



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 Launched!!
- Biosecurity SPS Module Trainings

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

1. SPS Module Training of Kava Exporters
2. Biosecurity SPS module Trainings on Santo
3. Biosecurity SPS Module to go live on Santo in April

Biosecurity SPS Module Launched!!

24th March 2020 was a historic day for Biosecurity Vanuatu which saw the launching of its first ever automated system, the Single Window SPS Module.

This Module will greatly assist the trading community in Vanuatu to facilitate the submission of their SPS applications to Biosecurity.

In return it will assist Biosecurity to facilitate the processing of SPS applications. The Module will also serve as a centralized database for Biosecurity to monitor all applications and payments lodged at all Biosecurity offices in Vanuatu.

Last but not least, the Module will assist Biosecurity border control offices to cross check permits and certificates at the border to ensure that goods comply with Vanuatu's SPS requirements.

Speaking at the event, the Chairperson of the Single Window and

Communication Working Group informed the audience that the Module is the first of its kind in the Pacific and probably the first amongst all ASYCUDA countries World-wide.

The Chairperson of the Trade Facilitation Steering Committee gave a brief background of how the Single Window Project was identified as one of the key priority needs for Vanuatu during the 2013 WTO TFA needs assessment.

Program Director for DFAT's Governance for Growth, who is one of the two donors of the Project, was very pleased that this day has arrived following the launching of the Project back in 2018.

Speaking on behalf of the Private Sector, the President

of the Vanuatu Customs Brokers Association mentioned how the Module will greatly reduced time and cost of submitting SPS applications to Biosecurity.

In her closing remarks, Director Biosecurity gave her gratitude to those involved in developing the module. She particularly sought the support of her Officers to make full use of the Module to meet Biosecurity requirements.

The launching was highlighted by the first-ever submission and processing of SPS applications live in the system and presented to the traders.

The representative from the Vanuatu Christian Council who observed the entire event, thanked all the Government Officials involved on behalf of "the people of Vanuatu" for all their hard work in this achieving this milestone.



Director Biosecurity, Chairperson SW Working Group, Chairman TFSC and Director of DFAT GFG cutting the celebration cake during the launching



Biosecurity Vanuatu is now one of the 3 Departments using the Vanuatu Single Window System, besides Customs and Immigration.

“The SPS Module is the first of its kind amongst the Pacific Islands and probably the first amongst ASYCUDA countries Worldwide”

SPS Module Launching in pictures



Biosecurity Officials processing the first SPS applications during the live launching



Director of Biosecurity presenting the first export certificate and import permit processed in the SPS Module to the traders



SPS Module Training

Prior to the launching of the Module, over 25 Biosecurity Officers and over 40 external users underwent training on the new SPS Module.

Participants from the private sector included licensed Customs Brokers, Meat Exporters and Kava Exporters.

More training for Kava exporters are being planned for

Vila in the coming weeks.

As part of the reform exercise involved during the introduction of any Single Window modules, the SPS training does not only cover how to use the Module, but also the newly developed guidelines required to understand the process of SPS applications.

The Project takes pride in

such training approach which contributes to the success of the system in supporting 300 of its current users who are using multiple modules in the system.

Similar training and launching of the SPS Module is also scheduled for Santo in April.

The Training in Vila took a period of over 2 weeks.

Vanuatu's Country Profile is available on the Pacific ASYCUDA Website:

<https://pacific.asycuda.org/?portfolio=vanuatu>

DID YOU KNOW

Biosecurity SPS Module Training in pictures



Some of the external users of the VeSW system who attended the SPS Module training at the VeSW premises



Some of the Biosecurity Officers who attended the SPS Module training at the VeSW premises

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business

Private Mail Bag 9056

Port Vila, Vanuatu

Phone: (+678) 33093

VOIP: 2361

Email: swnpt@Vanuatu.gov.vu

Website: <https://singlewindow.gov.vu>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/swpvauatu>

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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 personnel and ICT support.

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



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