ESCAP-ARTNET-ITD Online Course on Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development

3 August – 18 September 2020

Overview

The 7-week online course intends to raise awareness of stakeholders from public and private sectors on trade facilitation, build their capacity on using relevant trade facilitation instruments, and enable them to more effectively support or participate in implementing trade facilitation measures.

The course combines video presentations, online exercises, group work and interactive sessions with experts. It covers several key trade facilitation topics, including two workshops dedicated to specific practical measures:

- ○ Introduction to trade facilitation and sustainable development
- ○ Workshop 1: Streamlining trade procedures – Business Process Analysis (BPA)
- ○ Workshop 2: Enhancing online National Trade Portals/Repositories (NTP/Rs)
- ○ Trade digitalization and other advanced topics
- ○ Conclusion and wrap up

After completing the course, participants should be able to understand what trade facilitation is and available key trade facilitation measures and instruments, as well as apply selected techniques to analyze and improve trade facilitation performance.

Participation in the course is free of charge. Upon successfully completing the two workshops, participants would receive certificates. Those who deliver the best mini-BPA projects during the course will have an opportunity to participate in an advanced BPA training to further enhance their BPA skills - sponsored by ESCAP and its partners.[1]

Format

Participants are expected to allocate about 2 hours of study time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (three times per week) during the course period. Each 2 hour session will include online lectures (20 – 30 minutes), online review questions and assignments (20 to 30 minutes), and a one

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[1] To be organized in Bangkok during the 1st half of 2021, subject to the COVID-19 situation.

hour live web-based consultation with instructor(s) and/or expert guests. The live interactive discussions will be held from 14:00 to 15:00 (Bangkok time) on the dates classes are held. All participants are expected to attend the live session and have completed the online lectures and exercises prior to attending the live session.

A virtual classroom will be created in Edmodo, in which all relevant announcement and learning materials will be posted/shared by the course instructor. MS Teams will be used for live sessions.

Topics covered

- Concept of trade facilitation, trade facilitation state of play in the region and beyond, assessing trade facilitation performance using indicators
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and other tools and instruments for trade facilitation
- Role of National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)
- Business Process Analysis (BPA) to simplify trade procedures
- Enhancing online National Trade Portals/Repositories (NTP/Rs)
- Implementing paperless trade and Single Windows
- Digital Trade Facilitation and Emerging Technologies
- Other advanced topics in trade facilitation

Tentative Schedule and outline

3 Aug 2020	**Orientation and introduction to the course**
	On the first day of the course, an orientation will be held. During the orientation, the participants will be introduced to the objective of the course and get familiarized with the tools used in the course, such as Edmodo and MS Teams.
5 and 7 Aug 2020	**Introduction to Trade Facilitation and sustainable development**
	The participants will learn basics of trade facilitation and sustainable development, including its concept and definition, and how to assess performance in trade facilitation. In the process, they will learn different indicators used for assessing trade facilitation performance. The participants will also learn provisions of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and other trade facilitation tools and instruments.
10, 12, 14, 17, 19 and 21 Aug 2020	**Streamlining trade procedures – Business Process Analysis (BPA)**
	The participants will learn how to carry out business process analysis (BPA) to identify bottlenecks in trade and streamline trade procedures, including

	analysis and modeling. They will also have a chance to carry out a mini-BPA to practice skills that they learned.
24, 26 and 28 Aug 31 and 2 and 4 Sep 2020	**Enhancing Online National Trade Portals/Repositories** The participants will learn how to assess and enhance national trade portals/repositories so that they provide more relevant and up to date information to the trade community.
7, 9, 11, 14 and 16 Sep 2020	**Trade Digitalization and other advanced topics** The participants will learn implementation of Single Windows and paperless systems for seamless and disruption-less supply chains, including application of emerging technologies for trade digitalization. The participants will also learn selected advanced topics in trade facilitation.
18 Sep 2020	**Conclusion and wrap up** Participants will join the closing session, which includes course evaluation and conclusion.