



CTI News



Dear readers,

Best wishes for the Year 2023. Welcome to Volume 22 of the CTI News. I am Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Managing Director of the Customs Training Institute (CTI). I assumed the position in July last year but have been involved in Customs capacity building for many years including with the WCO for more than 10 years both at the WCO HQs and ROCB A/P. I am very happy to work with my professional colleagues at the CTI and to have another opportunity to contribute more to the global Customs community.



As introduced by my predecessor, Mr. KOJIMA, in the previous volume of the CTI News, Japan Customs marked its 150th anniversary last year and held a series of commemorative events and activities throughout the year. This was indeed an excellent opportunity for us to inform our stakeholders of the important role that Japan Customs has played and, at the same time, to reaffirm our strong commitment for protecting our future. The CTI has played and continues to play an important role in this commitment through the development of our key assets, “Customs Officials”, both inside and outside of Japan.

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This volume of CTI News covers the latest developments in our activities that took place both at the international and national levels in late 2022. As introduced in this volume, 2022 was an important year for the CTI as we resumed in-person training activities at both the national and international levels while paying due attention to the risk of COVID-19. We are very pleased to have had such opportunities to meet our friends from overseas at the CTI again and discuss the common challenges we share in the rapidly changing environment surrounding the global Customs community.

While we are unable to ignore the impact of the pandemic, we look forward to the further improvements to the situation that will allow us to meet each other and talk about our respective latest developments face to face. In the meantime, I wish that you enjoy reading the CTI News, as a reminder of our long-standing friendship. Let us keep in touch.

With best regards,

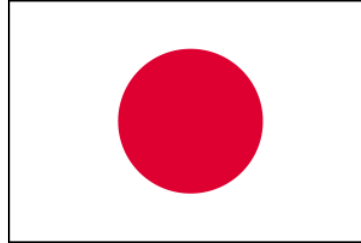
Yoshihiro KOSAKA
Managing Director, CTI



The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

There are two ongoing WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan in 2022/2023, namely “the Strategic Management and Intellectual Property Rights Program (SMIPRP)” at Aoyama Gakuin University (AGU) and “the Public Finance Program” at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). These two programs are both 12-month-long masters degree programs conducted under the sponsorship of the WCO Customs Cooperation Fund of Japan (CCF/Japan). The CTI plays an important role for the effective implementation of these programs.

As for SMIPRP, a total of nine Customs officers from the various WCO regions have been participating in the program since April 2022. Two officers from the CTI have been conducting lectures at AGU and have been contributing to the program by sharing the policies and practices of Japan Customs as well as our methodology of strategic action planning for Customs reform and modernization. The scholars of SMIPRP highly appreciate such inputs from the CTI.



As for GRIPS, a total of 10 Customs officials from the various WCO regions and an officer from Japan Customs have been studying together since October 2022. The Public Finance Program at GRIPS is unique and comprises of an academic segment and a practical segment. The “Practicum in Customs Administration III Course (PCA III)” is one particular segment to which the CTI has been contributing. Prior to the PCA III, the scholars were also given an opportunity to undertake study visits to CTI as well as the Central Customs Laboratory CCL, which is designated as a WCO Regional Customs Laboratory.

The following responses were given by the scholars at AGU and GRIPS in the interviews conducted by the CTI on their motivations and expectations of the programs. These responses highlight the value of the two programs at AGU and GRIPS.

The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

Interviews with the SMIPRP students

How will you make the most of what you have learnt in this program after returning to your administrations?

◆ **Mr. Khumoetsile KGOSI, Botswana**

The program exposed me to the fascinating and interesting concept of embedding cutting-edge technology in customs, bringing about smart customs. Presenting these concepts to my administration with intention to bring change, using strategic management skills learnt, so as to improve customs operations.



◆ **Mr. Hugo RODRIGUES LIMA, Brazil**

My name is Hugo Rodrigues Lima, and I'm a customs officer in Brazil. SMIPRP provided me with a broader knowledge of management, WCO standards, and their application by Japan Customs, which will guide me when I return to my organization.

◆ **Mr. Prasanth Kumar KAKARLA, India**

The CTI provided guidance on various issues of compliance management, strategic planning, counter measures to prevent smuggling and other practical issues like dealing with e-commerce imports, IPR violations etc. Advanced technologies like E-gate system, AI for audit etc learnt will help in adopting best practices, in my customs administration.

The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

◆ **Mr. Risky Yacob PURBA, Indonesia**

In this fast-changing era, citizens have learned to utilize technology for communications and expect Customs Organizations to possess better engagement and effectiveness. Innovative management will help develop more reliable and accountable Customs Organizations to answer the challenge.

