



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

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Monthly newsletter

ISSUE 16

31ST JULY 2021

IN THIS EDITION:

- PCO Module trainings completed
- PCO Module validation and trainings in pictures
- Connection to INTERPOL network established
- VeSW attends TFSC Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AUGUST

1. PCO Module Santo Training
2. PCO Module launching
3. Development of Environment ODS module system
4. Development of ASYCUDA-CDS interface
5. Finalization of the ASYREC Humanitarian module Project

PCO Module trainings completed



Customs (and Industry) officials during the internal training of the PCO module

Following the deployment of the Preferential Country of Origin (PCO) Module in June, the VeSW and Customs team have been working during the entire month of July to validate the prototype.

The validation exercise has been successfully completed by the team and the UNCTAD experts remotely. Furthermore, as part of the VeSW sustainability exercise, all the required users documentations on how to use this new module have also been completed by the team and uploaded online to be accessible by the users of the module.

The module will be used by Exporters (or their agents) to apply online in the VeSW system for Vanuatu Certificates of Origin under the different Free Trade Agreements that Vanuatu participates in. This is the first of its kind in the region and in many countries worldwide.

It is anticipated that this level of facilitation will boost Vanuatu exports as it will make the process of applying for Certificates of Origin streamlined, faster and more efficient so that Vanuatu exports can get some preferential treatment at the country of importation.

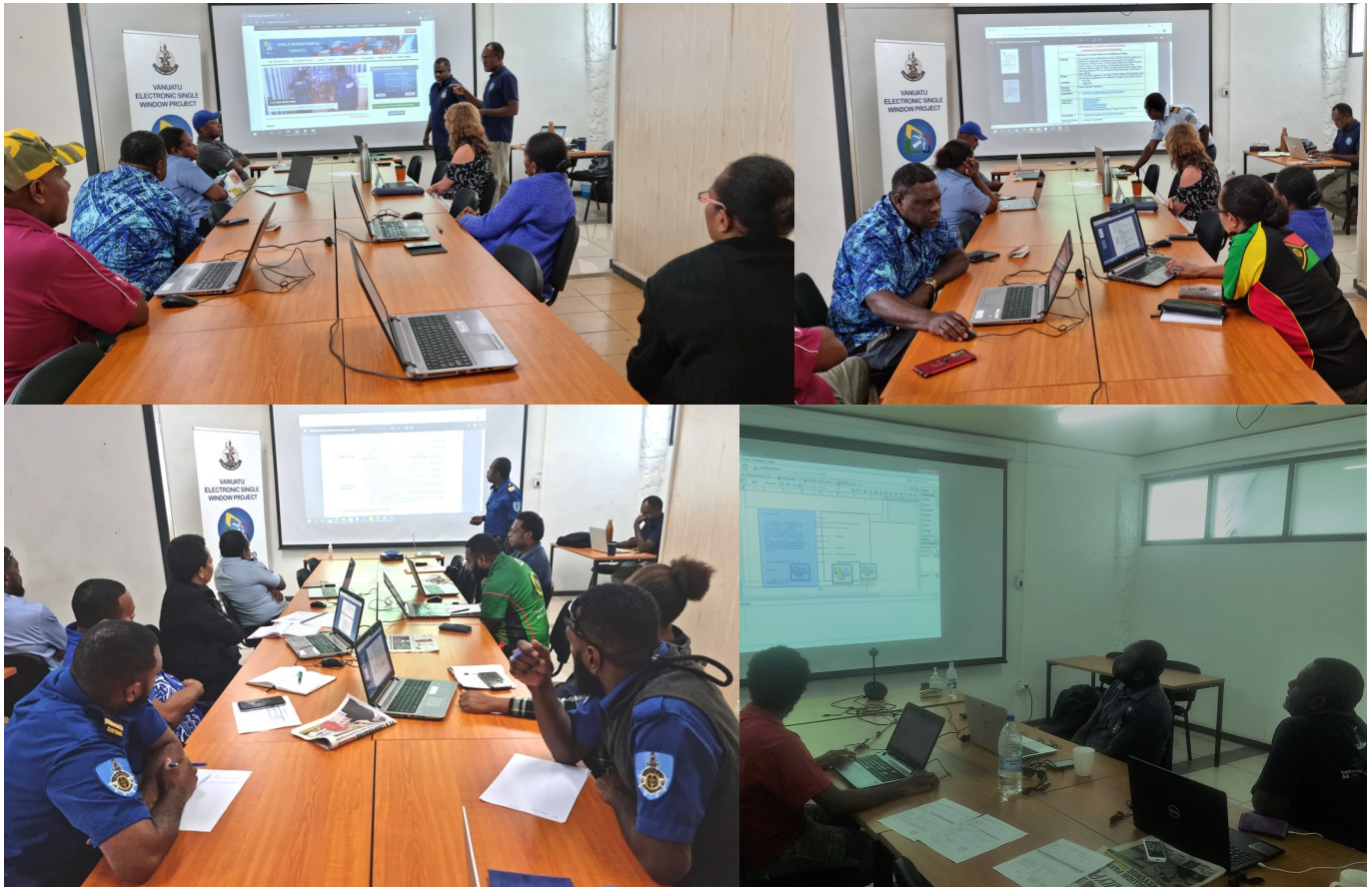
Following the validation of the module and the development of the user guides, the VeSW and Customs team conducted trainings for both the external and internal users of this new module in Vila. The internal users of the module are Customs themselves who are the agency responsible to authorise Vanuatu Certificates of Origin. Officials from Industry also attended the training due to Industry's involvement in processing applications for Certificates of Origin.

