

### Common features of MEAs

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There are over 250 MEAs with similar features, i.e.,

- There are **over 250 MEAs** with similar features, i.e.,:

  Agreements between multiple states, and regional economic integration organizations (i.e., the EU)

  Pursue objectives aimed at protecting the environment and conserving natural resources

  Set out obligations that are binding on the Member States

- MEAs secretariats usually administered by UNEP
  Main decision-making bodies usually are a conference of the parties, and other subsidiary bodies may be established
  Provide for reporting, implementation and compliance mechanisms
- \* Several MEAs include provisions to control trade of environmentally sensitive commodities



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### **Customs and** Implementation of MEAs

"Most illicit activities affecting the environment take place beyond national borders. By ensuring that the relevant laws are enforced at borders, customs and border control officers play a pivotal role in the enforcement chain, helping to protect citizens and the environment from the increasingly devast effects of these activities.'

Green Customs Guide to MEAs (UNE

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### **Green Customs Guide to MEAs**

- > The GCI Guide to MEAs was designed to promote sustainable trade and encourage customs and border control officers to take on a proactive role in protecting the environment.
- The guide provides customs and border control officers, as well as anyone interested, with useful information and guidance about relevant trade-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), thus facilitating legitimate trade in environmentally sensitive items while preventing illicit trade in such items and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development







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- > MEAs with trade related provisions,
- > Details of how they regulate trade,
- Roles and responsibilities of customs and other border authorities.
- > Specialized terminology associated with MEAs,
- > Developments like the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the plastic wastes amendments to the Basel Convention.
- > The guide also considers the gender perspective of the daily work of cv and border control officers.

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### Implementation of MEAs



- MEAs call for establishment of legal frameworks and for the implementation (including compliance and enforcement) of those legal frameworks
- As a player in the enforcement chain, ensuring that legislation is implemented, customs contribute to States' compliance with different MEAs
- Customs are involved in several practicalities of implementing MEAs and related national legislation, e.g., in:
   Identification and checking of suspicious items
   Seizure and disposal

  - Health and safety matters
- Health and sarety matters
   Legal issues
   Cooperation with other authorities
   Reporting of cases of illegal traffic in environmentally sensitive commodities
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### Challenges in implementing MEAs



- > Inadequate knowledge of MEAs and related national laws
- Lack of coordination between customs and relevant regulatory authorities, including MEAs' implementing authorities and focal points
- Limited technical know-how in identifying environmentally sensitive commodities and matching them to respective harmonized codes, and incorrect use of harmonized codes
- > Challenges in maintaining risk profiling/intelligence systems
- > Insufficient data collection and compilation capabilities
- > High turn-over rates of customs operations staff





### What can Customs do?



To enhance the effectiveness of their role, customs can:

- Develop national training curriculums on green customs
- > Establish digital data collection and information sharing platforms
- > Maintain a directory of relevant MEAs and corresponding national implementing authorities and collaborate with them
- > Enroll in available courses on MEAs
- Create partnerships with relevant entities e.g., MEA secretariats, UNEP, UNODC, WCO etc.



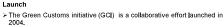


### UN@ What are some environmentally sensitive commodities % HFC refrigerants

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### Launch and Objectives of GCI







> Enhance the capacity of customs and border control officers to enforce and foster compliance to trade- related conventions, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and corresponding national logications. legislation.

### Focus

Commodities like Ozone- depleting substances, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living- modified organisms.



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### UN® Green Customs Initiative (GCI)Partners A partnership of international entities that enhances capacity of customs to prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities. **UNODC**

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### 2024 GCI capacity building events

- Regional Workshop on the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes for African countries, Johannesburg, South Transboundary Move Africa, 14–18 October
- Regional workshop for GRULAC countries on legislative frameworks, trafficking and illicit trade of chemical products and hazardous waste, UNEP and BRS Conventions secretariat, with support from EU and CRCB/SCRC Panama, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 29-31 October 2024 awareness raising activities
- Side event at UNEA-6 on \*Greening Customs for People, Planet and Prosperity :The Case of Waste Management\*, co-organized by GCI secretariat and BRS secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya, 29 February
- IAP-UNEP online webinars "An Introduction to Environmental Crime" (20 March) and "An Operational Perspective on Prosecuting Environmental Crime" (24 April)

  19th ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement meeting, Chonburi, Thailand
- July
- Joint Network Meeting of South Asia and West Asia National Ozone Officers back-to-buth a Customs Border Dialogue in Chennai, India, co-hosted by UNEP (OzonAction) and Government of India, 24-27 September
- level Debriefing and Interim Evaluation Meeting of Operation DEMETER, 19-21 November in Xiamen (World Customs Organization)

### 2025 GCI Activities

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- GCI Annual Partners Meeting, 19-20 February 2025, in The Hague, Netherlands
- b. Finalization of the publication on gender, green custo
- c. Finalization of the information note on free trade zone
- d. Translation of Green Customs Guide to MEAs into UN languages
- e. Development of a publication on the role of private sector in imple in collaboration with the International Trade Centre
- f. Capacity building workshops upon request and subject to availability of funds
- g. Technical legal support, e.g., to Guinea on implementation of Cartagena Protocol
- h. Showcase GCPs work to customs officers for example at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) First Senior Officials Meetings (SOM1) and Related Meetings, February 24 March 9, 2025, in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea

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- > The Green Customs Initiative and the Green Customs Guide to MEAs, play a role in enhancing capacities of customs and border control officers to effectively monitor legal trade while preventing illegal activities involving environmentally sensitive goods.
- > By fostering collaboration among international organizations, secretariats to MEAs and law enforcement agencies, GCI aims to enhance global efforts towards legitimate trade in environmentally sensitive items while preventing illicit trade in such items and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development
- > Overall, this initiative underscores the commitment to fostering a greener future through informed and collaborative customs practices.

