

Trade Facilitation And Performance Of Manufacturing

This report presents the findings of the OECD indicators for assessing the impact of specific trade facilitation measures on developing countries' trade. Sixteen trade facilitation indicators (TFIs) have been constructed, corresponding to the main policy areas under negotiation at the WTO, with the aim to estimate the impact of addressing specific hurdles in the trade and border procedures of a given country. The policy areas that seem to have the greatest impact on trade volumes and trade costs not only for imports but also to export performance are the availability of trade-related information, the simplification and harmonization of documents, the streamlining of procedures and the use of automated processes. The combined effect of improvements in these areas is greater than the simple sum of the impact of individual measures, reaching almost 14.5% reduction of total trade costs for low income countries, 15.5% for lower middle income countries and 13.2% for upper middle income countries.

Six studies that examine how border bottlenecks affect trade and investment flows, how these bottlenecks might be reduced, and whether the expense involved is worth it. Real borders can be thick. They are not dimensionless lines as typically assumed in theoretical models and standard empirical analyses, but a zone populated by agencies that develop and administer regulations firms have to comply with when engaging in international trade, many of which have their own procedures. Borders can then easily become a labyrinth hard to get through. This is crucial because border agencies' procedures influence the time needed to ship goods from their origins to their destinations and can thereby affect trade, particularly in a context characterized by increasingly segmented production chains and rising lean retailing. Latin American and Caribbean countries have recently implemented various trade facilitation initiatives that aim to streamline the administrative processing of trade flows and accordingly reduce trading times. These initiatives include risk management, single windows, authorized economic operators, simplified postal exports, and expedited transit arrangements, all of which are cornerstones of the 2013 WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and have been subject of multiple international organizations' operations. Despite of being ubiquitous, evidence on the impact of these specific initiatives has been extremely limited. Lack of precise data has been a major obstacle. Out of the Border Labyrinth fills this gap and sheds entirely new light on the trade effects of such trade facilitation measures and the channels thereof. It presents the results of thorough impact evaluations, which have been carried out by applying rigorous methods on unprecedented transaction-level data for several countries in the region. These results reveal that trade actually expanded as a consequence of such facilitation measures and that the primary channel has been shipping frequency. Based on these econometric examinations and careful institutional case studies, Out of the Border Labyrinth systematizes a new line of trade policy research and informs policymaking and assistance activities by international organizations by providing tools that will help design and assess policies in an area that will be very active in upcoming years as countries work towards implementing the multilateral agreement reached in Bali.

Trade Facilitation and the Global Economy OECD Publishing

This National Trade Facilitation Roadmap for Exports Enhancement and Diversification provides the framework for a national trade facilitation reform programme over a five-year period (2019-2024) and includes a strategic vision supported by goals and activities, and performance indicators to measure progress against set targets. It is the result of a consultative effort of the National Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation (CCTF), under the UNECE guidance, and in collaboration with key international partners including the ITC and UNCTAD. This document has been developed in the context of the project on "Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Republic of Tajikistan" at the request of the Government.

Trade facilitation -- Trade performance -- Exports -- Trade facilitation index -- South Africa -- Handelsfasilitering -- Handelsprestasie -- Uitvoere -- Handelsfasiliteringsindeks -- Suid-Afrika.

The authors estimate the impact of aggregate indicators of "soft" and "hard" infrastructure on the export performance of developing countries. They build four new indicators for 101 countries over the period 2004-07. Estimates show that trade facilitation reforms do improve the export performance of developing countries. This is particularly true with investment in physical infrastructure and regulatory reform to improve the business environment. Moreover, the findings provide evidence that the marginal effect of infrastructure improvement on exports appears to be decreasing in per capita income. In contrast, the impact of information and communications technology on exports appears increasingly important for richer countries. Drawing on estimates, the authors compute illustrative exports growth for developing countries and ad-valorem equivalents of improving each indicator halfway to the level of the top performer in the region. As an example, improving the quality of physical infrastructure so that Egypt's indicator increases half-way to the level of Tunisia would increase exports by 10.8 percent. This is equivalent to a 7.4 percent cut in tariffs faced by Egyptian exporters across importing markets.

