

# Overview of Presentation

- International trade costs in developing countries
- Paperless trade implementation (in Asia-Pacific)
- Moving forward on cross-border paperless trade



# ESCAP-World Bank International Trade Cost Database (launched Jan. 2013)

- Bilateral trade cost data for 180 countries (1995-2011)
- Captures all *additional costs involved in trading goods bilaterally relative to those involved in trading goods domestically*. It includes:
  - 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...
- Measure derived from the theory-consistent gravity equation, i.e., ratio based essentially on Bilateral Trade data and Gross Output data → *“objective” measure of costs*

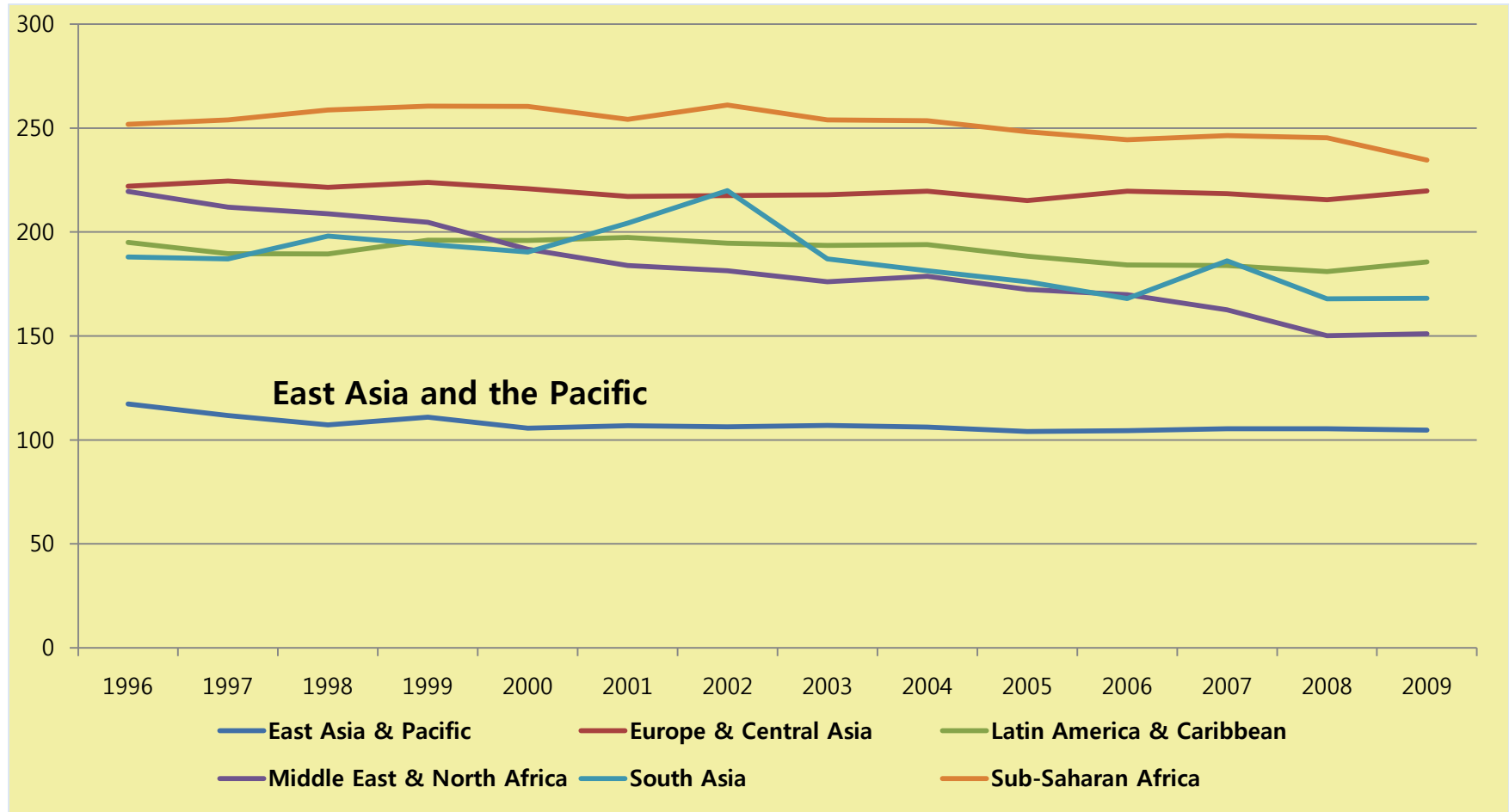


# Key findings

1. All-inclusive trade costs more than an order of magnitude higher than tariff rates
2. Trade costs in developing countries much higher than in developed countries, and falling more slowly
