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# Trade Facilitation And Paperless Trade Unescap

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## KIRSTEN WHITEHEAD

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*Towards a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade* ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute  
 This edition focuses on trade connectivity, which is critical for inclusiveness and sustainable development. Physical connectivity enables the movement of goods and services to local, regional and global markets.  
*State of Play and the Way Forward for Asia and the Pacific* World Economic Forum  
 The study on 'Digital Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific' reviews the state of play in implementation of trade facilitation and paperless trade in the Asia and the Pacific region. It also provides estimates of the trade cost reduction potential of trade facilitation implementation scenarios, from basic compliance with the WTO TFA to full digital trade facilitation. The study also includes a review of paperless trade provisions in regional trade agreements as well as an introduction to the Framework

Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, as new tool to accelerate digital trade facilitation implementation in the region.

*Policy Directions for National and Regional Development in West Africa* Anchor Academic Publishing

This report reviews the impact of trade facilitation initiatives in Asia and the Pacific since the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic began and discusses how to increase supply chain resilience. Supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic have underscored the need for digital and paperless trade procedures. A special chapter examines the pandemic's impact on the supply chains of critical goods such as vaccines, personal protective equipment, and food, and provides policy suggestions for enhancing supply chain resilience and trade facilitation. This is the third biennial progress report on trade facilitation implementation in Asia and the Pacific jointly prepared by the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

[UNECE Regional Report 2017](#) United Nations

This publication provides an overview of assessments from the

2017 global survey on trade facilitation and paperless trade in the Asia and Pacific region. The survey uses the final list of provisions included in the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA) and the draft text of the regional United Nations (UN) treaty on cross-border paperless trade facilitation under negotiation at Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Implementation levels of 44 countries in Asia and the Pacific were calculated based on 31 trade facilitation and paperless trade measures. This study also describes trade facilitation projects that promote development through deepening regional cooperation and integration. It also discusses digital trade as a major opportunity for SMEs to better access international markets and global supply chains, giving them the chance to grow both quickly and sustainably. The progress and challenges in the regional and subregional trade facilitation efforts being made to streamline trade procedures are also presented. ADB and UNESCAP jointly prepared this publication.

*Recent Trends and Developments* Cambridge Scholars Publishing  
The Asian Development Bank, under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation program, is helping Maldives implement a robust domestic and regional trade system. This integrated trade network facilitates seamless movement of goods and documents, across organizational and national boundaries, and will vastly improve the business environment and overall economic activity. This publication outlines key blockchain use cases recommended for implementation in Maldives for trade facilitation. A feasibility study conducted from April to July 2019 established the use cases of blockchain technology to facilitate cross-border trade and improve operational performance of domestic trade processes in Maldives.

#### Challenges and Opportunities United Nations

This report presents the results for Latin America and the Caribbean of the fourth Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, conducted in the first half of 2021 against the backdrop of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and with the participation of 135 countries (14 from the region). The survey results indicate that Latin America and the Caribbean has made considerable progress since the previous edition in 2019. For the first time, it is the best performing developing region ahead of East and Southeast Asia, with an average implementation rate of 80%. The region's results are particularly strong in the categories of transparency and formalities, which coincide closely with the provisions of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization. Nevertheless, there is much room for improvement in the area of cross-border paperless trade, as well as in adapting trade facilitation measures to the specific needs of small and medium-sized enterprises and women in trade.

*Case Studies from Wto Chair Holders* Asian Development Bank  
The Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation ("Global Survey") is a global effort led by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with all of the United Nations Regional Commissions, namely, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The goal of the Global Survey is to gather information from the member states of the respective United Nations Regional Commissions on trade facilitation and paperless trade measures and strategies implemented at the national and regional levels. The results of the survey will enable countries and development partners to better understand and monitor progress on trade facilitation, support evidence-based public

policies, share best practices and identify capacity building and technical assistance needs.

