

FASTER, MORE EFFICIENT MOVEMENT ACROSS BORDERS



APTF CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP: DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING TRADE FACILITATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

12 SEPTEMBER 2013, BEIJING, CHINA

The Trade Facilitation Agenda

- ❑ WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (Bali Ministerial)
- ❑ Sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures
- ❑ Information-sharing and data exchange (interagency and cross-border)
- ❑ Single Window facilities (national and regional)
- ❑ Customs reform and modernization (e.g. Risk management, Authorized Economic Operators)
- ❑ Trade Logistics infrastructure and capacity building
- ❑ Border-crossing infrastructure (both sides)

Objectives/Outcome

- Increased transparency in border management
- Reduced transaction costs and time by
 - ▣ improving administrative efficiency
 - ▣ simplifying, standardizing, and harmonizing trade procedures
- Free movement of people and goods
- Enhanced trade security
- Diverse initiatives complement one another
- Best practice replicated

Trade Facilitation Challenges/Obstacles

- 'Hardware'
 - ▣ Infrastructure
 - ▣ Transport Operations
- 'Software'
 - ▣ Border-crossing procedures
 - ▣ Uncoordinated, unharmonized standards

Identifying/Overcoming the Challenges

in pursuit of Integrated Trade Facilitation:

- Technical
 - ▣ Interoperability
 - ▣ simplifying, standardizing, and harmonizing procedures, regulations
- **POLITICAL**
- Financial
- Coordination/Division of labor
 - ▣ Public sector and private sector
 - ▣ Development partners

Mobilizing and Sustaining Political Will

- Who's in charge?
- What needs to be done?
- Who needs to be involved?



Examples of Success



**(Republic of) Korea, Singapore, Japan, Thailand,
Malaysia, Georgia, Azerbaijan**

- i. Customs modernization
- ii. Conduct of Time Release Studies
- iii. Single Window facilities

The Motivation

- Top-down, tech-savvy leadership (AZE)
- Popular fatigue with the Soviet inheritance (GEO)
- Catching up to, keeping pace with, or doing better than... neighbors/rivals/competitors/partners

Sustaining the Momentum

Regional Cooperation to Provide Impetus?

- 1) Bilateral (Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan; PRC and Mongolia)
- 2) Trilateral (PRC, Korea, and Japan; Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Georgia)
- 3) Geographic (ASEAN, CAREC, SASEC, GMS, GTI)

Much More is Needed...

- ❑ Other incentives? (regional transport corridors?)
- ❑ Motivations? (performance in globally recognized indices?)
- ❑ Why are demonstrated end results not compelling enough?

Your Input is Essential...

Thank you

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