



# **Time Release Study (TRS)**

## **Overview, Purpose and Methodology**

Trade and Transport Facilitation  
Performance Monitoring System (TTFPM)

(Bangkok, Thailand, 26-27 November 2013)

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World Customs Organization (WCO)

# Items

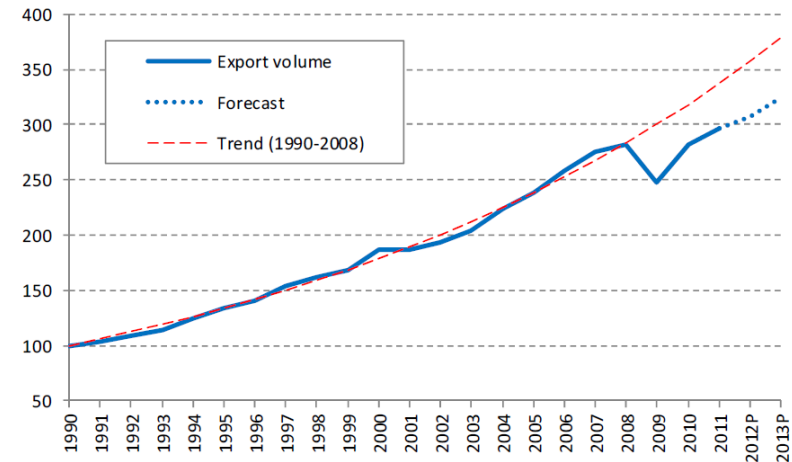
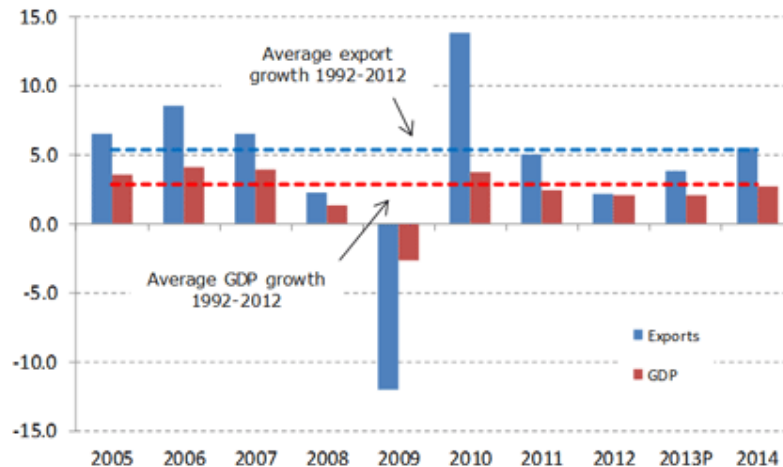
- ✓ Trade Environment
- ✓ Over view of WCO Time Release Study (TRS)
- ✓ Purpose of the TRS
- ✓ Methodology of the TRS
- ✓ Members Experiences



# Trade Environment and its Impact

## ❑ Merchandise trade recovery from global financial crisis

**World merchandise exports, 1990-2013  
(Indices, 1990=100)**



**Export growth  
vis-à-vis  
GDP growth  
(Source WTO)**

## ❑ Important role of trade for economic development

- Expectation for Trade Facilitation
- Importance of Customs and OGAs performance at borders

# Trade Environment and its Impact

## ❑ Evolving International Supply Chain

Intermediate goods trade: about 60% of manufactured goods (WTO)

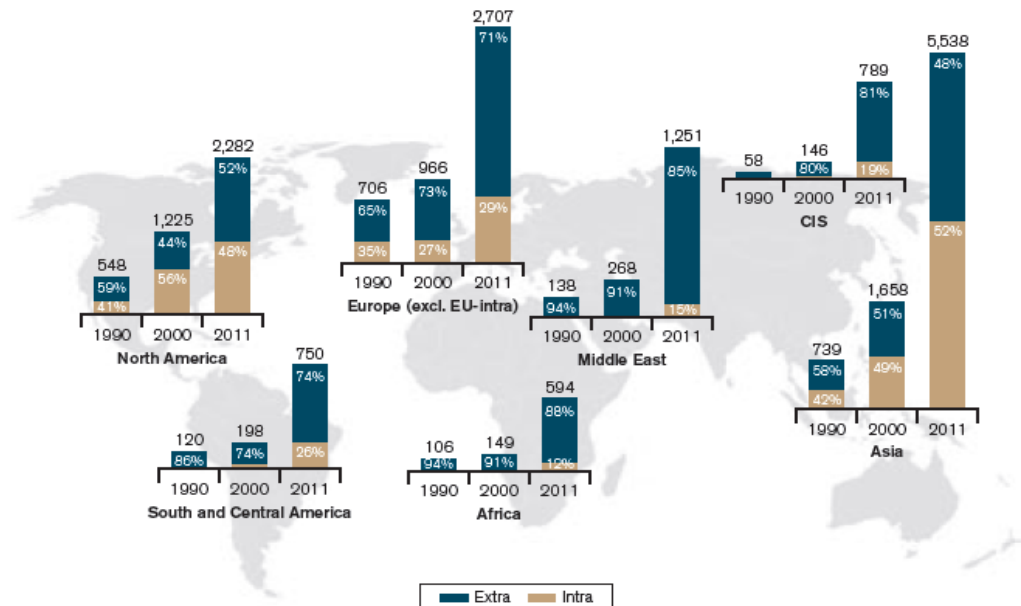
Intra-firm trade: about 30% of global trade (OECD)

