

Workshop on the Methodology and Data Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

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Agenda Item 15: Commodity Classification



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Background

The objective of the Integrated ASEAN Work Programme on IMTS is primarily to develop the capacity of the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat to produce and disseminate timely, high quality and comparable IMTS in support of trade liberalization and economic integration policy analysis, coordination and monitoring.

Four Key Strategic Result Areas

- ❖ Statistical infrastructure development
- ❖ Methodology improvement
- ❖ Data production, processing,
transmission and dissemination
- ❖ Planning, monitoring and evaluation

Statistical Infrastructure Development

One of the activities under this Key Strategic Result Area is the harmonisation of commodity classifications

Specifically, activities proposed for the AMSs to achieve this are:

- ❖ the revision/updating of national classifications
- ❖ and the preparation of correspondence and correlation tables

ASEAN Recommendation on Commodity Classification

- ❖ 2007 ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN 2007) at 8 digits
- ❖ Ensure correspondence with tariff data

Current Status on Commodity Classification

As reported in the Assessment Questionnaire
Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar –
HS 2007 and AHTN 2007

Lao, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam –
HS 2002 and AHTN 2002

Brunei and Singapore – HS and AHTN but did not
specify year

Current Status on Commodity Classification

As reported by the AFTA Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat

- Of the 10 AMS, only Thailand has adopted AHTN 2007
- Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR and Philippines – AHTN 2002
- Indonesia – HS 1996
- Myanmar – HS 2002
- Cambodia and Singapore – product nomenclature not compatible with HS/AHTN 2002 or HS/AHTN 2007
- Vietnam – mix of HS and AHTN, years unspecified

Concluding Remarks

Much work still needs to be done before AMS can harmonize IMTS with regards to commodity classifications.

In the meantime, concordance tables are being prepared by the AFTA Unit such that the IMTS statistics can be presented using AHTN 2007.

Thank you for your kind attention