



WCO Newsletter to Capacity Builders

Foreword



This year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the WCO. This milestone marks 60 years of the global Customs community working together. We work together to make our shared ambitions and dreams a reality. We also do this to collaborate against common threats.

At the same time this milestone also marks 60 years of close cooperation by the Customs community to learn from each other and to give each other a helping hand. This has intensified in the first 10 years of the 21st century. We have been able to mainstream capacity building and build the strategies and infrastructure to support this shared ambition. We have come a long way but there is still much more to be done.

The 60th anniversary gives us time to celebrate what we have achieved together and recommit ourselves to our shared belief of taking our support to each other to a new level. It is in the common interest of developed and developing and rich and poor that we maintain our activism and appetite to deliver CB. Our goal is to work together to build resilient Customs in the 21st century in all corners of the world. This will give real meaning to this year's theme of "Borders divide, customs connect".

People, Partnerships and Political will (3Ps) are the key driving elements for capacity building activities. During the last Policy Commission some Commissioners commented on the difference WCO Capacity Building makes for their administrations and their countries. We can only deliver on successful Capacity Building in partnership with our Donor Members and with the expertise of our Capacity Builders.

I therefore want to express my appreciation to all the administrations and experts who actively support the CB agenda. Together we have started to translate good intentions into delivery on the ground. This is what true partnerships are about and you give new meaning to our theme for next year by enabling administrations to connect and deliver.

Erich Kieck

Director, Capacity Building

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3

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Introduction

This newsletter addresses our Capacity Builders, more specifically our Accredited Customs Experts including those, who so far have successfully finalized the first step of the accreditation procedure, and experts, who are contributing to areas of WCO assistance, where an accreditation process is not provided for.

With this newsletter we share with you as usual the highlights of some of the recent WCO Committees, Conferences and Meetings and information on recent accreditation workshops and news from our experts in action.

We also welcome your share of information and views on the access and the value of some of our supporting tools to ease the organization, briefing and mechanisms around WCO activities. Do not forget: If you do receive the support you require then please tell us. If not, then we would also like to know.

Whilst this newsletter can only provide a snapshot of key developments, it may raise your awareness and encourage you to address for more detailed publications or to contact us.

More information

Ms. Elke Portz

Capacity Building Directorate

Mr. Armen Melkikyan

Capacity Building Directorate

NEW

➤ **Leadership and Management Development (LMD) – a new programme to further support Customs modernization**

Leadership and Management Development was confirmed as a key enabler for successful reform and modernization during the 2nd session of the Capacity Building Committee. With this in mind, the WCO has developed the LMD programme to support member administrations in building their the capacity of their managers and leaders.

As a starting point, the LMD programme is based on a formal workshop that will eventually lead to the development a broader approach to strengthen the leadership and management capacity of the WCO member administrations. The workshop aims at development of the management skills, leadership capacity and knowledge of Customs managers. This will contribute to building administrations that are sustainable and that can take ownership for their own development.

The LMD programme is based on the PICARD Professional Standards and other international best practices in leadership development. The workshop includes 12 modules covering different aspects such as visioning, leadership, people management, coaching, delegation and motivation, communications, change management, the promotion of integrity in the workplace and other management concepts. It is the mixture of modern management theory and practice that allow participants to learn through case studies, and individual reflection. The workshop also provides participants with the necessary tools to assess their own skills and identify ways to strengthen them. It is developed for senior customs managers or high-potential middle-managers from administrations committed to strengthening the leadership and management capacity.

The workshop material has been developed and tested over time with input from various Member administrations and academia. The finalized material was recently used during an event held for the benefit of managers in the South Africa Revenue Service from 31 October to 10 November 2011. Periodic monitoring will be implemented to measure the impact of the programme on administrations that will benefit from it.