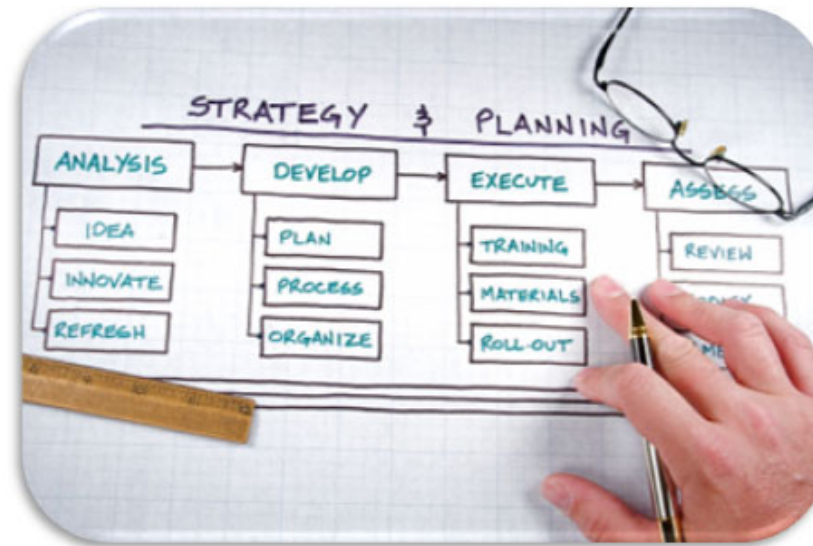
- Importance of trade facilitation and predictability at borders

## ❑ Intra-regional trade and Regionalization

- Expectation to contribute regionalization and intra-regional trade supply chain

Intra-trade, Extra-trade  
1990-2011  
(1billion USD、%)  
(Source: WTO)





# TRS: Overview

# Basic Concept

## TRS and Trade Facilitation

- ✓ Huge increase in cross border trading as a result of globalization, customs role in trade facilitation (TF) becomes more prominent.
- ✓ TF : expediting the movement, clearance & release of goods
- ✓ TRS is a unique tool and method for measuring the actual time required from arrival of goods to its release.

# What is TRS?



Shipping company  
Shipping agent  
Port Authority,  
etc.

Importer,  
Customs broker  
Container Yard  
OGAs, etc.

Customs,  
Bank,  
Customs  
broker

Port Authority  
Container Yard  
Warehouse,  
Forwarder,  
etc.

Arrival of  
cargo

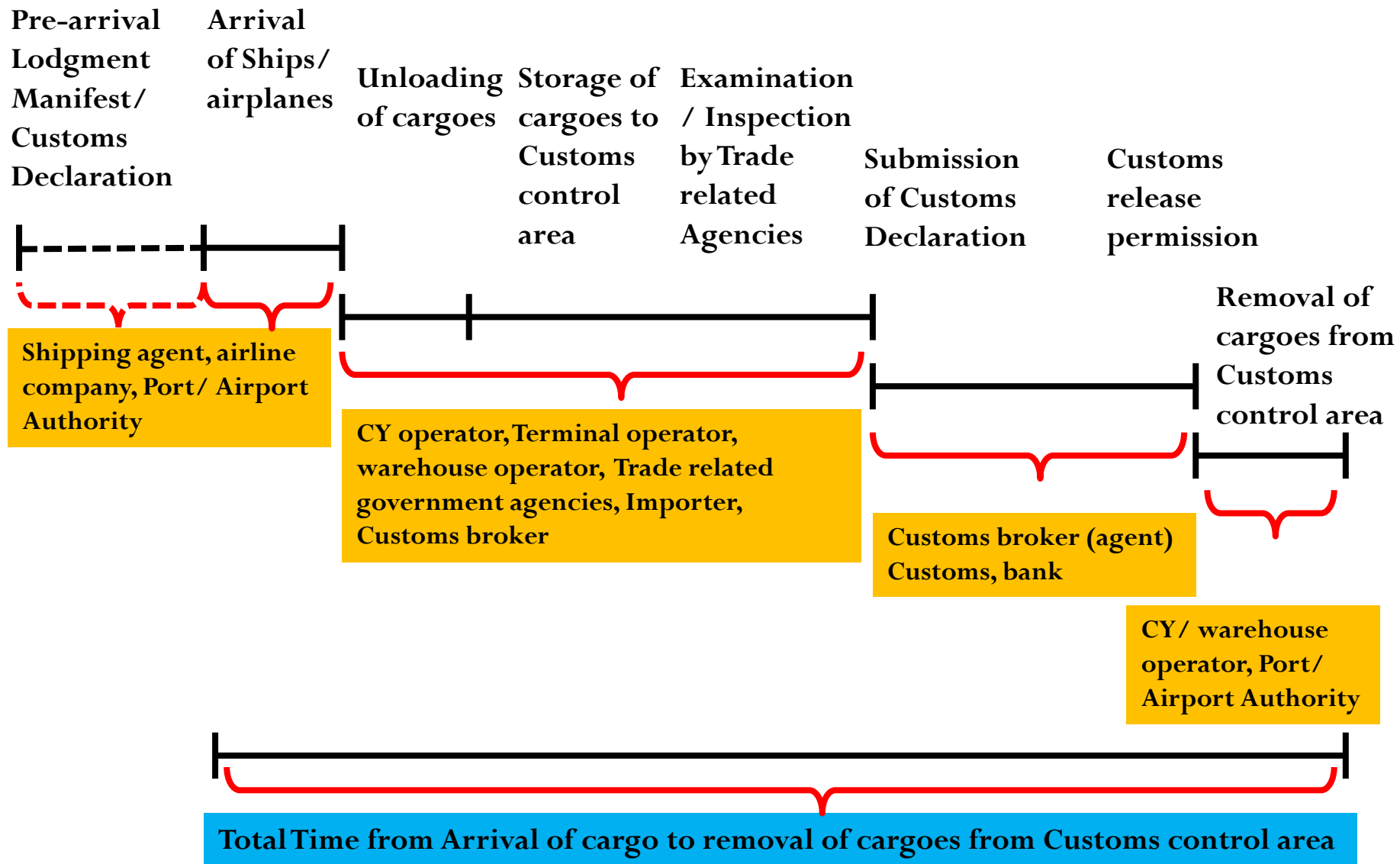
Unloading  
/Storage

Submission of  
Declaration

Customs  
release  
permission

Removal  
of cargo

# Cargo flow and Import procedures





# Why do we focus on TRS?

## For Yourself:

- ✓ Establish Baseline of the Current Border Performance
- ✓ Self-Assessment of Ourselves
- ✓ Improvement for Our Border Performance
- ✓ Further Transparency
- ✓ Further Trade Facilitation
- ✓ Further Foreign Direct Investment

