COLLABORATION AMONG CUSTOMS, BUSINESSES AND OTHER BORDER AGENCIES

by

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TRADITIONAL PERCEPTIONS BETWEEN CUSTOMS & STAKEHOLDERS

- Division of "us" and "them"
- Element of fear by stakeholders
- Stakeholders had no option; they had to go to Customs to conduct business
- Customs suspicious on everyone, termed "smugglers"
- Gatekeeper approach; physical control
MODERN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

To support its role in revenue collection, security, trade facilitation – the following features will be found:-

- Measures to promote integrity; Capacity building initiatives
- Modern IT based, automation of processes
- Balances control and facilitation; Risk management measures in order to facilitate legitimate trade
MODERN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

- Recognizes the principle of **partnerships and collaborations**. Customs to Customs; Customs to Business networks; Customs relationship with other Government Agencies.

- Is responsive to input from its stakeholders, otherwise it will be classified as a non-tariff barrier.

- Client focused; identifies its stakeholders; strategically, engages with its stakeholders.

- Client and service charters with clearly defined deliverables.
PREAMBLE TO REVISED KYOTO CONVENTION … *excerpts*

“…RECOGNIZING that such simplification and harmonization can be accomplished by applying, in particular, the following principles:

- the implementation of programmes aimed at continuously modernizing Customs procedures….

- the provision to interested parties of all the necessary information regarding Customs laws, regulations, administrative guidelines, procedures and practices,

- co-operation wherever appropriate with other national authorities, other Customs administrations and the trading communities….”
SAFE FRAMEWORK OF STANDARDS

Adopted by the WCO in June 2003 and it provides framework for securing international trade supply chain while facilitating the flow of legitimate trade. Hinges on 2 pillars:-

- Customs to Customs
- Customs to Business; and the 6 standards of Partnership, Security, Authorization, Technology, Facilitation and Communication
AGENCIES AT A TYPICAL BORDER POST

- Customs
- Immigration
- Transport Authority
- Health
- Drug Enforcement
- Agriculture
- Standards
- Veterinary Services
- Police & Other security agencies
TYPICAL BORDER POST

- Each agency has a proper and legitimate mandate at the border
- Each is serving the same stakeholder being attended to by Customs
- Each would/may want to interview the same client being cleared by Customs – time factor
- Each of these agencies would have reporting lines to their own Head Offices
INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY 2010

The WCO theme for 2010:

“Customs and Business: Improving Performance through Partnerships”

The theme was appropriate in bringing the realization that Customs need to build partnerships, and that these can be used as a means to improve performance.
STRUCTURES TO ENSURE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN TRADE AND CUSTOMS

- Customs to Business Forums
- WTO Trade Facilitation Committees – WTO places a significant emphasis on the private sector eg
  - Inputs into negotiations
  - Resolutions on non tariff barriers
- Civic Society
NEED FOR COLLABORATION

- Collaboration will result in a seamless, cooperative system for the good of both Customs and stakeholders.
- Private Sector playing a role in Customs issues such as revenue collection.
- Training in Tariff, Valuation, Rules of Origin etc.
- Need for such collaboration in the fight against corruption.
AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

- Private Sector plays an important role in the international trade supply chain
- Infrastructure development
- Provision of service... PPPs are increasingly being embraced
- E-business, e-permits etc
- ICT, Single Window Concepts eg in Ghana and Mozambique
THANK YOU

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