



Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2014

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ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE FACILITATION FORUM 2014

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Trade Facilitation Benefit Demonstration for Prioritizing Reforms



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n Contexts

- n Trade Facilitation-Definition
- **n** Recent Transport and Trade Developments and Challenges:

An Overview

- n Trade Facilitation Performance in Asia: An Example
- n Performance Measurements and Tools
 - **n** Performance Measurements-Advantage and Limitations

n Conclusions



Trade Facilitation-Definition

n No universal definition

- § World Trade Organization (WTO): The simplification and harmonization of international trade procedures, where trade procedures are the activities, practices, and formalities involved in collecting, presenting, communicating, and processing data and other information required for the movement of goods in international trade.
- § World Customs Organization (WCO): The avoidance of unnecessary trade restrictiveness. This can be achieved by applying modern techniques and technologies, while improving the quality of controls in an internationally harmonized manner.
- § United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT): The simplification, standardization, and harmonization of procedures and associated information flows required to move goods from seller to buyer and to make payments.

- § International Chamber of Commerce (ICC): Improve the efficiency of the processes associated with trading in goods across national borders.
- § Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): The simplification and standardization of procedures and associated information flows required to move goods internationally from seller to buyer and to pass payments in the other direction.
- § Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC): The simplification and rationalization of customs and other administrative procedures that delay or increase the cost of moving goods across international borders (ADB, 2013)
- § Sourdin and Pomfret (2012): "reduction in trade costs" where trade costs mean "the difference between the costs of domestic and international trade other than those costs such as import duties. Trade costs include transport costs and the costs of clearing borders . . . "



Global trade transformation and the emergence of a new landscape

- n *Substantial trade volume increase*
 - n Vast improvements in maritime and air shipping brought about by technological advances
 - n The world making things together
- n With the general decline in tariffs, increasing focus on costs of doing business including costs at the border
- n Deepening trade complexity and increased speed of services
 - n Just-in-time delivery
 - **n** Low inventory retention
 - n Multimodal logistics services
 - n Increasing complexity of global supply chain networks
 - n Security threats after the 9/11 attacks
 - n Illicit trade



Substantial trade increase in Asia (12%)





World making things together and increasing calls for trade facilitation from the private sector

"Trade today is not about one country selling one product to another."

"It is about the world making things together."

"Without efficient trade facilitation, it will not be possible to execute this kind of business model."

(Source: APEC Secretariat 2010)



Technology

There have been many new developments in trade facilitation and security brought about by technological advances in information communications technology (ICT) and nonintrusive inspection (NII) technology, and in cooperation among countries around the world.

These developments have supported supply chain and distribution networks, while ensuring security.



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