# Why do we focus on TRS?

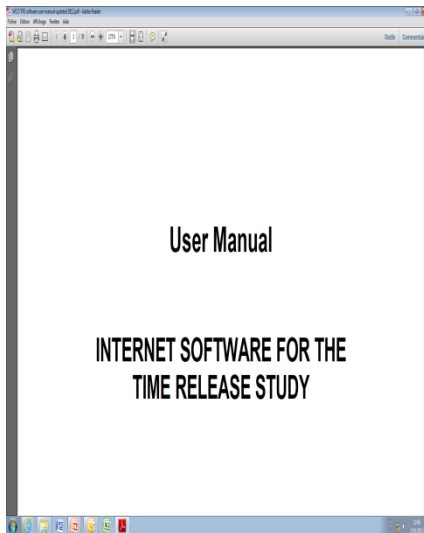
## As a Preparation of Multilateral Rules:

- DRAFT CONSOLIDATED NEGOTIATING TEXT ON TRADE FACILITATION (TN/TF/W/165/Rev.18) Article 6.1
- *Members are encouraged to measure and publish their average release time of goods periodically and in a consistent manner, using tools such as, inter alia, the WCO Time Release Study.*

# WCO Tools on TRS



- 1) Guide To Measure The Time Required For the Release of Goods - Version 2 in 2011



- 2) Internet Software for the TRS  
(<http://members.wcoomd.org/trs/index.asp>)
- 3) User Manual for TRS Software



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## Time Release Study

More Information



One of the methods used for the review of clearance procedures is to measure the average time taken between the arrival of the goods and their release. This facilitates Customs to identify both the problem areas and potential corrective actions to increase their efficiency. The use of automation and other sophisticated selectivity methods can allow Customs to improve compliance and at the same time improve facilitation for the majority of low risk goods.

Measuring the time taken for the release of goods also meets the concerns of trade circles regarding long delays in Customs clearance. It helps Customs to respond to trade requirements where the operators need to plan ahead for the movement of goods across borders in order to meet tight production schedules and just-in-time inventory systems that require forward planning.

The time required to release goods has also increasingly become the measure by which the international trading community assesses the effectiveness of a Customs administration. The Time Release Study provides guidance to Customs administrations on the best way to apply this method of internal review.

### DOWNLOADS



[Guide to Measure the Time Required for the Release of Goods | pdf | 1.2 MB](#)  
[User Manual - Internet Software for the Time Release Study \[pt\] | pdf | 3.3 MB](#)

[User Manual Internet Software for the Time Release Study | pdf | 2.1 MB](#)  
[TRS\\_Guide\\_esp | pdf | 1.4 MB](#)





# **TRS: Purpose**

# Objectives

- ✓ Identifying bottleneck processes affecting import, export and transit cargo clearance procedures
- ✓ Assessing new procedures, operations, etc.
- ✓ Establishing baseline TF performance measurement
- ✓ Identifying opportunities for TF improvement
- ✓ Estimating the country's approximate position as a benchmarking tool

# Possible Use of Study Results

## Procedures, Processes & Legislation

- ✓ Diagnose the efficiency of specific customs procedures
- ✓ Take measures to improve compliance or enforcement
- ✓ Simplify and harmonize customs procedures
- ✓ Automate Customs processes or Single Window
- ✓ Draft / modify relevant Customs and/or trade related government agency's legal framework

# Possible Use of Study Results

## Organization

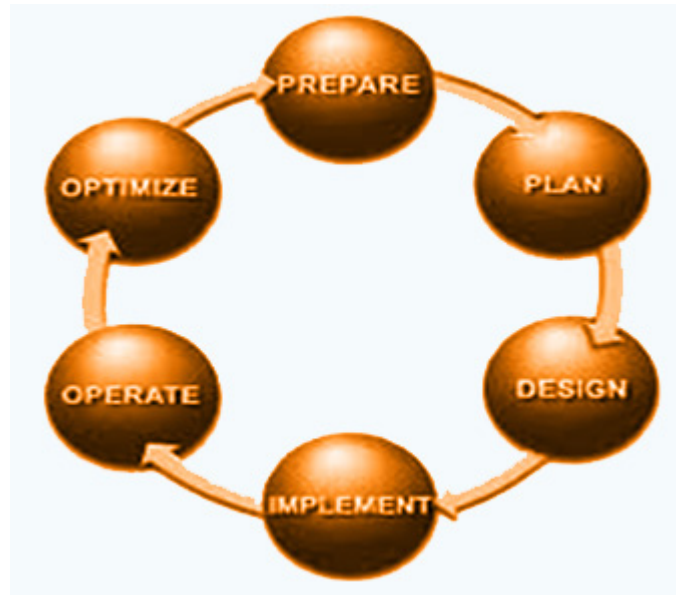
- ✓ Reallocate staff and resources for optimal utilization
- ✓ Initiate organizational reform
- ✓ Support requests for human, financial and technical resources
- ✓ Address anti-corruption measures
- ✓ Train staff



