



HARMONIZED SYSTEM  
COMMITTEE

NC0083E1

-  
23rd Session

O. Eng.

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H2-33

Brussels, 4 May 1999.

## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM

(Item II.6 on Agenda)

### I. BACKGROUND

1. In the Asia and the Pacific Region, regional member countries have established a Regional Strategic Plan at the initiative of the former Regional Representative, India. The plan is now being further developed by the present Regional Representative, Australia. This Regional Strategic Plan has been established in conformity with the Strategic Plan of the WCO and takes into account the specific needs of the Asia and Pacific Region.
2. Activities relating to the Harmonized System constitutes one of the important focus areas of the Regional Strategic Plan. Japan is the co-ordinator for the HS area. The objective and activities with regard to the HS are defined as follows :  
  
Objective : To encourage regional members to accede and apply the HS in an accurate and uniform way.  
  
Activities (i) : Continue to encourage members to accede to the Convention on the HS and apply its latest version.  
  
Activities (ii) : Continue to discuss practices to improve the classification infrastructure of Members.
3. As one of the regional activities regarding the HS, delegates to the Harmonized System Committee from the Region have agreed to meet regularly on the occasion of HSC meetings, with a view to promoting the accurate and uniform application of the HS among the Member Administrations in the region. There have already been two such meetings and the Secretariat has been invited to attend the introductory part of the meetings to give a briefing on the items to be discussed by the Committee.

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II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

4. The Secretariat appreciates the initiative taken by the Asia and Pacific Region with regard to the HS. It firmly believes that this activity will assist in identifying the needs of the region, thus achieving the objective of the Regional Strategic Plan.
5. The Secretariat is prepared to provide any assistance that may be required by the Region, and if any other region is in a position to undertake a similar initiative, the Secretariat would also be willing to assist them.

III. CONCLUSION

6. The Committee is invited to take note of the above information and comments.
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