

ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE FACILITATION FORUM 2013

10-11 September 2013, Beijing China

*"Towards more efficient and inclusive supply chains:
public and private sector perspectives"*

The Asia - Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) has been co-organized by ESCAP and ADB, in cooperation with a growing number of partner organizations since 2009. As such, it has become the main annual open regional platform to exchange information, experiences and practices for trade facilitation in Asia-Pacific, identify priority areas for regional cooperation and integration, and learn about new tools and services which can increase the efficiency of cross-border transactions. The Forum also intends to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination of Aid for Trade and related technical assistance and capacity building in trade facilitation.

The APTFF 2013 aims to promote trade facilitation as an important component of a comprehensive strategy for national and regional development. Under a theme of "Towards more efficient and inclusive supply chains: public and private sector perspectives", it is particularly focused on developing countries, landlocked developing countries and the least developed countries, although experiences of developed countries will also be shared at the forum.



ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE FACILITATION FORUM 2013

Towards more efficient and inclusive supply chains: public and private sector perspectives

Draft Programme (as of 23 August 2013)

10 September 2013

0800-0930: Registration

0930-1020: Opening Session

- Ceremonial Arrival of the Chief Guest and Dignitaries
- Welcome Address - China International Electronic Commerce Center (CIECC)
- Opening Remarks - United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Opening Remarks - Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Opening Remarks - Ministry of Commerce, China
- Publication launch: *“Designing and Implementing Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific”*
- Inauguration of the Trade Facilitation Exhibition

1020-1040: Coffee/tea break

1040-1220: High-level Panel Discussion: Towards more efficient and inclusive supply chains

Facilitating integration of firms into regional and global supply chains and production networks has been key to the rapid economic development experienced in many countries of the Asia and the Pacific region. As competition continues to intensify, reducing the time and costs involved in moving goods through the supply chain has become essential for all economies, including Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. As economies strive to enhance efficiency, however, ensuring that the new supply chain and logistics arrangements also become more inclusive will be important for the sustainable development of the region. This session will accordingly bring together senior officials from the public and private sector to share their views and experience on developing more efficient and inclusive supply chains.

Moderator: *H. E. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation, Sri Lanka*

Panel Members:

- *H. E. Mr. Senator Vasant Bharath, Minister, Trade, Industry and Investment, Trinidad & Tobago*
- *H. E. Mr. Edy Putra Irawady, Deputy Minister, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Indonesia*

- *H. E. Mr. Sanzhar Mukanbetov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy, Kyrgyzstan.*
- *Patrick Low, Chief Economist, World Trade Organization (WTO)*
- *Stanley Lim, President, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA)*

1220-1450: Lunch and exhibitor presentations

1450-1520: Coffee/tea break

1520-1700: Session 1: Enhancing international trade logistics performance for inclusive development

Large manufacturers and retailers are often instrumental in shaping global supply chains, including deciding on which suppliers they source from or where they will invest. The availability of well developed and reliable trade logistics services is one important factor in the decision of these firms to include a particular country in its supply chain. In this session, policy makers, logistics service providers and other experts will share their experience on how to address trade logistics performance issues in their countries to ensure wider and more beneficial participation of all, in particularly more disadvantage groups, in international trade.

Moderator: Mingke He, Professor, Beijing Industry and Commerce University, China/Vice president, China Society of Logistics

Speakers

- *Ben Shepherd, Principal, Developing Trade Consultants Ltd.*
- *Pradeep Srivastava, Principal Economist, Central and West Asia Department, ADB*
- *Wojciech Piotrowicz, Research Fellow, University of Oxford*
- *Stephen Fung, Associate Partner, Lead of North-Asia Practice, Deutsche Post DHL Inhouse Consulting*

Discussant

- *Jean-François Arvis, Senior Economist, World Bank*

11 September 2013

0900-1030: Session 2: Integrating SMEs into international supply chains through trade finance

Trade finance is the lifeline of trade because more than 90% of trade transactions involve some form of credit, insurance or guarantee.¹ However, SMEs often have limited access to trade finance, making it difficult for them to engage in international trade or to participate in international supply chains. This session will bring together selected experts and practitioners to discuss how to facilitate trade financing for SMEs in Asia-Pacific developing countries, both through banks as well as through more innovative arrangements.

¹ Source: International Trade Centre (2009), How to Access Trade Finance: A guide for exporting SMEs.

Moderator: Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP

Speakers

- *Alexander R. Malaket, President, OPUS Advisory Services International Inc.*
- *Steven Beck, Head of Trade Finance, ADB*
- *George (Kam Ho) Yuen, Non-Executive Director, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia), Hong Kong, China.*
- *Sailendra Narain, Chairman, Centre for SME Growth & Development Finance (CESMED), India*

Discussant

- *Gloria Pasadilla, Senior Analyst, Policy Support Unit, APEC Secretariat*

1030-1100: Coffee/tea break

1100-1230: Session 3: Enabling supply chain integration using paperless trade

The conduct of trade on the basis of electronic data and documents – paperless trade - has been widely recognized as an effective way to reduce the time and cost of trade transactions, as well as to increase transparency and control. Both private sector organizations and government agencies have developed a wide array of ICT systems to meet their needs, from their own internal IT systems to e-commerce and e-logistics platforms to regulatory single windows. However, supply chain efficiency gains from these systems are often limited by the lack of interconnectivity of these systems, in particular across borders. In this session, policymakers and practitioners will share lessons learned from on-going initiatives and efforts to address technical and legal barriers and enable cross-border paperless supply chains, in particular taking into account the constraints faced by LDCs.

Moderator: Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office

Speakers

- *Sungheun Ha, Director, Korea Trade Network Co., Ltd.*
- *Toshihiko Osawa, Technical Officer, WCO Secretariat*
- *Patrik Jonasson, Public Policy Director, GS I Asia-Pacific*
- *Sangwon Lim, Trade Facilitation Unit, ESCAP*

Discussants

- *Luca G. Castellani, Head, UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific*
- *Andre Sceia, TIR Secretariat, UNECE*

1230-1400: Lunch and exhibitor presentations

1400-1530: Session 4: Evolving national single window for efficient supply chains

Many developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region are in the process of establishing single window systems for electronic submission and processing of trade-related data and documents to regulatory agencies. In this session, experts will draw lessons from on-going national and regional single window implementation and discuss how to ensure that the single window facilities being developed lead to significant improvement in trade facilitation performance.

Moderator: Ying Qian, Director, Public Management, Finance and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB

Speakers

- *Somnuk Keretho, Professor, Kasetstart University, Thailand*
- *Markus Pikart, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE*
- *Phouthanikone Khennavong, Acting Director, Department of Customs, Ministry of Finance, Lao PDR*
- *Mee Wan Wong, Senior Assistant Director, the Royal Malaysian Customs and Chair, ASEAN Single Window Technical Working Group*

Discussant

- *Somsak Wisetruangrot, Chairman for Capacity Building in Trade and Transport Facilitation, Thai International Freight Forwarders Association*

1530-1600: Coffee/tea break

1600-1700 Session 5: Summary of recommendations

1700-1730: Closing session

12 September 2013

Capacity building workshops, expert group meetings and other trade facilitation side events

13 September 2013

APTF Study Tour to Port of Tianjin