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### Additional resources



- www.greencustoms.org
- http://clikc.wcoomd.org
   https://www.informea.org/en



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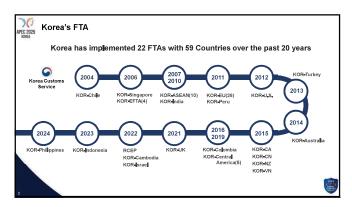


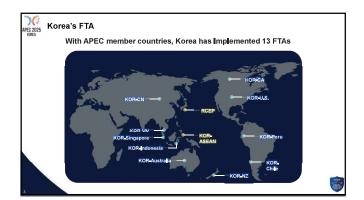
### Thank you

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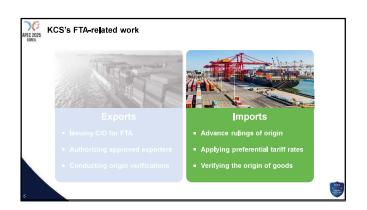






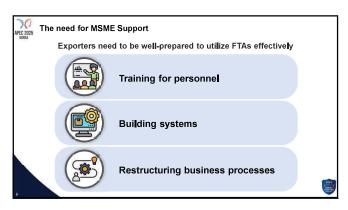


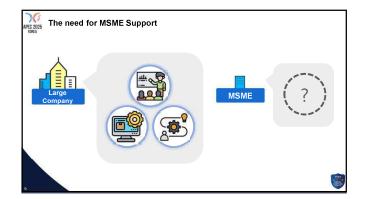




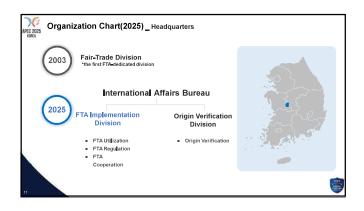


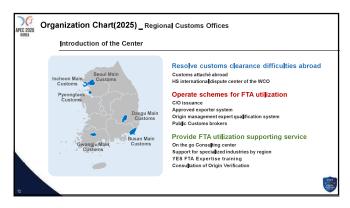


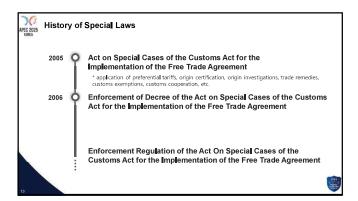




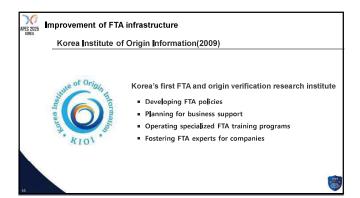








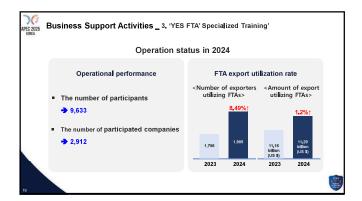








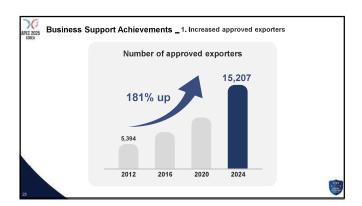


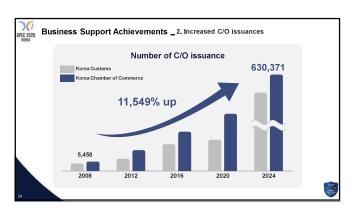


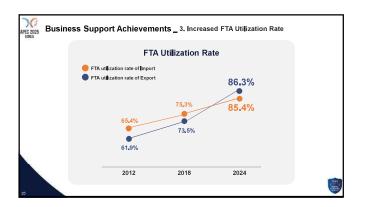




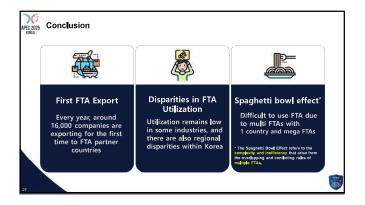


















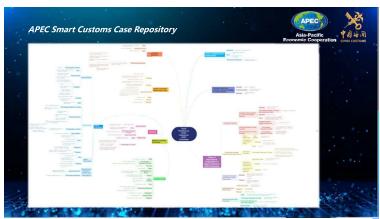


















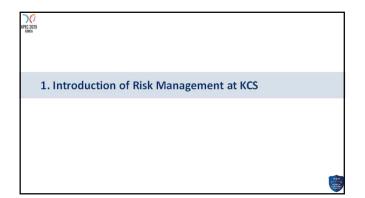




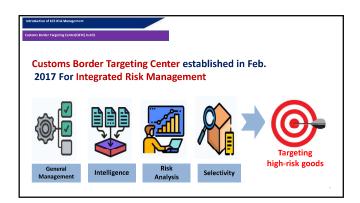


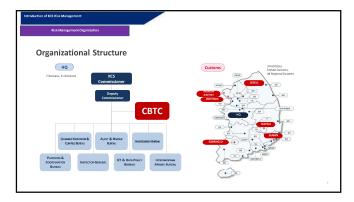


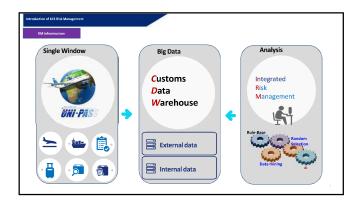






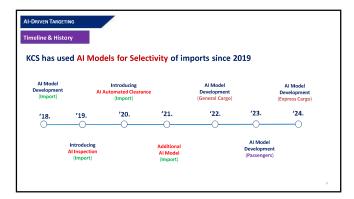


