



Jan ~ Mar 2022

Vision: To be recognized as a world class regional Customs Organization that collaborates with regional and global partners to deliver high quality services and sustainable solutions to Member Administrations

OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

FOREWORD



Dear Members,

It is a pleasure to be addressing you at this time when the Pacific is taking gradual steps to open up again, we have seen so much interruption in the last two years and now with some nations in the region seeing more travel routes open, whilst others are only just feeling the pandemic reaching their shores, we anticipate the region will be fully free by the end of the year. We look back at the turbulence that has forced us to change the way we used to do things, find new ways of delivering training and review our successes and failures as we reset for new challenges ahead.

We are moving into a new era, one that includes the development of a new strategic plan, and a three-year work plan to sit under that, a plan that will capture your national needs against the regional requirements and map to international practices and policies of the WCO and WTO to assist with the work you do at the national level. That work will include technology, training, twinning, legislative changes, networks and partnerships emerge.

We have seen the recent graduation of Customs officers who completed the CCES training modules and congratulate them on that achievement, and hope they will continue to study in the CertIV training that has just commenced. We also saw the graduation of the Pacific Women's Professional Development Program (PWPDP) which was and continues to be an avenue that has connected many of our female officers together in a very strong manner. The work undertaken during that program allowed the participants to consider their environment, and it has assisted in instructing the strategic planning meeting we held virtually with Heads of Administrations.

Using the PWPDP appraisals actually enables the rank and file Customs officers to inform the shape of the OCO Secretariat's future direction; from my desk I see this as empowering Customs officers in the region and it has definitely helped us to frame a suite of activities with more relevance to you moving forward. We hope to continue the PWPDP program in the next three year planning cycle and to the ladies who completed that course I salute you as the leaders you are!

We also saw the delivery of a highly successful IPR brand protection series to over three hundred Customs officers in total and plan to run more given the success of that activity and will be looking at a blend of on line and in country workshops for the future. I cannot understate the important partnership with the USPTO as Mr. Peter Fowler and his team have delivered so much knowledge into our membership which has assisted in enforcement IPR activities that sit on the "long room floor". We hope to continue that good work in the next few years.

At the time of writing I saw the excellent news out of CNMI on the seizure of illicit drugs and congratulate the Head of Customs and his team on what is an excellent result for not only the nation, but for the region as it demonstrates the importance of Customs work along with the ability that we have in the region to do that work. Whilst those achievements are pleasing, we as a secretariat, need to ensure we deliver suitable knowledge and strategies into the region to enable you to continue to thwart transnational criminal activity and we are committed to doing just that.

Thank you

God Bless.

Richard Brennan.

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OUR MEMBERS



Jan - Mar Highlights

New Goods Classification System in Effect

The Pacific Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (PACHS) 2022 came into effect from the 1st of January, 2022.

PACHS 2022 is adapted from the Harmonized tariff classification System (HS) used by 200 economies across the globe and adapted for use within the Pacific Customs administrations to identify tariffs, impose correct taxes and collect international trade statistics; it was accepted by the OCO Heads of Customs during their annual meeting on August 26, 2021.

PACHS 2022 has been reviewed by OCO members, technical agencies such as the Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United National Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

[Read More](#)

Customs administrations role in the region more critical than ever

183 members of the World Customs Organization (WCO) celebrated International Customs Day on the 26th of January with the theme focusing on digital data, “*Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem*”.

In recognition that OCO members are in various stages of digital development, the OCO Secretariat decided that this year will be themed as “*Embracing Customs Technology*” – to encourage all the members to prepare and adapt to a technologically proficient Customs service.

“In the Pacific over the last two years, the OCO Secretariat and our members have had to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic and find new ways to remain responsive and serve our stakeholders,” **OCO Head of Secretariat, Richard Brennan said.**

[Read More](#)

Customs Officers Improve Skills to Fight Counterfeiting

Over 100 officers from 16 countries were part of a regional effort to protect the Pacific from the economic, social, and health hazards of counterfeit items.

On the 9th of February, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) started a six-week 1-hour training series that would help Customs officers improve their skills in detecting contrabands and fake products at the borders.