Further information on the LMD programme, please contact Daniel.Perrier@wcoomd.org

3rd SESSION OF THE WCO CAPACITY BUILDING COMMITTEE
Brussels, 27-29 February 2012

Agile and responsive Customs in the 21st Century
through reform and modernization

Followed by the 11th Session of the Integrity Sub-Committee
Brussels, 1-2 March 2012

3^{ème} SESSION DU COMITÉ DU RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITÉS
Bruxelles, 27-29 février 2012

Une douane agile et réactive au 21^{ème} siècle
à travers la réforme et la modernisation

Suivi de la 11^{ème} Session du Sous-Comité sur l'éthique
Bruxelles, 1-2 mars 2012

Recent and future awareness and accreditation activities

The accreditation concept enables the WCO to provide quality support to its Members and it prepares our Capacity Builders to be responsive to the needs of the recipient countries. At the same time, WCO accreditation initiatives need to be accurately targeted to current and future assistance needs to secure appropriate human resources for delivery.

In 2011 the WCO conducted altogether twelve accreditation workshops with the aim to widen its pool of strategic Customs Modernization Advisors –CMAs- , Technical and Operational Advisors –TOAs- and Training Experts.



The WCO takes this opportunity to thanks the Donor administrations for their active participation in these workshops and congratulates all colleagues who successfully participated in the accreditation workshop. We look forward to our fruitful collaboration in future in field missions on behalf of our beneficiary Members.

In 2011 altogether 33 experts successfully participated in the Customs Modernization Advisor workshops, 27 in the workshops for Technical and Operational Advisors and 10 experts excelled in the accreditation workshops for Expert Trainers.

With a growing demand of strategic planning missions in countries with French or Russian language background a few events were specifically addressed to meet greater language diversity. Nevertheless, for **CMAs**, a decision was made at the last Capacity Building Committee to limit accreditation workshops to pending commitments and to balance regional representation. Priority should be given to the finalization of step 2 for CMAs and to increase the number of experienced team leaders.



At current stage only one accreditation for CMAs is still to be conducted in April 2012 for the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2010 a new accreditation concept was established for **TOAs**, who are specialized in a core Customs technical and operational area. The 2010 workshops developed WCO accredited experts in the area of Authorized Economic Operators and in the area of the Revised Kyoto Convention. At the same time the already existing workshop for IPR expert trainers was reshaped to build the TOA capacity for IPR experts.

In 2011 a new TOA accreditation was for the first time offered for the area of Data Model / Single window and in 2012 the WCO intends to develop an accreditation

process for Risk Management experts.

Currently, some 86 experts qualify as fully accredited CMAs, 34 as TOAs and 84 as Expert trainers; additional 68 experts have successfully finalized the first step of the accreditation process .

WCO accreditation activities in 2011:

Customs Modernization Advisors - CMAs

Region	Session	Place	Date
ESA	Regional CMA accreditation workshop	RTC Kenya, Mombasa	February 2011
EUR	Sub regional CMA accreditation workshop for Russian speaking experts	Belgium, WCO Brussels	February 2011
EUR	National CMA accreditation workshop	UK, London	March 2011
EUR	Sub regional CMA accreditation workshop for French speaking experts	Belgium, Brussels	April 2011
Americas / Caribbean	National CMA accreditation workshop	USA, Washington	July 2011
WCA	Regional CMA accreditation workshop	Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou	December 2011



Technical and Operational Advisors - TOAs

Region	Session	Place	Date
Global	Accreditation workshop for IPR TOAs	Belgium, Brussels	June 2011
A/P	Regional Accreditation Workshop for TOAs in the area of AEO	Republic of Korea	December 2011
NEW-Global	Accreditation workshop for TOAs on Data Model	Belgium, Brussels	October 2011

NEW

Expert Trainers

Region	Session	Place	Date
ESA	regional accreditation workshop for Valuation expert trainers	RTC Zimbabwe	January 2011
WCA/MENA	Sub regional accreditation workshop for HS expert trainers	Togo, Lomé	May 2011
A/P	Regional accreditation workshop for HS expert trainers	RTC Shanghai	June 2011

FORECAST - Planned WCO accreditation activities in 2012:

Customs Modernization Advisors - CMAs

Region	Session	Place	Date	Other Remarks
A/P	National CMA Accreditation Workshop	Japan, Tokyo	23-30 April 2012	English-speaking

