



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

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Monthly newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY

1. Validation of PCO Module prototype
2. Development of Environment ODS module system
3. Development of ASYCUDA-CDS interface
4. Finalization of the ASYREC Humanitarian module Project

Cargo Release control improved



For the first time-ever, the release of consolidated airfreight cargo and perishables are now monitored in the VeSW system.



Customs Brokers and VeSW users can now request the release of such consignments and FCL containers online in VeSW

Adopted from Fiji Customs in 2017 for the release of Containers, the Director of Customs has requested the assistance of the ASYCUDA Mechanism Support for the Pacific (ASMP) office in its 2020 annual review to further enhance the module to control and facilitate the release of consolidated airfreight cargo (from express Couriers).

The VeSW team worked with the ASMP office in June to customise the module accordingly. Upon the request of Customs, access has also been granted to Customs Brokers and Importers for the request of perishables after normal working hours.

Since this is the same module used to release Containers, that a subject to the completion of Customs and

Biosecurity formalities, access has also been granted to Brokers to request for the release of their own FCL containers.

This development has not only facilitated the release of consignments online, but ensure it is done in a well controlled environment, where there are records of all actions in the system to ensure transparency and accountability.

The VeSW and Customs would like to thank the continuous support of its stakeholders, in this case, Air Vanuatu, Vanuatu Terminal Services (VTS), Express Couriers, Customs Brokers and Ifira Ports Development Services (IPDS), for making this initiative a reality.



Update of VeSW Project activities

PCO Module prototype deployed!

Screenshot of the Preferential Certificate of Origin e-document

Since works began in April, the VeSW and Customs team has been working with the UNCTAD experts to develop the PCO module as the next VeSW module.

The module prototype has now been completed and successfully deployed to the VeSW Development server.

The VeSW and Customs Officials will now test the module in July and work with the UNCTAD experts to further customise and improve the module in preparation for the trainings and implementation.

The module will be another first in the ASYCUDA system, which can be adopted by other countries who wish to facilitate the issuance of Certificates of Origin online.

ASYCUDA-Post Interface Project



Virtual inception mission with UPU and UNCTAD experts

Following the signing of this Project in May 2021, the VeSW and Customs team have been working with the UPU and UNCTAD team in preparing for the development of this electronic interface between the two systems in Vanuatu.

The works began with the virtual inception mission conducted in late June by UPU and UNCTAD officials, and the Vanuatu Post, Customs and VeSW teams.

Both teams are looking forward to establishing this interface in Vanuatu to enhance e-commerce in Vanuatu, by facilitating the advance processing of postal parcels, in a controlled environment.

This project is not a VeSW Project per say, however it will be implemented under the umbrella of the VeSW Project seeing Vanuatu is fortunate to already has this team and environment in place to facilitate such modernization initiatives.

VANUATU KEEPS UP WITH THE WORLD OF E-COMMERCE AND DIGITAL TRADE: OCO

“no Pacific country has advanced as much as Vanuatu has”

In the Pacific, there have been work towards e-commerce, but no country has advanced as much as Vanuatu, which has implemented its Electronic Single Window system- basically a one-stop shop for border control agencies and traders.

Simply, the single window system aims to address a number of issues- digitalise all border clearances procedures, improve risk management for border agencies, enhance data collection and overall improve trading.

“The overall objective of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window project is to expand Vanuatu’s GDP through increased exports,” says Manager Electronic Single Window Project, Stanley Trief. “The project outcome is to increase Vanuatu’s competitiveness through the reduction of cost and time of trading across its borders.”

In fact, Vanuatu is proud of many firsts- world’s first Passenger Module created in the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) in the world, first direct online payment between a bank and Customs in the Pacific, first ever Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) module for Biosecurity in ASYCUDA. Vanuatu is the first Pacific Island nation to automate Biosecurity border control processing in ASYCUDA.

By the time the Vanuatu Government restricted movements due to COVID-19 in March last year, businesses were already submitting and paying for import and export certificates, licenses and permits online.