3. Trade costs in agriculture much higher than trade costs in manufacturing in all income groups, and static over time
4. Very different levels of trade costs in different developing regions
5. Often cheaper for developing countries to trade with far-away developed countries than to trade with neighbors



# International trade costs in World's developing regions\*



\*based on ESCAP-World Bank International Trade Cost Database; <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/trade-costs-dataset>



# Intra and inter-regional trade costs (excluding tariff; 2006-2011)

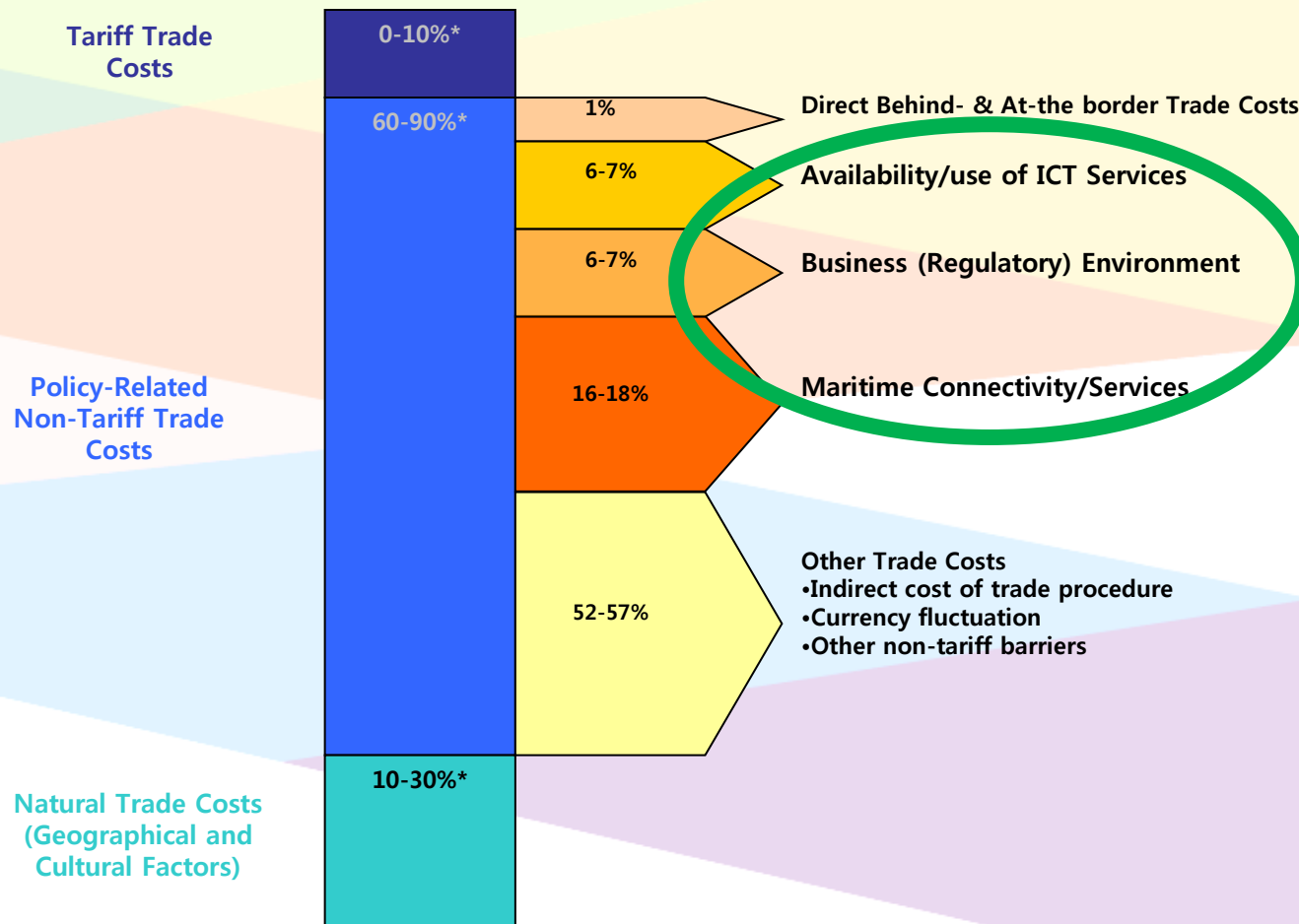
	ASEAN-4	East Asia-3	NCA	PDE	SAARC-4	AUS/NZL	EU-3	USA
ASEAN-4	77 (10)							
East Asia-3	77 (8)	52 (-8)						
North and Central Asia (NCA)	387 (6)	220 (-11)	141 (0)					
Pacific Islands Dev. Economies (PDE)	263 (31)	268 (36)	308 (17)	107 (-31)				
SAARC-4	124 (2)	124 (2)	270 (-10)	342 (13)	107 (4)			
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.

