



## PREFACE II

UN/CEFACT Vice Chair, Mr. T.A. Khan



During the last two decades, information and communication technology have empowered societies in different and diversified ways by affecting different sectors including; trade, governance, tourism, education and entertainment amongst other sectors. Moreover, it has given businesses, governments and other economic establishments the platform to increase and diversify productivity as well as contributed to business and economic development and growth.

The Governments/ policy makers in the developing countries are making serious efforts to close the digital gap with the developed world and becoming more integrated into the information society. Trade process standardisation is an integral part of any such exercise. The Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and eBusiness (AFACT) is making sustained efforts in helping the Asia Pacific region in realizing these objectives. More and more nations are getting attracted to benefit out of it. The meeting of the AFACT in Vietnam for the first time is an ample indication of this growing trend.

The AFACT has a firm objective to facilitate close co-operation between all member nations in adopting the international standards and best practises in association with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and eBusiness (UN/CEFACT).

This is the second consecutive year when the AFACT Secretariat has compiled this year book. I am sure like the first issue of the AFACT year book this issue would also provide an insight into trade facilitation and eBusiness issues and solutions. I appreciate AFACT Secretariat for the efforts put in by them as well as the HODs of the member nations for contributing excellent content for the book.

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Preface