

**OPERATIONALISATION OF THE NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOWS (NSWS) BY 2012 AND THE ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW (ASW) BY 2015****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Realising that an effective and efficient arrangement to expedite customs release and clearance will reduce the costs of doing business for traders, ASEAN is developing the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) to enhance trade facilitation and further integrate the regional economies. The ASW is the environment where National Single Windows (NSWs) of Member States integrate and operate. While NSWs provide traders with a single entry point for submitting and processing clearance documentation and data, the ASW architecture will allow that data to be exchanged electronically among Member State NSWs to enhance government agencies' ability to clear goods faster for the benefit of traders. The ASEAN Leaders adopted the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity in October 2010, which identified the operationalisation of all NSWs by 2012 and the ASW in selected ports by 2015 as one of the 15 prioritised projects to bridge the connectivity gap within ASEAN.

MAIN OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

To operationalise the ASW, ASEAN will develop a legal framework for the cross-border exchange of electronic transaction data, and harmonise and standardise electronic data needed to process and clear shipments. The ASW also aims to strengthen the coordination and partnership among ASEAN Customs Administrations and relevant line ministries and agencies, and, through its integration with NSWs, economic operators as well (including importers, exporters, transport operators, express industries, customs brokers, forwarders, commercial banking entities and financial institutions, insurers, and those relevant to the international supply chain).

Currently ASEAN Member States are at various stages of NSW implementation and have invested substantial efforts and resources in designing the ASW. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), most ASEAN Member States will be implementing an ASW Pilot Project that will serve to test the ASW architecture in the exchange of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement preferential certificate of origin (ATIGA Form D) and the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document. The Pilot,

PROJECT STATUS

Seeking technical and funding assistance to expand the ASW Pilot Project and progress to a "live" environment

TARGET COMPLETION DATE

December 2012 for NSWs;
December 2015 for ASW

IMPLEMENTING BODIES

ASEAN Customs
Directors-General, ASW
Steering Committee and
relevant national agencies

MODALITY & SOURCE OF FUNDING

USAID, External Partners,
ASEAN Member States
National Budgets

CONTACT PERSON

ASEAN Secretariat:
Trade and Facilitation
Division
Market Integration
Directorate
ASEAN Economic
Community Department
Email:
[Trade&FacilitationDivision@
asean.org](mailto:Trade&FacilitationDivision@asean.org)

currently in scaled down phase, would eventually be scaled up to include other cross-border exchange of information to support pre-arrival clearance, which will enhance government agencies' ability to clear goods faster. This would be followed by an evaluation of outcomes of the Pilot Project and formulation of recommendations for the eventual ASW.

BENEFICIARIES

The implementation of the NSWs and the ASW will facilitate the streamlining of processes and procedures, engender tight coordination of related government agencies and trade-related service providers in the private sector, and foster greater transparency and predictability on trade-related rules, regulations and procedures. All these will result in faster, easier, more predictable, and more cost effective movement of goods that would ultimately benefit the traders and consumers.