

The 7th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum

“Deepening Regional Integration through Trade Facilitation”

20 October 2015

0830-0900: Registration

0900-0945: Opening Session

Inaugural Address

Mr. Daochi Tong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Commerce, China

Welcome Addresses

Mr. Guangjing Cao, Vice-Governor, Hubei Province, China

Opening Remarks

Ms. Susan Stone, Director, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations, ESCAP

Mr. Mr. Hamid L. Sharif, Country Director, People's Republic of China Resident Mission,
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

0945-1015: Coffee / tea break

1015-1200: High-level Panel Discussion: The Role of Trade Facilitation in Regional Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

The high level panel will review the role of trade facilitation in on-going regional integration efforts in the context of the global economic environment and the emergence of global value chains (GVCs). Recent initiatives and innovations aimed at reducing trade costs and facilitating more inclusive participation of businesses in international trade will be discussed, including China's "One Belt, One Road" Policy and the emergence of cross-border e-commerce services. The relevance of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement as well as other intergovernmental agreements to support these initiatives will also be discussed. This session will bring together senior officials, industry and analysts to share their views and experience on the topic.

Moderator: Ms. Susan Stone, Director, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations ESCAP

Panelists:

H. E. Edy Putra Irawady, Deputy Minister, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Indonesia

Mr. Seve Paeniu, Head of Secretariat, Oceania Customs Organization Secretariat

Ms. Hiswani Harun, Deputy Secretary General (Trade), Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia and Chair of ASEAN trade facilitation joint consultative committee (ATF-JCC)

Mr. Peng Liu, Deputy Director, Macro-Economic Direction, Comprehensive Department of Ministry of Commerce of China

Mr. Xiao Feng, Executive Director, Alibaba Group, China

1200-1330: Lunch

1330-1500: Session 1: Overcoming high trade costs of Asia-Pacific developing economies: Prioritizing Trade Facilitation Measures

High trade costs, cumbersome trade procedures and lack of export diversification are the commonly identified factors which prevent many developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from penetrating regional and global market. This session aims to analyze how developing countries in the region have been integrated into regional and global economy through enhanced trade facilitation. The trade costs, implementation of trade facilitation measures, and salient features of international trade of selected LLDCs, LDCs and SIDS will be discussed in this session.

Moderator: Ms. L. Savithri, Director, Economic, Trade, and Finance, SAARC secretariat

Presentations:

- Trade costs and trade facilitation implementation: implication for the region – *Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP*
- Update of TFA and its implications for LLDCs, LDCs and Island developing countries, *Mr. Xiaobing TANG, Counsellor in the Market Access Division, WTO*

Panelists:

- Mr. Carsten Hess, head of corporate public policy in Asia, Pacific, Middle East and Africa, Deutsche Post DHL
- Ms. Evdokia Moïsé, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, The Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD)
- Mr. Enkhbold Vorshilov, Senior Adviser, International Think Tank for LLDCs
- Mr. Rajan Sharma, President, Nepal Freight Forwarders Association

1500-1530: Coffee/tea break

1530-1700: Session 2: Enhancing regional connectivity through trade and transport corridor facilitation

Trade and transport corridors are often regarded as lifeline for connecting landlocked developing countries with regional and international market. Accordingly, every effort to reduce trade costs, simplify trade procedures and facilitate transit along the corridors enhances the possibility to deliver products from the landlocked countries to international and regional markets cheaply and timely. This session aims to review matters on simplifying trade procedures in key components of trade and transport corridor in the region such as gateway ports and land-border crossings. Issues on transit facilitation and port community and regulatory single window for regional connectivity will also be discussed.

Moderator: Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

Presentations:

- Challenges in developing paperless transit transport facilitation system in the region – *Mr. Sandeep Jain, Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, Transport Division, ESCAP*
- Integrating port community and regulatory single window systems: international experience and implications for Asia and the Pacific – *Mr. Richard Morton, Secretary General, International Port Community System Association (IPCSEA)*

Panelists:

- Mr. Yuanjiang Sun, Deputy Director-general, Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, China
- Mr. André Sceia, TIR secretariat, UNECE
- Mr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
- Mr. Samson Uridia, Head of the Department for International Relations, Tax and Customs Administration-SPS Border Control Agency, Georgia.

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0900-1030: Session 3: Re-thinking Trade Facilitation Strategies for More Inclusive Regional Integration: Focusing on SMEs and the Agricultural Sector

Boosting the participation of actors from the agricultural sector and SMEs in international/ regional trade is an important vehicle for promoting inclusive and sustainable development. To this end, there is a need for increased regional cooperation and harmonization on a number of trade facilitation measures that are particularly customized for these two sectors. This session aims to discuss trade facilitation related

policies, regulatory environment and specific measures which can effectively assist SMEs and agricultural firms to better participate in the international and regional trade.

Moderator: Mr. Shintaro Hamanaka, Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), Asian Development Bank

Presentations:

- Progress and key challenges for connecting SMEs to global market in the Asia-Pacific region, *Mr. Mohammad Saeed, Senior Advisor, Trade Facilitation, International Trade Centre*
- Progress and key challenges for connecting agricultural sector to global market in the region – *Mr. Somnuk Keretho, founding Director of Institute for IT Innovation (INOVA), Kasetsart University, Thailand*

Panelists:

- Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
- Ms. Kenza Le Mentec, Economic Affairs Officer, WTO
- Ms. Shashi Sareen, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, FAO
- Mr. Francis Lopez, President, InterCommerce Network Services, Philippines

1030-1045: Coffee/tea break

1045-1200: Session 4: Developing regional cross-border e-commerce through paperless trade

Cross-border e-commerce has unprecedented potential to enable small traders to participate in international trade and therefore contribute to inclusiveness of international trade. Despite this, cross border e-commerce in developing countries is still at its beginning stage of development and international dimension of e-commerce is relatively modest¹. Among many issues to be addressed, reducing or eliminating the requirement for mandated paper-based documents in cross-border trade would be essential to develop

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