



HARMONIZED SYSTEM
COMMITTEE

-
25th Session
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NC0169E1

O. Eng.

Brussels, 10 March 2000.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE NOMENCLATURE
AND CLASSIFICATION SUB-DIRECTORATE

(Item II.5 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 explanation of the 2002 Amendments to the Harmonized System.
2. A summary of the technical assistance activities of the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate for financial year 1999/2000 is set out in the Annex to this document.
3. The Secretariat, once again, would like to thank the Japanese Administration for its continuing 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 since the Committee's 24th Session.

II. HS SEMINARS AND MISSIONS

5. A sub-regional multipurpose seminar on the Harmonized System for administrations in the North of Africa, Near and Middle East Region, was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 to 24 November 1999. One Secretariat officer provided lectures to the participants to further improve their awareness of the HS, and facilitated discussions to solve specific classification questions, giving special emphasis on how to use the General Interpretative Rules. 38 participants from 6 countries (Egypt, Mauritania, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States participated in the seminar.

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6. The Secretariat also organized national multipurpose seminars in the following countries for the benefit of their Customs officers :
 - (i) Ouargla, Algeria, from 15 to 20 November 1999, 30 participants (HS in general, General Interpretative Rules and classification infrastructure);
 - (ii) Malacca, Malaysia, from 6 to 10 December 1999, 39 participants (HS in general, developments in HS classification and classification infrastructure);
 - (iii) Casablanca, Morocco, from 8 to 12 November 1999, 24 participants (HS in general, recent developments in the area of the HS, 2002 version of the HS and classification infrastructure);
 - (iv) Hanoi, Vietnam, from 22 to 26 November 1999, 43 participants (HS in general, application of the General Interpretative Rules, classification of certain chemical, textile, high-technology products and motor vehicles, laboratory matters and classification infrastructure).
7. Finally, one Secretariat officer visited the Bermuda Customs Administration from 8 to 12 November 1999 to discuss the legal aspects of the Harmonized System Convention and to help this administration prepare its new Customs tariff based on at least the four-digit level of the HS. The mission also included a two-day lecture to 13 officers on the HS and classification matters in general.
8. It should be noted that most of the technical assistance missions of the Nomenclature and Classification Sub-Directorate for financial year 1999/2000 have been scheduled for Spring 2000 (see Annex). Specific information on these activities will be presented to the Committee at its 26th Session.

III. CONCLUSION

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

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ANNEX**1999/2000 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES**

CCF (NOMENCLATURE)

DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY	DATE	REMARKS
HS Multipurpose	ALGERIA	11-99	Completed
HS Multipurpose	BELARUS	06-00	
HS Multipurpose	MOROCCO	11-99	Completed
HS Multipurpose	AZERBAIJAN	05-00	
HS Expert Mission	BERMUDA	11-99	Completed
HS Multipurpose	MAURITANIA	06-00	
HS Multipurpose Sub-Regional Seminar	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	11-99	Completed
HS Multipurpose	CONGO (REP.OF THE)	06-00	
HS Multipurpose	CROATIA	04-00	

CCF DONORS (NOMENCLATURE)

DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY	DATE	REMARKS
HS Regional Seminar	CHINA	06-00	
HS Regional Seminar	WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	05-00	
HS Regional Seminar	CUBA	05-00	
HS Multipurpose	BRAZIL	06-00	
HS Multipurpose	GABON	05-00	
HS Multipurpose	INDONESIA	06-00	
HS Multipurpose	IRAN	05-00	
HS Multipurpose	LEBANON	?	Date not yet determined
HS Multipurpose	MALAYSIA	12-99	Completed
Infrastructure	MALDIVES	04-00	
HS Multipurpose	NAMIBIA	04-00	
HS Multipurpose	NICARAGUA	06-00	
Infrastructure	PAKISTAN	03-00	
HS Multipurpose	SRI LANKA	05-00	
HS Multipurpose	VIETNAM	11-99	Completed