Planning and interaction of Single Window mechanisms in ASEAN

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OUTLINE:

- **Inception of ASEAN Single Window (ASW)**
- **Definition of ASW**
- **Implementation Approach**
- **ASW Architecture**
- **On-going Activities**
- **Challenges**
- **Conclusion**

Inception of ASW

| 2003 | Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) |

Inter-Agency Task Force

| 2004 | ASEAN Economic Ministers agreed to establish an Inter-Agency Task Force to design and implement the ASW |

2005 December	• **Signing of the ASW Agreement to Establish and Implement the ASW at the 11th ASEAN Summit (by ASEAN Economic Ministers)**
2006 December	• **Signing of the Protocol to Establish and Implement the ASW at referendum by the Senior Economic Finance Ministers**

ASW Steering Committee

(1st Meeting – 2007 March)

ASW Working Group on Technical Matters (TWG)

(1st Meeting – May 2007)

ASW Working Group on Legal and Regulatory Matters (LWG)

(1st Meeting – May 2007)

Definition of ASW

" **The ASW is the secured environment where NSWs integrate and operate. The ASW constitutes a regional facility to enable a seamless, standardized and harmonized routing and communication of trade and customs-related information and data for customs clearance and release from and to NSWs. <u>Trade and related customs data and information will stay within, and belong to respective Member States</u>.**"

Implementation Approach

Phased implementation approach:

❖ **Establish the most feasible network architecture design for ASW pilot project   (completed)**

❖ **Set up the network architecture for pilot (in progress since 2012)**

  ▪ **Scaled-down (due to constraint of funding. Completed)**

    o *7 Member States participated in the pilot*

    o *Technical testing on 2 documents (ATIGA Form D and ACDD)*

  ▪ **Full-fledged (In stages and scheduled to start last quarter 2014)**

    o *Full end-to-end pilot on the ATIGA Form D and ACDD (ASEAN Customs Declaration Document for export information exchange)*

    o *All 10 Member States to be onboard*

    o *Additional business processes and documents to be piloted (yet to be finalized)*

    o *Technical evaluation on the pilot project (before 'live' implementation)*

❖ **Post implementation evaluation (6 months after 'live' implementation) – including cost and Benefits Analysis**
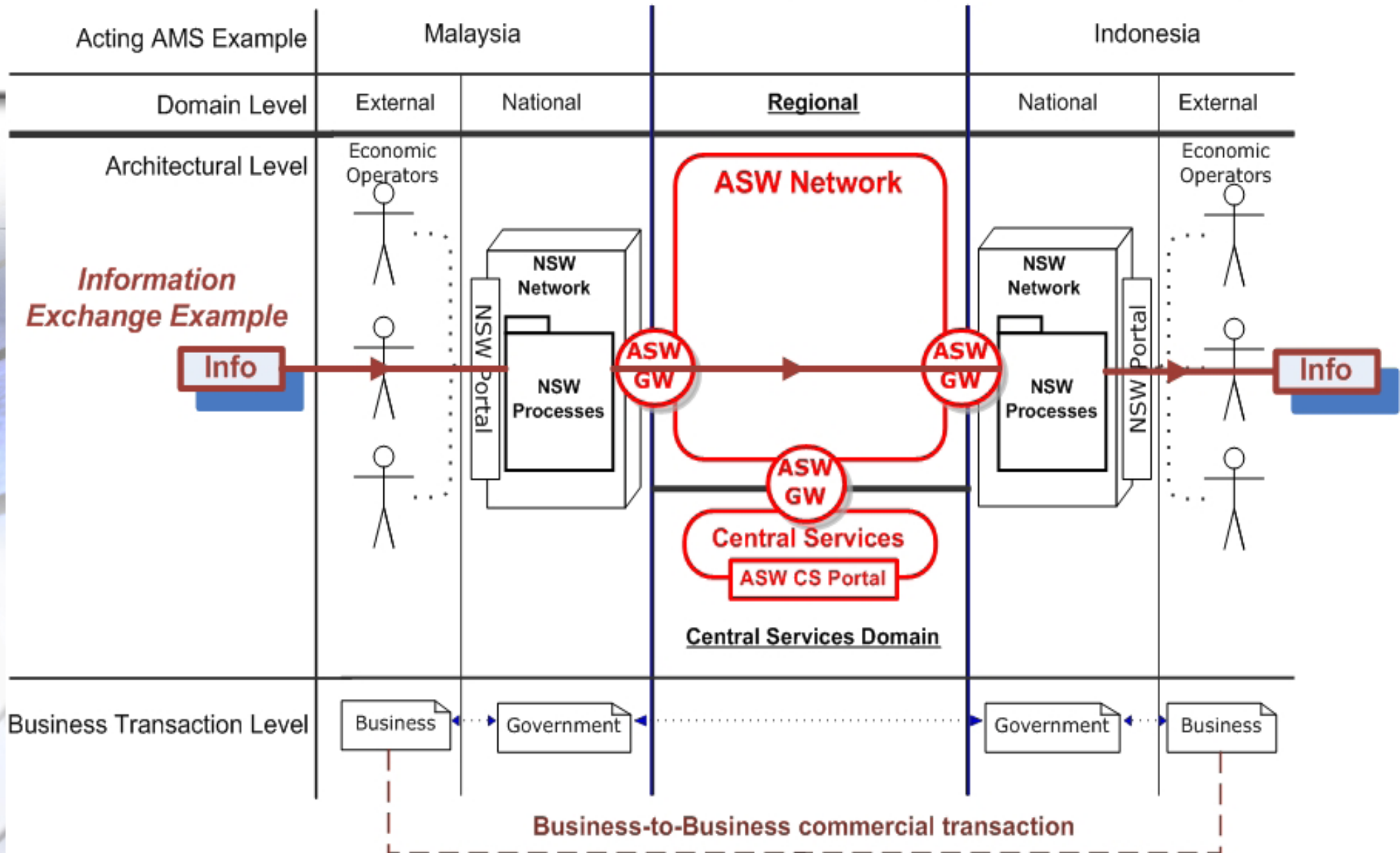
Legal Aspects

