



CTI News



Dear readers,

Welcome to Volume 21 of CTI News.

This year, Japan Customs marks its 150th anniversary since Japan Customs was officially established by changing its name from “Unjosyo” to “Zeikan (current Customs’ name in Japanese)” in 1872. Throughout its long history with dramatic environmental changes, Japan Customs has played a significant role and must continue to fulfill its responsibilities.

The environment surrounding the Customs community has been continuously changing, however Customs administrations must strive to achieve our common missions.

Volume 21 of CTI News covers the CTI’s international and domestic capacity building activities from January to June 2022. We are very pleased to share with our readers CTI’s tireless efforts and commitment to building the capacity of our people, a key asset of the Customs service.

Although COVID-19 still affects our activity format, CTI has been vigorously engaged in a variety of capacity building programs in person and online. In-person programs have taken advantage of that opportunity in this difficult time, and we have worked hard to maximize its benefits. In addition, online courses have been designed to incorporate lessons learned through new endeavors.

I hope to continuously work hand in hand with the reader's Customs authorities to achieve our common Customs missions through human resource development.

Stay safe and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
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The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

The Strategic Management and Intellectual Property Rights Program at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan

The CTI has committed to the WCO scholarship programs by giving lectures on Customs-related matters. The Strategic Management and Intellectual Property Rights Program (SMIPRP), one of such programs, is a 12-month master's degree program at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan, under the sponsorship of the WCO Customs Cooperation Fund of Japan.

In the academic year of 2021/2022, two lecturers from the CTI gave lectures on various areas of Customs together with methodology of strategic action planning in “Customs Reform and Modernization Course” of the SMIPRP. For the Customs-related part, the CTI lecturers had lectures focusing on the implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. For the project planning part, the lecturers introduced the concept of project cycle management with practical tools including problem tree, objective tree and logical framework (logframe).



(AGU scholars presenting their Customs reform plans)

The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

At the end of the course, scholars from the Customs administration of Botswana, Cameroon, Mongolia and Nigeria who took the course developed their respective Customs reform projects by utilizing what they had learned through the course and presented to the lecturers and participants in the course.

The Customs Reform and Modernization Course has been regarded as one of the best courses in the SMIPRP by the scholars since its start. The CTI will continue its contribution to the SMIPRP.



(AGU Scholars paying a courtesy call to DG of Japan Customs, 15 March 2022)

The Public Finance Programme at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan

The Public Finance Programme is the WCO scholarship program at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan, under the sponsorship of the WCO Customs Cooperation Fund of Japan. It is a 12-month master's degree program, and it provides Customs officials of WCO eligible Member administrations with an opportunity to pursue master's level studies that cover Customs related matters. A total of 10 Customs officials from Brazil, Gambia, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Zambia have been participating in the program in the 2021/2022 academic year.

The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

The program comprises of an academic segment and a practical segment. Practicum in Customs Administration III Course (PCA III) is one of the courses in the practical segment and has provided participants with knowledge to improve Customs operations and management in both theory and practice. The CTI has made significant contributions to the PCA III by planning course content and delivering lectures.

In the PCA III of 2021/2022 academic year, aside from three lecturers of the CTI, speakers were also invited from the Customs and Tariff Bureau, Central Customs Laboratory, Regional Customs and the private sector. The PCA III covered a wide range of Customs related matters from strategic, tactical and operational perspectives. The scholars actively participated in discussions.



(One of the scenes in classroom)



(GRIPS Scholars, 11 May 2022)

The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

On 11 May, GRIPS Scholars visited Tokyo Customs Headquarters for their field trip. They were briefed on the overview of Tokyo Customs and the theory of HS classification from lectures of Tokyo Customs. Then the Scholars visited several sections and observed some daily operations of Tokyo Customs.



(Field trip to Tokyo Customs)



(Discussion between Scholars and Tokyo Customs officials)

