Global State of Single Windows Interoperability

Submitted by: Washington CORE
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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
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)
Significant disparities in SW development status within the region

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Faster transactions</th>
<th>increased reliability</th>
<th>more cost-efficient</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>improved data accuracy</td>
<td>closer cooperation between economies</td>
<td>better risk analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faster advanced security declarations</td>
<td>better intelligence gathering and advanced processing</td>
<td>support regional integration and sustainable development</td>
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</tbody>
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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

Source: UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation (2017)
Current state of cross-border paperless trade in the Asia-Pacific

ESCAP Economies (as of 2017):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fully Implemented</th>
<th>Partially Implemented</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws and regulations for electronic transactions</td>
<td>&gt;20%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement in trade-related cross-border electronic data exchange</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic exchange of Certificate of Origin</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10-15%</td>
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</table>

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

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*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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