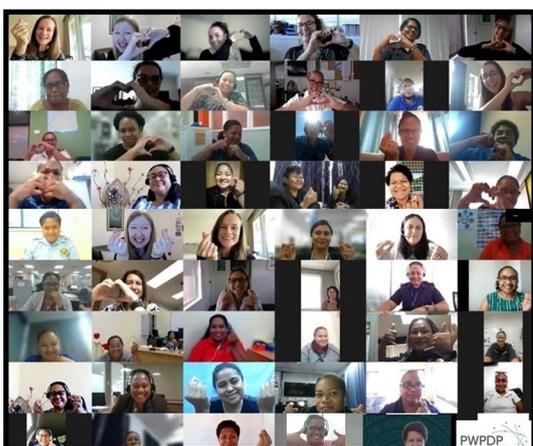
Customs enforcement officers, Customs intelligence officers, national intellectual property rights (IPR) contact points and Customs border officers attended the virtual training on “*Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Brand Protection and Product Identification*,” which ended on 16th of March. [Read More](#)

Women Customs Officers – Advancing Together

There was a need to break the bias in Customs in the region and encourage more women in leadership positions. This was the comment made by OCO Head of Secretariat, Mr. Richard Brennan.

Mr. Brennan’s comments came as 61 women Customs officers from 17 countries participated in the inaugural Pacific Women’s Professional Development Program (PWDP) aimed at building leadership skills and enhancing Customs networks.

The virtual course, which ran until 11th of March, was a partnership between the Australian Border Force, RMIT University and the OCO. [Read More](#)





Women in Customs – WE CAN!

In celebration of the International Women’s Day, the Australian Border Force, the Oceania Customs Organisation and RMIT University paid tribute to the impressive cohort of women serving in Customs administrations across the Pacific region.

If you think Customs is a job for the boys, think again!

Women across the Pacific are actively facilitating international trade, preventing the illicit movement of goods, and keeping our borders secure. [Read More](#)



Customs Officers Equipped to Adapt to Changing Landscapes of Work

Customs administrations in the Oceania region are better equipped to adapt to the changing landscapes of border security, trade facilitation and revenue collection following the graduation of 49 Customs officers with a Certificate III in Regional Customs Administrations.

The 10-month long virtual course online program of which 60 percent of the participants were women was delivered by the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) at Charles Sturt University in Canberra, and the Oceania Customs Organisation. CCES is the world’s leading provider of research, training and education in the highly specialised areas of customs and border management. [Read More](#)

Head of Customs Interviews



Perez leads Guam Customs Amidst COVID-19 Challenges

He has had more than three decades of experience in various sections and divisions of Customs such as inspection, the canine unit, and narcotics enforcement including Internal Affairs, which means he has seen it all- from house raids to dealing with hard drugs.

While he became Chief in 2017, Mr. Perez states he was initially rejected by Customs when he first applied as a Customs Officer, and that rejection letter was the motivation for him to continue to try harder. He has kept that letter hanging on the wall to remind him how far he has come. However, he attributes his success to his family- his wife, Mary, and son, Jacob, who have been his backbone throughout his professional journey. [Read More](#)

OCO MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Pacific Waves Interview with Stanley Trief on Vanuatu’s Digitisation of Customs processes.

[View Full Interview Here](#)

The CNMI Division of Customs and Biosecurity seizes 4.9 pounds of crystal methamphetamine.

[View full story here.](#)

OCO SECRETARIAT NEWS

The Head of the Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat, Mr. Richard Brennan was interviewed by Pacific Waves.

[View Full Interview Here.](#)

The OCO Operations Manager, Mrs. Daphney Stone was interviewed by Pacific Waves on the use of the OCO Pacific Small Crafts App.

