# RECENT  DEVELOPMENTS  IN  UN/EDIFACT:  REGIONAL REPORTS

Submitted by the UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs  *

SOURCE: UN/EDIFACT RAPPORTEURS
STATUS: RAPPORTEURS' REPORT
ACTION: FOR INFORMATION,  September 1997 GE.1 session, agenda item 5.

# ASIA EDIFACT BOARD (ASEB)

1.      The 14th Asia EDIFACT Board meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Wan-Soo Sohn (Korea) at the Raffles City Convention Center in Singapore on April 30-May 2 1997 after the JRT meeting and the EDICOM '97 Conference. The representatives from Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, P.R.C., Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended and observers also attended from Australia, Brunei Darusalam, France, Hong Kong, Papua Newguinea, UK, Vietnam and member countries. Totally 200 members and observers participated in the meeting.

2.      Eleven AS/EB joint working groups of Financial, Awareness and Education, TAG, Transport, Customs, Purchasing, Electronic and Computing, Security, Emvironment Protection, Healthcare and Air-Transport had one or two days meeting in parallel on April 29-30 just before the AS/EB meeting.

3.      The Board Conference EDICOM '97/Singapore (The Asia Pacific Conference and Exhibition for EDI) was also held at the Raffles City Convention Center on April 27-28, 1997 and almost 400 participants attended the Conference in total.

4.      The Inter-networking Implementation Committee (IIC) was held on April 29, 1997 and a number of important decisions were made to initiate networking activities in the customs sector among member countries.

5.      The ASEB Internet homepage is being updated by the Korea EDIFACT Board under the URL http://www.ktnet.co.kr/aseb. The meeting minutes, members' progress reports, the ASEB Bylaws and the organization structure will be available soon on the homepage.

6.      There are many EDI related projects going on in member countries and economies. (See the progress reports of the minutes.)

In particular, there is some remarkable progress on EDI projects in Japan: a) The marine port sector is going to start an implementation test of UN/EDIFACT covering shipping lines, shippers, freight forwarders and port operators to facilitate existing paper based procedures under the auspice of Ministry of Transport. POLISA (the Port Logistics Information Systems Association) which is a non-profit organization acts as a center of this project in coorporation with SC/SFNet Center. Further, Port Authorities are investigating the introduction of an EDI system based on UN/EDIFACT standards for Ship Arrival/Departure Notices. b) Japanese Customs is now focusing on the migration project from its current proprietary system of NACCS (Nippon Automated Customs Clearance System) to a UN/EDIFACT based EDI System. Its target date will be in October or November 1999. Also, the Quarantine/Food Inspection System will be incorporated into the Customs Clearance System. c) In the Retail and Distribution sector, DSRI (the Distribution Systems Research Institute) is strongly promoting the implemention of the EANCOM subsets of UN/EDIFACT messages under the Japan EDI Commercial System (JEDICOS) which is currently converted into a Japanese version for implementation in 1998. d) JASTPRO (the Japan Association for Simplification of International Trade Procedures) - an non-profit organization jointly managed by the ministries of:  Finance (MOF), International Trade and Industry (MITI) and Transport (MOT), has recently formed a research/study group for the promotion of electronic data interchange in foreign trade and finance. The group proposes to conduct not only follow-up studies and assessments of EDI projects to promote worldwide the current trend of adopting paperless

procedures in foreign trade and finance, but also feasibility studies for Japan -centered EDI projects foreign trade and finance in co-oporation with the Bolero Project in Europe.

7.    The Head of the Brunei Darussalam delegation has made a commitment that her official application to participate in the ASEB activity is progress.

8.    Meeting Schedules

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| The 15th ASEB | November 5-6 '97 | Colombo, Colombo |
| | | (JWGs' Meeting on November 3-4.) |
| The 16th ASEB | April/May '98 | Tehran, Iran |
| | | (+ CEFACT seminar) |
| The 17th ASEB | Oct/Nov '98 | Beijing, P.R.C. |
| | | (+ EDICOM '98) |
| The 18th ASEB | April/May '99 | Jakarta, Indonesia |
| The 19th ASEB | Oct/Nov '99 | Korea |
| | | (+ EDICOM '99) |
| The 20th ASEB | April 2000 | Open for proposal |
| The 21st ASEB | Oct/Nov 2000 | Chinese Taipei |
| | | (+ EDICOM 2000) |

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# AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND EDIFACT BOARD (ANZEB)

At a meeting on 25 June 1997 Government officials from both countries agreed to disband the Australia/New Zealand EDIFACT Board (ANZEB). This decision was taken in anticipation of adoption of a proposal in document Trade/WP.4/CRP.123 which would permit an individual country to participate directly in the UN/EDIFACT process.

