
**Regional Conference/Forum for Freight Forwarders, Multimodal Transport
Operators and Logistics Service Providers**

Bangkok, 25 June 2015

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE/FORUM
FOR FREIGHT FORWARDERS, MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT
OPERATORS AND LOGISTICS SERVICE PROVIDERS**

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I. MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE/FORUM

1. The Conference/Forum was briefed on the work carried out by UNESCAP in the field of infrastructure, facilitation and logistics, in particular relating to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, Regional Framework on Railway Facilitation Issues, Sustainable Development Agenda, Integrated Intermodal Transport and Logistics System, Development of Logistics Information Standards and Framework for National Logistics Information Service Systems and the application of Secure Cross-border Transport Model.
2. The Conference/Forum reviewed the achievements and remaining challenges of the implementation of regional commitments under the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and discussed the economic benefits of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and impact on freight forwarders in the region. The Conference/Forum recognized the importance of full implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity for the realization of potential benefits.
3. The Conference/Forum recognized the importance of improving hard and soft infrastructure quality especially among developing countries to reduce logistics cost and enhance logistics services efficiency.
4. The Conference/Forum highlighted the importance of improving logistics service quality and professionalism through human resource capacity building; and noted the benefits in establishing regional standards in certifications.
5. The Conference/Forum underscored the importance of sustainable freight transport and noted DHL's approaches to achieving logistics supply chain resilience and risk assessment.
6. The Conference/Forum recognized the importance of active participation of national associations in government forums as a way to promote dialogue, improve awareness and enhance the role of the industry in policy development.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

7. The Forum comprised the following substantive topics.
 - A. **Update on the latest work by UNESCAP with relevance to freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators and logistics service providers**
 8. In this session, Mr. Yuwei Li, Director, Transport Division, UNESCAP, briefed the participants on major initiatives by the secretariat since the Regional Forum of 2014.
 9. He updated participants with the latest development on the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports. He also informed participants that UNESCAP can provide capacity building to support countries in policy change pertaining to this agreement.
 10. He stressed the importance of regional connectivity in the development of inter- and intra-region trade and informed participants on regional common targets on railway facilitation issues. He touched upon ASEAN and SAARC connectivity plans.
 11. He briefed participants on United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the importance of integrating “economic, social and sustainable development” in transport policy planning.
 12. He explained the concept and linkage between sustainable transport and integrated intermodal transport in minimizing environment impact.
 13. He informed participants that the “development of logistics information standards and framework for national logistics information service systems” project would be completed by the end of this year.
 14. He briefed participants on development of feasibility study on pilot implementation of the Secure Cross-border Transport Model along Bhutan-India transit corridor to increase the efficiency and security of transit transport and reduce transit costs.
 - B. **The implications of the ASEAN Economic Community to logistics industry**
 15. This session is divided into three sub-sessions with presentations from the ASEAN Secretariat, academia and industry service providers.
 16. *Ms. Megasari Widyaty*, Head of Infrastructure Division, ASEAN Economic Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat, presented an overview of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and highlighted its achievements, progress-to-date and remaining challenges in policy implementation and further economic integration. Participants were briefed on Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on ASEAN

Community's Post-2015 Vision which was adopted at the 25th Summit on 12 November 2014. She pointed out the importance of logistics and informed participants on ASEAN Roadmap for the Integration of Logistics Services (RILS) to achieve greater and significant integration of logistics services within ASEAN. She briefed participants on the development of ASEAN Single Shipping Market and the Implementation of ASEAN Single Aviation Market and highlighted the benefits of AEC to logistics industry and the advantages of multimodal transport. She also presented the ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025.

17. *Ms. Melanie Milo*, Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) presented some of the key results and recommendations of studies that ERIA has undertaken to analyze the impact of AEC measures on the ground, with particular focus on logistics service providers. She first discussed the positive impact of improved trade facilitation on economic growth and intra-ASEAN trade. She noted the improvement in ASEAN Member States' implementation scores for customs modernization and the National Single Window over the period 2011-2014, as well as the still significant gap between the front runners and the tail enders. She identified resource constraints as one of the major reasons for the implementation gap among ASEAN's newer Member States. She also presented the progress of services liberalization and its impact on logistics within the air, maritime, rail and telecommunication sectors. Finally, she highlighted the regulatory issues related to logistics and trade facilitation, such as the importance of coherent and efficient regulations, the benefits of competition within the market, and the necessity of appropriate regulation to prevent monopolistic behavior in certain sectors.
18. *Mr. Alvin Chua*, President, Federation of Malaysian Freight Forwarders (FMFF) presented the impact of AEC from Malaysian freight forwarders perspective. He explained various initiatives and strategies taken by the Malaysian authority, including Malaysia's Master Plan to improve and strengthen the logistics sector to cement Malaysia's position as the preferred logistic gateway. He outlined challenges such as protectionism, lack of integration within physical and institutional connectivity. He highlighted positive initiatives in human resource capacity building and the benefits of Customs border control akin to the ATA Carnet system in Greater Mekong Sub-region countries.
19. *Mr. Kettivit Sittisoontornwong*, President, Thai International Freight Forwarders Association (TIFFA) presented the impact of AEC from Thai freight forwarders perspective. He briefed participants on ASEAN economic potential and highlighted Thailand's position as a regional hub for connectivity. He highlighted the benefits of AEC including free flow of investments, skilled labor and bigger market for more business opportunities. He outlined the challenges of Thailand in view of AEC including political instability, lack of research and development, skill gap, monetary policy etc.
20. *Mr. Masaharu Nozawa*, Executive Director and Secretary General, Japan International Freight Forwarders Association (JIFFA), presented the impact of AEC

from a non-ASEAN/Japanese freight forwarders perspective. He stressed the importance of Japan-ASEAN trade relationship, highlighted key roles of Japanese freight forwarders play in the flourishing trade between Japan and ASEAN. He explained the benefits of AEC to Japanese manufacturers based in ASEAN member states. He also informed participants on the expanding Japanese agriculture and alimentation industry exports to ASEAN.

