Incheon Law & Business Forum
11-12 September 2023

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Promoting digital trade

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Cross-border Paperless Trade

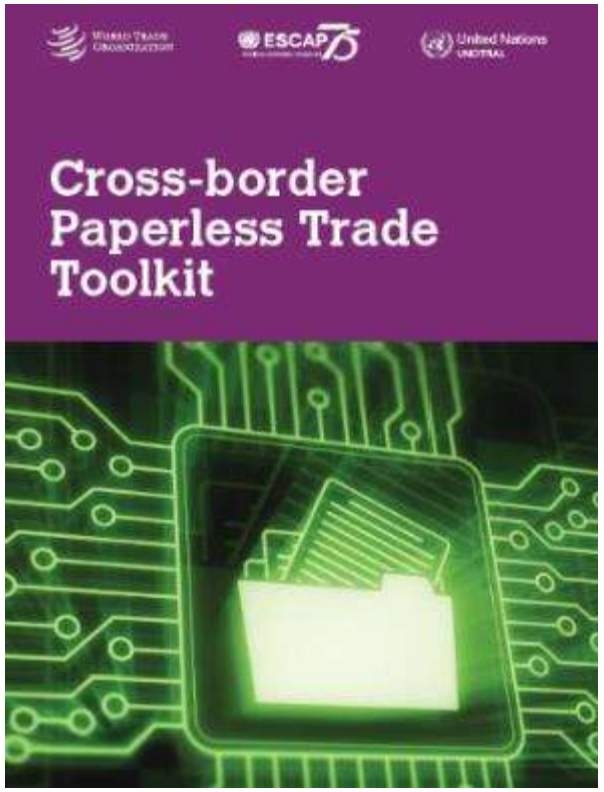
Readiness Assessment

https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation-digital-trade/paperless-trade

Online Guide

Interactive guide incl. explanatory notes, good practices…
ESCAP-UNCITRAL-EIF

https://readiness.digitalizetrade.org/



CBPT Toolkit

ESCAP-UNCITRAL-WTO

https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/paperlesstrade2022_e.htm

Readiness Assessment for Cross-border Paperless Trade

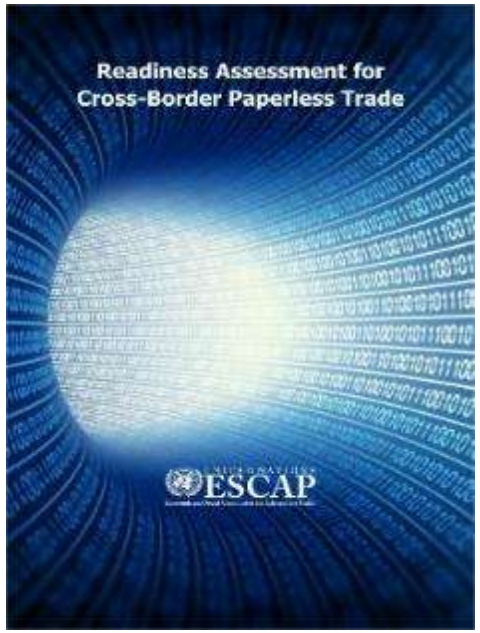
18 national readiness assessment studies completed

Central Asia (8)
Armenia (2019)
Azerbaijan (2022)
Georgia (2022)
Kazakhstan (2022)
Mongolia (2019)
Tajikistan (2023)
Turkmenistan (2022)
Uzbekistan (2019)

South-East Asia (6)
Cambodia (2020)
Lao PDR (2022)
Myanmar (2019)
Philippines (2022)
Timore Leste (2020)
Viet Nam (2022)

South Asia (2)
Bangladesh (2019)
Nepal (2020)

Pacific (2)
Tonga (2022)
Tuvalu (2023)



1 non Asia-Pacific

Mexico & planned for more

3 Updates

Bangladesh (w ADB), Nepal, Timor-Leste

- *Assessments of legal and technical readiness to identify where the country stands and analyze the gaps*
- *Leading to recommendations and individual action plans*

