

Harmonization and Integration of Customs Cargo Processing Policies and Practices in the ASEAN Region

REPSF Project No. 04/002

Authors:

The Centre for International Economics
Society for the Advancement of
Technology Management in the Philippines

Final Report

January 2006

ABSTRACT

The current ASEAN Customs initiatives to establish a regional single window for cargo processing demands an analysis of current policies and practices of clearing trade goods in the ASEAN Member Countries. This report undertakes a comparative analysis with the view of identifying bottlenecks, sources of inefficiencies and barriers to regional integration. A set of indicators, summarized in a Cargo Processing Efficiency Index, is recommended to provide a common measure of efficiency that will allow for benchmarking of performance, tracking impact of reforms, and identifying areas for improvement. A strategy for harmonization of policies and practices is also recommended to move forward on the goal of regional customs integration and to contribute to the promotion of regional trade.