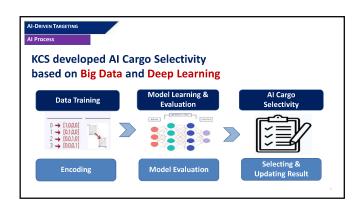


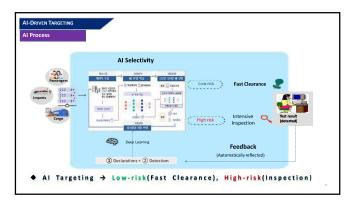


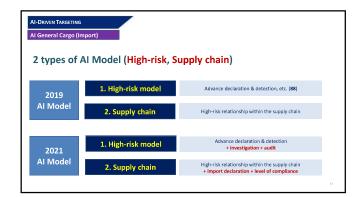


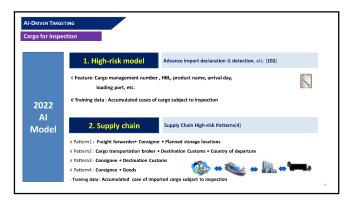


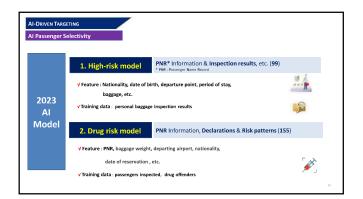


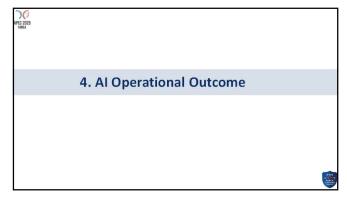


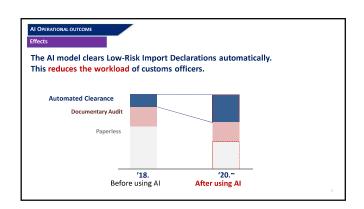


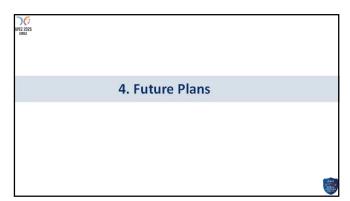




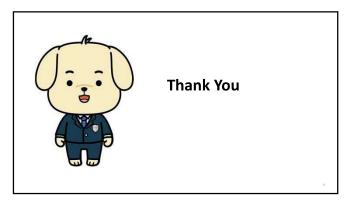




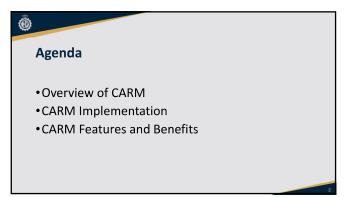


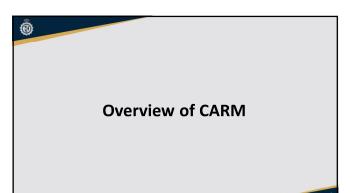










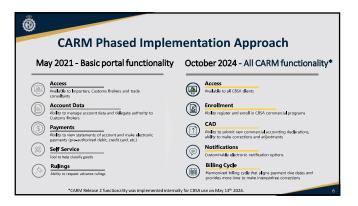


### CBSA Assessment and Revenue Management

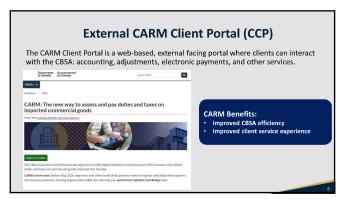
- CBSA Assessment and Revenue Management project (CARM) is a major transformation project to modernize the CBSA's commercial systems and business processes used to assess imported goods and manage revenue.
- CARM delivers a global leading customs experience that is client-centric, facilitates legitimate trade, improves compliance and revenue collection, and contributes to securing the borders of Canada.
- CARM targets three key outcomes:
  - Reduced administrative burden
  - Increased Government of Canada revenues
  - Improved CBSA efficiency

