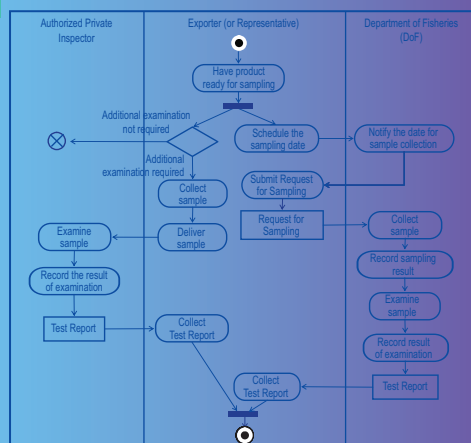
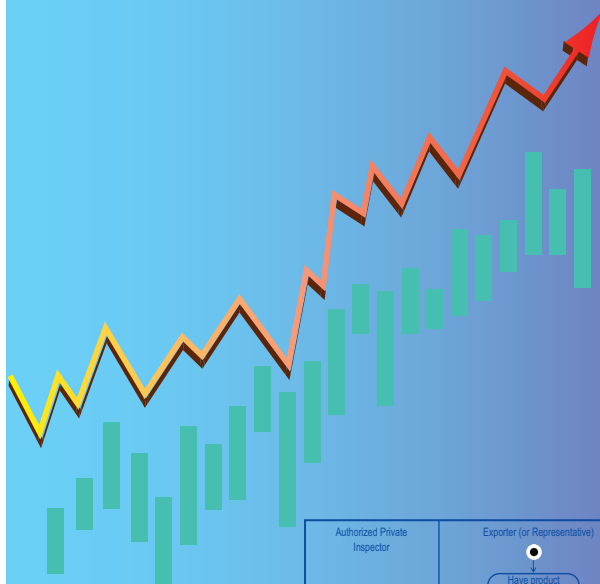




TRADE FACILITATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: AN ANALYSIS OF IMPORT AND EXPORT PROCESSES

A STUDY BY THE ASIA-PACIFIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING
NETWORK ON TRADE (ARTNeT) AND THE UNITED NATIONS NETWORK
OF EXPERTS FOR PAPERLESS TRADE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
(UNNEXt)



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations and serves as the main economic and social development centre for the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. Its mandate is to foster cooperation between its 53 members and 9 associate members. It provides the strategic link between global and country-level programmes and issues. It supports Governments of countries in the region in consolidating regional positions and advocates regional approaches to meeting the region's unique socio-economic challenges in a globalizing world. The ESCAP secretariat is located in Bangkok, Thailand. Please visit the ESCAP website at www.unescap.org for further information.



The shaded areas of the map are ESCAP members and associate members.

The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (**ARTNeT**) is an open regional network of research and academic institutions specializing in international trade policy and facilitation issues. Launched by ESCAP and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada in October 2004, it now includes over 30 leading national trade research institutions from over 20 countries in East, South and South-East Asia and the Pacific as members. ARTNeT aims at increasing policy-oriented trade research in the region by harnessing the research capacity already available and developing additional capacity. For more information on ARTNeT, please visit www.artnetontrade.org.

The United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (**UNNExT**) is a community of knowledge and practice for experts from developing countries and transition economies from Asia and the Pacific involved in the implementation of electronic trade systems and trade facilitation. Established by ESCAP and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UNNExT aims to support national, subregional and transcontinental Single Window and paperless trade initiatives. Its emphasis is on training, knowledge sharing and application of international standards for trade facilitation. For more information on UNNExT, please visit www.unescap.org/unnex.

The Trade and Investment Division (TID) of ESCAP serves as the Secretariat of both the ARTNeT and UNNExT networks.

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New York, 2011



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Preface

Given the potential benefits of reducing red tape in making participation in international trade more inclusive, the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee endorsed the launch of a new regional study titled “Improving Import-Export Processes and Procedures in Asia” in 2009. A research team was assembled spanning South, South-East and East Asia, and was tasked to analyze the processes involved in importing and exporting specific products of strategic importance to developing countries of the region, in order to identify bottlenecks and areas for improvement at the national, bilateral and regional levels.

In addition to building the capacity of researchers in conducting business process analysis (BPA), the study also aimed at deepening understanding of how to facilitate intraregional trade and assess progress in this area. This publication brings together the main research findings and outputs produced by the ARTNeT team during 2010/11, with the support of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT).

This publication is divided into two parts. Part I of this publication features a synthesis of the main findings and implications from the country studies, including a brief overview of the trade facilitation situation in Asia and the Pacific. Part II consists of summaries of the seven country studies on which the synthesis is based. All of the country studies were released in full as ARTNeT Working Papers (see www.artnetontrade.org) during the course of 2011, following presentation of preliminary results during the Second Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF), held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October 2010. Results and policy implications of these studies were also presented at the Third Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF), held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in October 2011.

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This publication was prepared by Yann Duval, Trade Facilitation Section, ESCAP and Prabir De, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS, India), based on country studies conducted in Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand by Syed Saifuddin Hossain and Md. Tariqur Rahman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD, Bangladesh); Bala Ramasamy of the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS, China); Prabir De; Naoko Shinkai and Zenebe Bashaw of Nagoya University (Japan); Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar of the Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD, Nepal); Deshal de Mel, Suwendrani Jayaratne and Dharshani Premaratne of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS, Sri Lanka); and Somnuk Keretho and Saisamorn Naklada of Kasetsart University (Thailand), respectively.

The regional research team was assembled and coordinated by Yann Duval, under the general supervision and guidance of Ravi Ratnayake and Shamika Sirimanne. Advices and reviews were gratefully received from two ARTNeT Advisors, namely, Florian Alburo of the University of the Philippines and Sok Siphana, Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia and member of the UNNExT Advisory Group on Business Process Analysis. The support of Mikiko Imai Ollison of the World Bank Doing Business Team in providing disaggregated data on the Trading Across Border Indicators for the study is very much appreciated. The study also benefited from helpful suggestions from Markus Pikart of UNECE, Mia Mikic and Salehin Khan of ESCAP and Somnuk Keretho and Thayanan Phuaphanthong of the Institute for Information Technology Innovation, Kasetsart University.

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