

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Customs Valuation

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

Australia

The following communication, dated 7 November 2000, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia and describes customs related technical assistance provided to developing countries by Australia since 1996.

Australia's Trade-Related Technical Assistance Activities

Australia has an active program of technical assistance, cooperation and policy dialogue with developing countries aimed at, amongst other aspects, improving their capacity to administer WTO agreements. For many years, Australia has provided technical assistance in relation to implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement as well as related to assistance for improving and strengthening customs procedures and administration.

The Australian Customs Service is also co-coordinator for three activities on the Asia – Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Collective Action Plan (CAP) relating to: UN/EDIFACT, Common Data Elements and Risk Management. As co-coordinator for these activities, Customs has participated in various technical assistance missions and site visits to a number of economies. Customs expertise has also been sought in the delivery of technical assistance for other CAP items including implementation of the: Harmonised System; Valuation Agreement; and Provisions for Temporary Importation.

The following provides details of the assistance in two categories. The first is assistance that relates directly to the Agreement on Customs Valuation where Australia has provided valuation experts for delivering capacity building assistance, for APEC, WCO and ASEAN organised programs. The second category relates to capacity building and strengthening of the customs management systems more generally, including valuation-related elements.

Technical Assistance for Customs Valuation

25-28 March 1996	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Workshop on Customs Valuation Lombok Island, Indonesia
14-27 June 1996	Valuation consultancy with Philippines Government (United Nations Office for Project Services) Manila, Philippines
13-17 January 1997	WCO Valuation Regional Seminar Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

25-31 October 1997	APEC Technical Assistance Program Jakarta, Indonesia
1-5 December 1997	APEC Sub Committee on Customs Procedures Technical Assistance Program Preliminary Workshop Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
6-14 December 1997	APEC Sub Committee on Customs Procedures Technical Assistance Program Preliminary Workshop Manila, Philippines
8-12 December 1997	APEC Sub Committee on Customs Procedures Technical Assistance Program Preliminary Workshop Malacca, Malaysia
15-21 October 1998	WCO Regional Valuation Training Course South Korea
20-27 February 1999	APEC Sub Committee on Customs Procedures Technical Assistance Program Module 1 (on Complexities of the Valuation Agreement) Indonesia
22-26 February 1999	APEC Technical Assistance Program Phase 6 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
24 June -6 July 1999	APEC Sub Committee on Customs Procedures Technical Assistance Program Workshop Hanoi, Vietnam
21-25 February 2000	APEC Sub Committee on Customs Procedures Technical Assistance Program Module 3 (on Post Implementation Verification) Hanoi, Vietnam
8-12 May 2000	APEC Sub Committee on Customs Procedures Technical Assistance Program (Module 3) Jakarta, Indonesia
12-16 June 2000	WCO Regional Seminar of the WTO Valuation Agreement Iran

Technical Cooperation for Customs Administrations

Year Commenced	Year (to be) Completed	Project Description	Budget (A\$)
1996	1996	Customs Tariff Review Project, Kiribati	0.06mil
1996	2000	Customs Institutional Strengthening Project, Fiji	3.8mil
1996	2002	Revenue Department Technical Capacity and Skills Development, Tonga	2.3mil

1997	1997	Customs Inquiry Advisor, Fiji	0.04mil
1997	2000	Regional Customs Project (implemented by UNCTAD), South Pacific	6.6mil
1997	2000	Customs Department Management and Technical Strengthening Project, Samoa	3.4mil
1997	2004	Establishment of Revenue and Customs Authority and capacity and skills development in Dept of Inland Revenue, Fiji	7.1mil
1998	1999	Customs and Excise Division Institutional Strengthening and Reform Project, Solomon Islands	6.6mil
2000	2000	Assist UNTAET establish Customs procedures and services and train local staff, East Timor	0.7mil