#### *An Assessment of Trade Facilitation Initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean* Springer

Introduction / Julien Chaisse and Jędrzej Gorski -- One belt one road ("OBOR") roadmaps : the legal and policy frameworks / Donald J. Lewis and Diana Moise -- The political economy of OBOR and the global economic center of gravity / Usman W. Chohan -- The OBOR global geopolitical drive : the Chinese access security strategy / Francisco Jose Leandro -- It is not the end of history : the financing institutions of the belt and road initiative and the Bretton Woods system / Maria Adele Carrai -- Northern sea route : an alternative transport corridor within China's belt and road initiative / Vasilii Erokhin and Gao Tianming -- The effect of the "belt and road initiative" on along countries' employment / LU Yue, JIA Yingqi and TU Xinquan -- Challenges and possible responses of the Eurasian Economic Union to the belt and road initiative / Alexander Mikhaylenko -- What is one belt one road? a surplus recycling mechanism approach / Usman W. Chohan -- The international investment agreement network under the "belt and road" initiative / Anna Chuwen Dai -- Paving the silk road bit by bit : an analysis of investment protection for Chinese infrastructure projects under the belt & road / Initiative / LAI Huaxia and Gabriel M. Lentner -- The role of Chinese state-owned investors and OBOR-related investments in Europe : the implication of the China-EU bit / YIN Wei -- National security review of Chinese foreign direct investment ('FDI') into the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf ('GCC') : challenges and opportunities / Bashar H. Malkawi and Joel Slawotsky -- A domestic national controls a foreign investor in investment arbitration : in light of China's negative lists / ZHANG Anran -- "Unimpeded trade" in Central Asia : a trade facilitation challenge / Joanne Waters -- One belt, one road initiative into a new regional trade agreement : implication to the WTO dispute settlement system / Sungjin Kang -- BRI initiative : a new model of development aid? / Tymoteusz Chajdas -- Turning doors : piracy, technology and maritime security along the maritime silk road / Helen Tung -- Infrastructure investments : port, rail, and international economic rules / Karlok Carlos Li and Julien Chaisse - - Development banks as environmental governance actors : the AIIB's power to promote green growth / Flavia Marisi -- Stakes and prospects of the right to free, prior & informed consent in 'one belt one road' projects in the context of transnational -- Investment law and arbitration / Anna Aseeva and YIP Ka Lok -- Central and eastern Europe, group 16+1 and one belt one road : the case of 2016 Sino-Polish comprehensive strategic partnership / Jędrzej Gorski -- Some considerations on the civil, commercial and investment dispute settlement mechanisms between China and the other belt and road countries / Zhu Weidong -- International commercial mediation, an opportunity for OBOR / Giovanni Matteucci -- Energy dispute settlement and the one belt one road initiative ('OBOR') / MA Sai -- The energy charter treaty and central Asia : setting an international standard for energy-related disputes / Maria Bun -- Central Asian investment arbitration and OBOR : learning from the current investment climate / Mariel Dimsey -- China's maritime silk road and the future of African arbitration / Aweis Osman  
*Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation* Inter-American Development Bank  
Current implementation of paperless trade systems in the Asia-Pacific region focuses on application to domestic parts of trade processes, while international trade inherently requires trade information to flow across borders along internal supply chains. With current practices of paperless trade implementation limited predominately to the national level, the flow of trade information

does not continue along an international supply chain; thus, it is being disrupted at the borders and results in traders turning to conventional paper-based trade practices. Yet given the fact that those countries in the region that are benefiting from implementing paperless trade only at domestic level, it is not difficult to see that efficiency gains will be considerably greater when the flow of trade information is facilitated across borders. This will, in turn, undoubtedly lead to major improvements in regional connectivity. Comprising three chapters and three annexes, this publication comprehensively assesses the current status of paperless trade in the region and beyond, elaborates on the need for having regional arrangements to facilitate cross-border paperless trade, and provides specific direction and details for putting a practical regional arrangement in place *Promoting Trade, Inclusiveness and Connectivity for Sustainable Development* OECD Publishing

Part I of this report assesses trends and developments in regional trade and investment flows and policies in an attempt to provide the insights and information necessary to separate the cyclical from the structural aspects. Part II analyses the participation of Asia-Pacific economies in global and regional value chains. By observing how economies at different levels of development have integrated into supply chains at different speeds and to varying extents, we can cast light on those policies that influence and shape value chain participation, and hence influence future patterns of trade and investment. The particular features of participation in value chains also have an impact on the ability of countries to access foreign technology and build innovative capacity, which in turn influences structural change and future development options.

