

## Technical Assistance on the HS 2017

With the sponsorship of the PACER Plus Project, the OCO conducted six (6) country missions to Niue, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Nauru, Samoa and Vanuatu to assist them with the work of updating their current HS 2012 to the HS 2017 compatible with the WCO HS Convention and also incorporating the Pacific Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System 2017 (PACHS17).

Of the 9 PACER Plus signatory countries, only 3 are WCO members and there are key challenges in not only the correct classification of goods but also the transposition to HS 2017.

As part of the PACER Plus funding, the OCO had formulated the PACHS 17. The PACHS17 is a multipurpose goods nomenclature that forms the basis for Customs Tariffs and International Merchandise Trade Statistics.

The benefits of the PACHS is that it would assist OCO members in particular the non-WCO members to adopt HS 2017 and one that also reflects key tradeable commodities for the Pacific region.

PACHS 17 has enabled; (i) Commodities specific to the Pacific that are traded can be correctly classified, like kava, (ii) New products coming into the country will be able to be correctly classified and (iii) Enable regional comparison and international comparison

Whilst in country, the Customs Expert also conducted consultations with relevant stakeholders on the HS 2017.

The 6 Customs administrations are now in the final stages on the transposition to the HS 2017 with the aim of implementing it from July 2017.



*Tevita meeting with Solomon Island Customs Management team*



*Tevita on mission in Samoa with the Min for Revenue personnel*



*HoS meeting with Solomon Islands Head of Customs Nathan Kama and Govt officials*



*Tevita meeting with Niue Acting Attorney General and Head of Customs Siome Sionetama*

## HOS Engagement

The Head of Secretariat also continued his high level engagement with members. The HOS visited Niue, Nauru, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands during the reporting period. Through the HOS engagement, there is greater support for the members in implementing HS 2017 and PACER Plus obligations.



*HoS meeting with Nauru President Hon. Baron Waqa*



*Hos meeting with Solomon Head of Customs Nathan Kama (left) and Peter Kenilorea - PS Foreign Affairs (right)*

## PC Trade Assessment

Four of the PACER Plus signatory countries (Kiribati, Nauru, Niue & Tuvalu) are currently using PC Trade as their customs management system.

PC Trade was developed by Statistics New Zealand to support PIC gather reliable trade information.

The update of customs systems is an important component of the HS 2017 work.

The OCO has engaged Mr. Stanley Trief to undertake assessment of PC Trade in the region.

This work included the assessment of member's IT capabilities and identify country specific needs and resources required to meet those needs, evaluate the support mechanism for PC Trade to ensure that it is operational and that members also have the capacity to sustainably manage PC trade use and processes at the national level.

3 country visits have been undertaken and the remaining assessment for Nauru will be completed in early May, 2018.

# PACER PLUS

PACIFIC AGREEMENT  
ON CLOSER ECONOMIC  
RELATIONS PLUS



### Assessment of PACER Plus Customs Procedures

Concurrent to the HS 2017 work, the OCO has also begun assessment of PACER Plus customs procedures chapter.

The overall objective of the measures is for members to adopt and implement modern customs processes and procedures that contribute to increased trade and strengthened border security.

To date, assessment have been completed for six member countries.

Concurrent to this process, OCO is also assisting six of non-WCO members with the process of compliance and accession to the RKC Convention noting that any member of the United Nations or its specialized agencies may become a Contracting party to the Convention.

These members had participated at the WCO Workshop in Vanuatu in 2017. From 23 April, 2018 the 6 member representatives were in Vanuatu attending the Pacific Management Development Programs in which they are formulating action plans for accession



*Tevita meeting with Samoa Min for Revenue CEO*



*Tevita sharing a light moment with Kiribati Comptroller of Customs Tekae Ititaake*



*OCO members in discussion at PMDP Program, Port Vila, Vanuatu*

### Upcoming Events: May-July 2018

Date	Event
7-11 May	PACER Plus Customs Procedures Assessment—Nauru
7-11 May	PC Trade Assessment—Nauru
15-18 May	PACER Plus Customs Procedures Assessment—Tuvalu
21-25 May	HS 2017 Mission—Tonga
29-31 May	PC Trade Assessment Validation Workshop, Nadi, Fiji
23-27 July	PACER Plus Core Train the Trainers Workshop