



DIGITALIZING TRADE IN ASIA NEEDS LEGISLATIVE REFORM
ADB Webinar
October 21, 2021 - 3pm Manila time

Introduction

The pandemic caused massive disruption to global trade and revealed that a dependency on physical documents is not only obsolete but is a source of significant risk to supply chains. While paperless trade has been promoted for some time, a lack of facilitating legislation and regulations continues to be a deterrent to a large-scale shift toward digitalization.

The Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR), developed by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, addresses this fundamental impediment to the digitalization of trade. As of 2021, only three jurisdictions have adopted the MLETR: Bahrain, Singapore, and the Abu Dhabi General Market. The wider adoption of MLETR by additional jurisdictions will maximise the obvious potential benefits of these measures.

ADB is engaged in a series of efforts to advocate for the adoption of MELTR, which would enable the digitalization of trade to spur more growth and jobs in developing Asia. The following webinar is part of these efforts.

About the webinar

This ADB webinar aims to promote better understanding of MLETR and disseminate global best practices on enabling of electronic trade documents, as well as sharing challenges countries face with a view to facilitate the UN model law’s faster and wider adoption.

[Link to Register](#)

Indicative agenda

October 21, 2021, 3pm-4:10pm Manila time (GMT+8)

Time	Agenda items	Speakers
3pm-3:05pm	Opening Remarks	Mr. Steven Beck Head of Trade and Supply Chain Finance Programs, ADB
3:05pm – 3:15pm	Legal recognition of electronic transferable records: The revolution in global trade	Ms. Hannah Nguyen Deputy Director of ICC Digital Standards Initiative
3:15pm – 3:25pm	Practicalities on how to enact MLETR: bringing the business community into discussion - <i>Experience from United Kingdom</i>	Ms. Sarah Green Law Commissioner, Law Commission of England and Wales
3:25pm – 3:30pm	“Asia and the Pacific Trade facilitation Report 2021: Implementation highlights of digital trade facilitation measures in the region”	Ms. Cyn-Young Park Director, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB Mr. Kijin Kim Economist, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB
3:30pm – 4:05pm	PANEL DISCUSSION: Best practices on trade digitalization and opportunities for regional collaboration Q&A	Panelists. - Mr. Nikoloz Gagnidze Deputy Chairman, Digital Governance Agency, Georgia - Mr. Kay Ren Yuh

Time	Agenda items	Speakers
	Open discussion platform for participants to exchange information on digitalizing trade and supply chains	Senior Project Manager, Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), Singapore - Ms. GUO Yu Associate Professor, Peking University Law School, People's Republic of China Moderator - Ms. Xiaoqin Fan , Director, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank
4:05pm – 4:10pm	Closing Remarks	Mr. Satvinder Singh Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), ASEAN Secretariat