



OCO E-NEWS

OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANISATION

Issue 1
January 2017

Welcome to the First Issue of the OCO E-Newsletter



Greetings & Bula Vinaka!

We are very excited to present our first Oceania Customs Organisation E-Newsletter. We intend to make it a regular publication and use it to advise you of future events, report on previous events and encourage you to share developments with the OCO Community. Whether you are new to us or a current member, our hope is to continue to meet the needs of our members by bringing you helpful information, ideas and any Customs related product update.

There are so many interesting experiences and opportunities to learn and our E-newsletter is just one way we can share that information. Another way OCO will be reaching out to you is

through our newly revamped website (www.ocosec.org) filled with helpful information and resources.

I hope that you enjoy reading each issue of the OCO E-Newsletter. If you have a suggestion for an article just let us know. As always, if there is anything we can do to help your Administrations, or if you have any questions regarding the work of the OCO, please contact us through the information presented at the end of this publication.

The OCO team is here to support you. So stay “tuned in and logged on...”. We are strengthening our OCO Community and working for you!

Thank you
Seve Paeniu

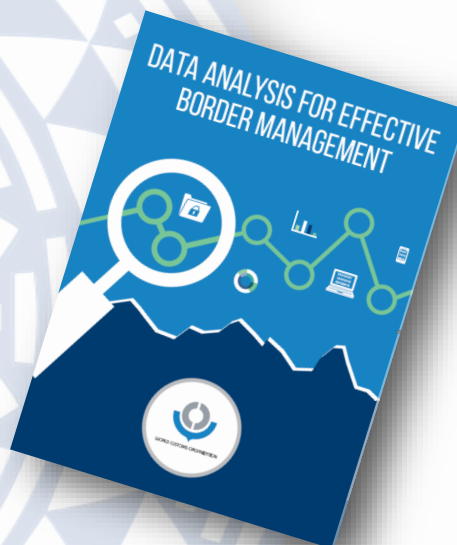
International Customs Day

This year, International Customs Day (ICD) was celebrated on 26 January 2017 with the theme of “Data Analysis” and the slogan “Data Analysis for Effective Border Management”.

The theme of this year’s International Customs Day resonates well with the OCO strategy to strengthen the operational capacity of Member administrations to collect, collate and analyze Customs data and trade statistics for informed decision-making. The traditional methods for detecting and managing risks have served many administrations well, but there exists new opportunities to optimize the use of data to enable OCO members to drive priority setting, performance management, compliance strategy, budget planning and operations.

The OCO has offered training on customs data management and promoting regional efforts in the management of customs data to enable members to strengthen their capacity in analysis of data and coordination. The harmonization of data sets allows for the simplification of information exchanges, which helps facilitate the transition of the digitization of customs.

“Data Analysis for Effective Border Management” will also be the theme of the OCO Annual Conference to be held in Guam on 2-5 May 2017. The Conference will provide an opportunity for key international experts to share knowledge and experiences aimed at encouraging members on the importance of data analysis not only to improve border management but also for strategic decision-making. The Pacific region has the potential to unleash the power of data to propel customs to new heights.



“Three Rules of Work: Out of clutter find simplicity; From discord find harmony; In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity “

~ Albert Einstein

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Meet your OCO Team.



Back Row [L-R] : Kalei Billings-Dugu- HR & Logistics Officer , Heilala Erenavula– Executive Assistant , Teu Teulilo– ICT & Finance Officer ,Laisiana Tugaga– Trade & Revenue Management Advisor

Front Row [L-R] : Gibson Wekina– Finance & Corporate Services Manager , Seve Paeniu– Head of Secretariat , Tevita Tupou– Operations Manager

“Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is progress, Working together is success”

~ Henry Ford

OCO Staff Movement

In 2016 OCO bid farewell to two members of its team, Mr Ioane Alama , outgoing Operations Manager and Ms Taina Simpson, outgoing Executive Assistant. We wish them all the best and success in their future endeavours:)

During the second half of 2016, OCO welcomed three new members to the team , Ms Heilala Erenavula as Executive Assistant, Mr Tevita Tupou as Operations Manager and Ms Laisiana Tugaga as the new Trade & Revenue Management Adviser.

