



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Lessons Learned from the APEC Private Sector Development (PSD) initiative

Submitted by: New Zealand



**Ease of Doing Business Workshop on Trading
Across Borders
Sendai, Japan
18-19 September 2010**

TOGETHER,
making the difference

Ministry of Economic
Development
Manatū Ōhanga

Lessons learned from the APEC Private Sector Development (PSD) initiative

18 September 2010

Dave Haigh, New Zealand Customs

Private Sector Development Initiative

- Endorsed by APEC Leaders in 2006
- Aimed to reduce regulatory burden for business
- Multi-year series of workshops on Ease of Doing Business indicators
- Economies shared experiences, issues and best practices

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PSD workshops held

Starting a business	March 2007	Australia
Paying Taxes	April 2008	Chinese Taipei
Obtaining Licenses	August 2008	Peru
Trading Across Borders	February 2009	New Zealand
Enforcing Contracts	July 2009	Singapore
Access to Credit	October 2009	Singapore
Employing Workers	June 2010	Hong Kong, China
Registering Property	October 2010	Japan

Feb 2009 Trading Across Borders workshop

- Co-sponsored by Canada, Australia, Singapore, the United States, Hong Kong China, Japan and Peru
- Co-hosted by APEC Business Advisory Council
- Supported by SME Working Group and Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures

Feb 2009 Trading Across Borders workshop (2)

- Half-day seminar held jointly with ABAC
- Exchange of practical experiences of reforms to facilitate trade
- Aimed to identify best practices
- 100 participants from senior business leaders, regulatory officials and international organisations

Presenters

Mix of leading and reforming economies:

- Hong Kong, China
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Chile
- and the World Bank

Key Findings

- APEC economies do well compared to rest of world, but variation within APEC
- World Bank's observations:
 - More paperwork means longer trading time
 - Agencies other than Customs account for half of trading delays
 - Inland transportation costs are significant

Challenges

- Coping with high traffic volume
- Balancing speed with security
- Liaising with other public and private agencies
- Technology is no magic wand
- Benefits of any new systems must be clear and immediate

High ranking APEC economies had:

- Electronic based systems
- 'Single windows', or were developing them
- Risk management systems
- Post clearance audits
- Effective customs appeals mechanisms
- Electronic cargo tracking systems
- A competitive trucking industry

Outcomes from PSD workshops

- Shared knowledge across participating APEC economies
- Best Practice Guide, to be based on all workshops 2007-11
- 'Trading Across Borders' chapter will include best practices identified from today's workshop