



PAGE 3: B. ABOUT YOU

Q1: Respondent details

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Q2: Country or Customs territory

UNITED STATES

Q3: Organization

Public sector

PAGE 4: C. ABOUT YOUR CASE STORY

Q4: Title of case story

The US-ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (US-ACTI) project launches live implementation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW)

Q5: Case story focus

Trade Facilitation.

Q6: Case story abstract

The US-ACTI project is helping to create an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Single Window that connects and integrates national single windows of ASEAN member states. The project has worked with ASEAN to: 1) complete the basic ASEAN Single Window structure and assist in its launch, finalizing and adopting the necessary legal reforms to operate the ASEAN Single Window; 2) incorporate ASEAN Single Window-transferred information into risk management systems; and 3) expand the public-private dialogue on the ASEAN Single Window.

The two major elements highlighted in the case success story are the development of the ASW software system and the establishment of the ASW legal and regulatory environment. These have enabled streamlined electronic data submission for cargo clearance, lowered the cost of doing business across the region, increased transparency in customs systems, and improved customs compliance. The system is designed to reduce clearance times and costs and to help ensure that trade regulations are administered equitably.

Q7: Who provided funding?

Other (please specify) USAID

Q8: Project/Programme type

Regional

Q9: Your text case story

The US-ASEAN Connectivity through Trade and Investment (US-ACTI) project is working on the creation of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) to streamline cargo clearance data and lower the time and cost of doing business across Southeast Asia. Trade among ASEAN exports exceeded \$500 billion in 2015, and the ASW will lower the transaction costs of trade in goods by at least eight percent. The first of its kind in the world, the ASW increases transparency in customs systems and improves customs compliance. It is also designed to ensure that trade regulations are administered equitably for all businesses.

The ASW is a core component of ASEAN's effort to stimulate the free flow of goods in the single market and production base of the ASEAN Economic Community. It allows the electronic exchange of shipment information between traders and governments and between exporting and importing countries. The ASW links national electronic trade clearance systems, national single windows (NSWs), which enable a single submission of data and information, a single and synchronous processing of data and information, and a single decision for customs clearance of cargo. NSWs are now operational in six ASEAN member states and are under development in the remaining four member states.

The ASW went live in March 2016. The system facilitates ASEAN's participation in global and regional supply chains. Over the life of the project, US-ACTI is assisting ASEAN to:

- Complete the basic ASW architecture and begin live operation;
- Provide assistance to expand the scope of the ASW;
- Finalize and adopt the necessary regional legal reforms to operate the ASW;
- Incorporate ASW-transferred information into risk management systems;
- Expand the public-private dialogue on the ASW and trade facilitation; and
- Assist select member states to build out national single windows and join the ASW.

US-ACTI has focused its efforts on the development of the ASW platform and is now helping expand the types of documents exchanged electronically. Preferential tariffs are still being granted through manual processing until all member states ratify and endorse the necessary legislation. In 2016, the ASEAN Secretariat officially established the ASW Project Management Office and ACTI will soon begin capacity building efforts to ensure sustainable management of the system.

Q10: Lessons learnt

The ASW has proven successful in connecting and integrating national windows of the ASEAN member states, facilitated largely through US-ACTI's work on the development of the ASW software system and the establishment of the ASW legal and regulatory environment. The results have proven sustainable thus far, reliant on the longevity of the national single windows of each member state. Specific results, lesson learnt, and necessary follow-up are laid out by ASW activity below.

On the live operation of the ASW, the system has been run effectively and has been used to transmit data from thousands (or tens of thousands) of certificate of origin documents among the participating countries. US-ACTI is continuing to work with other member states to establish their production environment for entering the ASW, and to add further critical trading documents to the system.
