



IMPLEMENTING CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE: THE PHILIPPINES EXPERIENCE

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30 June 2022

Importance of Implementing Cross-border Paperless Trade: The Philippines

- ❑ Serves as a foundation for elaborating more detailed activities at the national and agency levels in the electronic exchange of documents, with identifiable timelines and potential key agencies through a customizable approach
- ❑ Supports the continuous development and enhancement of trade-related electronic systems and other trade IT projects
- ❑ Promotes interoperability, wherein trade-related data exchanged in commercial documents may be reused for submission and ensure high data quality with respect to its origin, integrity, accuracy, completeness, and other characteristics
- ❑ Enhance trade facilitation and efficiency through streamlined and digitalized trade.
- ❑ Open opportunities for the electronic exchange of cross-border documents outside ASEAN



Challenges in Implementing Cross-border Paperless Trade: The Philippines

- ❑ Technical challenges and issues on data harmonization encountered by the PH government agencies in realizing the goal of the Single Window.
- ❑ Lack of report metrics and monitoring of key progress with respect to the eGovernment Master Plan which aims to enable trends of the National ICT Ecosystem Framework (NICTEF), including Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Big Data, among others.
- ❑ Lack of in-depth understanding on the Single Window concept among government agencies.
- ❑ Lack of regional agreement/legal basis for exchange of electronic documents.



Readiness Assessment of Legal and Technical Gaps

- Assessed the degree to which the technical environment is ready to support cross-border paperless trade, identified existing technical gaps, and designed actions to improve the technical environment.
- Identified potential legal gaps and highlighted what may need to be done to ensure the laws support engagement in cross-border paperless trade, as envisaged in the Framework Agreement.



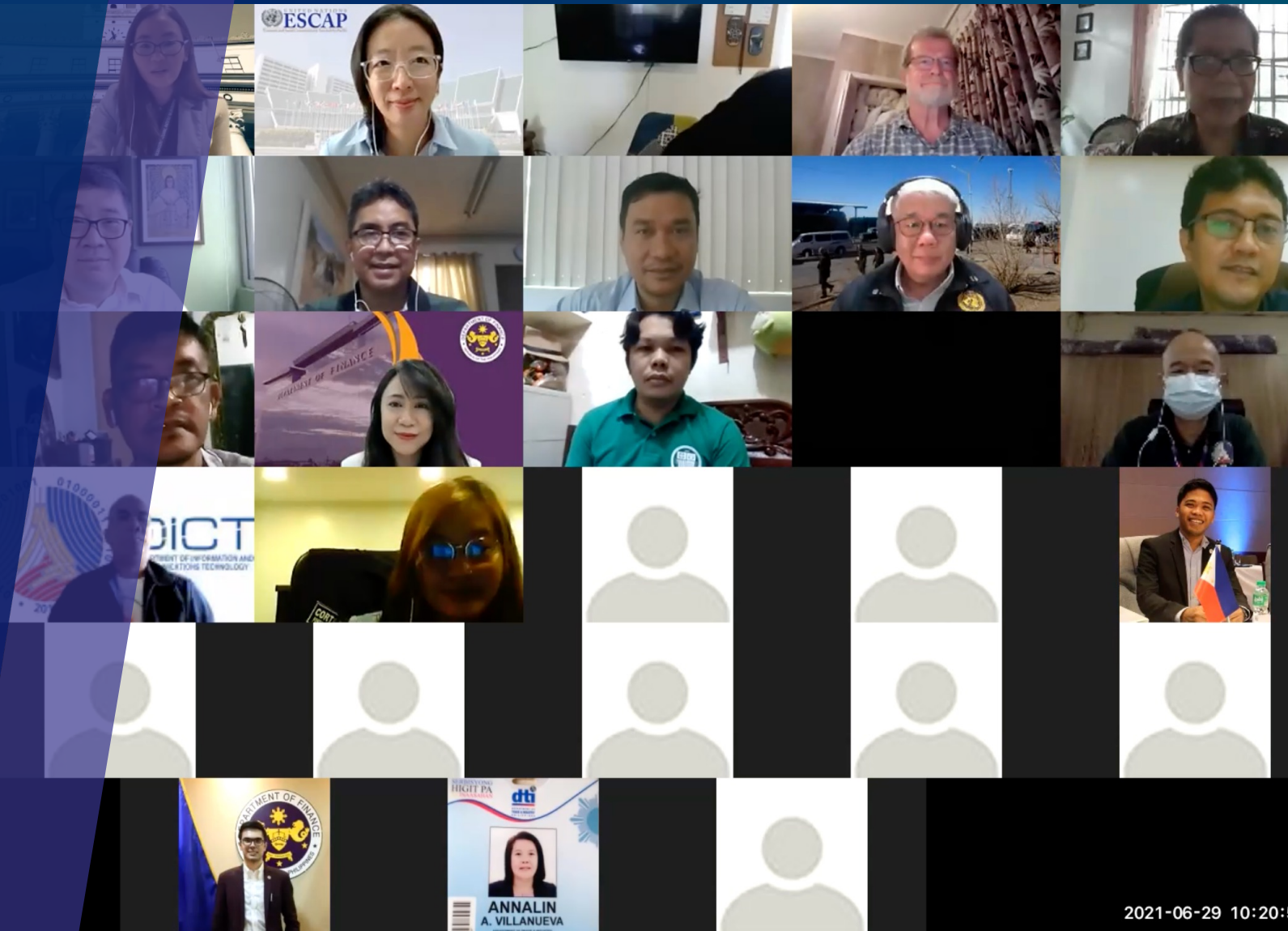
Key Findings and Ways Forward: The Philippines

- Continue with trade-related electronic systems and other trade IT projects of the government
- Update the National Single Window system to handle all types of documents in cross-border trade and the utilization of its routing platform for information/data exchange
- Support the enactment of a law related to the management of the NSW, and the rights and obligations attached to the use of that system.
- Maintain active participation and cooperation with UN ESCAP and other Parties to the Framework Agreement.
- Increase awareness at the national level of the Framework Agreement, and conduct similar stakeholder engagements in partnership with ESCAP.



Recommendations: Conduct Readiness Assessments

- ESCAP legal and technical readiness checklists
- readiness assessment guide
- cross-border paperless trade toolkit developed by WTO in collaboration with ESCAP, EIF, and UNCITRAL, based on the checklists and the guide





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