

**Asia-Pacific
Trade Facilitation Forum**
Survey on Trade Facilitation and
Paperless Trade

South East Asia: Preliminary Results

Colombo, Sri Lanka
30-31 October 2012

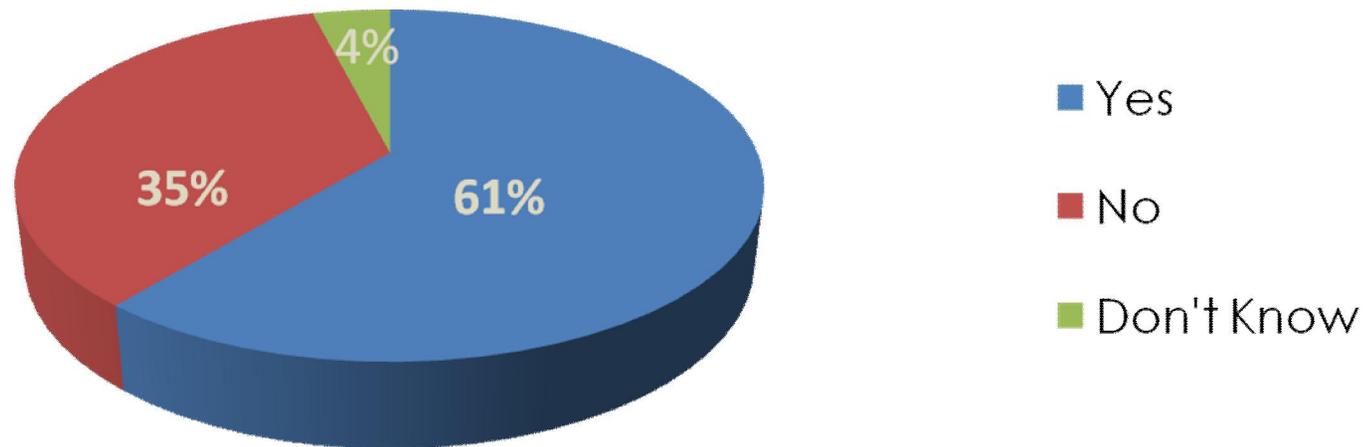
Survey Respondents

So far, there have been 46 respondents from 26 countries ...

South East Asia	South Asia	Central & East Asia
Cambodia	Afghanistan	Azerbaijan
Indonesia	Bangladesh	China
Lao PDR	Bhutan	Japan
Malaysia	India	Korea, Rep.
Myanmar	Maldives	Kyrgyz Republic
Philippines	Nepal	Mongolia
Singapore	Pakistan	Republic of Uzbekistan
Thailand	Sri Lanka	Russian Federation
Vietnam		Turkey

Trade Facilitation Measures

Does your country have a national trade facilitation body that promotes and implements trade facilitation and paperless trade in the country?



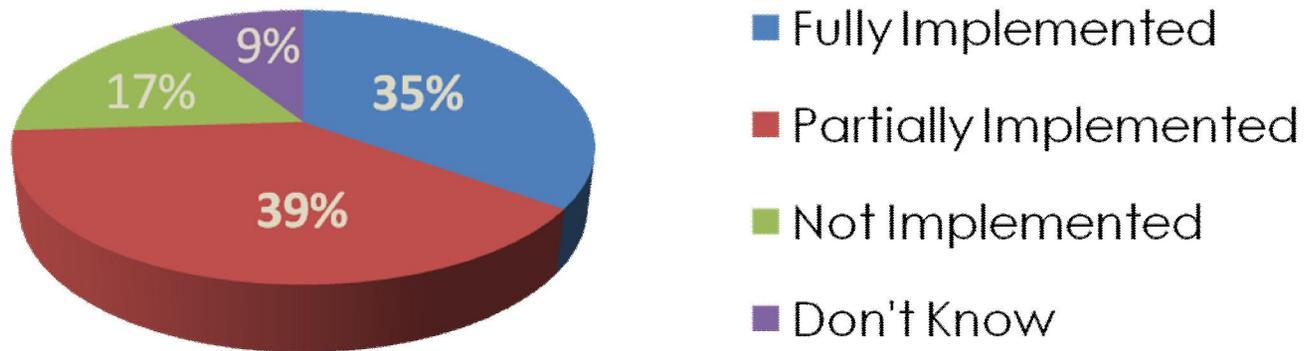
Who is the lead agency?

