

**Joint Working Group Meeting Minutes  
Customs Working Group**

**27<sup>th</sup> AFACT Plenary  
November 3, 2009**

- **Date : November 3, 2009**
- **Venue : New Delhi,India**
- **Chairperson : Mr. A S Sastry (India)**
- **Vice Chairperson : Mr.Abdullah Al Dossary (Saudi Arabia)**

**■ Participant list**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Organization /Telephone</b>	<b>Email ID</b>
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2	Mr.Li-Chung Chen	Chinese Taipei	Directorate General of Customs Chinese Taipei Customs 093238225	<a href="mailto:lcchen@webmail.customs.gov.tw">lcchen@webmail.customs.gov.tw</a>
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17	Mr.Abdullah Al-Dossary	Saudi Arabia	Tabadul, Saudi Arabia +966507485085	<a href="mailto:a.dossary@tabadul.com.sa">a.dossary@tabadul.com.sa</a>

**■ Meeting Agenda :**

1. Election of CWG Vice Chair
2. Opening Remarks
3. Introduction of Participants
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Review and confirmation of the minutes of the last 19<sup>th</sup> AFACT CWG meeting
6. Member Status report
  - Chinese Taipei
  - India
  - Malaysia
  - Pakistan
  - Saudi Arabia
7. Other Issues
8. Conclusion

## ■ Minutes :

### 1. Election of CWG Vice Chair

The Chair proposed that the CWG should have a Vice Chair, who should be elected by the members of the group. Accordingly, Mr. Abdullah Al Dossary from Saudi Arabia was elected as the Vice Chair by the Group members.

### 2. Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all the participants to the New Delhi session and hoped that this meeting will be a productive one and a good opportunity to share ideas, experiences and knowledge for further networking.

### 3. Introduction of Participants

All the participants gave a brief introduction of themselves and organizations they represent.

### 4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair proposed a draft agenda and participants were asked for their views. The draft agenda of the 20<sup>th</sup> CWG meeting was accepted and ratified by the members.

### 5. Review and confirmation of the minutes of the last 19<sup>th</sup> AFACT CWG meeting:

The Chair and members reviewed the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> CWG Meeting held in Seoul, Korea and the working group accepted it without any amendments.

### 6. Member Status report

#### Presentation by Saudi Arabia:

The presentation was made by Mr. Abdullah Al Dossary from Saudi Arabia.

Started automation of ports covering Import-export. As of now, 5 major ports have been covered. More than 60% of total trade is now paper-less. Plan is under way to extend the automated system to the remaining ports soon.

Presentation by Pakistan:

The presentation was made by Mr. Humayun Zafar, from Federal Board of Revenue, Govt. of Pakistan.

The Customs Automation System in Pakistan (E-Customs Application) was explained. The system covers areas like Trade Facilitation and includes e-filing of Manifests, GD (Goods Declaration for Import-export documents) and other key functions of Customs business processes.

Presentation by Chinese Taipei:

The presentation was made by Ms. Hu, Li-Sui and Mr. Li-Chang Chen, Directorate General of Customs, Govt. of Chinese Taipei.

The automation project started in 1992. The system involves interaction with external agencies through messages. The features, processes and benefits of the automation system were explained. System provides online filing of documents through secured mode. This year, Single Window implementation project is planned where Customs Automation is to be integrated with CCAS, MTNet and FTNet. Additionally there are 5 sub-projects being undertaken, including CMF Single Window, AEO Certification System, Advanced Cargo Declaration System, Cargo Movement Security System and Cargo Inspection Techniques Modernisation system.

Presentation by India (Indian Customs):

The first presentation was made by Mr. G S Karki, CBEC, Department of Revenue, Govt. of India. A brief overview of Custom's IT initiatives was presented. A presentation on future road map of consolidation of its IT infrastructure was also made. The various IT projects of CBEC – already implemented and Proposed – were listed. The important components, features, implementation status across the country etc were part of the presentation.

The second presentation was made by Mr. A S Sastry, DDG, NIC, Department of IT, Govt. of India. The presentation focused on the ICES (Indian Customs EDI System) application – which has been developed by NIC for Indian Customs. The application components/modules, features, implementation status etc were explained. The presentation covered the ICES Version 1.0 (the existing application implemented in 35 Customs locations in distributed environment) and also the new version 1.5 (the new consolidated version) which is being launched in Centralized Architecture mode.

Verbal update from Malaysia:

Mr. Eswaran from DAGANGNET stated that the original Customs-DAGANGNET Project had been in place since 1995. DAGANGNET has now proceeded to implement the National Single Window (NSW) as the operator. The NSW is owned by the Ministry of Finance, Malaysia.

## **7. Other Issues**

The Chair expressed his concern regarding the lack of participation from many of the member countries, because no fruitful discussions can be held in such scenario.

Delegate from Pakistan proposed interactions between different Working Groups within AFACT. However, Mr. Eswaran from Malaysia and Mr. Karki from Indian Customs maintained that the Customs Working Group should pursue its own agenda and make its own recommendations. The Chair however, agreed that there should be a mechanism to address common concerns between different WGs without diluting the purpose of the CWG. Mr. Eswaran gave a historical background for having separate groups like Transport and Customs.

The CWG proposed to make a recommendation be made to the Steering Committee to consider starting a Data Exchange project between different National Customs Authorities for the purpose of exchange of information. A draft MOU document (as annexed with the minutes) for that purpose is also being forwarded to the Steering Committee.

## **8. Conclusion:**

The Chair expressed his concern regarding lack of participation by many of the member countries.

The CWG concluded that the Working Group will continue to function under Business Domain Committee and emphasis was laid to start an Information Exchange project for exchange of messages between different National Customs Authorities.

The Chair thanked all members for their active participation and making the session fruitful. The members expressed thanks to the Chair for conducting this meeting to achieve the intended objectives.

The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

