

# Introduction to databases for Trade Facilitation

Third Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment  
Week

Training on Evidence-based Policymaking  
in Trade and Investment

Thursday 21 November 2013, UNCC, Bangkok



ASIA-PACIFIC  
TRADE & INVESTMENT WEEK  
18-22 NOV 2013

#TIWeek

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# Trade Facilitation

- **Brief intro**
- **Databases**
  - ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database  
[<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/trade-costs.asp>]
  - ESCAP International Supply Chain Connectivity (ISCC) Index  
[<http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/iscci.asp>]
  - Doing Business Database [<http://www.doingbusiness.org/>]
  - Liner Shipping Connectivity Index Database  
[[http://unctadstat.unctad.org/ReportFolders/reportFolders.aspx?sRF\\_ActivePath=p,11&sRF\\_Expanded=,p,11](http://unctadstat.unctad.org/ReportFolders/reportFolders.aspx?sRF_ActivePath=p,11&sRF_Expanded=,p,11)]
  - Logistics Performance Index Database [<http://lpi.worldbank.org/>]
- **Concluding remarks**

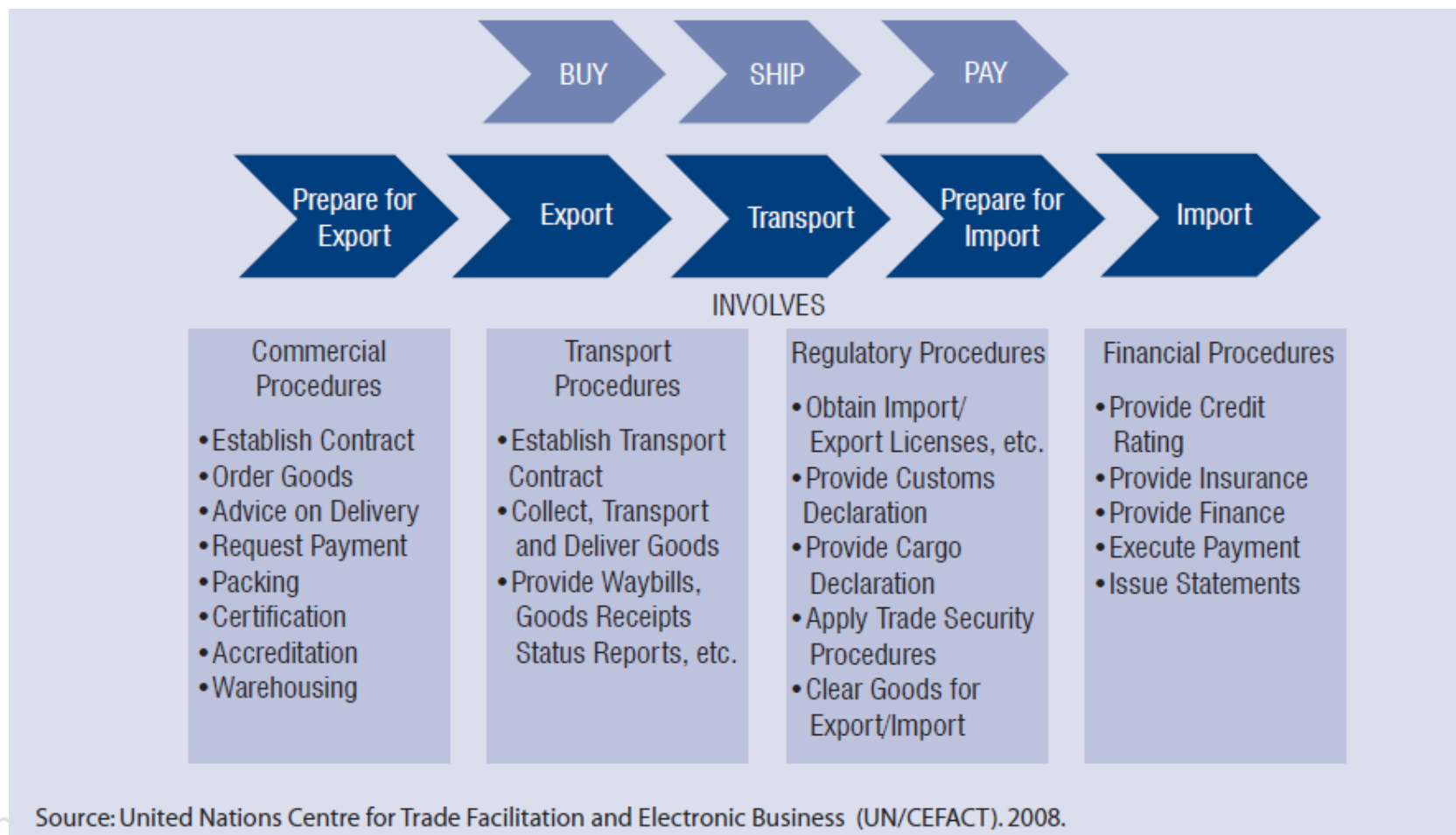


# Trade Facilitation (TF)?

- “The plumbing of international trade” (Staples, 1998)
- “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 required for the movement of goods in international trade.” (based on WTO documents)
- **“Any measure, or set of measures, that aims to increase the cost-effectiveness of international trade transactions”.**  
<http://www.gfptt.org/Entities/TopicProfile.aspx>



