



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
27th Session
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NC0350E1
(+Annex)
O. Eng.

Brussels, 3 May 2001.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE NOMENCLATURE
AND CLASSIFICATION SUB-DIRECTORATE

(Item II.4 on Agenda)

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, improvement of tariff classification work infrastructure and, with special emphasis, 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. A summary of the technical assistance activities of the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate for financial year 2000/2001 is set out in the Annex to this document. The following information concerns the seminars and missions undertaken by the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate since the Committee's 26th Session.

I. HS SEMINARS

CCF/Donors (Japan) Fund

4. A regional multipurpose seminar on the Harmonized System was organized by the Secretariat in the Americas Region in Lima, Peru, from 26 February to 2 March 2001. The Director, a Secretariat officer and two Japanese officers gave lectures on the HS, including HS 2002 amendments, and facilitated discussions on various HS classification questions prepared by the participants. Two officers from the ANDEAN Community and one officer from the SIECA highlighted the importance of the HS in respect of the classification of goods, trade agreements and compiling trade statistics. Twenty-six participants from the Customs administrations of eleven countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela) attended the seminar.

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5. Another multipurpose regional seminar on the HS was held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 2 to 6 April 2001, for administrations in the North Africa and Middle East Region. Two Secretariat officers gave lectures to the participants on the HS and the 2002 amendments, and facilitated discussions on certain classification questions encountered by the participants in their countries. An officer from the UNSD discussed the importance of the HS as regards trade statistics. Thirty-five officers from ten countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) attended the seminar.
6. The Secretariat also organized national multipurpose HS seminars in the following countries for the benefit of their Customs officers :
 - (1) Yangon, Myanmar, from 20 October to 3 November 2000, 30 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (2) Amman, Jordan, from 23 to 26 October 2000, 24 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 Amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (3) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 8 December 2000, 25 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (4) Katmandu, Nepal, from 4 to 8 December 2000, 26 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (5) Maputo, Mozambique, from 5 to 9 March 2001, 26 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (6) Malacca, Malaysia, from 27 to 31 March 2001, 30 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);

Customs Co-operation Fund (CCF)

7. The Secretariat also organized, under the CCF, national multipurpose HS seminars in the following countries for the benefit of their Customs officers :
 - (1) Maseru, Lesotho, from 9 to 13 October 2000, 20 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (2) Port au Prince, Haiti, from 11 to 15 December 2000, 26 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments, classification infrastructure and classification questions);
 - (3) Kigali, Rwanda, from 11 to 15 December 2000, 37 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure).
 - (4) Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 14 to 23 February 2001, 25 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);

- (5) La Paz, Bolivia, from 26 to 30 March 2001, 26 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
- (6) Alexandria, Egypt, from 8 to 12 April 2001, 50 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and a wide variety of classification questions);
- (7) Sofia, Bulgaria, from 9 to 13 April 2001, 30 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);

II. EXPERT MISSION

8. At a regional seminar organized by the APEC Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand, from 6 to 8 March 2001, the Deputy Director (Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate), together with experts from the US, New Zealand and Japan, gave lectures on the HS in general and explained the HS 2002 amendments in particular. Thirty-five officers from the administrations of the region attended the seminar.

III. REGIONAL SEMINAR ON CUSTOMS LABORATORIES

9. This financial year, the Secretariat has planned, under CCF/Donors (Japan) Fund, a first regional seminar on Customs laboratories in Kenya in June 2001. The Secretariat would like to thank the Kenyan Administration for hosting and the Japanese Administration for funding the seminar. The Secretariat's intention is to organize similar seminars in other regions if the first endeavour is successful.

IV. WCO WEB SITE

10. Information on the Secretariat's completed and planned technical assistance activities for financial year 2000/2001 can be found on the WCO's Web Site.

V. CONCLUSION

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

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ANNEX

2000/2001 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

CCF (NOMENCLATURE)

DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY	DATE	REMARKS
HS Multipurpose+2002	ALBANIA	06-01	
HS Multipurpose+2002	BENIN	06-01	
HS Multipurpose+2002	BOLIVIA	03-01	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	BULGARIA	04-01	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	ECUADOR	02-01	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	EGYPT	04-01	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	HAITI	12-00	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	LESOTHO	10-00	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	MACEDONIA	06-01	
HS Multipurpose+2002	RWANDA	12-00	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	SWAZILAND	06-01	

CCF DONORS

DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY	DATE	REMARKS
HS Multipurpose+2002	CAMEROON	08-00	Completed (Information provided at HSC/26)
HS Multipurpose+2002	ETHIOPIA	12-00	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	GHANA	04-01	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002 Regional	IRAN	09-00	Completed (Information provided at HSC/26)
HS Multipurpose+2002	JORDAN	10-00	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	KAZAKHSTAN	06-01	
Customs Laboratories Regional	KENYA	06-01	
HS Multipurpose+2002	MALAYSIA	03-01	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	MONGOLIA	07-01	
HS Multipurpose+2002	MOZAMBIQUE	03-01	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	MYANMAR	11-00	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002	NEPAL	12-00	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002 Regional	PERU	02-01	Completed
HS Multipurpose+2002 Regional	SINGAPORE	06-01	
HS Multipurpose+2002 Regional	TUNISIA	04-01	Completed