



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

German Alliance for Trade Facilitation

Dear readers,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome you to the Spring Newsletter of the German Alliance for Trade Facilitation.

My personal journey with the Alliance started about 3 years ago and my motivation was initially purely pragmatic: When working for a company with around 440 subsidiaries and regional companies in more than 60 countries, there is a great wish for a certain standardisation of foreign trade processes. The introduction of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) represented an important step in this direction.

As the German Alliance for Trade Facilitation is dedicated to implement the agreement in developing countries, contact was established and I joined the network. As part of working meetings, high-level forums and involvement in various projects, I quickly became aware of the uniqueness of this multi-actor partnership.

Never before have I in my almost 40-years of professional career experienced such an effective and inspiring cooperation of the most diverse partners from associations, internationally operating companies, the federal government and authorities. All working mutually on the goal, which is also anchored in the values of my company: making a sustainable contribution to society together. In the meantime, being involved in the Alliance has also become a fulfilling hobby for me.

The unique structure of the Alliance and the open communication within it make it possible to combine diverse perspectives on problems and to develop a comprehensive 360° perspective. The projects stand up to technical, political and practical demands. In these peculiar days it is remarkable that the spirit and energy of the past face-to-face meetings are still very present - even in the now virtual meetings!

In addition to important initiatives in Africa, the digitisation of foreign trade procedures is currently in the focus of activities. From my point of view, it must be carefully avoided that outdated processes and excessive formalities are merely frozen into new technologies, or that even new trade barriers manifested in the form of exaggerated data requirements. Besides the forgery-proof transmission of information to authorities, all participants in the global value chains should be enabled to process relevant data digitally.

This is an exciting new challenge for the Alliance for Trade Facilitation, but one that should be mastered for the reasons I have already stated above.

With this in mind, I wish you an exciting read and hope to spark your interest in supporting the Alliance activities.



Michael Kistner
Director Fundamentals and Consulting Foreign Trade
Robert Bosch GmbH, Global Services, Operations Source to Deliver, EMEA

For questions and reactions, please get in touch with us via tradefacilitation@giz.de, and follow us on [LinkedIn](#). We wish you an informative read and are looking forward to hearing from you!

Have a safe and healthy year and all the best, the team of the German Alliance for Trade Facilitation.

News from the Secretariat

NEW PROGRAMME PHASE AND HEAD OF THE SECRETARIAT



Nurjamal Bokoeva
Head of the Alliance Secretariat
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The German Alliance for Trade Facilitation has received the official confirmation and mandate of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to enter a new phase of additional three years starting in April 2021. We are pleased to find that the topic of facilitating trade and making it faster and easier is relevant as ever, especially during these challenging times. The new phase will be accompanied by a new lead of the German Alliance Secretariat. Ms Nurjamal Bokoeva, an expert of international trade with more than 20 years of experience in international development cooperation, takes over the management of the German Alliance for Trade Facilitation office. We say Thank You and Goodbye to Philipp Kruschel, who will take on new responsibilities within GIZ from April 2021 onwards.

9th VIRTUAL WORKING MEETING

Virtual exchange of the Alliance partners



Lively debates, in-depth expert discussions, plenty of energy and a very good atmosphere made our working meeting on 23 and 24 March, the third of our meetings to be held virtually, a great success. In the course of two mornings, over 30 Alliance partners shared their views on new project ideas, initiatives and other relevant trade-related issues. [Read more ...](#)

News from Projects

DIGITIZING GLOBAL TRADE

Cambodia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Montenegro and Rwanda join the initiative



Over the next 10 years, the new Digitizing Global Trade (DGT) initiative will foster the launch of numerous projects dedicated to digitalising customs clearance processes. The first six countries selected to take part are Cambodia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Montenegro and Rwanda. In these countries, the border authorities responsible for regulating trade will each launch projects in partnership with companies and trade associations. [Read more ...](#)

DIGITISING GLOBAL MARITIME TRADE

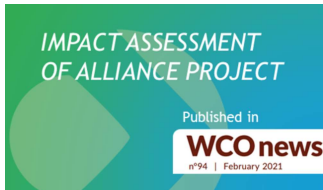
Sri Lanka customs joins project to improve digital access to sea cargo information



Improving digital access to advance sea cargo information - Sri Lanka Customs has officially joined the Digitising Global Maritime Trade project. Sri Lanka Customs is partnering with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the private sector on the new project [Digitising Global Maritime Trade](#) (DGMT). The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is financing the project. [Read more ...](#)

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION NEWS PUBLICATION

Insights from the Alliance's project in Montenegro at WCO News



“What do new Pre-Arrival Processing (PAP) capabilities in Montenegro tell us about customs performance measurement?” A group of experts from the Alliance network discuss this question in the current issue of the [WCO News Number 94](#), which is published three times a year by the World Customs Organization (WCO). [Read more...](#)

News from Partners

LEVERIST.DE

Discover new ways for new markets



Are you looking for [business opportunities](#) in developing and emerging countries? The matchmaking platform leverist.de shows business potentials in new markets and connects you to on-site experts from development cooperation. The initiative aggregates business opportunities from various countries and across many sectors on one platform. Do Business. Do Good. leverist.de is a platform of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). [Read more ...](#)

LAB OF TOMORROW

Kickstarting businesses and development in emerging markets



The lab of tomorrow (lot) fosters the creation of profitable and sustainable products and services which contribute to solving concrete challenges in developing and emerging countries. They are jointly developed by local and European companies and brought to market and scaled as joint ventures or startups. One of the current lot processes addresses the challenge of how to increase trust in eCommerce in order to increase cross-border eCommerce engagement in South-Eastern Europe. [Read more...](#)

INVEST FOR JOBS

Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation



Under the Invest for Jobs brand, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has put together a package of measures to support German, European and African companies in investment activities that have a high impact on employment in Africa. The Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation - the official title - offers comprehensive advice, contacts and financial support to overcome investment barriers. The development objective is to team up with companies to create good jobs and apprenticeships in the partner countries, of which there are currently eight, and to preserve them during the coronavirus pandemic. The aim is also to improve local working conditions. [Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

2021

June
November

Steering Committee Meeting
10th Working Meeting of the German Alliance for Trade Facilitation

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Nurjamal Bokoeva
Köthener Straße 2-3
10963 Berlin
Germany

+49 30 338 424 450
nurjamal.bokoeva@giz.de