#### **Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade UN**

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated attempts to contain its spread have created unprecedented hurdles to international trade. This paper reviews trade facilitation measures implemented in North and Central Asia (NCA), including transport and trade finance facilitation. All NCA countries have sought to protect the public health by restricting movement of people (including across borders) and applying special sanitary regulations at border crossings. These have included requirements to sanitize trucks, protect customs officials, change drivers, and requiring COVID-19 tests from drivers. Such requirements continue to create significant logistical issues, with often insufficient facilities for drivers. Sanitary requirements have proved simpler to implement for rail freight, creating an advantage for countries with well-developed rail networks. A number of common patterns emerge from the efforts of NCA countries to facilitate trade and transit. First, all governments have formed intragovernmental bodies to coordinate their COVID-19 responses. However, these bodies often lack the competency, mandate or reach to implement effective trade facilitation measures. Second, countries have simplified customs procedures for essential goods, typically food and medical supplies. Some countries initially implemented restrictions on the export of essential goods, but these have since been lifted. Third, countries have attempted to compensate for logistical and border transit issues caused by special sanitary requirements by expanding infrastructure; and simplifying and digitizing procedures on both road and rail. Fourth, all NCA countries have created online outreach portals and attempted to digitize various government services. However, their success varies greatly depending on the existing state of their paperless trade systems and infrastructure. Trade digitalization can support social distancing, while increasing trade efficiency, and inform businesses (especially SMEs) on the rapidly evolving regulatory environment under COVID-19. It is therefore recommended for

countries to accelerate trade digitalization efforts, including by joining the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

*Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade in Asia* Asian Development Bank

The world and regional economies have been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis. The combined effects of the pandemic and global and national lockdowns have caused havoc in the countries of South and South-West Asia (SSWA), with their trade severely impacted. This paper investigates the subregion's experience implementing trade facilitation measures in the times of COVID-19. The paper indicates that the SSWA countries have achieved remarkable progress in trade facilitation, especially as the COVID-19 crisis progressed. Although the policy responses in the initial months of the outbreak appeared to be fragmented and lacked coherence, countries in SSWA have shown convergence toward simplification of trade procedures, and enhanced transport and logistics and digital trade facilitation. While these measures have helped the SSWA countries secure supply of essential goods and services, some have simultaneously enforced stringent protection measures which represent a risk. The responses to the COVID-19 crisis suggest a greater scope of regional cooperation in the subregion. A cross-border regional protocol may strengthen the preparedness for future pandemics or similar disasters in future. As the current pandemic recedes, there are other opportunities such as in trade finance, cross-border e-commerce, and innovative application of emerging technologies, among others. Digitalizing the trade processes in SSWA, including by signing on to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, would be the next step toward the needed paperless trade environment.

*Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains : Enhancing Efficiency and Security : Programme, 20-21 June 2005, Palais Des Nations, Salle XIX, Geneva, Switzerland* Asian Development Bank With efforts for further substantive liberalization of trade showing little signs of success, focus has shifted to the rationalization and simplification of procedural regulations in international trade. The Agreement on the Trade Facilitation in Goods came into force in 2017, and proposals for similar agreements for trade in services and foreign investment have been submitted and are under discussion. This book discusses both existing and proposed provisions on trade facilitation within the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It covers relevant General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provisions and jurisprudence, the negotiating history of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in Goods, provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and their relevance for developing countries' concerns, with special emphasis on India, and the prospects for a global digital trade facilitation platform. The book also discusses the desirability for trade facilitation agreements for services and investment and the possibility of success of the proposals submitted in this regard in the WTO.

*Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade* United Nations

The ASEAN+6 Single Window (ASW+6) in this study refers to the geographic expansion of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) to enable cross-border electronic exchange of trade-related data and documents among ASEAN member states and six FTA partners, namely, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. The ASW is part of ASEAN's trade facilitation reform to reduce intraregional trade costs and time. This study considers cross-border paperless trade measures to represent the implementation of ASW+6, using data from the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in 2019. The simulation analyses reveal that the ASW+6 has significant

potential to reduce times required to export and import, and to boost trade in ASEAN and its FTA partners. Partial implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures would imply an increase in ASEAN's exports of US\$102 billion annually. Under a more ambitious scenario of full implementation of cross-border paperless trade, the export gain for ASEAN would be US\$199 billion annually. At the same time, the time required to export would fall by anything between 19 to 98 per cent, depending on the reform scenario considered. Trade gains from a full-fledged ASW+6 have not yet been reaped: even strong performers such as Singapore, Australia and New Zealand have areas for improvements, and weaker performers such as Cambodia and Laos need to make significant progress to catch up with the rest of the region, and deepen their mutual trade integration. The sequence of expanding the ASW to FTA partners may begin with countries that are major sources of ASEAN's export gains identified in this study and those that have expressed their political will to move in that direction. These are Japan and South Korea. The ASW should then be enlarged to remaining FTA partners, especially China and India. While trade gains from ASW+6 are substantial, the implementation costs can also be significant due to different regulatory requirements across ASEAN+6 countries. Aid for trade and capacity-building to support the reform process have to be an integral part for the design of ASW+6.