Customs: Cambodia, Japan, Korea Republic, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey and Singapore

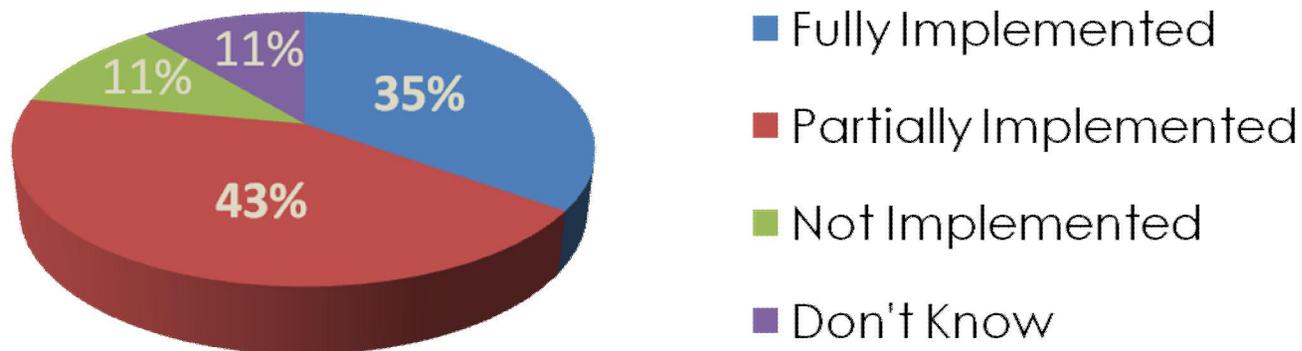
Ministry of Economy/Commerce/Trade: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka,

Trade Facilitation Measures

Does your country have a Risk Management programme?



Does your country have a Post-Clearance Audit programme?



National Single Window

Does your country have a National Single Window (NSW)?



Several countries do not yet have a NSW or under development ...

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Republic of Uzbekistan

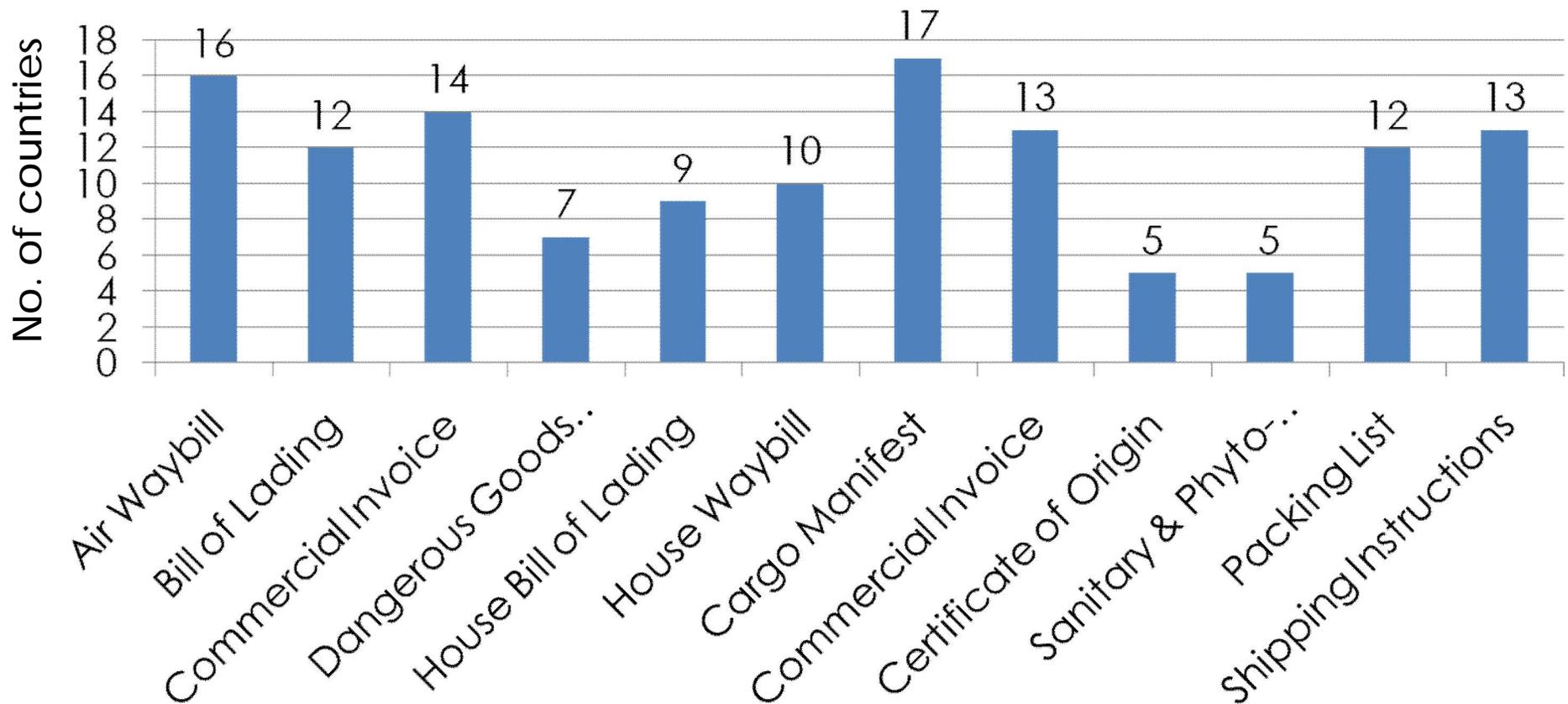
In some countries, 100% of Customs declarations are routed via the NSW ...