Technical and Operational Advisors - TOAs

Region	Session	Place	Date	Other Remarks
NEW - Global	Pilot Accreditation Workshop for TOAs in the area of Risk Management	Belgium, Brussels	Tbd, 2 nd half 2012	English-speaking
Global	Regional Accreditation Workshop for TOAs in the area of IPR	Belgium, Brussels	16-20 April 2012	English-speaking French-speaking
NEW - Global	Leadership and Management Development Facilitators Accreditation Workshop	Belgium, Brussels	5-9 March 2012	English-speaking

NEW

NEW

Expert Trainers

Region	Session	Place	Date	Other Remarks
EUR	Regional Accreditation Workshop for HS Expert Trainers	RTC Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine	16-20 April 2012	Russian-speaking
AMS	Regional Accreditation Workshop for Valuation Expert Trainers	RTC Brasilia, Brazil	7-11 May 2012	Spanish-speaking
WCA-MENA	Regional Accreditation Workshop for Valuation Expert Trainers	Libreville, Gabon	4 – 8 June 2012	French-speaking
WCA-MENA	Regional Accreditation Workshop for Valuation Expert Trainers	TBC	2 – 6 July 2012	English-speaking
WCA	Regional Accreditation Workshop for HS Expert Trainers	TBC	TBC	English-speaking

CAPACITY BUILDERS' FEEDBACK

Feedback on a WCO Mission to Sierra Leone, 31 October to 4 November 2011

As part of my successful participation in the accreditation workshop for WCO Customs Modernization Advisers in February 2011, I was invited to participate in the Sierra Leone phase 2 Mission, accomplishing the 2-step accreditation process to become a fully accredited WCO Customs Modernization Adviser. I was very happy to participate in this Mission, providing me with a lot of experience but also obliging me to take the responsibility to supporting a Customs administration with international best practices taking into account local realities.

In contribution to accomplishment of *Columbus* Programme phase 2, Sierra Leone called for an additional WCO Mission to assist the Sierra Leone National Revenue Authority Customs and Excise Department –CED– to create a strategic plan, taking into account, amongst other, the recommendations set out from the phase 1 Mission in 2007. This Mission took place from 31 October to 4 November 2011 and was conducted by the WCO Regional Development Manager for Central and Western Africa, Mr. Bernard Zbinden and myself.

We worked closely with NRA CED officers in charge of strategic management, human and financial resources, legislation, procedures, information technology and communication, external communication/cooperation and governance. As part of the exercise of developing their new strategic plan, the WCO experts assisted NRA CED to develop an organogram of the institution to better face challenges of the Customs in the 21st Century and to align it with its mission. The WCO team could note the progress made by Customs, particularly with the implementation of the customs clearance system ASYCUDA++ which has lead to the shifting of the manual-based clearing process to an automated process with all the benefits for both Customs, public and private sector.

Notwithstanding the efforts in streamlining customs procedures and processes to increase revenue, customs operations still faces challenges to implement the SAFE FoS, but the CED officers are aware and supportive of the fact that reforms are necessary for Sierra Leone Customs to meet international standards. The CED is determined and willing to take ownership of the reform process. The WCO team had the opportunity to present a preliminary verbal report of findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of Customs and to the Commissioner-General of the NRA at a closeout briefing.

At the end, the WCO team ensured further assistance, including access to WCO guidelines, international conventions, and best practices.



I am sure that this activity has contributed to strengthening the capacity of the Sierra Leone Customs on a longer term run.

November 2011
Maria Joao, Angola

Feedback on the Basic WCO Valuation Course for Timor-Leste in 2011

I was accredited in 2010 and the Valuation National Workshop in Timor-Leste, Southeast Asia, March 2011, was my first chance to represent the WCO and share some valuation knowledge with a group of 21 Customs colleagues.

During the preparation weeks, I was anxious to learn about the national Valuation policy, the level of knowledge on the WTO Agreement, the material to be used, the number of attendees and the translation language, would it be Portuguese, Tetum or Indonesian? I even tried to learn some Portuguese words such as “Obrigado and Por favor”.

By then I became aware that Timor-Leste was not a member nor an observer from the World Trade Organization (WTO) and that some of the Brussels Definition of Value (BDV) principles were still being used.