# What are key factors in lowering trade costs?

Contribution of natural barriers, behind-the border facilitation and trade-related practice to trade costs\*\*



\* Illustrative based on casual observation of the data only. Natural trade costs for landlocked countries may be outside the range shown for natural trade costs.

\*\* simplified graphic illustration of results in Duval and Uthoktham (2011)

# Paperless Trade Implementation

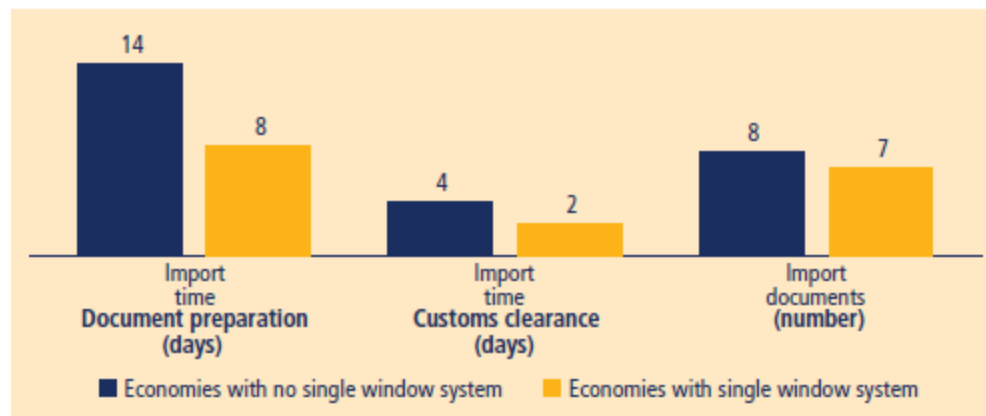
- 151 economies around the world (83%) allow traders to submit at least some of their trade-related documents to customs authorities electronically — though many of these systems are not linked to the internet and others still require hard copies.
- 73 economies around the world have implemented single-window systems of varying complexity.

