

15th Oceania Customs Organisation Conference
Nuku'alofa,
Kingdom of Tonga

"Innovation for Customs Progress"

Communiqué

1. The 1st Meeting of the Executive Committee and the 15th Annual Conference of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) were hosted by the Ministry of Revenue, Tonga Customs and was held from the 30th April - 3rd May 2013 at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga.
2. Delegates of Member Administrations from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Niue, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Vanuatu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu attended.
3. Apologies were received from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, French Polynesia, Guam, Nauru, Timor Leste and Wallis & Futuna.
4. Tonga, American Samoa and Palau were elected as Chair and Vice Chairs respectively.
5. Invited representatives from the ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Pacific (ASMP), European Union, Japan Customs, KVA Consult, Office of the Chief Trade Advisor (OCTA) Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), New Zealand Assistance for International Development (NZAID), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD) also attended.
6. The Honourable Prime Minister of Tonga, Lord Tu'ivakano, opened the Conference.
7. The Conference, following discussions, endorsed and adopted the Findings and Recommendations of KVA Consult Ltd relating to the Independent Review of the Secretariat Report.
8. The Conference further endorsed KVA Consult Ltd to be engaged to undertake implementation of the Recommendation subject to funding approval from Development Partners.
9. The Conference adopted the 2012 OCO Annual Report, the 2012 Audit Report, the 2013 Annual Work Plan and the 2013-2014 Annual Budget.

10. Discussions on the Review of the OCO Charter, Guidelines on the Admission and Removal of Members and the Terms of Reference for Implementation of the Committee of the Whole was deferred to allow KVA Consult Ltd to undertake as part of the implementation of the OCO Review Recommendations.
11. The Conference endorsed the formation of a Committee comprising the Chair, the two Vice Chairs, Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Samoa to commence the process for the recruitment and appointment of a new Head of Secretariat for the OCO.
12. The Conference noted the presentation by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority relating to the official opening in August 2012 of the WCO Regional Training Centre in Fiji and future plans for utilisation of the facilities.
13. The Conference noted the presentation by the representative of the Japan Ministry of Finance and Japan Customs and WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building Asia Pacific on Future Collaboration with the Oceania Customs Organisation.
14. The Conference noted the presentation by the WCO Regional Office of Capacity Building for Asia Pacific on the Multi-Year Program on Post Clearance Audit Project for the OCO region and adopted the Post Clearance Audit Guidelines for the Oceania Region.
15. The Conference endorsed Palau's offer to host the 2nd meeting of the Executive Committee and the 16th OCO Annual Conference in 2014 and for Niue to confirm as host in 2015.
16. The Conference noted the presentation by the Bio-Security Authority of Fiji.
17. The Conference noted the various presentations made by the Secretariat and invited presenters relating to Legislative Reforms, Harmonised Coding System, WTO Valuation, Post Clearance Audit, Risk Management, Intelligence, Investigations, Rules of Origin, Automated Systems, Diagnostic Missions and Baseline Studies.