



FACILITATING TRADE WITH THE ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW

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The ASEAN Single Window, when fully implemented in 2012, will speed up the clearance of shipments and the release of goods by customs authorities in the ASEAN region. Through synchronising the interventions of the government agencies, traders, shippers, forwarders, transport operators and other parties, customs authorities aim to clear containerised shipments within 30 minutes, a target set in the *Strategic Plan of Customs Development*. Currently, clearance can take up to five days.

Businesses will benefit from the cut in transaction costs and time, and greater predictability in administrative customs procedures. Consumers will enjoy more secure and timely delivery of goods at a lower cost.

What is the ASEAN Single Window?

For the ASEAN Single Window to come into effect, all ASEAN Member Countries would first need to set up respective National Single Windows, guided by the *ASEAN Single Window Implementation Technical Guide*.

A National Single Window is a clearance system that enables a single submission of information and data, single and simultaneous processing of the data, and a single point of decision-making through close collaboration among the lines ministries and other parties involved in the customs clearance process. Instead of submitting different forms and information to multiple agencies (e.g. customs, ports, health, etc.) to get a shipment of goods cleared, a trader would only need to submit all the information to one agency.

The ASEAN Single Window will be in operation when all the ten National Single Windows are operating in an integrated manner. For instance, if a container of goods destined for Malaysia first enters ASEAN through Thailand, a trader only has to submit the required data once to a centralised hub and the information would then be automatically shared and processed among the relevant agencies.

The conceptual model and overall architecture of the ASEAN Single Window is based on international standards in business, data

analysis and processing. It will be supported by information and communication technology (ICT) applications.



In the ASEAN Single Window environment, a non-ASEAN user submits a request electronically to clear a shipment of goods and the relevant information is automatically shared among the concerned National Single Windows through a secure interface (shown by the lightly-shaded ring). This facilitates simultaneous processing. Once the request is approved, the non-ASEAN user will be notified.

Under the 2005 Agreement to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window, and its 2006 Protocol, the ASEAN Single Window will be implemented in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand by 2008, and in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam by 2012.

Public-Private Partnerships are Crucial

ASEAN has been working closely with various ICT developers, service providers and consultants in developing the technical architecture, prototype and detailed functional model of the ASEAN Single Window. The joint efforts of businesses, industries and governments will be crucial in developing and operating an ASEAN Single Window that meets the needs of businesses and consumers. *

For more information on the ASEAN Single Window, contact Mr. Quang Anh Le (quang@aseansec.org) of the Bureau for Economic Integration and Finance of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Please visit www.aseansec.org for the full text of the documents mentioned in this fact sheet.

FACT SHEET

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