❖ **MoU on the Implementation of ASW Pilot Project (signed in 2011)**

❖ **Protocol On The Legal Framework To Implement The ASEAN SINGLE WINDOW (near finalization)**

ASW ARCHITECTURE

Criteria

❖No trade data going through or residing in a central server

❖A secure and resilient network

❖Data confidentiality must be assured

❖Minimal interference on national systems

ASW Architecture (Recommended Secure IP/VPN Network)

3 Domains:

i. **The Regional Domain comprising of a closed secured ASW Network and Central Services**

a. The ASW network will allow for the communication between the member states and the Central Services. All ASEAN member states must have the means to access the ASW Network

b. The Central Services consist of a set of applications that will be accessible by the member states via the ASEAN closed secure network (ACSN). Applications will provide a set of services that are common to all member states:
- Common Reference Data Repository
- Information Portal
- MIS services
- Statistics
- Monitoring

Access initially limited to ASEAN member states. In the future it may provide services which are also accessible by third parties or the public of ASEAN member states

ii.   The National Domain

- It represents the network infrastructure hosted by each of the ASEAN member states including existing national customs systems
- The individual member state will be responsible for the national domain network, including its security

iii. The External Domain

- The external domain network refers to the network used by economic operators and the trading community
- Currently exists in most ASEAN countries and is used by economic operators to exchange data between existing ASEAN member states customs systems

Core features

✔National Single Window is one of the prerequisites

- No fix rules in the development and implementation of NSW

✔Distributed ASW Gateway (hosted by each Member State)

- ASW Gateway application can be a proprietary application developed regionally or COTS
- Security on the ASW Gateway is solely under the purview of each Member State
- ASW Gateway does not perform translation of message from one standard to another (translation of message from national standard to regional standard and vice versa is performed by the NSW)

✔Regional message standard

✔Regional Services

ASW ARCHITECTURE (cont.)

Role of ASW and NSW

- **The ASW is the environment where National Single Windows (NSWs) of Member States integrate, providing an infrastructure for electronic data/information/document exchange and communication among Member States**

- **The NSW of a Member State is the national gateway that serves as the single point of connectivity and communication with other ASEAN Member States' NSWs in the ASW environment**

- **Trade data between the sender and the recipient(s) are maintained and owned by the parties concerned and will reside in the national domain which is under the purview of the respective Member State**

Challenges

- **ASEAN's decision making based on consensus and compromise solutions takes time;**

- **Member States have their own customs regime and legislation as well as different levels of automation;**

- **Planning and preparation costs could be high and financial constraints remain an issue and implementation of the ASW Pilot, for example, is very much dependent on external funding;**

- **Operating and maintaining the ASW at the regional level will require sustainable source of revenue, a budget to manage expenditures, and agreed location(s) to house staff and the Regional Services server, etc.;**

Challenges (cont.)

- **Effective regional and NSW Legal Frameworks need to be in place and such legal matters tend to be complex;**

- **The NSW is one of the pre-requisites in the ASW implementation and its implementation has its own many sub-challenges; and**

- **Business process reengineering needs to be carried out to streamline the cross-border processes.**

- **The need to setup a Project Management Office to ensure good governance of actual projects implementation**

Conclusion

The implementation approach for a Single Window could vary based on various factors surrounding it.

What could be considered:

❏ Identify objective in the right context
- Information dissemination/sharing? (within an organization with multiple remote offices, inter-organizations/agencies?)
- Secure information exchange within the same governance/regime?
- Cross-border secure information exchange?
- Interactive or delayed exchange or in batch?

❏ Establish right strategy for realistic roadmap
❏ Work around limited resources towards the best possible

No two single windows are exactly the same. Implement what is practical, feasible and needed.

Thank You

ASW
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