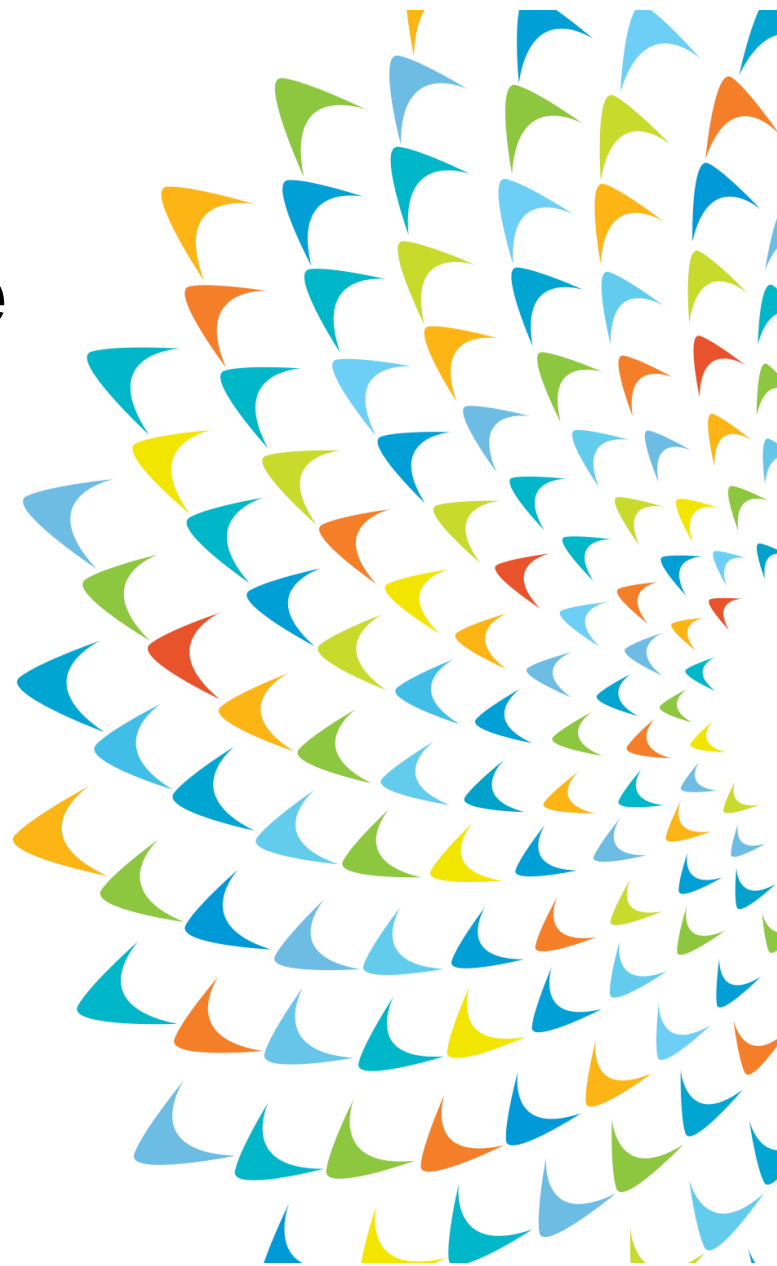




Trade Digitalization in the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Program

Aileen Pangilinan
Senior Regional Cooperation Officer
Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division
South Asia Department
Asian Development Bank