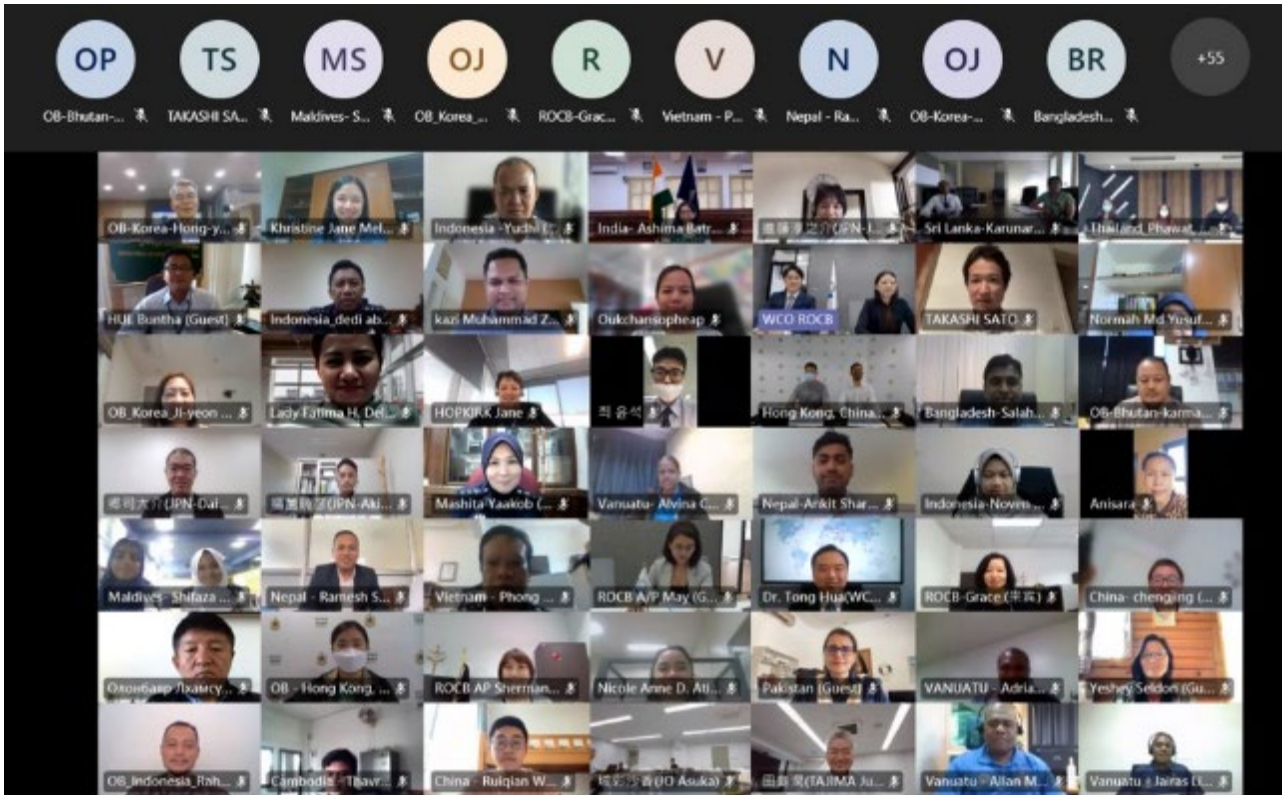
The field trip also provided the opportunity for the Scholars and Tokyo Customs officers to exchange their view and opinions. It was the first time for Scholars to get together with Customs officials at regional Customs. The discussion was held in a warm atmosphere, and it became a fruitful opportunity for all participants.

WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Online Workshop

The WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Online Workshop on Training Management was held from 24 to 26 May 2022. The Workshop was organized with the support of the WCO and the Regional Training Centres (RTCs) in the Asia/Pacific (AP) region.

The objective of the Workshop was to share the outcome of the AP RTC Heads meeting, the expertise of the RTCs and national and regional experiences of Members, and to discuss the way forward for continuously improving training capacity in the AP region.

About 70 participants of over 20 Customs administrations participated in the Workshop. Three officers from the CTI also took part in this online event and shared Japan Customs practices on competency-based training strategy including the recent efforts to further improve training effectiveness.



Recent activities/events of the CTI since January 2022

Virtual Workshop for the Overseas Customs officials

As a part of Japan Customs' Technical Cooperation, nine virtual workshops were held to a total of 158 participants.

Course	Date
JICA Customs Administration (French language course)	11-20 Jan
JICA Customs Administration (Russian language course)	31 Jan-10 Feb
Workshop on Customs Enforcement and Bonded Area for Viet Nam Customs	24-28 Feb
Workshop on Risk Management and Enforcement for the Philippines Customs	28-31 Mar
Workshop on Customs Valuation for the Cote d'Ivoire Customs	11-14 Apr
Workshop on Training Management for Uganda Customs	9-12 May
Workshop on Authorized Economic Operator for the Cambodia Customs	10-12 May
Workshop on the JICA Project for Enhancing the Human Resource Development Capacity of Customs Administration for Thai Customs	17-20, 30 May
Workshop on Customs Valuation for Republic of Congo Customs	6-9 Jun



(Workshop for the Philippines Customs held in March)

Recent activities/events of the CTI since January 2022

Induction Training for New Recruits

The CTI started the annual Induction Training on 1 April 2022 in a hybrid format (online & in person). At the opening ceremony, a video message of the President of the CTI was delivered to the newly recruited officers.



(Photo of celebrating the 150th anniversary of Japan Customs)



(Video message of the President of the CTI)



(Training in a hybrid format)

Recent activities/events of the CTI since January 2022

The training aimed at sharpening the newly recruited officers' mind-set as public servants and acquiring the knowledge necessary as Customs officials. Those who joined Customs as general service officers (university graduate level officers) completed the training and a completion ceremony was held on 10 June 2022.

