



Vision: To be recognized as a world class regional Customs Organization that collaborates with regional and global partners to deliver high quality services and sustainable solutions to Member Administrations

OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

FOREWORD



Greetings! We have been busy at your Secretariat. The July to September 2022 quarter is the beginning of the Strategic Plan period 2022 -23. July began with the continuation of the CERTIII and CERTIV courses, which we are hoping to complete before the end of this financial year. There was also a dialogue on Advance Ruling with members as well as the Information Sharing Working Group Meeting. It was also sad to see our former Head of Secretariat, Mr. Richard Brennan and our Finance and Corporate Services

Manager, Mr. Alfereti Vamarasi leaving the Secretariat during this period. We were glad however to welcome the new Finance and Corporate Services Manager Mr. Raginald Khan during the same quarter.

Our much-anticipated Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference took place in the first week of August and it was an opportunity for some of our members and law enforcement partners to finally meet face to face after more than 2 years of virtual meetings. The outcome of the conference provided an avenue for the OCO Secretariat to strengthen its collaborative work with the enforcement partners in the region.

During this quarter, the OCO held its 24th Conference virtually on the 6th Septembers. Members approved the Strategic Plan 2022-27, the 3-year Budget for 2022-23 to 2024-25, selected a new Steering Committee members for the next 2 years and also approved that Federated States of Micronesia host the 2023 Conference. We are looking forward to another successful year with members and partners.

Malo áupito
Irma Daphney Stone

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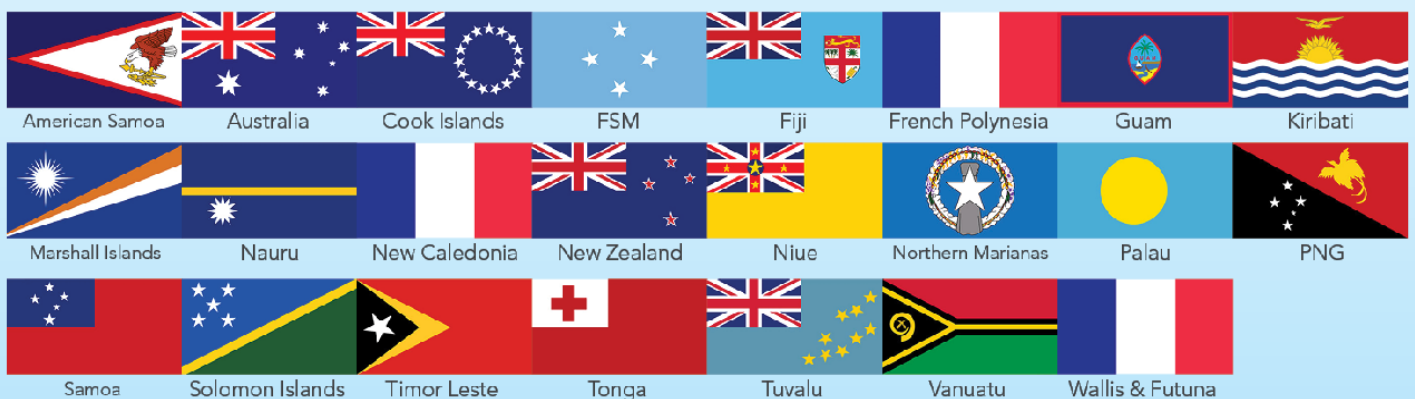
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OUR MEMBERS



OCO Members Unite to Fight Common Challenges



The Oceania Customs Organisation members have approved the Strategic Plan 2022-2027, making a commitment to improve standards and processes to facilitate trade, increase revenue collection and maximize efforts on border security as they face the increasing challenge of transnational crimes in the region.

The OCO 2022-2027 plan was approved during the OCO's annual conference, with members agreeing to work together to address the region's common challenges. All OCO members have now signed the OCO agreement on Customs cooperation after the French territories- New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna signed the agreement during the conference. [Read More](#)

Tonga Customs Advances on National Disaster Response Plan

Ministry of Revenue and Customs Tonga supported by the World Customs Organisation (WCO), Oceania Customs Organisation and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs held a workshop to share experiences and discuss ways it responds to natural disasters. This is a follow up to a similar workshop by OCO in November last year, which was to help members develop their standard operating procedures in the event of natural disasters. [Read More](#)

Changing Crime Trends Pose Challenges for OCO Members

The changing crime trends in the Pacific with increases in money laundering, illicit drug trafficking and use in the region and import of counterfeit items has placed huge challenges on Customs agencies, says Oceania Customs Organisation Acting Head of Secretariat, Mrs. Irma Daphney Stone.