Does foreign aid spent on trade facilitation increase trade flows of developing countries? There is an on-going and high profile discussion of aid-for-trade associated with the Doha negotiations of the World Trade Organization. There continue also questions about how best to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The analysis in this paper explicitly considers how to target aid most effectively to increase trade a fundamental question related to the crisis and policy debate over restarting the world trading system. Using detailed data on aid flows from the OECD, the analysis here estimates the responsiveness of trade flows to specific types of foreign aid. The findings indicate that aid directed toward promoting trade enhances the trade performance of recipient countries: a 1 percent increase in aid directed toward trade policy and regulatory reform (amounting to about US\$11.7 million more such aid) could generate an increase in global trade of about US\$818 million. This yields a "rate of return" on every dollar of this type of aid of

about US\$697 in additional trade. As the dollar aid flow is relatively small, such targeted aid mitigates concerns about absorptive capacity and real exchange rate appreciation, which may accompany larger disbursements.

The 'Trade and Transport Facilitation Assessment' (TTFA) is a tool for identifying inefficiencies in international supply chains that limit a country's ability to compete in international trade. The TTFA examines problems that affect not only exports competitiveness, but also the ability to import and distribute inputs to production and consumer goods. This new TTFA toolkit was developed to meet the growing demand for facilitation and logistics reforms in an environment of increasing global competition and expanded trade in intermediate goods. It reflects practical experience and the change in the nature of demand from developing countries. The TTFA focuses on simplification and harmonization of trade-related procedures and identifies the opportunities for improving logistics services, infrastructure, and the overall performance of specific supply chains. It also outlines practices to develop plans of action with proper interactions with government agencies and stakeholders.

What key business process output measure(s) does Trade facilitation leverage and how? Who is responsible for ensuring appropriate resources (time, people and money) are allocated to Trade facilitation? How do we go about Securing Trade facilitation? How can the value of Trade facilitation be defined? Does the Trade facilitation performance meet the customer's requirements? This amazing Trade facilitation self-assessment will make you the entrusted Trade facilitation domain veteran by revealing just what you need to know to be fluent and ready for any Trade facilitation challenge. How do I reduce the effort in the Trade facilitation work to be done to get problems solved? How can I ensure that plans of action include every Trade facilitation task and that every Trade facilitation outcome is in place? How will I save time investigating strategic and tactical options and ensuring Trade facilitation costs are low? How can I deliver tailored Trade facilitation advice instantly with structured going-forward plans? There's no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than acclaimed best-selling author Gerard Blokdyk. Blokdyk ensures all Trade facilitation essentials are covered, from every angle: the Trade facilitation self-assessment shows succinctly and clearly that what needs to be clarified to organize the required activities and processes so that Trade facilitation outcomes are achieved. Contains extensive criteria grounded in past and current successful projects and activities by experienced Trade facilitation practitioners. Their mastery, combined with the easy elegance of the self-assessment, provides its superior value to you in knowing how to ensure the outcome of any efforts in Trade facilitation are maximized with professional results. Your purchase includes access details to the Trade facilitation self-assessment dashboard download which gives you your dynamically prioritized projects-ready tool and shows you exactly what to do next. Your exclusive instant access details can be found in your book.

This paper analyzes the impacts of selected trade facilitation measures on international trade flows. A gravity model is used to estimate four equations: a pooled cross-section model; a fixed-effects model; a random effects model; and a Poisson maximum likelihood estimator. The contribution of the paper is twofold. First, the analysis uses a recent data set, a panel that includes trade data from 2011 and 2012 for 72 countries. Second, to measure the impacts of trade facilitation measures, the analysis includes dummy variables for the presence of an authorized economic operator program, the existence of a single-window program in the countries in the sample, and the existence of a mutual recognition arrangement between pairs of countries in the sample. The results show that the presence of an authorized economic operator program and the existence of a single-window program will improve countries' trade performance. By contrast, the existence of a mutual recognition arrangement will not necessarily improve countries' trade performance. These results suggest that, in general, trade facilitation measures as a whole will help countries improve their trade performance.

It is becoming more evident that better market access conditions alone, do not translate directly into increased trade opportunities for developing countries. With the burgeoning trend of lowering tariff barriers, it is "non-tariff measures" and "behind the border" barriers that are gaining ground in the trade policy debate. Trade facilitation reforms aim to lower transaction costs for businesses and help expedite the clearance and release of goods across borders. As part of the current round of multilateral trade negotiations, Members of the World Trade Organization are negotiating new commitments in the area of trade facilitation. Through its three different essays, this research tries to first examine this new multilateral agreement from a political economy perspective and address how it is neither a classic WTO Agreement nor a classic case of winners and losers in the WTO jargon. Second, with some thirty trade facilitation measures on the table, the objective of this research is to quantify the potential gains in trade performance from the implementation of this agreement. This research uses a new and original database of forty diverse developing countries which assesses their compliance level with a set of trade facilitation proposed measures. Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, this research assesses the impact of five trade facilitation indicators on their trade flows. Finally, despite the positive relationship between the economic benefits of trade liberalization and trade facilitation, implementation of a WTO Accord on Trade Facilitation in developing countries will face many challenges related to the domestic politics of trade and institutional factors that policymakers need to consider for any successful implementation to take place.

