



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Submitted by: Australia



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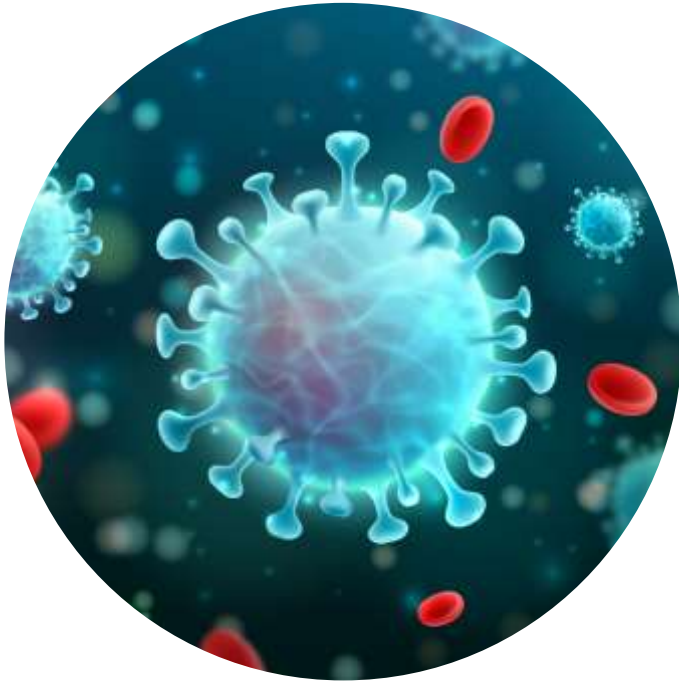


Digital Trade Facilitation in APEC



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Why digital trade facilitation?



Supply-chain
disruption



Digital transformation:
cost, efficiency, integrity
& trust



Economic rebuilding
through trade

Opportunity

- Continuing to do business across borders – resilience despite COVID disruption
- Reduce costs, increase efficiency and supply-chain integrity; build consumer trust
- Greater inclusion for MSMEs
- Keeping trade growing – to kickstart economic recovery

Challenges

- Connectivity
 - Lack of access to infrastructure, skills
- Enabling environment needed:
 - Lack of acceptance of e-documents, innovative technologies (e.g. GDS)
 - Divergent standards, systems and regulations; restrictions on cross-border data flows
 - Small-parcel trade

38.6%

Global implementation of cross-border paperless trade

Source: UN Global Survey on Digital & Sustainable trade Facilitation, 2019





Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

APEC Guidelines and Best Practices for the Adoption of Global Data Standards

APEC Committee on Trade and Investment

March 2020



Case study: Global Data Standards

- Pilot projects (beef, wine, durian, tequila, asparagus)
- Results: improvements in supply-chain visibility; savings in hours of manual work; improved tracking; expedited port clearance processes; improved anti-counterfeiting and risk management
- Challenges: lack of awareness; critical mass; infrastructure; buy-in from border agencies

Trade agreements

- FTAs – e.g. CPTPP, USMCA, AANZFTA
- WTO e-commerce negotiations (building on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement)
- Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (NZ, Singapore, Chile)
- Digital Economy Agreement (Australia, Singapore)



APEC Internet & Digital Economy Roadmap



Infrastructure

- #1: promote an enabling and competitive infrastructure with pro-investment policies
- #3: Universal broadband access

Interoperability

- #2: Interoperability should be promoted
- #5: Coherence/cooperation in regulatory approach including for standards incl internationally

Holistic policy

- #4: Government policy frameworks should be holistic e.g. across agriculture, labour – with public/private coordination

Innovation

- #6: Promoting innovation and adoption of enabling technologies and services.

Trust & security

- #7: Work with stakeholders on trust and security

Data flows

- #8: Free flow of data
Regulatory approach provides consumer protection.

Measurement

- #9: Development of common understandings and baseline measurements for the digital economy

Inclusion

- #10: Free flow of data
Regulatory approach provides consumer protection.

E-commerce

- #11: Facilitate and cooperate on e-commerce & digital trade – paperless customs clearance, e-documents, digital authentication



“Digital supply chains”

- Paperless trading (e.g. e-certification)
- Digital single window
- E-signatures, e-authentication
- GDS, blockchain, AI: need **interoperability** of standards/APIs, enabling regulatory environment
- Other helpful elements: e-invoicing; interoperable digital identity; digital trade information portals

“We use blockchain technology and QR codes across our supply chain to enhance traceability and transparency and ensure food safety and quality” – New Zealand goods exporter

Next steps?