

ARTNeT Trade Facilitation Research Team Meeting

**Venue: UNCC, Room D
United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok, Thailand**

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

(as of 20 Nov. 2009)

Monday, 23 November 2009

- 09:00 – 09:15 **Registration**
- 09.15 – 09.30 **Opening session**
- Opening remarks
 ARTNeT Secretariat, TID
- Brief self-introduction of participants*
- 09.30 – 10:00 **Session 1: Past and Future ARTNeT Research on Trade Facilitation**
- ARTNeT Research Study on the Impact of ICT-base Trade Facilitation Measures on SMEs: key findings and lessons learned for future research
 Florian Albuero, CATIF, Philippines
- ARTNeT Trade Facilitation Research Programme 2009/10: An introduction to the proposed regional study on improving import and export procedures
 Yann Duval, Trade Facilitation Section, TID
- 10:00-10:15 *Coffee Break*
- 10:15 – 11:45 **Session 2: Methodologies and Initiatives Related to the Proposed Regional Study.**
- Business Process Analysis applied to trade facilitation
 Somnuk Keretho, Kasetstart University
- Doing Business Trading Across Border Indicators: Methodology and lessons learned
 Mema A.B. Beye, Doing Business Project, IFC- The World Bank
- The Time/Cost Distance Approach
 Transport Facilitation and Logistics Section, Transport Division (tbc.)
- Preliminary results from ARTNeT Lao PDR Export Processes Study
 Piya Wongpit, National University of Lao PDR

11:45 – 13.00 **Lunch break**

13:00 – 16:00 **Session 3: Team Member proposals (cont'ed)**

- *Prabir De, RIS, India*
- *Suwendrani Jayaratne, IPS, Sri Lanka*
- *Syed Saifuddin Hossain, CPD, Bangladesh*
- *Somnuk Keretho, Kasetsart University, Thailand*
- *Ramasamy Ambigaibalan, Europe-China Business School*
- *Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar, Institute for Policy Research and Development, Nepal*
- *Nobuto Iwata, Professor, Director of WTO Research Centre (WRC)/AGU*

Discussants:

Florian Albuero, CATIF, Philipinnes

Sok Siphana, Adviser to the Government of Cambodia, and ARTNeT Advisor

Tuesday, 24 November 2009

09:00 – 09:15 **Registration (Ground Floor, Secretariat Building)**

09.15 – 11:45 **Session 4: Harmonization of methodologies and scope of studies and Research Plan**

Draft research plan

Yann Duval, ARTNeT Trade Facilitation Research Coordinator, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP

Discussion and finalization of research plan

11:45 – 12:00 **Closing**

Annex

ARTNeT Trade Facilitation Research (ATFR) 2010 – Regional Study on Improving Regional Trade Procedures and Processes Call for Expression of Interest

Background

Under the overarching ARTNeT research theme of trade for inclusive and sustainable development, the trade facilitation research programme implemented by the network has been striving to identify administrative and procedural barriers that unnecessarily impede the participation of more firms and more countries in regional and global trade, and propose solutions.

As the growing body of research and surveys of those engaging in trade have made it clear, the situation varies greatly across products traded, as well as trade route, origin and destination of these products. It remains important to track progress of countries through broad indicators and general perception surveys to provide policy makers with benchmark measures of progress. However, undertaking deeper analysis of the processes small and large firms face when engaging in international trade in various industries may provide useful insights and more practical and specific policy recommendations. Conduct of such analysis by using comparable methodologies across a set of countries and routes in Asia and the Pacific can be expected to result in industry-level, national-level and regional-level recommendations for a more inclusive participation of firms and countries in trade. In addition, this will provide an opportunity to develop local expertise in conducting business process analyses in developing countries, an essential skill and step for rationalization of trade and related administrative procedures.

While analysis of import and export processes for small and large firms in selected strategic industries is expected to be the main focus of the ATFR 2010, it is expected that, under the broader research programme of ARTNeT and ESCAP, work will also be done towards: (1) Development of sectoral-level trade cost indicators for all Asia-Pacific countries, and related econometric analysis of determinants; and (2) Development of a database of aggregate-level bilateral, (sub) regional trade cost indices, and related econometric analysis of determinants. Firm-level analysis of propensity to engage in trade may also be supported, subject to availability of resources.

Improving Regional Trade Procedures and Processes – Proposed scope of work

It is envisaged that team members participating in the ARTNeT regional study on Enhancing Regional Import-Export Procedures and Processes would:

- (1) Conduct a detailed analysis of processes involved in exporting an agreed-upon product [from time of signature of contract to arrival at a wholesale location in the importing country] to (a) a country in the same subregion and (b) a country in a different subregion of Asia (South, South-East, East Asia or the South Pacific).
- (2) Identify relevant procedures and processes and map these processes using Business Process Analysis methods¹ and other relevant/complementary methodologies;

¹ See for example, http://www.unescap.org/tid/projects/unedocs_s4_thayanan.pdf

- (3) Estimate time and costs of the relevant procedures and processes for (a) small exporters and (b) a large exporters using appropriate interview and survey techniques.
- (4) Work in collaboration with other team members so that each would conduct export process analysis of up to two agreed-upon products [from time of signature of contract to the ship being loaded at the port of departure and shipped; one destined to a country in the sub-region, another to a country outside the sub-region], and import process analysis of another two agreed-upon products [from arrival at the port of arrival to delivery at the wholesale location or factory; one arriving from a country within the sub-region; another arriving from a country outside the sub-region], such that the research effort would ultimately result in a analysis of the entire set of import and export procedures/processes for the given products.

Expression of Interest [Deadline: 25 October 2009]

Interested researchers may please send a one page proposal to artnetontrade@un.org, copied to duvaly@un.org indicating that they are interested in participating in this regional project to analyze import/export processes. The expression of interest should include the following:

- Suggested products (Guidelines: *to the extent possible, explain briefly why you are suggesting these products; up to four products may be listed; in addition to the relevance of the product for economic development and intra-regional trade, the existence of an industry association that may be interested in the outcome of this work may be a factor in the product suggested, as existence and cooperation with such an association may greatly facilitate the research and ensure its national-level relevance; trade in final and agricultural products may be particularly considered*).
- Proposed countries of export: (Guidelines: *at least one country within your subregion and another in another subregion should be proposed for the suggested products; existence of trade in the suggested products between your and the proposed countries of export should be assessed and relevant data provided*).

Please include evidence of past work on trade facilitation (within or outside ARTNeT) and indicate whether you have conducted a similar type of analysis in the past.

ARTNeT Secretariat Support and next steps

Upon the review of received expressions of interest, selected researchers will convene in Bangkok on 23-24 November 2009 for an initial meeting to discuss scope and methodologies – including the ESCAP/UNECE Business Process Analysis Methodology, as well as invited to participate in the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2009, organized by ADB and ESCAP and to be held on 25-26 November 2009.

It is envisaged that grants of about USD 7,000 will be made available to each regional team member to conduct this work. Travel to research team meetings, trainings, and dissemination events would be provided separately.

Eligibility for support: Researchers from research institutions/universities located in South, South-East, East Asian and South Pacific Island countries (members of ESCAP) may submit proposals for funding. Participating institutions need not be member of ARTNeT at the time of submission of proposals, but will need to apply in the event their proposal is selected for

funding² - acceptance of membership will be contingent on successful completion of the study. Preference will be given to proposals from developing country institutions and researchers, particularly those in the landlocked and least developed countries.

² Membership is free. For details, please consult ARTNeT membership guidelines in the ARTNeT members section of the www.artnetontrade.org website.