



Expert Group Meeting on Integrated Use of Single Windows for Trade Facilitation

8 September 2015

Bangkok, Thailand

Organized by

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

With the support of

**United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and
Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXT)**

❖ Introduction

A Single Window is a “facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic, then individual data elements should only be submitted once”.¹ A Single Window brings benefits to both traders and Government: “traders benefit from less paperwork and shorter time to obtain permits, certificates and licenses, better transparency as well as from simpler and faster customs clearance; [and] government agencies benefit from improved coordination at border controls, enhanced trade security, more efficient internal operations, increased revenues in some cases, and better trade statistics”.²

Implementing a Single Window that will bring the above-mentioned benefits requires that it integrates and meets the needs of as many stakeholders as possible along the international supply chain. To maximize benefits, Single Window facilities should be able to support efficient information exchange between traders and related agencies, but also integrate - or interface with - transport/logistics related services and support cross-border trade data exchange with trading partners (through Single Window and/or other relevant paperless trade systems).

In this context, this Expert Group Meeting (EGM) will bring together selected government and private sector experts, many of them already involved in the development of guides and tools as part of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT), to (1) develop recommendations to address the gaps between the single window concept and its implementation on the ground, and (2) exchange ideas to facilitate a more integrated use and development of Single Windows for trade facilitation, in particular through better integration of transport/logistics requirements and cross-border data exchange considerations into Single Windows. Many of the participants to the first meeting of Legal and Technical Working Groups of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation, to be held on 9-11 September 2015, Bangkok, will also join the EGM.

¹ See: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec33/rec33_trd352e.pdf

² See: <http://unnex.unescap.org/pub/brief1.pdf>

❖ **Programme (Tentative as of 3 September 2015)**

Time	Programme
0900 - 0920	Opening
0910 – 1020	<p>Session 1: A Critical look at Single Window: Filing the Gap(s) between concept and practice</p> <p><i>This session will look at the gap between the concept of Single Window – as described in particular in UNCEFACT Recommendation 33 and the relevant WTO TFA provision – and actual Single Window implementation in an effort to develop more practical guidance for implementation. A draft Note on the topic, shared in advance with the participants, will be presented for review, discussion and suggestions for further improvement during the session.</i></p> <p>Moderator Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Facilitation Unit, ESCAP</p> <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sangwon Lim, Trade Facilitation Unit, ESCAP <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Koh Tat Tsen (Jonathan), Director, Trade Facilitation Centre of Excellence Crimson Logic Pte Ltd, Singapore • Mr. Sung Heun Ha, General Manager, Korea Trade Network (KTNET), Republic of Korea • Mr. SP Sahu, Commissioner, IT Single Window Project, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), India • <i>Mr. Luca Castellani, Secretary, E-Commerce Working Group, UNCITRAL</i> • Ms. Mee Wan Wong, Expert in paperless trade and Single Window, Malaysia
1020 - 1040	Break
1040 – 1200	<p>Session 1: A Critical look at Single Window (Cont'd)</p> <p><i>Building on the earlier discussion, the participants will work on practical recommendations to make a Single Window implementation successful fully taking into account differing country contexts.</i></p> <p>Group Discussion</p>

	<i>All</i>
1200 – 13:30	Lunch break
1330- 1500	<p>Session 2: Enhancing Single Windows for Trade Facilitation: <i>Interfacing/integrating transport and logistics processes and Single Windows</i></p> <p><i>The ESCAP consultant will make a presentation on interim finding from an on-going study on transport-related requirements of Single Window. The participants will be requested to make comments/suggestions on how to further improve the study as well as on related areas in need of further research/analysis.</i></p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Tahseen Ahmed Khan, Vice-chair, UN/CEFACT</i> <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Goran Andreev, ESCAP Consultant</i> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Somnuk Keretho, Director, Institute for Information Technology Innovation Faculty of Engineering, Kasetsart University, Thailand</i> • <i>Mr. Francis Lopez, President, InterCommerce, Philippines and Chair, Pan Asian e-Commerce Alliance (PAA)</i> • <i>Mr. Peter Stokes, Regional Director, Axway Asia Pacific</i>
1500-1520	Break
1520-1640	<p>Session 3: Enhancing Single Windows for Trade Facilitation: <i>Enabling cross-border data exchange through Single Window</i></p> <p><i>Single Window systems have in many countries been designed essentially to facilitate information exchange between domestic stakeholders, with information exchange with international partners left for future consideration, often as an after-thought. There is however growing evidence that the benefits from cross-border paperless trade can be substantial, providing those countries who develop this capability an important “competitive advantage” when participating in regional and global production networks. In that context, should countries at an early stage of Single Window development leave cross-border paperless trade considerations to a later stage, or should they incorporate these considerations in their initial designs? If so, why and how? Following a</i></p>

	<p><i>presentation of a draft Note on the issue, the participants will discuss and make comments/suggestions on how to implement a new Single Window or upgrade an existing Single Window in a way to make it more interoperable with Single Windows/paperless trade systems in other countries.</i></p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. SP Sahu, Commissioner, IT Single Window Project, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), India <p>Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Peter Stokes, Regional Director, Axway Asia Pacific <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mee Wan Wong, Expert in paperless trade and Single Window, Malaysia • Mr. Tahseen Ahmed Khan, Vice-chair, UN/CEFACT, India • Mr. Hisanao Sugamata, Secretary General, Japan Electronic Data Interchange Council (JEDIC), Japan • Prof. Hong Xue, Professor of Law and Director of Institute for the Internet Policy & Law (IIPL), Beijing Normal University, China
1640-1700	Any other business
1700	Closing

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_4177