Research and other support work

- **United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)**
- **Cross-border Paperless Trade database (partnership with ICC)**

  www.digitalizetrade.org

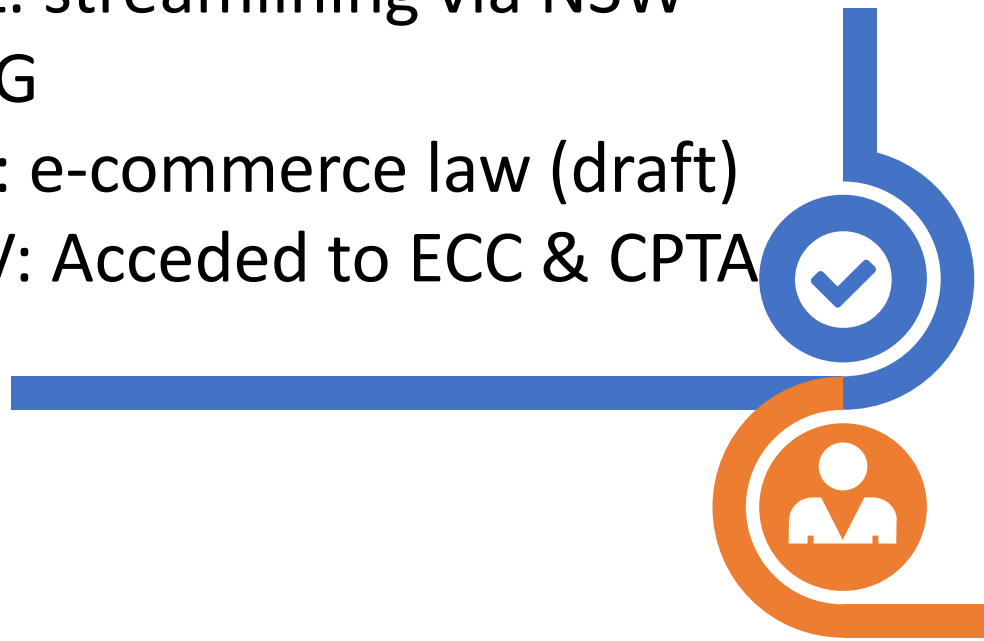
- **Paperless Trade and Environment research**
  - Paperless trade implementation in AP = planting 400+ million trees
- **Initiative on Model Provisions for Trade in Times of Crisis and Pandemic in RTAs**
- **Online courses (certificates)**

  https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/e-learning-courses-trade-policy-negotiation-and-facilitation

Good practices, Challenges & Lessons learned

Good Practices

- ✓ BGD: update of assessment – ADB SASEC Integrated TF SDP
- ✓ PHL: streamlining via NSW-TWG
- ✓ TLS: e-commerce law (draft)
- ✓ TUV: Acceded to ECC & CPTA



Challenges & Lessons learned

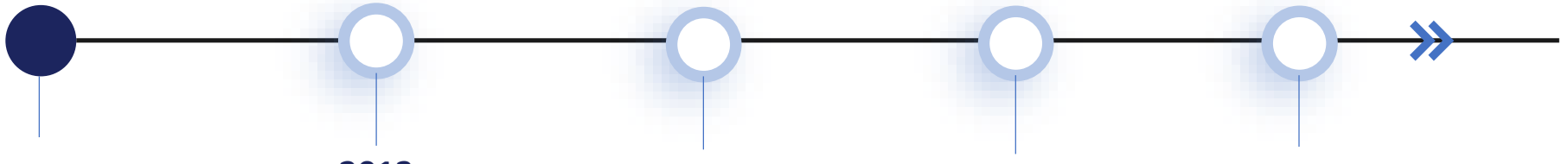
- Obsolete, outdated laws – drafting based on general principles
- Lack of coordination – Champion/leading agency
- Partnership, partnership!

Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)

https://www.unescap.org/projects/cpta

- Adopted by the Commission as a UN treaty (resolution 72/4) in May 2016
- The Framework Agreement entered into force on **20 February 2021**.
- Open to interested (53) ESCAP member states (voluntary) to become parties
- To facilitate cross-border paperless trade (data exchange) among willing ESCAP member states by providing a dedicated intergovernmental framework to develop legal and technical solutions

Progress



2012
Regional Study

2013
Expert Review & Member Consultations

2013 - 2016
Negotiation & Finalization

19 May 2016
Adoption by the Commission

20 February 2021
Enter into force

As of now, 11+1 Parties

THANK YOU

Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Paperless Trade

UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT)

E-Learning Series on Business Process Analysis for Trade Facilitation

Cross-Border Paperless Trade Readiness Assessment

Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF)

https://www.unescap.org/our-work/trade-investment-innovation/trade-facilitation-digital-trade