



ASEAN CUSTOMS TRANSIT SYSTEM (ACTS)

Bangkok, Thailand
6 February 2018

Transit facilitation

The overall objective of ACTS is:

“To simplify and harmonize transport, trade and Customs regulations and to establish an effective, efficient, integrated and harmonized transit transport system in ASEAN. ”



Transit facilitation

- Article V of the GATT ([1994, Freedom of Transit](#)) provides for freedom of transit of goods...across the territory of WTO members via the routes most convenient for international transit

It specifies:

- Equal treatment independent of vessel's flag, origin, departure, entry, exit, destination or ownership of the goods or vessels

Transit facilitation

It specifies (cont'd):

- Prohibition of unnecessary delays or restrictions to traffic in transit
- Prohibition to levy Customs duties, transit duties and other transit-related charges (with some exceptions)
- Level of charges levied should be reasonable for the conditions of traffic

Definition, Scope & Key Principles of Customs transit defined by:

– Specific Annex E of the Revised Kyoto Convention



Challenges in transit transport

Challenges in transit transport:

- **Complexity due to non-harmonised national and international regulations, which can add severe and costly conditions:**
 - **obligatory involvement of operators in the transit country (national carriers, national Customs brokers, for example)**
 - **additional documentation requirements in the transit countries**

Challenges in transit transport

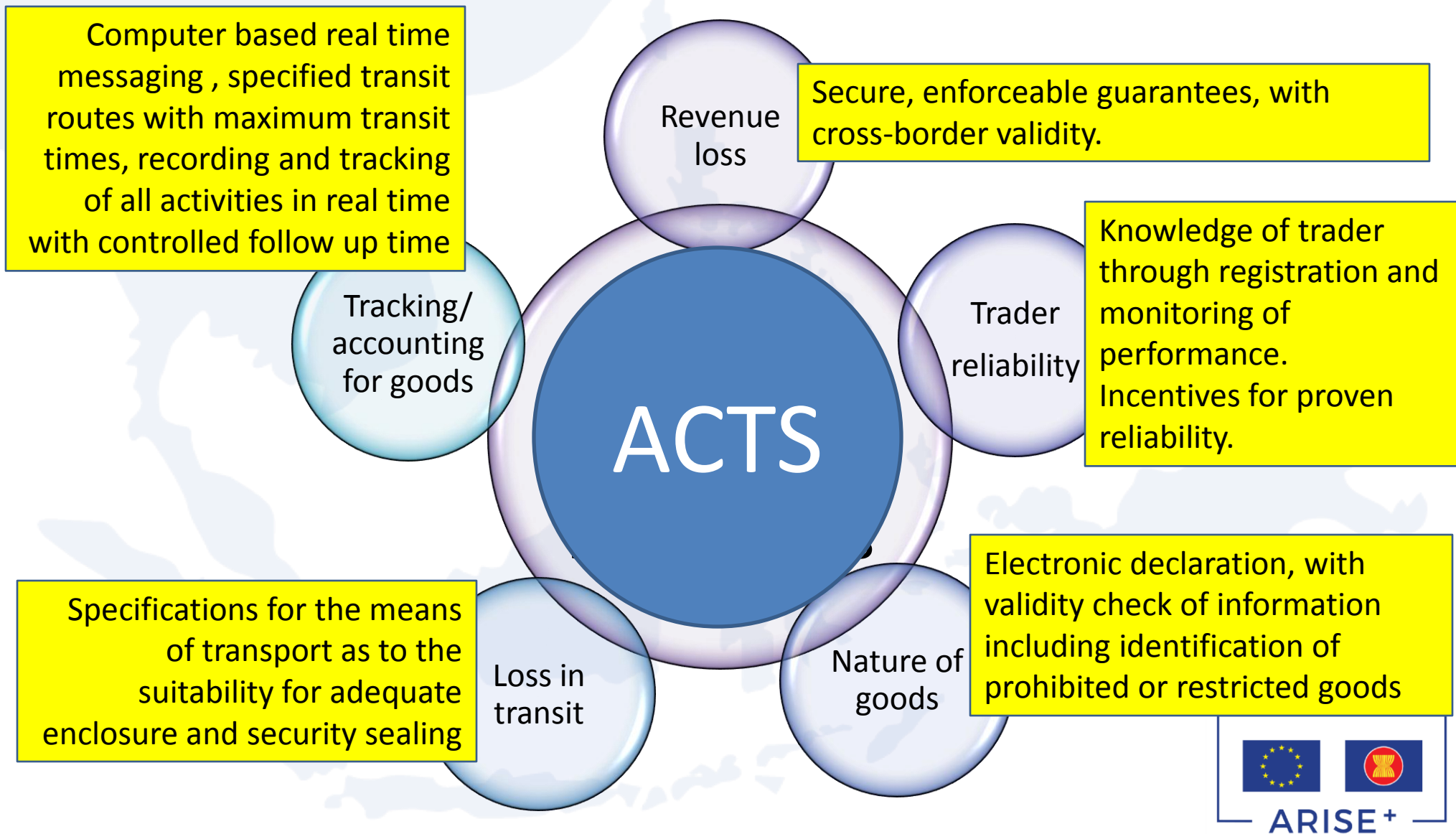
Challenges in transit transport (cont'd):