The team will now go to Santo in August, Vanuatu's largest port of export, to conduct the same trainings to both Customs and the private sector.

The module is expected to go live in Vanuatu in 19th August 2021 after the conclusion of the Santo trainings. The PCO module is the 3rd of the 5 VeSW module to be developed under the VeSW Project which is expected to be completed by December 2021. The next two modules to be developed are the modules for Environment and Industry.

Similar to the Energy module, the PCO module was successfully developed remotely since the UNCTAD experts were not able to travel to the country.

PCO Module validation and trainings in pics



Some of the external and internal users in the trainings

VeSW and Customs during the validation exercise in July

Connection to INTERPOL network established

Efforts of connecting the ASYCUDA [Passenger module](#) to the Interpol database is still ongoing under the VeSW Project.

The latest development in July saw the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) assisting the VeSW team to successfully establish the connection from the Government network to the secured Interpol network.

This connection will allow the Passenger module to connect to the Interpol database to do automatic search of persons of interest or stolen documents (passports) during the processing of passengers and visitors at Vanuatu's point of entries.

The next task now is for the ASYCUDA experts to work with Interpol to configure the interface between the two systems.



Yachts in Port Vila. Yachts are also processed in the Passenger module. Pic: Pacific Travel Guide.

VeSW attends TFSC meeting

As part of the Governance structure of the VeSW Project, Manager VeSW attended the Trade Facilitation Steering Committee (TFSC) meeting 01/2021 on 28th July.

During the meeting, the Manager presented the paper from the Single Window and Communication Working Group, as an update on the work of the VeSW Project and the Trade Portal. The paper also outlined the issues faced and it further tabled recommendations to be adopted by the Committee.

Established as a recommendation under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the TFSC has provided the perfect platform to discuss challenges and make recommendations to progress the work on the Vanuatu Single Window and the Vanuatu Trade Portal. Other trade matters and issues are also discussed at the TFSC, including free trade agreements and the implementation of the TFA to facilitate trade in Vanuatu.

The recent TFSC meeting was chaired by the Director of External Trade himself, and the secretarial role was provided by his Department.

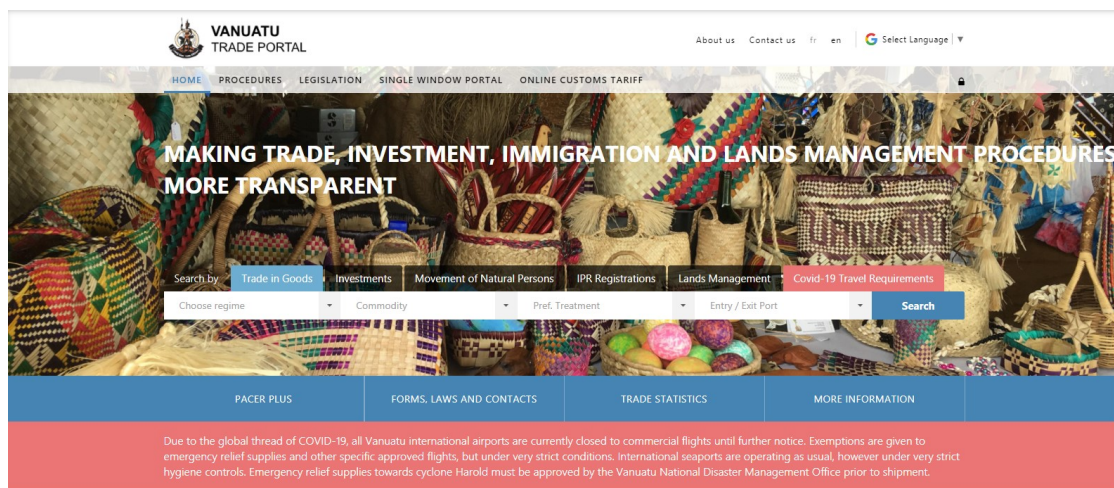
The meeting was attended by Officials from Customs, Biosecurity, Trade, the Vanuatu Terminal Services and the Private sector.

The TFSC reports directly to the National Trade Development Committee which is chaired by the Minister responsible for Trade.



Some of the Officials at the recent Trade Facilitation Steering Committee meeting

Visit the Vanuatu Trade Portal, the most advanced Trade Portal in the region:



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>

For past editions of this Newsletter, please click on the [Newsletter link](#) on the Single Window website.

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.



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