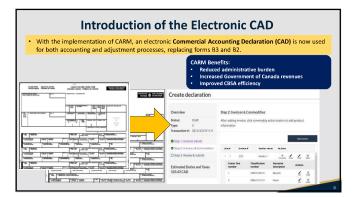
### CARM Implementation

- CBSA launched CARM to Trade Chain Partners (TCPs) on October 21, 2024.
- To ensure continued border fluidity and timely submission of accounting and payment of duties after CARM external implementation, the CBSA introduced transitional measures to manage the change with industry based on stakeholder readiness and feedback
- There will be future CARM releases to add and refine system functionality









### **Compliance Monitoring**

- CARM supports CBSA's compliance monitoring efforts by:
  - Enhancing the ability to identify and target at-risk transactions, and commercial goods being imported into Canada; and,
  - Identifying errors and discrepancies in duties and tax submissions and work with industry stakeholder to address and resolve.

### **CARM Benefits:**

Increased Government of Canada revenues
Improved trade compliance

### **Streamlined Registration and Enrolment**

- CARM allows TCPs to complete their registration and enrolment in CBSA commercial programs, including:
  - Importers
  - O Customs Brokers
  - O Customs Bonded Warehouses (CBW)
  - O Sufferance Warehouses (SW)
  - Transporters (Carrier or Freight Forwarder)○ Duty Free Shops (DFS)

  - © Exporters

### **CARM Benefits:**

- Reduced administrative burden Improved CBSA efficiency

### **Lessons Learned**

- Effective Change Management
  - Communication, engagement and training of both internal and external stakeholders was instrumental to the success of the launch.
- Structured and Defined TCP Engagement
  - The CBA implemented two literations of a business readiness activity called the CARM Experience Simulation (CES). This engagement allowed the TCP community to simulate real-world processes in our test environment and familiarize themselves with the system and associated process changes;
  - Stakeholder concerns were addressed using targeted engagements for specific stakeholder groups (e.g. small/medium businesses, non-residents, transporters, brokers, etc.)
  - A variety of engagement tools was used to reach all stakeholders (social media, webinars, newsletter, email, website, videos, etc.).
- Facilitate Transition Following Launch
- The CBSA introduced transitional measures to support the TCP community and ensure continued border fluidity through the CARM implementation.

### **Key Success Metrics**

The October 21st implementation of CARM Release 3 has been a success:

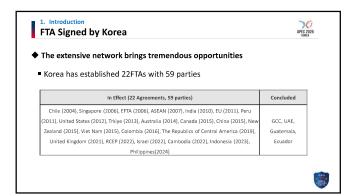
- More than 9 million commercial accounting declarations processed representing:
  • over \$10 billion in duties and taxes assessed; and,
  • over \$8 billion in revenue collected.
- More than 128,000 clients have registered in the CARM Client Portal, including over 29K new client registrations since CARM's official launch in October.
- $\bullet$  CARM system platform availability is 99.9%, exceeding the established system stability service standard.

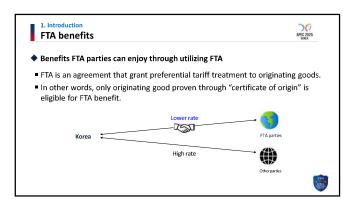
### For more information:

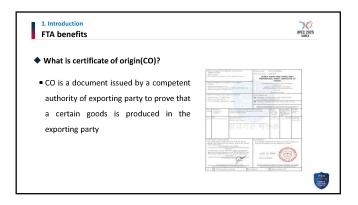
- Link to the <u>CARM Client Portal</u>
- Visit the <u>CARM User Guides</u> website for step-by-step instruction
- Join the <u>CARM LinkedIn Group</u> or visit <u>CARM Bulletins</u> for the latest news

