

NEWS AND COMMENTARY..... 23

For more information:

ESCAP, Trade and Investment Division, 4th Floor, the United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand Phone: (662) 288 2118 Fax: (662) 288 1027

Email: roc-tf@un.org

Website: <http://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment/trade-facilitation/roc-tf>

Issue IX, January 2016

Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) NEWSLETTER

IN FOCUS

The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum brings together 300 experts and practitioners to further trade facilitation efforts in the region.

The 7th Annual Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) took place in Wuhan, China on the 20-21 October 2015 and called for countries in the region to increase efforts to simplify and automate trade procedures and move towards paperless trade. The forum was accompanied by a week-long series of side events dedicated to making it easier and cheaper for all to trade across borders.

PUBLICATION IN FOCUS

The first United Nations Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Survey 2015: Global Report was launched in October 2015 during the APTFF. The report provides a forward-looking overview of the current state of trade facilitation implementation in 119 economies across 8 regions worldwide, including some of the key trade facilitation measures featured in the WTO TFA Agreement, as well as more advanced cross-border paperless trade measures. More information about the report and its findings available on page 14.

FEATURED ANALYSIS

Towards Seamless Supply Chains: International Connectivity

By considering the latest data from the International Supply Chain Connectivity Index (ISCCI), this analysis looks at the progress made by economies in the Asia-Pacific region towards more efficient and seamless international supply chains. This analysis can be found on page 11 and is an excerpt from the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015, which is available here: <http://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-trade-and-investment-report-2015-supporting-participation-value-chains>

UPCOMING

The Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation will hold its second meeting to discuss meeting to continue negotiations on the draft text of a prospective regional agreement for the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade. The meeting will take place from the 23-25 March 2015. More information available here: <http://www.unescap.org/events/second-meeting-interim-intergovernmental-steering-group-cross-border-paperless-trade>

For more information see page 2.

ROC-TF 4th Annual Meeting

brought together representatives from 13 international and regional organizations in Wuhan, China on the 19 October 2015. The representatives provided updates on their organization's trade facilitation activities in the Asia-Pacific region and discussed opportunities for further cooperation and collaboration between the organizations. For more information see page 2.



The ROC-TF newsletter is a biannual publication, which features updates, publications and forthcoming activities of regional and international organizations working on trade facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region.

PROJECT/ACTIVITY UPDATES..... 2

ANALYSIS..... 9

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS..... 15

UPCOMING EVENTS..... 20

NEWS AND COMMENTARY..... 23

For more information:

ESCAP, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, 4th Floor, the United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand Phone: (662) 288 2118 Fax: (662) 288 1027

Email: roc-tf@un.org

Website: <http://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment/trade-facilitation/roc-tf>

Issue IX, August 2016

Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) NEWSLETTER

IN FOCUS

The 2016 GFP Forum highlights key interventions for "Inclusive participation for effective Trade Facilitation Reforms". The annual Forum of the Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade (GFP) was held on the 1 June in Shanghai, China. The GFP members encouraged the private sector to mobilise their expertise in support of trade facilitation reforms in order to develop effective trade facilitation solutions for SMEs in particular. Read more on page 2.

UPCOMING

The 28th UNCEFACT Forum, Bangkok, Thailand, 26-30 September 2016, is organised and hosted by UNECE, ESCAP and ETOA Thailand. This global Forum is expected to bring together over 100 international experts on trade facilitation and electronic business standards. For further information and online registration please visit: <http://www.unecsc.org/28thuncefactforum>

PUBLICATION IN FOCUS

Making the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Work for SMEs

This ITC and ESCAP publication advocates for mainstreaming trade facilitation in development strategies for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). For more recent publications see page 15.

FEATURED ANALYSIS

Removing obstacles to low value consignments trade for Asia-Pacific small and medium-sized enterprises. Digitalisation has enabled the emergence of low value consignments trade and has established a platform for SMEs in developing countries to participate in global trade. For SMEs to be able to reap the benefits, identified barriers must be reduced. See page 9 for the analysis.

RESOURCES

UNCTAD's National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) Empowerment Programme is an intensive professional programme for Secretariat and members of NTFCs. Interested in learning about the programme? See page 19.

World Bank & ESCAP Trade Cost Database has been updated and now includes bilateral international trade costs among 180 countries from 1995 to 2014. Available here: <http://arinet.unescap.org/databases/tmifirst>

Find out more on page 5.



The ROC-TF newsletter is a biannual publication, which features updates, publications and forthcoming activities of regional and international organizations working on trade facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region.

PROJECT/ACTIVITY UPDATES..... 2

ANALYSIS..... 11

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS..... 18

UPCOMING EVENTS..... 22

NEWS AND COMMENTARY..... 25

For more information:

ESCAP, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, 4th Floor, the United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand Phone: (662) 288 2118 Fax: (662) 288 1027

Email: roc-tf@un.org

Website: <http://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment/trade-facilitation/roc-tf>

Issue XI, February 2017

Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) NEWSLETTER

IN FOCUS

Over 150 participants from 30 countries attended the 28th UNCEFACT Forum held in Bangkok Thailand in September 2016. The Forum advanced work on several UNCEFACT projects and recommendations. For more information see page 4.

