



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
31st Session
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O. Eng.

Brussels, 24 March 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 activities 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, with some emphasis, 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 at present is experiencing a severe financial constraints, the normal number of technical missions has been significantly reduced. Consequently, a number of planned activities have been postponed or cancelled.
4. At the time of preparation of this document, the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate has therefore been able to undertake only three missions for financial year 2002/2003 (in addition to one rescheduled mission from financial year 2001/2002) since the Committee's 30th Session.

I. HS SEMINARS

5. The Secretariat has organised national capacity building workshops (HS) in the following countries for the benefit of their Customs officers :
 - (1) Karachi and Lahore (Pakistan). From 9 to 13 December 2002, a Member of the Secretariat carried out a national capacity building Workshop in Pakistan. The Workshop, which took place in Karachi (9 - 11 December) and Lahore (12 and 13 December), was attended by 35 and 32 participants, respectively. (This was a rescheduled Workshop from the last financial year).

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- (2) Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 17 to 21 February 2003; 30 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, classification questions, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (3) Port Louis, Mauritius, from 17 to 21 February 2003; 30 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, classification questions, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure);
 - (4) Luanda, Angola, from 10 to 14 March 2003; 29 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules, classification questions, HS 2002 amendments and classification infrastructure).
6. In addition to the above-mentioned national seminars, the Secretariat plans to organise three regional seminars in :
- Trinidad and Tobago (May 2003) for the Americas/Caribbean Region;
 - Malaysia (June 2003) for the Asia/Pacific Region (on HS-related Customs laboratory matters); and
 - Egypt (October 2003 (?)) for the North African, Near and Middle East Region.

II. INFORMATION ON THE WCO WEB SITE

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

III. CONCLUSION

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