



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
TRADE, COMMERCE AND
NI-VANUATU BUSINESS

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Monthly newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST

1. Live implementation of TRBR Type approval module
2. Deployment of Concession module prototype
3. Deployment of ASYCUDA-Post interface prototype

TRBR Type Approval Module trainings *Internal and external trainings completed in Port Vila*

Following the successful deployment and testing of the Type Approval module, the internal and external trainings for TRBR staff, Customs Brokers and other Stakeholders were delivered in Vila on 19th and 21st July, respectively.

As per usual practice in the VeSW Project, to ensure capacity building, sustainability and ownership of the agency modules and processes, the trainings are delivered by both TRBR Officials and the VeSW National Project Team (NPT).

The trainings were also an opportunity to put the module into further scrutiny and validation before it can be deployed on the Live environment.

The team are now preparing to deliver the trainings

to the TRBR Staff, Customs Brokers and Stakeholders in Santo on the first week of August.

In the meantime, the NPT is working with the UNCTAD experts to upload the Type Approval module to the Live server in preparation for the launching later in August.

In other news, NPT is also working with Customs for the final VeSW module to be deployed under the current phase of the VeSW Project. The module will be used by 10 Government agencies, including Customs to facilitate the application and processing of Customs duty concessions that are currently being administered by these agencies.



TRBR Engineers and Staff validating the Type Approval module during the internal training

TRBR trainings in pictures



Export Certificate for beef products facilitated

Biosecurity anticipates that this initiative will be appreciated by the Beef & Tourism industries

With the opening of borders, Biosecurity Vanuatu has approved a Program to facilitate the instant issuance of Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) to travellers departing Vanuatu, with Vanuatu Beef products.

The Facilitation Program would allow the automatic approval of VHC's in the Vanuatu electronic Single Window (VeSW) system for personal consignments. In other words, the Certificates can be downloaded and printed instantly from the VeSW system, immediately after submission, instead of going through the whole Biosecurity process of processing the application.

This instant issuance of VHC's can happen anytime, even during weekends, public holidays and even after normal Government working hours.

To begin with, this Program will be piloted with Butchers who are currently using the VeSW system, and can be later extended to other Authorised Butchers who wish to participate, once the risks are assessed and addressed in the pilot phase.

Biosecurity anticipates that this facilitation effort will further boost the sale of Vanuatu Beef to travellers and therefore bringing economic benefits to the beef and tourism industries in Vanuatu.



"We encourage participating Butchers to market this initiative as much as possible"

MTTCNVB Presented VeSW Project to Ministerial Budget Committee

“The MBC decision will be known later in 2022 whether the Government will be funding phase 3 of the VeSW Project”



Heads of the Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business (MTTCNVB) at the MBC, July 2022

The National Project Proposal (NPP) to seek funding from the Government for phase 3 of the VeSW Project for 2023-2024, was presented to the Government Ministerial Budget Committee (MBC) on 14th July 2022. The submission was made by the Vanuatu Aid-for-trade Management Unit (VAMU) who are responsible for administering the funds for the VeSW Project, under the Ministry of Tourism,

Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business (MTTCNVB).

The audience were given the opportunity to hear of what VeSW is currently achieving and what has been planned for phase 3 of the Project. An extract of the video that was presented to MBC has been posted here on [VAMU's YouTube channel](#).

The presentation was not only witnessed by the members of the

MBC, but also the heads of MTTCNVB as well as the heads of other Government Ministries and Departments who were present during this event.

The MBC decision will be known later in 2022 whether the Government will be funding phase 3 of the VeSW Project

This NPP submission was earlier endorsed by the Trade Facilitation Steering Committee during its meeting on July 6th.



Members of the Trade Facilitation Steering Committee during its meeting on 6th July 2022

EIF: Going paperless with VeSW

The following was extracted from the [EIF's Annual report 2021](#)

The VeSW was extended in 2021 with a blueprint fully developed so that other ministries, departments and agencies can move onto e-systems. The project has also leveraged over USD 2.4 million in co-funding from the Government, Australia, the WB and UNCTAD. Modules were rolled out—with EIF support – including Biosecurity and Certificate of Origin helping to facilitate exports. In 2021, this was also the case for processing importing ozone-depleting substances and others that have an environmental effect. Traders can lodge applications online without needing to travel, check the status and approval and use prepayment and credit card facilities to record their payments efficiently and transparently. As such, they can download approved permits and cut

down on paper and logistics. By automating two trade procedures, the country cut CO2 emissions by 5,827 kg.8 The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) ranks Vanuatu as 2021's top country in sustainable and digital trade facilitation among Asia-Pacific small island developing states.

"The Electronic Single Window is a very important building block of Vanuatu's development. It provides the necessary basis to facilitate and grow our domestic processes and external trade. It created efficiencies in procedures and processes and increased productivity in the economy". H.E. Mr Sumbue Antas, Ambassador of Vanuatu.

VeSW at global events and publications



The VeSW continues to be featured at global events and in international publications. In July 2022, VeSW was invited to deliver presentations at a couple of such global events.

On 5th July, Manager VeSW spoke at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Trade Centre (ITC) event on ["Facilitating sustainable and inclusive trade for our planet"](#).

Later on 15th July, Manager VeSW presented the VeSW system and the Project to the ["Multi-year export meeting on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation, 9th session"](#).

Both events had world-wide audiences, a great publicity for the VeSW system and, in general, Vanuatu's efforts to facilitate international trade.

Pics (left): Audience attending the WTO/ITC event in Geneva, following the live presentation by Manager VeSW.

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business

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The overall objective of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window project is to expand Vanuatu's GDP through increased exports. The project outcome is to increase Vanuatu's competitiveness through the reduction of cost and time of trading across its borders. The Project is kindly funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Australian Government. The Vanuatu Government is also providing in-kind contribution towards the project, in terms of personnel and ICT support. The main implementing partner in the Project is United Nations for Trade and Development, UNCTAD.

