

**Asia-Pacific
Trade Facilitation Forum**
Survey on Trade Facilitation and
Paperless Trade

South Asia: Preliminary Results

Colombo, Sri Lanka
30-31 October 2012

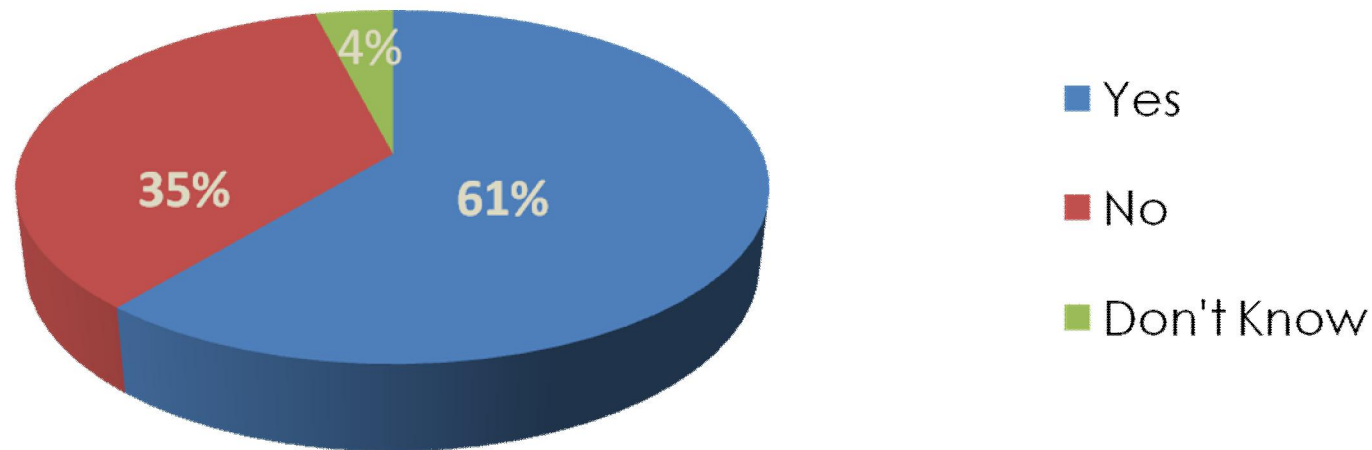
Survey Respondents

So far, there have been 46 respondents from 26 countries ...

South East Asia	South Asia	Central & East Asia
Cambodia	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan
Indonesia	Bangladesh	China
Lao PDR	Bhutan	Japan
Malaysia	India	Korea, Rep.
Myanmar	Maldives	Kyrgyz Republic
Philippines	Nepal	Mongolia
Singapore	Pakistan	Republic of Uzbekistan
Thailand	Sri Lanka	Russian Federation
Vietnam		Turkey

Trade Facilitation Measures

Does your country have a national trade facilitation body that promotes and implements trade facilitation and paperless trade in the country?



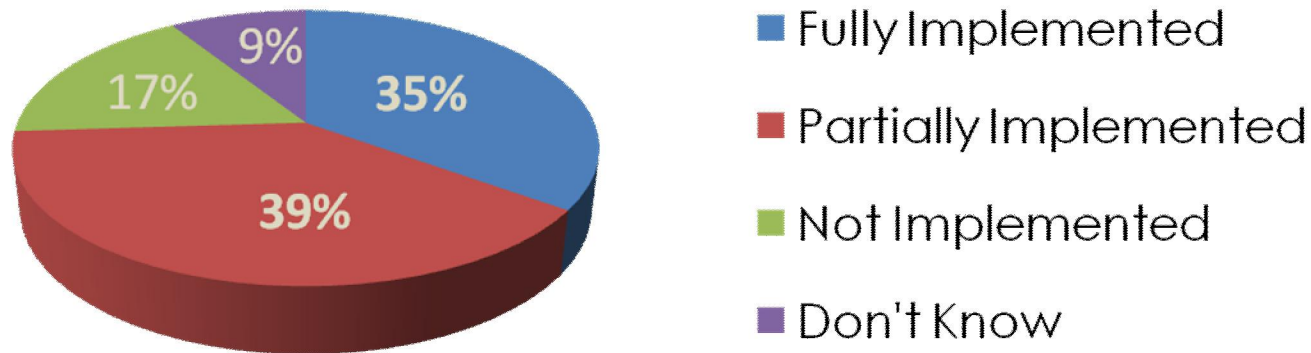
Who is the lead agency?

