

Readiness Assessment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade: PHILIPPINES

**Overview of the Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation in
The Philippines, and Measures in Times of Crisis and Epidemics**

Virtual Launching Ceremony
Co-organized by the UNESCAP and BOC, 02 June 2022



Acceleration in the use of Paperless Trade

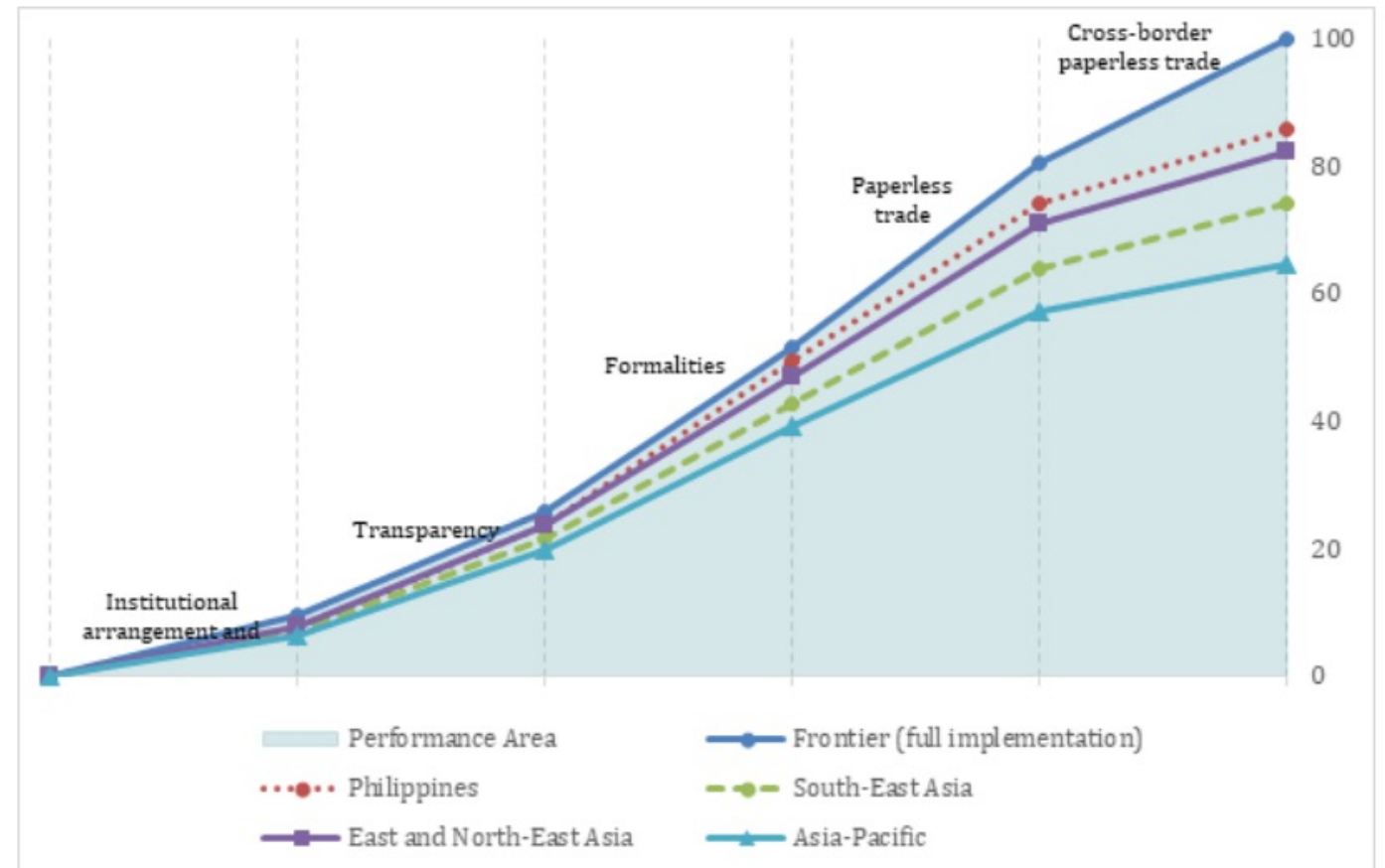
Efficient and transparent trade procedures are essential for making trade more inclusive

COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance to simplify and digitalize trade

Philippines as a Party to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific

Figure. Cumulative implementation score of core groups of trade facilitation measures, 2021

- The Philippines as implemented trade facilitation measures exceeding Asia Pacific regional and SEA Subregional Averages
- On the average, implementation trends on the right direction but remains uneven among agencies and stakeholders



Note: Maximum possible implementation score is 100.

Source: United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, untfsurvey.org, 2021

Report Overview

- The Philippines shows a strong political commitment to implement policies related to cross-border paperless trade
- Inter-agency governance structures are institutionalized, including the Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee
- Implementation of the PNSW with 4 of approx. 76 trade regulatory government agencies (TRGAs) regulating about 7,000 tariff lines linked. Additional agencies are being linked at the time of writing this report
- The Philippines officially went live on the ASEAN Single Window on 30 December 2019, averaging 8712 transactions per month in the period of Jan to Aug 2020

Key Issues

- Uneven implementation among Trade Regulatory Government Agencies
- Cyber Security and Network Redundancy are key items which need more focus
- Issues on the legal recognition of electronic signature and lack of legal framework on electronic notarization must be addressed

Agile Governance

- Within weeks from the declaration of a National Emergency due to Covid 19, the BOC and other trade-related agencies mobilized to use electronic data and documentation and digital payment platforms to facilitate trade
- Joint Government Issuances for Uniformity of Policy and Execution By Trade Regulatory Government Agencies
- Improved ICT support spurred by the pandemic