SASEC: Project-based Partnership to Promote Regional Prosperity

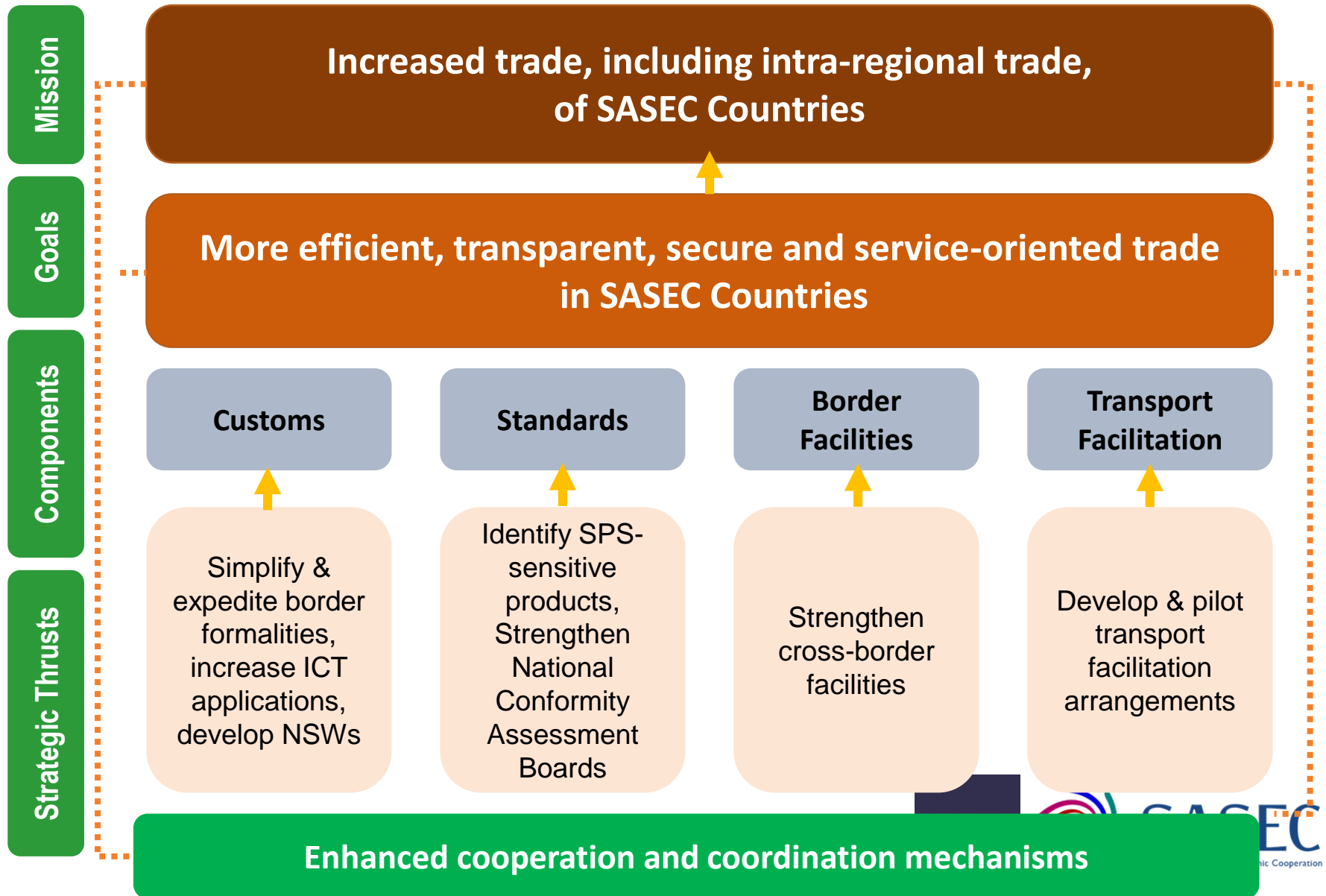
- Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka
- Three sectors: Transport, Trade Facilitation, Energy
- Institution light, projects-heavy: Nodal Officials, Working Groups
- Flexible, Multi-track, Multi-speed, Building Block approach
- ADB is the secretariat and lead supporter
- 2001-2018, 52 projects worth \$11.3 billion approved, of which ADB extended \$6.5 billion of financing





SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework

Providing the software to connectivity





Experiences on Digitalization for Trade Facilitation in SASEC

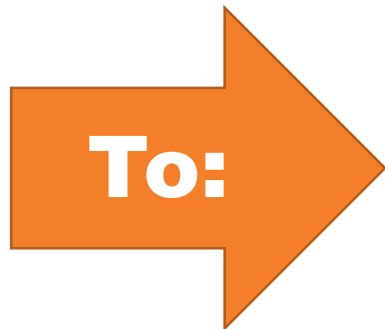
- Technology driven transit facilitation
- Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives



Technology driven transit facilitation

From:

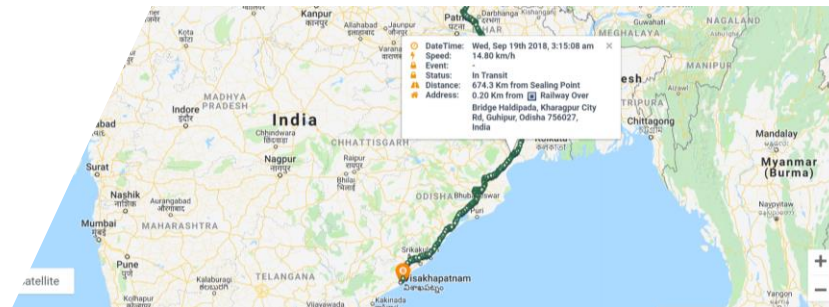
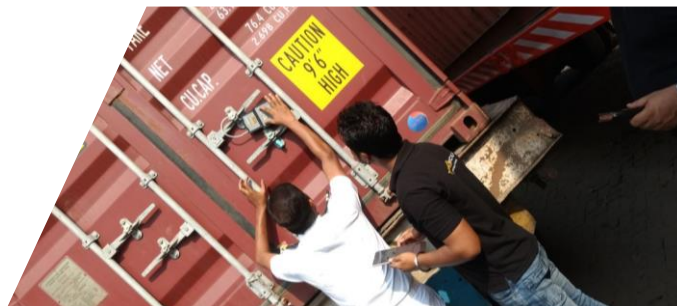
- Manual process
- Excessive documentation
- Delay in discharge of bonds
- Lack of visibility
- Inadequate security and monitoring capability



- Automated process
- Digital uploads
- Automatic discharge of bonds
- Shipment visibility
- High security and real time monitoring

