

Meeting to discuss PC Trade possibilities in Tokelau

Monday 7 December 2015 Attendees:

Kele Lui – National Statistician for Tokelau

Asofa Fereti – Director of Tokelau Department of Transport and Support Services

Jaap Jasperse – Statistics Advisor seconded from Statistics NZ, Wellington

Stuart Jones – Manager of Overseas Trade and PC Trade, Statistics NZ, Christchurch

Samisoni Makaafi – PC Trade Project Leader, Statistics NZ, Christchurch

Rooms

9.00 – 11.30am DH 2.02

11.30 – 1.00pm DH 2.01

Agenda as proposed by Stuart

- Introductions etc
- Current situation for Tokelau (IMTS goals in particular vs other priorities)
- A demo of PC Trade 2012
 - Show Nauru set up/process
 - Discuss broad dependencies/govt processes supported
 - Broader Trade statistical support from the our programme
- Current PC Trade programme priorities and goals Existing customers (includes Tokelau)
- Agree on general direction/next steps – a loose plan?

Notes from meeting of Stuart and Soni with Kele, Asofa and Jaap which went very well.

- Since Tokelau does not have a separate Custom Department, the Department of Transport and Support Services is responsible for preparing the information for trade data, specifically through cargo manifest and stores invoices.
- Kele has been thinking about PC Trade for a while and identified Trade as one of the top priorities in 2015/16. Tokelau wants a system where they can store this information, and can both be used by Transport and Statistics. The dual aim is to improve the efficiency of administration, and also a focus on improving the quality of life in Tokelau, which requires better statistics in all fields.
- Transport store all their data in excel spreadsheets, one for each shipment (approx.. fortnightly); the data include unit cost in Samoa, purchase cost in NZ\$, plus duty (generally 8%), plus transport cost, plus stores mark-up plus extra tax for cigarettes and alcohol.
- No duty is currently collected from individuals (not even on alcohol, which must be declared though).
- PCTrade focuses on cross-border movement, need rethink mark-up. Exchange rate Samoa Tala – NZ dollar (as used in Tokelau) needs consideration. Different tariffs for different nuku could be handled through concessions
- Export of goods for recycling (scrap metal, large beer bottles) could be included.
- After seeing the demo of PC Trade, Asofa said that all the variables he see in PC Trade cover most of his needs. There was one variable noted as missing - “volume of the goods” measured in cubic metres (m³). This is because this either volume or weight (whichever is the bigger) is used to calculate fees/charges collected. (Fields needed for clearance are: consignee, vessel, voyage, weight, volume, quantity). An enhancement to the current system, this needs to be assessed, costed and prioritised.
- They was discussion about how PC Trade would complement existing processes. The meeting hinted best fit with Transport, and Statistics will use resulting data. A final decision on this would be a key step in any implementation plan.
- Stuart stated that the system is really a general trade statistics programme that has wide scope – in one country it’s even used to collect school fees. The system allows many businesses to be set up in it, indeed would allow every person in Tokelau to be included. A degree of confidentiality would need to be created around it.
- Ideally we would include passenger movements (landing cards have been introduced but not fully implemented). PC Trade 2012 can be enhanced to meet this need, however this is not high priority (or funded) at this time.
- One of the core things required for PC Trade is the importance of classifications – both as a key component of how PC Trade works but usefulness in extracting reports with the resulting information. SPC standard tables are one option to meet IMTS2010 needs.
- In PC Trade, the tariff is one of the main building blocks of what PC Trade is built on and an equivalent would need to be developed. The Tokelau-specific Harmonised System list for 2014 imports may provide an initial concordance.
- Terminology: ensure consistency: Shippers are Agents, Government or individuals; consignees are stores or individuals at other end. Nota also GST / VAT / VAGST.

- Demo of reporting functions - how data can be extract out of PC Trade. Create Bill of Loading (BLAWB) first. Manifests come in under “Rotations”.
- Also showed the Electronic Self-Assessment Declaration (ESAD) and discussed some options of how this could be manipulated for Tokelau (if needed). Similarly, a draft Manifest load file (to operate) the same way as ESAD was noted as a key enhancement to prioritise. Noted that this enhancement would be very useful for other PC Trade users also.
- Important to keep consistency of PCTrade across 12 using countries as much as possible.
- Pre requisite for PC Trade were briefly discussed, such as the IT environment which does involve multiple computers allowing for many options. Stats NZ promoted a ‘start small’ approach to any implementation. Existing network at Tokelau office could be made use of, SQL server needed.
- Preferred timeline. Jaap said that it would be good if it can be done before he finished in October 2016, as he has very much involved with the 2014 import analysis. Tokelau Statistics will soon start preparing for their census to be held in October ‘16
- Discuss a loose plan going forward. Basing on experience with Nauru, a single PC may be best for Tokelau. That is, start simple, then build from there.

Action point:

1. Soni to send Asofa the following
 - Copy of the ESAD (Done)
 - Copy of the Manifest excel spreadsheet (Done)
 - Screenshot of the tabs in PC Trade (Done)
 - User instruction (Done)
2. Asofa will look through the screenshot when he gets back to Tokelau, and will get back to us with any question, or any other things.
3. Stats NZ to draft document summary for options for installations
4. Tokelau to decide where PC Trade will sit.
5. Stats NZ to assess options for including volume of goods.

Possible options

1. Build PC Trade on a PC here in NZ, then someone taking it to Tokelau (similar to approach currently being used for Nauru). Will do training when in country.
2. As per 1, but with Tokelau representatives travelling to NZ to receive PC & training in our environment.
3. Stats NZ to travel to Tokelau offices (Apia, Samoa) and install PC Trade, then do training. Normal installation.
4. Provide a virtual machine. Part of a proposed alternative PC Trade support model, yet to be evaluated.

Recommendations

Options 1 is recommended. This is to get Tokelau up and running, and then slowly build on it. Given the amount of data Tokelau have, this seem to be very practical and cost effective. Without consideration to other country or programme priorities, and subject to all other constraints, an ideal timetable for implementation would be April/May 2016

Further notes:

- Discussed the practice in Kiribati, where PC Trade is at Customs, but every month Customs send a CSV file to Statistics for their analysis. Tokelau can have PC Trade with Transport, and they send Statistics a file every month.
- Need to be working very closely with Samoan Bureau of Statistics, as most goods to Tokelau go via Samoa.
- No containers to Tokelau, so that cannot be used as shipment unit. Everything is re-packed to pallets in Samoa before shipping to Tokelau, then offloaded onto barges close to the atolls.
- There are three main store in Tokelau, that is one co-op store and one bulk store for each village.
- Tokelau Statistics and Transport are based in Apia, Samoa, so during any travel to the Tokelau office it will be good to see Samoa Bureau of Stats as we support them too.
- Discussed option of Tokelau staff coming to NZ to train and take PC home.
- Note that Amanda has now left, her IT role being taken over by David Smyth.
- PCTrade isn't just for statistics, it's a system to assist the entire customs process!