Notwithstanding the decision to disband the ANZEB, the Australian Government has confirmed that it will continue with its commitment to and operational involvement in the UN/EDIFACT process.

Subsequently, following consultations between the Australian Government officials and TRADEGATE ECA, (the major Australian User Association for Electronic Commerce), it was agreed that TRADEGATE ECA would accept responsibility, including appropriate funding support, for Australia's continued involvement in the UN/EDIFACT process.

As reported in the March 1997 regional report TRADEGATE ECA was established earlier this year through the amalgamation of the two organisations providing information, services and support to Australian EDI users. The revised mission statement for the amalgamated organisation is as follows:

> *To facilitate the development and use of Electronic Commerce techniques throughout the Australian economy including all levels of commerce and government with the objective of improving the efficiency, reliability and accuracy of the overall trading & logistics process at a reduced cost to all participants.*

A number of major industry working parties have or are being established to give effect to this mission. It is anticipated that all of these groups will, in due course, be represented on the TRADEGATE ECA Board. The Groups are:

- Logistics Management covering, all Transport modes, Customs & other Government Regulatory Agencies , Brokers & Forwarders, Terminal & Depot Operators.

- Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Retailers & Primary Producers

- Financial & Related Services

- Other Service Industries, eg Health, Tourism, Education & Information Technology

- Technology Suppliers including VANS, Software Houses and Consultants

In addition TRADEGATE ECA has established a CEFACT Management Committee which held its inaugural meeting on 7 August 1997. At this meeting it was agreed that the Regional EDIFACT Secretariat and Technical Assessment Group, both based in Australia, would be retained to provide continuing support and involvement in the UN/EDIFACT process both at the national and international level. Further details of the proposed revised arrangements will be provided in a submission to CEFACT/GE.1 by the Australian Head of Delegation.

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## **CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN EDIFACT BOARD (CEEB)**

No report was received from the Central and Eastern European EDIFACT Rapporteur.

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# EUROPEAN BOARD FOR EDI STANDARDIZATION  (EBES)*

*Assumed the responsibilities of the West European EDIFACT Board in 1995

No report was received from the West European EDIFACT Rapporteur.

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# THE PAN AMERICAN EDIFACT BOARD  (PAEB)

During their Plenary meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, on August 21, 1997, the membership of the Pan American EDIFACT Board authorized the PAEB Steering Committee to make the decision to dissolve the Board when it deems appropriate.  Under the recently-implemented structure for international trade facilitation under CEFACT in the United Nations, the CEFACT member organizations can choose to retain regional structures or to participate on a national basis. Ms. Kendra Martin, Chair of ASC X12, has assured the PAEB membership that X12 will assume responsibility for the necessary functions of the PAEB, most particularly the technical assessment of UN/EDIFACT data maintenance and distribution of the UN/EDIFACT Directories.

The Steering Committee decision must be made no later than February 2, 1998, but the dissolution does not have to be effective immediately.  The dissolution is contingent in part upon the condition that the regional Rapporteur structure for the development of UN/EDIFACT has been eliminated and an empowered technical body under CEFACT for the development of UN/EDIFACT is mandated.  The current PAEB officers will remain in office until the dissolution of the Pan American EDIFACT Board.

The following Resolutions were approved by the membership of the Pan American EDIFACT Board on August 21, 1997.

1.   That the membership of the Pan American EDIFACT Board authorize the PAEB Steering Committee to make the decision to dissolve the Board when it deems appropriate, such decision to be made no later than February 2, 1998.

2.   That all PAEB members who paid dues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, will continue to be considered members until the date of the dissolution.

3.   That the current officers of the PAEB remain in office until the dissolution of the Pan American EDIFACT Board.

## Country Reports

**REPORT FROM BRAZIL**

SIMPRO-BRASIL is the Brazilian private, cooperative, non-profit organization responsible for standardizing and promoting EDI and trade facilitation in Brazil. It is the Brazilian UN/ECE/CEFACT focal point for these activities.

Since our last report:

 ■ An implementation guide for UN/EDIFACT financial messages was released by the Brazilian Federation of Banking Associations (FEBRABAN), with support from SIMPRO-BRASIL.

- The Group that deals with customs messages started to work on the migration of the presently used proprietary messages towards the UN/EDIFACT Standard Messages.

- SIMPRO-BRASIL started the field survey phase of its national research on the usage of EDI and Electronic Commerce.