Source: [www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org),  
Nov. 2013

**TABLE 3** Good practices around the world, by *Doing Business*

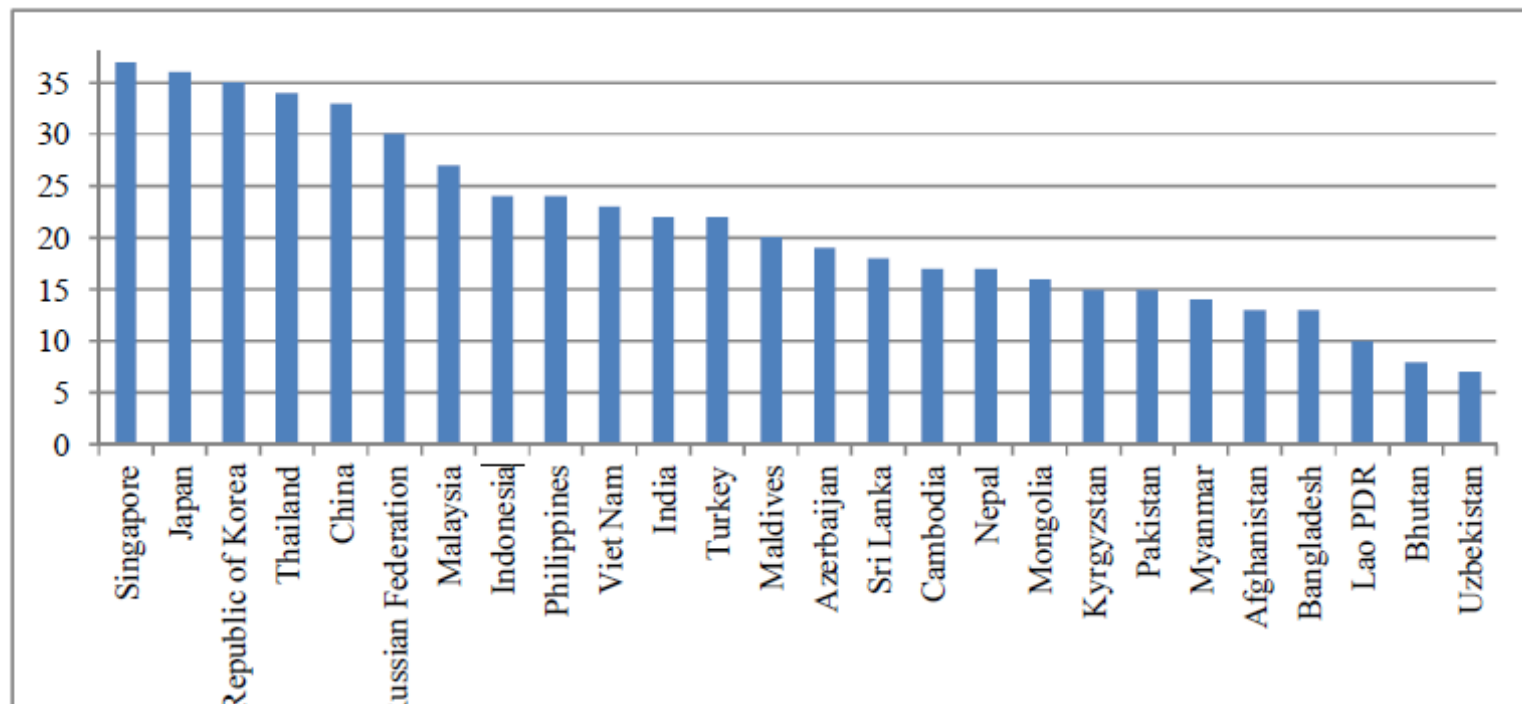
Practice	Economies <sup>a</sup>
Allowing electronic submission and processing	151 <sup>e</sup>
Using risk-based inspections <sup>f</sup>	134
Providing a single window <sup>f</sup>	73 <sup>g</sup>

**FIGURE 8.1** Economies with single window systems spend less time preparing documents and clearing customs



# ESCAP Trade Facilitation & Paperless Trade Implementation Survey

Trade Facilitation and paperless trade implementation scores of selected Asian countries 2012



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_6408](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_6408)

