10th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum
Session 1: Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific
29 August 2022

Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific

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UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

- **Conducted jointly by all five UN Regional Commissions** and UNCTAD, in collaboration with global and (sub)regional partners

- **WTO TFA+ 58 trade facilitation measures** (2015-2021)

- **144+ economies** globally, 46 from Asia-Pacific region

WTO TFA-related measures

1. **Digital TF**: paperless trade & cross-border paperless trade

2. **Sustainable TF**: for SMEs, agriculture, and women

3. **TF during crisis and pandemic & Trade finance facilitation**
Implementation varies widely across countries and subregions.
Implementation accelerated in all subregions

Trade facilitation implementation by subregions in Asia and the Pacific, 2019 and 2021
Implementation of cross-border paperless trade is still a challenge despite most progress made

Implementation of different groups of trade facilitation measures in Asia-Pacific, 2019 and 2021

![Graph showing the implementation of different groups of trade facilitation measures in Asia-Pacific, 2019 and 2021.](untfsurvey.org)
Implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures remains low

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Fully implemented</th>
<th>Pilot stage of implementation</th>
<th>Partially implemented</th>
<th>Not implemented</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws and regulations for electronic transactions</td>
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<td>Electronic exchange of Customs Declaration</td>
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<td>Electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin</td>
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<td>Recognised certification authority</td>
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<td>Electronic exchange of Sanitary &amp; Phyto-Sanitary Certificate</td>
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<td>Paperless collection of payment from a documentary letter of credit</td>
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</table>
### Significant room to cut trade costs through trade digitalization

Changes in trade costs in Asia and the Pacific resulting from implementation of trade facilitation and paperless trade (per cent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asia-Pacific: Trade costs model</th>
<th>WTO TFA (binding only)</th>
<th>WTO TFA (binding + non-binding)</th>
<th>WTO TFA + (binding + non-binding + other paperless and cross-border paperless trade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partially implemented</td>
<td>Fully implemented</td>
<td>Partially implemented</td>
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<td>Model 1</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Overall trade facilitation</td>
<td>-1.74</td>
<td>-4.11</td>
<td>-2.81</td>
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<td>Model 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General trade facilitation</td>
<td>-0.56</td>
<td>-1.36</td>
<td>-0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facilitation measures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital trade facilitation</td>
<td>-1.56</td>
<td>-2.80</td>
<td>-8.78</td>
</tr>
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<td>facilitation measures</td>
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</table>

Supporting the Digital TF: Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

- **A UN Treaty: enabling and action-oriented**
  - Open to interested (53) ESCAP member states (voluntary) to become parties

- **Objective**
  - To facilitate cross-border paperless trade (data exchange) among willing ESCAP member states by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions
  - Complementary to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) as well as (sub)regional efforts

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**Progress**

- 2012 Regional Study
- 2013 Expert Review & Member Consultations
- 2013 - 2016 Negotiation & Finalization
- 19 May 2016 Adoption by the Commission
- 20 February 2021 Enter into force

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3 new countries acceded in 2022 so far:
- Timor-Leste
- Turkmenistan
- Mongolia

https://www.unescap.org/kp/cpta
Supporting the Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

- United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEExT)
- **NEW** Cross-border Paperless Trade database
  
  www.digitalizetrade.org

- Legal and Technical Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade
  
  readiness.digitalizetrade.org

- Paperless Trade and Environment Research
  - Paperless trade implementation in AP = planting 400+ million trees
  - Climate-smart Business Process Analysis
CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE DATABASE

Accelerating progress towards trade digitalization through knowledge sharing
14 national readiness assessment studies completed

Central Asia (6)
Armenia (2019)
Azerbaijan (2022)
Georgia (2022)
Kazakhstan (2022)
Mongolia (2019)
Uzbekistan (2019)

South-East Asia (6)
Cambodia (2020)
Lao PDR (2022)
Myanmar (2019)
Philippines (2022)
Timor Leste (2020)
Viet Nam (2019)

South Asia (2)
Bangladesh (2019)
Nepal (2020)

4 on-going or planned
Tajikistan, Tonga, Tuvalu, … Mexico…

(##): Year of completion of the Assessment
Readiness assessments for cross-border paperless trade – cross-country results

Top 5 recommendations – technical and legal

Establish or strengthen the stakeholder coordination mechanism
Enhance awareness and conduct capacity building of on cross border paperless trade
Establish / enhance / implement strategic plan and guidelines on business continuity of ICT systems, incl. a disaster recovery
Conduct data harmonization for the implementation and upgrading of the ICT system (on the basis of international standards)
Conduct Business Process Re-engineering on the implementation and upgrading of ICT system relevant to trade related regulatory agencies

Modernize, simplify, streamline laws and regulations governing electronic transactions
Adopt / amend the law on use of data / data governance / data flows, incl. protection of privacy and confidentiality
Conduct awareness / capacity-building on legal issues related to paperless trade
Establish / improve legal basis for paperless trade environment / operation of the NSW
Initiate / participate in multilateral and bilateral cross-border paperless trade interoperability initiatives (including joining the CPTA)
THANK YOU

Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Paperless Trade
UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNeT)

E-Learning Series on Business Process Analysis for Trade Facilitation
Cross-Border Paperless Trade Readiness Assessment
Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF)