

2007 APEC Customs-Business Dialogue

"Identifying future trade facilitation opportunities"



**Four Seasons Hotel
Sydney, Australia
29 June 2007**

Chair

Australian Customs Deputy CEO, Mr Neil Mann

Keynote Address

Australian Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator the Hon. David Johnston

Session 1

Tracking and facilitating cross-border shipments

Session 2

Identifying impediments to trade

Who should attend?

All sectors of the international trading community are invited to attend the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue. Importers and exporters are the drivers of international trade and the ultimate beneficiaries of increased trade facilitation. Freight and logistics providers, along with government, have a significant impact on the flow of international trade. It is important to get all of these players to share their views and experiences in order to develop new facilitation initiatives in an environment of ever increasing volumes of trade.

How to register

Online registration is fast, simple and free.
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- Opening**
- 9:00 Opening address from the Chair of the APEC Customs-Business Dialogue
Australian Customs Deputy CEO, Mr Neil Mann
- 9:15 Industry address from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) [TBC]
- 9:30 Morning tea

Session 1 **Tracking and facilitating cross-border shipments**

- Plenary 10:00 Expert panel will discuss the potential for closer cooperation between customs administrations and the business community to provide increased trade facilitation.
- Closer alignment of customs information collection and clearance processes with end-to-end business models of the international trading community (importers, exporters and service providers) will allow individual shipments to be tracked and facilitated across borders.
- Presentations will showcase pilot projects and highlight potential benefits to customs and the international trading community.
- Panellists will discuss a proposed APEC initiative to:
- assess the feasibility of implementing mechanisms for tracking cross - border shipments and to identify potential benefits to customs and business; and
 - provide guidance to member economies and industry for implementing selected tracking mechanisms.
- Breakout 11:30 Government and industry delegates will discuss potential trade facilitation benefits of tracking cross-border shipments and identify relevant implementation issues.
- Plenary 12:10 Breakout discussions reported to the plenary and outcomes developed.
- Lunch** 12:30 Keynote address
*Australian Minister for Justice and Customs,
Senator the Hon. David Johnston*

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Session 2 **Identifying impediments to trade**

Plenary 14:00 Expert panel will discuss the use of time-release survey (TRS) as a tool for identifying impediments to trade.

TRS is designed to measure the time taken from the arrival of goods at the port until their release to an importer or third party and the aim is to determine where in the process problems exist, the types of problems, the reasons for these problems and possible solutions.

Presentations will highlight the ability of TRS to determine the impact of customs administrations, other government agencies and industry on the time taken to release goods to an importer. Australian Customs will discuss its plans to implement TRS.

Breakout 15:30 Government and industry delegates will discuss the potential benefits of TRS and identify relevant implementation issues, particularly for the survey to be conducted in Australia.

Plenary 16:10 Breakout discussions reported to the plenary and outcomes developed.

16:30 Afternoon tea

Closing 17:00 Closing remarks and summary of outcomes from the Chair
Australian Customs Deputy CEO, Mr Neil Mann

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