

# Ghana National Single Window Newsletter

*Strengthening Ghana's trade and economic competitiveness*



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**W**elcome to the Third Edition of the Ghana National Single Window (GNSW) Quarterly Newsletter. The past months have been very busy and exciting for us, as we celebrated the 1st Anniversary of the GNSW and launched several new initiatives such as the "Ghana's Import, Export and Transit Process Manual"; the establishment of the one-stop eZones at KIA and Tema; the launch of the ePayment GNSW CashXPress Card and other Trade Facilitation tools. These events clearly demonstrate that we are committed to making the GNSW a world class example of Single Window and Trade Facilitation reform and we greatly appreciate the continued strong support from both government and the business community in this regard. I am also pleased to report that these efforts are taking place in parallel with efficient collection of trade related government revenues – which demonstrates that nations can simultaneously achieve enhanced facilitation with improved revenue collection. It is also with great satisfaction I see that Ghana has

made substantial progress in improving its ranking in the World Bank Trading Across Borders Report and Logistics Performance Index. This is primarily due to the introduction of the PAARS under the GNSW Programme.

In this issue, we will review some of the above-mentioned developments and provide you with information on other activities and outputs we have delivered over the period. You may visit [www.ghanastradinghub.gov.gh](http://www.ghanastradinghub.gov.gh) for the latest news on GNSW activities!

I trust you will find this Newsletter interesting and informative. We welcome your feedback and comments - by emailing us at [support@ghanastradinghub.com](mailto:support@ghanastradinghub.com)



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## LAUNCH OF THE GHANA'S IMPORT, EXPORT AND TRANSIT PROCESS MANUAL (TRADE BIBLE)

**A**s part of the 1st Anniversary of the Ghana National Single Window Programme in September, H.E President John Mahama launched Ghana's Import, Export and Transit Process Manual. The Manual, which is the first of its kind in Ghana, identifies in detail the current "As Is" processes in the various government and business entities involved in international trade and clearly indicates the work that lies ahead to revise these processes to enhance Ghana's trade performance.

Referring to the Manual as the "Trade Bible", the President said that he expected the revised "To Be" trade processes under the GNSW Programme to be simple, harmonised and free of all

duplications, in order to provide Ghanaian traders with the best possible environment to undertake their global business.

The President expressed his strong satisfaction with the progress of the GNSW Programme and highly commended the business community, officers of the Ghana Revenue Authority, Ghana Customs and all the key Ministries, Departments and Agencies for their strong collaboration and support in achieving this. He also complimented the efforts of the government's technical partner, West Blue Consulting, on the successful rollout of the programme.

The President pledged the full support of government going forward with these developments. He indicated that these reforms are an integral part of the government's ambition to fundamentally enhance the way international business is regulated in Ghana - through a fully integrated and automated all-of-government service for the benefit of the entire country.

At the event, goodwill messages were delivered by the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, the President of the Association of Ghana Industries, and the President of the Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders.

## World Bank Report shows Ghana made major improvements in Logistics Performance in 2016

**T**he 2016 World Bank Report "Connecting to Compete 2016 - Trade Logistics in the Global Economy" shows that Ghana has made substantial improvement in its Global Logistics Performance Index (LPI) ranking, rising 12 places from 100th in 2014 to 88th in 2016 out of 160 countries. This is the largest year on year increase in Ghana's global LPI ranking since the survey was first undertaken in 2007. Particular improvements were noted in "The efficiency of customs and border management

clearance ("Customs")", which showed a marked improvement of 37 points with previous downward trends of -27 and -17 in 2014 and 2012 respectively. "The frequency with which shipments reach consignees within scheduled or expected delivery times ("Timeliness")" component also chalked an improvement of 31 points compared to 12 and 17 in years 2014 and 2012 respectively.

<http://lpi.worldbank.org/international/scorecard/radar/254/C/GHA/2016/C/GHA/2014/C/GHA/2012/C/GHA/2010/C/GHA/2007#chartarea>



# GHANA MAKES SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN WORLD BANK RANKINGS ON TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

Latest figures from the World Bank Trading Across Borders Report for 2017 show that Ghana has made substantial progress in improving its international trade performance, increasing its ranking by 13 places, from 167 in 2016 to 154 in 2017. This significant improvement was mainly related to the reduction in time required for import border and documentary compliance – due to the introduction of the Pre-Arrival Assessment Reporting System under the GNSW. The World Bank report also indicated that Ghana's ranking in the Sub-Saharan region improved substantially, from 37 in 2016 to 29 in 2017.

