



On the May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> the WCO Director of Capacity Building, Mr. Lars Karlsson, visited Servicio de Administracion Tributaria (SAT) in Mexico to participate and give a speech on Customs Capacity Building at a national Reform and Modernization Seminar for Mexican Customs Managers and new Customs recruits (approx 900 people) at the Centro Banamex Capitol Conference Center in Mexico City. The conference was opened by the Mexican Administrator of SAT, Mr. Juan José Bravo Moises.

During the visit, Director Karlsson also had high-level discussions with Customs Management Team, the Reform and Modernization team and the International Affairs Unit. In addition the Director visited the facilities of the major clearing post, the Mexico City Port of Entry and he also studied the Customs processes and procedures of the Mexico City International Airport.

Mexico is in the middle of a major reform and modernization programme and constructive discussions were held on how the WCO can support the process and how the experience from Mexico can be shared by others in the region and beyond.

In a comment, Mr. Karlsson says: *"This was a very good mission. I am impressed by the pace and dedication of the Mexican Customs reform and modernization process. The development is a very good example on how major changes can be introduced in an efficient way through capacity building in a holistic process with ownership from top management. Even though there are huge challenges ahead, many things have already been achieved and I have witnessed considerable changes on the ground. Under the strong leadership of Administrator Bravo and his team, Mexican Customs is making steady progress under difficult circumstances. During the meetings we have discussed a number of areas for closer cooperation and the WCO will continue to support this important reform programme in any way we can. Further more, we have also talked about how Mexico can contribute to the WCO membership, and especially the capacity building agenda, with its experience. I am optimistic that we will soon see a number of initiatives that will be of great interest and benefit for all parties".*