WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation Meeting

26 January 2021

Philippe Isler,
Director, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
OUR VISION

A world where cross-border trade is simple, fast and cost-effective, creating new business opportunities, enabling greater economic and social development and reducing poverty.

OUR MISSION

To enhance trade facilitation by bringing together the public and private sectors as equal partners to identify and deliver commercially-meaningful reforms in developing and least developed countries.
**WHO?**
- **Recovery** from pandemic is dependent on effective vaccination programmes
- Vaccines and ancillaries must cross borders quickly and efficiently to help meet demand and avoid wastage
- **Public-private coordination and collaboration** is essential to meet objectives

**WHERE?**
- ASEAN region
  - Cambodia
  - Indonesia
  - Laos
  - Thailand
  - The Philippines
  - Vietnam

**WHY?**
- **Recovery** from pandemic is dependent on effective vaccination programmes
- Vaccines and ancillaries must cross borders quickly and efficiently to help meet demand and avoid wastage
- **Public-private coordination and collaboration** is essential to meet objectives

**WHAT AND HOW?**
- **Stage 1:** *In-country diagnostic* of TFA needs for vaccines and ancillaries.
- **Stage 2:** *Tabletop testing* to ensure that processes are well understood, efficient and resilient
- **Stage 3:** *Dummy shipments* to make testing of processes as realistic as possible

**Project Scope**
- **Country A**
- **Shipment**
- **Country B**

**ASEAN**
CURRENT STATUS

- Much current effort is focused on vaccine **procurement**
- Less attention on **trade facilitation** and **full range of concerned products** (e.g. syringes, needles, inputs for vaccine manufacture, therapeutic drugs etc.)
- First shipments of vaccines into countries have taken place. High profile media events with **emergency border processes**
- Number of viable vaccines is increasing and with it **regulatory complexity**
EMERGING TRADE FACILITATION ISSUES

- Risk of regulatory **snap back** should issues emerge as a result of current fast-track processes
- Increased trade facilitation urgency due to risk of **shortage** of **vaccine** and **supplies**
- Assess the extent of the challenge in relation to “**last mile**” **delivery**
- Assess the impact of rapid increase in volumes of importations in relation to **existing infrastructure**
- Need inputs into country preparedness from **regional manufacturers**
- Need to prepare for **product recalls** if quality issues arise
- Impact on trade facilitation if **counterfeiting** is identified
- Managing **hazardous waste** and resulting reverse supply chain
Conduct high level consultations with governments to assess needs and respond to any request for support

Active engagement with private sector companies (logistics providers and manufacturers) to assess current challenges and upcoming concerns

Conduct diagnostic on processes for ‘conventional’ vaccines and supplies

Establish what are / will be processes for Covid-19 vaccines and supplies

Assist in bridging gaps. Focus on being agile and responsive where need arises.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.tradefacilitation.org

info@tradefacilitation.org

@GATFnews #TradeFacilitation