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

The recently published Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2016 finds economies in the region remain committed to trade facilitation, with over two-thirds of the Asia-Pacific members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) ratifying the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Complementing these efforts, the "Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific" was adopted by ESCAP member States at the 72nd Commission Session and is expected to help maintain regional trade competitiveness. For analysis of Trade Facilitation from the APTFF see page 11.

UPCOMING

The Third Meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation will take place from 23-24 March 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Group will continue preparing a roadmap for the implementation of the new regional UN treaty on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade. More information available here.

ADB and ESCAP will organize the 8th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum in the third quarter of 2017. The ROC-TF meeting will be held in conjunction with the APTFF 2017. See page 24 for information on how your country or organization can get involved.

NEWS

WCO and ESCAP will organize the Third UNNEXT Masterclass: Digital Customs and Single Windows from 19 - 28 April 2017 in Cheongju, Republic of Korea. The UNNEXT Masterclass will focus on issues related to realizing a digital customs environment, as well as issues related to creating a Single Window environment. More information will be available at: <https://unnex.unescap.org>

On 24 January 2017, Nepal became the 108th WTO member to ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Only two more ratifications are needed to bring the TFA into force. Find more trade facilitation news on page 25.

ROC-TF Activities

ROC-TF activity calendar – internal

140

f₆

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
	Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) - Events Calendar 2015												
	Note: Please follow <i>Name, City, Country, Date</i> format when inserting event details. Insert rows if there are more than 3 events per month												
1													
2		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	ADB CAREC	Training Course on Customs Modernization Management for Mongolia, Shanghai, People's Republic of China (PRC); 5-Regional Transit Trade (PETA 8586) Inception Workshop, Almaty, Kazakhstan 22-23	Revised Kyoto Convention Accession Workshop; Tashkent, Uzbekistan; 17-22	Joint Customs Control Case Study; Presentation of Results; Eriian, PRC	Risk Management Assessment Workshop; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; 17-20	Authorized Economic Operator Workshop; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; 27-29	CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Revised Kyoto Convention Accession Workshop; Tashkent, Uzbekistan	14th Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; 20-21	6th CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations (CFCFA); Ulaanbaatar, MON; 21-22	Revised Kyoto Convention Accession Workshop; Kabul, Afghanistan	Joint Training on Coordinated Border Management	
4	ADB CAREC			Transboundary Animal Disease Control: Final Dissemination Workshop; Eriian, PRC	Authorized Economic Operator Workshop; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Study on Movement of People in CAREC: CAREC Business Card		Joint Customs Control Case Study; Presentation of Results; Eriian, PRC; 20-21	National Focal Points Meeting; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; 24-25	Senior Officials' Meeting/ Ministerial Conference; Ulaanbaatar, MON; 23			
5	ADB CAREC	Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) Concluding Workshop; Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; 26-27		Regional Improvement of Border Services II: Consultation Workshop; Eriian, PRC				Authorized Economic Operator Workshop; Almaty, Kazakhstan; 7-10	CAREC Immigration Officials' Meeting; Beijing, PRC; 7	CAREC Investment Forum; 24			
6	ADB CAREC	CAREC Familiarization Workshop for Mongolia; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; 29								Ministerial Conference; Ulaanbaatar, MON; 25			
7	ADB CAREC										ROC-TF Annual Meeting, 19 October, Wuhan, China		
8	ADB-ESCAP										Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2015, 20-21 October, Wuhan, China		
9	ADB-ESCAP					Regional Meeting for SASEC TTFMM, Kolkata, India (tbc)					Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2015, 20-21 October, Wuhan, China		
10	ADB-ESCAP										APTFF Capacity Building Workshop on Implementing Trade Facilitation Measures of the WTO TFA, 22 October 2015, Wuhan, China		
	ADB-ESCAP										APTFF Trade Facilitation Performance and Monitoring Workshop, 22 October 2015, Wuhan, China		

Page 1

Conclusions and Recommendations from the most recent ROC-TF meeting in 2015

- During the discussion the participants stated that ROC-TF is a unique and useful mechanism.
- Furthermore, it was agreed that coordination by regional and international organizations working on trade facilitation was beneficial to the countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The participants offered some of the following recommendations to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the organizations. The meeting agreed:
 - That a study on the linkages and synergies of regional development initiatives on trade facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region would be beneficial;
 - That organizations would circulate amongst each other their ongoing work and guidelines on National Trade Facilitation Committees;
 - To share more information on national level activities to foster collaboration and avoid duplication;
 - To expand the membership of ROC-TF to include other international organizations, such as the WTO, APEC, bilateral development partners/donors, and private sector actors in the region such as ICC and Pan Asian e-Commerce Alliance (PAA);
 - To explore the possibility of expanding the yearly meetings to more than one day;
 - To consider new mechanisms to improve coordination and exchange of information, such a group e-mail, interactive calendar, more frequent emails and event reminders;
 - To continue the dissemination of the ROC-TF annual calendar and bi-annual newsletter. The ROC-TF Organizations are encouraged to provide timely input (regarding their projects, activities, publications, achievements) for the ROC-TF newsletter and calendar.

Improving the Mechanism

- Existing tools:
 - Newsletter:
 - Calendar:
- Coordinating the work of ROC-TF member organizations around thematic/ strategic objectives
 - Common areas of Trade Facilitation such as capacity building on TFA
 - Joint research/publication



Thank you

roc-tf@un.org
agyeben@un.org

<http://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment/trade-facilitation/roc-tf>