Customs: Cambodia, Japan, Korea Republic, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey and Singapore

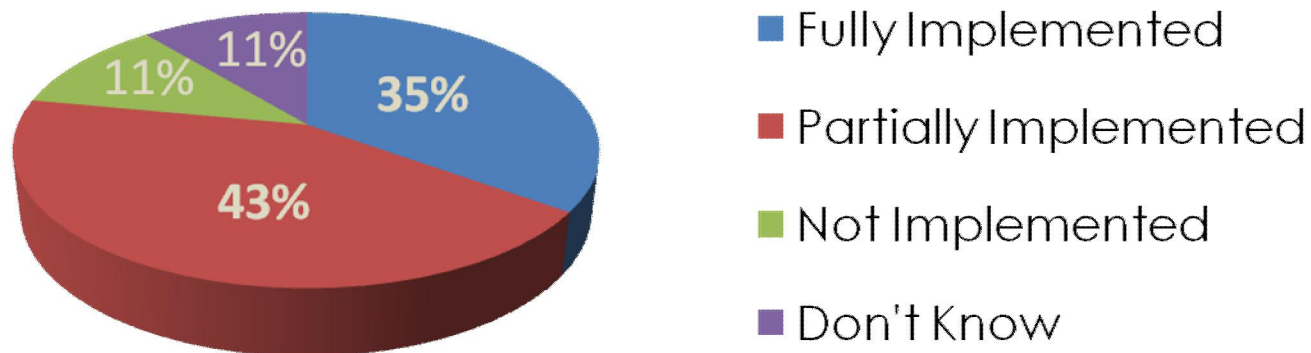
Ministry of Economy/Commerce/Trade: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka,

Trade Facilitation Measures

Does your country have a Risk Management programme?



Does your country have a Post-Clearance Audit programme?



National Single Window

Does your country have a National Single Window (NSW)?



Several countries do not yet have a NSW or under development ...

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Republic of Uzbekistan

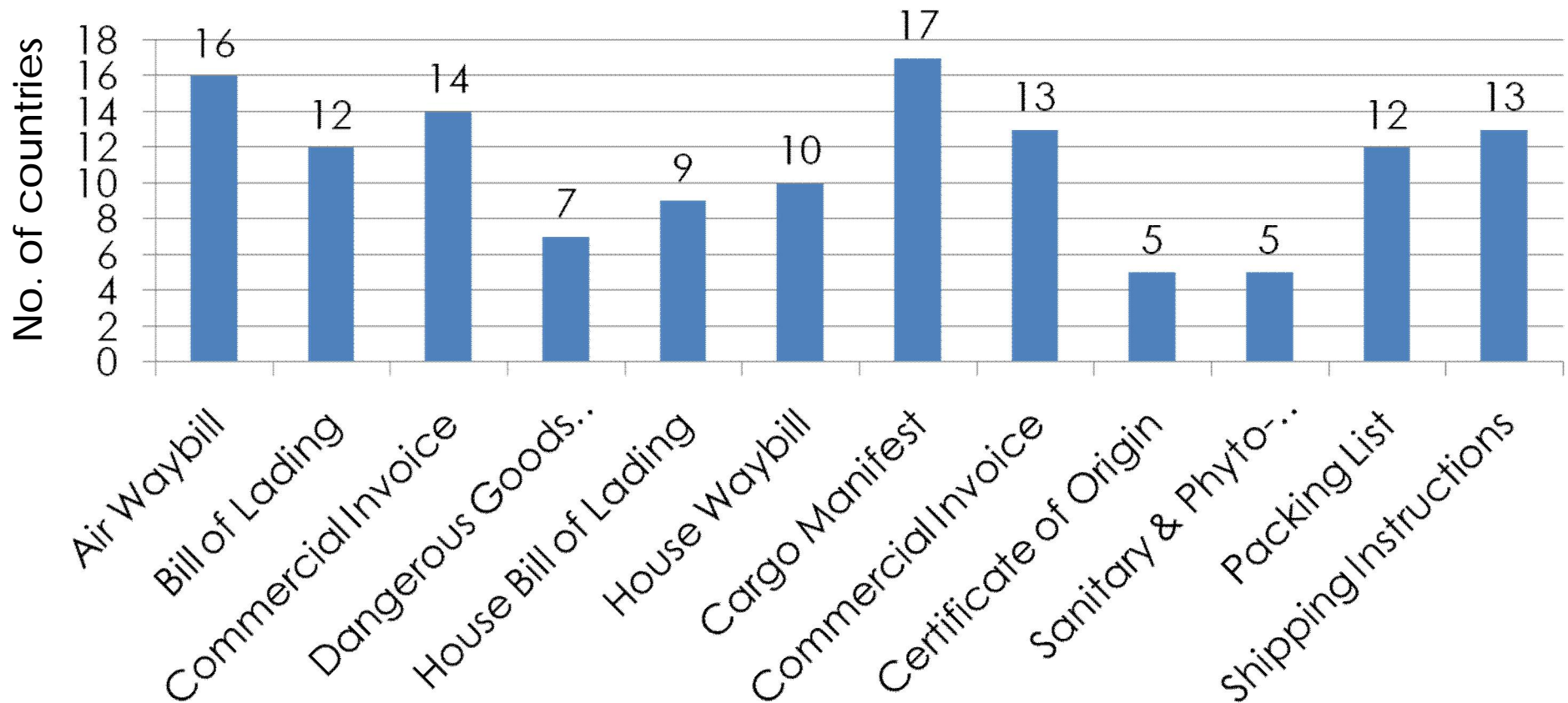
In some countries, 100% of Customs declarations are routed via the NSW ...