With the information available, Leonardo and myself started planning the lessons and decided to use the material from the WCO Basic Valuation Training Module. The combination of theory and practical exercises was one main concern. For that, besides the normal use of classroom case studies, a field visit to the port and a presentation of Japan implementation experience were included. The visit to the port would be combined with a syndicate exercise and used to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of pre and post clearance procedures as well as to identify current problems from the use of the BDV. ...

CAPACITY BUILDERS' FEEDBACK *cont.*

Cont. Feedback on the Basic Valuation Course for Timor-Leste 2011

The workshop was opened by Mr. Oliveira - Timor-Leste DG and on the first two days we focused on explaining the WTO Agreement, its methods and the WCO important role for the implementation. Following that we continued with explanations about risk assessment and Post Clearance Audits (PCA). Topical issues, such as Valuation Fraud and WTO recent disputes were also discussed. On the last day the WCO Revenue Package was presented and other materials, such as the WCO e-learning course, were introduced.

With the excellent aid of the translators, who sometimes had to deliver the same message in three languages, the participants engaged in the discussions and we had a lively exchange of opinions on how to implement the Agreement. During the interventions I was personally impressed on the rich work experience from my Timor colleagues and that almost all of them had already attended Customs courses overseas..

Besides from the workshop an important meeting with authorities from the Ministry of Trade was organized. Timor-Leste trade authorities were looking forward to find a good communication channel to the WTO. Our WCO mission had the privilege to serve as that channel. The initial contact with the WTO to exchange information about our mission was part of the preparation phase and it was easy to engage Timor-Leste afterwards with the WTO accession division. The perspective that Timor-Leste might benefit in further trade-related capacity building projects is a very promising one.

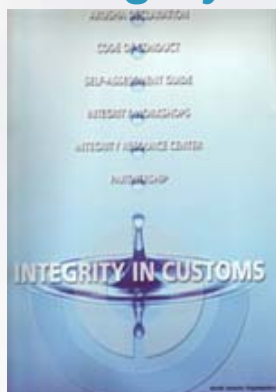
Finally, at the last night I relaxed with a cold beer! We had a wonderful seaside dinner with local dishes prepared by some of our colleagues. The dinner was concluded with gift exchanges and a very promising look on future developments of Timor-Leste Customs Administration.

Author: Takayuki MIYOSHI - Special Officer for Customs Cooperation, Osaka Customs, Japan

Co-author: Leonardo MACEDO – WCO Technical Officer



Integrity latest developments



The revised WCO Model Code of ethics and Conduct was recently published and contains valuable input from Members. Integrity pilot projects have been launched in the six WCO regions and lessons learned have been shared among Members, generating interest with other administrations to initiate such similar projects.

The Capacity Building Directorate and the Research and Strategies Unit are working together on a project to measure performance, designed to curtail bad practices and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs. This project, building on the experience of Cameroon pilot and has been rolled out in Togo and Liberia. This consequently proves the value of engaging in pilot projects from which lessons can be learned and applied to similar modernization processes. In addition to Togo and Liberia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Uruguay have decided to embark on an integrity pilot project.



NEW

Interface Public-Members new tool to combat counterfeiting and piracy



The WCO's new tool to combat counterfeiting and piracy, Interface Public Members, was officially launched by the WCO Secretary General after signing the Cotonou Declaration (a Chirac Foundation initiative to ensure access to safe medicine in Africa) in June 2010 as a symbolic gesture of the Customs community's commitment to halting trade in fake medicines.

IPM consists of an online database enabling Rights Holders to provide Customs field officers with real-time data on their products as well as information making it possible to distinguish between "genuine" and "fake" goods. Customs field officers can access this information and training tool, free of charge, anywhere in the world via simple and secure user interfaces in their own language.

To-date, approximately 80 Customs administrations have expressed an interest in the tool, and IPM is now operational in 33 countries. All WCO-accredited experts have privileged access to this tool, which means that they have unlimited access to the database, and can view it from whichever country they may be working in.

