

HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CROSS-BORDER DIGITAL TRADE
Organized jointly by Bank Indonesia, UN Statistics Division and UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Unleashing the Potential of Digital Trade Through Data-Driven and Innovative Policymaking in Boosting Inclusive Growth

Bali, Indonesia, 18 October 2024

I. Background

The rapid development of information technology has significantly impacted every aspect of our daily lives through the emergence of digitalized activities. This impact extends to cross-border trade as well. The acceleration of digitalization has made digital trade, including cross-border e-commerce, increasingly prevalent, altering the ways actors engage in global trade networks. Despite its growing importance, the activity of cross-border digital trade remains largely underrepresented in official macroeconomic statistics. This discrepancy underlines the pressing need for official statistics that accurately capture these digital trade developments. Such measures are crucial for providing policymakers with a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively navigate the opportunities and challenges presented by cross-border digital trade.

The Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade, jointly developed by the IMF, OECD, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and WTO, marks a significant advancement in laying the foundation for tracking these changes. Yet, this achievement also brings to light more complex issues, especially regarding the compilation of statistics that accurately reflect digital trade. The current absence of comprehensive and coherent official statistics, capable of depicting the full scope and nature of cross-border digital trade, calls for the development of innovative methods for data collection and compilation.

As cross-border digital trade expands, its implications are felt across multiple policy domains, both domestically and internationally. It interacts with ICT infrastructures, digital competencies, privacy, data protection, cybersecurity, and the equitable distribution of digital trade benefits within and across nations. Understanding these implications is crucial for policymakers, academics, and stakeholders, and will be a key focus of the seminar.

II. Objectives

This seminar aims to serve as a dynamic platform for policymakers, statistics compilers, academics, and other stakeholders to enhance their understanding of the escalating phenomenon of cross-border digital trade. It seeks to facilitate discussions on the myriad policy issues stemming from its rise, focusing on seizing the opportunities and tackling the challenges presented. Further, it also focuses on the inclusion of all relevant actors, notably SMEs and individuals/households, in harnessing the potential of digitalization to boost economic growth. Additionally, the seminar will delve into the difficulties countries face in developing cross-border digital trade statistics and explore the potential for innovative methodologies to bridge the gaps in existing official data sources.

III. Speakers and Audiences

The seminar will feature presentations from distinguished officials of central banks, national statistics offices, and international organizations. It targets a diverse audience of approximately 100 participants, including central bank representatives, government officials, statistics compilers, academics, and private sector members.

IV. Date and Venue

The seminar will be held in Bali on 18 October 2024, from 09.00 to 17.00 local time (GMT+8). The meeting will be conducted in English.

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Agenda	
09.00 - 09.45	Opening Remarks & Keynote Speech Juda Agung – Deputy Governor, Bank Indonesia (BI)
09.45 – 09.55	Official photo
09.55 – 10.00	Rebeca Grynspan – Secretary General, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (video)
10.00 – 11.30	Session 1: Mitigating Challenges and Exploring Opportunities: Shaping Cross-Border Digital Trade Policy for the Future Cross-border digital trade offers both opportunities and challenges for the development of countries. This session will address trade policy issues, particularly related to digitalization, that must be handled effectively in order to avail of the opportunities presented by digital trade for the benefit of society while also mitigating risks and challenges that could lead to negative effects on different economic and social actors. Speaker: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rupa Chanda – Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) Antonia Carzaniga – Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, World Trade Organization (WTO) Kishore Babu G.S.C. Yerraballa – Area Representative for Southeast Asia & other Member States in Asia and the Pacific, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Moderator: Harry S. Baskoro – Head of Balance of Payments Statistics Division, Bank Indonesia (BI)
Lunch Break (11.30 – 13.30)	
13.30 – 15.00	Session 2: Promoting Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development in the Era of Cross-Border Digital Trade Digital technologies can play a crucial role in connecting entrepreneurs and enterprises to international trade networks. This is especially the case for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have long faced challenges engaging in trade. These opportunities are particularly relevant for those operating in sectors with significant barriers to entry and extend to the informal sector. This ease of

	<p>access is also encouraging households and individuals to become international traders, blurring the line with businesses. This session will concentrate on strategies for promoting entrepreneurship and supporting the development of enterprises by harnessing the potential of digitalization to enhance economic growth.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nadim Ahmad – Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2. Anastuty K. – Head of the Green and Inclusive Economy and Finance Department, Bank Indonesia (BI) 3. Radityo Triatmojo – President Director, ShopeePay Indonesia 4. Lennise Ng – e-Trade for Women Advocate 2023/24, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Co-founder and CEO of Borong.com <p>Moderator: Witada Anukoonwattaka – Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)</p>
Coffee Break (15 minutes)	
15.15 – 16.45	<p>Session 3: Measuring Cross-Border Digital Trade: Bridging the Data Gaps and Leveraging Advanced Analytics</p> <p>It is important to accurately measure cross-border digital trade to inform trade policy decisions. What is the extent of digitally ordered and/or delivered trade? Who are the actors who are taking advantage of digitalization in trade? This session will explore the challenges countries encounter in compiling statistics on cross-border digital trade and consider new sources and approaches, such as data science methods, to fill the gaps in existing official data sources.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Antonella Liberatore – Head of Business and Trade Statistics, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2. Su Jun Lee – Director International Account, Singapore Department of Statistics, Ministry of Trade and Industry 3. Patrick Quill – Senior Economists, Balance of Payments Division, International Monetary Fund (IMF) <p>Moderator: Markie Muryawan – Head of Trade and Industry Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)</p>
16.45 – 17.00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Riza Tyas U.H. – Head of Statistics Department, Bank Indonesia (BI)</p>
17.30 – 18.30	Cocktail
18.30	Gala Dinner and Cultural Show