◆ **Mr. Ahmed Ismail Masri BAHERELDIN, Sudan**

Reformulating and updating administrative work and sharing insights and experience. Enhance unified administrative and institutionalization. I hope I will have a positive impact and contribute effectively to transferring Japanese experience in management as one of the most successful management styles.



◆ **Ms. Serina Nicole CEPHAS, Jamaica**

The SMIPRP has armed me with the knowledge and tools regarding all areas of Intellectual Property Rights and I look forward to transferring this knowledge within my own Customs Administration where a proper IPR system is lacking.

◆ **Mr. Edson Mweemba CHILALA, Zambia**

Being part of SMIPRP has enhanced my technical understanding of the various aspects of Customs – WCO tools, IPR Border measures, Customs Laws, Reforms, Modernization etc. I intend to leverage the new knowledge to propose changes for improved Trade Facilitation.

◆ **Ms. Siti Kadijah Binti MOHAMAD, Malaysia**

I have gained profound knowledge about Customs field and particularly deeply understand about Customs Administration as we learned about Management, Competitive Strategy, Organizational Management and etc. It prepared us with analytical thinking when executing any projects back to our country.

The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

◆ **Mr. KASSAHUN EMIRU FUFA, Ethiopia**

First of all, I am very proud to be a part of this program. It is not only a customs-related field but also in general I have gained a lot of knowledge and understanding that will support me in my future career life. For example, I could gain the WCO tools, Tariff, and Customs Laws from Customs aspects. IPR and international Treaties regarding IPR are very important courses in general. As a promising leader, knowing and understanding management and strategies led to being a good leader in any private business and public organization is an immeasurable asset that anyone wants to have. Therefore, these are what I have gotten from this program and hopefully, I will use these opportunities to bring changes that did not exist before in my organization.

Interviews with the GRIPS students

What do you expect to this program?

◆ **Ms. Khanim Nazarova, Azerbaijan**

It would be an honor for me to take part in this program. I want to emphasize the significance of the knowledge gained in customs education. This knowledge will help me to carry out my current professional activities more effectively and accurately. Furthermore, I would like to note that after graduating from GRIPS, I intend to teach the knowledge that I received to the students of the Academy of State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan.

◆ **Ms. Sothav Roth Sreng, Cambodia**

I am passionate to learn about the best practices of Japan Customs in Customs reform and modernization, especially, the customs techniques. From the Practicum courses and under the guidance of the Professors from CTI and GRIPS, I believe that I will enable to see my own administration's challenges and contributing in improving those facing shortcomings effectively and sophisticatedly.

The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

◆ **Ms. Tatik Apriati, Indonesia**

I am enthusiastic to join the practicum segment with the CTI of Japan Customs during my study at GRIPS, where I can take home the best practices and actual learning experiences around e-commerce, MSMEs and international trade from Japan Customs which I believe will be beneficial to my administration.

◆ **Ms. Keeme Motswakae, Botswana**

I am expecting to learn from Japan Customs on different areas, more especially on Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement since Smuggling, proliferation of illicit goods and under-declaration at ports of entry remain a greatest challenge to BURS.



◆ **Mr. Gaurav Kumar Jain, India**

I wish to learn the best practices of Japan Customs especially in areas of IPR enforcement, enforcement against smuggling through E-commerce, and Rules of Origin. My expectation from Practicum is to understand the basis of the trade agreements, especially WTO and WCO agreements, and to understand the nuances of negotiations happen at World forums.

◆ **Ms. Risa Umeda, Japan**

I am particularly interested in learning about updated methods and strategies of international trade statistics data analysis as well as customs policy. By acquiring the knowledge, I would like to utilize the data effectively and reassess the role of Customs for its possible refinement in the future.

The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan



◆ **Mr. Ezra Godwin Mbise, Tanzania**

The fast changing World has posed great challenges to Customs Administrations around the World. Tanzania endeavors to capitalize on its Geographical advantage, improve technology for seamless

international business integrations. This program gives me access to best international practices.

◆ **Mr. Luis Horacio Schaerer Elizeche, Paraguay**

My interests with this program are to develop skills and technical knowledge, as well as soft skills, aimed to negotiations and international relations based on knowledge and trends in world custom management, and so be a useful tool and a management link between international organizations and my customs administration, thus achieving development directed towards the SDGs.



The WCO Scholarship Programs in Japan

◆ Mr. Albert Kantumoya, Zambia

I am eager to learn about Enforcement Controls employed by Japanese Customs concerning the handling of risky consignments smuggled through unofficial harbors/seaports. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic enhanced the use of E-commerce platforms globally; therefore, the techniques used by Japanese Customs to manage E-commerce goods may be employed in other customs administrations.