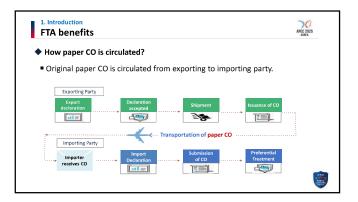


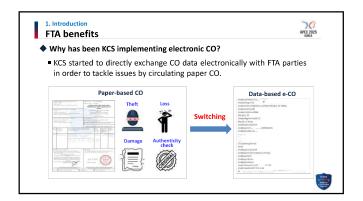


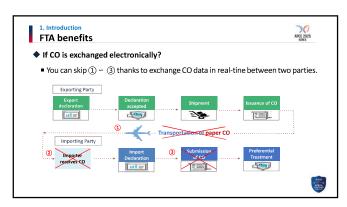


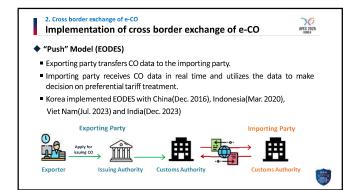


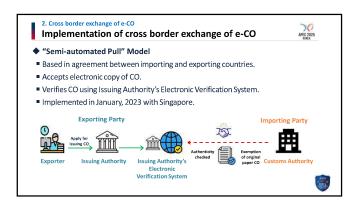




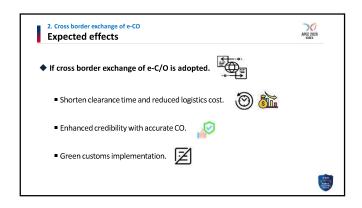


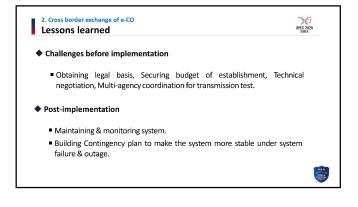




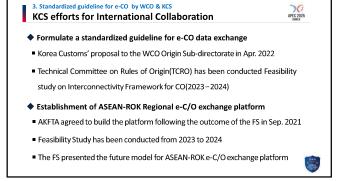


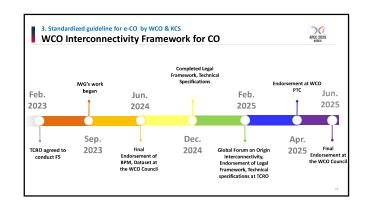






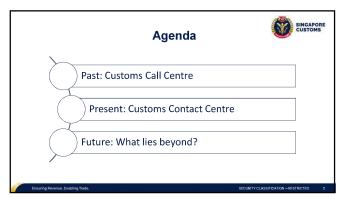


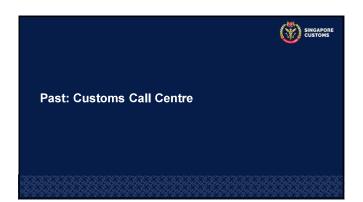




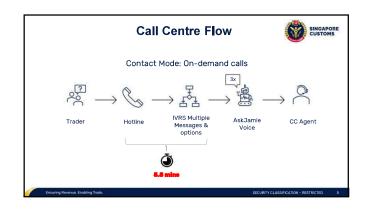






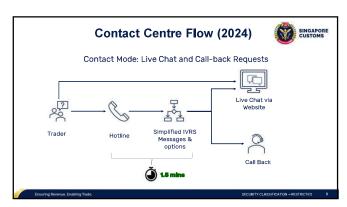










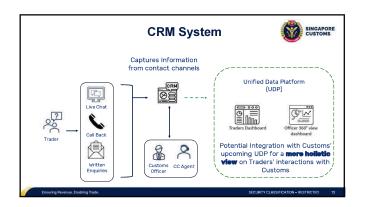


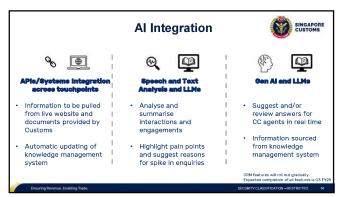


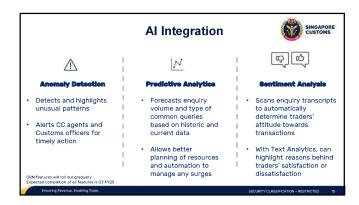




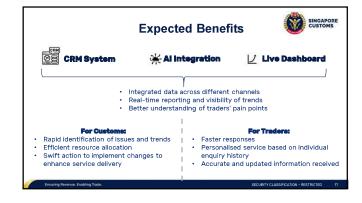




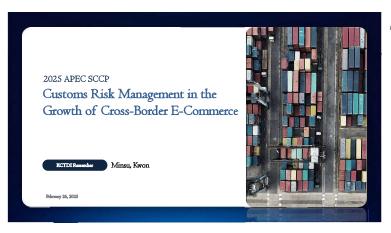






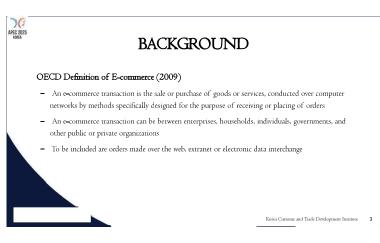


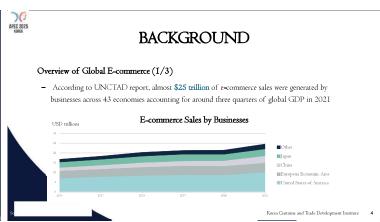




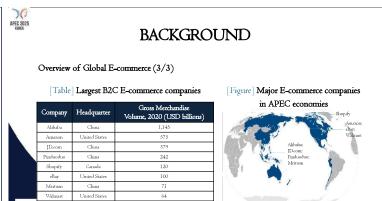


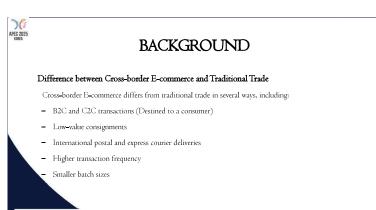


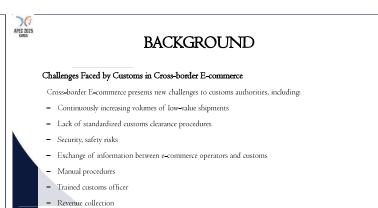


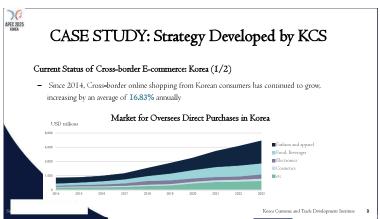


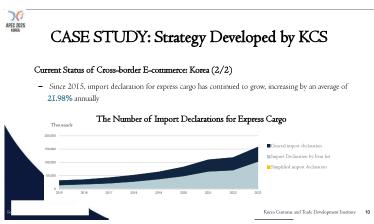




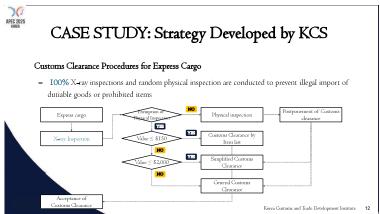














### CASE STUDY: Strategy Developed by KCS

### Express Cargo Clearance: Import Declaration by Item List

Import Declaration by Item List is a clearance designed to streamline the customs clearance process for express cargo

- Applicable to goods for personal use or commercial samples that do not exceed USD 150
- Exempt from tariff and VAT duties
- Customs clearance is processed with fewer data (28 data) compared to the general import declaration (69 data)
- 65.13% Import Declaration by Item List as a proportion of the total number of customs declarations for express cargo in 2023

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### CASE STUDY: Strategy Developed by KCS

### Facilitation of Express Cargo Clearance through Customs Clearance Center

- The rapid increase in e-commerce goods imported through couriers has highlighted the need to
  establish a customs facility for express cargo, equipped with state-of-the-art systems to supervise and
  expedite the clearance of goods imported into Korea
- In 2016, KCS developed an express clearance center at Incheon International Airport to assist
  customs with expediting the clearance of a large number of small or negligible value goods imported
  primarily by courier
- In 2023 and 2024, KCS developed two additional express clearance centers



