IPCSA

“Port Community Systems – critical tools of Trade Facilitation”

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The Increasing importance of the Electronic Exchange of Information

The World Trade Organisation

It is an organization for opening up trade and is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements, settle trade disputes and operates a system of trade rules. Essentially, the WTO is a place where member governments try to sort out the trade problems they face with each other.

Ref: WTO Website -https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/countries_e/org6_map_e.htm
WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

• In December 2013, WTO members concluded negotiations on a Trade Facilitation Agreement
• The TFA will enter into force once two-thirds of members have completed their domestic ratification process.
• Currently ratified by 92 of it’s members (30th Aug 2016)
• The TFA contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.
• It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues.
Article 10.4 Single Window

4.1 Members shall endeavour to establish or maintain a single window

4.2 “single submission of information”

4.4 ....use information technology to support the single window.

Section III - contains provisions that establish a permanent committee on trade facilitation at the WTO, require members to have a national committee to facilitate domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the Agreement
Single Window UNECE
Recommendation 33

Recommends Governments to establish Single Window for Cross Border Trade

Defines features:

• ... one time submission
• ... of standardized information and documents
• sharing of information amongst government agencies;
• coordinated controls and inspections of the various governmental authorities;
• Allow payment of duties and other charges;
• Be a source of trade related government information.

Source: UNECE, Tom Butterly, IPCSA Conference, 1st June 2015
A MISSING ELEMENT OF THE SINGLE WINDOW CONCEPT

“OPERATIONAL PROCESSES”

Port Community Systems create the solution
PCS – A Trade Facilitation Tool

A PCS:
- Links administrative processes to operational ones
- Thus re-using data for both purposes and the re-use of existing Information Systems
- Creating Transparency & reducing trade burdens
- Can also act as a Gateway into a Single Window

PCS thus link **Administrative** and **Operational** procedures electronically via the exchange of messages on a end to end basis (machine to machine) with all stakeholders.
What is a Port Community System?

“A Port Community System is not an IT project, but a change management project.”

Javier Gallardo, Portic (IPCSA), Red VUCE meeting, 4th December, Cusco, Peru

A Port Community System is:

• a neutral and open electronic platform enabling intelligent and secure exchange of information between public and private stakeholders in order to improve the competitive position of the sea and air ports’ communities.

• optimises, manages and automates port and logistics efficient processes through a single submission of data and connecting transport and logistics chains.

A TRUSTED THIRD PARTY
The Port Community System – a typical example

PCS link **Administrative** and **Operational** procedures electronically via the exchange of messages on a end to end basis (machine to machine) with all stakeholders.
The rise of Community Systems

• Neutral Electronic Exchange platform
• Community led trade facilitation tool
• Trusted Third party (stakeholders from the community)
• Relatively low development cost and operating costs
• Low cost solution for users
• Provides an interface between trade and administrative procedures
• Reduces interfaces required by public administrations as they can use PCS as main exchange platform
• A community solution created by Information technology
• Not a Software solution......
Role of Port Community Systems

- **Gateways into Single Window(s)** (EU Directive 201/65 Ships Reporting Formalities / IMO Single Window)
  - PCS provide limited changes for operators
  - Reduce number of interfaces into government MSW or other agencies
  - Combines operations and administrative procedures
  - Trusted Third Party

- **Globalisation**
  - Ports are global players
  - PCS are linking (through the IPCSA Track and Trace Initiative) ports across the world
  - Sharing data on vessels and consignments/containers

- **Multimodal Logistics Chains**
  - PCS provide for seamless transmission of information between different parties in multimodal transport chain
Emerging Trends

• Confused Trade Facilitation measures in different countries – multiple players
  – UN including UN/CEFACT, WTO, WCO, etc...

• Multiple Single Windows
  – Customs Single Window
  – Maritime Single Window
  – Veterinary Single Window

• Trade Single Window with Port Community Systems
  – Africa
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