India, Korea Republic, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand

Towards Cross-Border Paperless Trade

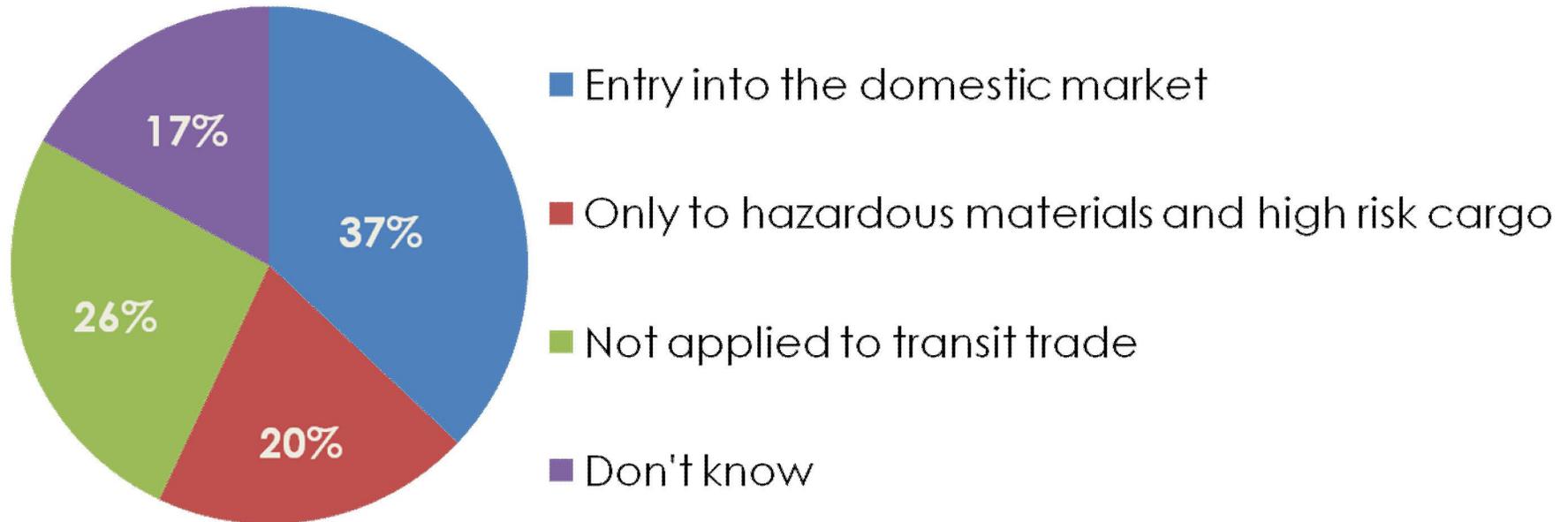
To the best of your knowledge, how are the following documents exchanged between traders in your country and their overseas counterparts/partners?

