



DTL/KDB/MISC/2021/02  
(21/123gd)

**NOTIFICATION**

**Digital identity for trade and development  
online course for  
member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
and delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva  
and the World Trade Organization  
31 May–2 July 2021**

UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, eTrade for all and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, will deliver the Train for Trade programme (TrainForTrade) course on digital identity for trade and development. The course will be held online from 31 May to 2 July 2021, with a follow-up webinar on 8 July 2021.

United Nations Development Account project 1819N is designed to address demands and challenges in electronic commerce (e-commerce) development among member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Countries in the region have already made great advances in the adoption of e-commerce laws and the building of national e-commerce ecosystems. However, they all face challenges and are considering ways to strengthen the security of e-commerce users and the capabilities of entrepreneurs to securely engage in e-commerce. Working with these countries at different levels of development, this project aims to enhance knowledge of how policies and standards can facilitate cross-border e-commerce in the region.

The overall objective of the course is to identify and draft policies on digital identity related to trade and development, including defining the following:

- Limits of data protection and digital identity
- Scope of digital identity governance
- Risks and solutions related to digital identity

Registration is open to all relevant stakeholders from the ASEAN region and delegates from permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and the World Trade Organization. The participation of women is particularly encouraged. Nominated officials may register at <https://tft-reg.unctad.org>, then select “digital identity for trade and development 2021” and use the access code 2021DITD.

Queries concerning the courses should be addressed to Mr. Mark Assaf, Chief, Human Resource Development Section/TrainForTrade, Knowledge Development Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD; tel: 41 22 917 5481; email: [mark.assaf@un.org](mailto:mark.assaf@un.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabelle Durant'.

Isabelle Durant  
Acting Secretary-General  
UNCTAD

18 May 2021



## Course description

### I. BACKGROUND

Since 2003, UNCTAD has been undertaking several activities jointly with the secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and with ASEAN member States to assist them in the implementation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Master Plan 2015 and ICT Master Plan 2020, as well as ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, which set specific measures to build a digitally enabled regional economy and encourage the development of electronic commerce (e-commerce).

E-commerce is seen as a key component in realizing the vision of a regionally integrated economy. However, ASEAN member States are to some extent inadequately prepared to capture the many opportunities emerging through e-commerce. Some of the key challenges in promoting e-commerce in the region include those related to concerns regarding cybersecurity, lack of trust in online transactions and lack of strong methods of authentication to underpin electronic transactions and to address fraud. There is also increasing demand in the region to identify enabling policies and best practices that will accelerate the development of e-commerce.

United Nations Development Account project 1819N is designed to address these demands and challenges in e-commerce development. Countries in the region have already made great advances in the adoption of e-commerce laws and the building of national e-commerce ecosystems, with Singapore recognized as the leader in this field in the region. However, they all face challenges and are considering ways to strengthen the security of e-commerce users and the capabilities of entrepreneurs to securely engage in e-commerce. Working with these countries at different levels of development, this project aims to enhance knowledge of how policies and standards can facilitate cross-border e-commerce in the region.

### II. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the course is to identify and draft policies on digital identity related to trade and development, including defining the following:

- Limits of data protection and digital identity
- Scope of digital identity governance
- Risks and solutions related to digital identity

### III. OUTLINE

The course will be conducted through the TrainForTrade distance learning platform. Through the platform, participants will have access to manuals, multimedia presentations, module exams, opinion surveys and forums for each module for discussions with the instructor and other participants.

Each course module includes interactive assessments and links to communications tools for online interactions. Each module consists of video presentations, a participant manual, a forum, tests and case studies. Participants should spend between four and five hours per week in studying the material and participating in the forums.

The five course modules are as follows:

1. Fundamental concepts of digital identity
2. Data protection
3. Digital identity usage
4. Governance
5. Digital identity technology solutions and risks

A 90-minute follow-up webinar will be held at the end of the course, the topic of which will be defined during the assessment of the online sessions.

#### **IV. TARGET POPULATIONS**

##### **Primary**

- Policymakers:
  - Ministry of Interior (national security and identification issues)
  - Ministry of Justice (legal issues)
  - Ministry of Trade or Commerce (usability)
  - Ministry of Information and Communications Technology
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Financial regulator (national bank)
- Private sector:
  - Chambers of commerce
  - Business clusters (information and communications technology, financial technology, etc.)
  - Entrepreneurs

##### **Secondary**

- Authentication institutions
- Postal services
- Financial institutions
- Telecommunications companies
- Non-governmental organizations