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**Single Window: Creating the Environment for Collaboration in Cross Border Trade**

**Jointly organized by UNECE and UNESCAP and hosted by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC)**

**23 October 2015, Shanghai Customs College, Shanghai, China**

**Background:**

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), through its Centre for Trade Facilitation and electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) was the first international organization to recommend the Single Window concept[[1]](#footnote-1) as an instrument to simplify border formalities by arranging electronic submission of information to fulfil all cross-border regulatory requirements and to collaborate among the border agencies and trade community. When developing the recommendation, the core idea was to establish a platform for collaboration of public and private sector stakeholders, such as exporters, importers and Government agencies, for the simplification of business processes, using information technology as an enabling tool.

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), as an intergovernmental body for the countries in Asia and the Pacific, where many of the successful Single Window implementation occurred, has long been involved in the collection of good practices on Single Windows[[2]](#footnote-2) and developed a Single Window Implementation Toolkit in collaboration with the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT) and UNECE, as well as WCO and other organizations.

Single Windows have been implemented mostly by developing countries and emerging economies. The countries followed a centralised Single Window concept where a single facility orchestrates the communication of the government agencies involved in import and export. The overall experiences of the central Single Window concept have been highly positive to the extent that the Single Window has become a measure under new WTO draft Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Many developed countries and emerging economies have now highly specialised and diversified supply chains and complex regulatory environments. To manage their information flows for efficient and secure cross border trade Government agencies and private sector stakeholders have started to develop important inter-organizational systems for information exchange between stakeholders. In a similar manner as Single Window, these systems allow collaboration between multiple stakeholders and are often referred to as the “Customs Single Window”, “e-Logistics Window”, “Maritime Single Window”, “Port Community System”, etc.

Some countries are now preparing to build connectivity between these domestic systems thus creating a *Single Window Environment[[3]](#footnote-3)* were the collaboration of the stakeholder systems provides a Single Window experience to its users. The overall design that describes the role of the stakeholder systems in the country and their relationship to each other is called the *Single Window Architecture*.

The workshop will introduce international developments and standards in designing architectures for a Single Window Environment. Experts will present recommendations and experiences for the development of Single Window and open standards for data harmonization developed inter alia by the United National Centre for Trade Facilitation and electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) and share experience in development of Port Community Systems in advanced economies. Finally the workshop will also introduce structured approaches for better planning Single Window Architectures using Enterprise Architecture Models and provide an opportunity to discuss the relevance of the topics for the future development of collaborative systems in China - as well as between China and other countries.

This workshop is organized by the United Nations Economic commission for Europe (UNECE) jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and hosted by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). This workshop is supported by the United Nations Network for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT), a regional expert network platform for sharing formation and experience in implementing paperless trade.[[4]](#footnote-4)

**Target Participants:**

Government officialsof the People’s Republic of China involved in the implementation and further development of the China Single Window system.

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| **Programme** | |
| **09:00 – 09:30** | **Opening remarks**  *GACC*  *ESCAP*  *UNECE*  **Introduction to Workshop by UNECE**   * Overview of Programme * Brief background on purpose and structure of the workshop |
| **10:00 – 10:30** | **Session 1: Introduction into the China Single Window Development and priorities for further simplification and automation for cross border trade**  **Ms. Dang Yingjie,** Deputy Director General, National Office of Port Administration, GACC  *This session will introduce the current state of China Single Window development, the future challenges and priorities for the simplification and automation of cross border trade in China.* |
| **10:30 – 11:00** | **Session 2: Single Window Environment: Towards a network of collaborative platforms for Cross Border trade**  Chairperson: Yann Duval  *This session will introduce UNECE recommendations for Single Window including latest work of UN/CEFACT, Single Window Architectures for cross border trade and the role of a high level masterplan for Single Window development.*   * **UN/CEFACT Recommendations for Single Window**, Mrs. Andrea Fehr Hampton, Single Window Domain Coordinator (UNECE/CEFACT) * **Developing the Single Window: Collaborative platforms for Cross Border Trade**, Mr. Markus Pikart, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) |
| **11:00 – 11:15** | **Tea and coffee break** |
| **11:15 – 12:00** | **Session 3: Planning and Developing Single Windows**  Chairperson: Markus Pikart  *This session will present government priorities when planning to develop or extend Single Window systems in different regions of the world based on tender documents and project experiences*   * **Priorities of Governments in tenders**, Mr. Jonathan Koh, Crimson Logic, Singapore * **Lessons learned from practical implementation of Single Window in the region and beyond**, Mr. Sangwon Lim, ESCAP |
| **12:00 – 13:30** | **Lunch** |
| **13:30 – 14:15** | **Session 4: Development of Port Community Systems (PCS) and their collaboration with other stakeholder systems**  Chairperson: Markus Pikart  *The objective of this session to inform the role of PCS for simplification and automation of Cross Border Trade and their contribution to a Single Window Environment*   * **Port Community Systems - Tools for Trade Facilitation**, Mr. Richard Morton, Secretary General IPCSA * **ASEAN Single Window and Port Community Systems,** Mrs Marianne Wong, Malaysia * **Port Community System: From Standardisation to optimisation - The theory in practice**, Mr. Michael Bouari, Chief Executive Officer, 1-Stop Connections Pty Ltd, Australia |
| **14:15 – 14:45** | **Session 5: International standards for data harmonization in cross border trade**  Chairperson: Markus Pikart  *This session will introduce international standards developed by UN/CEFACT and WCO for the development of national data models for effective exchange of electronic information and the current use of these standards for the Single Window development.*   * **Data Standards and Models for Single Window**, Mr. Michael Dill, GEFEG GMBH, Germany |
| **14:45 – 15:15** | **Tea and coffee break** |
| **15:15 – 16:00** | **Session 6: Planning for Single Window environment beyond national borders**  Chairperson: Yann Duval  *The session will present on recent approaches for developing Single Window and collaborative trade systems through structured planning methods such as trade Facilitation Roadmap, Single Window Masterplan and Business Process Analysis.*   * **Developing a National Trade Facilitation Roadmap**, Mr. Markus Pikart, UNECE * **Enterprise Architecture for Single Window Planning and implementation**, Dr. Somnuk Keretho, UNNExT Advisory Committee Member / Kasetsart University, Thailand * **Business Process Analysis for Trade Facilitation**, Dr. Tengfei Wang, ESCAP |
| **16:00 – 16:30** | **Group discussion and conclusions of the workshop: China Single Window Development for simplification and collaboration in cross border trade**  *This interactive session will allow participants to consider the possibilities and challenges of implementing collaborative systems and Single Window in China.*  **Facilitators:** *UNECE, ESCAP, and GACC* |
| **16:30 – 16:45** | **Closing of Workshop** |

**08:30-12:00 24 October: Study tour, Visit to Yangshan Port**

1. UNECE Recommendation 33 <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec33/rec33_trd352e.pdf> . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See for example UNNExT Briefs at <http://unnext.unescap.org/pub/brief.asp> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For a discussion refer to WCO Single Window Guidelines: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/single-window/single-window-guidelines.aspx> and Trends in collaboration in international trade: Building a common Single Window Environment http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE-TRADE-411.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Unnext.unescap.org  
    [↑](#footnote-ref-4)