Update on ESCAP Work on Trade Facilitation and implementation of the ROC-TF mechanism

Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) Annual Meeting 29 October 2012 Colombo, Sri Lanka

Outline

- APTFF 2009 recommendations
- Introduction to ESCAP
- Overview of ESCAP Trade Facilitation Activities
- UNNExT
- ESCAP Trade Cost Database
- ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework
- ESCAP Trade Facilitation Activities: Update
- Update on ROC-TF after the Dialogue Meeting in 2011



Introduction to ESCAP

- Regional (Asia and the Pacific) Branch of the United Nations Secretariat
- 63 member countries covering Central, South, Southeast, East and South Pacific countries
- Mandate: Promote sustainable and inclusive socioeconomic development in Asia and the Pacific
 - through facilitation of <u>REGIONAL COOPERATION</u>
- Areas covered: <u>Trade and Investment</u>, Transport, Macroeconomic Policy, Environment, Emerging social issues, Information and Communication Technologies...
 - Trade and Investment: (1) <u>Trade Facilitation</u>; (2) Trade Policy; (3)
 Investment and Enterprise Development





ESCAP Activities in Trade Facilitation

- Provide regional knowledge-sharing and capacity building platforms:
 - The United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)
 - The annual Asia-Pacific

Trade Facilitation Forum & Exhibition (APTFF)

- Develop guides and training materials to bridge the gap between standards developers and "implementers"
- Deliver specialized national and regional workshops and programmes, as well as on-request advisory services
- Conduct analyses and develop trade facilitation performance indicators,
 - including the ESCAP Bilateral Trade Cost Database



- "community of knowledge and practice to facilitate the implementation of single window and paperless trade in the region"
 - Tools and guides development activities
 - Advocacy and Technical Training Workshops
 - Knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer support
- On-going focus:
 - Trade Process Analysis
 - Data Harmonization
 - Legal Framework for Single Window and Paperless Trade

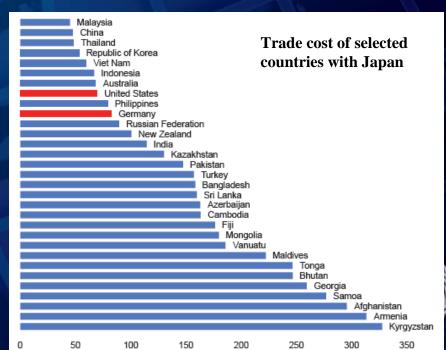






ESCAP Bilateral Trade Cost Database

- Macro-level indicator of Trade Facilitation Performance
 - Measure of all direct and indirect international trade costs between two countries
- Only database providing <u>bilateral</u> trade cost information
 - Directly relevant for intra-regional trade performance monitoring
 - 50+ countries (http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/trade-costs.asp)
- Version 2.0 under development (in collaboration with the World Bank)
 - 107 countries
 - Enhanced trade cost indicators
 - Disaggregated into:
 - Industry trade costs
 - & Agricultural trade costs
 - To be available by: Dec. 2011



Non-tariff intra and extra regional trade costs in Asia and the Pacific (2007/2009)*

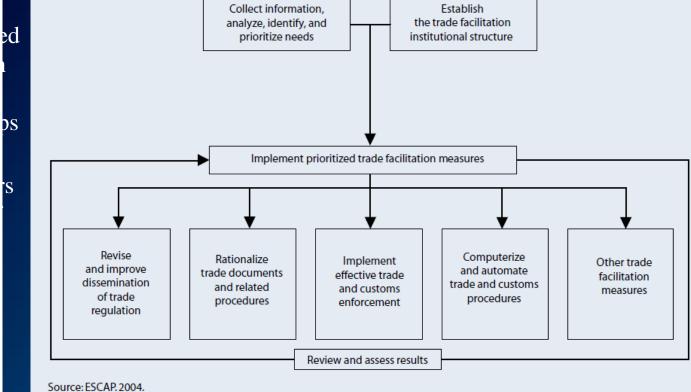
			North &		AUS-		
Region	ASEAN-4	East Asia-3	Central Asia	SAARC-4	NZL	EU-3	USA
ASEAN-4	79%	73%	291%	134%	90%	97%	77%
	(-9.5%)	(-5.9%)	(-14.2%)	(2.1%)	(-12.3%)	(-4.9%)	(3.0%)
East Asia-3	73%	47%	187%	119%	78%	70%	53%
	(-5.9%)	(-21.1%)	(-32.7%)	(-2.8%)	(-15.7%)	(-19.0%)	(-13.5%)
North & Central Asia	291%	187%	149%	270%	270%	149%	165%
	(-14.2%)	(-32.7%)	(-20.5%)	(-22.4%)	(-22.2%)	(-26.0%)	(5.00%)
SAARC-4	134%	119%	270%	113%	130%	101%	99%
	(2.1%)	(-2.8%)	(-22.4%)	(5.0%)	(-2.7%)	(-3.2%)	(5.9%)
AUS-NZL	90%	78%	270%	130%	45%	89%	82%
	(-12.3%)	(-15.7%)	(-22.2%)	(-2.7%)	(-23.5%)	(-17.0%)	(-11.1%)
EU3	97%	70%	149%	101%	89%	32%	51%
	(-4.9%)	(-19.0%)	(-26.0%)	(-3.2%)	(-17.0%)	(-32.6%)	(-18.2%)
USA	77%	53%	165%	99%	82%	51%	
	(3.0%)	(-13.5%)	(-17.3%)	(5.9%)	(-11.1%)	(-18.2%)	

Source: ESCAP Trade Cost Database (version 2).

e Facilitation Framework (1)

a regional team of TF experts in 2003/4

Figure 3.1: Step-by-Step Trade Facilitation: A Framework for Action



http://www.unescap.org/tid/publication/t&ipub2327.asp