# Possible Use of Study Results

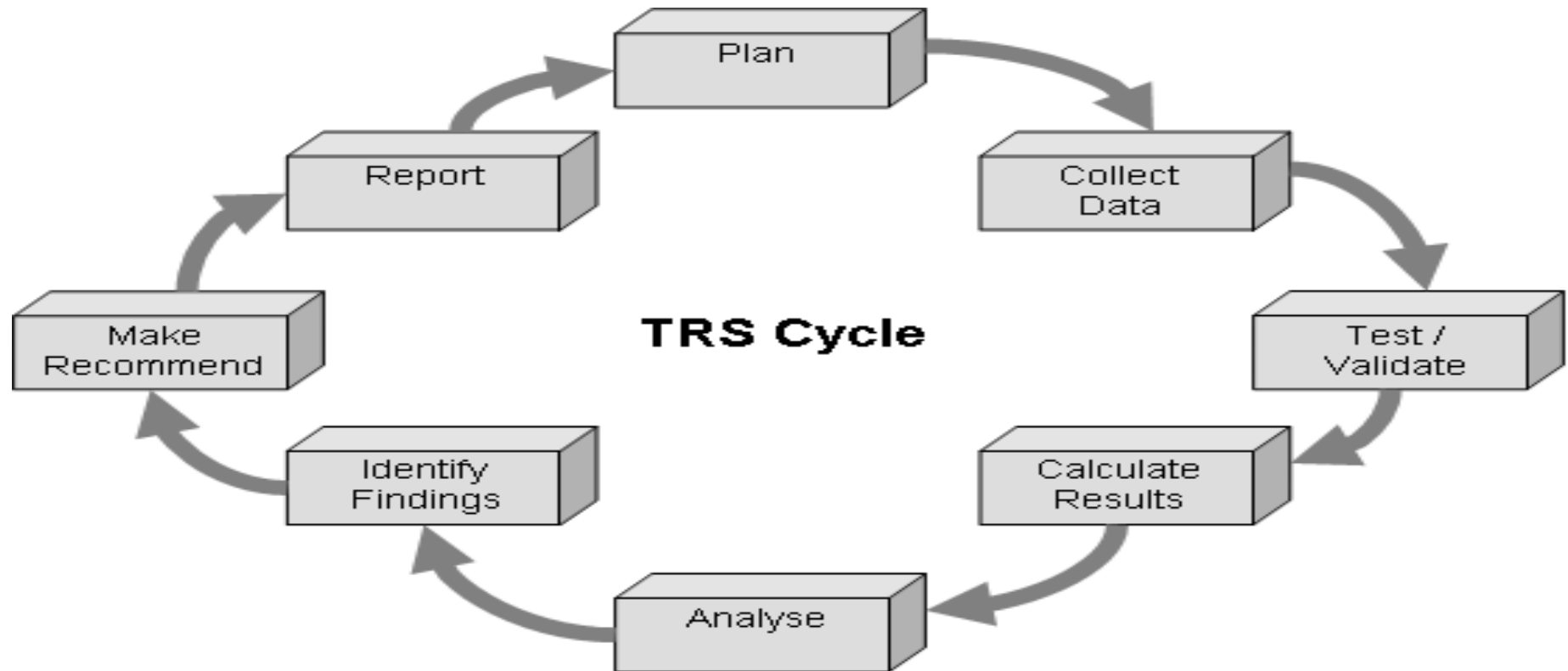
## Performance Measurement & PR

- ✓ Use as a quality assurance mechanism
- ✓ Benchmark trade facilitation performance levels
- ✓ Improve customs transparency and promote PR
- ✓ Use with trade related Ministries & trading community for further enhancement of TF measures



# TRS: Methodology

# TRS Cycle



# Three-Phases TRS Framework

**Phase 1:** Preparation of the Study

**Phase 2:** Data Collection and Recording

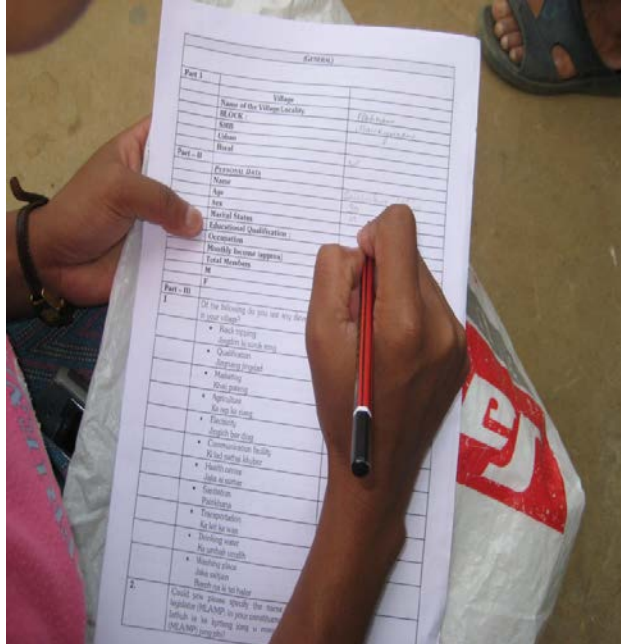
**Phase 3:** Data Analysis and Conclusions

# Phase 1: Preparation of the Study



- 1) Establishment of Working Group (WG)
  - All stakeholders (public and private), Limited numbers, Headed by senior management
- 2) Scope and Design for the Study
  - From arrival of cargo to removal from Customs control area, Procedures measured, Major sea, air, and land posts,
- 3) Planning and Methodology
  - Duration (at least 7 days), process mapping, develop data collection form, sampling methods
- 4) Test-run

# Phase 2: Data Collection & Recording



- 1) Ascertain all the processes and records involved (automated / manual)
- 2) Record event/accident such as system down or blackout affect delay of process
- 3) Ascertain the processes and the parties responsible for collection & recoding the data
- 4) Distribute and collect the survey forms
- 5) Confirm necessary data recorded

# Phase 3: Data Analysis & Conclusion

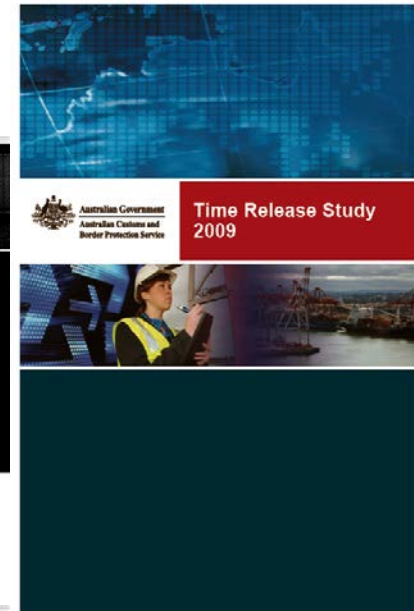
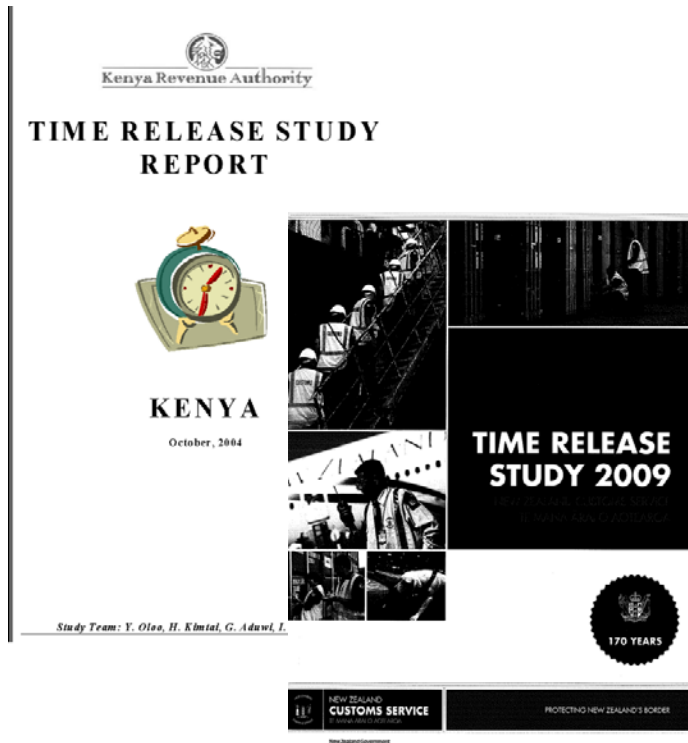