Small Customs Administration Coordinator

Also in 2016 OCO commenced its Small Customs Administration Coordinator Secondment.

The purpose of the role is to coordinate and facilitate assistance to small Customs Administrations member countries in strengthening their national customs administrations through effective and efficient distribution of target assistance programmes to build their capacity.

The team welcomed Mr Tuilagi Teii, Head of Tuvalu Customs to the team in June 2016.

Mr Teii completed his secondment in December 2016 and we wish him all the

best as he resumes his role as Head of Customs in Tuvalu.

OCO is now seeking nominations from our Member Customs Administrations for an appropriate qualified officer to be seconded to the OCO to fill the position of Small Customs Administration Coordinator for a six-month period based in Suva, Fiji.

Deadline for nominations is **3rd February 2017.**

What do OCO Members Say?

2016 OCO Customer Satisfaction Survey



- ◆ *“The OCO has come through a difficult period well. This is a credit to the current Secretariat”*
Andrew Haigh ,Comptroller , Cook Islands.
- ◆ *“I am happy to see positive changes happening in OCO.”*
Jose C Mafnas , Director , CNMI.
- ◆ *“Appreciate all the assistance provided in terms of capacity building”*
Tekaiē Ititaake, Comptroller, Kiribati.
- ◆ *“Under the current leadership, OCO has been delivering its services exceptionally well and certainly meeting the expectations of the Solomon Islands Customs”*
Nathan Kama, Comptroller , Solomon Islands

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

Fiji appointed Vice Chair of WCO Asia/Pacific.

In July 2016, during the 127th/128th WCO Council Sessions in Brussels, Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority A-CEO Mr Visvanath Das was appointed the role of WCO Asia/Pacific Vice chair for the 2016-2018 term. He succeeded Mr Dato' Sri Khazali bin Haji Ahmad of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department who served as Vice Chair from 2014-2016.

At the official launching ceremony of the WCO Asia/Pacific (A/P) Vice-Chair's Office, Mr. Das expressed his appreciation and said it was an honour for the FRCA to take up this role for the next 2 years, Fiji being the first WCO Member in the Pacific sub-region to be entrusted with this

responsibility.

He also reaffirmed his determination to continue to foster close communication and coordination among the Member administrations in the A/P Region with a view to addressing the challenges faced by Customs and raising the profile of the Region within the international Customs community.



Accession of Samoa to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures.



On 27 October 2016, the Secretary General of the WCO Mr. Kunito Mikuriya, in his capacity as the depository of the Convention, took receipt of the instruments of accession of Samoa to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention), from HE Fatumanava III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador of the Independent State of Samoa to Belgium and the European Union.

Having entered into force on 3 February 2006, the Revised Kyoto Convention is a WCO legal instrument acceded by several countries as the way to further promote legitimate trade and effective controls. It is regarded by the entire international Customs Community as a key blueprint for modern Customs in 21st Century, which complements countries' efforts for ratification of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

The WCO Secretary General welcomed the accession of Samoa, since this demonstrates the country's commitment to implementing Customs procedures adapted to the international trade environment and efforts towards trade facilitation, especially in the context of ensuring connectivity, which is a key element for small islands' economies. The Secretary General strongly encourages other WCO Members to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

ASYCUDAWorld in the Region

Following from the successful launch of ASYCUDAWorld in Honiara in 2015, Solomon Islands Customs as part of the ASYCUDA World System implementation officially launched AW System at Noro Customs on 10 August 2016.



In March 2016, with their commitment toward reform and modernisation of its operations, Vanuatu Customs launched their ASYCUDAWorld Project.

December 2016 saw the successful installation of the first ever ASYCUDA World Production server for Vanuatu.

The National Project Team (NPT) are now currently in the process of conducting tests & configuration on the AW prototype server before application on the Production Server and aim to go live later this year.



Strengthening Partnerships within the OCO Community

In our commitment to provide targeted assistance and lasting solutions to meet the priority needs of our members, 2016 saw the facilitation of the signing of two (2) Memorandums of Understanding between OCO Members.



On 6th August 2016 Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) signed an MOU with Kiribati Customs Service of the Republic of Kiribati for a substantive collaboration between the two parties for the purpose of capacity building and sharing of information to promote and strengthen the relationship between the two.

