



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Session 1

Global State of Single Windows Interoperability

Submitted by: Washington CORE



**Utilizing Digital Technology in the Field of
Trade Facilitation Under the Current
COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Best-
Practices Sharing Workshop -
Interoperability and Data Security for
Single Windows
3 August 2021**

Global State of Single Windows Interoperability

August 3, 2021

Washington CORE



A facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic then individual data elements should only be submitted once.

-- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Recommendation No.33 for establishing a Single Window

What is a
Single
Window?

SW Key Features

Single entry

Single submission

Paperless environment

Standardized documents and data

Sharing of information

Centralised risk management

Coordination of agencies and stakeholders

Analytical capability

Electronic payment

SW Benefits



**INCREASED
EFFICIENCY**

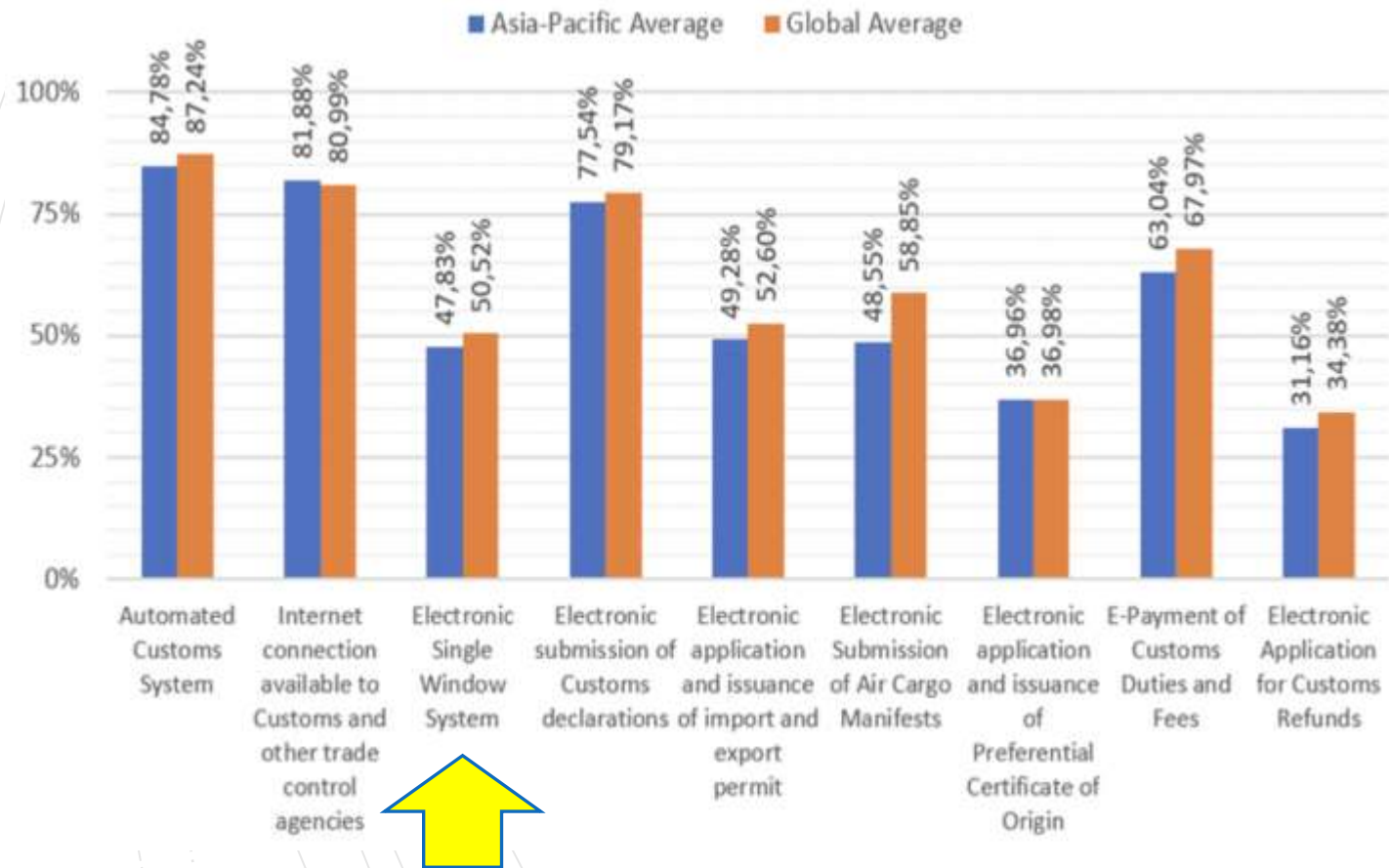


**TIME AND COST
SAVINGS**



COMPLIANCE

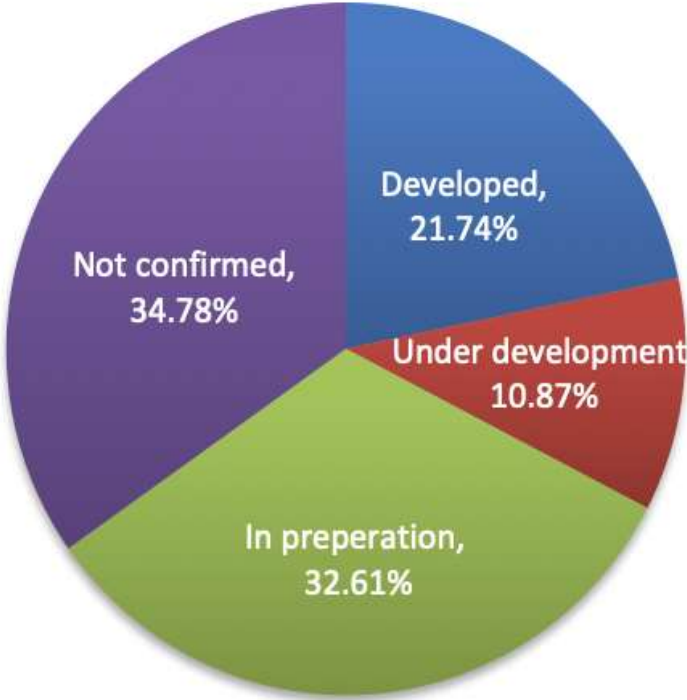
Current state of SW adoption



- **154 out of 164 WTO Members** have ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)
- Implementation varies greatly depending on the individual measure considered
- **Electronic single window system:** implemented approx. 50% globally and 48% in the Asia-Pacific*

*Asia-Pacific in this data refers to the 53 member economies of the UN ESCAP (one of the regional commissions of the UN economic and social council)

SW system development status, Asia and the Pacific



■ Developed ■ Under development ■ In preparation ■ Not confirmed



Significant disparities
in SW development
status within the
region

Source: Single Window for Trade Facilitation: Regional Best Practices and Future Development, UN ESCAP (2018)

Cross-border SW Interoperability

The ability of SWs in two or more economies to exchange information and to use the information to meaningfully facilitate regulatory-related requirements for the movement of goods across those economies



Benefits of Cross-border SW Interoperability

Faster transactions