- 1) Ensure that all data collection forms are returned
- 2) Verify raw data in every form for accuracy & quality
- 3) Set aside data collection forms with errors or incomplete pending further verification/examination
- 4) Use WCO software or alternative means for data processing
- 5) Analyze the verified data with due regard to the objectives and approach adopted
- 6) Develop report including recommendations

# Phase 3: Data Analysis & Conclusion

## ✓ Final Report

- Objectives
- Scope
- Methodology
- Analysis
- Conclusion
- Recommendations (Action Plan)



*[Model Report Format at Appendix 5, WCO Guide TRS (2011)]*



# Press Release

- To increase transparency of Customs procedures
- To demonstrate Customs commitment to TF to the trading community
- To communicate findings and recommendations for further improvement

## Appendix 6: Model Press Release

[Name and symbol of the Customs Administration]

### MEDIA RELEASE

[date]

[Title]

#### Outline

[ ] Customs today released the findings of its first [second, third.....] Time Release Study (TRS), which measures and reports the time taken by Customs to release imported cargo.

The DG of Customs [ ] said it was pleasing to [show the results of the first study as an objective indicator for trade facilitation] or [see improvements in [ year] which he attributed largely to the efforts of Customs, trade related agencies and trade working together for a seamless international transaction] .



# **TRS: Members Experiences**

# TRS Implementation by Members

## Asia Pacific

- ❖ Australia
- ❖ Bhutan
- ❖ Brunei
- ❖ China
- ❖ Fiji
- ❖ India
- ❖ Indonesia
- ❖ Japan
- ❖ Korea
- ❖ Lao PDR
- ❖ Malaysia
- ❖ Mongolia
- ❖ New Zealand
- ❖ PNG
- ❖ Philippines
- ❖ Singapore
- ❖ Thailand
- ❖ Viet Nam

## Africa

- ❖ Ethiopia
- ❖ Kenya
- ❖ Malawi
- ❖ Mozambique
- ❖ Nigeria
- ❖ Rwanda
- ❖ Tanzania
- ❖ Swaziland
- ❖ Uganda
- ❖ Zambia

