

**ASEAN STATEMENT**  
**WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation, 9-11 Oct 2018**

*ASEAN Statement for Agenda Item 3(C): Experience Sharing/Thematic  
Discussions on Single Window*

Thank you Chair.

On this agenda, we would like to share the initiatives taken under ASEAN as a grouping.

1. ASEAN has taken significant steps in 2018 to increase intra-ASEAN trade and ensure that trade costs are significantly reduced for businesses, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This is in line with the ASEAN goal of reducing trade transaction costs in the region by 10% come 2020.
2. We are currently developing a number of regional initiatives aimed at simplifying customs clearance and facilitating trade, such as the ASEAN-wide Self-Certification Scheme and the ASEAN Single Window. ASEAN has also commenced work on a Feasibility Study on an ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Authorised Economic Operators. These initiatives are part of ASEAN's ongoing efforts to transform the region into a single market and production base.
3. Among these initiatives, the implementation of the ASEAN Single Window, or the ASW, is at a more advanced stage. The ASW is a digital platform that will help expedite cargo clearance by reducing paper work. Since 1 January 2018, the ASW has been implemented among five ASEAN Member States, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. For a start, preferential tariff treatment under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), can be granted via the exchange of electronic ATIGA Form D through the ASW Gateway. This is a significant step forward from the current regime of manually applying for a Certificate of Origin Form D, and the required submission of hard copy Form D to customs.

4. ASEAN governments will progressively allow traders to apply for and submit more cross-border customs documentation via the ASW platform. ASEAN's focus now is to continue to:
  - i) address the outstanding technical issues faced during the initial stage of the ASW's "live" operation;
  - ii) support the remaining ASEAN Member States to join the "live" operation; and
  - iii) include additional documents, such as the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document, and e-Phyto Certificate, to be exchanged through the ASW Gateway.
  
5. ASEAN has undertaken these initiatives in line with the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, here at the WTO.

Thank you Chair.