India, Korea Republic, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand

Towards Cross-Border Paperless Trade

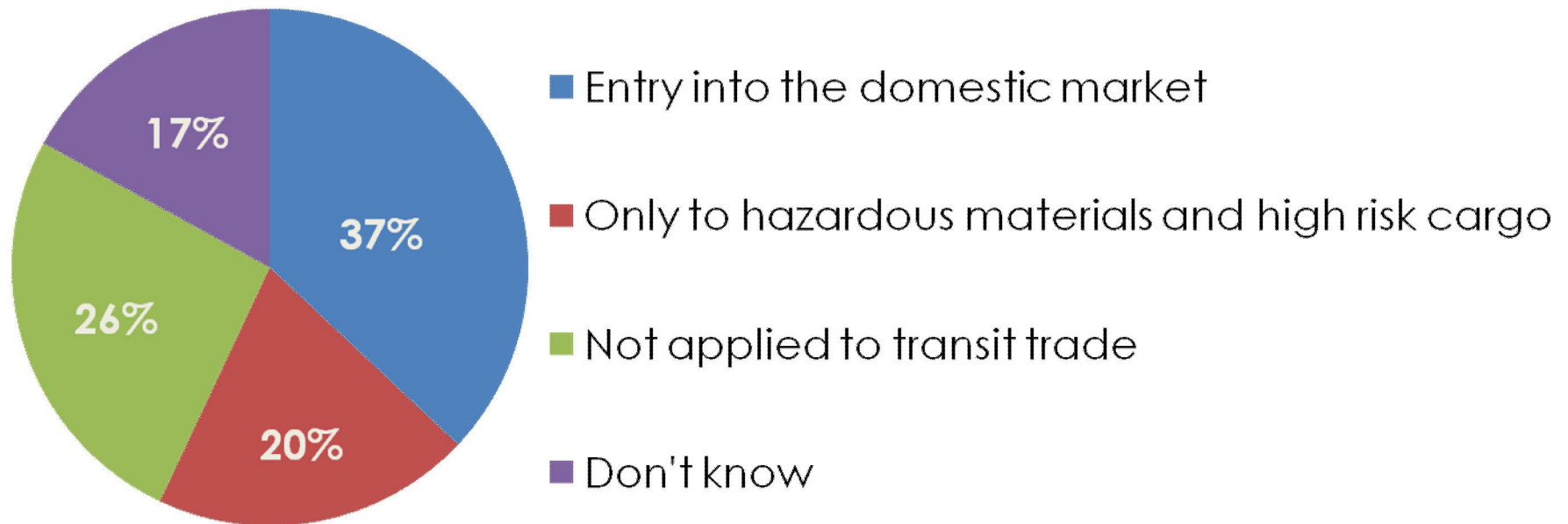
To the best of your knowledge, how are the following documents exchanged between traders in your country and their overseas counterparts/partners?