This report describes how Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) corridor performance measurement and monitoring (CPMM) helps to achieve the objectives of the CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy and its Implementation Action Plan. It presents the CPMM methodology and discusses the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, especially the private sector. It highlights ongoing efforts to provide accurate and reliable indicators despite the challenges of measuring corridor performance in the CAREC context. The extensive depth of data collected and the richness of information that CPMM has been providing since 2009 supports detailed policy analysis and formulation. Trade facilitation indicators have been developed to inform CAREC's Development Effectiveness Review. These indicators provide a basis of comparison or

benchmarking of one location (border crossing point or corridor segment) against another in terms of (i) the efficiency of border management agency policies and procedures in regulating trade, (ii) infrastructure quality, and, in due course, (iii) the quality and performance of trade logistics service providers. The four indicators include the standard measures of time and cost as the main components. Selected corridor performance data are then analyzed to identify the physical and non-physical barriers to trade and transit traffic encountered at specific locations, helping to pinpoint the causes of excessive delays and costs. With this study, ADB underscores the value of CPMM for CAREC countries (and for countries participating in other subregional programs) as they craft policies and consider investments to facilitate trade.

In a globalised world, where goods cross borders many times as intermediate and as final products, trade facilitation is essential to lowering overall trade costs and increasing economic welfare, in particular for developing and emerging economies. Facilitation efforts undertaken by various countries around the world also show that the benefits of such measures clearly compensate the costs and challenges posed by their implementation.

What is poverty and how do we measure it? What is the link between inequality and poverty? What can governments do to alleviate poverty and inequality? Does economic growth reduce poverty in the long run? These are some important research questions that are addressed in this book. It brings together important researchers and university professors to offer some analytical insights into the field of poverty, inequality, and public policies. Using quantitative and qualitative research methods, the authors examine issues relating to (a) contextual, academic, and cognitive differences between rural and urban poverty; (b) the impact of inequality on poverty; (c) theoretical considerations and empirical findings about poverty and inequality with a special reference to Croatia and Pakistan; (d) the role of trade facilitation in reducing poverty in South Asia; and (e) the impact of trade liberalization on economic growth and poverty implications with a special reference to Sri Lanka. The reader of this book will find it concise, with a clearly defined research methodology and findings, and easy to understand. Benefiting of recent statistical data and practical experience from various countries around the world, the findings and conclusions might be helpful to academia and policy makers to find better answers to poverty and inequality in the future.

The Asian Development Bank, under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation program, is helping Maldives implement a robust domestic and regional trade system. This integrated trade network facilitates seamless movement of goods and documents, across organizational and national boundaries, and will vastly improve the business environment and overall economic activity. This publication outlines key blockchain use cases recommended for implementation in Maldives for trade facilitation. A feasibility study conducted from April to July 2019 established the use cases of blockchain technology to facilitate cross-border trade and improve operational performance of domestic trade processes in Maldives.

Border clearance processes by customs and other agencies are among the most important and problematic links in the global supply chain. Delays and costs at the border undermine a country's competitiveness, either by taxing imported inputs with deadweight inefficiencies or by adding costs and reducing the competitiveness of exports. This book provides a practical guide to assist policy makers, administrators, and border management professionals with information and advice on how to improve border management systems, procedures, and institutions.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region's trade performance over the past two decades has been disappointing. Efforts to boost trade through a plethora of regional trade agreements (RTAs) are underway. This study examines the potential contribution of regional trade agreements, as well as trade facilitation improvements, in enhancing the development prospects of the region. Using the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) model and database, both intra-regional integration and integration with the European Union are observed to have a favorable impact on welfare in the MENA region. The welfare gains from integrating with the European Union are observed to be at least twice as much as intra-regional integration. Furthermore, these welfare gains are observed to at least triple when the implementation of the RTAs is complemented with trade facilitation improvements.

