

The Way Forward for Regional Cross-border Paperless Trade

ESCAP Resolution 68/3 and implementation

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Outline

- Why paperless trade? Where do we stand?
- ESCAP Resolution 68/3 on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation
- Way Forward

Why Paperless Trade?

[Paperless trade: “the conduct of trade transactions using electronic instead of paper documents”]

- **Certainly not an end in it-self**

- **Most countries’ aim is to use trade, as a key engine of growth and development, going:**

- ❖ **Maintain competitiveness in traditional markets**
- ❖ **More intra-regional trade**

Why Paperless Trade?

- A trade transaction typically involves at least 15 different parties and well over 20 different documents
- Procedures related to preparation and exchange of documents create huge direct and indirect costs
- Trade procedures in some Asia-Pacific developing countries remain very inefficient
 - ❖ Time to complete them is 3 times the OECD average

Where does the region stand on paperless trade implementation?

- **Most developing countries have some form of electronic customs clearance systems in place**
- **Many are taking concrete steps towards implementation of National SW facilities**
 - **Some countries in the region have some of the world's best paperless trade systems in place**
 - **Increase in number of bilateral/subregional cross-border paperless trade initiatives (PAA, ASEAN SW, ECO SW...)**

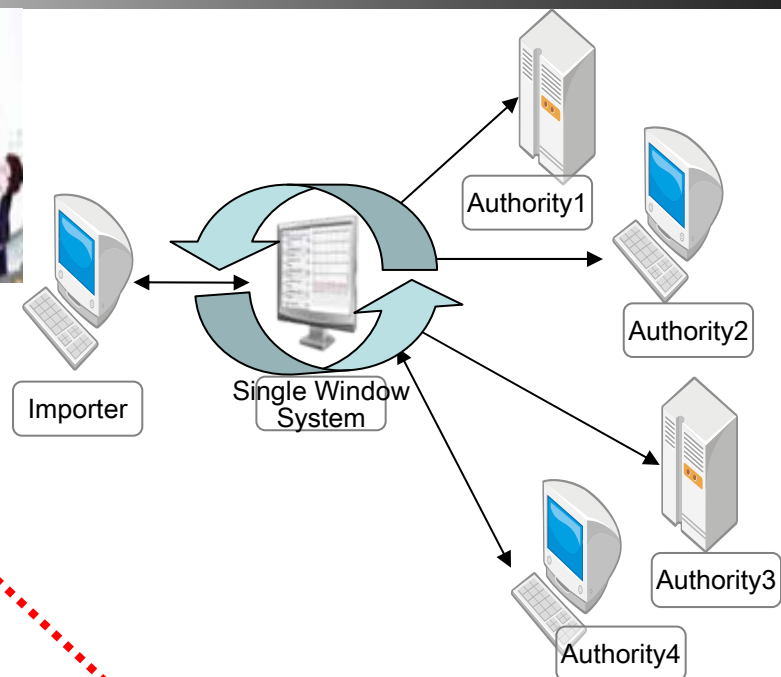
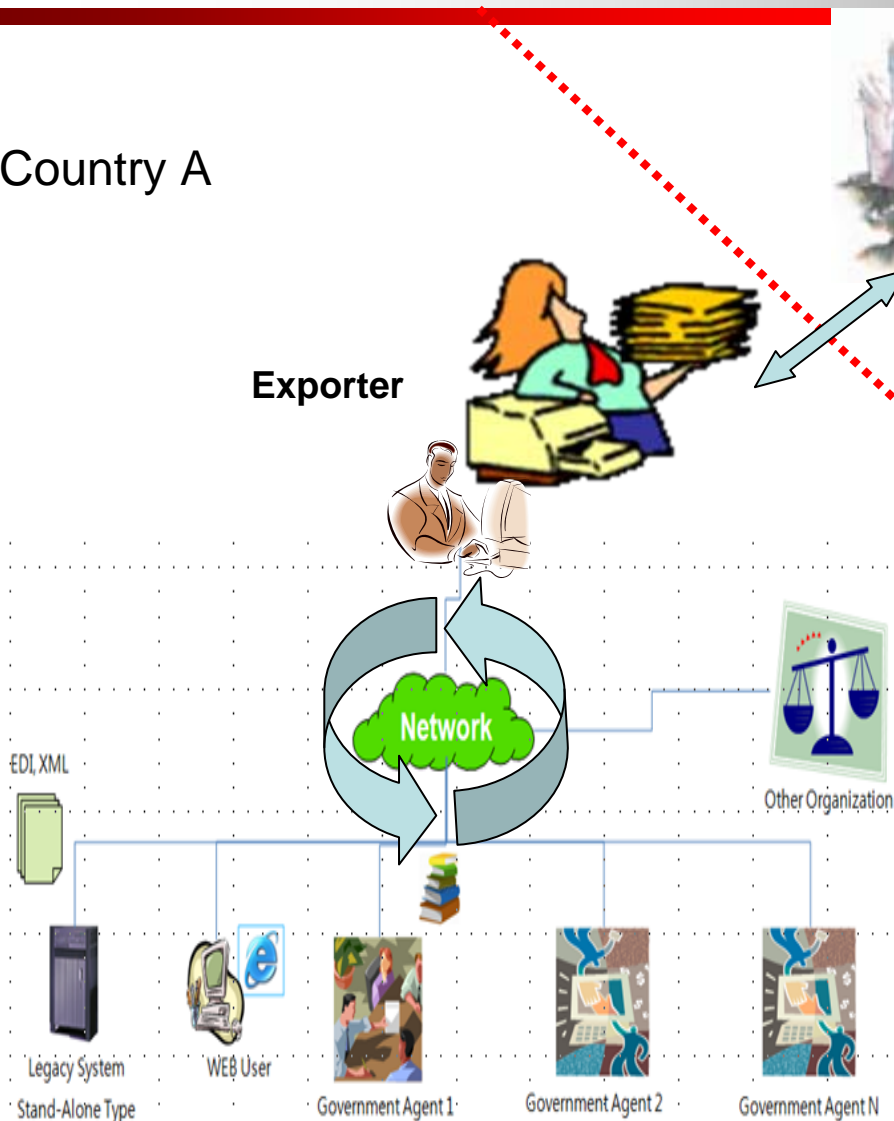
What are some of the needs (in paperless trade) ?

- For those who already have national single window or relatively complete paperless trade systems:
 - to ensure that relevant electronic information/documents generated by the systems can be exchanged and legally recognized across borders
- For countries who are at an early stage:
 - to accelerate development of national Paperless Trade Systems
 - which may also enable cross-border exchange and recognition across borders (to maximize return on investment)

Need for Facilitating Cross-border Paperless Trade

Country A

Exporter



Country B



Resolution 68/3 on Enabling Trade for Trade Facilitation

enabling paperless trade and the cross-
ognition of electronic data and documents
/e and sustainable intraregional trade
”

[g/commission/68/documents/English/2012-Resolutions-E68_24E.pdf](http://www.un.org/commission/68/documents/English/2012-Resolutions-E68_24E.pdf)

y ESCAP Member countries in May 2012

o-sponsored by: Indonesia, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Sri
ailand

adoption of this Resolution means?

f benefits (and necessity) of paperless trade

rition that there is a need for the region to work together
cross-border paperless trade solutions