

Towards a Regional Agenda for Trade Facilitation

Challenges of transit trade facilitation and the way forward

*Summary of Discussions and
Recommendations (Breakout Session 1)*

- *Challenge 1: Inadequate trade and transport infrastructure and logistics services;*
- (Regional level)
 - Improve regional/subregional collectivity including the regional/subregional economic and transit corridors;
 - Develop multimodal corridors including inter-modal competition between road and rail transport;
 - Promote collaboration among the service providers, business communities at regional/sub-regional level to promote partnership in logistics and transport services.
- (National level)
 - Upgrade domestic trade/transport infrastructure such as roads, railways, waterways, warehouse, border facilities;
 - Develop domestic logistics services and open logistics services market on a reciprocal basis;
 - Improve the regulatory regime of inter-modal transport to create a sound base for promoting trade logistics;



- *Challenge 2: Cumbersome documents and procedures, and excessive physical inspections;*

Recommendations / Way Forward

- (Regional level)
 - Improve coordination of regulatory agencies' operations, particularly Customs operations at regional/subregional level;
 - Harmonize the standards and certification process at the regional and sub-regional level.
- (National level)
 - Change the mindset of “control” to “facilitation” in border management;
 - Adopt international standards and tools to streamline trade and customs procedures and documents;
 - Reduce lead time from inspection of goods undertaken separately by different border agencies.
 - Enhance Customs reform process including introduction of risk management, authorized consignor/consignee.



- *Challenge 3: Insufficient availability and use of information and communication technologies;*

- (Regional level)
 - Upgrade the regional transit system to electronics data interchange;
 - Improve coverage and efficiency in ICT to support GPRS tracking system.
- (National level)
 - Adoption of ICT-enabled trade facilitation measures, including establishment of Electronic Single Window;
 - Effective operation and maintenance of the IT based system.



- *Challenge 4: Lack of appropriate regional transit regimes and insufficient participation in multilateral cooperation on transit*
- (Regional or global level)
 - Effectively conclude and implement transit and transport agreements at bilateral and regional level;
 - Improve coordination & harmonization of procedures across the borders;
 - Admit vehicles liability insurance among relevant countries;
 - Establish regional guarantee system;
 - Simplify the accession procedures to international conventions/agreements;
 - Provide technical assistance in the negotiation and implementation.
- (National level)
 - Participate actively in the negotiations of regional transit agreements;
 - Accede to global conventions/agreements such as WTO GATT, UNECE TIR Convention, WCO Revised Kyoto Convention, WCO A.T.A. Convention.



Recommendations / Way Forward

- (Regional level)
 - Explore possibility of developing joint capacity building program on TF between relevant global and regional organizations;
 - Undertake regional actions in building capacity of the countries in road safety road maintenance
 - Continue providing technical assistance in the area of trade/transit facilitation.
- (National level)
 - Improve inter-agency coordination and cooperation, including implementation of Integrated Border Management (IBM), Single Window, One Stop Inspection;
 - Create and make effective institutional mechanism to enhance the public/private partnership;
 - Implement training projects to increase the knowledge and skills of staff in regulatory agencies, particularly at the border checkpoints, as well as freight forwarders and service providers



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