



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council
Créée en 1952 sous le nom de Conseil de coopération douanière

HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
32nd Session
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O. Eng.

Brussels, 3 October 2003.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES OF
THE NOMENCLATURE AND CLASSIFICATION SUB-DIRECTORATE

(Item II.4 on Agenda)

1. The Secretariat is continuing to provide capacity building assistance to developing countries in the form of seminars and expert missions with respect to the implementation and uniform application of the Harmonized System, the establishment or improvement of Customs laboratories, the improvement of tariff classification work infrastructure and, still, the explanation of the 2002 amendments to the Harmonized System.
2. The Secretariat, once again, would like to thank the Japanese Administration for its continuing assistance and support for the WCO's technical assistance activities.
3. However, since the WCO is at present experiencing severe financial constraints, the number of technical assistance missions has been significantly reduced.
4. At the time of preparation of this document, the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate has been able to undertake only one regional seminar for financial year 2002/2003 since the Committee's 31st Session.

I. HS SEMINARS

5. A regional multipurpose seminar on the Harmonized System was organised by the Secretariat in Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago) from 25 to 29 August 2003 for administrations of the Caribbean Region. The Acting Deputy Director, one Secretariat officer and two Japanese officers gave lectures on the Harmonized System, including the HS 2002 amendments, and facilitated discussions on various HS classification questions prepared by the participants. An officer from the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) highlighted the importance of the HS in respect of compiling trade statistics. Twenty-five participants from the Customs administrations of 15 countries (Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago) participated in the seminar.

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6. In addition, the Secretariat plans to organise in 2003, two regional seminars in :
- Malaysia (6 to 10 October 2003) for the Asia/Pacific Region (on HS-related Customs laboratory matters); and
 - Egypt (30 November to 4 December 2003) for the North African, Near and Middle East Region.
7. As for financial year 2003/2004, the Secretariat plans to organise national seminars on the Harmonized System in China and Kenya, and regional seminars in Vietnam and Costa Rica.

II. INFORMATION ON THE WCO MEMBERS WEB SITE

8. Information on the Secretariat's completed and planned technical assistance activities for financial year 2002/2003 can be found on the WCO Members Web Site.

III. CONCLUSION

9. The Committee is invited to take note of the above information.
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