# Trade Transactions: Buy-Ship-Pay Model



# Trade Facilitation (TF) in Asia and the Pacific

- Significant progress made in reducing time of import/export since 2005,
    - but developed economies also improved during that period
  - On average, it still takes 30 days to move goods from factory to deck-of-ship at the nearest seaport
    - South Asia: 30 days
    - South-East Asia: 20 days
    - Developed economies: 10 days
- Improvements in TF could bring \$250 billion in additional trade for Asia and the Pacific



# ESCAP-World Bank (WB) Trade Cost Database

- ESCAP-WB (Bilateral) Comprehensive Trade Costs:
  - Capture all *additional costs involved in trading goods bilaterally relative to those involved in trading goods domestically, including*
    - International shipping and logistics costs
    - Tariff and non-tariff costs, including indirect and direct costs associated with trade procedures and regulations
    - Costs from differences in language, culture, currencies...
  - are based on the comprehensive trade costs measure proposed by Jacks, Meissner and Novy (2009)
    - Measure derived from the gravity equation, i.e., ratio based essentially on bilateral trade data and Gross Output data → “objective” measure of costs



## Intra and extra-regional comprehensive trade costs in the Asia-Pacific, excluding tariff costs (2006-2011)

	ASEAN-4	East Asia-3	NCA	PDE	SAARC-4	AUS/NZL	EU-3	USA
ASEAN-4	77 (10)							
East Asia-3	77 (8)	52 (-8)						
North and Central Asia (NCA)	387 (6)	220 (-11)	141 (0)					
Pacific Islands Dev. Economies (PDE)	263 (31)	268 (36)	308 (17)	107 (-31)				
SAARC-4	124 (2)	124 (2)	270 (-10)	342 (13)	107 (4)			
AUS/NZL	99 (2)	91 (-2)	323 (-5)	137 (48)	144 (5)	54 (4)		
EU-3	111 (8)	86 (-4)	166 (-3)	327 (38)	114 (7)	110 (1)	46 (0)	
United States (USA)	84 (13)	63 (-1)	189 (2)	228 (19)	107 (8)	97 (2)	67 (1)	
Brazil (BRA)	129 (-5)	99 (-10)	269 (-10)		159 (-7)	187 (4)	98 (0)	81 (8)
Egypt, Arab Rep. (EGY)	158 (13)	139 (-1)	242 (-27)		153 (9)	201 (-7)	105 (-7)	108 (-3)
South Africa (ZAF)	124 (-3)	98 (-13)	403 (0)	442 (49)	137 (-1)	120 (-5)	92 (1)	98 (-6)

Source: ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database

Note: Data is in percentage, ad valorem equivalent. Percentages in parenthesis are percentage changes of trade costs between 2000-2005 and 2006-2011. ASEAN-4: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand; East Asia-3: China, Japan, Rep. of Korea; EU-3: Germany, France, UK; SAARC-4: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; PDE: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Vanuatu; NCA: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation.

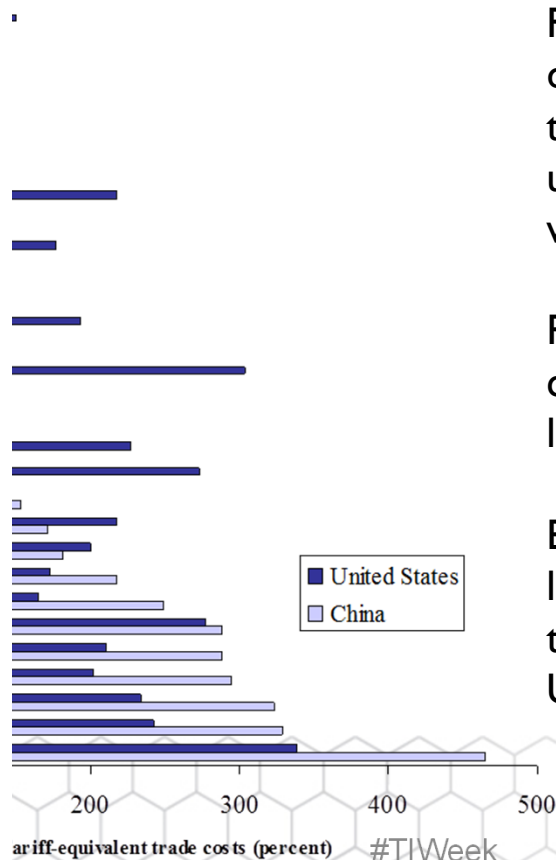
# Comprehensive trade costs in the Asia-Pacific, tariff costs of selected economies with China and United States (2006-2011)

It is cheaper to trade with USA compared to China.

For some landlocked and Pacific island developing economies, comprehensive trade cost is significantly higher with China, up to one and half times their trade costs with USA.

Republic of Korea has the lowest trade costs with China while China has the lowest trade costs with the USA.

Expectedly, it is the small islands or landlocked developing countries that incur the highest trade costs with both China and USA.



[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_6232](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_6232)

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