No. of countries who exchange electronic documents



Transit Facilitation

When are quality controls or technical standards applied?



- 41% of respondents surveyed indicated that they did not have separate border-crossing facilities/infrastructure for transits
- Most of the respondents surveyed indicated that physical inspections are limited through risk assessment

Key Messages

- More than half of the 26 countries surveyed already have a national trade facilitation body in place
- Customs does not always have to be the “lead agency” to promote and implement a national trade facilitation strategy;
 - Ministries of Economy, Commerce or Trade often take the lead
 - Typically, Customs tend to take the lead in the development of a National Single Window
- Risk Management plays an essential role in trade facilitation, but it often requires a Post-Clearance Audit programme to be in place
- Very few countries have implemented what could be considered to be a “fully operational” National Single Window
 - ... but most countries already have an e-Customs system

Regional:

South Asia

What the respondents say

Country	Trade Facilitation Body	e-Customs System	National Single Window
Afghanistan	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	No (1)
Bangladesh	Yes (3), No (2)	Yes (3), No (2)	Yes (1), No (4)
Bhutan	No	Yes (1)	No (1)
India	Yes (1), No (2)	Yes (3)	Yes (2). Under Dev. (1)
Maldives	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Under Dev. (1)
Nepal	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Under Dev. (1), No (1)
Pakistan	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Under Dev. (2), No (1)
Sri Lanka	No (1)	Yes (1)	No (1)

Some Observations

■ National Single Window

- Most of the respondents surveyed said that they do not have a National Single Window, although some say that it is under development

■ Towards Cross Border Paperless Trade

- Very few documents are exchanged electronically within the region
- Most of the respondents surveyed said that they are not engaged in any cross border paperless trade document or data exchange with other country
- The legal framework is not there to support electronic documents
- There are only a few recognised certification authorities within the region

■ Transit Facilitation

- Most of the countries do not have physically separate border-crossing facilities for transit

Issues & Challenges

■ Bangladesh

- Formation of a National Trade Facilitation Task Force or Committee
- Further simplification of documentation requirements in Customs
- Capacity building in Ports / Customs
- There is a need to improve the port infrastructure
- Automating the issuance of import and export licences and permits
- Industry specific trade facilitation programmes e.g. agricultural products
- Limited expertise

■ Bhutan

- Physical constraints at the border
- Co-operation among the relevant stakeholders within and outside the government
- Lack of expertise in this area

Issues & Challenges

■ India

- Reduce the number of documents required
- Use of digital signatures

■ Maldives

- Lack of technical know-how in implementation of systems like Risk Management, National Single Window, Electronic Documents and Manifest Submission
- Lack of co-ordination and co-operation between other border agencies
- Lack of financial and capital resources needed to run large scale TF projects
- Absence of a national level primary body to deal with issues related to trade facilitation and paperless trade,
- No legal structure to support electronic documents

■ Nepal

- Lack of specialized personnel in this sector
- Lack of awareness about paperless trade among Business Community
- Lack of co-ordination of border management authorities

Issues & Challenges

■ Pakistan

- Co-ordination between various government agencies
- Policy direction from the top level of the government is at slow pace for the trade facilitation initiatives to progress speedily
- Greater co-ordination with regional countries, especially the landlocked Central Asian States, is also required to facilitate trade in the Central Asian region.
- Small traders are not conversant with new technologies

■ Sri Lanka

- An ineffective advisory committee appointed by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Recommendations

■ General

- Benefits of paperless trade are enormous so it must be implemented in every country
- For that, first of all Governments and business sector must aware of it
- Business sector wants paperless trade
- Governments must initiate discussions regarding paperless trade to related sectors and implement it

Thank You