CASE STUDY: Strategy Developed by KCS

[Figure] Customs Designated Clearance Area for Express Cargo

Incheon Airport Customs

- Opened Express Cargo Charance Center in 2023
- Outcome Clearance Center in 2024
- Opened Express Cargo Charance Center in 2024
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### CASE STUDY: Strategy Developed by KCS

### Introduction: Incheon Airport Express Cargo Clearance Center

- Project cost: USD 17.3 million (excluding building construction)
- Period: 2015.2 ~ 2016.6
- Gross Floor Area: 35,885m² (4 floors)
- Equipment: 6 automatic lines / 7 manual lines / I large line
- Workforce: Approximately 110
- Throughput: Approximately 66 million goods in 2024

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### CASE STUDY: Strategy Developed by KCS

### Key Features of Express Cargo Clearance Center

- Automated Sorting System: High-performance Cross Belt Sorter / BCR / X-ray
- Integrated Control Room: System configuration that enables integrated control of express delivery companies and customs facilities
- Simultaneous Implementation System: Simultaneous implementation of automation equipment, X-ray equipment and information system
- Pre-arrival Data Exchange: Information sharing between customs, express couriers, and cargo managers to enable risk assessment and onsite inspection







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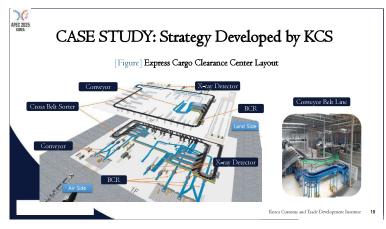


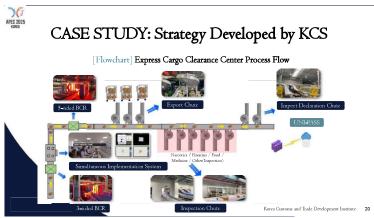
### CASE STUDY: Strategy Developed by KCS

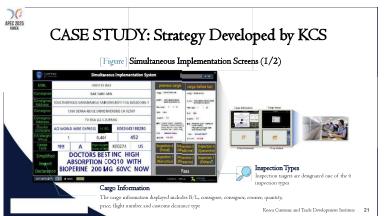
### Express Cargo Clearance Center Benefits

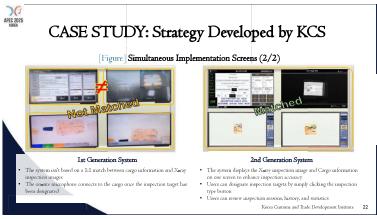
- Improvement in Clearance Speed: 2-3 minutes to clear Import Declaration by Item List (Processes 150,000-200,000 items per day)
- Smooth Logistics Flows: Enhance efficiency by automating item movement
- Reduction in Delivery Fees: The delivery fee was reduced through the direct delivery to local distribution centers without intermediates hubs
- Centralization of Infrastructure: Customs officers and inspection equipment from individual courier facilities have been centralized at the Express Cargo Clearance Center

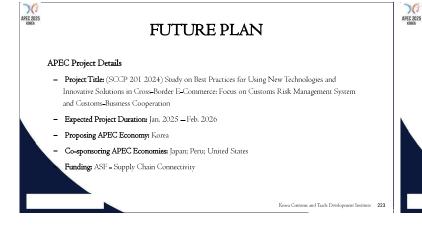
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### **FUTURE PLAN** Project Objectives - Explore ways to enhance APEC customs administrations' capacity to manage the unprecedented growth in cross-border e-commerce volumes