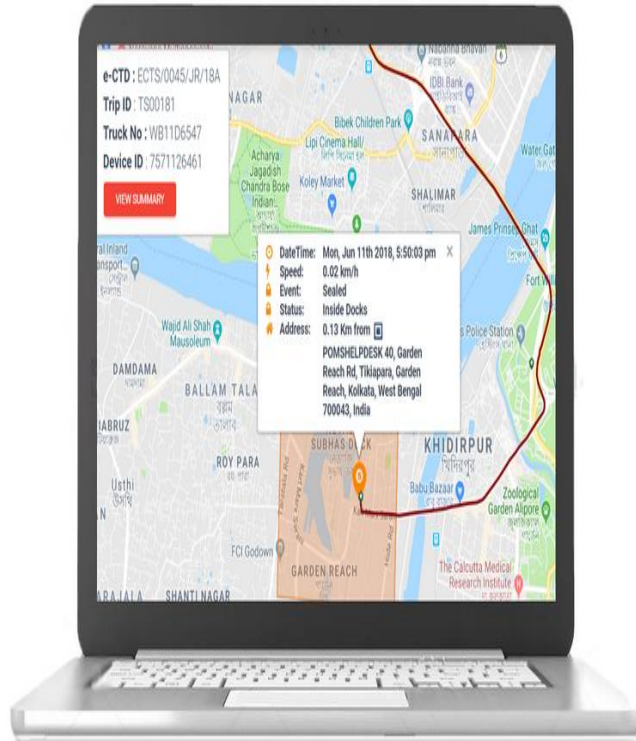


Electronic Cargo Tracking System





Technology driven transit facilitation - Features



SECURITY



REFORMS AND SIMPLIFICATION



VISIBILITY



ANALYTICS



Technology driven transit facilitation – Roles of stakeholders

Agency	Activity (Previous)	Activity (with ECTS)
Shipping Company	Files Manifest; issues delivery order	Files IGM; files application for transshipment and gets approval ; issues delivery order in Nepal
Consulate of Nepal	Issues letter to Indian Customs	NONE
Nepal Importer (rep. by Customs Broker)	Files CTD along with invoice, packing list, import license etc.; gives undertaking; container re-positioning	NONE
Port Authority	Unloading/custodianship of goods	Unloading/custodianship of goods



Technology driven transit facilitation – Roles of stakeholders

Agency	Activity (Previous)	Activity (with ECTS)
Transporter	- NONE	Furnish bond/security for secure movement of cargo through Indian territory
Customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declaration scrutiny; duty computation;• Seal affixation and removal• Discharge of bond	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permission based on Manifest• Seal affixation and removal• Discharge of bond



Technology driven transit facilitation – Experiences and Challenges

- Fulfilling compliance requirements by Nepal traders in country of transit (India)
- Advocacy to encourage greater participation
- Reduced role of intermediaries
- Dealing with exceptions
- Change management
- Congestion in transport network



Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives

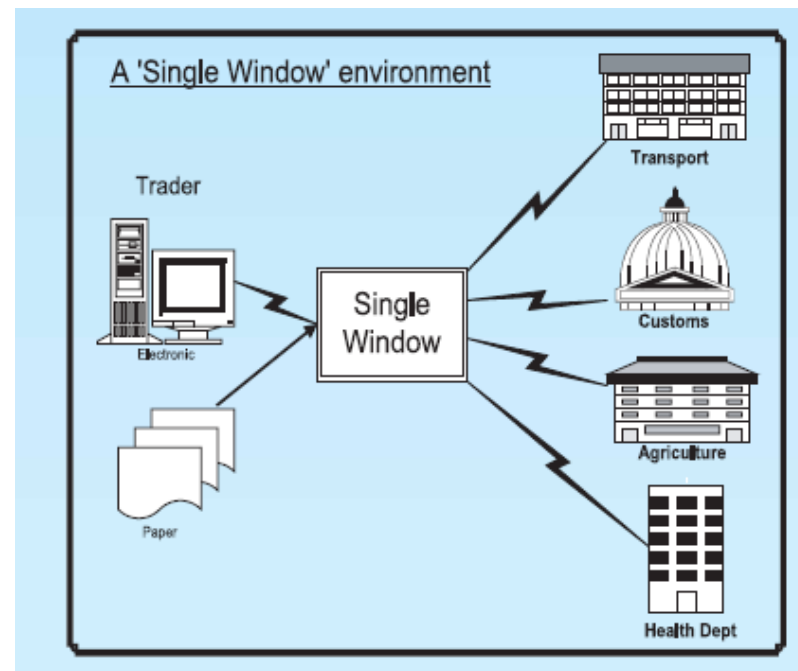


Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives

What is National Single Window?

