



**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



The OCO continues to carry out its activities during the period October to December and it was heartening to know that the first Cohort for CERTIV completed their units in December and are ready to graduate.

The CERTIII 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort will complete their learning in January 2023. During this quarter the

OCO conducted the IPR legislation training in collaboration with USPTO and held the enforcement training for the North Pacific together with our partners ABF, INCB and USPIB. We also participated in the JHOPs annual meeting and the World Bank Group Trade Facilitation Agreement workshop. We look forward to 2023 and the work that it will bring.

Irma Daphney Stone  
Operations Manager

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## OUR MEMBERS



# Oct - Dec Highlights

## US Experts Visit OCO



Transnational crimes, especially drug production and trafficking continue to be one of the most challenging and serious issues in the Pacific. The production of methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine trafficking is on the rise and our Pacific islands have become production sites as well as trafficking destinations.

Customs agencies are working hard with other law enforcement agencies to arrest this problem.

[Read More](#)

## OCO Courtesy Visit to Fiji Revenue Customs Service

Keeping in touch with our members is important to the Oceania Customs Organisation.

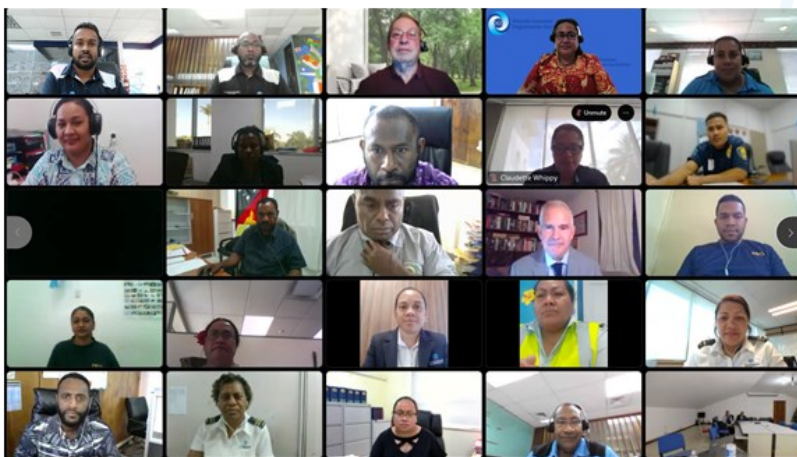
During the month of October, our Acting Head of Secretariat, Mrs. Irma Daphney Stone paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, Mr. Mark Dixon.

Fiji has been one of the strongest supporters of the OCO over the years and this exemplified with its willingness to host the OCO Secretariat when it was established.

During her meeting with Mr. Dixon, Mrs. Stone provided an update on OCO's current and planned activities.



## Customs officers work towards curbing counterfeits in the region



The rapid increase in supply of counterfeit goods with associated harmful risks is a major challenge for Oceania Customs Organisation members.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office has been working with Oceania Customs to improve the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the Pacific.

"It is critical that we must first have Customs officers who are able to identify counterfeit at the borders and who can prevent these goods from entering the countries," OCO Acting Head of Secretariat, Mrs. Irma Daphney Stone said.

[Read More.](#)

## Customs and IPR Officers Strategizes on the Fight Against Counterfeits



Senior Customs and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) officers in the region recognise the difficult tasks they have, to counter the rise of trade in counterfeits, which is increasingly flooding the Pacific and posing a real and grave threat to the health and safety of our people.

During the month of November, the officers met to discuss ways, including the updating of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) laws to stop the trade of counterfeits which range from clothes, food, medicines to machinery, pesticides and electronic gadgets. [Read More.](#)

## ***OCO works with USPTO on IPR in the Pacific***

The Oceania Customs Organisation secretariat continues to work with partners to improve the capacity of members in various areas of Customs work.

In the last two years, the United States Trademark and Patent Office has been supportive, supporting OCO members with training on Intellectual Property Rights.

From October 25-28, USPTO supported OCO and its members to attend the ***Indo-Pacific Regional Workshop on Handling, Storage, Disposal and Destruction of Counterfeit Goods*** that was held in Bangkok, Thailand. [Read More](#)



## ***Northern Pacific learn Critical Border Security Skills***



The Oceania Customs Organisation in partnership with the Australian Border Force, Secretariat of International Narcotics Control Board, US Postal Inspection Service and Universal Postal Union conducted a training in the Northern Pacific last month on the use of the OCO Pacific Small Craft App, APAN technology and using **new** psychoactive substances (NPS) intelligence tools for profiling and targeting of suspicious parcels at borders.

The training was held over two weeks- 13 participants attended week one of the training which focused on the mobile app and APAN technology. [Read More](#)

## **MEMBERS NEWS**

### ***Randy Leads FSM'S Revenue and Customs***

Randy Sue always had a thirst for adventure. That's why he joined the US military at the age of 18, eager to see the world. But he always knew, deep down that he would return home to the Federated States of Micronesia. Randy returned home in 2012, and was working at the Pohnpei State Revenue Office when a position as an audit specialist with the National Customs and Tax Administration became available in 2019. The father of three quickly established himself within the National Government and earlier this year become the head of the Customs and Tax Administration.

The last eight months has been quite an adventure, in fact a baptism of fire for him. He took over as head of the Customs and Tax division and "inherited" a bigger role in the region as the chairperson of the Oceania Customs Organisation. [Read More](#)



## ***OCO Members in the NEWS***

[\*\*\*Australian Authorities seize 1.1 tonnes of cocaine\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Operation Athena cracks down on illicit firearms\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Man charged after importing methamphetamine in body oil bottles\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Auckland businessman arrested over \\$2m smuggling operation\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Man sentenced to 10 years in prison for trying to import meth in hydraulic jacks\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Arrest for over 2.1kg meth find in suitcase at Auckland Airport\*\*\*](#)

# UPCOMINGEVENTS

January  
2023

<b>CERT III Electives</b>	<b>31 Oct 22 - 30 Jan 23</b>
<b>Customs Brokers Familiarization Training</b>	<b>25 Jan</b>
<b>World Customs Day</b>	<b>26 Jan</b>
<b>Cert IV Graduation</b>	<b>26 Jan</b>
<b>Women's Alumni Webinar</b>	<b>30 Jan - 18 Feb</b>

February  
2023

<b>UNEP Project Consultation</b>	<b>1 - 9 Feb</b>
<b>Guam Modernization</b>	<b>27 Feb - 3 Mar</b>
<b>ISWG</b>	<b>15 Feb</b>
<b>CERT III Graduation</b>	<b>24 Feb</b>
<b>UNEP Project Consultation</b>	<b>28 Feb</b>

March  
2023

<b>Gender Equality Workshop</b>	<b>6 - Mar</b>
<b>Womens Day</b>	<b>8 Mar</b>
<b>Steering Committee Meeting</b>	<b>14 Mar</b>
<b>OPSCA &amp; APAN Training-South Pacific</b>	<b>20 - 24 Mar</b>
<b>IONICS &amp; Postal Inspection</b>	<b>27 - 31 Mar</b>

# GALLERY



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Organization



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