

South-East Asia Breakout Session:

**“Progress in Trade Facilitation and
Paperless Trade and the Role of Public
Private Collaboration”**

Summary report by session chairperson

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Summary of Discussions and Recommendations, APTFF 2012

Highlights of Discussion

- Public Private Partnership in TF
(*consolidating TF into single authority or inter-agency collaboration)
- Various levels of progress in TF
- Governance
- Appropriate methodology to measure improvements
- TF in region an active priority for Development Partners

Tangible Progress in Trade Facilitation

- **Subregional**

- ASEAN Economic Community – ASEAN SW – NSW Development
- Subregional TF platforms providing building blocks e.g. GMS, BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT

- **National**

- Development of Trade Information Portal to become transactional
- Review of regulatory framework towards e-trade
- Road Maps being developed or implemented
- Substantial Progress (e.g. NSW, AEO) with lessons to be learned

Main Challenges Shared

- Legal environment not ready for TF – inadequate venue for Public-private collaboration + “Trust” factor
- Physical Infrastructure and transport linkages (easing cost of doing business)
- Government Balancing Act (perceived loss of revenue vs. TF)
- Readiness for adoption of modern technology
- Weak financial support systems
- Human Resources Development (public and private) and Optimization
- Poor coordination between public and private sector
- Extending inclusiveness of TF Frameworks to SMEs

Recommendations (National and Subregional)

- Continuous strengthening of legal framework and improved implementation of existing laws
- Encourage public-private investment for necessary infrastructure to facilitate trade
- Knowledge transfer or technology exchange through TA
- Consider special needs of SMEs, for both TF and for value chain participation- encourage DPs to help address SME concerns
- Provide targeted training for both public and private sectors
- Strengthening of trade related information portal and make them accessible to public
- Encourage integration into value chains and production networks (subregional level) -> AEC

Conclusions and Final Remarks

- Southeast Asian agree and recognize
 - the importance of TF
 - varied readiness in TF – subregional knowledge sharing of best practices, supported by appropriate TA
 - the need to work towards full interoperability for NSW platforms