



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

Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project Monthly newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2022

- Implementation of concession module for Industry
- Implementation of Type Approval module for TRBR
- Implementation for ASYREC Humanitarian Supplies module for NDMO
- Deployment of ASYCUDA-CDS interface with Vanuatu Post

ODS module launched!

The Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Module, to be operated under the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), is now live on the Vanuatu electronic Single Window (VeSW) System. Adopted from Timor Leste, the module is now being used by only 2 of the 100 plus countries worldwide that use the ASYCUDA system.

The launching of the ODS Module took place on 1st of December 2021 at the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation's compound under the coordination of the VeSW Project. The first importer to use the electronic system in a live exercise during the launching was one of Vanuatu's own car dealer companies, Intraco.

This is the first VeSW module for the Department and the second for the Ministry of Climate Change, following the implementation of the Energy Efficient appliance module

earlier in April 2021. Such initiatives demonstrate Vanuatu's commitment to implementing practical solutions to protecting the climate and environment. Other modules to be implemented for the Ministry are the NDMO module and, hopefully, the e-CITES module in the future.

The ODS module will tremendously benefit DEPC to facilitate the issuance of import permits for ODS refrigerants and related equipment containing these controlled substances. This means assisting DEPC to digitally control the national quota for Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) and also to set a reasonable quota for Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) by the year 2024. Using the VeSW will also assist DEPC to control and monitor the importation of these regulated products through Customs, thus improving compliance.

The system will further assist

DEPC to have access, for the first time ever, to real time data of ODS permits and imports, and be able to provide reliable reporting to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), as required under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

The second goal under the Environment Pillar of the Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan outlines the approach of an economy that fosters sustainable growth and development through low impact industries and modern technologies to ensure the well-being of the future generation. The Government through the Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business, believes that the implementation of the VeSW system in Vanuatu will assist the country in achieving many of its NSDP goals.



Invited guests, Government Officials and stakeholders who witnessed the launching of the ODS module

ODS Module Launching in pictures



The ODS module is the first VeSW module to be used by the Department of Environment, the second Module at the Ministry of Climate Change after the implementation of the Energy Efficient Appliance module earlier in April 2021.



Director DEPC, Ms. Donna Kalfatak, giving her remarks



Live submission by Emilienne Chabod from Intraco



Chairman Trade Facilitation Steering Committee, Mr. Harold Tarosa (Director of Customs), giving his remarks



Live processing by the National Ozone Unit



Director DEPC presenting the first-ever electronic ODS Import Permit to the Applicant



Director Governance for Growth Program, Mr. Shannon Ryan, giving his remarks as the co-donor of the VeSW Project

ODS Module trainings



To ensure users are well versed with the new ODS module, trainings were conducted in November to Environment Stakeholders, Importers and Customs Brokers, prior to the launching of the module. The trainings were conducted by the National Ozone Unit Officers and the Single Window Project team in both Luganville and Port Vila. The introduction of the ODS module now meant a further increase to the number of entities and individuals currently using the Single Window System in Vanuatu.

Vanuatu participates in UNEP Workshop



Prior to the implementation of the ODS module, the VeSW Manager was invited in October 2021, to make a presentation at the Asia Pacific workshop on Digitalization of ODS Licensing and Quota System.

The presentation was basically to share Vanuatu's experience in implementing a Single Window System; a concept that is yet to be realised by many countries in this region and in other parts of the World.

Attended by participants from the South Asian, South East Asian and Pacific Island countries, this virtual workshop was hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

NTDC endorses the extension of the VeSW Project to 2022!



In its 3rd and final meeting for 2021 in Luganville, Santo on 17th November, the Vanuatu National Trade Development Committee (NTDC) agreed for the extension of the Vanuatu electronic Single Window Project for another year in 2022. This is to allow for the Project team to continue working with implementing the other modernization initiatives scheduled for 2022. Final preparatory work are now underway between the Vanuatu Aid-for-trade Management Unit (VAMU) and the Enhance Integrated Framework (EIF), the main donor of the Project, for another EIF No Cost Extension of the Project to 2022.

Pic: NTDC meeting in Luganville, Santo, 17th November 2021 (Photo credit VAMU)

TRBR, the latest inclusion into the VeSW Project

Thanks to the EIF No Cost Extension of the VeSW Project to 2022, the Project team and the Project's implementing Partner, UNCTAD, have agreed to include the Type Approval module in the 2022 Project workplan.

This module will be developed and deployed in Vanuatu at no additional cost to the Project.

The agency responsible to use the module is Vanuatu's Telecommunications Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR).

TRBR will be using the module to process online applications for telecommunication

equipment that meets approved standards, and be able to electronically link the permits to the Customs clearance. Currently this entire process is being done manually, and therefore not efficient nor effective.

This new inclusion is only possible through the great working relationship and close collaboration between the TRBR, Customs and the VeSW Project team.

The VeSW Project looks forwarding to working with TRBR in 2022 in achieving yet another trade facilitation milestone for Vanuatu.



Update of the VeSW System

Here is stocktake of what was implemented in VeSW since 2017, and what is to be implemented in 2022. Exciting times ahead!



DID YOU KNOW?



The #ASYCUDA-based #Vanuatu electronic single window "has reduced CO2 emissions by 5,827 kg by eliminating the use of papers in two automated trade procedures." @UNCTAD @AsycudaProgram @EIF4LDCs @dfat @DFAT_TradeTalk @swpvanuatu @UNESCAP Read more 📖



unescap.org
Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021: Accelerating Climate-smart Trade and Investment...

Single Window Systems using ASYCUDA

Vanuatu is one of only seven ASYCUDA countries worldwide, the and only one in the Pacific region, that is implementing a Single Window System using ASYCUDA. There are currently over 100+ countries worldwide that use ASYCUDA, five of these are in the Pacific, including Vanuatu. More countries are expected to use the ASYCUDA system in the Pacific region in the near future.

-  ▶ **Rwanda (over 20 OGA):** Health Ministry, Rwanda Development Committee, Bureaux of standards, « Magasin générale du Rwanda » etc.
-  ▶ **Uganda (over 20 OGA):** Foreign Affairs Ministry, Atomic Agency, Bureaux of Standards, Coffee Export Board etc.
-  ▶ **Kazakhstan (12 OGA):** Ministry of Agriculture, Central Bank, Justice Ministry, Energy Ministry etc.
-  ▶ **Comoros (4 OGA):** INRAPE (Agriculture), ANAMEV (Medecines), Direction des mines (Vehicles), ANPI (Investments)
-  ▶ **Jamaica (2 OGA):** Live June 2020
-  ▶ **Vanuatu (5 OGA planned):** Biosecurity, Energy Ministry, Environment Ministry, Industry Ministry and Immigration
-  ▶ **Timor Leste (10 OGA planned):** TradeInvest, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism, Commerce & Industry, Quarantine, Transport Department, Tax Department, Immigration and Port Authority.

Source: UNCTAD



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on the [Single Window website](#).

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.