C. Supply chain resilience to external shock

21. In this session, Mr. Tobias Larsson, Director Resilience 360, DHL Customer Solutions and Innovation introduced DHL risk assessment on supply chain resilience program and DHL Incident Monitoring Database. He explained the research methodology and different variables included in the index calculation. He presented different case studies as examples.

D. Green freight and logistics

22. Mr. Roland Haas, Program Director, GIZ Thailand, delivered a presentation on green freight and logistics initiative funded by Germany in the ASEAN region. He highlighted the adverse impact of transport towards environment. He outlined the concept of green freight and key strategies which may contribute to greener freight and logistics. He provided examples of GIZ support for country level activities as well as future technical cooperation projects. He stressed the importance of capacity building and increase green transport awareness in the society.

E. Dialogue on resolving operational challenges

23. Mr. Sandeep Raj Jain, Officer-in-Charge, a.i., Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, Transport Division, UNESCAP, introduced the participants to the role of UNESCAP as a regional intergovernmental body and invited participants to share their views on country level operational issues.
24. *Bangladesh:* Participants from Bangladesh informed the Conference/Forum that separate licenses are required for providing freight forwarding services and customs services. E-manifest can be submitted at Chittagong port. However, the port and customs e-systems are not connected.
25. *Cambodia:* Participants from Cambodia expressed concern on cargo security and safety during transportation. They also informed the Conference/Forum on lack of bonded warehouses at border check-points and despite the introduction of ASYCUDA systems, customs procedures remain cumbersome and not entirely paperless.
26. *Indonesia:* Participants from Indonesia informed the Conference/Forum of high logistics cost and the lack of hard and soft infrastructure particularly in the eastern provinces. Participants then informed the Conference/Forum of new government

policy on logistics reform which include harmonization of regulations, improve hard and soft infrastructure, education and fiscal issues.

27. *Malaysia:* Participants from Malaysia expressed concern on potential tariff hike by Port Klang which will affect terminal charges. They also raised the issue on the time gap in VAT recovery which may impact freight forwarders' cash flow.
28. *Myanmar:* Participants from Myanmar informed the Conference/Forum of challenges in operations due to poor infrastructure. Lack of cold storage and bonded warehouses and documentations fraud. Participants stressed the lack of understanding of freight forwarders role within the public sector and requested UNESCAP to involve in raising public awareness through education.
29. *Nepal:* Participants from Nepal informed the Conference/Forum of the limitation of warehousing and facility and service issues at Inland Container Depot in Raxaul. Participants also requested UNESCAP to provide training to Nepalese freight forwarders to improve their human resource capacity especially in multimodal transport.
30. *Thailand:* Participants from Thailand informed the Conference/Forum of that freight forwarders are not recognized as a "legal entity" by the Thai Customs law which leads to additional layer of administrative processes. Participants stressed the unfair regulation pertains to VAT. They explained that VAT on international ocean cargo is collected from freight forwarders but not from ship liners.
31. *Viet Nam:* Participants from Viet Nam expressed desire to increase cooperation with UNESCAP and other regional organizations to improve the overall quality of logistics situation.
32. Mr. Edouard Chong, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, Transport Division, UNESCAP informed participants on the release of Policy Briefs on Container Deposit and Block Exemption on UNESCAP website. Participants were invited to provide feedback within a month's time before the official publication.

F. Good practices by national associations

33. *Bangladesh:* Participants from Bangladesh informed the Conference/Forum of the reorganization of licensing systems. The national freight forwarders association also cooperated with the government to standardize rules and regulations for freight forwarders to increase service quality. Participants expressed interests to set up training institute modelled on SLA institute in Singapore and requested UNESCAP for training assistance.

34. *Cambodia*: Participants from Cambodia informed the Conference/Forum of improved collaboration between the Ministry of Transport and CAMFA and reported increasing focus on training to improve service quality within the industry.
35. *Singapore/FIATA*: Participants from Singapore, speaking on behalf of FIATA, informed the Conference/Forum of the conditions to apply for financial assistance from FIATA Foundation to train trainers.
36. *Indonesia*: Participants from Indonesia informed the Conference/Forum of new certification body to upgrade human resource capacity development within the industry. The association provided recommendations to the government on policies related to the freight forwarding sector.
37. *Malaysia*: Participants from Malaysia informed the Conference/Forum that FMFF was invited by Ministry of Transport to participate in logistics roadmap meeting. Participants also reported that human resource grant was made available by the authority to improve human resource capacity. Members of FMFF must now comply with strict conditions to ensure professionalism and quality service provided by FMFF members. Examples of conditions included: a minimum of MYR100k asset, insurance liability, at least two persons who have completed training course etc.
38. *Thailand*: Participants from Thailand informed the Conference/Forum of TIFFA's involvement in improving training standards for the industry with the help of the Thai government. The new TIFFA office has better training facility which can accommodate more students and deliver higher standards of training.

G. Other matters

39. No other matter was raised.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE FORUM

A. Opening Statements

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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