From the Right Holders perspective, approximately 300 are expected to subscribe to the tool by the end of 2012

To find out more about IPM please visit:

<http://ipmpromo.wcoomdpublishings.org/>

For further information, please contact Mr. Christophe Zimmermann, Global Coordinator of IPM:

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Ms. Rachel McGauran, Project Coordinator, IPM:

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WCO News

WCO News No 65

– Special Dossier: Trade facilitation

The 65 issue of WCO NEWS is dedicated to Trade facilitation developments. You may find articles presenting instruments, tools and resources showing trade facilitation in practice, as well as regional and national programmes and initiatives promoting a transparent, consistent and predictable environment for cross-border trade.



WCO news No 66

- Dossier: Council 2011, all the highlights

The 66 edition captures the highlights of 2011 WCO Council Sessions. The Secretary General of the WCO shares his thoughts on how to counter global threats through standards, capacity building and cooperation; apart from this you may find the latest developments in all WCO areas of work such as compliance and enforcement, procedures and facilitation, capacity building and tariff and trade affairs.

http://www.wcoomd.org/home_press_wco_news.htm

News From WCO Meetings, Conferences and Committees

6th WCO PICARD Conference

Geneva,
14-16 September 2011

Jointly organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Cross-border Research Association (CBRA) of Switzerland and the International Network of Customs Universities (INCUI), with support from The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the 6th PICARD (Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development) Conference was held in the UN building in Geneva, Switzerland from 14 to 16 September 2011.



The participants reflected on the PICARD programme's considerable achievements from the first conference in Brussels to this 6th conference in Geneva. Originally created to tackle two essential issues: expand and debate on Customs-related research and improve professionalism through formulating the WCO Professional Standards for Customs, the PICARD Conference has successfully ensured fruitful exchanges ever since. The 6th PICARD Conference concluded that they should focus more

on research, particularly to support work with practical relevance for trade and businesses.

To view all presentations of the PICARD conference in Geneva, please visit the link below:

http://www.wcoomd.org/event_picard2011overview_picard2011outcomes.htm

32nd /33rd Sessions of the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation

Brussels,
17 October and 11 April 2011

During the last two Sessions of the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, work has continued on examining the relationship between transfer pricing and customs valuation. Discussions have focused on the possible use of transfer pricing studies in determining whether or not a relationship between buyer and seller has influenced the price and consideration of greater standardization in the customs valuation treatment of post-importation adjustments to a transfer price. This issue is of great interest to the private sector and the ICC has made some valuable contributions to these discussions.

At the 32nd Session, the Committee finalized Commentary 25.1: "Third Party Royalties and Licence Fees – General Commentary". This important Commentary sets out factors to take into account when determining whether or not a licence fee, paid to a licensor who is not the seller of the goods, should be included in the transaction value under Article 8.1 (c) and will provide helpful guidance in dealing with the numerous cases of this nature which occur in international trade.

The Committee is also conducting a review of its processes and procedures in order to improve efficiency; for example, by setting up informal working groups to work during the intersession and restructuring the Agenda in order to devote more Committee time to technical matters. Full reports of the meetings are available on the Members' website:

http://www.wcoomd.org/members/meetingdocuments/Valuation/aps%20external%20documents/VT_Executive_Summary_33rd_Session.pdf

The WCO Integrity Newsletter



The 4th and 5th issues of the WCO Integrity Newsletters were published in June and September 2011. The aim of these publications is to present, in a straightforward and concise way, measures taken by WCO Members to enhance integrity and to give the latter the opportunity to contact each other. The 4th edition features the experiences of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Korea and Brunei Darussalam. It also includes the updates of the latest developments in terms of integrity pilot projects. The 5th Issue of WCO Integrity Newsletters focused on socio-economic activities initiated by Members in implementing the Revised Arusha Declaration, particularly in terms of element 9 thereof on Morale and Organizational Culture.

... Some News From Recent WCO Meetings and Committees

WCO Revenue Package programme

Revenue Package

Work is continuing on this important WCO programme which aims to assist Customs Administrations in their efforts to improve fair and efficient revenue collection. This programme was initiated in response to Members' concerns about declining customs revenues in the context of the global financial crisis of 2008.

