

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation Mechanisms: Regional Agreement on Electronic Exchange of Trade Data and Documents

Date: 25-26 July 2011

Venue: Meeting Room H, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Purpose and objective:

The objective of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) is to discuss in details the feasibility and content of a regional cooperation mechanism for electronic exchange of trade data and documents, as well as to peer review the draft *UNNexT Guide on Addressing Legal Issues related to Single Window Implementation and Interoperability*. The need to study the feasibility of a regional cooperation mechanism or agreement was one of the main recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2010, held last year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The EGM will bring together the Legal Advisory Group Members of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, as well as a small number of invited experts from developing country Governments of the region for in-depth discussions.

PROGRAMME

Day 1: Monday, 25 July 2011	
08.30 – 8.45	<i>Registration</i>
08.45 – 09.00	Opening remarks Shamika Sirimanne, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome of Experts - self-introduction of participants.
EGM, PART 1 – <i>UNNexT Guide on Addressing Legal Issues related to Single Window Implementation and Interoperability</i>	
09.15 – 09.45	Introduction of intended objective and aim of the Guide Yann Duval, Trade Facilitation Section Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP (5 mn.) Overview of the existing draft Rolf H. Weber, Professor and Director of Center on Information and Communication Law, University of Zurich (<i>pre-recorded</i>)
09.45 – 10.00	<i>Break</i>
10.00 – 12.30	Comments & suggestions on the existing draft of the Guide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1- Chapter 1 [Introduction: Description of relevant issues] Markus Pikart, UNECE

	<p>Pinai Nanakorn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1- Chapter 2-3 [Legal Basis for SW-implementation; Authenticity and Integrity] <p>Claro Parlade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1- Chapter 4-6 [Data quality & protection; Electronic contracting; Customs regulations] <p>Pavan Duggal</p> <p>Floor Discussion</p>
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13.30 – 15.00	<p>Comments & suggestions on the existing draft of the Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1- Chapter 7-9 [Intellectual property; Liability; Dispute Resolution] <p>Hong Xue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1- Chapter 10-11 [Competition concerns; Assessing legal gaps] <p>Harry Tan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2- Legal issues related to electronic transactions between NSWs and participants <p>Luca G. Castellani, UNCITRAL Kokichi Watanabe</p> <p>Floor Discussion</p>
15.00 – 15.15	<i>Break</i>
<p>EGM, PART 2 – Feasibility and Content of a Regional Agreement on the Electronic Exchange of Trade Data and Documents (e-trade)</p>	
15.15 – 16.30	<p>Towards a regional agreement on e-trade: rationale and focus</p> <p>Yann Duval, ESCAP</p> <p>Related UNCITRAL work and possible implications</p> <p>Luca G. Castellani, UNCITRAL (20 mn.)</p>
<p>Day 2: <u>Tuesday, 26 April 2011</u></p>	
08.30 – 10.00	<p>Towards a regional agreement on e-trade: taking into account the need and diversity of developing countries of the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective from Single Window-ready economies (7-10 mn. each) <p>Rep. of Korea: Hyo Kyu Song Singapore: Harry Tan Japan: Kokichi Watanabe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective from India and South Asia (12-15 mn.) <p>Pavan Duggal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective from Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia (12-15 mn.) <p>Alexander Tumanov</p> <p>Floor Discussion</p>
10.00 – 10.15	<i>Break</i>

10.15 – 12.30	<p>Towards a regional agreement on e-trade: taking into account the need and diversity of developing countries of the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective from Least Developed Countries (7 -10 mn. each) Cambodia: Sok Siphana • Perspective from other developing economies (7-10 mn. each) China: Hong Xue Philippines: Claro Parlade Thailand: Pinai Nanakorn Sri Lanka: Sunil Premarathna • Experience from the ASEAN SW Legal Working Group (12-15 mn.) Simplicio Nuesa Domingo, ASW LWG Chair • Implications from the PAA experience Somsak Pungtamgerdpol (12-15 mn.) <p>Floor Discussion</p>
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13.30 – 15.30	<p>Towards a first draft of a regional agreement on e-trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications from the experience of the EU Rolf H. Weber (12-15 mn. <i>by video conference</i>) <p><i>Experts are divided in 2 or 3 small groups to discuss and make recommendations on the draft regional agreement circulated and the way forward</i></p>
15.30 – 15.45	<i>Break</i>
15.45 – 16.30	<p>Towards a first draft of a regional agreement on e-trade: recommendations</p> <p><i>Report of recommendations of each small group to the EGM</i></p>
16.30 – 16.45	Closing