- Disseminate skills/solutions among APEC economies
- Identify best practices for customs authorities

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### **FUTURE PLAN**

### Main Events

- Survey: carry out a survey to collect APEC economies' current practices and ongoing and/or future initiatives on cross-border low-value e-commerce

Current Status Customs Procedures Logistical Obstacle Possible Solutions

Workshop: An in-person workshop will be held in Incheon, Korea, in July 2025, featuring presentations and in-depth discussions to provide insights into enhancing the customs capabilities of APEC economies



### **FUTURE PLAN**

- Enhancing trade facilitation capacity of APEC Economies
- Improved supply chain predictability and connectivity
- Strengthened supply chain security through technological innovation
- Creating an inclusive trade environment
- Capacity building and sharing of best practices



### **FUTURE PLAN**

### Workshop Program (Draft)

SESSION		TOPIC
I	Project Overview and State of E-Commerce in APEC	I.I Presentation of the project background & key contents 1.2 Presentation on Research Report of the Project
2	Smart Customs Administration for E-Commerce Facilitation	2.1 Presentation on Facilitating Express Cargo Customs Clorance Through Advanced Logatics Systems 2.2 Presentation on Enhancing Efficiency in Customs Clorance for the increasing volume of Cross-Bonder E-Commerce 2.3 Presentation on Supporting Rayal Gleanne and Predictability of the E-Commerce Supply Chain for Customes Through Customs Clarance Platform
3	New Customs Technologies and Digitalization for Supply Chain Security	3.1 Presentation on Application of Advanced Technologies in Customs Impection Procedures 3.2 Presentation on Introduction of an Intelligent Training System for X-ray Image Interpretation to Support Security Sciencing 3.3 Presentation on Innovation and Adoption of New Technologies by Customs to Enhance Supply Claim Performance
4	Enhancing Cooperation in New Customs Technologies to Move Forward	4.1 Presentation on Strategy for Addressing Cross-Border E-Commerce Issues Through Cooperation Between Customs and Dougsesse 4.2 Presentation on Exploring Opportunities and Challenges of Partnership with Customs Authority in Cross-Border E-Commerce 4.3 Presentation on Chipoling and Future Initiatives for Advanced Technologies in Cross-Border E-Commerce



### APEC Non-Binding Guidelines for

### Customs & E-Commerce

Recognizing the swift and significant shifts in global trade, particularly the exponential rise in cross-border e-commerce transactions, we, the member economies of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP), discussed "Facilitating the Clearance of E-Commerce Shipments" on February 26, 2025, at the First APEC SCCP Meeting in 2025 in Gyeongiu.

Guided by the principles and objectives outlined in APEC frameworks, including driver (3) 'Trade and Investment' of the AOTEAROA Plan of Action, focus area (11) 'Facilitation of E-commerce...' of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER), key action area (A) and (B) of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth and Phase Three of the Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan 2022-2026 (SCFAP III), and building on SCCP workshops hosted by Thailand in 2022 and the United States in 2024 on cross-border e-commerce shipments, we affirm our commitment to balancing the facilitation of legitimate e-commerce trade with robust security measures for high-risk e-commerce shipments while advancing customs digitalization to support efficient e-commerce management.

Member economies of the APEC SCCP will endeavor to implement the following non-binding guidelines:

## 1. Facilitation of Cross-Border E-Commerce

We will strive to enhance customs clearance systems and simplify customs procedures to facilitate the cross-border movement of e-commerce goods, including by establishing dedicated import modes for low-value shipments. Efforts will be made to reduce bottlenecks, eliminate unnecessary customs processes, simplify customs payment and refund procedures, and coordinate across border agencies to create greater trade opportunities for new and existing e-commerce sellers, especially MSMEs, to support economic growth.

## 2. Advancing Customs Digitalization for E-commerce Processing:

We will foster the integration of innovative technologies into customs systems, ensuring adaptability to the dynamic e-commerce trade environment. Additionally, we will strive to customize operations specifically to e-commerce modes of transport through the adoption of effective tools, facilities, and computerized systems. In this regard, we will support paperless trading for e-commerce, including for our import procedures, and complete our risk analysis before a shipment arrives.

# 3. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Facilitate E-commerce Shipments:

We will cooperate in providing technical assistance and capacity building to develop human

resources, customs expertise, and technology, contributing to the improvement of the efficiency of e-commerce customs processes. We will ensure each APEC member is able to publish on the internet, and keep up to date, all of the customs procedures, facilitations, returns policies, and special requirements that apply to e-commerce or low-value shipments.

## 4. Information and Data related to E-commerce Shipments:

We will facilitate the use of information and data on e-commerce shipments in a responsible manner and in accordance with our respective laws and regulations, to combat illegitimate packages while promoting legitimate trade. We will seek to collect "the right data, from the right person, at the right time" with the goal of obtaining accurate and timely data. We will keep customs data on e-commerce shipments confidential and protected. shipments confidential and protected.

