



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,  
TRADE, COMMERCE AND  
NI-VANUATU BUSINESS

# Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project

Monthly Newsletter

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## IN THIS EDITION:

- Biosecurity SPS module trainings to commence in March 2020
- VeSW system testing at Biosecurity offices completed
- Final touches to the SPS module
- VeSW Project continues to receive visits from international organizations

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH

1. SPS Module Training commences

2. Biosecurity SPS Module to go live on 24th March

## Biosecurity SPS module trainings to commence in March 2020



*Training facility at the VeSW Project office, Port Vila*

The stage is set for training to be conducted for the new Biosecurity SPS Module in Port Vila (2nd-16th March). A training room has been set up to accommodate up to 20 participants at one time. The computers and network equipment were kindly lent to the Project by the Vanuatu Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Over 65 participants (traders and Biosecurity Officers) are expected to undergo the two weeks training in Port Vila.

## VeSW system testing at Biosecurity offices completed



*System testing at Biosecurity Post Office*

The testing of the Vanuatu electronic Single Window System (VeSW) has been completed on all Biosecurity computers and internet devices in Vila offices.

The offices include the Tagabe Agriculture office, Post office, Airport and Port Vila's main wharf.

This exercise was conducted in preparation for the roll out of the new SPS module in March, 2020.

The use of the VeSW SPS module would be the first ever fully automated system used by Vanuatu Biosecurity to facilitate the processing of all SPS applications, payments and issuance.

# Final touches to the SPS Module



*The Development room - where it's all happening*

The VeSW Project is fortunate to have the services of ASYCUDA Expert, Mr. Karim Ben Romdhane to develop the SPS Module for Vanuatu.

The SPS module is the first of its kind amongst ASYCUDA countries Worldwide.

Actual technical work began on developing the module in September 2019. Since then the Project team have been working tirelessly to test and develop the documentation for the module.

Work has resumed in February 2020 to apply the final touches to the module in preparation for the upcoming trainings and launching on 24th March.

Mr. Ben Romdhane is not new to Vanuatu. He has been assisting us during the ASYCUDA World Project, as well as developing the first ever Passenger Module in the ASYCUDA system. We are grateful of Mr. Ben Romdhane's support and assistance again in the VeSW Project.

## VeSW Project continues to receive visits from regional and international organizations



*Manager VeSW with World Bank consultant*

Being the first of its kind in the Pacific region and a pillar for trade facilitation, the VeSW Project, has been receiving continuous visit from international and regional organizations. They are particularly keen to learn from our experience of automating cargo clearance to passenger processing, and now issuing of permits and certificates by Government agencies.

On the 7th of February 2020, the Project received World Bank consultants who labelled their visit to the VeSW as "one of

the highlight of their trip in Vanuatu". They further added that "it is encouraging to know that progress is being made on digitalizing public services across agencies" in Vanuatu.

Furthermore, on 19th February, the Project received a representative from the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) who are to finance a Phase II of the VeSW Project. Work is currently underway with UNCTAD to submit a proposal to GATF to seek funding for the 2nd phase of the VeSW Project.

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The overall objective of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window project is to expand Vanuatu's GDP through increased exports. The project outcome is to increase Vanuatu's competitiveness through the reduction of cost and time of trading across its borders.

The Project is kindly funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Australian Government. The Vanuatu Government is also providing in-kind contribution towards the project, in terms of providing personnel and ICT support.

The main implementing partner in the Project is United Nations for Trade and Development, UNCTAD.



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