# UN ESCAP Programme on Trade Facilitation &

Overview of Trade Facilitation in Asia-Pacific Region

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Workshop on International Trade Finance, Logistics and Business Development UMFCCI, Yangon, Myanmar, 27-29 November 2015







# Introduction to ESCAP

Regional development arm of the United Nations for Asia-Pacific region

53 member countries and 9 associate members covering Central, South, Southeast, East and South Pacific countries

- Areas covered: <u>Trade and Investment</u>, Transport, Macroeconomic Policy, Environment, Emerging Social issues, Information and Communication Technologies...
  - Trade and Investment: (1) <u>Trade</u>
    <u>Facilitation</u>; (2) Trade Policy; (3)
    Investment and Enterprise
    Development

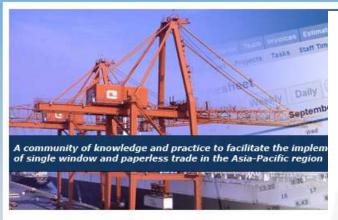








## unnext.unescap.org

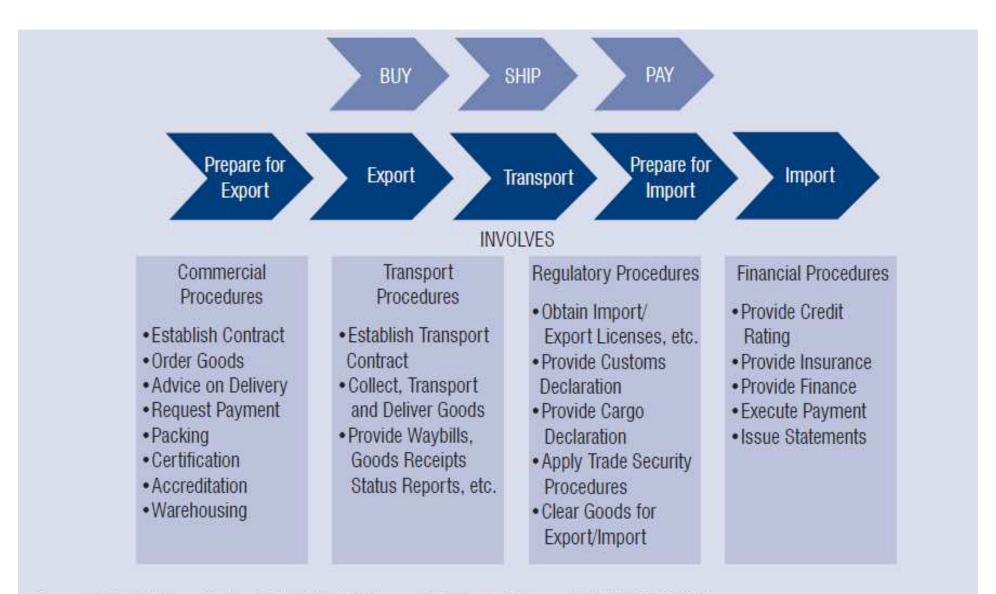


#### Recent and upcoming events:

- · Capacity Building Workshop on Facilitation of Cross-border
- · First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Steering Group on ( April 2015, Bangkok, Thailand
- Second UNNExT Masterclass: Single Window in the Context 12-21 January 2015, Cheon-an, Republic of Korea
- . UNNEXT Capacity Building Workshop on Data Harmonizatio Environment in Maldives, 16-18 December 2014, Male, Mal
- · Call for case studies on ICT applications and programmes t trade and global value chains
- · Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Im
- Expert Group Meeting on Paperless Transit Facilitation, 17 (
- Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2014, 24-25 September
- APTFF 2014 Study Tour, 27 September 2014, Bangkok, The
- Workshop on Enabling Cross-border Paperless Trade, 26 Se
- SATNET Asia Workshop on Best Practices in Agricultural Tra 26 September 2014, Bangkok, Thailand



### **Trade Facilitation?** → **Reducing Trade Transaction Costs**



Source: United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). 2008.

## **UN ESCAP Trade Facilitation Programme**

#### Legislative

- •Enabling paperless trade (Res. 68/3)
- •Regional Arrangement on crossborder paperless trade facilitation (Res. 70/6)

ISG-CBPT\*

#### UNNEXT\* XRTNeT

#### **Capacity Building**

- Business Process Analysis
- Single Window & Paperless Trade Implementation
- Trade & Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism
- Agricultural & SME trade facilitation
- (WTO TFA support)



#### **Analysis**

- ESCAP-WB Trade Cost Database
- Paperless Trade Guides & Impact analyses
- Global Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade Implementation Survey
- Trade Process Analysis Database



\*Regional Cooperation platforms and mechanisms: ISG-CBPT: Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-Border Paperless Trade; UNNEXT: United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific; ARTNeT: Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade; APTFF: Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum; ROC-TF: Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation

# 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum Wuhan, China 20-21 October 2015

"Deepening regional integration through trade facilitation"

- Over 300 participants from 62 countries
- 17 organizations
- Discussions were focused on trade facilitation and paperless trade for SMEs and agricultural sector, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and crossborder electronic commerce
- A key recommendation of the Forum was the need to prepare and tap opportunities associated with cross-border ecommerce given the potential benefits for SMEs in particular.



"Consideration should also be given to joining the TIR convention as a way to facilitate transit trade"

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# APTFF\*

ROC-TF\*

#### • ESCAP-WB Trade Cost

DatabasePaperless Trade Guides &

**Analysis** 

- Impact analyses
   Global Trade Facilitation &
- Paperless Trade
  Implementation Survey
- Trade Process Analysis Database



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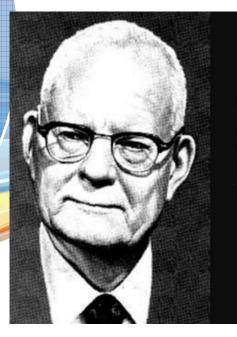
# **CAP Trade Facilitation Programme**

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**Bank Trade** 

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Facilitation & de on Survey s Analysis



"Without data you're just another person with an opinion."

> - W. Edwards Deming, Data Scientist

