

COMMUNICATION FROM JAPAN

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TRADE FACILITATION: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF JAPAN

1. The Doha Development Agenda reconfirms that technical cooperation and capacity building are core elements of the development dimension of the multilateral trading system.¹ Furthermore, in paragraph 5 of the modalities for negotiations on trade facilitation, "it is recognized that the provision of technical assistance and support for capacity building is vital for developing and least-developed countries to enable them to fully participate in and benefit from the negotiations".

2. In recognition of the importance of such assistance and capacity building in developing countries, Japan has been actively providing technical assistance programmes in the field of trade facilitation on the basis of the requests from developing countries. For example, in the field of customs, Japan has been providing assistance on subjects such as customs clearance, customs valuation, Harmonized System (HS) and post-clearance audit, which are all basic elements in customs procedures. For the Members' reference, the following are some aspects of Japan's technical assistance activities in the field of customs procedures.

I. MODE

3. Technical assistance is provided in the following modes²:

- **Training:** Japan invites officials from developing countries and provides them with a training course in Japan. In the past three fiscal years (2002-2004), Japan invited a total of 860 customs officials from 58 countries in 111 courses.
- **Expert Mission:** Japan sends one or more experts to a national or regional seminar/workshop/symposium that is often held in a developing country. In the past three fiscal years (2002-2004), Japan sent 274 customs experts to 33 countries. There are also long-term customs experts involved in developing countries' customs administrations, assisting in their modernization (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, ASEAN Secretariat).

¹ Paragraph 38 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

² Assistance in the form of providing hardware is done by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

II. SUBJECT

4. A wide-range of subjects are covered in technical assistance, in the field of customs, including the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention, customs administration, customs clearance, customs valuation, post-clearance audit, risk management, enforcement (passenger control, intelligence, security, etc.), HS and tariff classification, rules of origin and training management. Examples of the objectives of these assistance activities are as follows (further details of examples of training courses provided are annexed hereto):

A. HS CLASSIFICATION

5. The objective of a training course on HS classification is to give participants an opportunity to acquire the basic knowledge and skills of Customs tariff classification based on the WCO HS Convention with case studies. After this training course, participants will be able to perform proper classification by applying the HS Convention. Also, long term technical assistance for ASEAN customs administrations by Japanese experts in this area has contributed to the creation of ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN).

B. CUSTOMS VALUATION AND POST-CLEARANCE AUDIT

6. The objective of this training is to deepen the knowledge regarding the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement and Post-Clearance Audit, which is important from the viewpoint of securing facilitated customs procedures and tackling valuation fraud at the same time. After this programme, participants are expected to effectively deal with the various valuation cases and properly conduct valuation management.

C. TRAINING MANAGEMENT

7. The objective of this "training management" course is to give participants an opportunity to deepen the planning knowledge and skills of training management, with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries in the area of human resource development. After this training course, participants are expected to implement the training course more effectively in each administration.

III. BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

- A major portion of technical assistance is provided to countries in Asia and the Pacific including Central Asia.
- Japan has also been providing assistance to countries in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

IV. FUNDING

8. Technical assistance in the field of customs is funded by the following sponsors:

- Customs Technical Cooperation Programme (Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- World Customs Organization (WCO)
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

9. Japan commits itself to being engaged in the multilateral trading system and supports the strengthening of the system. It is thus willing to continue providing technical assistance and would like to stress the importance of agreeing to a tangible final outcome on trade facilitation that would enable us to provide effective and operational technical assistance.

ANNEX

Outline of Training Courses Provided by Japan Customs (Examples)

1. Training course on HS Classification

OBJECTIVE:

To give participants an opportunity to acquire the basic knowledge and skills of Customs tariff classification based on the HS Convention and ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN) with case studies. After this training course, participants will be able to perform proper classification by applying the HS Convention and AHTN.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Overall features of Customs Administration in Japan
- 2) The HS Convention
- 3) AHTN
- 4) Tariff Schedule of Japan
- 5) Classification structure of Japan
- 6) Case studies
- 7) Role of chemical analysis in Customs clearance
- 8) Field trip to regional Customs

2. Training course on Customs Valuation and Post-Clearance Audit

OBJECTIVE:

To deepen the knowledge regarding the WTO Valuation Agreement and Post-Clearance Audit in order to enhance a smooth Customs clearance and combat against valuation fraud. After this programme, participants are expected to effectively deal with the various valuation cases and properly conduct valuation management.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Overall features of Customs Administration in Japan
- 2) The methods of valuation
- 3) Value declaration system
- 4) Post-clearance audit in Japan
- 5) Managing valuation risk in Japan
- 6) Case Studies
- 7) Revised Kyoto Convention
- 8) Field trip to regional Customs

3. Training course on Customs Clearance

OBJECTIVE:

To give participants an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills of Customs Clearance, to familiarize them with Cargo Processing, computerized systems used by the Japan Customs, and to deepen their knowledge of a medium to secure trade facilitation.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Overall features of Customs Administration in Japan
- 2) Export and import clearance system
- 3) Computerized systems used by Japan Customs
- 4) Tariff Classification
- 5) Customs valuation
- 6) Intellectual Property Rights
- 7) Cargo clearance at sea/air ports
- 8) Customs counselor system for importers
- 9) Chemical analysis
- 10) Anti-smuggling measures
- 11) Field trip to regional Customs

4. Training course on Enforcement and Intelligence Management

OBJECTIVE:

To give participants an opportunity to acquire the basic knowledge and skills of overall enforcement activities of Customs, including risk management and intelligence management, with lectures, discussions and case studies.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Overall features of the Customs Administration in Japan
- 2) Enforcement at sea/air ports
- 3) Passengers and cargo processing
- 4) Anti-smuggling measures
- 5) Seizure trend in Japan
- 6) Investigations and deposition of Customs offences
- 7) Intelligence management
- 8) Overall enforcement activities conducted by Japan Customs
- 9) Field trip to regional Customs

5. Training course on Drug Detector Dog Management

OBJECTIVE:

To give participants an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for training drug detector dogs which are required for drug detector dog administrators to aid in the effective control of illicit drug trafficking.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Overall features of the Customs Administration in Japan

- 2) Principles of drug detector dog training
- 3) Canine selection criteria
- 4) Canine capabilities, limitations and olfactory acuity
- 5) Drug detector dog in the work place (field observation and demonstration)
- 6) Drug detector dog utilization
- 7) Current situation of drug abuse and control and the related laws and regulations on narcotic control
- 8) Intelligence management and techniques on drug control
- 9) Observation and Demonstration

6. Training course on Training Management

OBJECTIVE:

To give participants an opportunity to deepen their planning knowledge and skills in training management. After this training course, participants are expected to implement the training course more effectively in each administration.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Organizational Administration and methods of Human Resources Development (HRD) in Japan
- 2) Lectures on training management
 - Training system
 - Training needs analysis, design, planning, administration and evaluation of training courses
- 3) Workshop on training management
- 4) Discussion of recent problems of each administration
- 5) Field trip to regional Customs

7. Region-focused seminar on the Revised Kyoto Convention

OBJECTIVE:

To give participants an opportunity to acquire the knowledge of the Revised Kyoto Convention and familiarize them with it. This seminar is set to support the acceptance of the Revised Kyoto Convention in the participants' country.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Overall features of the Customs Administration in Japan
- 2) Seminar on:
 - a. Outline of Revised Kyoto Convention
 - b. General Annex of Kyoto Convention
 - c. Specific Annexes
- 3) Field trip to regional Customs

8. Training course on Chemical Analysis

OBJECTIVE:

To give participants an opportunity to acquire the basic knowledge and skills of mechanized analysis using precision instruments for accurate HS classification. After this course, participants will be able to gain the highly mechanized analysis method using a precision

instrument. They will also be able to effectively conduct the mechanized analysis and can transfer their technique to their colleagues.

CONTENTS:

- 1) Mechanized analysis of imported goods at customhouses
 - 2) Essential mechanized analysis
 - 3) Introduction of essential and advanced appliances (X-ray diffractometer, infrared spectrophotometer, gas chromatograph, mass spectrometer, inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometer, scanning electron microscope, etc.)
 - 4) Advanced mechanized analysis
 - 5) Analytical method
 - for food stuff
 - for inorganic materials
 - for petrochemicals and organic compounds
 - for highly polymerized compounds, paper, textiles, etc.
 - 6) Field trip to regional Customs
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