

## **Pranab Kumar Das**

Director of the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate since January 2020. In this role he provides leadership, support and guidance to the team of the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, overseeing the activities and initiatives of the WCO in the area of streamlining trade procedures and efficient compliance with the trade regulations, development of relevant instruments and tools, fostering customs cooperation and capacity building. As a key member of the WCO Management team, Mr. Das contributes to the implementation of the WCO Strategic Plan goals of trade facilitation and the protection of the society. Under strategic objective of promotion of trade facilitation, Mr. Das renders his support to the WCO Members for the implementation of the Revised Kyoto Convention, E-Commerce, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, SAFE and AEO, Coordinated Border Management, the Data Model and waste-related issues. Under the strategic objective of better protection of the society, Mr. Das supervises the work articulated around risk management, revenue fraud, passenger control and SAFE, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing, and drugs and medicines.

Prior to joining the WCO Mr. Das has been working as a Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs in India, promoting customs reforms in India and supporting multiple initiatives for easing traffic and transit in India's land-linked neighbors, which led to significant reduction in dwell time and costs for traders.

Das holds a Master's degree in economics and a degree in law apart from a Masters in philosophy on "GST and its role on economic security".

## **James McColm**

Jim has been the Acting Deputy Director of Compliance & Enforcement at the World Customs Organization (WCO) since September 2023, with responsibility for 8 enforcement and compliance work areas, covering Anti-Money Laundering, Drugs, Revenue, IPR, Environment, and Security Programme as well as responsibility for Enforcement related IT, targeting and risk management system and expertise.

Prior to this he was a Senior Technical Office at the WCO for 7.5 years and the Programme Manager of the WCO's Security Programme, being responsible for the delivery of the WCO's Strategic Trade Control Enforcement Programme along with Programme Global Shield (Counter-IED precursors and components), the Small Arms and Light Weapons Project, and Radiological Nuclear (RN) Detection Awareness Training, as well as a number of regional focused security projects in SE Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean.

Jim has over 30 years of Customs Experience. Previous to his time at the WCO, he worked for HM Customs & Excise (HMCE) and Border Force in the UK. During that time he worked in both Intelligence and Detection operational and management roles, spending 10 years in National Intelligence as a Strategic Intelligence Analyst and Intelligence Manager and 8 years at Heathrow Airport as the Senior operational Manager of Freight Anti-Smuggling, with national responsibilities for Counter-proliferation and Counter-terrorism.

Jim was also the first Customs' Liaison Officer to the UK's Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) where he worked with Police and Intelligence agencies on border related international terrorism developing training, briefing material and packages for frontline Customs staff. He also established and led the Border Force Counter Proliferation Team,

modernizing and professionalizing Border Force's approach to risk based export controls, leading to a large increase in proliferation related seizures between 2012-2016.

### **Sahoko Shiga**

She is responsible for international cooperation in the customs field, including planning and formulating Japan Customs' technical cooperation policies, and responding to various committees of the WCO as well as engaging in activities within regional cooperation frameworks such as APEC to promote the trade facilitation and Customs Reform and Modernization.

### **Maurice Emiola ADEFALOU**

Senior customs officer with the Benin Customs Administration and a WCO accredited expert. With a strong background in risk management, he has held several important positions, such as Director of Legislation and International Relations in charge of WCO issues, Head of the Customs Surveillance Team at the Port of Cotonou and Head of the Mobile Unit in charge of combating fraud, Chairperson of the Selectivity Committee (Risk Management) and of the Scanner Management Committee, Spokesperson of the Benin Customs Administration. In December 2018, he was nominated as Chairperson of the Counterfeiting and Piracy Group (CAP) of the World Customs Organization (WCO). Since July 2019, he has been appointed as Technical Officer in charge of the IPR, health and safety programme in the WCO. Maurice holds a degree in Diplomacy and International Relations and a postgraduate diploma in Business Law and Taxation.

### **Ousmane COUNDOUL**

He holds a master's degree in statistical and econometric methods, a master's degree in teleinformatics and a Diplôme d'Etude Approfondie (DEA) in Applied Mathematics. He is a Senegalese customs officer with extensive experience in enforcement. An accredited WCO expert in risk management, he developed a particular interest in the WCO's CEN tools at a very early stage, and is a user and trainer of these tools. In March 2019, he joined the WCO Secretariat in the Security Programme and subsequently as an analyst in the Drugs Programme, while also being responsible for analysing data from the WCO's first Operation STOP. With solid skills in data science and data visualisation, Ousmane has been Technical Administrator, Head of the CEN Programme, since 1 September 2022.

