

South-East Asia Breakout Session: "Progress in Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade and the Role of Public Private Collaboration"

Summary report by session chairperson

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Summary of Discussions and Recommendations, APTFF 2012

Highlights of Discussion

- Public Private Partnership in TF (*consolidating TF into single authority or inter-agency collaboration)
- Various levels of progress in TF
- Governance
- Appropriate methodology to measure improvements
- TF in region an active priority for Development Partners



Tangible Progress in Trade Facilitation

Subregional

- ASEAN Economic Community ASEAN SW NSW Development
- Subregional TF platforms providing building blocks e.g. GMS, BIMP-EAGA, IMT-GT

National

- Development of Trade Information Portal to become transactional
- Review of regulatory framework towards e-trade
- Road Maps being developed or implemented
- Substantial Progress (e.g. NSW, AEO) with lessons to be learned



Main Challenges Shared

- Legal environment not ready for TF inadequate venue for Public-private collaboration + "Trust" factor
- Physical Infrastructure and transport linkages (easing cost of doing business)
- Government Balancing Act (perceived loss of revenue vs. TF)
- Readiness for adoption of modern technology
- Weak financial support systems
- Human Resources Development (public and private) and Optimization
- Poor coordination between public and private sector
- Extending inclusiveness of TF Frameworks to SMEs



Recommendations (National and Subregional)

- Continuous strengthening of legal framework and improved implementation of existing laws
- Encourage public-private investment for necessary infrastructure to facilitate trade
- Knowledge transfer or technology exchange through TA
- Consider special needs of SMEs, for both TF and for value chain participation- encourage DPs to help address SME concerns
- Provide targeted training for both public and private sectors
- Strengthening of trade related information portal and
 make them accessible to public



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