Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

2020/CTI/WKSP3/005

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Agility during the COVID-19 Response

Submitted by: Australia

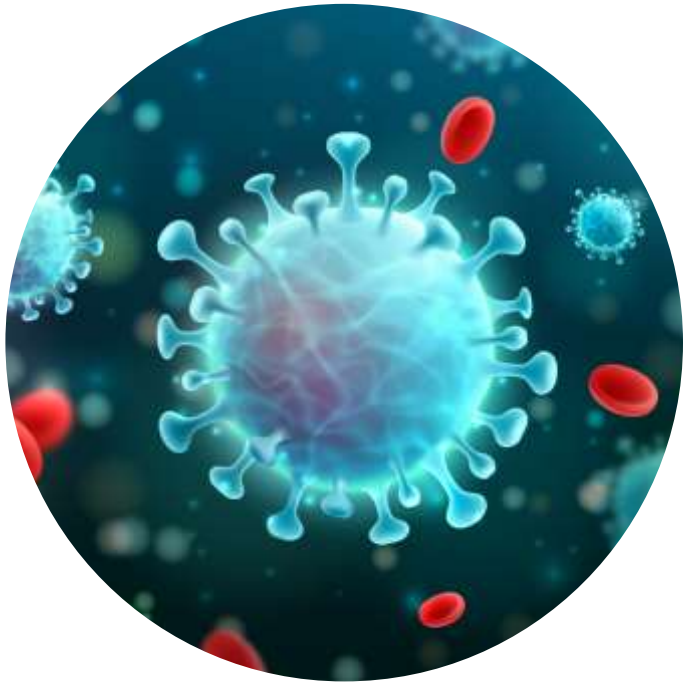
APEC 2020
MALAYSIA

Workshop on Building Resilient Supply Chains in APEC: Agility in Crisis
28 October 2020

Digital Trade Facilitation in APEC

Stephanie Honey
ABAC New Zealand

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

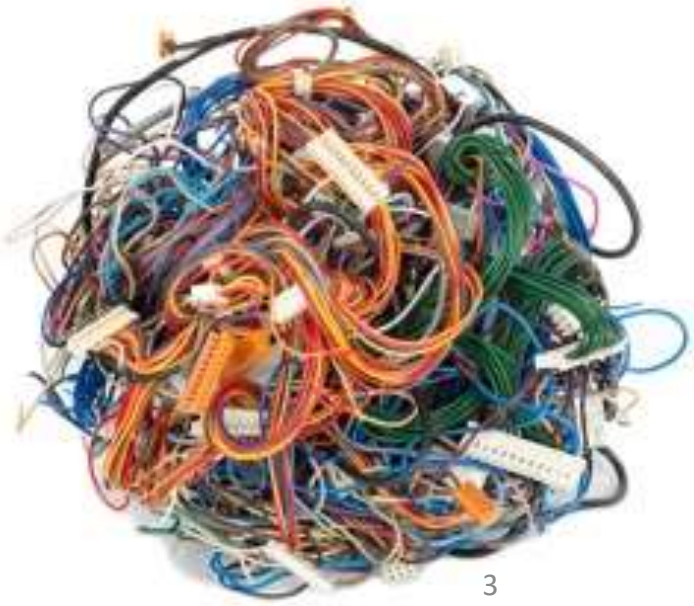
Challenges

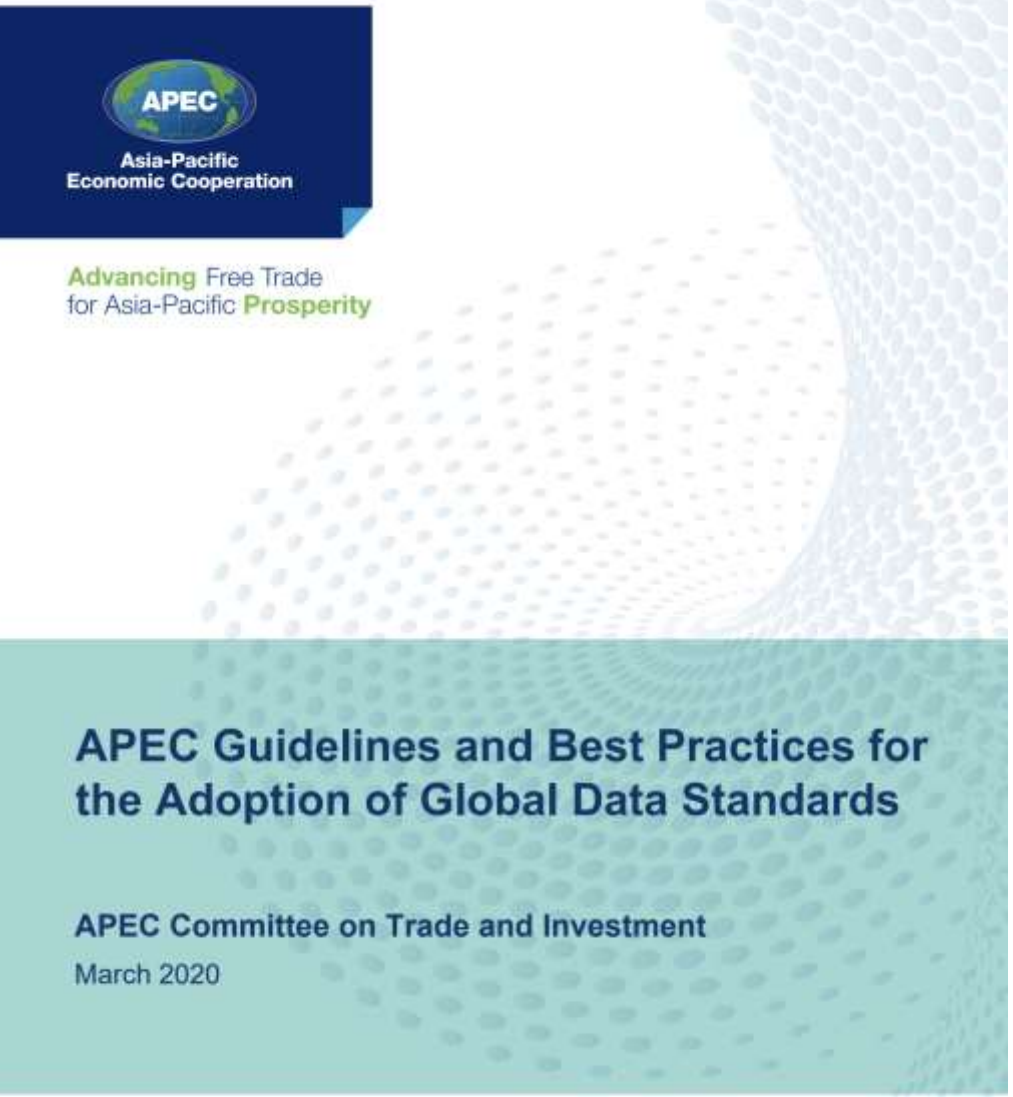
- Connectivity
  - Lack of access to infrastructure, skills
- Enabling environment needed:
  - Lack of acceptance of e-documents, innovative technologies (e.g. GDS)
  - Divergent standards, systems and regulations; restrictions on cross-border data flows
  - Small-parcel trade

38.6%

Global implementation of cross-border paperless trade

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





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?