increased
reliability

more cost-efficient

improved data
accuracy

closer cooperation
between
economies

better risk
analysis

faster advanced
security
declarations

better intelligence
gathering and
advanced
processing

support regional
integration and
sustainable
development



Challenges



Difficulties of cross-border cooperation

Conflict of interest

Need for innovative business processes

Non-harmonized data and documents

Lack of adequate laws and regulations

Lack of ICT infrastructure

Implementation gap between developed and developing economies

Current state

of cross-border paperless trade in the Asia-Pacific

ESCAP Economies (as of 2017):

	Fully Implemented	Partially Implemented
Laws and regulations for electronic transactions	>20%	70%
Engagement in trade-related cross-border electronic data exchange	0%	20-25%
Electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin	0%	10-15%

UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation (2017)

Progress so far...



- **Early 2000s:** Economies & intergovernmental bodies have discussed the establishment of common standards
- **April 2017:** UN/CEFACT Recommendation No. 36: Single Window Interoperability (SWI) adopted
- **2017:** APEC commissions study on international interoperability of SWS
- **2018:** ASEAN Single Window goes “live” among five economies
- **2021:** UN ESCAP Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)* enters into force

*CPTA is a UN Treaty adopted in May 2016 that aims to facilitate cross-border paperless trade among willing ESCAP member economies by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions

Best Practices for achieving SW Interoperability



- ✓ **Autonomy of participating economies**
- ✓ **Responsiveness to mutual requests**
- ✓ **Agreement on technical conditions**
- ✓ **Consensus on the use of shared information**
- ✓ **Capabilities that enable connectivity**
- ✓ **Data flow, security, privacy, and confidentiality**
- ✓ **Data harmonization and standardization**
- ✓ **Consistent use of terminology**
- ✓ **Upgrading existing IT infrastructure**
- ✓ **Adoption of open standards**

Thank you!



Contact Information

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