◆ Mr. Michel Renato Manzolli Ballestero, Brazil

I expect to learn more about customs in theory and in practice and take this knowledge back to contribute with the advance of trade and security over the world.



The 20th Meeting of Heads of the WCO RTC in the A/P region

Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Managing Director and Ms. Saori NOJIMA, Director of International Cooperation Division represented Japan at the 20th meeting of the Heads of WCO Regional Training Center (RTC) in the Asia Pacific (A/P) Region held in Bangkok, Thailand on 2-3 November 2022.



As representatives from one of the longest-serving RTCs, they actively participated in this important meeting and shared the latest policy and strategy of RTC Japan on training planning, implementation and evaluation. They also shared the experience of CTI in terms of the efforts and initiatives for the sustainable implementation of training activities despite the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The 20th Meeting of Heads of the WCO RTC in the A/P region

At the end of the meeting, all RTCs in the A/P region anonymously supported an offer made by the CTI to serve as the host of the next RTC Heads meeting. The CTI looks forward to welcoming the delegates to the next meeting in Kashiwa, Japan.



Recent activities/events of the CTI since July 2022

(International)

After nearly 3 years of suspension, the CTI resumed in-person training for Customs officials from overseas in October 2022, starting with the WCO Fellowship Program featured below. The CTI is very pleased to meet our friends from around the globe in person in Japan and to discuss common challenges we have in this rapidly changing world.

WCO Fellowship Program

Japan Customs has been supporting the WCO Fellowship Program since 1990 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan.

This year, Japan Customs welcomed four French-speaking fellows from Algeria, Comoros, Mali and Togo from 17 to 28 October 2022 and 4 Spanish-speaking fellows from Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Morocco from 5 to 16 December 2022. During their respective study trips in Japan, aiming toward the modernization of each Customs administration, the participants deepened their understanding on the policies and practices of Japan Customs and discussed possible ways to address the challenges of respective Customs administrations going forward.

< 83rd Fellowship (French) >



Recent activities/events of the CTI since July 2022

< 81・84th Fellowship (Spanish) >



International Trainings/Workshops

As part of Japan Customs' Technical Cooperation, four trainings/workshops were held in 2022 with a total of 34 participants.

Course	Date
Workshop on Authorized Economic Operator for Cambodia Customs	16 - 22 Oct
Workshop on Risk Management and Customs Procedures for Lao Customs (JICA Project)	25 Oct - 2 Nov
JICA Customs Administration (French language course)	7 - 17 Nov
Workshop on Customs Modernization for Philippines Customs	5 - 9 Dec



(Workshop for the Cambodia Customs in October)



(Workshop for the Philippines Customs in December)

Recent activities/events of the CTI since July 2022

(National Training)

As a Customs national training center, the CTI has been making every effort to seek the best outcomes from training while ensuring the safety of trainees from the risk of COVID-19.

As part of such efforts, the CTI has been strategically selecting the training format, i.e. in-person, online, or hybrid, for each respective training, paying due attention to the lessons learnt from the pandemic, particularly regarding the pros and cons of each respective format. In addition, the CTI developed “Anti-COVID-19 Guidelines” to properly address the measures to be taken by both the CTI and trainees before, during, and after the training courses.

These Guidelines have helped all stakeholders in the training to understand what, when, and how to take necessary actions in speedy manner. This has contributed to the smooth and sustainable implementation of the training at

the CTI and helped trainees participate in the in-person training at CTI in a more comfortable and concentrated manner.

The following are some major national training courses conducted at the CTI from July to December 2022.



International Technical Cooperation Training

The CTI conducted two different levels of training for officials involved in the Japan Customs technical cooperation program. The Basic Training Course was conducted from 12 to 16 September while the Intermediate Training Course was conducted from 14 to 18 November by inviting the selected officials from regional Customs. Participants actively participated in the training and acquired necessary knowledge and skills to improve their performance. It is expected that this training will contribute to further improving the quality of Japan Customs’ technical cooperation programs.

Recent activities/events of the CTI since July 2022

Advanced Mid-carrier Training (for selected unit chief officials)

The CTI conducted Advanced Mid-carrier Training in-person from 25 July to 7 October. This training is designed for selected unit-chief-level officials at regional Customs to acquire a high level of knowledge and skills that are necessary for Customs operation, and to enhance decision-making ability. The trainees are expected to become core players in effective Customs operation.

Intermediate Mid-carrier Training

The CTI conducted two Intermediate Mid-carrier Training courses from 13 October to 16 November and from 21 November to 23 December respectively. These two courses were conducted online. This training is mandatory for all junior officials who have experienced a certain amount of Customs operation at regional Customs after the completion of their induction training.