No. of countries who exchange electronic documents



Transit Facilitation

When are quality controls or technical standards applied?



- 41% of respondents surveyed indicated that they did not have separate border-crossing facilities/infrastructure for transits
- Most of the respondents surveyed indicated that physical inspections are limited through risk assessment

Key Messages

- More than half of the 26 countries surveyed already have a national trade facilitation body in place
- Customs does not always have to be the “lead agency” to promote and implement a national trade facilitation strategy;
 - Ministries of Economy, Commerce or Trade often take the lead
 - Typically, Customs tend to take the lead in the development of a National Single Window
- Risk Management plays an essential role in trade facilitation, but it often requires a Post-Clearance Audit programme to be in place
- Very few countries have implemented what could be considered to be a “fully operational” National Single Window
 - ... but most countries already have an e-Customs system

Regional:

South East Asia

What the respondents say

Country	Trade Facilitation Body	e-Customs System	National Single Window
Cambodia	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Under Dev. (1)
Indonesia	No (1), Don't Know (1)	Yes (1), Under Dev. (1)	Yes (1), Under Dev. (1)
Lao PDR	Yes (1)	No (1)	Under Dev. (1)
Malaysia	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
Myanmar	Yes (1), No (2)	Yes (2), Under Dev. (1)	Under Dev. (3)
Philippines	Don't Know (1)	Yes (1)	Under Dev. (1)
Singapore	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
Thailand	Yes (4)	Yes (4)	Yes (2), Under Dev. (2)
Vietnam	No (1)	Yes (1)	Under Dev. (1)

Some Observations

■ National Single Window

- All of the countries within this region already have, or are in the process of developing National Single Windows, due to their commitment to their ministerial level commitment to implement ASEAN Single Window by 2015
- Most countries already have e-Customs systems in place

■ Transit Facilitation

- The Philippines does not publish transit fee and charges
- Few countries periodically review fees and charges to adapt to circumstances
- Most countries apply quality controls on entry into the domestic market

Issues & Challenges

■ Indonesia

- Political will / commitment from government
- Availability and reliability of the Internet

■ Malaysia

- Different level of readiness in implementing paperless transactions
- Difficulties in co-ordinating parties across agencies and ministries
- Resistance to paperless environment by private sector and government officials
- The need for “Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR)”

■ Myanmar

- Lack of expertise / IT skills – there is a need for technical assistance
- Limited by budgetary constraints
- Lack of co-operation & collaboration among participating Ministries
- Lack of co-ordination between public and private sector
- Restricted by existing rules and regulations

Issues & Challenges

■ Philippines

- The need for an “end-to-end” system
- Compatibility between systems – there is a need for standards

■ Thailand

- Co-ordination between government agencies
- Political stability
- A need for Customs reforms

■ Vietnam

- Knowledge and skills of Managers, experts in technology and administration
- Cost of implementing software solutions

Recommendations

■ National

- Enhance the role and function of the National Trade Facilitation Committee
- Each national body/agency having role in import, export and transit control needs to establish strategy and plans for trade facilitation
- Need more political will and political intervention in some key areas of TF
- Need to organize awareness, workshops, seminars on TF for national agencies and private sector

Recommendations

■ Regional

- Continue to use existing regional forum/conference to share experiences and update progress of TF implementation in each member
- Establish a bridge or a working communication with respective NTFC of members using regional body as coordinator or facilitator
- Establish a regional body of “lead agency” in National Single Window in order to share practical experiences, updating progress in each member and inform/disseminate latest developments in SW
- Capacity building and financial support to narrow the gap of readiness.
- Appoint an independent party who has full authority to spearhead trade facilitation and paperless trade projects.
- Establish a regional legal framework agreement for paperless trade.
- Sourcing for external funding.
- Engage consultant to conduct cross-border business processes with countries concerned

Thank You