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COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**

Global Trade Facilitation Conference 2011
**Connecting International Trade:
Single Windows and Supply Chains in the Next Decade**

Geneva, Switzerland, 12 - 13 December 2011

Dear Madam/Sir,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Global Trade Facilitation Conference 2011 "Connecting International Trade: Single Windows and Supply Chains in the Next Decade". This high level conference is jointly organized by the five UN Regional Commissions (UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA) to review the progress made on the Trade Facilitation Agenda and to explore the way ahead. The focus is on Single Windows and Global Supply Chains.

Single Window has become a major instrument for simplifying and automating trade procedures. It supports paperless trade and the regional and global integration of trade. Governments around the world are increasingly using this instrument to strengthen their national and regional trade-development strategies. This Conference will bring together Governments and Traders from all over the world to develop a joint vision and framework to guide the future development of Single Windows and the electronic information exchange for global supply chains. It will formulate recommendations to Governments, business and regional and international organizations.

We especially welcome policy makers, government officials, business managers, analysts, service providers, representatives of international cooperation agencies working in the field of Trade Facilitation.

Participants to the conference will look at the latest trends, opportunities and technologies for Single Window and information exchange in global trade; will identify efficient strategies, business models and policy approaches; will develop strategic priorities for more efficient and secure cross-border trade, in line with the ongoing WTO negotiations in the Doha round; will share experience and lessons learned; will network and exchange views.

We would be very pleased if you could participate in this important event. There are no fees for attending this event, but participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements, visas and costs. The conference flyer is enclosed. The detailed programme, the registration form and any other updates are posted on: <http://www.unece.org/trade/swglobalconference2011>

The Conference will be followed by a two-days high level workshop, from 14 to 15 December, on the policy, legal and managerial aspects of paperless trade and Single Window implementation. Detailed information is also available on the conference website.

The Conference Coordinator, Markus PIKART and Maria Teresa PISANI of the Trade and Sustainable Land Management Division - swc2011_sec@unece.org - will be pleased to supply you with any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia Cram-Martos".

Virginia Cram-Martos
Director

Trade and Sustainable Land Management Division

Encl: Conference Flyer