“While we have digitalised the processes, we also ensure that all our exported and imported products have met all SPS requirements, including specific import requirements of the importing country as well as Vanuatu’s standards. We need to ensure that we continue to protect Vanuatu’s export markets abroad which is very vital to Vanuatu’s economy when you consider commodities such as kava, copra, cocoa or beef,” Mr Trief said.

From March to December 2020, the single window system had 4,535 SPS applications lodged and processed online, collected 35,545,120vt in fees, reduced paper usage by 85 percent. Physical trips by biosecurity officers for SPS submissions, follow-ups, and payments have also been reduced more than half.

In April this year, the Department of Energy came online, instantly reaping benefits for the organisation.

“With the department online, it means the administration work of the department in regulating the importation of appliances has been reduced, and it also ensures a more effective border control since the module will now link the Customs clearance process to the appliances import certificates,” Mr Trief added.

On 27th May, 2021 Vanuatu launched the Customs-Post Interface Project. Vanuatu was selected out of 22 LDC countries worldwide to pilot this initiative to link the ASYCUDA system to the Postal system, CDS.

In the next 12 months, Mr Trief’s team will work on the module to include Vanuatu posts. When implemented, it would mean faster clearances of parcel posts as physical inspections by Customs officers will be reduced.

“We would receive details of the parcel before it arrives in Vanuatu, which means we do not have to inspect every parcel. The current practice is to feel the parcel and guess or trust our instincts on the contents of the parcel,” Mr Trief says.

“We would also be able to police counterfeits and confiscate them as well. We will be able to manage risks better but what is also important is that we would be able to capture data or better statistics on parcel posts.

“Parcel posts have increased during this pandemic as people are doing online shopping more and they are also important for micro and small enterprises.”

The above was extracted from the [OCO PR26/21 news release](#)

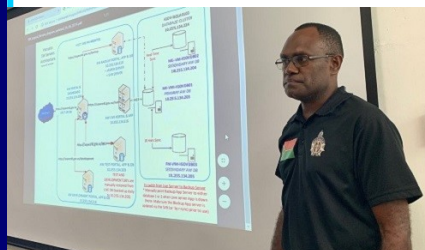




Update of VeSW Project activities

Vanuatu Trade Portal updates

New Era for Exporters in Vanuatu



Thanks to the PACER Plus Readiness Package, businesses in Vanuatu are benefiting from an online portal that helps them unlock trade opportunities with the rest of the world. The portal has helped alleviate the pressures of extensive red tape that have traditionally dogged efforts of entrepreneurs in Vanuatu to export goods.

Stanley Trief (pictured), Manager Vanuatu Electronic Single Window System Project said the introduction of the Regional Trade Information Portal (TIP) had created significant change. Vanuatu's trade portal builds on a range of the country's other innovative trade related digitisation and automation initiatives which will make trade easier and faster.

The TIP is linked with national trade portals in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, providing national import and export procedures step-by-step guidance in the one place to help importers, exporters, entrepreneurs and foreign investors to engage in trade and investment activities.

Important and up to date information on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), technical barriers to trade, regulations regarding licensing and quantitative restrictions such as quotas and prohibitions are all just one click away. The portal is continually updated by PACER+ to ensure it gives accurate and timely advice.

The Vanuatu Trade Portal is accessible at: <https://tradeportal.gov.vu>

The above article was extracted from: <https://www.austrade.gov.au>

Trade Portal Project wrapped up

After working with the UNCTAD Trade Facilitation team since 2019, the Trade Portal Project was eventually wrapped up in June. During the wrap-up session, the following was deliberated on:

- Overview of the Trade Portal and the Project
- Brief discussion of key obligation of the Portal National team (housed under the VeSW Project)
- Way forward
- Role of UNCTAD going forward

There are some unfinished matters which the Vanuatu team will continue to work with UNCTAD to complete despite the wrap-up of the Project.



Wrap-up session

Country	Users	% Users
1. Vanuatu	445	35.74%
2. United States	115	9.24%
3. Australia	114	9.16%
4. China	70	5.62%
5. India	55	4.42%
6. New Zealand	45	3.61%
7. France	32	2.57%
8. Fiji	29	2.33%
9. Switzerland	25	2.01%
10. United Kingdom	15	1.20%

Global visitors to the Vanuatu Trade Portal between Jan-June 2021

Other happenings in June



Frozen Vanuatu crops being unpacked in New Zealand

Despite launching the SPS module back in March 2019, the VeSW Project was committed to provide ongoing support to Biosecurity to further enhance the module, assist with any technical issues and provide further development to the module to meet changing SPS requirements. This is part of the mandate of the Project to provide ongoing support to the users of the system to ensure sustainability. This was also possible with the ongoing assistance of UNCTAD experts who are providing online support remotely.

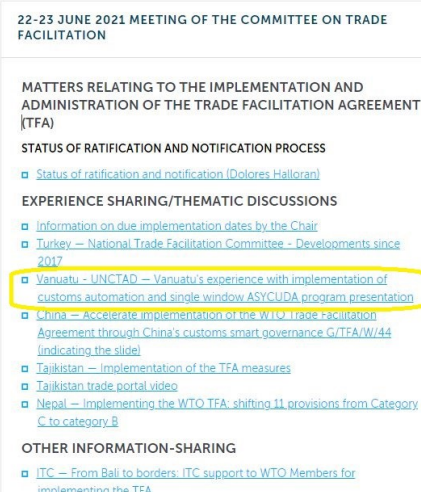
The latest enhancement to the module in June was to cater for the SPS requirement to export Vanuatu's frozen crops and vegetables to New Zealand and Australia. This development required the module to be customized to meet the requirements of the importing countries to ensure SPS controls are met in Vanuatu prior to exportation.

The Project team appreciates the continuous working relationship with the agencies currently using the VeSW system to ensure that the system continues to meet its objective to facilitate trade in Vanuatu.

VeSW sharing our experience at the WTO

Vanuatu's modernization efforts was recognized at the WTO when the VeSW Manager was invited in June to share our single window experience at the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee, along with other selected countries.

Click on the screenshot on the right from the WTO website, to view Vanuatu's presentation at this prestigious meeting:



E-commerce acceleration Project - Tonga Cross-Border Paperless Training

Vanuatu invited to present its Single Window experience at this training session

The Cross-Border Paperless Trade Training programme Module 6 presenters were Mr. Sven Callebaut of TradeWorthy (Lead E-commerce Adviser, TradeWorthy) and Mr. Stanley Trief, Manager for Electronic Single Window Project, Vanuatu. This is the 6th module of the training session, which had been actively running since May 5th 2021.

The training session was held on the 9 June, 2021 in the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development conference room. Participants from both the public and private sector were present, some also joined in virtually via zoom. The audience consisted of government officials, shipping agencies, custom brokers, importers and exporters. Also, in attendance was the representative from MTED and local coordinator from TradeWorthy.

Stanley Trief (Manager for Electronic Single Window project) presented and shared experiences on the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project. He took us through the background in explaining how the system works. He also explained how efficient the system is in clearance processes interlinking especially different agencies to the 'single window'. We also learned about the ASYCUDA Passenger Module (ASYPX) which connects a variety of Ministries, eg: VNSO who are able to retrieve and compile their data, Department of Tourism Vanuatu can see where they can target their market.

The above was extracted from: <https://www.facebook.com/ecommercetonga>



Some of the training participants in Tonga

A snapshot of the VeSW on a global scale



Modules implemented in Vanuatu since the launching of
ASYCUDA World in 2017 to date

The Vanuatu Electronic Single
Window System is powered by
ASYCUDAWorld

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project

Below are some of Vanuatu's modernization efforts
amongst the 90+ ASYCUDA World countries worldwide,
including in the Pacific:

Single Window & Other Products

Customs administrations implementing

ASY/SW

- Angola
- Comoros
- Georgia
- Grenada
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Rwanda
- Timor-Leste
- Turkmenistan
- Uganda
- Vanuatu
- Zimbabwe

ASY/PM

- Angola
- Barbados
- D. R. Congo
- Eswatini
- Gabon
- Jamaica
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Rwanda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

ASY/HUB

- Cambodia
- Sri Lanka

ASY/POD

- Georgia
- Gibraltar

CITES

- Mozambique
- Sri Lanka

ASY/PX

- Vanuatu

ASYCUDA COMMUNITY



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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