- obligatory use of facilities, such as bonded warehouses, for goods that are temporarily stored before further transportation
- non-allowance of return cargo in the transit country
- inefficient border crossings leading to waiting times and additional actions
- non-allowance of trucks of other countries to enter and operate
- pick-up and delivery of cargo inland at the country of departure and destination

Transit facilitation challenges



Transit facilitation challenges - addressed



ACTS general overview

- **ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) is a set of procedures and an IT system that facilitates transit declaration processing and control of transit goods movement (road transport) under single declaration and single guarantee from departure to destination in ASEAN region**
- **ACTS provides electronic services to Customs and Trade that implements ACTS Procedures as per scope defined in Common ACTS Specifications**
- **AFAFGIT will provide legal basis for ACTS to operate in ASEAN once its ACTS relevant protocols are signed and ratified by all AMS**



ACTS background

1997 "ASEAN
Vision 2020"

1980 EU-
ASEAN Co-
operation
Agreement

1998 AFAFGIT -
Hanoi

2003 ASEAN Bali
Concord II

2008 APRIS II
Feasibility Study

2007 ASEAN
Leaders adopted
the ASEAN
Economic
Blueprint

2014 ARISE ACTS
Pilot Project
Implementation
Project in MST



ARISE+

AFAFGIT

– AFAFGIT Protocols:

- **Protocol 1:** *Establishment of Transit Transport Routes and Facilities (Transport)*
- **Protocol 2:** **Establishment of Frontier Posts (Customs)**
- **Protocol 3:** *Types and Quantity of Road Vehicles (Transport)*
- **Protocol 4:** *Technical Requirements of Vehicles (Transport)*
- **Protocol 5:** *ASEAN Scheme of Motor Vehicle Insurance (Transport)*
- Protocol 6: Railways Border and Interchange Stations (Excluded from the Pilot)
- **Protocol 7:** **Customs Transit Systems (Customs)**
- Protocol 8: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (Excluded from the Pilot)
- Protocol 9: Dangerous Goods (Excluded from the Pilot)



ACTS other main documents

Main ACTS Specification Documents:

- Common Functional Specifications - FSS
- Common Technical Specifications - TSS
- Common Security Specifications - SSD
- Detailed Design document of National Application - DDNA
- ACTS Conformance Scenarios - ACS

Other ACTS Documentation:

- Operational Manuals
- User Manuals
- Training Materials
- Outreach Materials

Public and Member Areas in ACTS Information Portal: <https://acts.asean.org/>



ACTS introduction

Main Features:

- A single electronic Customs transit goods declaration
- From departure, through transit to destination
- A single guarantee valid for the whole regional transit journey
- A single truck for the whole journey (although change of truck supported)
- Facilitated border crossing procedures
- Significant concessions for Authorised Transit Traders (ATT) under simplified procedure



ACTS functional features

- Various roles in ACTS:
 - Office of Departure
 - Office of Destination
 - Office of Transit (Frontier Office)
 - Office of Guarantee
 - Principal Trader
 - Guarantor
- Documents:
 - Transit Declaration
 - Transit Accompanying Document
 - Control Results
 - Guarantee

ACTS functional features

- Business Processes:
 - Process at Office of Departure
 - Process at Office of Transit
 - Process at Office of Destination
 - Process with Office of Guarantee
 - Process of Cancellation
 - Processes of Enquiry and Recovery
 - Exceptions: Diversions
- Unique movement identifier – ACTS Reference Number (ARN)
- ACTS is essentially paperless, but paper-based procedure exist for fallback reasons



ACTS functional features

- Normal Procedure vs. Simplified Procedure
 - Authorised Transit Traders (ATTs) use Simplified Procedures
 - Accreditation is required for ATTs
 - Mutual recognition of individual ATTs at the discretion of each AMS
- Simplified Procedures
 - Issued for use at specific Customs Offices only
 - No physical controls
 - Automatic release
 - No presentation of goods to customs
 - Use of certified trader seals
 - Fast declaration processing through implementation of timers

