

Recommendation 36 Discussion papers Semantic working group

Conference call on July 2014, the 23rd

The conference call started in time and its duration was one hour.

The participants were: E = apologies received.

Mr.	Lance	THOMPSON	X
Mrs.	Paloma	BERNAL TURNES	E
Mrs.	Mary-Kay	BLANTZ	X
Mrs.	Angela Jeaneth Ospina	ENCISO	E
Ms.	Estelle	IGWE	E
Mr.	Eric	OKIMOTO	E
Mr.	Moudrick M.	DADASHOV	E
Mr.	Remy	MARCHAND	X
Mrs.	Sue	PROBERT	X
Mr.	Hisanao	SUGAMATA	X
Mr.	Jonathan	KOH TAT SEN	X
Mr.	Satya Prada	SAHU	X

Introduction by Lance reminding the conference call which will be held with the three other working groups on August the 19th.

After this introduction, the conference started with the proposed agenda.

- Approval of the first call minutes
- Discussion of SP Sahu written comments
- ISO 7372 maintenance agency
- Cross Border data harmonization

Scope of the Recommendation 36 (impacting the discussion paper, and later the white paper).

What do we mean by the term Single Window?

If we consider that SW is reserved for systems exclusively dealing with regulatory SW, we need to exclude systems such as KL Net in Korea, except its components processing port authorities.

In Europe, e-Maritime (project promoted by DG MOVE) will create interoperability between the systems of the national port authorities, but regulatory Single Window systems are developed following the principle of subsidiarity, in other words by each EU member state administration.

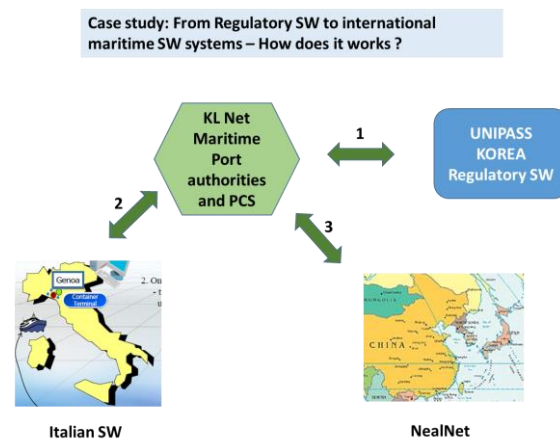
However, reasoning in terms of trade and transport facilitation assessment or global and safe supply chains learns that such assessment incorporates a broader set of topics in its analysis, including logistics infrastructure, procedures for moving goods, regulatory activities, and the provision, quality, and cost of available logistics services. In other words interoperability of regulatory SW systems is heavily dependent upon the easiness and fluidity of the information flows and procedures related to reporting activities.

There is a continuum in the flow of information as it is illustrated in the figure representing the collaboration of the Korean KL Net system with UNIPASS (Korean regulatory SW), Italy (MIELE project) and NEALNET.

Another important point is that it necessary to reason in terms of SW environment, as it is illustrated by the example given by SP Sahu:

In a Single Window environment, there is a set of participating facilities. Each of the participating facilities can potentially act as agents to interchange information with their overseas counterparts. For example:

In country A, the Agriculture ministry issues phytosanitary certificates but is a part of the Single Window since it shares all information with country A's Customs system so that traders submit information at one place and do not submit information more than once. The Agriculture ministry in county B receives the phytosanitary certificate from country B and absorbs it into it Single Window. Intra-and international exchanges have the same underlying principles. In the latter, the legal issues are far more challenging than the former. Note: In Europe the phytosanitary certificate is processed at the European level while regulatory SW are national.



Semantic interoperability

SP Sahu "Semantic interoperability is not about whether one application can be integrated with another. It is about the ability to fluidly function together. Semantic interoperability requires a shared understanding of the meaning of the exchanged data. The primary enabler of semantic interoperability is the availability of widely accepted data standards. UN/CEFACT has been in the core business of semantic interoperability.

The UN/Recommendations, TDED, CCL and UN/EDIFACT are the building blocks of semantic interoperability". He concludes "But in reality, we do not have effective Semantic Interoperability".

Mary-Kay Blantz: Explains that this problem is tackled by the UNTDED - ISO7372 Maintenance Agency. The TDED, EDED and CCL are used worldwide to facilitate trade.

The current lack of alignment of these three libraries causes confusion and impedes data standardization.

The project deliverables are:

- Updated Trade Data Element Directory
- Updated UN/EDIFACT Data Element Directory
- Updated UNCL
- Updated Core Component Library with links to corresponding TDED and EDED data element tags

SP Sahu: Lack of interoperability is created by the developers (or vendors), and their implementations occurring at different time periods and contexts result in differing implementations, which - to some degree - will be proprietary.

Discussion: A set of recommendations for the developers should limit the differences which could be reduced to the consideration of contexts, especially when the alignment project (ISO 7372 Maintenance agency) will have been completed.

