

# The NEWS

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EDITORIAL

## AAEC VP Speaks

from Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia.

Mr. Sopotamit said if the continent is to ride itself off aid and benevolence of donors, it needs to trade, noting that it is therefore important to have very efficient trading regimes in African countries in order for the continent to gain momentum in global trade.

According to Mr. Sopotamit, the better tool to achieve this will be through the single window system, adding "our main objective is to develop high-performing Single Windows in Africa."

He said the two days conference will look into the best practices of single window implementation in Africa as outlined in various publications and the AACE guide.

"With the financial support of the UNECA through the ATPC, the AAEC has published a guide for single window implementation. Through the development and publication of this Guide, countries willing to establish a Single Window project can have a reference and a knowledge base on the best practices in terms of Single Windows in Africa," he said.

According to him, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 12, subsection 4.1, encourages members to establish or maintain a single window, enabling traders to submit documentation and/or data requirements for importation, exportation, or transit of goods through a single entry point to the participating authorities or agencies.

"The benefits, thereof, go across all spheres in the economy. The importer and exporter will benefit from the reduction in number of days require for the clearance of goods, through a more transparent and predictable process. It increases customs revenue through controlled working environment, while the Commercial banks benefit through the increase in customers, and increase in the amount of funds passing through bank operations," Minister Tarpeh said.

He said implementing the National Single Window will entail addressing a lot of issues; including the legal regulatory environment, hard and soft infrastructure, and institutional framework, among others.

He said the workshop in Liberia is the first in the second phase of a series of workshops AAEC organized in 2013, in Niger, Egypt, Burundi, Uganda and Botswana.

For this year, Mr. Sopotamit said, AAEC intends to organize six of such workshops in all the different economic regions of the continent.

Mr. Sopotamit added with

the support of the UN ECA and the ATPC initiative, "we held the constituent General Assembly in 2009, in Addis Ababa where the organization was officially birthed."

Minister Wilson K. Tarpeh who officially opens the workshop said, Liberia remains grateful to collaborating partners who have come to raise awareness and help develop a roadmap on an issue at the nerve of Trade Facilitation and Doing Business in the commerce of Liberia.

Minister Tarpeh noted that the workshop is been convened at a time the Government of Liberia is evolving policies and programs that will reduce poverty under its Pro-Poor Agenda

"I cannot underestimate the importance of the implementation of Single Window in Liberia as it allows parties involved in trade and logistics to lodge documents with a single entry point to fulfill import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements (UN/CEFACT's Recommendation 33)," he said.



# AAEC VP Speaks On Single Window System

The Vice President for Administration at the Alliance for Electronics Commerce (AAEC), Matthew Soputamit said International trade remains one of the most driving forces of economies.

He noted that single window system will lead to efficient trading regimes in African nations.

Mr. Soputamit made the remarks Tuesday in Monrovia at a start of a two-day workshop intended to raise awareness of single window implementation. The workshop brought together several participants

*...As Prof. Tarpeh Lauds Partners*





# Single Window System Leads To Efficient Trading Regimes In Africa

## AAEC Vice President Oputamit Asserts

The Vice President for Administration at the Alliance for Electronics Commerce (AAEC), Matthew Sopotamit said international trade remains one of the most driving forces of economies, noting that single window system will lead to efficient trading regimes in African nations.

Mr. Sopotamit made the remarks yesterday in Monrovia during a kickoff of a two-day workshop intended to raise awareness of single window implementation, which brought together several participants from Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia.

Mr. Sopotamit said if the continent is to ride itself off of aid and benevolence of donors; it will be achieved through trade, it is therefore important to have very efficient trading regimes in African countries in order for the continent to gain momentum in global trade.

According to Mr. Sopotamit, the better tool to achieve this will be through the single window system, adding "Our main objective is

to develop high-performing Single Windows in Africa."

He said the two-day conference will look into the best practices of Single Window implementation in Africa as outlined in various publications and the AAEC guide. "With the financial support of the UNECA through the ATPC, the AAEC has published a guide for single window implementation. Through the development and publication of this Guide, countries willing to establish a Single Window Project can have a reference and a knowledge base on the best practices in terms of Single Windows in Africa," he said.

He said the workshop in Liberia is the first in the second phase of a series of workshops the AAEC organized in 2013, in Niger, Egypt, Burundi, Uganda and Botswana.

For this year, Mr. Sopotamit said, AAEC intends to organize six (6) of such workshops in all the different economic regions of the continent.

Mr. Sopotamit added with

the support of the UN ECA and the ATPC initiative, we held the constituent General Assembly in 2009, in Addis Ababa where the organization was officially birthed.

Minister Wilson K. Tarpeh who officially opened the workshop said, Liberia remains grateful to its collaborating partners who have come to raise awareness and help develop a roadmap on an issue at the nerve of Trade Facilitation and Doing Business in the commerce of Liberia.

Minister Tarpeh noted that the workshop is being convened at a time, the Government of Liberia is evolving policies and programs that will reduce poverty under its Pro-Poor Agenda "I cannot underestimate the importance of the implementation of Single Window in Liberia as it allows parties involved in trade and logistics to lodge documents with a single entry point to fulfill import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements (UN/CEFACT's



Participants at the workshop with Commerce Minister Wilson Tarpeh (4th from left)

Recommendation 33) he said.

According to him, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 12, subsection 4.1, encourages members to establish or maintain a single window, enabling traders to submit documentation and/or data requirements for importation, exportation, or transit of goods through a single entry point to the participating authorities or agencies.

"The benefits, thereof, go across all spheres in the economy. The importer and exporter will benefit from the reduction in number of days required for the clearance of goods, through a more transparent and predictable process. It increases customs revenue through controlled

working environment, which the Commercial banks benefit through the increased customers, and increase the amount of funds passing through bank operations," Minister Tarpeh said.

He said implementing the National Single Window entail addressing a lot of issues; including the legal regulatory environment, hardware and soft infrastructure, and institutional framework among others.

The single-window system is a trade facilitation idea, such, the implementation of single window system enables international (cross border) traders to submit regulatory documents at single location and or single entity.



# Single Window System Leads To Efficient Trading Regimes In Africa ... AAEC Vice President Sopotamit Asserts

The Vice President for Administration at the Alliance for Electronics Commerce (AAEC), Mr. Matthew Sopotamit, has said international trade remains one of the most driving forces of economies, noting that single window system will lead to efficient trading regimes in African nations.

Sopotamit made the remarks yesterday in Monrovia during a kickoff of a 2-day workshop intended to raise awareness of single window implementation, which brought together several participants from Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia.

Sopotamit said, if the continent is to ride itself off of aid and benevolence of donors; it will be achieved through trade, it is therefore important to have very efficient trading regimes in African countries in order for the continent to gain momentum in global trade.

According to him, the better tool to achieve this will be through the single window system, adding "Our main objective is to develop high-performing Single Windows in Africa."

He said the two days conference will look into the best practices of Single Window implementation in Africa as outlined in various publications and the AAEC guide.

"With the financial support of the UNECA through the ATPC, the AAEC has published a guide for single window implementation. Through the development and publication of this Guide, countries willing to establish a Single Window project can have a reference and a knowledge base on the best practices in terms of Single Windows in Africa," Sopotamit pointed out.

He said the workshop in Liberia is the first in the second phase of a series of workshops the AAEC organized in 2013, in Niger, Egypt, Burundi, Uganda and Botswana. For this year, he mentioned that AAEC intends to organize six (6) of such workshops in all the different economic regions of the continent.



initiative, he added, "we held the constituent General Assembly in 2009, in Addis Ababa where the organization was officially birthed"

For his part, Minister Wilson K. Tarpheh, who officially opened the workshop, said, Liberia remains grateful it to collaborating partners who have come to raise awareness and help develop a roadmap on an issue at the nerve of Trade Facilitation and Doing Business in the commerce of Liberia.

Minister Tarpheh noted that the workshop is been convened at a time, the Government of Liberia is evolving policies and programs that will reduce poverty under its "Pro-Poor" Agenda

"I cannot underestimate the importance of the implementation of Single Window in Liberia as it allows parties involved in trade and logistics to lodge documents with a single entry point to fulfill import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements (UN/CEFACT's Recommendation 33) " he said

Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 12, sub-section 4.1, encourages members to establish or maintain a single window, enabling traders to submit documentation and/or data requirements for importation, exportation, or transit of goods through a single entry point to the participating authorities or agencies.

"The benefits, thereof, go across all spheres in the economy. The importer and exporter will benefit from the reduction in number of days require for the clearance of goods, through a more transparent and predictable process. It increases customs revenue through controlled working environment, while the Commercial banks benefit through the increase in customers, and increase in the amount of funds passing through bank operations," Minister Tarpheh indicated.

He said implementing the National Single Window will entail addressing a lot of issues; including the legal regulatory environment, hard and soft infrastructure,