

Session 1: Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific–State of play and prospect

Moderator:

- Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, India

Panelists:

- Mr. Poul Hansen, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNCTAD
- Mr. Ying Qian, Advisor, East Asia Department, ADB
- Ms. Jill Atieno Juma, Trade Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)
- Mr. S.P. Sahu, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank



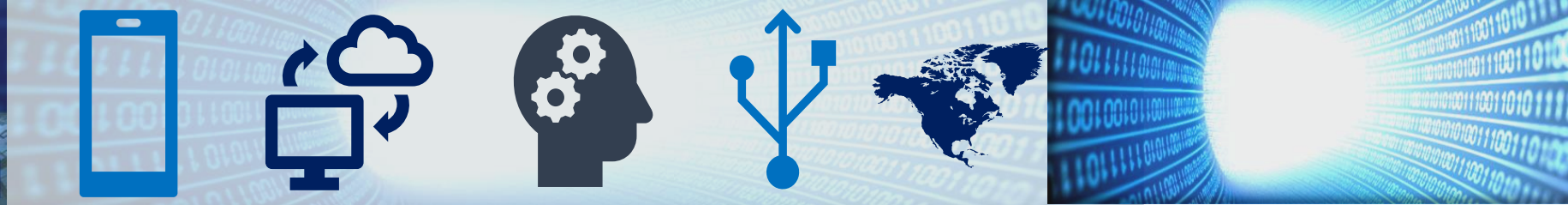
Poul Hansen, UNCTAD

- ❑ Digital development in trade will never be as slow as it is now! Challenge for developing countries
- ❑ Cross border data exchange is just as important as goods flow
- ❑ Basis for trade facilitation implementation is political will and human capacity
- ❑ Requires public and private sectors to upgrade skills and to collaborate
- ❑ UNCTAD agenda: Delivering UN Global Goals. THINK, DEBATE, DELIVER
- ❑ UNCTAD support for political agenda; Executive dialogue, consensus building etc.
- ❑ UNCTAD human capacity solutions: NTFC capacity, small cross border trader capacity building etc.
- ❑ UNCTAD technical solutions such as Automation, Single Window, Trade Information



Mr. Ying Qian, Advisor, East Asia Department, ADB

- ❑ CAREC Trade Facilitation (TF) Program, started in 2002, covers areas of customs cooperation, SPS, private sector, and is integrated with the broader trade and economic development agenda. The work has been guided by strategies such as Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy (TTFS), CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) and Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP), and Common Agenda of SPS Modernization for Trade (CAST), etc.
- ❑ Digitization (or ICT) has been an integral part of the CAREC TF program and demand driven, focusing on business process improvements and results.
- ❑ Key success factor - Institutional reform and business process modernization to maximize synergy with the digitization process.
- ❑ Cross sector – identify and work with champion(s), plan incremental steps and achieve incremental results; Cross border – identify low hanging fruits and coordinate for legal and regulatory reforms.
- ❑ Chosen technology and approach – there is no clear-cut answer for “off the shelf” (or “out of box”) vs. “self development”; importance of “future proof” and “single source of truth.”
- ❑ Department partners’ roles – advisory and capacity building (where to start and where to end?) and project finance (inadequacies of usual project finance approach).



Ms. Jill Atieno Juma- Trade Policy Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji

- ❑ Enhanced South- South Cooperation, which can be adopted through well structured and funded Peer Learning Review Programmes
- ❑ Demystify Aid for Trade by Developing sub- regional Strategies that reflect Regional Priorities aligned to the Global Trading System or Multilateralism, for instance PIFS has just concluded the drafting of the Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy which is deemed a successful document due to a directive given by Pacific Trade Officials in July , 2018, and further is the fact that the priorities identified therein: E- Commerce; Connectivity; Deepening Forum Markets and; Services, were isolated or selected by the Pacific Island Countries, hence the document has the blessings of its members
- ❑ Strengthening National Trade Development or Trade Facilitation Committees, although they have been established Pre and Post Bali 2013, more human capacity is required
- ❑ Continued Engagement and Full Inclusion of the Private Sector, including understanding the market dynamics through specific capacity building on Market Preparedness; Engagement with Leaders is also Mandatory
- ❑ Developing Country Diagnostics or Needs Assessment on Digitization, including awareness raising on the policy dynamics and fringe benefits, for instance, is digitization a guarantee to greater market access and more trade?
- ❑ Regional Social and Economic Strategies as the Compass to current global discussions and initiatives, for instance in PIFS we have the Vision 2050, Blue Pacific Narrative , BOE Declaration, Kainakii Declaration on Climate Change, Hiri Declaration on Connectivity and Boe Declaration on Security



Mr. S.P. Sahu, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank

- Commitment is needed at all levels.
- Capacity building is vital
- Implementation capacity varies across border agencies
- Bringing stakeholders together spurs reforms
- Sequencing of reforms is critical
- Ensure that a base level of automation is available
- Support should be synchronized
- Monitor and measure progress over time
- NSW – Preparatory aspects are vital
- NTFC - co-ordination of activities between key border agencies