## Other

- ❖ Jamaica
- ❖ Jordan
- ❖ Peri
- ❖ Poland
- ❖ Sweden
- ❖ Uzbekistan

# TRS: Experience in Japan

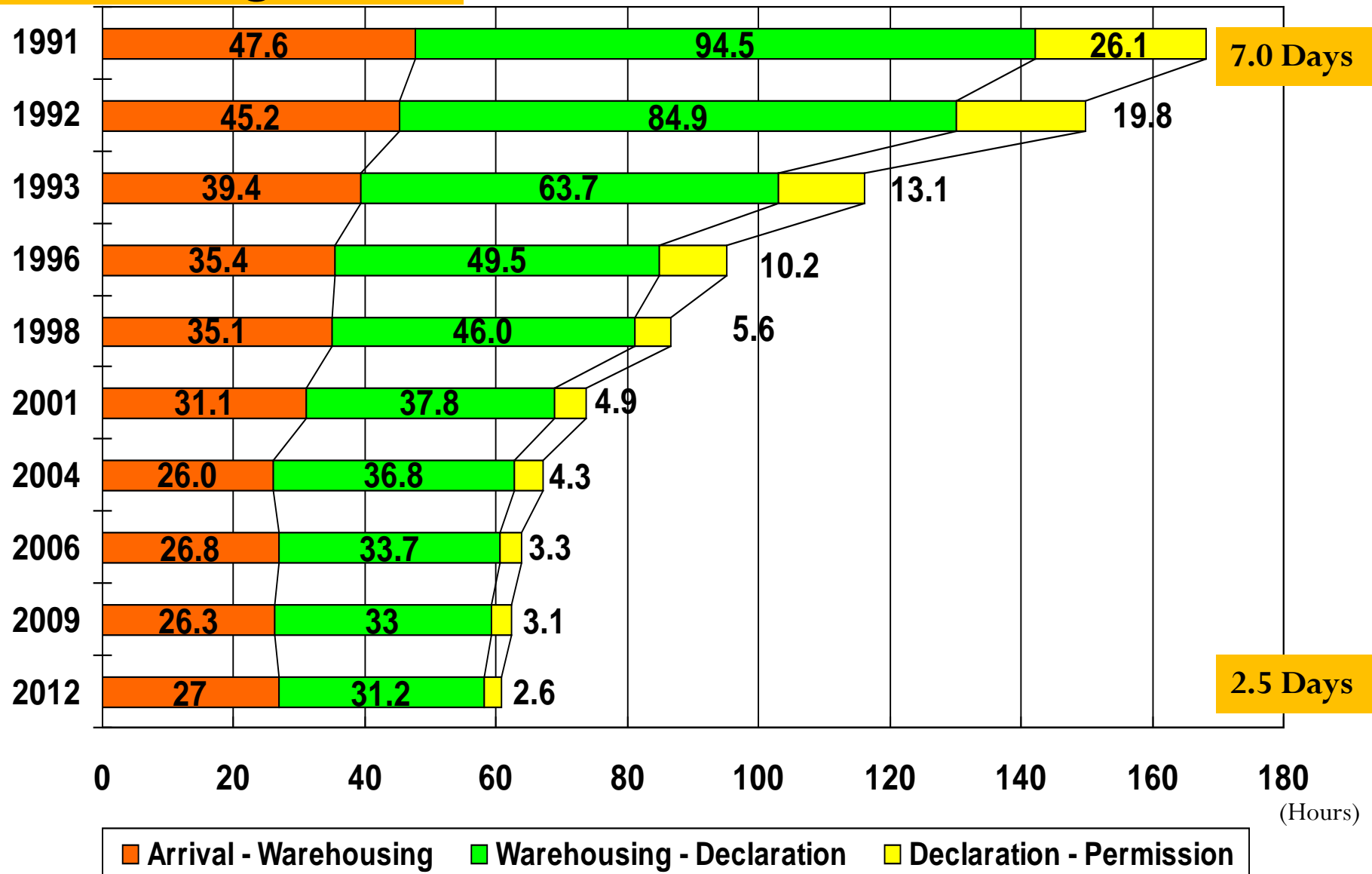
## Periodical Implementation

- **1<sup>st</sup> : Feb. 1991**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> : Feb. 1992**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> : Mar. 1993**
- **4<sup>th</sup> : Mar. 1996**
- **5<sup>th</sup> : Mar. 1998**
- **6<sup>th</sup> : Mar. 2001**
- **7<sup>th</sup> : Mar. 2004**
- **8<sup>th</sup> : Mar. 2006**
- **9<sup>th</sup> : Mar. 2009**
- **10<sup>th</sup> : Mar. 2012**