The report focuses on transport facilitation in developing countries in order to help promote trade in exports and economic growth. Each country has its own set of special characteristics, including significant border entry and import points. This report provides an analytical tool for those working in the field, complemented by practical suggestions, in order to identify facilitation problems and create effective remedial action plans. This report is an expanded version of the publication 'Trade and Transport Facilitation: An Audit Methodology' (ISBN: 0821347195), published by the World Bank in 2000.

This study examines the relevance of trade facilitation reforms in maximizing the economic impact of infrastructure connectivity investments through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It provides an overview of trade facilitation performance in BRI economies, with a focus on those countries involved in six key land corridors. This overview is based on three categories of data: international indicators for trade facilitation performance, notably Doing Business, the Logistics Performance Index, the Enabling Trade Index, and the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators; publicly-available literature and analysis on the BRI corridors; and analysis conducted through World Bank projects involving BRI economies. A key finding is that, in a global context, trade facilitation along the BRI corridors is weak, with performance for most corridors below global averages according to most indicators. There is also wide variation in performance between countries along each corridor, providing a significant barrier to the efficient utilization of the corridors for predictable, timely cross-border transportation of goods. Based on the review of corridor performance, the study recommends priority trade facilitation reforms for the BRI economies, as well as recommendations on the implementation of these reforms, based on international experience.

The trade performance of countries in South Asia over the past two decades has been poor relative to other regions. Exports from South Asia have doubled over the past 20 years to approximately USD 100 billion. In contrast, East Asia's exports grew ten times over the same period. The low level of intraregional trade has contributed to weak export performance in South Asia. The empirical analysis in this paper demonstrates gains to trade in the region from reform and capacity building in trade facilitation at the regional level. When considering intraregional trade, if countries in South Asia raise capacity halfway to East Asia's average, trade is estimated to rise by USD 2.6 billion. This is approximately 60 percent of the total intraregional trade in South Asia. Countries in the region also have a stake in the success of efforts to promote capacity building outside its borders. If South Asia and the rest of the world were to raise their levels of trade facilitation halfway to the East Asian average, the gains to the region would be estimated at USD 36 billion. Out of those gains, about 87 percent of the total would be generated from South Asia's own efforts (leaving the rest of the world unchanged). In summary, we find that the South Asian region's expansion of trade can be substantially advanced with programs of concrete action to address barriers to trade facilitation to advance regional goals. This paper investigates when trade facilitation reform should be undertaken at the regional level. First, looking at both efficiency and implementation considerations, it confirms the perception that the regional dimension matters. Investigating where efficiency gains can be made, this research explains why national markets alone fail to produce the full scale economies and positive externalities of trade facilitation reform. Second, because trade facilitation policies need to address coordination and capacity failures, and because of the operational complexity challenge, the choice of the adequate platform for delivering reform is crucial. The lessons are that regional trade agreements offer good prospects of comprehensive and effective reform and can effectively complement multilateral and national initiatives. However, examples of implementation of trade facilitation reform in regional agreements do not seem to indicate that regional integration approaches have been more successful than trade facilitation through specific cooperation agreements or other efforts, multilateral or unilateral. Customs unions may be an exception here, and the author suggests reasons why this could be the case.

This report discusses the benefits of trade facilitation - meant to promote transparent, predictable and straightforward border procedures so as to expedite the movement of goods. The OECD Trade Facilitation indicators provide a powerful tool for assessing the impact of related reforms and monitoring progress.

This dissertation explores the narrow dimensions of trade facilitation and their impact on trade. In the first part, I describe the various ways to measure trade facilitation. I explore the traditional indicators of trade facilitation as well as some specific surveys. I indicate several limitations of these commonly used indicators. I also review the role of international arrangements linked to trade facilitation which are rarely taken into account in related studies. Then, I build a composite indicator of trade facilitation which covers various narrow dimensions. It follows the WTO negotiations framework and draws on ninety nine variables. I show that several disparities remain across OECD countries and that information availability, advance rulings and formalities have an important impact on trade. In the second part, I review various trade facilitation dimensions across the World and particularly the European Union. It reveals several disparities and indicates the need to expand the TFIs to a wider set of countries. The European case study suggests that potential gains remain even in developed countries who share -similar- regulations. It underlines not only some implementation issues but also a path to follow to improve trade facilitation policies. Finally, I provide several insights on the methodology of EU trade facilitation performance.