- SIMPRO-BRASIL sponsored a two-day seminar, held at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, about Electronic Commerce and Electronic Payment Systems. About 60 people attended. The Institute is also supporting the introduction of disciplines related to technology application, and, particularly, Electronic Commerce / EDI topics in the graduate courses taught at the Getulio Vargas Foundation.

In the near future, one of the SIMPRO-BRASIL work groups is expected to generate recommendations regarding EDI over the Internet. Another group is examining the possible legal implications of the adoption in Brazil of the model law and other legal instruments related to EDI and Electronic Commerce. The annual Brazilian conference on the application of advanced technology to trade (TECNOEX '97), will have its fourth edition in Rio, in October. We welcome the interest of possible speakers on technical and non technical issues, topics of application, tools, etc.


## REPORT FROM COLOMBIA

IAC Colombia is a non profit organisation, which represents EAN International in our country. The mission of EAN is to take a leading role in establishing a global multi-industry system for identification and communication, based on internationally accepted standards (EAN Codes - EANCOM/EDIFACT).

The following is our report the last semester of activities:

- Continuing with our effort to promote the use of EDI in the Transport Sector, we have developed a new serial publication called "Carga" - Load, which includes different issues as cases of study, guides and courses of interest.

- We developed TecnoEAN, a permanent exhibition of an efficient supply chain. Based on the EAN standards, TecnoEAN shows all the processes and activities from the purchase in the point of sale to the payment of the goods via EDI. All the activities and transactions are automated including ordering, receiving, despatch and payment. We also have an application in the health care sector including the hospital and the insurance company.

- In our education program we have trained 612 people in EDI during the last semester, in different sectors, 152 in Health Care, 124 in Financial, 23 in Transport, 52 in Insurance and 313 in Manufacture and Retail.

- During the next semester we are planning to hold two seminars, one for the Health Care sector and the other one for the Financial, in which we are going to have the participation of international lecturers.

**REPORT FROM MEXICO**

Since the last Pan American EDIFACT Board Meeting we can report that there are seven active work groups under the Comité EDI Mexico, the official EDI body:

- Retail
- Finance
- Insurance
- Automotive
- Customs
- Security
- Training and Education

On August 19, 1997, the Comité EDI Mexico Conference will take place. The goal of the conference is to present EDI guidelines for the different sectors in Mexico. We are expecting an attendance of 2,000 people.

The Comité EDI Mexico and their groups are working with both standards, ANSI ASC X12 and UN/EDIFACT, as follows:

a. The customs workgroup is working with three UN/EDIFACT messages, CUSDEC, CUSCAR and CUSREP.

b. The financial workgroup is developing the security infrastructure for EDI. They have integrated four certification levels:

  * the first level is to keep the keys
  * the second level is to control the certificates
  * the third level is to relate the person with the certificate
  * the fourth level is to identify the person

c. The retail sector released its guidelines containing eight messages under X12 standards. This sector has no intentions in the short term to migrate to UN/EDIFACT standards.

d. The automotive and insurance industry are working with ANSI X12. Their intention is to release their first guidelines before 1998.

e. The relationship with the government has been improved in order to implement in the short term the electronic invoice with some pilots.

**REPORT FROM URUGUAY**

Through an initiative of the Centro Uruguayo de Numeración de Artículos (C.U.N.A.) and the participation of the National Chamber of Commerce, the National Supermarket Association and main companies from trade and industry, EAN Uruguay was founded on March 1996. Its mission is to take a leading role in establishing a global multi-industry system of identification and communication for products and services based on internationally accepted standards.

During the first semester of 1997, the Working Team discussed and endorsed a document named "Code of Practice for suppliers of communication services for EDI messages". This document includes the requirements for what a VAN supplier should provide when offering EDI services.

Since June 1997, an important supermarket chain and some of its main suppliers are interchanging EANCOM's UN/EDIFACT subset message ORDERS in a pilot project coordinated by EAN URUGUAY and the services of AT&T.

In the Customs sector, a pilot project is about to start with the interchange of the CUSCAR message. This message will be used by the sea, airway and terrestrial agencies to send their cargo manifest to the Customs' Office.

EAN URUGUAY is giving a three-day seminar on introduction to EDI and its impact on companies' organization. Users and potential users have shown great interest in this course.

**REPORT FROM THE USA**

- X12 continues to make strides in aligning many of its transaction sets into UN/EDIFACT messages. Several subcommittee work groups have made the decision to only develop new business requirements in UN/EDIFACT.

- We will be holding elections for Chair and Vice-Chair in October 1997.

- We continue to inform our membership on CEFACT updates.

- We are in anticipation that we will have a strong US representation at the September JRT because of the timing and location of the meeting.