[View Full Interview Here.](#)



OCO HR and Logistics Officer,
Ms. Meliki Logaulu

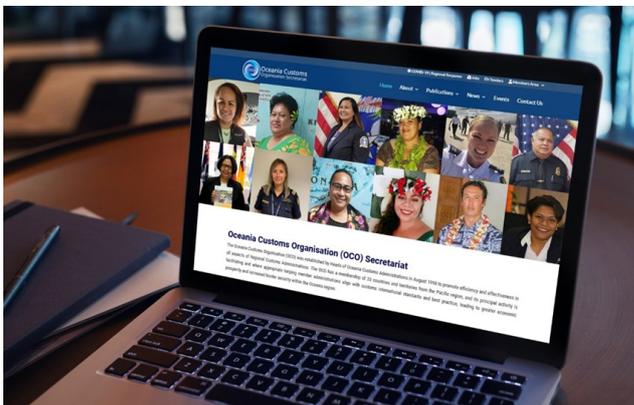
Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) has appointed Meliki Logaulu as its HR and Logistics Officer. Ms. Logaulu comes with vast professional and industry experience with over 20 years of proven work experience in various industries as an administrator with strong progressive Human Resources experience; managing and supporting all aspects of recruitment, In-House/External Training, Inductions, Policies and Procedures, OHS Awareness, ERA Awareness, Contracts, Personnel Files, Payroll and Job Descriptions to support organizational goals and objectives.

Meliki was born in Port Villa Vanuatu and later moved to Fiji at the age 6 where she pursued her primary and secondary education before moving to the University of the South Pacific to attain her tertiary qualification. She currently holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Human Resources Management and is currently working towards her Post Graduate Diploma for General Managers.

Ms. Logaulu has served in a variety of roles during her 20 plus year career span. Starting off as a HR Generalist, she later moved on to serve in positions of Personnel Manager, Acting Manager HR, HR Administrator, Model Manager, HR Manager and Senior Human Resources Officer (Recruitment and Selection) before she decided to join the Secretariat.

Ms. Logaulu will be based at the OCO Secretariat in Suva and replaces Ms. Heilala Erenavula.

New Website Launch



18th of February marked the launch of a new look website for OCO. After months of discussion and efforts together with our website developers Pacific Bedbank (Fiji), we are proud to present a revamped website that is in line with our vision.

The newly developed site embraces a pacific themed background while featuring a clean and uncluttered design together with a new layout to improve functionality as well as enhanced rich content structure to improve overall user experience.

The upgraded platform comes with enhanced security features together with improved analytics and monitoring to optimize our website performance aimed at enabling virtual presence for our members to increase collaboration and information sharing as well as news of regional and

global interest.

The features of the new website are aligned to the latest trends and technology to give OCO's online presence a more user friendly feel and act as a hub for information sharing and discussions.

The site features provisions for event registrations, tender/job application features as well as a member's area for sharing of information and accessing e-information/learning platforms. As more people become accustomed to mobiles and tablets, this site has been developed to be compatible across all platforms making it easily accessible.

We encourage our members, stakeholders and users to check out our new website, subscribe to our mailing list so that you can receive the latest OCO news.



UPCOMINGEVENTS

April
2022

ICP & RC Meeting 27 Apr
Risk Management (CERTIV) 18 Apr-2 May
Regional Workshop on Valuation, VAT Refund and PCA 27-29 Apr

May
2022

Risk Management (CERTIII) 2 May - 23 May
4th Quarter ISWG Meeting 9 May
Maritime Border Fundamentals Workshop 9 - 20 May
Advance Ruling Dialogue 11 May
Women in Leadership Dialogue 12 May
ICP & RC Meeting 20 May
Legislation CERTIII 30 May - 20 Jun
Ethics & Governance IV 16 May- 6 Jun
Discussion on Reform of IPR laws - Cluster 2 category 23 May-3 Jun
Regional AEO Workshop 23 - 27 May
Training on IPR Law - Cluster 1 & Cluster 2 category 25 - 26 May

June
2022

Follow up discussion on Reform of IPR Laws - Cluster 2 Category 2 - 3 Jun
Regional Data Analytics and Analytic Models 6 - 10 Jun
HS 2022 Workshop 16 - 17 Jun
ICP & RC Meeting 22 Jun
Ethics & Governance III 27 Jun - 18 Jul
Enforcement and Compliance CERTIV 13 Jun-4 Jul

GALLERY



Oceania Customs Organization



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