

Session 5: Summary of Recommendations



Key Takeaways from High-level Panel Session

1. Legal framework is essential to formally proceed for supply chain efficiency improvement at the national level
2. At international level model law be framed for setting uniformity among nations for trade facilitation
3. International organizations to continue supporting nations for supply chain management
4. Arrangement of access to finance for SMEs be re-enforced
5. IT based solutions for trade facilitation and chain management be encouraged and supported
6. Support mechanism for enhancing HR capacity of SMEs be evolved and institutionalized
7. Business processes be studied and made simpler
8. General economies be transformed into knowledge based with a trait of innovation
9. National program for single window is important for enhancing value chain management
10. Role of associations representing services in supply chain cycle should be enhanced and their capacities be improved

Key Takeaways from Session 1 (Trade Logistics)

- 1. International trade logistics cannot be completely separated from domestic logistics performance, and both can contribute to inclusive development.**
 - Agriculture is a good example: reducing the wedge between farm-gate and consumer prices.
 - Government preferences for local operators mean that when large international firms need to create backwards and forwards linkages, they have to develop strategic partnerships. Reducing this discrimination can facilitate the process of linking markets.
- 2. Efforts to enhance cross-border cooperation in logistics-related areas should be intensified.**
 - International integration of markets is important, including through open trade and FDI policies.
 - Countries need to work together on hard (physical) and soft (regulatory/procedural) infrastructure.
- 3. Policymakers need to include both the supply and demand (user) perspectives.**
 - Users include manufacturers and exporters in other sectors, as well as consumers.
 - Ensuring a high degree of competition means that reductions in the cost of doing business are passed on to users, and are not captured by producers as rents.
 - The reform process should be transparent, including stakeholder consultations, partly to ensure that the private sector is aware of improvements as they happen.

Key Takeaways from Session 2 (Trade Finance)

- Lack of access to trade finance is a key barrier to integration of SMEs in international supply chains
- The deployment of trade financing resources has been supported by various key stakeholders
 - * ADB's Trade Finance Program(TFP)
 - * China has acknowledged SMEs as a driving force of the economy and banking sector providing financing.
- Still further steps and arrangements needed in order to integrate SMEs into international supply chains
 - Development of supply-chain finance programmes
 - Consider establishment of an Asia-Pacific Export Credit Agency or Asia-Pacific Trade Finance Fund
 - Fill the trade finance data and information gap
 - Reduce legal and regulatory uncertainties associated with trade transactions and adoption/use of innovative trade finance products

Key Takeaways from Session 3 (Paperless Trade)

1. Our discussion was around five identified issues and challenges in cross-border paperless trade:
 - 1) Use of common international standards, 2) Harmonization of legal frameworks , 3) Capacity gaps among the parties, 4) Cooperation between public and private sectors, and 5) Lack of coordination mechanisms
2. The region is strongly committed to paperless trade, but capacity gaps are slowing progress
3. Deeper cooperation between public and private sectors would enable and speed cross-border paperless trade
4. Change of mindset is a critical issue to further enable (cross-border) paperless trade

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