' As tariffs have fallen worldwide, the increasing importance of non-tariff policies for further trade liberalization has become widely recognized. The methods for assessing the potential effects of such liberalization have lagged significantly behind those available for analyzing tariffs. This book is the first volume that comprehensively addresses this gap. It has been designed to be useful for both economists and policymakers, especially for those involved in communicating ideas and results between economists and policymakers. This indispensable book contains cutting-edge discussions of the full range of methodologies used in this area, including business surveys, summary statistics such as effective rates of protection and price gaps, time-series and panel econometrics, and simulation methods such as computable general equilibrium. It covers the entire spectrum of policies under discussion in current trade negotiations, including trade facilitation, services policies, quantitative measures, customs procedures, standards, movement of natural persons, and anti-dumping. Some prominent contributors to this book are Bijit Bora (World Trade Organization), John Wilson, Tsunehiro Otsuki and Vlad Manole (World Bank), Catherine Mann (Institute of International Economics), Alan Deardorff and Robert Stern (University of Michigan), Joe Francois (Erasmus University), Dean Spinanger (University of Kiel), Antoni Estevadeordal and Kati Suominen (Inter-American Development Bank), Thomas Prusa (Rutgers University), Thomas Hertel and Terrie Walmsley (Purdue University), Scott Bradford (Brigham Young University), Judith Dean, Robert Feinberg, Soamiely Andriamananjara and Marinos Tsigas (US International Trade Commission).

Contents: Obtaining Data on the Incidence of NTMs The Effects of Services-Type Measures Trade Facilitation The Effects of Quota-Type and Standards-Type Measures Estimating Tariff Equivalents of NTMs Without Simulation The Effects of Other Policies Using Estimates of NTM Impacts in Simulations Methodological Aids Readership: Economists and quantitative practitioners involved in trade policy analysis; policymakers with responsibility in non-tariff measures and trade facilitation; graduates in international economics.

Keywords: Non-Tariff Measures; Non-Tariff Barriers; Trade Policy; Commercial Policy; International Economics; Trade Facilitation Key Features: The first book to address the importance of non-tariff policies for further trade liberalization For the policymaker, it brings together a wide selection of the most recent findings of the potential effects of liberalizing non-tariff measures and improving trade facilitation For the empirical practitioner, in-depth discussions are provided of issues often covered lightly elsewhere, such as data sources, construction of indices, and neglected microeconomic foundations of liberalization Reviews: "As tariffs have declined, non-tariff barriers have become increasingly important in merchandise trade, and they remain the central concern in services. Yet our measures of these barriers are appallingly weak. This volume plays a vitally important

role in focussing attention on non-tariff barriers and their assessment. It brings together top scholars working in this dynamic area, who offer sophisticated techniques grounded in real world data. This volume is a must-read for anyone working on the analysis of trade policies.”Will Martin Lead Economist World Bank “Trade policy in the real world has moved far beyond the familiar tariffs of textbook economics. Comprehending the impact of non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation measures on international trade is among the most important, and analytically difficult, challenges confronting economists and policy makers. This outstanding volume brings together state-of-the-art treatments of these critical issues and should be essential reading for both researchers and practitioners interested in understanding trade policy as it is really practiced today.”Marcus Noland Senior Fellow Institute for International Economics '

Trade facilitation increases trade flows, lowers trade cost, and ultimately contributes to sustainable and inclusive growth. This publication, jointly prepared by the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, reviews the state of play of trade facilitation and paperless trade in Asia and the Pacific. It investigates the evolution of trade costs in the region, examines trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation, and highlights the key initiatives and efforts in Central Asia, the Greater Mekong Subregion, South Asia, and the Pacific. It includes impact assessments of trade facilitation implementation and corridor performance on reducing trade costs and increasing trade.

The 2013 World Trade Organization ministerial in Bali produced a comprehensive framework agreement on trade facilitation. If fully implemented, the agreement should increase the speed and reduce the cost of moving goods across international borders. But which reforms are most likely to improve these outcomes, how much improvement should be expected, and what might such improvements be worth? This paper adopts the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's trade facilitation indicators as quantitative descriptions of trade facilitation policy. It estimates the impact of the indicators and other variables on the time necessary to clear customs, the associated cost, and a customs performance index. Of the 12 policy bundles, the good governance and impartiality indicator is most clearly related to customs clearance time. A move to best practice in all policies by all World Trade Organization members would reduce the predicted time spent in customs by an average of 1.6 days for imports and 2 days for exports. Using a conservative estimate of the value of time in trade, such comprehensive reforms imply a mean tariff equivalent reduction of 0.9 percentage points on imports and 1.2 percentage points on exports. The same estimates are used to calculate welfare gains of policy reform by World Trade Organization members. Reform in China alone accounts for roughly one-fourth of the global benefits from the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