As highlighted in the recent Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference held in Fiji, the Pacific is caught between crime syndicates and the Australian and New Zealand drug markets as the Pacific Ocean is the principal transit route from Asia through to Australia and NZ. [Read More](#)



Digitisation key for OCO Members

Customs administrations in the region must continue to digitise and modernise their administrations to strengthen trade facilitation, enhance revenue collection and better protect our borders. Despite ongoing resource and organisational priority shifts caused by challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, money laundering, illicit drug trafficking and the import of counterfeit items this evolution should remain a focus, says Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) Chairman Xavier Mitchell. [Read More](#)

Intellectual Property Rights Training for OCO Members



Last month, the Oceania Customs Organisation and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) trained Customs officers from selected OCO member countries on Intellectual Property Rights Legislative Training.

This virtual training was conducted to build OCO members' capacity in legal drafting and was attended by Customs officers who were also contact points for IPR in their administrations as well as IPR legal experts and representatives of OCO members' Solicitor General offices. [Read More](#)

Pacific Women's Development Program Graduate Manages Air Cargo in New Cal

In June this year, New Caledonia Customs appointed Fabienne Guyonnet to manage all air cargo, which increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Ms. Guyonnet also manages the development and implementation of the Automated Systems for Customs Data system (AsycudaWorld). She was one of the participants that attended the inaugural session of the Pacific Women's Professional Development Program (PWPDP) which is a partnership between the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO), the Australian Border Force and RMIT Transnational Security Center. [Read More](#).



MEMBERS NEWS

OCO Members in the NEWS

[FRCS Intercepts Smuggled Goods](#)

[Tonga receives New Imaging Equipment from People's Republic of China](#)

[Cocaine Shipment seized in Tahiti](#)

[New Zealand Police and Customs seize Methamphetamine](#)

Interview with Timor Leste Commissioner of Customs



Timor Leste Commissioner of Customs, Jose Antonio Fatima Abilio is one of the most experienced civil servants in the country having served for over 35 years. A father to five sons and a daughter, Mr. Abillio has held several roles including Vice Director of Planning and Coordinator of Assistance under the First Constitutional Government, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Minister of Finance, Director of Aid Effectiveness and in 2014 he was appointed as Director General or Commissioner for the Customs Authority.

Mr. Abillio shares his experience as head of Customs in one of the youngest countries in the world. [Read More](#)

OCO NEWS

Farewells at OCO



In the months of July and August, the OCO Secretariat bid farewell to Head of Secretariat, Mr. Richard Brennan and Manager Finance and Corporate Services, Mr. Alfereti Vamarasi. Mr. Brennan served for a period of 3 years before heading back to Australia. Through his vision and leadership, the OCO achieved many milestones while delivering core Customs training at national level to build sustainable knowledge bases within the member administrations. He played an integral role in the development of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway protocols at the height of the pandemic. Furthermore, under his leadership, the OCO managed to rollout the Pacific Small Craft App which now plays a critical role in the tracking of small crafts across the pacific, extend the reach of HS Tariff system and ASYCUDA into nations that previously did not have these.

After more than two years of service to OCO, Mr. Alfereti Vamarasi left the OCO Secretariat to take up a new opportunity with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. In addition to being a leader and a colleague, he proved to be a great friend at work and was always keen to help and empower everyone.

The OCO together with its members would like to thank them both for their commitment to the OCO Secretariat wishes them well for the future.



OCO Appoints Raginald Khan as the new Finance and Corporate Services



The Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) has appointed Raginald Afraaz Khan as its new Finance and Corporate Services Manager replacing Mr. Alfereti Vamarasi.

Mr. Khan was appointed following a competitive selection process and comes with a strong professional work experience in Accounting and Project Finance Management having worked for a number of regional organisations over his career span.

He hails from Suva and holds a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting and Information Systems from the University of the South Pacific and is in the process of completing a Post Graduate Diploma in Forensic Accounting.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

October
2022

IPR Enforcement Training Virtual
CERT III Electives
ISWG Second QTR Meeting

12 - 13 Oct
31 Oct - 30 Jan
18 Oct

November
2022

Steering Committee Meeting
IPR Regional Workshop
CERT IV Completion
APAN & Small Craft Intelligence Training
F2F North Pacific

10 Nov
15 - 17 Nov
30 Nov
28 Nov-2 Dec

December
2022

Risk Profiling and Identification Training
F2F North Pacific
SPC OCO Trade Statistics Training
OCO Office Closure

5-9 Dec
05-09 Dec
22 Dec-6 Jan

GALLERY



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