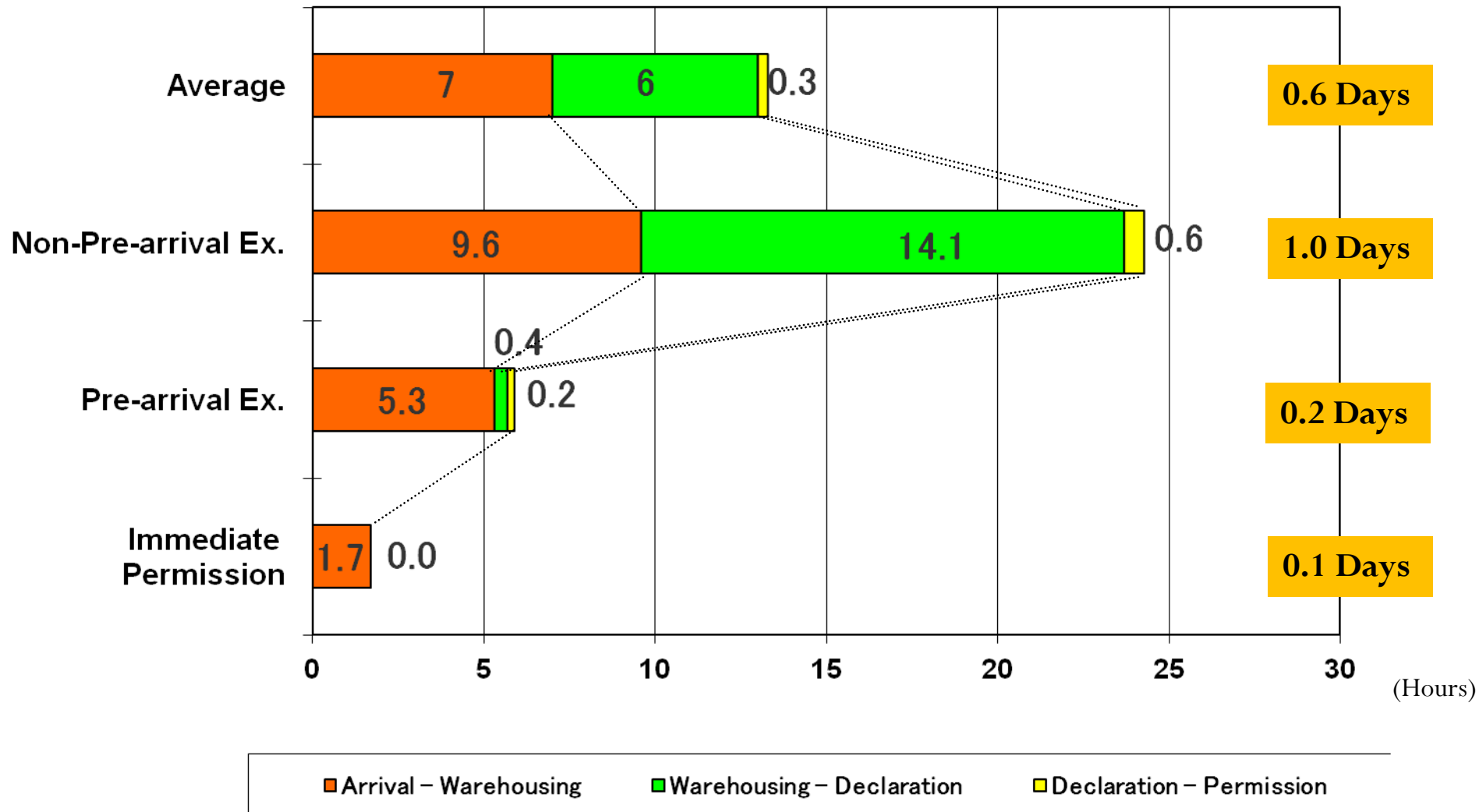
# TRS: Experience in Japan

## Sea Cargoes



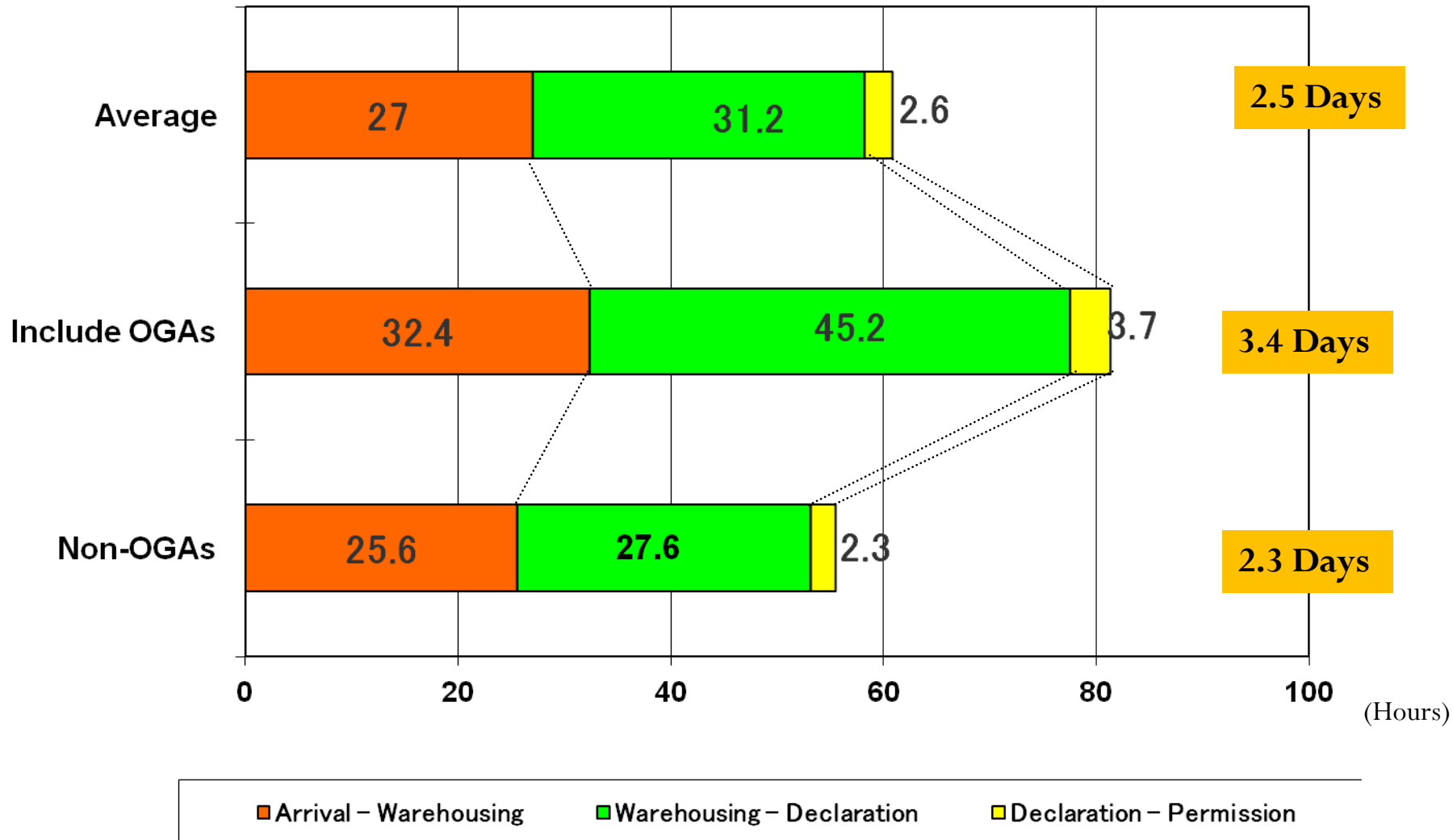
# TRS: Experience in Japan

## Comparison of the time for clearance applying Pre-Arrival Declaration (Air Cargo)(2012)



# TRS: Experience in Japan

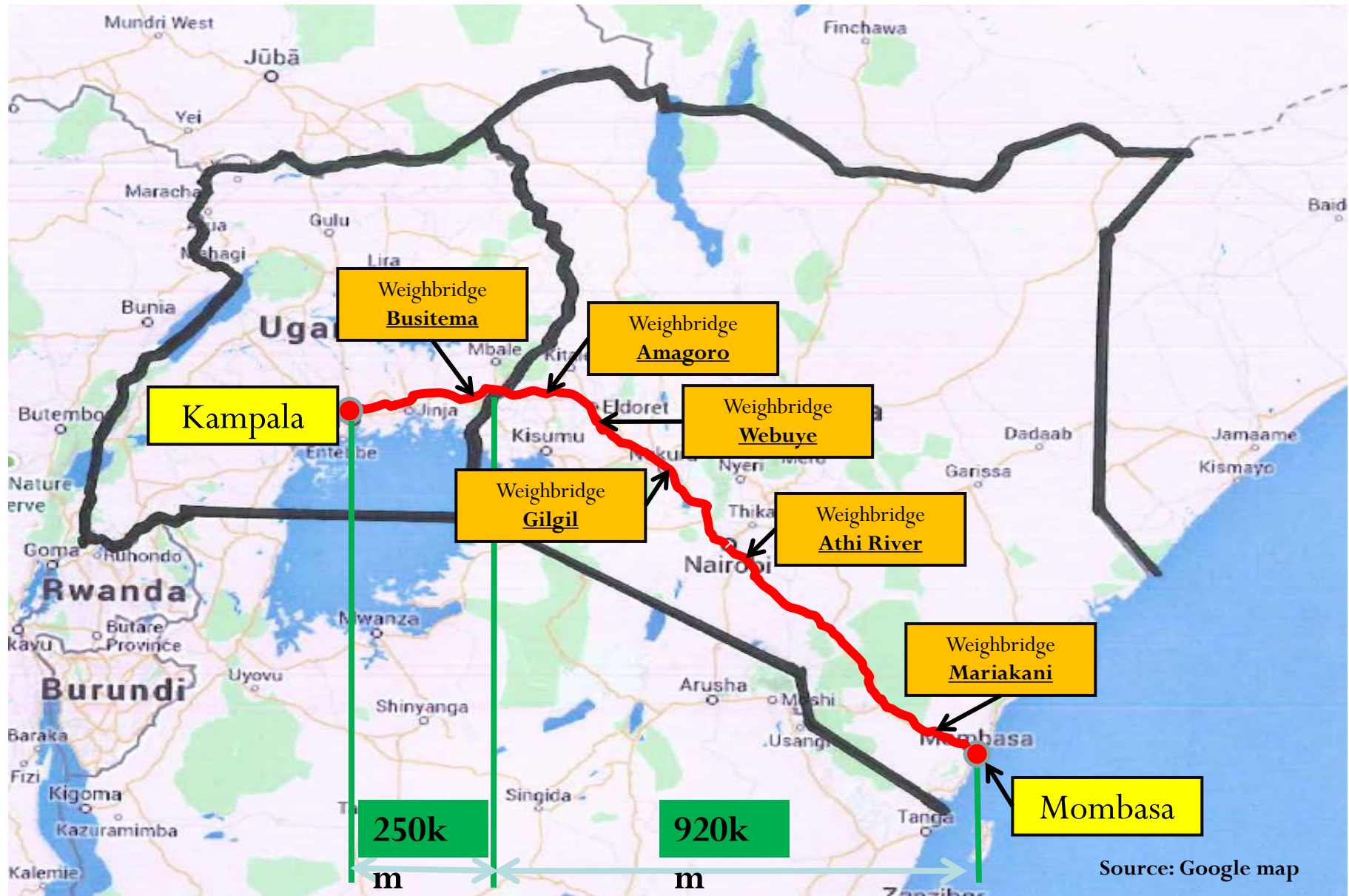
Comparison of the time for clearance Including Trade Related Government Procedures (Sea Cargo)(2012)







