COMPLIANCE AND FACILITATION

ASIAN PACIFIC PLASTIC WASTE BORDER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Environmental, Customs Trade Procedure and Customs Enforcement Expert

1. INTRODUCTION

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an independent intergovernmental body, established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs services across the globe. The WCO represents 183 Customs administrations that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade. As the global centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters.

As a forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences between national Customs delegates, the WCO offers its Members a range of Conventions and other international instruments, as well as technical assistance and training services provided either directly by the Secretariat, or with its participation. The Secretariat also actively supports its Members in their endeavours to modernize and build capacity within their national Customs administrations.

2. OVERVIEW

The Asian Pacific Plastic Waste Border Management Project, which will be implemented under the auspices of the Green Customs Initiative (GCI), is aimed at strengthening the capacity of Customs administrations to mitigate and appropriately respond to environmental threats in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, it focuses on the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention), and specifically on matters related to plastic waste and the illegal shipment thereof.
3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

On 1 January 2018, China banned the import of various waste types under its "National Sword" initiative. Since then, various illegal shipments of waste have made their way into Asia Pacific jurisdictions.

Customs play a pivotal role in the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), such as the Basel Convention. Since 2001, the WCO has also been an active Partner to the GCI, a series of collaborative activities by partner organizations, coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme and aimed at raising the awareness of Customs officers to trade-related MEAs.

The WCO recognizes the urgent need for action to prevent and reduce the illegal shipment of waste, and in specific plastic waste, to preserve human health and the environment, especially marine and coastal ecosystems.

A clear mandate exists for Customs to implement MEAs across the globe, the Basel Convention being one.

4. OBJECTIVES

The Project will cover the following countries in the Asia Pacific region:

- Vietnam
- Malaysia
- the Philippines
- Indonesia

The Project aims to strengthen the capacity of Customs administrations to mitigate and appropriately respond to environmental threats. More specifically, the focus is placed on the implementation of the Basel Convention, and on matters related to plastic waste. Both legal trade facilitation, as well as enforcement operations, form part of the scope of the Project.

Specific objectives include:

- Mapping Basel Convention procedures with the relevant Customs pre-clearance, transit, and import-export procedures;
- Enhancing relationship with the National Management Authority, especially through the Single Window environment;
- Processing and validating of Prior Informed Consent certificates with declarations and clearance process;
- Increasing awareness and knowledge with regards to the Basel Convention regulatory requirements including notification, movement documents, and taking back procedures specifically applicable to plastic waste;
- Developing a responsive Risk Management strategy to waste (specific categories to be identified, but emphasis falls on plastic waste);
- Recording of waste shipments and seizures; and
- Training enforcement teams with regards to the technical issues associated with plastic waste.
5. **MAIN ACCOUNTABILITIES**

Under the supervision of the Technical Officer managing the Environment Programme of the Enforcement and Compliance Sub-Directorate, within the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, and with close support from the Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate, the Environmental, Trade Procedure and Enforcement Expert will focus on the following key activities:

i. **Diagnostic mission preparation:**
   
   (a) Mapping of legal requirements and procedures of the Basel Convention and Customs Procedures for plastic waste;
   
   (b) Developing diagnostic questionnaires;
   
   (c) Engaging with relevant Customs administrations and process replies to the diagnostic questionnaires (it is foreseen that four Customs administrations will form part of the Project); and
   
   (d) Drafting interview questions for structured interviews during the in-country missions.

ii. **In-Country Diagnostic Validations (at least 4 missions):**

   (a) In-country diagnostic validations visits (i.e. field visits) to confirm completeness and accurateness of responses, and to clarify certain aspects emanating from the reports. Participating in structured interviews to various relevant people;
   
   (b) Drafting an Implementation Plan, based on findings, which will encompass training, awareness, revision of processes and Standard Operating Procedures, etc.;
   
   (c) Drafting a Self-assessment checklist;
   
   (d) Drafting a chapter for the Coordinated Border Management Compendium; and
   
   (e) Assisting in drafting a chapter on the Basel Convention for the enforcement Frontline Officers Guide;

iii. **Final report and a Global Conference:**

   (a) Setting-up a global Waste Conference;
   
   (b) Developing Agenda/curriculum;
   
   (c) Arranging for speakers;
   
   (d) Facilitating the Waste Conference; and
   
   (e) Developing a final report.

iv. **Administrative support for the Project:**

   (a) Responsible for all administrative tasks associated with the Project;
(b) Preparing reports;
(c) Managing the finances of the Project;
(d) Preparing basic communiqués and engage with the relevant Customs Administrations; and
(e) Assisting with the travel arrangements (limited requirement).

v. Any other related tasks as may be assigned by the direct supervisor.

6. EXPERIENCE

- At least 10 years of Customs experience; preferably served within trade facilitation and enforcement environments;
- Proven knowledge of the implementation of the Basel Convention;
- Knowledge of Coordinated Border Management and Single Window environment; and
- Knowledge of Revised Kyoto Convention, Harmonised System Convention.

7. LANGUAGES

- Fluency in English is required.

8. COMPETENCIES

- Ability to work in a pressured environment;
- Ability to work across various Customs disciplines;
- Ability to work with people of different cultures; and
- Ability to develop detailed technical documents.

9. CONTRACT AND CONDITIONS

- Staff member under short-term contract of one (1) year; from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021;
- Probationary period: three (3) months
- Full-time employment (37 hours and 40 minutes weekly) at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium;
- 30 days of annual paid leave
- The Expert must have his/her own computer as the WCO will not supply one;
- Salary commensurate to experience and up to 6,800 euro/month all-inclusive (remuneration exempted from income tax in Belgium).
- Compulsory WCO health insurance deducted from the salary (around 65 EUR/month).

This position is subject to the Manual for Short-Term Contractors. The successful applicant shall not acquire the right subsequently to occupy a permanent post within the WCO. The successful applicant will not be affiliated to any retirement fund or pension scheme taken by the WCO.
10. APPLICATION AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate how he/she meets each of the essential qualifications and requirements. Applicants are encouraged to detail concrete achievements in their CVs and/or in their cover letters as well as include references.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an assessment which may include a written test and/or an interview. All short-listed candidates may be requested to provide copies of their original diploma, certificates and proof of relevant experience. Pre-selected candidates may also be subject to reference checks to confirm the information provided in the application.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application no later than 24 April 2020, inclusive of a CV and cover letter in English by e-mail to:

environmentprog@wcoomd.org

Or by mail to:

World Customs Organization
Compliance Sub-Directorate: Environment Programme
Attention: Tiffany Lormeau
Rue du Marché, 30
B-1210 Brussels
Belgium

Interested candidates may submit a request for additional information via e-mail, providing full name and contact details.

The evaluation of applicants will be conducted on the basis of the information submitted in the application according to criteria of the position and the WCO applicable rules.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The WCO values commitment to the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability as well as values diversity among its staff members. Applications from qualified women and men will receive equal treatment and due regard will be paid to the importance of recruiting nationals from WCO Members on as wide a geographical basis as possible. Please note that the WCO Headquarters is a non-smoking environment.

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