

ICT and E-Business Strategies for Development

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Summary of “Reducing Costs by Enhancing Visibility in Supply Chains”

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Current technology enables to collect and to exchange massive amount of data coming from multiple sources. Transforming these data into meaningful information is a major challenge for many companies. A key enabler to these processes is the availability of standard means to identify products and relevant parties as well as standard protocols to facilitate data communications between multiple computer applications. The benefits of using a set of consistent global standards to connect the movements of physical goods with the related information flows are addressed. The application of automatic data capture technologies, from bar codes to Radio Frequency Identification, are discussed as well. Finally the challenges and opportunities presented by electronic data interchange applications are discussed. The application of automatic data capture and electronic commerce technologies in open supply chain environments is a reality for many companies today, but there is still a long way to go to fully exploit the potential benefits.

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