

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE

Chairman: GLOBAL ALLIANCE LOGISTICS (HK) LTD – Mr. Elmen Chu

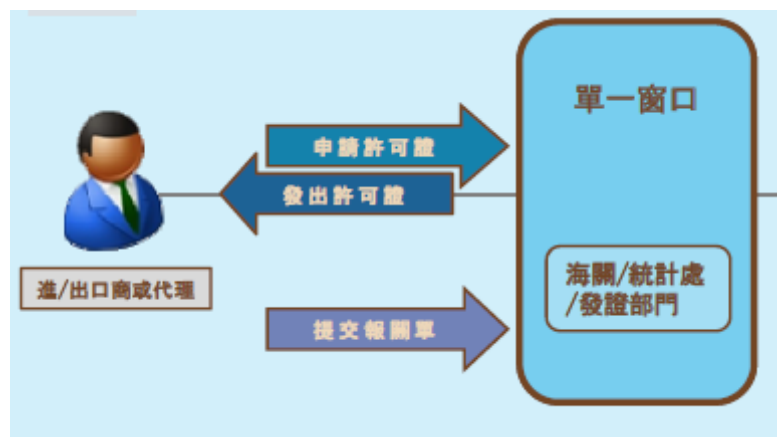
Vice Chairman: ACE PROTRANS FORWARDING LTD – Mr. Sydney Chan

Trade Single Window 貿易單一窗口 (SW)

A Single Window Environment is a cross border, ‘intelligent’, facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information in electronic format with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export and transit related regulatory requirements. Recognized and promoted by several prime international organizations [(including Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), United Nations, World Customs Organization (WCO), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) etc.], Single Window has been implemented or will soon be implemented in many economies for trade facilitation.

To maintain Hong Kong’s competitiveness under such an important trend of e-commerce, HAFFA fully supports and urges the implementation of Single Window in Hong Kong as soon as practicable. A position paper was submitted to the Financial Secretary on 31 August 2015, calling for expediting the establishment of Single Window without further delay. Members may download the paper from the following hyperlink for details: [After login] <http://www.haffa.com.hk/portal/Page/Default.aspx?id=637>

We are glad to hear Government’s positive response to HAFFA’s request as stated in the 2016-17 Budget released on 24 February 2016. The initiative of SW can be found under paragraph 94 of the Budget (<http://www.budget.gov.hk>). The Government undertakes to establish a SW for one-stop lodging of all the 50-plus trade documents and submissions with Government for trade declaration and customs clearance purpose. It is expected that the first phase of the initiative will be launched in 2018, and full implementation is 6 years later.



The SW will bring about time and cost savings for the trading community, as they no longer need to approach different government departments separately and can lodge B2G trade documents electronically round the clock through a centralised IT platform. Traders can also keep track of the status of their applications and submissions via the SW platform 24/7. This will be an important initiative for maintaining Hong Kong's competitiveness in trade in goods and position as a logistics hub.

Subject to conclusion of bilateral agreements in future, the SW will facilitate cross-border customs co-operation with other economies and connectivity with their SWs, and thus expedite the cargo clearance process and enhance trade efficiency.

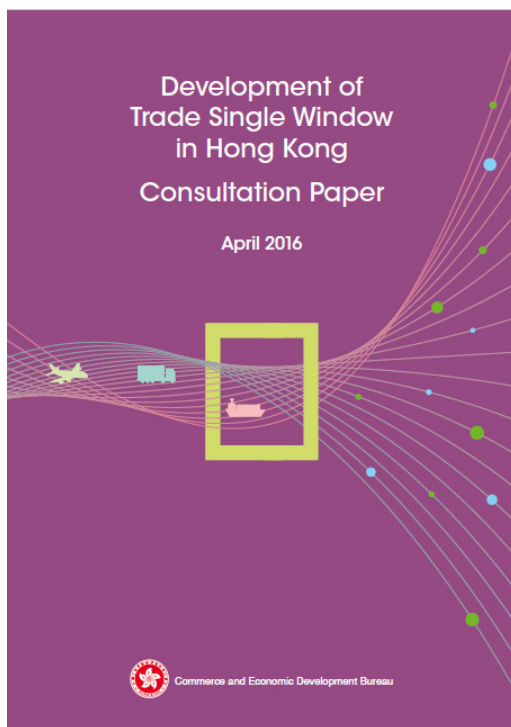
On 13 April 2016, the Government issued a consultation paper to seek views on the development of a Trade Single Window (SW) in Hong Kong and related matters.

To align with international mainstream and best customs practices, the Government would also like to take the opportunity to consider the feasibility and possible benefits of switching Hong Kong's trade documentation requirement from post-shipment to pre-shipment. With the availability of pre-shipment information, the Customs and Excise Department will be able to carry out more effective risk-profiling and hence more targeted enforcement work. This would translate into smoother and seamless cargo clearance for traders.

The consultation document is available on the CEDB (Commerce and Economic Development Bureau) and Customs website:

http://www.cedb.gov.hk/citb/en/Hot_Topic/trade_single_window.html

http://www.customs.gov.hk/en/trade_facilitation/single_window/index.html



Member are appealed for submitting your views, in particular under the aspect of pre-shipment declaration, to the Government on or before 12 July 2016 (Tuesday) by email to sw@cedb.gov.hk, fax to 3108 3537, or post to CEDB, 23/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong. As this is an issue of fundamental importance to our Members, we believed it's essential to get your views before HAFFA establish our position and submit to the CEDB, interested Members may either send your views to Government copying us or send us your written views **on or before 15 June 2016 (Wednesday)** by email to HAFFA at enquiry@haffa.com.hk.

Date: 19 April 2016

(END OF REPORT)