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Asian Development Bank

The three regional economic communities (RECs) in Eastern and Southern Africa are the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Together, they have recognised the need to work towards regional cooperation aimed at the eventual creation of a single regional economic community or Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA). This will replace the existent RECs in Eastern and Southern Africa to which the member states of these two regions have multiple membership. The TFTA region comprises a total of 27 member states which have a combined population of 527 million people and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 624 billion. These statistics translate into a potential regional economic powerhouse for Eastern and Southern Africa. One of the major goals of the TFTA is to harmonise trade arrangements among the three RECs, improve the movement of goods and persons within the single integrated region, facilitate the joint implementation of regional infrastructure projects and enhance co-operation of member states. This is a laudable initiative by the member states of the three RECs and it is recognised that regional integration is the first step towards integration into a multilateral trading system. For the TFTA member states, it is crucial that there is an awareness to move towards a review of domestic customs legislation and policy and to develop regional, supranational legislation and regulations in order to gain a stronger competitive edge in the global market. This study shies away from proposing a „quick fix? or „instant benefit? to the harmonisation of TFTA member states customs legislative frameworks and policies and the development of a single automated, interoperable electronic customs system. Rather, it places its focus on long-term sustainable benefits which will be realised over time. The harmonisation of TFTA member state customs legislative policies and the resultant Information and Communications Technology (ICT) reforms to the customs processes of the TFTA member states, though not immediate or short-term, will strategically position the region to conduct business in an increasingly volume driven, fast paced, electronic global economy.

Report on the 11th UN/CEFACT Plenary OECD Publishing

This book features the results of the 2015 UNRC Joint Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation for the Asia-Pacific Region and incorporates them into an econometric analysis estimating the impact of trade facilitation on trade costs. It shows that there is a strong, negative relationship between Asia-Pacific countries' international trade costs and their level of trade facilitation implementation. Reducing trade costs is essential for developing economies to participate in international production networks and effectively use trade as an engine of growth and sustainable development. One effective way to reduce trade costs is to tackle non-tariff barriers and address regulatory procedures and documentation requirements. Trade facilitation, including paperless trade, has taken increasing importance as evidenced by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement reached in December 2013, as well as the growing number of regional and subregional initiatives aimed at facilitating the electronic exchange of trade related information and documents along international supply chains.

**Results from an Expert Survey** Asian Development Bank

This report discusses the benefits of trade facilitation - meant to promote transparent, predictable and straightforward border procedures so as to expedite the movement of goods. The OECD Trade Facilitation indicators provide a powerful tool for assessing the impact of related reforms and monitoring progress.

**The Global Enabling Trade Report 2008** UN

Sets out a list of key issues discussed at the 3rd International Forum on Trade Facilitation and offers recommendations and policy-oriented suggestions regarding the elements needed to move towards the new system.

**Blockchain Technology for Paperless Trade Facilitation in Maldives** United Nations

International trade in agricultural and food products is more complex than trade in manufacturing □ trade regulations are stricter, paperwork and logistics more complex. These are required for ensuring food safety for consumers. Detailed information on traded goods alongside the movement of goods in a supply chain is critically important for food safety. This publication outlines a framework for integrated agrifood information management, taking into account the functional needs of various stakeholders along the supply chain. The benefits as well as challenges involved in developing a comprehensive system are discussed. Practical recommendations for, and milestones in the enhancement of agrifood information systems for trade facilitation are provided, including a recommendation to develop a Single Window for Agrifood Trade.

Practices from the East and North-East Asia United Nations

This book features the results of the 2015 UNRC Joint Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation for the Asia-Pacific Region and incorporates them into an econometric analysis estimating the impact of trade facilitation on trade costs. It shows that there is a strong, negative relationship between Asia-Pacific countries' international trade costs and their level of trade facilitation implementation. Reducing trade costs is essential for developing economies to participate in international production networks and effectively use trade as an engine of growth and sustainable development. One effective way to reduce trade costs is to tackle non-tariff barriers and address regulatory procedures and documentation requirements. Trade facilitation, including paperless trade, has taken increasing importance as evidenced by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement reached in December 2013, as well as the growing number of regional and subregional initiatives aimed at facilitating the electronic exchange of trade related information and documents along international supply chains.