# TRS: Experience in Kenya-Uganda



# TRS: Experience in Kenya-Uganda



Mombasa Port

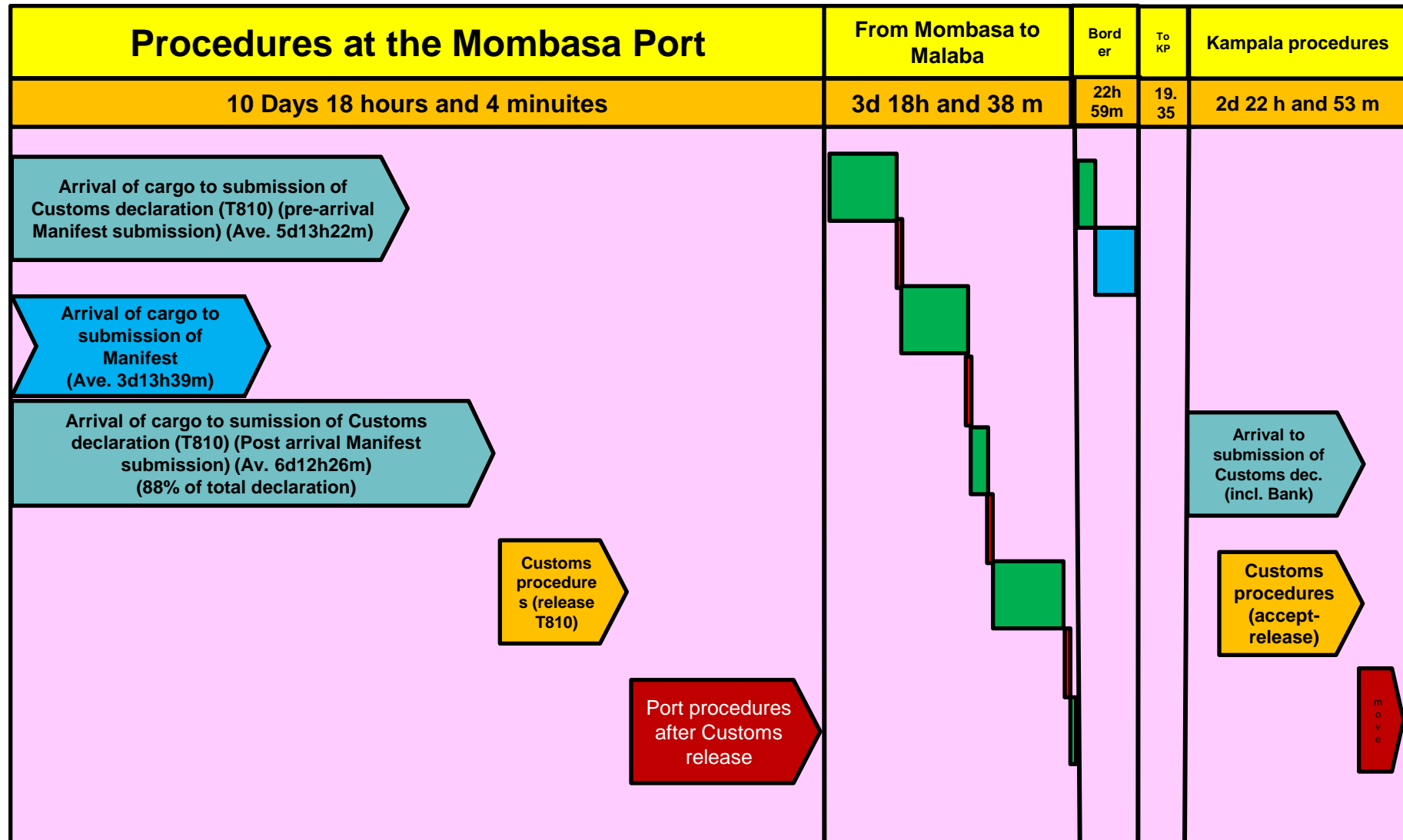
Weighbridge



Kenya Uganda Border



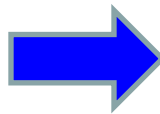
# TRS: Experience Kenya-Uganda





# Thank you for your kind attention.

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KEY ISSUES

INSTRUMENT AND TOOLS

Conventions  
The Revised Kyoto Convention, The ATA System (ATA and Istanbul Conventions), The Customs Convention on Containers 1972, Conventions and Programmes Concerning Export controls.  
[read more](#)

Recommendations  
One of the most practical Instruments for securing the highest degree of harmonization is Recommendations that have been adopted by the WCO Council.  
[read more](#)

Tools  
Tools are non binding informal publications developed by the WCO to assist their Members and traders in the field of Customs.  
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Highlights

Revised Kyoto Convention

Time Release Study

SAFE Package

Globally Networked Customs Concept

Data Model

Single Window

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