

GOS Private Public Dialogue (PPD) on Essential Services: The Challenges of Logistics in Ensuring Supply Chain Connectivity

Tuesday 23rd August 2022, Chiang Mai, Thailand (10:00 to 12:30)

Melia Hotel, Khom Room, Chiang Mai

10:15 - 10:30 Registration and Arrival (limited virtual participation) (15 minutes)

10:30 - 10:40 Welcome Remarks (10 minutes)

Ms. Christine Schaeffer, DFAT, Australia

The Public Private Dialogue (PPD) will highlight the role and various functions that essential services play in enabling APEC's pandemic response to move vaccines, medical equipment, and pharmaceuticals across borders through ensuring efficient and resilient supply chain connectivity.

The PPD will also discuss the question of how APEC can best carry forward future work on logistics-related services as key component of essential services, building upon the common definition of logistics-related services endorsed by the GOS and the CTI, and adopted by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in their May 2022 meeting (Annex A to the MRT Chair Statement).

10:40 - 12:00 **Session 1: Examining the challenges faced by firms who operate in various sectors of logistics-related services (80 minutes)**

In the 2022 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement of Chair (Annex A) APEC economies endorsed a common definition of Logistics-related Services, describing these as ".....a series of essential economic activities that enable the operation of efficient, sustainable, secure and resilient supply chains and allow for the predictable transport, storage, and delivery of goods and services for businesses". Included in this definition are ten logistics-related service activities, including:

- Customs brokerage services;
- Cargo handling;
- Storage and warehousing;
- Freight forwarding;

- Courier services;
- Distribution services; and
- Air-, maritime-, rail- and road transport services.

This session is focused on obtaining the perspective of executives from four of these sectors, including express delivery, shipping, air transport and port operations, following a general outlook on the current challenges to logistics operations.

Moderator: Dr. Sherry Stephenson, Consultant, APEC Essential Services Project; Member of PECC Services Network

Setting the stage:

Carlos Grau Tanner, Director General, Global Express Association, Geneva

⇒ View of the **Logistics Industry on APEC work in this area**

Chris Rogers, Principle Supply Chain Economist, Flexport, United States

⇒ General outlook on **Current Challenges to Logistics Operations**

Industry Perspectives:

Shiumei Lin, Vice President, Public Affairs and Sustainability, United Parcel Service (UPS) Asia Pacific Region, Singapore

⇒ For the **Express Delivery perspective**

Oscar Hasbun, Chief Executive Officer, Compania Sudamericana de Vapores, Santiago de Chile

⇒ For the **Shipping perspective**

Pete Chareonwongsak, Chief Executive Officer, Teleport, Capital A Berhad, Malaysia

⇒ For the **Air Transport perspective**

James Sun, Deputy General Manager, Shanghai International Port (Group) Ltd, Container Terminal Branch, China

⇒ For the **Container Port Operations perspective**

The views of the panelists will be sought on the following questions:

1. *How important are logistics-related services for the movement of essential goods in the APEC region, especially those needed to combat the Covid pandemic and to ensure an ongoing economic recovery?*
2. *Serious bottlenecks have occurred in the logistics activities that have hampered supply chain connectivity in the APEC region and have resulted in significant*

market disruptions. What has contributed to these bottlenecks from your point of view, and how costly have they proven to your operations?

3. *What are the main things that you would need in place to ensure smoother operation of your sector? For example: lower barriers to transport services? Greater access for temporary workers in air and sea crews? Improved access to storage and warehousing?*
4. *From the perspective of your sector, what are the main regulatory reforms you would ask from governments in order to allow logistics to better play its key role in supply chain connectivity? For example, a harmonized or common approach to key regulations in the APEC region? If so, which ones?*

[Discussion with panel and participants](#)

12:00 - 12:20 Session 2: Proposing a “Logistics Tracker” to assist APEC economies to have a better understanding of the link between policy and performance for the Logistics-related services in Annex A of the 2022 MRT Statement of Chair (20 minutes)

Presenter: Dr. Mia Mikic, Consultant, APEC Essential Services Project; Member of PECC Services Network

As part of the next steps for the APEC project work on Essential Services, particularly logistics-related services, the 2022 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in their 2022 Statement of Chair (Annex A), stated that the definition of logistics-related services is for the purpose of “.....facilitating further discussion and to assist APEC economies to have a better understanding of the impact of these services sectors on the movement of essential goods”.

To fulfill this mandate, this session will discuss the adoption of a “Logistics Tracker” that will provide a means to track the policies adopted by APEC economies for the ten logistics-related services and the performance of the same, providing an important means of evaluating how well APEC is doing in this area critical to supply chain connectivity.

[Q & A with participants](#)

12:20 - 12:30 Wrap-up and Next Steps (10 minutes)

Ms. Christine Schaeffer, DFAT, Australia

The closing session will draw out some main conclusions from the PPD and highlight the next steps in the Essential Services Project aimed at helping to achieve better-informed logistics policy and more efficient logistics functioning in APEC.