



Update on ESCAP Work on Trade Facilitation and implementation of the ROC-TF mechanism

*Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade
Facilitation (ROC-TF) Annual Meeting*

29 October 2012

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Outline

- APTFF 2009 recommendations
- Introduction to ESCAP
- Overview of ESCAP Trade Facilitation Activities
- UNNE_xT
- ESCAP Trade Cost Database
- ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework
- ESCAP Trade Facilitation Activities: Update
- Update on ROC-TF after the Dialogue Meeting in 2011



Introduction to ESCAP

- Regional (Asia and the Pacific) Branch of the United Nations Secretariat
- 63 member countries covering Central, South, Southeast, East and South Pacific countries
- Mandate: Promote sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development in Asia and the Pacific
 - through facilitation of REGIONAL COOPERATION
- Areas covered: Trade and Investment, Transport, Macroeconomic Policy, Environment, Emerging social issues, Information and Communication Technologies...
 - Trade and Investment: (1) Trade Facilitation; (2) Trade Policy; (3) Investment and Enterprise Development





ESCAP Activities in Trade Facilitation

- Provide regional knowledge-sharing and capacity building platforms:
 - The **United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXT)**
 - The annual **Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum & Exhibition (APTFF)**
- Develop guides and training materials to bridge the gap between standards developers and "implementers"
- Deliver specialized national and regional workshops and programmes, as well as on-request advisory services
- Conduct analyses and develop trade facilitation performance indicators,
 - including the **ESCAP Bilateral Trade Cost Database**

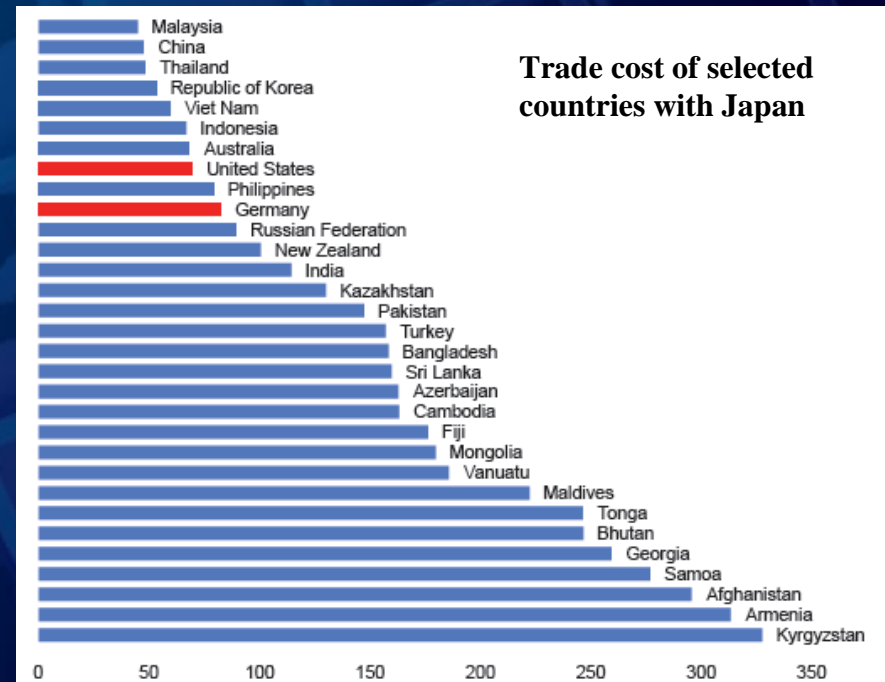


- “*community of knowledge and practice to facilitate the implementation of single window and paperless trade in the region*”
 - Tools and guides development activities
 - Advocacy and Technical Training Workshops
 - Knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer support
- On-going focus:
 - Trade Process Analysis
 - Data Harmonization
 - Legal Framework for Single Window and Paperless Trade



ESCAP Bilateral Trade Cost Database

- Macro-level indicator of Trade Facilitation Performance
 - Measure of all direct and indirect international trade costs between two countries
- Only database providing bilateral trade cost information
 - Directly relevant for intra-regional trade performance monitoring
 - 50+ countries (<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/trade-costs.asp>)
- Version 2.0 under development (in collaboration with the World Bank)
 - 107 countries
 - Enhanced trade cost indicators
 - Disaggregated into:
 - Industry trade costs
 - & Agricultural trade costs
 - To be available by: Dec. 2011



Non-tariff intra and extra regional trade costs in Asia and the Pacific (2007/2009)*

