Private sector embarks on regular ACTS movements

The ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) has been successfully operationalised through a strong partnership with City Zone Express (CZE) Sdn Bhd. CZE, a pioneer ACTS Principal, undertook two pilot ACTS movements of goods from Singapore to Thailand, for DHL Global Forwarding, and this was followed by two full live operations from Malaysia to Cambodia in 2021. Due to the significant benefits, CZE has activated regular weekly shipments from Malaysia to Cambodia through Thailand using ACTS from January 2022.

The ACTS is an automated transit management system developed in close cooperation between the European Union funded ARISE Plus project and ASEAN. CZE affirms that ACTS offers benefits never experienced before in the region. ACTS advantages include green lane clearance which avoids time consuming queues at borders, precise transit times for movements which enhances planning, between 30% to 40% of costs saving and elimination of large amount of redundant documentation. Other benefits include having a single digital declaration and single printed document accompanying the truck (TAD). Through the ACTS, information on shipment clearance at origin is digitally available at every customs office along an ACTS movement route. This requires no additional clearance at borders saving substantial time.

Besides the tangible benefits, ACTS contributes several positive ripple effects such as features that guarantee extra security and confidence, trust building with Customs authorities and better working environment for truck drivers by reduced waiting time at multiple customs borders. The use of ACTS takes transport of goods within ASEAN into a new era that is at par with global digitalization and complements ASEAN’s digital agenda.

At the end of February CZE has also begun using ACTS for its weekly movements on the Singapore-Malaysia-Thailand-Laos-Vietnam route. CZE is convinced that ACTS is the way forward for goods movement in the region and aims to make the most of it. Also, in the pipeline is the plan to convert all current movements from the border of China and Vietnam to Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to ACTS. CZE also aspires to bring more clients on board for ACTS registration as they strongly believe that ACTS will benefit the industry as a whole.

ACTS is currently operational in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. ARISE Plus and ASEAN are currently organising a series of ACTS Private Sector Partnership Building Events to engage with the private sector in the region. More information can be found at [https://ariseplus.asean.org/acts2/](https://ariseplus.asean.org/acts2/) and [https://acts.asean.org](https://acts.asean.org).