



**DUTY TRAVEL REPORT**

**Pacific Colloquium on Consumer Protection, Border Security, and Enforcement  
Against Trade in Counterfeit Goods, August 26-29, 2024, Los Angeles, USA**

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<b>Destination:</b>	Los Angeles, USA.	
<b>Source of funding:</b>	Core – Activity Code: 2024-20-3-1.2	
<b>Travel Dates:</b>	Departure Date:	25 August 2024
	Arrival Date:	01 September 2024
<b>Purpose of Travel:</b>	To attend the Pacific Colloquium with our Members under the IPR project that OCO is pursuing in collaboration with USPTO.	
<b>Activity description:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 Senior Customs Officials from Australia, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu attended the event alongside 4 Legal Officers from the Attorney General Office of Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu. An equivalent number from the private sector, academia and Attorneys General of the United States also took part in the event.</li> <li>• The OCO Head of Secretariat and Enforcement Advisor also attended the event.</li> <li>• The event commenced with capacity building for participants, gaining awareness on Trademark and Consumer Protection Laws.</li> <li>• In entirety, the rest of the agenda were delivered through panel discussions and presentations with live question and answers from the participants. The root of the discussions entailed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Difficulties faced by the rights holders and consumers in combating counterfeits, particularly in e-commerce.</li> <li>○ Officials from various US government agencies discussed their roles in enforcing consumer protection laws.</li> <li>○ The practical steps for identifying, detaining, and disposing of dangerous counterfeit goods.</li> <li>○ Representatives from the private sector presented strategies for working closely with government bodies to protect consumers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The sessions in the colloquium were tailored to address various aspects of counterfeit trade, consumer protection laws, enforcement strategies, and inter-agency cooperation. It offered a platform for cross-sector learning and partnership-building for participants from government agencies, legal entities, and industry.</p>	

<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The colloquium highlighted the necessity of enhanced cooperation between national and international bodies to effectively combat the trade in counterfeit goods. Participants emphasized the importance of transnational collaboration in enforcing intellectual property rights and ensuring consumer protection in the global marketplace.</li> <li>• The colloquium underscored the critical role of border security agencies in detecting and preventing the entry of counterfeit and illicit goods. Various sessions detailed the need for improved training and the adoption of advanced technologies by Customs and border protection agencies to identify and seize dangerous counterfeit products.</li> <li>• The colloquium highlighted that, despite the lack of IPR laws, enforcement can still be achieved through Import Prohibited Regulations. This approach enables Customs authorities to prevent the entry of goods that do not meet described credibility standards, thereby protecting local markets from counterfeit products.</li> <li>• The colloquium emphasized the growing challenges in protecting consumers from counterfeit goods, particularly in online marketplaces. There was a consensus on the need for stronger legislative frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to safeguard consumer rights and ensure the integrity of products available in the market.</li> <li>• The role of judicial and administrative bodies in the enforcement of intellectual property rights was highlighted, with discussions on the need for specialized training for judges and the importance of transparency and consistency in decision-making processes related to counterfeit goods.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommendations/follow up activities:</b></p>	<p>The colloquium proposed the following recommendations and follow up activities to enhance the impact of discussions that took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with comprehensive training programs and dialogues for Customs Officers, Judiciary and the private sector.</li> <li>• Expand the use of Import Prohibited Regulations as an interim enforcement mechanism in the absence of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) laws.</li> <li>• Partner with industry leaders to create educational content on identifying counterfeit products.</li> <li>• Hold a training within one year, focused on new technologies for detecting counterfeit goods and reinforcing cross-border cooperation protocols. This is preferably to be held in Nadi, Fiji.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Challenges or Risks with the event</b></p>	<p>Upon the participants' arrival in Los Angeles, it was discovered that there were challenges with the hotel reservations, as full payments had not been processed by the OCO. We wish to highlight that the accommodations and the per-diems are fully paid as swiftly as possible before the participants begin their travel.</p>

<p><b>Acknowledgement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OCO is obliged to acknowledge the USPTO in supporting the OCO and the Attorneys General of the region to put up excellent training for our members. Humble thanks to Mr. Peter Fowler for being our hard-working facilitator.</li> <li>• We also acknowledge the support of the Arizona State University McCarthy Institute for hosting the program.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting documents where available</b> (to put on server with <a href="#">hyperlink</a>):</p>	<p>The documents to training can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

Photos:

