



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

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Monthly newsletter

ISSUE 13

30TH APRIL 2021

IN THIS EDITION:

- Energy Efficient Appliance module launched!
- Preparations for the Energy Module
- Preferential Country of Origin (PCO) module SRS training
- Other happenings in April

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

1. Energy Efficient Appliance Module training in Santo
2. Linking the Energy Appliance Certificates to Customs clearance
3. Development of PCO Module prototype

Energy Efficient Appliance Module launched!

After 3 months of working on the module, the final product was successfully launched on 27th of April!

Speaking at the event, the Director of Energy, Mr. Anthony Garae stated the importance of regulating the importation of appliances to ensure we only import appliances that meet the approved standards in Vanuatu. He added that meeting the standards therefore meant that the appliances would be energy efficient (less power consumptions), and are of good quality. All for the sake of protecting our consumers and our environment.

Mr. Garae welcomed the introduction of the module which would

greatly reduced the administrative burden of his department in regulating the importation of appliances, while at the same time ensure a more effective border control since the module will now link the Customs clearance process to the appliances import certificates. Again, this module is the first of its kind in the region.

In response, the Director of Customs, Mr. Harold Tarosa, (in his capacity as the chairperson of the Vanuatu Trade Facilitation Steering Committee), stated that this module would contribute to further

facilitate the imports of appliance in Vanuatu, but now under a much robust control.

The event was also fortunate to have Mr. Clinton Pobke, Director of the Australian Governance for Growth (GfG) Program, the co-donor of the VeSW Project, who gave a good account of the Project background and congratulated everyone for yet another achievement in the VeSW Project.

The launching was highlighted by live demonstration of the submission and processing of the first-ever appliance applications in the system. Energy has now been using the module since the launching.



Director GfG, Director Energy, Director Customs and Inland Revenue, and Customs Broker from Vate Electrics joining hands to launch the Energy Efficient Appliance Module in Port Vila

Energy Efficient Appliance Module Launching in pictures



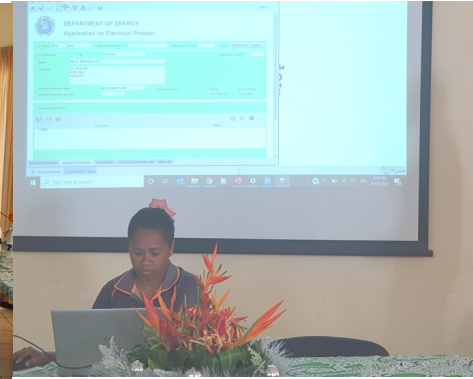
Department of Energy is now one of the 3 Government Departments to be fully utilizing the VeSW System, besides Customs and Biosecurity

“With the automation of the Energy Security Unit, the Ministry of Climate Change will be the only Government Ministry to have three of its departments using the VeSW system in 2021”

The Department of Environment and the National Disaster Management Office will be the next 2 MOCC departments to use the system



Director Energy, Mr. Anthony Garae giving his remarks



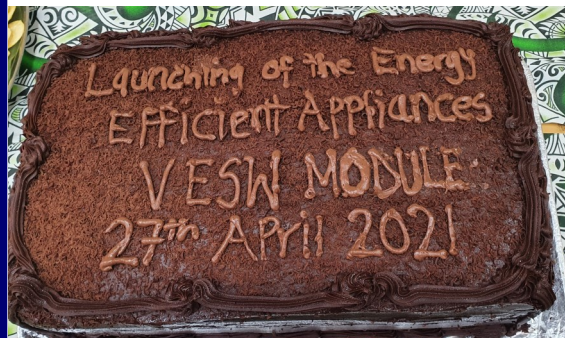
Live demo of online submission by Wilco Hardware



Live demo of application processing by Energy Officers



Director GfG, Mr. Clinton Pobke



Must have Cake!

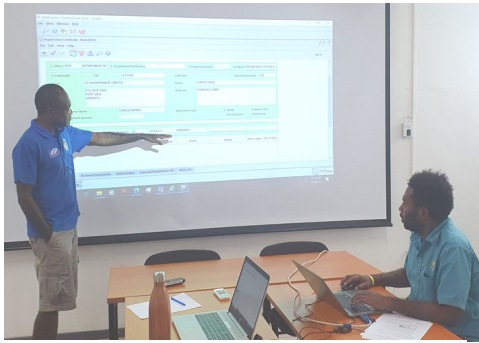


Director Garae presenting the first electronic Energy Efficient Appliance Import Certificate to the Applicant

The upcoming ASYCUDA-Postal Interface Project for Vanuatu was highlighted in this EIF Aid-for-Trade article:

<https://trade4devnews.enhancedif.org/en/event-coverage/6-takeaways-wtos-aid-trade-stocktaking-least-developed-countries>

Preparations for the Energy Module



Validation of the module with the ESU team

tion from the Energy Security Unit (ESU), the unit responsible at the Department of Energy for regulating the importation of appliances.

As part of the exercise, the prototype underwent further development and configuration to ensure it actually meets the regulatory and process requirements of the ESU.

This exercise took over 3 weeks to complete before the module was deployed to the Live server prior to

the launching.

The Energy module was the first ever ASYCUDA/VeSW module that was developed and deployed in Vanuatu entirely by remote support, rather than having the experts on the ground to assist the VeSW team.

This is a true testimony of the great working relationship the VeSW team has with the system developers, the increased level of capacity in the team to support the system developments, great dedication and some very late nights :-)

“The Energy module was the first ever ASYCUDA/VeSW module that was developed and deployed in Vanuatu entirely by remote support”

Following the successful testing of the Energy Efficient Appliance module prototype by the VeSW Project team, the module required valida-

Data transfer exercise

Prior to launching of the module, the VeSW Project team and the Energy Security Unit, had to transfer past data into the VeSW system. Some of the data was dated as far back as 2018, since the enactment of the Energy Efficiency Appliance legislation in 2017.

The past data is important since it contains information of appliances that are already registered in Vanuatu. Also to ensure a smooth connection to Customs clearance,

valid import certificates (which have a validity date of 3 years) must also be transferred from the manual files into the system.

Again this task required some late nights and weekend commitment by the team, even up to the night prior to the launching.

The real-time data of registered appliances has now been linked directly from the VeSW system to the [Energy website](#) to assist importers search if appliances that

are already registered in Vanuatu. This innovation has tremendously removed the burdensome task by the ESU of manually maintaining and publishing registered appliances in Vanuatu.



The VeSW and ESU team, the night before the launching :-)

Internal and External User Trainings



As per normal practice of successfully rolling out VeSW modules, user trainings were conducted a week prior to the launching of the Energy module.

Other happenings in April



Preferential Certificate of Origin Module: Work has begun on the next module of electronically issuing Preferential Certificate of Origin from the VeSW system. This module will not only facilitate Vanuatu exports, but also ensures Vanuatu meets Trade Facilitation Measures.

The VeSW team will be working with Customs Officials to develop this module. The team has had online support from UNCTAD Experts based in the UK, Zimbabwe, Tunisia and Fiji to develop the module's System Specification Requirement. Unfortunately due to time difference, these sessions had to be conducted after Vanuatu working hours.

The team now looks forward to receiving the module prototype in May 2021 to begin with the testing.



The VeSW team was fortunate to participate at the Vanuatu IDEA's Digital transformation event. The VeSW was the only Government agency at the event, and the presentation was a great eye opener for the audience, many of whom were youths, who were never aware that such a multi-agency system exists in Vanuatu.



The Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Authority CEO and his team had discussions with Manager VeSW to consider the option of utilizing the VeSW system to facilitate applications for foreign investments. The two entities see some synergies in utilizing the VeSW system, considering the fact that personal visas, passport details, traveling information and traders' information already exists in the system. Similar efforts have been achieved in other ASYCUDA countries in the world, and consultation is now underway with UNCTAD to explore this possible option for Vanuatu.

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

Private Mail Bag 9056
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
Email: someone@example.com
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.