With efforts for further substantive liberalization of trade showing little signs of success, focus has shifted to the rationalization and simplification of procedural regulations in international trade. The Agreement on the Trade Facilitation in Goods came into force in 2017, and proposals for similar agreements for trade in services and foreign investment have been submitted and are under discussion. This book discusses both existing and proposed provisions on trade facilitation within the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It covers relevant General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provisions and jurisprudence, the negotiating history of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in Goods, provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and their relevance for developing countries' concerns, with special emphasis on India, and the prospects for a global digital trade facilitation platform. The book also discusses the desirability for trade facilitation agreements for services and investment and the possibility of success of the proposals submitted in this regard in the WTO.

Trade facilitation measures that simplify, modernize, and harmonize export and import processes are particularly important in a world of global value chains where goods cross borders multiple times. At the firm level, trade facilitation commitments in preferential trade agreements can generate larger gains for firms participating in global value chains, as these firms can benefit both from efficiency enhancement at their own border (when importing inputs) and at the partner countries' borders (when exporting). This paper uses Peruvian customs data to investigate the heterogeneous impact of trade facilitation provisions across firms, depending on their global value chain linkages. The results show that trade facilitation provisions in preferential trade agreements promote the export performance of global value chain firms, especially when they import inputs from the preferential trade agreement partner country. In the case of Peru, the main benefit of trade facilitation provisions results from efficiency enhancements at its own border, allowing global value chain firms to import inputs in a more timely and predictable manner.

Annotation With contributions from 35 leading economists, this forward-looking book explores the future of development economics against the background of the past half-century of development thought and practice. Outstanding representatives of the past two generations of development economists assess development thinking at the turn of the century and look to the unsettled questions confronting the next generation. The volume offers a thorough analysis of the broad range of issues involved in development economics, and it is especially timely in its critique of what is needed in development theory and policy to reduce poverty. An overriding issue is whether in the future development economics is to be regarded simply as applied economics or whether the nature and scope of development economics will constitute a need for a special development theory to supplement general economic theory. *Frontiers of Development Economics* is an ideal reference for all those working in the international development community. A Copublication of the World Bank and Oxford University Press.

Technology is entering into every aspect of the supply chain and providing performant and innovative tools. As many are just starting to talk about the dematerialization of certain documents used in trade and transport, others are investigating how devices can communicate information directly to the rest of the supply chain without human intervention. Smart Containers are taking the digital age of shipping one step further beyond paperless processes by embracing the Internet of Things (IoT) to support enhanced decision-making by the various sectoral stakeholders. This provides greater visibility to the stakeholders within the transaction as well as to regulatory agencies who need detailed information on the consignments before they arrive at the border.

This technology can be combined with other innovations such as blockchain, big data or data pipelines to provide even more facilitation to the trading community. In all of these cases, though, we see that creating clear, unambiguous message exchange standards will allow to capitalize the full potential of the enhanced data. This paper provides a detailed look into the various benefits of using Smart Containers as well as the various potential use cases for this technology. The project team continues its work to provide clear semantic standards for the exchange of this data in order to ensure that all stakeholders understand the same information in the same way.

The report reviews trade facilitation progress in Asia and the Pacific and explores how technology can help bridge trade finance gaps. Trade facilitation initiatives can make an important contribution to economic growth and poverty reduction by lowering trade costs and increasing trade flows. This report reviews trade facilitation progress in the region, including recent trends in paperless trade and transit facilitation and the impact of trade facilitation initiatives on trade costs. It also features a special chapter on how trade finance gaps--especially prevalent for small and medium-sized enterprises--can be bridged by technology, and the supporting policies and actions required to make this happen.

This book provides a comprehensive analysis of both national and regional trade facilitation capacities, issues, challenges and lessons, with a special interest in sustainably advancing West Africa's regional trade facilitation agenda. It examines the contributions of trade facilitation towards enhancing regional integration and economic expansion in the face of increasing non-tariff barriers that highly characterises West African agri-food and non-agricultural markets. The authors recommend new conceptual frameworks, appropriate initiatives, and workable policy recipes towards enhancing West Africa's trade facilitation agenda as well as the regional economic transformation trajectory in the face of the ongoing African Continental Free Trade Agreements (AfCFTA). The book underscores the geopolitics, opportunities and challenges that confront West Africa in the increasingly dynamic regional trade facilitation policy space. Readers will learn how West Africa can improve its regional trade facilitation game amidst emerging capacity challenges.

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