



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework A guiding tool



ST/ESCAP/2327

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mention of firm names and commercial products does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations.

On 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became Hong Kong, China. Mention of "Hong Kong" in the text refers to a date prior to 1 July 1997.

CONTENTS

			Page
ABBR	REVIATIONS		iv
WEB SITE ADDRESSES OF REFERENCES			V
INTRODUCTION			1
1.	TRADE DE\	VELOPMENT AND ITS ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE	1
II.	TRADE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY		2
III.	IMPLICATIONS OF TRADE FACILITATION		3
IV.	KEY COMPONENTS OF TRADE FACILITATION		4
V.	DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESCAP TRADE FACILITATION FRAMEWORK		5
VI.	ESCAP TRADE FACILITATION FRAMEWORK		7
	Stage Ai:	Collect feedback, analyse, assess and prioritize needs	7
	Stage Aii:	Establish the trade facilitation institutional structure	9
	Stage Bi:	Revise trade and customs laws and regulations	11
	Stage Bii:	Simplify, standardize and harmonize import-export documentation and customs procedures	16
	Stage Biii:	Implement effective trade and customs enforcement	28
	Stage Biv:	Implement effective information dissemination	37
	Stage Bv:	Applying information and communication technology	39
	Stage Bvi:	Review and assessment of results	46
		ANNEXES	
I.	STUDY OF THE CURRENT TRADE FACILITATION SITUATION		
П	CASE STUDY: ELECTRONIC TRADE DOCUMENT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT		

ABBREVIATIONS

APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

CA controlling agency

ECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

ETDS electronic trade documentation system

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GDP gross domestic product

HS Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

ICT information and communication technology

ID inward declaration

ISO International Organization for Standardization

LA lead agency

OD outward declaration

TFAC Trade Facilitation Advisory Committee

UN/CEFACT United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic

Business

UNCITRAL United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

UN/EDIFACT United Nations Directories for Electronic Data Interchange for

Administration, Commerce and Transport

UNLK United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents

WCO World Customs Organization

WTO World Trade Organization

WEB SITE ADDRESSES OF REFERENCES

APEC Subcommittee on Customs Procedures "Best Practices" Handbook:

http://www.sccp.org/sccplibrary/otherdocs/handbook.htm

UN/CEFACT:

http://www.unece.org/cefact/welcome.htm http://www.unece.org/trade/comp/

UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce:

http://www.uncitral.org/english/texts/electcom/ml-ecomm.htm

World Bank "Trade and transport facilitation: A toolkit for audit, analysis and remedial action" under "Core Toolkits":

http://www.gfptt.org/

WCO International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto Convention), revised version (Revised WCO Kyoto Convention is the term used in this publication):

http://www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/Topics_Issues/FacilitationCustomsProcedures/Kyoto_New/Content/content.html

WCO Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System:

http://www.wcoomd.org/ie/En/en.html

WTO General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade:

http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/legal_e.htm#goods

INTRODUCTION

The ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework¹ consists of suggested steps aimed at improving selected areas under trade facilitation.

Given that countries may have different priorities and issues in terms of their trade development strategies, the framework is not intended to act as a "one size fits all" plan for all countries nor is it "cast in stone". It is a guiding tool for Governments to assess the problems and bottlenecks where remedial facilitation measures are required and to identify appropriate remedial facilitation measures.

In the diagrammatic representation, it is recommended that stages Ai and Aii could be implemented either sequentially or simultaneously depending on the requirement of the country. This can be followed by the subsequent stages (i.e., Bi to Bvi), which could be carried out either separately or in tandem.

The following are some pointers to guide the authorities in using the framework:

- Review the framework and prioritize the stages that will be focused on first and decide whether to adopt either Ai or Aii or both simultaneously. This stage can be followed by any of the subsequent stages depending on the priorities of the country.
- Focus on each selected stage separately. The framework allows this flexibility and does not require the implementation of the entire framework in totality.
- Assess the steps of the selected stages and determine which steps would be relevant in terms of implementation. The trade and customs authorities may wish to modify or customize some of the steps accordingly.
- ➤ Evaluate the implementation of the steps in line with the suggested measurable indicators. The indicators provided are not exhaustive and the authorities are free to add additional indicators where relevant.

The key point in using the framework is that it should be adopted in a flexible and practical manner by the authorities. The framework is to provide direction in aligning their trade facilitation measures to improve the effectiveness of the trade facilitation system.

I. TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ITS ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

The global economic environment is changing rapidly. Globalization has led to astonishing increases in global trade. Trade currently represents 30 per cent of world gross domestic product (GDP) and is expected to grow to 50 per cent of world GDP by 2020. Greater participation in international trade is a prerequisite for economic growth and sustainable development in today's competitive world economy.

In recent years, the international trade environment has changed drastically. Since the conclusion of the Uruquay Round of multinational trade negotiations in 1994, tariff rates have

¹ The ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework is the outcome of the ESCAP Expert Group Meeting on Trade Facilitation and Electronic Commerce held at Bangkok on 30 and 31 July 2003. It is a working draft and thus will evolve further.

ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework

been reduced and non-tariff barriers are in the process of being dismantled. Although there are still several unresolved issues, under the World Trade Organization (WTO) market liberalization, supported by technological advancements, is entrenched within the global economy. Under WTO, the international business environment has become rule-based and has created a more level playing field.

As a result, developing countries will face more competition in terms of their exports. Less developed countries may lose in preferential trade concessions and even those with such concessions will find themselves marginalized against the backdrop of reduced trade barriers. Therefore, they cannot rely on tariffs and preferential trade concessions alone for export development. In order to be competitive, each country now also has to develop a domestic environment favourable to trade through the implementation of a national trade development strategy.

II. TRADE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Under the current trade environment, the focus for Governments should be to enhance trade competitiveness. Trade competitiveness encompasses the cost, time and quality competitiveness of a country's exports as well as its efficiency in importing inputs for the local industries. Enhancing trade competitiveness requires a holistic review of the entire trade development strategy of the country.

Trade development strategy (figure I) is defined as a holistic approach to develop and expand sustainable trade flows that are suitable and appropriate for the different phases in a country's economic development. Governments need to strategize trade policies in a coordinated and integrated manner in line with economic development strategies.

Trade facilitation may be seen as one of the four components of a comprehensive trade development strategy.

Figure I. Trade Development Strategy



预览已结束, 完整报告链接和二维码如下:

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5 8441

