



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
24th Session

NC0096E1

O. Eng.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE NOMENCLATURE
AND CLASSIFICATION SUB-DIRECTORATE

(Item II.4 on Agenda)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretariat is continuing to provide technical assistance to developing countries in the form of seminars and expert missions with respect to the implementation and uniform application of the Harmonized System, establishment or improvement of Customs laboratories and the improvement of tariff classification work infrastructure.
2. A summary of the technical assistance activities completed by the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate in financial year 1998/99 is set out in the Annex to this document.
3. Once again, the Secretariat would like to thank the Japanese Administration for its continuous assistance and support for the WCO's technical assistance activities.
4. The following information concerns the seminars and missions held by the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate after the Committee's 23rd Session.

II. HS SEMINARS AND MISSIONS

5. A regional seminar on the Harmonized System for administrations in the Asia/Pacific Region was held in Manila, Philippines, from 7 to 11 June 1999. Two Secretariat officers gave lectures on the HS and facilitated discussions on various HS classification questions prepared by the participants. Issues concerning the development of classification infrastructure, dispute settlement, and the Customs Laboratory Guide were also an important part of the seminar. Nineteen participants from 17 countries (Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) attended the seminar.

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6. Another regional seminar on the HS was organised by the Secretariat for the East and South African Region in Kampala, Uganda, from 31 May to 4 June 1999. Two Secretariat Officers gave lectures on the HS and related matters and facilitated discussions mainly on classification questions of interest to the region and the development of classification infrastructure. The seminar was attended by 24 participants from 16 Member countries (Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe).
7. A third regional seminar was held in Vina del Mar, Chile, from 7 to 11 June 1999. Two Secretariat officers gave lectures on the HS and related matters and facilitated the discussions in the seminar, which 35 participants from 6 Member countries attended (Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela).
8. All of these regional seminars were sponsored by the Japanese Administration through the WCO/Japan Fund.
9. The Secretariat also organised national seminars and multipurpose missions in a large number of Member countries. These included programs in (1) Chittagong, Bangladesh, from 5 to 7 July 1999 (26 participants); (2) Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 21 to 25 June 1999 (40 participants); (3) Suva, Fiji, from 7 to 11 June 1999 (20 participants) ; (4) Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 21 to 25 June 1999 (20 participants); (5) Antananarivo, Madagascar, from 31 May to 6 June 1999 (23 participants); (6) Yangon, Myanmar, from 14 to 18 June 1999 (30 participants); and (7) Bangkok, Thailand, from 28 June to 2 July 1999 (26 participants).
10. During all of the aforementioned national seminars, Secretariat officers had an occasion to study the classification infrastructure in the countries visited and provided recommendations for improvement based on the Council's Good Classification Work Model Recommendation.
11. During the mission to Myanmar, special emphasis was given to the establishment and maintenance of a Customs laboratory.

III. CONCLUSION

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

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ANNEX1998/99 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

CCF (NOMENCLATURE)

DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY	DATE	REMARKS
HS Training + Infrastructure	Côte d'Ivoire	06-99	Completed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Croatia		Postponed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Senegal	04-99	Completed (information provided at HSC/23)
HS Training + Infrastructure	Lebanon		Postponed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Syria	04-99	Completed (information provided at HSC/23)
HS Training + Infrastructure	Haiti	06-99	Completed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Bolivia	04-99	Completed (information provided at HSC/23)
HS Training + Infrastructure	Ecuador		Postponed
HS Training + Infrastructure	UA Emirates		Postponed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Ukraine	04-99	Completed (information provided at HSC/23)

CCF DONORS (NOMENCLATURE)

DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY	DATE	REMARKS
HS Training + Infrastructure	Bangladesh	06-99	Completed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Fiji	06-99	Completed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Thailand	06-99	Completed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Vietnam		Postponed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Maldives	04-99	Completed (information provided at HSC/23)
HS Training + Infrastructure	Pakistan		Postponed
HS Training + Infrastructure/ Customs Laboratory	Myanmar	06-99	Completed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Madagascar	06-99	Completed
HS Training + Infrastructure	Uzbekistan	04-99	Completed (information provided at HSC/23)
Regional HS Seminar	Philippines	06-99	Completed
Regional HS Seminar	Chile	06-99	Completed
Regional HS Seminar	Uganda	06-99	Completed
HS and Infrastructure and Customs Laboratory	Zimbabwe	08-98	Completed (information provided at HSC/22)
Workshop on HS	Philippines	08-98	Completed (information provided at HSC/22)
Seminar on HS	Singapore	08-98	Completed (information provided at HSC/22)