Region	ASEAN-4	East Asia-3	North & Central Asia	SAARC-4	AUS-NZL	EU-3	USA
ASEAN-4	79% (-9.5%)	73% (-5.9%)	291% (-14.2%)	134% (2.1%)	90% (-12.3%)	97% (-4.9%)	77% (3.0%)
East Asia-3	73% (-5.9%)	47% (-21.1%)	187% (-32.7%)	119% (-2.8%)	78% (-15.7%)	70% (-19.0%)	53% (-13.5%)
North & Central Asia	291% (-14.2%)	187% (-32.7%)	149% (-20.5%)	270% (-22.4%)	270% (-22.2%)	149% (-26.0%)	165% (5.0%)
SAARC-4	134% (2.1%)	119% (-2.8%)	270% (-22.4%)	113% (5.0%)	130% (-2.7%)	101% (-3.2%)	99% (5.9%)
AUS-NZL	90% (-12.3%)	78% (-15.7%)	270% (-22.2%)	130% (-2.7%)	45% (-23.5%)	89% (-17.0%)	82% (-11.1%)
EU3	97% (-4.9%)	70% (-19.0%)	149% (-26.0%)	101% (-3.2%)	89% (-17.0%)	32% (-32.6%)	51% (-18.2%)
USA	77% (3.0%)	53% (-13.5%)	165% (-17.3%)	99% (5.9%)	82% (-11.1%)	51% (-18.2%)	

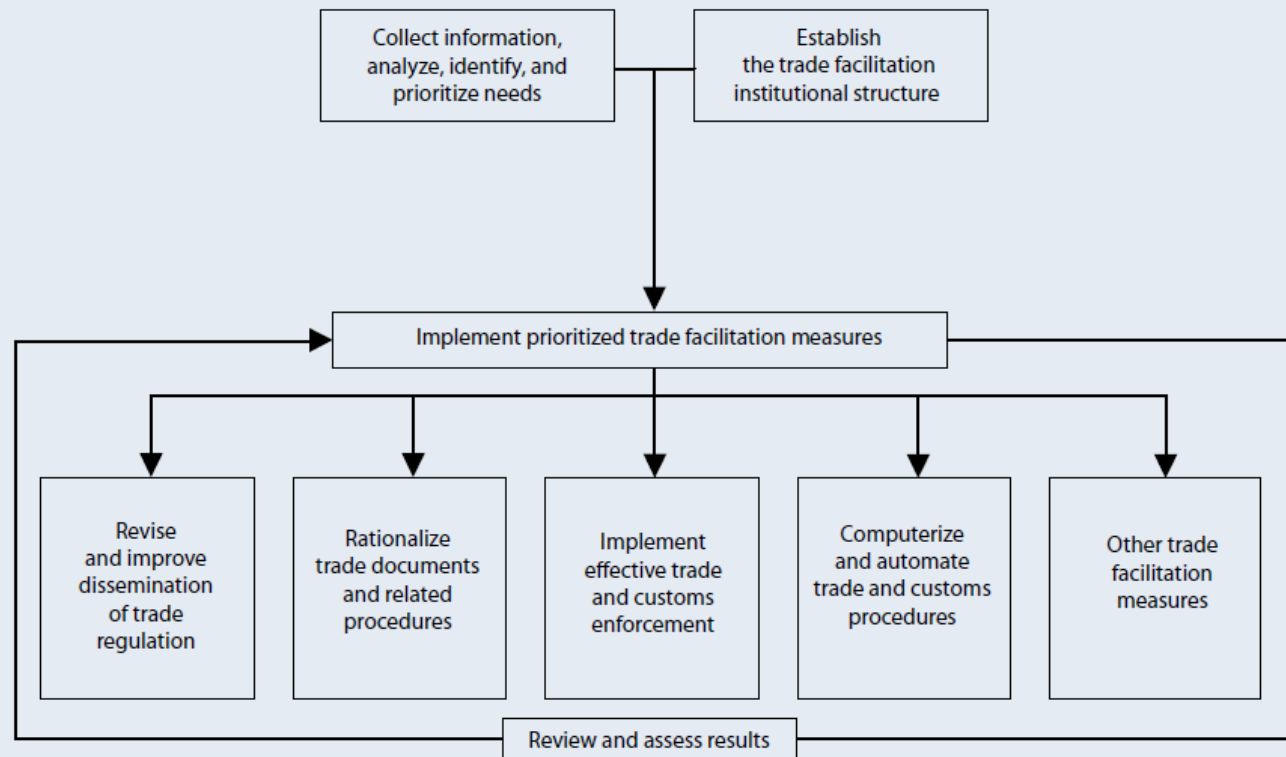
Source: ESCAP Trade Cost Database (version 2).

*values in parenthesis show change since 2001/3 (in %)

ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework (1)

- Developed by a regional team of TF experts in 2003/4
- What is it?
 - Series of suggested Trade Facilitation implementation steps and sub-steps
 - With associated (yes/no) indicators (to assess state of implementation)
 - Also include suggested key performance indicators

Figure 3.1: Step-by-Step Trade Facilitation: A Framework for Action



Source: ESCAP, 2004.