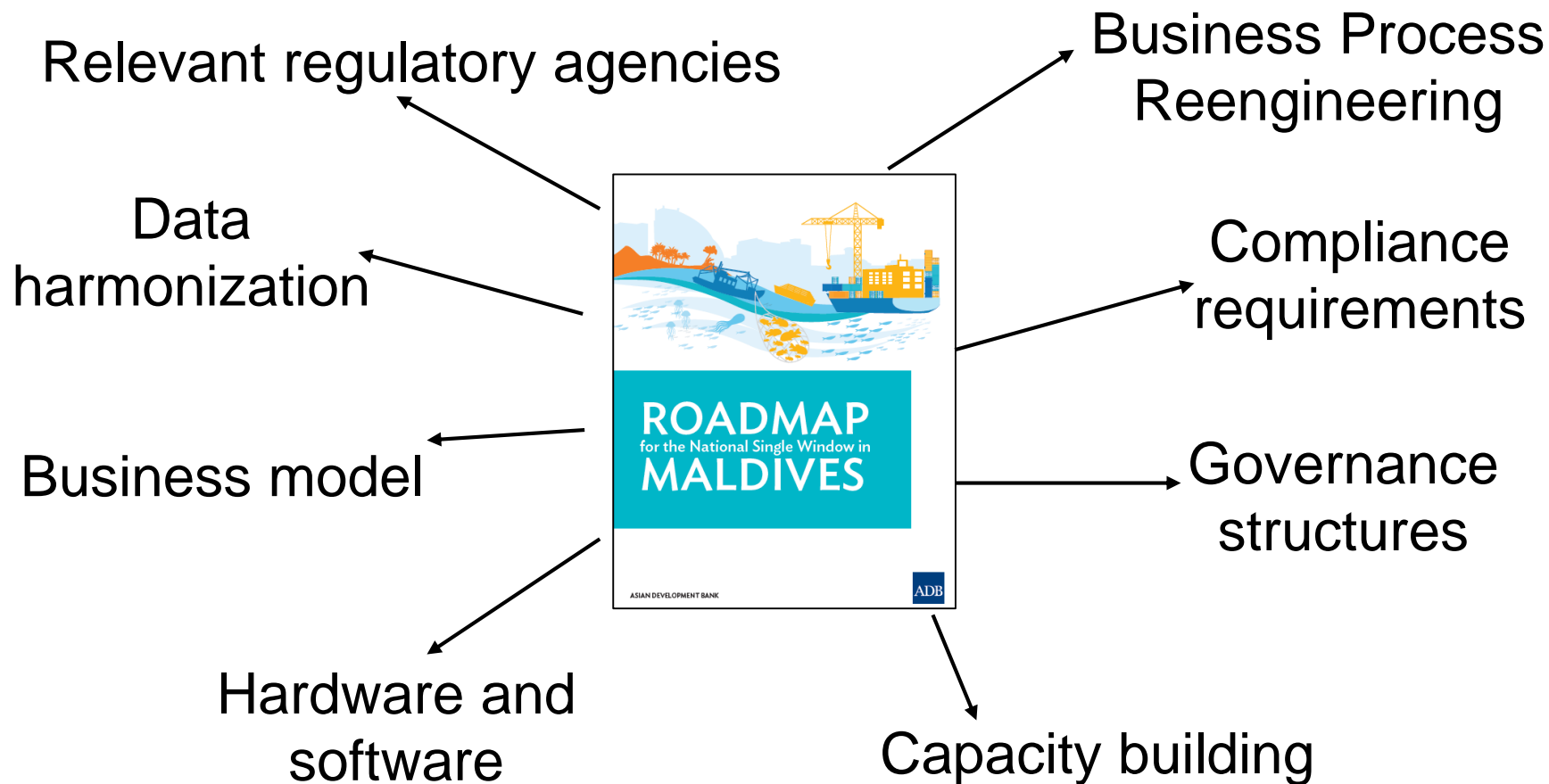
It is a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a **single entry point** to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements

UNECE Recommendation No. 33



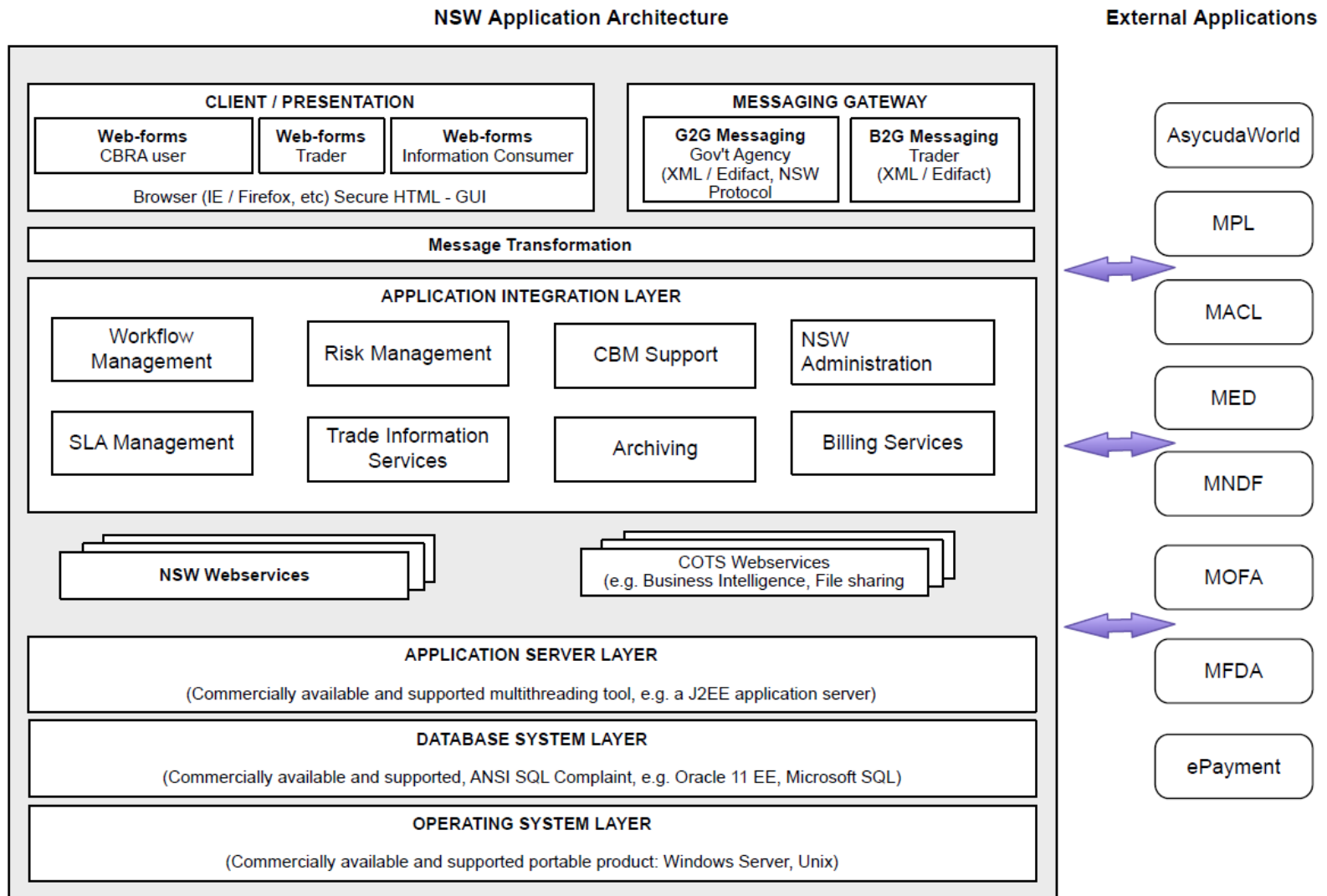


Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives





Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives





Implementing an Electronic National Single Window in Maldives – Recommended Good Practices

- Empowered Lead Agency
- Single Entry and Electronic Submission
- Standardized documents and data elements
- Paperless environment
- Information sharing and routing
- Integrated Risk Management
- Coordination of Controls and Inspections
- E-Payments
- Single Output to trader
- Trade Analytics Capability





Implementing an Electronic National Single Window – Challenges

- Multiple portals, apps and ‘single windows’
- Lack of standards
- Payment gateways

Efforts for Stakeholder buy-in and Change Management should be continuous

Political support and long-term commitment from top decision-makers is key



SASEC
South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation

Thank you.