A schedule has been developed which provides a full summary and web links to all tools, instruments and training materials relevant to revenue collection. All Administrations are encouraged to access and utilise this document. It will be of particular use to Customs technical trainers and should be promoted widely via national and regional training events and seminars. A version of the Schedule has also been released on the Public website which will be convenient for those who do not have WCO Members' website access.

Public website version of Revenue Package Schedule : <http://www.wcoomd.org/events/file.aspx?lid=1&id=15395>

Following specific requests from Members, additional practical guidance is being developed on the topics of customs valuation, origin and classification. The WCO Post-Clearance Audit Guidelines are also being updated to reflect the prime aim of PCA, which is to improve compliance. This new material will be available by the WCO Council in June 2012 and will result in an update of the relevant WCO training material.

Globally Networked Customs Developments - GNC

In the early days there was a struggle to understand what GNC should deliver as the first building block of the Customs in the 21st Century (C21) strategy, and how wide the concept should spread the net. Although the title talks of Customs being networked, C21 contains much about partnerships with other agencies at the border and with business, so that the network could include a number of players.

The decision has been made to take this stage by stage, and initially GNC will deliver Customs to Customs (C2C) electronic exchanges of cross border information. Further, GNC will not be based on a centralized system, but a systematic approach. There will be Protocols, Standards and Guidelines (PSGs) for GNC, which Customs authorities will implement themselves through their own chosen solutions with their partners in an information sharing relationship.

To make implementation of GNC manageable, it has been broken down both vertically and horizontally. There will be two types of information, a two track approach. The commercial track, which will deal with the day to day transactions in the import/export business; and the Enforcement Track which deals with requests when investigations and enquiries are initiated where there are suspicions about possible fraud or irregularities. Further, the various parts of the Customs business will be broken down into Utility Blocks (UBs), and each block will contain all that is needed for that activity. Blocks under development are AEOs, Transit and dematerialization of supporting documents.

The last two meetings of the Ad Hoc Group on Globally Networked Customs (GNC) were held in Brussels on 11 September and 7 November. Current priorities for the ad hoc group include finalizing the model texts for the Information Exchange Agreements, determining how to tackle the issue of identity management (know who you are exchanging information with, and about), developing a quality assurance process, starting to draft the final report of the Feasibility Study. Issues the ad hoc group will need to tackle next include identifying how GNC fits into the overall WCO picture, what the governance mechanism should look like and what common or shared services to support the various bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements will need to be housed in the Secretariat.

The meetings reports are on the WCO members' website::

<http://www.wcoomd.org/members/meetingdocuments/Procedures/gnce.htm>

... Some News From WCO Meetings and Committees

NEW

Risk Management Compendium

The WCO Risk Management Compendium was released to WCO Members during the Council Session 2011. The Compendium enables the Customs community to speak with one voice on risk management issues, but still flexible enough to allow it to be adapted to unique challenges and risks that are faced at the national level.

It consists of two volumes. Volume 1, whose methodology is closely aligned to international best practice such as the ISO risk management standards, concentrates on organizational and institutional aspects of RM and is aimed at senior managers and RM specialists within organization.

Volume 2 focuses on operational RM and its target audience includes risk and intelligence analysts, targeters and frontline officers. Both Volumes have been the subject of broad consultation among the WCO Members through the two technical Committees (Volume 1 in the Permanent Technical Committee; Volume 2 in the Enforcement Committee) and during the regional Risk Management Workshops. Volume 1, which is a publicly available document, has also been reviewed by the WCO's private sector and academia partners which have submitted valuable inputs to the text. Both Volumes will be regularly reviewed and developed as needed.

To download both please visit the WCO Members' website:

http://www.wcoomd.org/home_pfoverviewboxes_tools_and_instruments_rmc.htm



NEW

Guide to Measure the Time Required for the Release of Goods – Version II

At its October 2011 sessions, the Permanent Technical Committee finalized the “Guide to Measure the Time Required for the Release of Goods – Version II” (WCO TRS Guide version II). A TRS is considered as a useful tool for identifying bottlenecks in border-related procedures and for improving their efficiency and effectiveness. The new TRS Guide version II incorporates many new aspects:

1. Maintains the basic methodology of the TRS.
2. Highlights the use of TRS in the context of Customs to business partnership, Customs to Customs cooperation and coordinated border management.
3. Includes TRS methods to address different policy objectives as well as several different TRS approaches emphasizing the importance of TRS cycle.
4. National practices of seven WCO member countries have been incorporated.
5. The use of the TRS in international and regional environment and application of TRS for exportation has been incorporated.

WCO TRS Guide is available on the WCO public website:

<http://www.wcoomd.org/home> pfoverviewboxes tools and instruments pftoolstimerelase.htm

SAFE Framework of Standards –Updates



The first formal review of the SAFE Framework of Standards since its creation in 2005 has been undertaken. The review process covers key areas such as time limits, coordinated border management, trade recovery, integrated supply chain management, and high risk cargo. The AEO Compendium that forms part of SAFE Package has also been updated and the Guidelines for the Development of Mutual Recognition Arrangement/Agreement that was accepted in June have been incorporated into the package.

... Some News From Recent WCO Meetings and Committees

NEW

Single Window Compendium

The WCO Member administrations recognize the importance of dematerialization of paper documents and the introduction of the Single Window concept in the area of simplification of trade procedures. Single Window is considered as a vital part of Customs modernization and reform.

On 2011 the WCO has finalized a compendium on "How to build a Single Window Environment". The Compendium is divided into two volumes. Volume 1 is called the Executive Guide. This volume provides an overview of the key issues that are of concern to the executive management concerning the development of a Single Window Environment. It deals with issues concerning the linking of the Single Window services with border regulatory functions. It examines the position of Single Window in the overall strategy for Customs modernization and explains the policy processes and routines that assist customs in bringing Single Window on to a government's agenda for action. It also provides the options in designing organizations for the governance of a Single Window project. The design and development of Single Window solutions are often left to the technical and managerial personnel. The Compendium identifies the key challenges of the design of Single Window solutions from the perspective of the executive management. Volume 1 also deals with the legal and change management issues.

Volume 2 of the Compendium includes a collection of tools and techniques [some of which have been developed within the WCO] supporting projects to build a Single Window Environment. This Compendium contains the results of a WCO Survey on Single Window environment. Global trends indicate the gradual adoption of the Single Window Concept around the world. Customs is generally seen as the natural agency to lead the Single Window initiative.

The Compendium is a living document. The document will be regularly updated based on new developments and fresh input. The individual chapters within Volume 2, which relate to specific tools and techniques developed within the WCO, will be kept up-to-date by the WCO Information Management Sub-Committee. The document will be enriched through the inclusion of case studies reflecting the practical aspects of Single Window developments around the world.

The documents are available on the WCO public website:

<http://www.wcoomd.org/sw.htm>

NEW

HS 2012

Starting from 1 January 2012 the HS Nomenclature 2012 edition will be in effect..

The HS 2012 includes 220 sets of accepted amendments, divided as follows:

- 98 relate to the agricultural sector;
- 27 to the chemical sector;
- 9 to the paper sector;
- 14 to the textile sector;
- 5 to the base metal sector;
- 30 to the machinery sector; and
- an additional 37 that apply to a variety of other sectors.

Environmental and social issues of global concern are the major feature of these amendments, particularly the use of the HS as the standard for classifying and coding goods of specific importance to food security and the early warning data system of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Changing trade patterns also played a role in the current amendments resulting in 43 subheadings being deleted on account of low trade while the structured nomenclature (the subheadings) of certain HS headings had to be modified. On the other hand, new subheadings were created for products which are now being increasingly traded around the world. Harmonized System Correlation Table (2012/2007) is available on the WCO public website:

http://www.wcoomd.org/home_hsoverviewboxes.htm

HS documents are available on the WCO publications website: <http://wcoomdpublishations.org/>

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Editorial Note

The Newsletter to WCO Capacity Builders is distributed free of charge in French and in English to WCO accredited Customs experts, and is accessible on the WCO e-learning platform and the public WCO Capacity Building website.

The WCO Capacity Building Directorate wishes to express its sincere thanks to all who contributed to this publication. Contributions in English and French are welcome. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the World Customs Organization.

The WCO reserves the right to publish, not to publish or edit articles to ensure their conformity with the newsletters' editorial policy.