Cross-border data harmonization

The discussion was supported by the figures in annexe representing the US Canada cross-border harmonized data set for customs and OGA commented by Peter Dawson who provided the material - Beyond the border Action plan * Single Window initiative and USCBP-CBSA data alignment package - from which the illustration was made.

Peter explained that no G2G exchanges are foreseen during the first step of the SW harmonization initiative. The documents designed from the harmonized data set are not the same in both countries and the syntax is EDIFACT in the US and EDIFACT or XML in Canada.

Plans for extending the domain covered by the SW harmonization are foreseen.

Two other Cross-border data harmonization plans were mentioned:

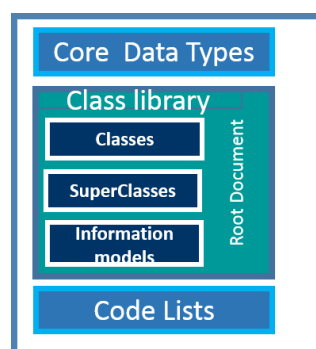
- The first one concerns the definition of a harmonized data set which was established with the purpose to run a pilot G2G project between Korea (UNIPASS) and the Philippines
- The second one was mentioned by Jonathan and concerns the Sultanat of Oman and Malaysia.

The discussion concluded that further investigations might suggest some generic recommendations based upon the Recommendation 34 which already mentioned the interest to build standardized data sets not only within a country and for a national regulatory SW system but also between two or more countries. Further investigations might be done in collaboration with existing SW alliances such as the African alliance for SWs, ASW and SELA.

It is also interesting to discuss with the group in charge of the analysis of business needs (G2G and B2G).

IATA e-Freight

Although this initiative is not meant to create the foundation for SW systems, it will contribute the development of interoperability. In effect the e-Freight standards claim to be aligned with the WCO Data model 3.0.



... and with the UN/CEFACT CCL. In addition IATA e-Freight provides assistance to the developers, in particular by providing a tool kit and training activities.

To which extent this project will ease the uptake of interoperable cross-border SW systems will be the subject of further investigations.

SP Sahu mentioned the EU Common Framework for systems used in transport and logistics.

R.Marchand said that this Common Framework was an input for a EU funded project concerning

Intelligent transport systems and had also been used by several other EU funded projects, including e-Maritime (SW for port authorities).

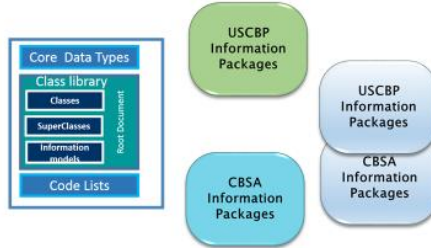
The EU Common Framework is a subset of UBL2.1 and has been more or less aligned with the WCO Data model 3.0. to create a Common Reporting Schema to custom and OGA on the one hand and to transport and logistic services providers on the other hand. Further investigations are also needed in particular with the study concerning the EU Common Framework currently progressing in UN/CEFACT.

Metrics for SW Interoperability

A draft will be produced for the next version of the Discussion paper in time for the next UN/CEFACT Forum in India.

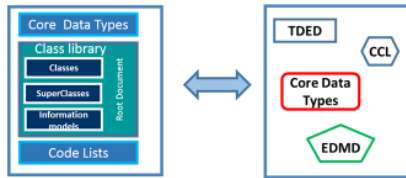
Annexe

US Canada creation of harmonised standard data sets for Customs and OGA



Based upon WCO Data model 3.0

US Canada creation of harmonised standard data sets for Customs and OGA

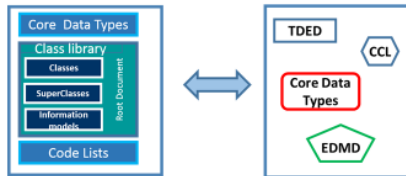


WCO Data model 3.0

UNCEFACT

What are the detailed correspondences?
Which feedback?

US Canada creation of harmonised standard data sets for Customs and OGA

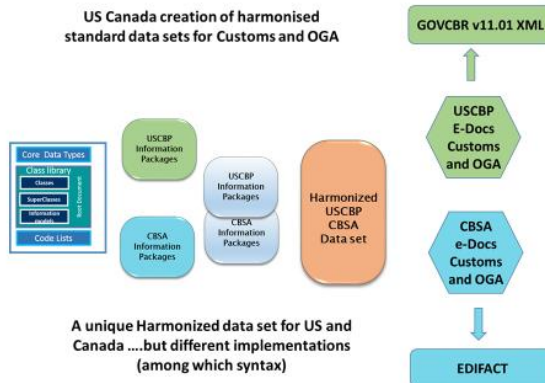


WCO Data model 3.0

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A unique Harmonized data set for US and Canada ...but different implementations (among which syntax)