### **Rumi Hashimoto**

Rumi Hashimoto is a WCO technical attaché in IPR Health and Safety Programme of Compliance Sub-directorate. She started her career in the Customs fields in 2011. In the field of IPR, she engaged in the examination of Customs application related to IPR and Customs technical cooperation in IPR National Center of Japan Customs. In addition to her Customs career, she has background working for Japan Patent Office engaging in anti-counterfeiting activities. From summer 2023, she joined the WCO Secretariat in Belgium, where she provides capacity building activities and develops some instruments for WCO member customs administrations.

### **Marco Favarin**

Lieutenant Colonel belonging to Guardia di Finanza, Italian Financial Police, with 39 years of duty in several tasks, both in Italy and abroad. His national duties, in different parts of Italy, have been accomplished as Customs police at land boundaries, ports and airport against smuggling and related illicit trades; then in financial investigations, tax audits, fight against money laundering, training, and tackling commercial frauds including IPR.

His deployments abroad comprised participations to law enforcement international operations (UN; EU; NATO) in critical areas of the world – mostly concerning MMA (monitoring mentoring advising), or training. Actually, he has worked at RILO WE in Cologne – Germany, for 2 and half years, as a specialist mostly tasked with participation to WCO international operations, and in meetings with worldwide organizations committed with the fight against transnational illicit trades.

### **Harriet Smith**

Police officer and detective for 11 years in the British police.

I have been at Apple for over 13 years starting in the global security team then specialising in IP Enforcement. I manage the customs programme for EMEA and conduct trainings for Law enforcement all over the region. I manage complex enforcement programmes and investigations through our huge network of vendors. I am on the REACT supervisory council and work towards making all my vendors the best in class. I work closely with the local Apple Sales teams and local distributors to gain the intelligence that will allow us to target the main importers and distributors of counterfeits. I have also build an internal Apple database that allows us to conduct trend and target analysis.

### **Rebecca Jonassen**

Rebecca Jonassen is the New Zealand Customs Counsellor based in Brussels. She is the New Zealand Attache to the WCO, and the Liaison Officer to the European Union and its member states and other European countries. She is the next Vice Chair of the WCO Enforcement Committee.

Prior to her posting to Brussels, Rebecca was Chief Legal Counsel – Corporate, for the NZ Customs Service. In this role she was responsible for a team of Customs lawyers covering all aspects of customs laws and procedures in litigation, customs policy and law reform, and legal advice on numerous large projects including technological advancements for the NZ Customs Service. She was also Chair of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)'s Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures when NZ hosted APEC in 2021, with a focus on paperless trade and empowering women in customs.

Prior to NZ Customs, Rebecca had a career in the New Zealand foreign service where she covered a range of foreign policy matters and trade negotiations (including customs procedures). She was previously posted in Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **Rizvi Mohammad Salahuddin, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Bangladesh.**

Rizvi Mohammad Salahuddin serves as the First Secretary (Customs) at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in Bangladesh. He has over 13 years of experience in the customs clearance process, facilitation and enforcement. Mr. Rizvi is a WCO Pre-accredited expert on IPR and former Professional Associate (PA) at the Procedures and

Facilitation Sub-Directorate of the World Customs Organization (WCO). He is a WCO Scholar with a Master's in Public Finance (Customs) from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo. Also, he has a Master's in Geotechnical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, both from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), Dhaka. Mr. Rizvi is a graduate of the IDEAS program at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan. He was awarded the Australia Awards Scholarship and the Prime Minister's Fellowship in 2019. Also, he received the WCO Certificate of Merit for rendering exceptional service to the international Customs community.

### **Perry Ng, INTERPOL**

Perry Ng is a Criminal Intelligence Officer for INTERPOL's Program on Illicit Goods and Global Health, based in Singapore at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation, from which he supports international cooperation between countries globally in tackling the issue relating to pharmaceutical crime. The objective of the Illicit Goods and Global Health Program is to dismantle organized criminal groups that benefit from trafficking in illicit products, coordinating global and regional operations, increasing police capabilities, capacity building and raising awareness, all through law enforcement cooperation between our 196 member countries. In addition to INTERPOL, he has a total of 29 years of police experiences.

### **Vincent Stauffer**

Vincent is a lawyer trained at the Universities of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and Leiden (The Netherlands), with a specialisation in the fight against economic crime obtained at the Haute école de Neuchâtel. He has worked for the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry since 2005, specialising in the fight against counterfeiting. He is responsible for action programmes in the Middle East, Turkey and other countries, and for training the authorities (customs, police, etc.).

### **Guadalupe García Crespo**

Intellectual Property Manager at Mercado Libre. Attorney graduated from the University of Buenos Aires. Industrial Property Agent. Master degree in Intellectual Property Law from Austral University (pending thesis). Internet Law and Communications Technology Program from University of San Andrés. Training Course for IP Protection Lawyers from the Japanese Patent Office (scholarship winner). Prior to joining Mercado Libre in 2016, she worked in the Trademark Department at Marval, O'Farrell and Mairal in Buenos Aires.