ASEAN Single Window for Cross Border Paperless Trade

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INTRODUCTION

Perspective of ASEAN

- ASEAN Single Window
  - Not a centralized information processing system
  - Enables efficient cross-border exchange of electronic data between ASEAN stakeholders to expedite cargo clearance and to facilitate trade across border.
  - Constitutes the platform for electronic transactions not only within ASEAN but subsequently between an ASEAN hub and other ASEAN dialog partners

- National single window is one of the pre-requisites of ASW implementation
- NSW does not necessarily imply the implementation and use of high-tech information and communication technology (ICT), but use of ICT is inevitable for a regional single window.
Progress of ASW

- **Inception of ASW**
  - 2003

- **Inter-agency Task Force**
  - 2004

- **ASW Agreement to Establish and Implement the ASW**
  - 2005

- **Protocol to Establish and Implement the ASW**
  - 2006

- **ASW SC, TWG, LWG**
  - 2007
Progress of ASW.....cont.

2007 – 2010: Centralized model: Issues on data confidentiality and single point of failure

2011 - early 2012: Completed study on the ASW architecture design

2012 - 2014: Pilot Implementation of the ASW
Status of ASW

- A distributed gateway model—a COTS or a regionally developed gateway application is hosted by each AMS. Currently using a COTS.
- Helped address the main concern on confidentiality of trade data through a central server and single point of failure at the central server.
- Seven ASEAN member states have tested for the electronic exchange of intra-ASEAN ATIGA form D and ASEAN customs declaration document (ACDD) data.
- Preparation for the implementation of a more comprehensive ASW pilot is underway.
- Establishment of a regional legal framework protocol is in progress.
Achievements

- Completion of MoU on the implementation of the ASW Pilot Project
- Establishment of architecture design for ASW Pilot
- Completion of Sustainability Study
- ASW/NSW Symposium
- Connectivity testing
- Launching of the ASW web portal
- Completion of Business Process Analysis
Cross-border information exchange for

- Seamless cargo movement across border for goods in transit (G2G)
- Pre-arrival cargo clearance (G2G, B2G, B2B)
- Risk Management/Compliance (G2G, B2G)

Types of Information Exchange

- G2G - Transit information, Physical Inspection at Export, Preferential CO
- B2G - Export license/permit
- B2B - Transport Documents (Bill of Lading, Sea Waybill, Air Waybill), Cargo Manifest (House/Master), Commercial Documents (Commercial Invoice, Packing List)
Challenges

- National champion
- Coordination among participating parties (among Government agencies, between government and private sectors)
- Business process reengineering needs to be carried out at the national level to synchronize with the cross-border processes
- ASEAN’s decision making based on consensus and compromise solution takes time
- Functional integration of NSW with ASW
- Planning and preparation costs (e.g. implementation of the ASW Pilot is very much dependent on external funding)
Option between a Commercial-off-The-Shelf Software (COTS) and proprietary developed software

Security and reliability of the communication network in the pilot phase and ‘live’ implementation.

Operating and maintaining the ASW at the regional level require sustainable source of revenue, a budget to manage expenditures, and agreed location(s) to house staff and the Regional Services server, etc.

Cross-border information exchange in the regional domain may be dependent on national business process; and

Effective regional Legal Framework needs to be in place
Lessons Learned

✓ A clear vision
✓ Ambitious but feasible. (Have a ‘big picture’ but start ‘small’)
✓ Single window approach and architecture must synchronize with objective
✓ Common understanding must be ensured on terminology used and decision made
✓ Capacity building for technical officials and awareness program for decision makers is very important and useful
✓ Focus on regional activities and assist in national activities
Business model and governance for sustainability should be identified as early as possible once implementation approach is decided.

The ASEAN Secretariat has played a critical role in coordinating the work of ASW working groups and steering committee.

Intellectual leadership is important to provide fresh ideas and learn from others’ experiences.

Engagement in inter-sessional discussion is crucial to meet deadline (dedication and commitment).
The implementation approach for a Single Window could vary based on various factors surrounding it.

What could be considered:
- Identify objective in the right context
  - Information dissemination/sharing? (within an organization with multiple remote offices, inter-organizations/agencies?)
  - Secure information exchange within the same governance/regime?
  - Cross-border secure information exchange?
  - Interactive or delayed exchange or in batch?
- Establish right strategy for realistic roadmap
- Work around limited resources towards the best possible

No two single windows are exactly the same. Implement what is practical, feasible and needed.