ASEAN Customs Transit System – Functional Map

Trader

Declaration
Submission and
Follow-up

Queries

Customs in each Participating Country

Customs
Transit

Guarantee
Management

Risk
Management

Central Services

Information
Portal

Integration Services

Reference Data Management

Statistics Management

User
Management

Administration
and Monitoring

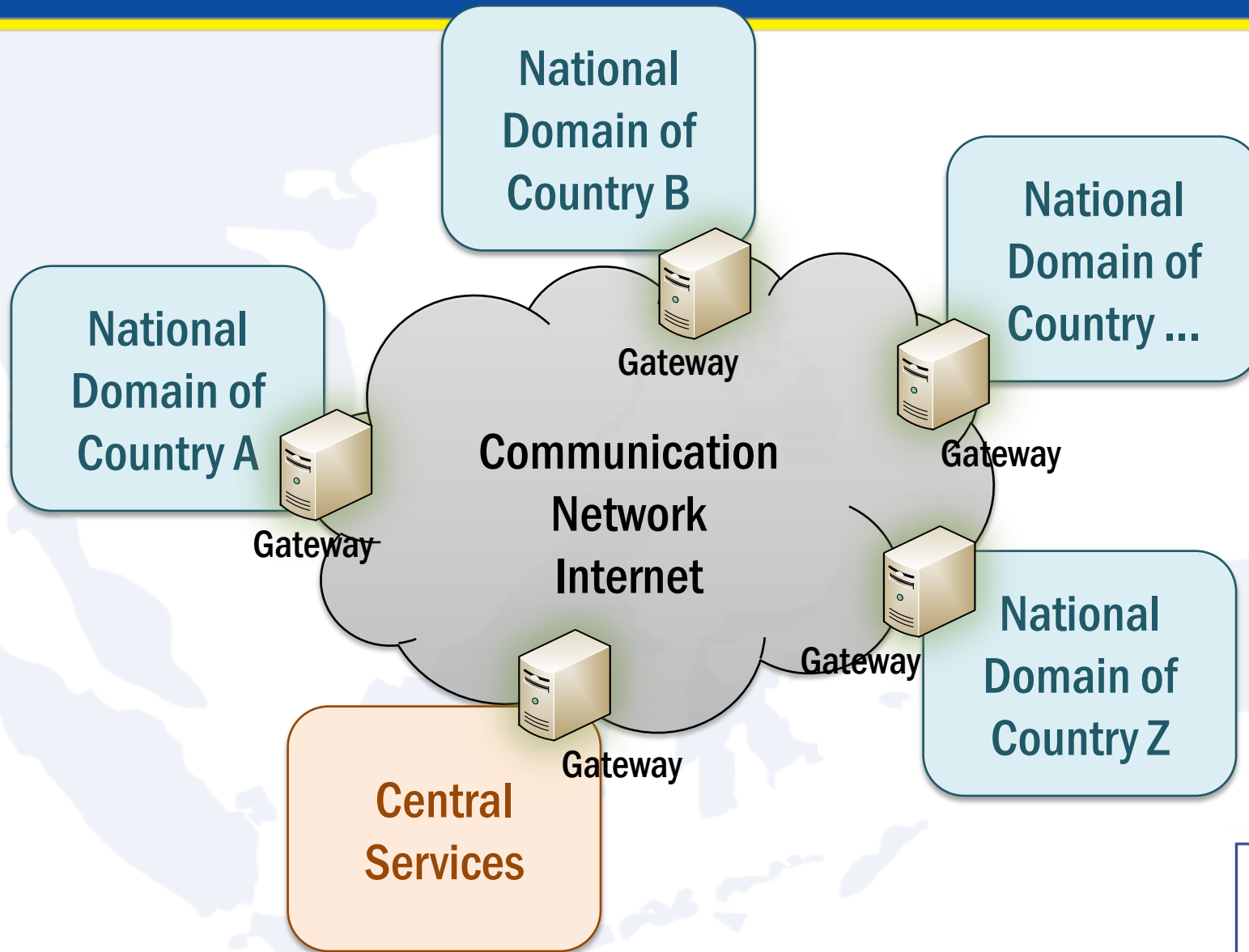
User Management

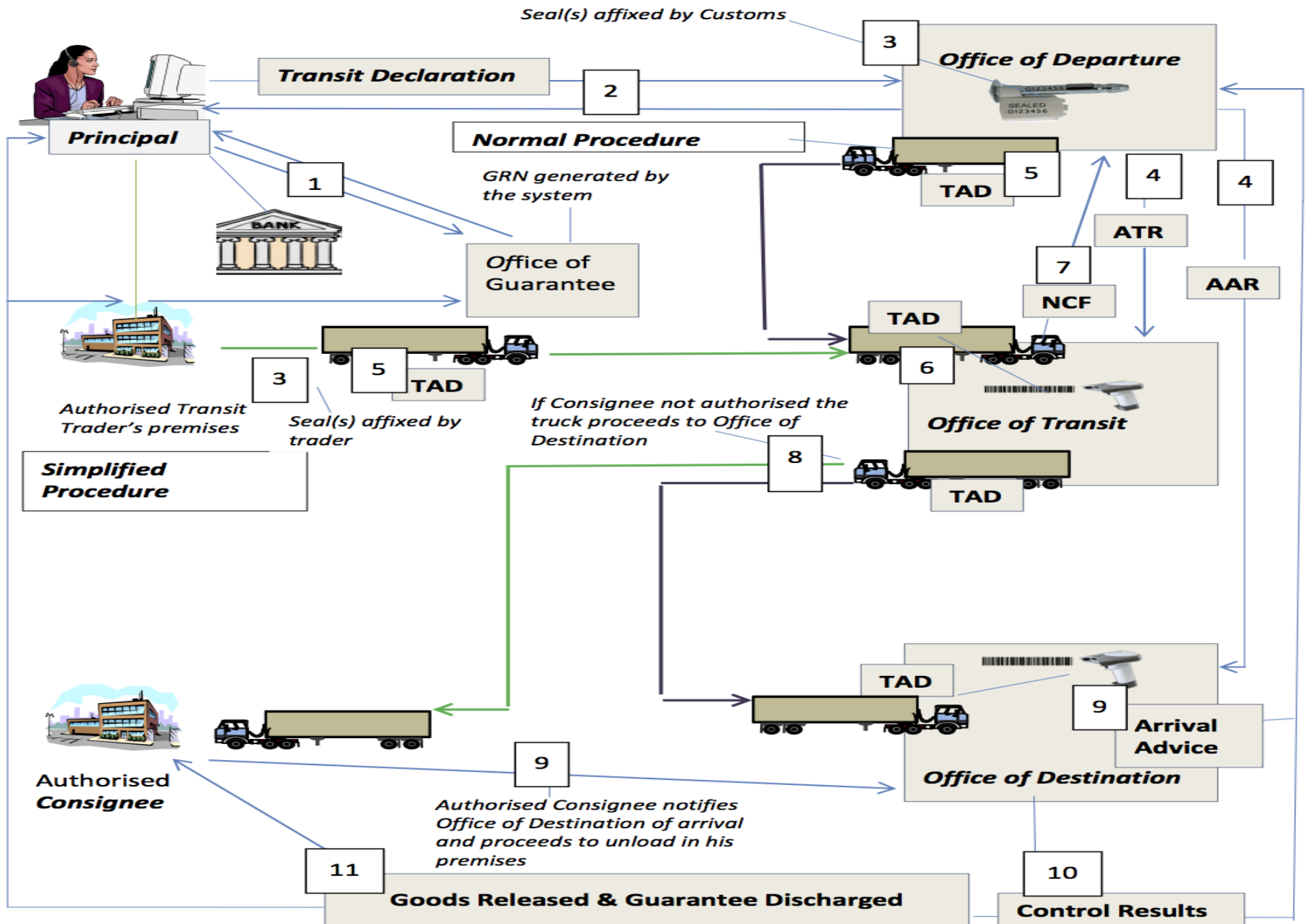
Administration and Monitoring

User
Management

Administration
and Monitoring

ACTS – decentralised IT system





ACTS regional harmonisation

ASEAN regional harmonisation:

- **Standard electronic data for message exchanges agreed by all ASEAN Member States**
- **Standard business process (procedure workflow) agreed between ASEAN member States**
- **Standard reference data, allowing for increased automation**
- **Acceptance that Customs controls carried out in one country are accepted by other countries e.g.**
 - **Guarantee**
 - **Checks at departure**
- **Minimal checks at transit**



ACTS implementation phases

- **Pilot system in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand in Q1 of 2017, full roll-out planned for 2019 under ARISE Plus**
- **Next phase roll-out to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, planned for 2019-2020 under ARISE Plus**
- **Subsequent roll-out to other ASEAN Member States possible, Borneo transit routes and RORO**



ACTS future

- Addition of transport formalities to the IT system, e.g. transport permits (AGVCPB planned under ARISE Plus)
- Addition of advanced tracking technologies, e.g. RFID, GPS
- Use of ACTS for in-country transit, based on existing national legal framework
- Use of ACTS for two country cross-border transit, based on existing bilateral agreement
- Inclusion of multiple loading and unloading points along the transit route, challenging without Customs Union
- Inclusion of other modes of transport: RORO, rail and river
- ACTS as a model for other regional Customs regimes, provided existence of Customs Union, e.g. Import, Export



ACTS future

- ACTS/NCTS becoming a preferred model for Customs transit transport for other regions of the world:
 - Considering Common Transit Convention (CTC) signed by EU + other bordering countries (Switzerland, Norway, etc.)
 - Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Azerbaijan assessing or in progress of joining CTC
 - ACTS, based on NCTS, linking 7 ASEAN countries by 2019-2020:
 - North-South ASEAN transit transport corridor: MST
 - East West ASEAN transit transport corridor: CLMV

Europe (NCTS) – Central and South Asia (?) – ASEAN (ACTS)



More information

Guide for establishment of automated customs transit transport system:

<http://www.unescap.org/resources/guide-establishing-automated-customs-transit-transport-system>

ACTS Information Portal: <https://acts.asean.org/>

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Thank You



ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU

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