WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW

The World Bank estimates that every one-day delay in cargo clearance reduces import and export volumes by about one percent. In ASEAN it takes more than 20 days on average to import or export goods. This raises costs for traders, who must compete, and for consumers, who must pay the resulting higher prices. Such delays impede economic and employment growth. The ASEAN Single Window will help expedite cargo clearance and contribute to a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community.

WHAT IS THE ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW?

The ASEAN Single Window (ASW) is a key component of ASEAN’s plan to achieve an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. ASEAN Member States are first establishing National Single Windows (NSWs) through which traders provide information, one time only, for all government agencies involved in clearing cargo. The agencies then process information simultaneously and deliver decisions through the NSW. The ASW will facilitate cross-border trade by enabling the electronic exchange of data for cargo clearance through the NSWs.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR ON A NATIONAL LEVEL?

Singapore has operated its renowned single window for more than two decades. Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand are at relatively advanced stages of NSW completion, and CLMV countries are implementing e-Customs platforms and starting to establish NSWs.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED ON A REGIONAL LEVEL?

As national work proceeds, seven Member States are implementing a regional ASW architecture on a pilot basis. Member States drafted and agreed on a basic legal framework for this pilot project and are developing a legal text for the live environment. Several have analyzed their legal environments to ensure support for the submission, exchange, archiving, equivalence, and use as evidence of electronic documentation in a single window environment. They have started private...
sector consultations on ASW, including roundtables, an ASW Symposium, and development of an ASW web portal by the end of 2012. Member States are also harmonizing data elements and developing software applications to facilitate the electronic exchange of data for the ASEAN preferential certificate of origin and customs declarations.

WHAT WILL THE ASW PILOT PROJECT ACCOMPLISH?

Through the pilot project, ASEAN Member States are

• Designing a feasible network architecture for the ASW,
• Establishing the network infrastructure agreed by Member States, and
• Formulating recommendations for the ASW.

WHAT IS THE ASW TIME FRAME?


Single Window Legal Framework, 2010–2013. Legal gap analysis conducted with Member States and legal framework agreement developed.

HOW DOES USAID SUPPORT THE ASW?

The five-year USAID ASEAN Single Window Project is part of the joint USAID and U.S. State Department-funded ADVANCE program that supports ASEAN integration. The project is helping ASEAN to:

- Design, test, and evaluate the ASW Pilot Project,
- Develop a regional data set,
- Develop software applications to promote the electronic exchange of cargo clearance data,
- Develop legal frameworks to support cross-border exchanges of electronic data,
- Build technical and legal capacity, and support development of NSWs,
- Promote involvement of the private sector in ASW development.

WHO CAN TELL ME MORE?

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