## 5. Collaboration with Cross-Border E-commerce Stakeholders:

We will publish e-commerce-related laws, regulations, and guidelines online for stakeholders, and ensure it is clear, unambiguous, and up-to-date. We will also ensure that there are processes in place to publish for review and comment proposals on new e-commerce related laws, regulations, and guidelines, as well as changes to existing ones, prior to implementation. We will provide training for users and sufficient lead time for them to adjust to new technical requirements. We will foster cooperation with international organizations, border agencies, and the private sector to enhance the efficiency of the processing of legitimate e-commerce shipments across our borders and improve the overall e-commerce business environment, especially for the benefit of MSME's.



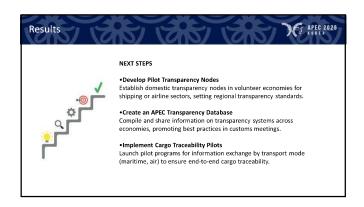




















- Scope of the project: desk-research, survey and workshop
- Deliverables: Survey and Workshop outcome report and Project summary report



- Participants: The survey was distributed to the Customs authorities of APEC member economies
- Half of the economies responded the Survey.



- Objetive: To present survey findings and insights from international experts on the benefits, challenges, and initiatives related to E-BL implementation, as well as to gather participants' perspectives on barriers and recommendations.
- Representatives from both the private and public sectors of APEC economies were invited to attend the workshop.



### Conclusions

- The adoption of E-BL remains limited due to several challenges, including legal uncertainties, technological barriers and stakeholder trust issues.
- Most economies generally permit or, at least, do not prohibit the use of E-BL, having either general legislation governing electronic documents or specific regulations for E-BL or electronic transferable records.
- Some economies have specific requirements for implementing E-BL, (use of accredited technology, authorized methods for endorsement and signature, etc.). The level of these requirements can either facilitate or hinder E-BL adoption.



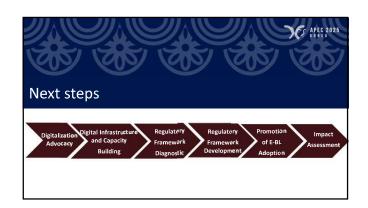
- Despite the availability of E-BL, many stakeholders continue to rely on paper-based or digitized BL, indicating a slow transition toward full digitalization. Private trade and logistics operators mainly use digitized BL through private channels, while public authorities prefer those processed via public channels.
- The successful adoption of E-BL depends on removing barriers and fostering trust among stakeholders. A collaborative approach involving all actors throughout the E-BL lifecycle is essential for its effective implementation.



complexity or increasing costs.

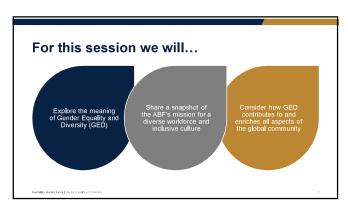
Invest in improving digital infrastructure (interoperability) and cybersecurity to support the widespread adoption of E-BL. Ensuring access to reliable digital systems is crucial, particularly in regions with significant technological barriers.















### The ABF's path to a diverse workforce and inclusive culture

- The ABF are committed to strengthening leadership and culture within the Department and support diversity and inclusion.
- 44.04% of the ABF workforce identify as women, including:
- 46% of Executive Level 49% of Senior Executives (Band 1 & 2) 66% of Senior Executives (Band 3)
- As Australia's Customs administration we have an opportunity to should Australia at its best a vibrant, multicultural country that values gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness.



### Gender Mainstreaming in the ABF

STAFF ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY (SAGE) NETWORK

- Established in 2017
- Approx 300 members

- Helps support and promote gender equality in the workplace



### **Pacific Women's Professional Development** Program (PWPDP)

- The ABF in partnership with the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) and RMIT University has developed the PWPDP, the program was first established in 2022.
- The PWPDP provides an opportunity for women to strengthen their confidence, capacity and connections to advance their roles as leaders, decision-makers and change agents.
- The focus is on strategic leadership, this cohort of graduates is ready to mobilise positive changes to ensure the safety and security of international trade.
- PWPDP Module 1 'A New Mindset On Leadership' commenced on 27 January 2025.





### GED in the WCO Asia/Pacific Region



as grantes, regardes or non-context, see Highlight that to oblive, gender equality and diversity, see the Members require angoing electric to challenge stempages, relief and discrimination, and promote equal access to advantage, employment, and leadership profilenc within the Warnham quature.

WE RECOGNESS:

That gender equality and charality in essential for a fair and just society, when all beliefstable have equal approximation and rights regardless of twic person.

The importance for Consense administrations to reflect the society which they sense, and its sphool strong values of good government is transpassor, representation and inclusion of a states before and at senses deportment

### The way forward

- Create safe spaces and 'diversity champions.'
- Actively participate in GED initiatives, including the GED Network, meetings and communications.
- Ensure Members have balanced representation at engagements wherever possible.
   Create opportunities for discussion and idea
- Ingrain GED as a fundamental practice in all customs initiatives, to evolves it beyond just a work plan.



