

Workshop “Facilitate Cross-Border Paperless Trade in ASEAN Region”



The Viet Nam E-commerce and Digital Economy Agency organised a workshop on “Facilitate Cross-Border Paperless Trade in ASEAN region” on 9-10 May 2022 in Ho Chi Minh City to disseminate the outcome of the Study on Digital Platforms Facilitating Cross-Border Paperless Trade in ASEAN. More than 50 participants comprising of the members of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on E-Commerce and Digital Economy (ACCED), representative from Trade and Industry Department of Hong Kong, China, and international experts attended the workshop. The workshop, and the research study, is one of the AHKFTA ECOTECH projects endorsed by the AHKFTA Joint Committee in 2021.

The Project aimed to provide ASEAN Member States with a research study on the overview of regional development and trends of e-commerce, particularly cross-border e-commerce as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which could be useful as a reference for government authorities in mapping out domestic policies and regulations, and for enterprises, their business strategies.

The research study introduced in detail typical cross-border paperless platforms to see how they work and what the roles of stakeholders are to contribute to their operation. It also suggested some recommendations to move forward for ASEAN to facilitate cross-border paperless trade in the region. The workshop created a good opportunity for the private and public sectors to have an in-person dialogue about cross-border e-

commerce policies and regulations (both opportunities and challenges) as well as how to develop and encourage related stakeholders to join such kind of platform. Importantly, the workshop strengthened the relations among ASEAN members to have further co-operation on e-commerce generally and cross-border paperless trade particularly.

In his remarks, Mr. Mr. Dang Hoang Hai, the Director General of Viet Nam E-commerce and Digital Economy Agency, highlighted that e-commerce had been a bright spot of growth as consumers and businesses have increasingly turned online, and the trend of using digital platforms in business activities, especially for MSMEs in ASEAN, has grown at an unprecedented rate. To continue supporting MSMEs, he underscored that regional digital readiness through internet and digital economy must be improved. In addition, he also encouraged relevant stakeholders to enhance the capabilities of ASEAN in terms of exploiting the benefits of paperless trading for improving the current development of E-commerce in each AMS as well as in the region as a whole.

Panelists from ASEAN Member States and business representatives were also invited to share best practices in developing legal and regulatory framework for cross-border paperless trade in the region and the best model of cross-border paperless trading platforms, as well as discuss the emerging issues related to cross-border paperless trade in ASEAN. Panelists from ACCED were Ms. Lee Hui Ying, Assistant Director, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore and Ms. Ho Uyen, Viet Nam Ministry of Industry and Trade, while those from private sectors were Mr. Nguyen Anh Duong from Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), Viet Nam, Mr. Satoru Someya, Managing Director, TradeWaltz Inc. Japan, Mr. Kim Hyungwoon, representative from Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME) , Ms. Fatimah Alsagoff, Director, Public Affairs, United Parcel Service (UPS) Asia Pacific region. Ms. Patricia Poh, Deputy Director of Networked Trade Platform Office (NTPO), Singapore Customs was also present to discuss the trade facilitation aspects related to cross-border paperless trading.

The research study, which can be accessed [here](#), would continue to serve as an informative document for ASEAN, to see what actions ASEAN and individual ASEAN Member States need to take action in facilitating cross-border paperless trade. It may be a good reference for ACCED in the path of implementing the ASEAN Agreement on e-commerce, in which, cross-border trade is one of three key pillars of the Work Program by 2025.

