



**DUTY TRAVEL REPORT---USCBP WORKSHOP ON CLEARANCE OF RELIEF
GOODS**

Staff Member	Mohammed Ajaz
Destination:	Novotel, Nadi
Source of funding:	Donor funded (US AID) Workshop CEA was funded through re-allocation of fund from Activity Code: 2023-20-5-1.1
Travel Dates:	Depart Suva: Sunday, 04 Feb 2024 Arrive back in Suva: Friday, 09 Feb 2024
Purpose of Travel:	Attended the workshop as an observer since our members are the main participants.
Activity description:	• 7 Customs Administrations attended the training with 11 participants. The country and participant attendance were as follows: (Fiji=1, Kiribati=1, Papua New Guinea=4, Samoan=1, Tonga=1, Tuvalu=2, Vanuatu=1) (CEA attended as an observer, however, participated in discussions related to regional approach) • The workshop highlighted the Customs role to facilitate the clearance of the aid consignments, however, bearing the responsibility of mitigating any potential threats that may arise due to non-compliant goods infiltrating with relief consignment. • Presentations and exercises entailed around sharing common practice in the region with the Customs administrations relief goods clearance procedures and further discussion on lessons learnt. • Topics included Process of Importing Goods, Complex Incident Management, Chain of Command for response team, General Advance Data Management, General Information on Cargo Documents/Manifest, Types of Containers/Carriers, Cargo Resolution Team, Trade Announcement and Advisories, and Supply Chain Influence. A special sight visit to a Container Freight Station was conducted to physically demonstrate methodologies of container examination. • Participants were able to enrich themselves with the US characteristics of Command Operations and structure/Chain of Command during rapid disaster relief clearance. • Participants were able to share their experience through discussions.
Outcomes:	• The participants agreed that Customs plays a very crucial role in resilience of a country during disaster and asserts to follow international standards and best practice as is divulged via WCO. RKC Specific Annex J is of essence to Pacific Customs administrations.

	• The participants agreed that they will go back to their administration's and seek a review of their current procedures in relief consignment clearance. • Participants acknowledged the support rendered by USCBP as the participants and USCBP will meet later to discuss bilateral assistance to enhance the documentation of the relief clearance process. Any further assistance can also be sought from USCBP regarding capacity building or technical assistance. • The participants also agree to leverage coordination and collaboration with domestic partner government agencies and private sector entities in planning for and responding to rapid onset emergencies.
Recommendations/follow up activities:	• There will be sequential virtual meetings with each participating member over a few months later to determine any further necessary assistance with developing SOPs or Operation Commands. • Other related assistance can be sought from USCBP by either the member countries or OCO.
Acknowledgement	• The OCO is obliged to acknowledge the USCBP in coming down to the Pacific and assisting members with strengthening the Customs procedures in expedited clearance during disasters. • Sincere appreciation to the Heads of Customs for allowing the officers to attend the training. • We also acknowledge the US AID for funding this workshop.
Meeting documents where available (to put on server with hyperlink):	The documents for training can be found here .

Photos:

