



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

NC0442E1

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28th Session
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O. Eng.

Brussels, 8 October 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 which is set out in the Annex to this document, can be found on the WCO's Web site. The following information concerns the seminars and missions undertaken by the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate since the Committee's 27th Session.

I. HS SEMINARS

CCF/Donors (Japan) Fund

4. A regional multipurpose seminar on the Harmonized System was organized by the Secretariat in Singapore from 4 to 8 June 2001 for administrations of Asian/Pacific Region. The Deputy Director, a 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. One officer from the ASEAN Secretariat and one officer from UNSD highlighted the importance of the Harmonized System in respect of the classification of goods, trade agreements and trade statistics. Thirty-two participants from the Customs administrations of 20 countries (Bangladesh, People's Republic of China, Fiji, Hong Kong, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tuvalu and Vietnam) attended the seminar.
5. A regional seminar on HS-related Customs laboratory matters, was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4 to 8 June 2001. The seminar was attended by 19 Member countries, including 15 countries from the East and Southern Africa Region (Botswana, Ethiopia,

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Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and four countries from outside the region (Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan and Sudan). Eleven observers from Kenya also participated. The Director and one Secretariat officer represented the WCO. One officer of the Japanese Customs Administration and the Chairman of the Scientific Sub-Committee also actively participated as facilitators.

6. The seminar focused on the role of the Customs laboratories in the context of the Harmonized System as the basis for numerous international instruments dealing with international trade. The Report of this seminar will be disseminated to all interested parties via the WCO Web site. An extended session of the next meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee in January 2002 will examine the question of how we can better support Customs laboratories in our developing country Member administrations. The report of the Kenya seminar will provide the basis for those discussions.
7. The Secretariat also organized national multipurpose HS seminars in the following countries for the benefit of their Customs officers:
 - (1) Accra, Ghana, from 23 to 27 April 2001, 30 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (2) Astana, Kazakhstan, from 11 to 15 June 2001, 24 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments, classification infrastructure and classification questions);
 - (3) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 2 to 6 July 2000, 23 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure).

Customs Co-operation Fund (CCF)

8. The Secretariat further organized, under the CCF, national multipurpose HS seminars in the following countries :
 - (1) Tirana, Albania, from 18 to 22 June 2001, 18 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 amendments, classification infrastructure and laboratory matters (17 participants) (one day));
 - (2) Porto-Novo, Benin, from 18 to 22 June 2001, 24 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, HS 2002 Amendments and classification infrastructure).

II. EXPERT MISSION

9. At a national HS seminar, sponsored by the UNDP and organized by the Chinese Customs Administration in Beijing, China, from 11 to 15 June 2001, two Secretariat officers gave lectures on the HS in general, HS 2002 Amendments and classification infrastructure. Sixty officers attended the seminar.

III. CONCLUSION

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