The following month on 12th September, FRCA signed a similar MOU with Tuvalu Customs Revenue and Border Protection Service of Tuvalu Islands to promote communication and cooperation in customs administration, and ensure proper application of custom laws.





2016 Year in Review

April

**4th -8th:
Regional Marine Awareness and
Maritime Vessel Search Training
Program,
Sydney, Australia**



**11th - 15th:
OCO Regional Customs Data &
Trade Statistics Workshop, Suva,
Fiji**



**15th - 29th:
Mission to Tonga
In-Country assistance to update
and modernise Tonga's customs
legislative frameworks**



May

**2nd - 4th :
OCO Information Working Group
Meeting,
Auckland , NZ**

**18th -20th :
Document
Examination
Principals &
Application (DEPA)
Training ,
Nadi, Fiji.**



**1st -3rd :
18th OCO Annual
Conference
Funafuti , Tuvalu**



**8th & 9th :
Forum Regional Security
Council , Suva, Fiji**

June

**13th-24th :
Mission to Kiribati
Provide assistance to
update and
modernise Kiribati
customs legislative
framework.**



**27th - 1st July :
WCO Sub-regional
Workshop on Search,
Investigation and
Interrogation
Techniques
Suva, Fiji**



July

25th –26th :
Regional Executive Workshop on Single Window & Integrity , Suva, Fiji.



4th –12th :
OCO Mission to Niue
Conduct National Workshop for Niue Customs Administration



Aug-Oct

16th - 18th Aug
Review of OCO Strategic Plan



12th Sept
OCO Steering Committee Meeting , Suva, Fiji



24th - 28th Oct : OCO Mission to CNMI

Conduct National Workshop for CNMI Customs Administration



November

8th - 17th
Kiribati Customs Training Workshop on WTO Valuation & WCO Harmonised Systems , Tarawa, Kiribati



14th - 18th
OCO Regional Workshop on Customs & Tax Compliance, Suva, Fiji.



21st –25th
OCO Regional Workshop on Customs Modernisation & Reforms, Suva, Fiji



December

5th - 9th
DIBP Regional Marine Awareness and Maritime Pleasure Search Vessel Training , Sydney, AUS



5th - 16th
Mission to Marshall Islands
Conduct National Workshop for RMI Customs Administration



12th - 16th
Mission to Guam
Conduct National Workshop for Guam Customs Administration.





2017 Calendar of Events

January - December

Date	Event	Venue
January		
2	<i>New Years Public Holiday (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO office closure)</i>
12	UNODC-WCO Container Control Program	Bangkok, Thailand
26	International Customs Day	
February		
15	OCO Steering Committee Meeting	Teleconference
March		
14-16	WCO AP Regional Heads Meeting	Suva, Fiji
22	OCO Steering Committee Meeting	Brisbane, Australia
23-24	OCO Information Working Group	Brisbane, Australia
April		
3-6	Forum Economic Ministers Meetings (PIFS)	Suva, Fiji
14	<i>Good Friday (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO office closure)</i>
17	<i>Easter Monday (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO office closure)</i>
18-22	Pacific Area Security Sector Working Group Oceania (PIFS/SOCNZ/SOCPAC),	Auckland, NZ
TBC	Forum Trade Ministerial Meeting (PIFS)	
May		
2-5	OCO Annual Conference	Guam
June		
12-16	Pacific Regional TFA Workshop	Korea
20	Annual Pacific Immigration Directors Conference	Samoa
23	<i>National Sports and Wellness Day (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO office closure)</i>
July		
6-8	WCO - Annual Council Session	Brussels
August		
28 - 31	Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Conference	Guam
September		
7	<i>Constitution Day (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO Office Closure)</i>
TBC	PITAA Annual Meeting	Samoa
October		
10	<i>Fiji Day (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO Office Closure)</i>
19	<i>Diwali (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO Office Closure)</i>
December		
4	<i>Prophet Mohammed's Birthday (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO Office Closure)</i>
25	<i>Christmas Day (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO Office Closure)</i>
26	<i>Boxing Day (Fiji Public Holiday)</i>	<i>(OCO Office Closure)</i>
11-14	WTO Ministerial Conference	Argentina



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