– <http://www.unescap.org/tid/publication/t&ipub2327.asp>



ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework (2)

- (known) Applications so far:
 - Applied in several Central Asian countries on a pilot basis in 2004-5
 - Unclear whether the framework was used for monitoring of TF implementation by individual countries after project ended
 - Used as the basis for development of the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Framework (mandated as part of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement implementation)
 - ASEAN has not made its framework public;
- Simplified and updated version introduced in the ADB-ESCAP Reference Book on “*Designing and Implementing Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific*”, 2009
 - http://www.unescap.org/tid/projects/tfforum_adbescapbook.pdf



ESCAP Trade Facilitation Activities: Update

- UNNExT Electronic Single Window Implementation Toolkit
- **ESCAP Resolution 68/3 on Enabling Paperless Trade and the Cross-border Recognition of Electronic Trade Documents** (adopted May 2012)
- SASEC Corridor Trade Process Analysis (with ADB)
- **Annual Country Assessment Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade** (piloted at the APTFF 2012 this year)



ROC-TF Recommendations


from last year's Regional Cooperation Dialogue on TF (Oct. 2011)

- Organizing Dialogue on Regional Cooperation for Trade Facilitation should be continued and consideration should be given to invitation and participation of a few more organizations.
- Identification of “official” focal points in each organization for Trade Facilitation.
- Establishment of a restricted online discussion group among Dialogue participants to facilitate sharing of information on Trade Facilitation.
- As a first step towards exchanging information, an electronic newsletter would be launched and circulated among the group every quarter.
- Sharing of names and contact of national trade facilitation focal points should be pursued to the extent possible both to facilitate implementation of individual activities as well as a way to avoid duplication and foster coordination on Trade Facilitation at national levels.
- The development of a common trade facilitation performance monitoring framework across the wider region, and based on existing frameworks, should be discussed again at future dialogues.



ROC-TF Activities - Webpage

www.unescap.org/tid/roctf.asp



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


Following up on recommendations from the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2009 and subsequent events to, inter alia, improve the effectiveness of the existing regional/subregional cooperation initiatives and identify synergies among them, ESCAP Member States in July 2011 explicitly recommended the Secretariat to support the creation of a region-wide coordination mechanism, bringing together representatives of key regional organizations active in trade facilitation. As a result, ESCAP, with the support of ADB, invited relevant regional/sub-regional organizations to a Dialogue on Regional Cooperation for Trade Facilitation, which was held on the side of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2011.

This first meeting was attended by representatives from the following organizations: Asian Development Bank, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Secretariat, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Secretariat, the World Customs Organization (WCO Regional Office), the Asia-Pacific Center Council for Trade Facilitation and e-Business (AFACT), the Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat (OCO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The following recommendations were made at the Dialogue:

1. Organizing Dialogue on Regional Cooperation for Trade Facilitation should be continued and consideration should be given to invitation and participation of a few more organizations.
2. Identification of "official" focal points in each organization for Trade Facilitation.
3. Establishment of a restricted online discussion group among Dialogue participants to facilitate sharing of information on Trade Facilitation.
4. As a first step towards exchanging information, an electronic newsletter would be launched and circulated among the group every quarter.
5. Sharing of names and contact of national trade facilitation focal points should be pursued to the extent possible both to facilitate implementation of individual activities as well as a way to avoid duplication and foster coordination on Trade Facilitation at national levels.
6. The development of a common trade facilitation performance monitoring framework across the wider region, and based on existing frameworks, should be discussed again at future dialogues.

The annual meeting of ROC-TF will take place on 29 October 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on the side of Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) 2012. For participation at the APTFF 2012 and side events, please visit: <http://www.unescap.org/tid/projects/tfforum12.asp>



ROC-TF Newsletter

Thank You



Relevant APTFF 2009 Recommendations*

- Improve regional/subregional connectivity, including through development of regional/subregional economic and transit corridors and institutional strengthening;
- Harmonize trade-related legal and regulatory systems, including those related to product standards and certification.
- **Share experience on effective and pragmatic subregional approaches to trade facilitation with a view to improve the effectiveness of the existing regional/subregional cooperation initiatives and identify synergies among them.**
- Facilitate collection and exchange of information and expertise in trade facilitation and automation, including through organization of a regular regional trade facilitation forum and/or exhibition and development of regional networks and community of practices in trade facilitation.
- **Consider development of a regional trade facilitation cooperation program and mechanism for the greater Asia-Pacific region, building on existing regional/subregional initiatives;**
- Promote capacity building programs on trade facilitation supported and implemented jointly or in a coordinated manner by relevant global and regional organizations, including ADB, ESCAP and WCO Asia-Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building.

*http://www.unescap.org/tid/projects/tfforum09_outcome.pdf



What is required from all of us?

- Greater coordination
 - e.g. Focal Point
- Improved Communication
 - e.g. Input for newsletter
- Presence on organization's website
- Dedicated website?
- Any other suggestion

