



#### **Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2014**

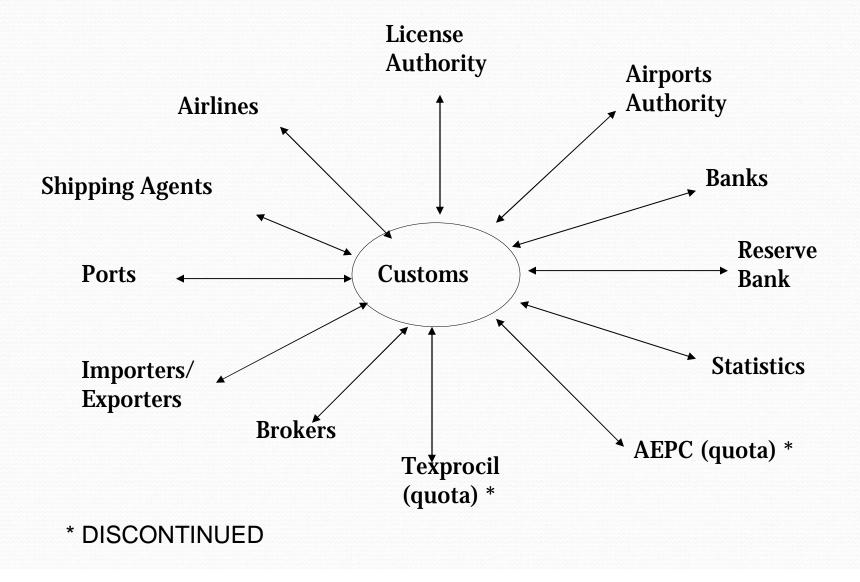
### 24 – 25 September 2014, BITEC Bangkok, Thailand

Intergovernmental Coordination for Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Shashank Priya Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax, Patna, Bihar, India 25 Sept. 2014

### Introduction

- Gathering pace of globalization since 1990s has put the spotlight on trade facilitation
- Paradigm shift in trade procedures- effort to balance compliance with facilitation
- ICT played a crucial role in this shift
- Large no. of Asian and Pacific countries switched to paperless trade systems leading to significant economic gains for them
- Further economic gains can be materialized if paperless trade can be made across borders
- Countries in Asia and the Pacific are paving a way for crossborder paperless trade through regional arrangement such as using ESCAP intergovernmental platform

#### The Customs Community System



# **Need for Interagency Coordination**

- Different formats of declaration
- Different levels of automation
- Different methods of goods classification
- Different compliance goals
- Process reengineering and simplification
- Coordination and cooperation must to overcome this diversity

## **Benefits from Automation**

#### **Indian Experience**

- -Speedier Clearance of Cargo
- -Reduction in Transaction Costs
- Processing stages reduced from 18 to 6 in Imports
  15 to 5 in Exports
- Manual stages in export related schemes eliminated
  Processing on First Come First Served Basis
  Time stamping of all activities
  Audit trail of all activities

- -Limited discretion available with officers

#### **Other Success Stories in the Region**

- -Singapore SW- TradeNet
- Korea- uTradeHub/UNIPASS
- -Malaysia- SMK-Dagang Net
- -NSW in connection with ASEAN Single Window

## **Benefits of Paperless Trade**

- Cost reduction
- Increased revenue
- Supply chain security
- Information more reliable
- Faster clearance at border
- Simplification and modernization of procedures through re-engineering
- Beneficial for SMEs
- Helpful in risk assessment
- Avoiding rekeying of same data
- Special benefits for landlocked countries
- Reliable data to take trade defense measures
- Aid globalization
- Promote South-South trade

# **Benefits of Paperless Trade (contd.)**

- UNESCAP Study (2014): Estimating the Benefits of Cross-Border Paperless Trade
- Benefits upon implementation of a cross-border paper trade involving following 6 components (APTFF Survey 2013):
  - **Ø** Laws and regulations for electronic transactions
  - **Ø** Recognized certification authority
  - Ø Engagement in cross-border electronic data exchange
  - **Ø** Electronic exchange of COO



