

Committee on Customs Valuation

INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

Addendum

At its meeting of 12 May 1995, the Committee on Customs Valuation agreed that greater transparency of technical assistance activities, pursuant to Article 20.3 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the GATT 1994, would be ensured if the information documents prepared for the WCO Technical Committee on Customs Valuation on such activities were also made available as WTO documents.

This document provides information on completed WCO technical assistance activities reproduced from WCO document VT0296, of 27 March 2003. It also includes information on technical assistance activities carried out by WCO Members reproduced from WCO document VT0297. The present document updates GATT document VAL/W/29/Rev.9, and WTO documents G/VAL/W/4 and G/VAL/8 and Adds.1-10.

INTRODUCTION

1. Article 20.3 of the Agreement provides for the establishment of technical assistance programmes for developing countries. The Article goes on to state that such technical assistance may include, *inter alia*, the training of personnel, assistance in preparing implementation measures, access to sources of information regarding customs valuation methodology, and advice on the application of the provisions of the Agreement. In this regard, it is recognized that for developing countries which are, by virtue of being Parties to the Agreement, committed to apply the Agreement at a fixed date or which are considering applying it in the near future, it would be a matter of urgent need to have a nucleus of customs officers trained in the Code. Thus, among the various technical assistance programmes offered, the training of personnel acquires a degree of priority.

2. As provided for in Annex II of the Agreement, the responsibilities of the Technical Committee include the facilitation of technical assistance with a view to furthering the international acceptance of the Agreement. The Technical Committee at its first meeting expressed the view that the Customs Co-operation Council, through its Secretariat, could provide co-ordination in developing a technical assistance programme in co-operation with member administrations willing to provide assistance and other international organizations. The Council's Plan for the '90s has also placed considerable emphasis on the need for holding seminars and training courses on the GATT Code.

3. At its Eighth Session, the Technical Committee had examined document 31.808 describing seminars and training courses organized on customs valuation, especially on the GATT Valuation Agreement, and the activities of the Customs Co-operation Council in this area. The Committee found the document useful and in this regard directed the Secretariat to periodically update the information. In successive sessions of the Committee, a number of revised or supplementary

documents were prepared which periodically updated this information. This document contains information provided by the WCO Secretariat of its most recent technical assistance activities.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WCO SECRETARIAT

Recipient Member	Bhutan
Duration :	2 to 6 December 2002
Location :	Thimphu
Subject :	Implementation of the WTO Valuation Agreement
Type :	National training course
Objectives :	1) to provide specialist knowledge and information on the Agreement; 2) to provide assistance in regard of supporting systems and procedures relevant to implementation.
Participants :	25 officers from the Headquarters of the Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC) and its regional offices. Several managers of the DRC attended the training course as observers.
Facilitator :	A Technical Officer from the Valuation Sub-Directorate and a valuation expert from Japan Customs
Donor:	Japan
Recipient Member	Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji Islands, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, India
Duration :	27 to 31 January 2003
Location :	New Delhi, India
Subject :	The WTO Valuation system, its application, interpretation, the identification and analysis of current issues
Type :	Regional Workshop
Objectives :	To provide a valuation technical assistance programme and forum for the exchange of valuation information and experiences between Members administrations in the Asia-Pacific region. The programme included the WTO Valuation Agreement and the more complex valuation issues being encountered by Members who implemented the Agreement a long time ago; those who have implemented recently; those who have not yet implemented and, those who are not yet Members of the WTO but apply the Agreement on a <i>de facto</i> basis. The workshop was also designed to assist Members to work efficiently with the more diverse import transactions from the valuation perspective and to recognize the various control mechanisms needed to be in place to ensure a satisfactory balance between facilitating trade and customs control management.
Participants :	26 participants attended, with the majority being at the senior level in their administrations. These included senior valuation managers and post clearance auditors.
Facilitators :	A Senior Technical Officer from the Valuation Sub-Directorate and an officer from the Japanese Customs Administration
Donor :	Japan

ACTIVITIES OF WCO MEMBERS

“The **Indonesian** Administration has not received nor planned any technical assistance on valuation yet. However, technical assistance related to duty and authority of customs administration are highly needed by the Indonesian Administration.”

“**Japan** has dispatched their experts and has accepted trainees to give the knowledge of Customs Valuation/Post Clearance Audit and to support the implementation of the WTO Valuation Agreement. The details of technical assistance activities carried out and planned during the period from 1 January 2003 to 30 June 2003 are listed below.”

1. Dispatch of Experts

Country	Period of dispatch	Number of Experts
Malaysia	17-28 February 2003	6
Not fixed yet	April 2003	12

2. Acceptance of Trainees

Period of Training Course	Country of Trainee	Total Number of Trainees
27-31 January 2003	India	1
17-28 February 2003	Indonesia	2
24-28 February 2003	Singapore, Vietnam	4
March 2003	Pakistan	2
April 2003	Brunei	2
May 2003	South Africa	2