These results clearly demonstrate that the GNSW Programme is already having a direct impact on the competitiveness of the Ghanaian economy. West Blue

Consulting welcomes these positive results and is committed to ensuring that similar improvements are achieved in the coming years.



## GHANA'S PARLIAMENT RATIFIES THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

On the 26th of October, 2016 the Parliament of Ghana ratified the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). This was a very positive moment as it clearly demonstrated Ghana's commitment to trade facilitation and to a greater engagement with the global economy. Ratification of the Agreement followed many months of intense scrutiny and analysis by both government and business leaders in Ghana.

The WTO estimates that the Agreement will generate over one trillion dollars in benefits annually and that developing countries will realise a major share of these benefits. Programmes like the Ghana National Single Window will be a major asset in implementing the Agreement in Ghana and in securing the maximum benefits, both in terms of increased trade and reduced costs.

The TFA will come into force when ratified by two thirds (110) of WTO members, and this is expected to be achieved by early next year. A full list of countries that have ratified so far is available at <http://www.tfafacility.org/ratification>



# TEMA & KIA GNSW

## ELECTRONIC HELP DESK COMMISSIONED

September also saw the launch of the eZones at Tema and KIA under the GNSW Programme. The eZone Electronic Help Desks provide traders with a 24/7 helpline.

They also have various bank tellers in place to aid the cashless policy being implemented by government - ensuring there are no hassles encountered whilst paying for trade related fees. In addition, the eZones also have a self service area with Internet services for people to access the various facilities of the Ghana Trading Hub – such as Product Classification and the

identification of all associated regulatory measures.

The eZones will be extended to the Takoradi Port axis and the Aflao Border.



## THE GNSW TEAM IN MARRAKECH

The Ghana Revenue Authority - Customs Division, with its Technical Partner West Blue Consulting, participated in the 5th International Single Window Conference in Morocco under the theme: “Virtual Single Window for foreign trade: the requirement for inclusive cooperation”. The Ghanaian delegation presented the success stories recorded so far in the implementation of the Ghana National Single Window. The delegation also presented on the topic of “The Role of Data

Models, Communication and Security Controls in a Single Window environment – Ghana Case.” Ghana was proud to present its successful Single Window Case Study for other countries to see what has been achieved so far.

The Ghana Revenue Authority - Customs Division team was led by the Deputy Commissioner, Operations, Mr. Fred Gavor. The conference was opened by the Head of Government of





Morocco, Mr. Abdelliah Benkiran, where he emphasized the benefits of Single Window and what Africa stands to gain by developing its Single Window facilities.

The Moroccan Minister of Equipment, Transport and Logistics, alongside his team and other dignitaries, visited the GNSW stand at the Conference Exhibition. GNSW Project Manager, Mr Uthman Aminu presented the Minister with a copy of the GNSW Strategic Action Plan.

The International Single Window Conference & Exhibition is an

annual event that brings together Single Window experts from different regions of the world, to share experiences and help plan for strengthening the exchange of trade related information within the continent. It also provides countries considering establishing a Single Window facility an opportunity to review existing facilities and to meet with successful implementers.



## UNITED NATIONS INTERACTIVE TRADE FACILITY TRAINING WORKSHOP

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in collaboration with the Ghana Revenue Authority and sponsored by West Blue Consulting, organised three Train-the-Trainer workshops in October to strengthen and deepen the trade facilitation (TF) skills and knowledge of key stakeholders from both government and the business community.

The workshops, which involved extensive use of the on-line UN Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG), helped participants to gain direct knowledge and experience on the various reform scenarios and tools in trade facilitation and to discuss opportunities for greater inter-agency cooperation in trade facilitation. This included areas such as process simplification, how to reduce delays at the border, consultation and cooperation approaches, Single Window implementation, the use of international standards, and how to rationalise information requirements.

one-day executive level event attended by Mr George Bankston, Commissioner General of the GRA; Ms Linda Vasnani, Chief Operating Officer of Conship Ltd and Mr. Richard A. Y. Anamoo, Director General of the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA), amongst others.

Workshop participants complemented the dynamic nature of the workshop and indicated that they had gained an enhanced understanding of TF and the approaches and methodologies that underpin TF efforts, including how TF is discussed at the WTO.

Participants in the workshop included representatives of the GRA Customs, various government agencies and representatives of leading business associations. The third workshop in the series was a

The UN Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide is available on-line at [tfig.unece.org](http://tfig.unece.org)





# Season's Greetings

from all of us at Ghana's Trading Hub



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