

Foreword

Dear Director General,

When I took office as your Secretary General on 1 January 2009, I emphasized that capacity building for WCO Members is the top priority of my administration. The World Customs Organization (WCO) has, of course, developed standards and tools based on best practices used throughout the world in order to enhance the performance of Customs operations. It is my intent to diversify and expand the WCO's capacity building portfolio and delivery in order to provide a wider range of assistance to WCO Members. We must be cognizant that because there are different Customs roles and varying levels of development, there are different needs that must be responded to.

WCO capacity building begins with its collection of instruments, especially the Harmonized System, the revised Kyoto Convention, the Istanbul Convention, the revised Arusha Declaration, and the SAFE Framework of Standards. Our comprehensive programmes for modernization also include capacity building tools, such as the Customs Capacity Building Diagnostic Framework, the Time Release Study methodology, E-learning modules, and the Integrity Development Guide; conducting needs assessments in country to assist our Members in identifying where they are, where they need to go, and the gaps; organizing informative conferences on practical subjects like the annual IT conference and the June 2009 seminar on co-ordinated border management; delivering expert training and technical assistance, especially on Customs competencies such as valuation, HS, Origin, risk management, enforcement, and trade facilitation; assisting Members in developing strategic and action plans for reform and modernization; and donor matchmaking. Capacity building thus comes in many different forms, and successful reform and modernization is dependent on providing all of these effectively and efficiently.

Capacity building also involves guidance, models, and national best practices on important organizational management topics like the ones contained in this, the second edition of the WCO Development Compendium.

The regionalization of capacity building is another important part of my capacity building strategy. The WCO Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCBs) and Regional Training Centers (RTCs) are the crucial infrastructure for this policy. I am pleased to note that the ROCB for Asia/Pacific has now reached its fifth anniversary. Within this Compendium is a report that outlines the purpose, objectives, and achievements of this ROCB. This development document will serve as a useful model for the other ROCBs and will provide our Members with information on what a ROCB can successfully achieve.

The WCO will continue to expand and strengthen its capacity building portfolio in the coming years. This second edition of the WCO Development Compendium is one more step in that direction.



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