

## Report on the HS workshop for Timor-Leste Customs



*Photo: Ed de Jong and Kitty Srinuchart from the WCO Secretariat with participants*

The Timor-Leste Customs Administration was established on 28 January 2000 and Timor-Leste has been a member of the WCO since 2003. It is one of the eight countries of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLC), which is responsible for the translation into Portuguese of WCO publications.

Enhancing the tariff classification abilities of classifications officers was the main reason behind a national WCO Harmonized System Capacity Building Workshop that was held at Dili (Timor-Leste) from 8 to 12 February 2010.

The training event was arranged by the Timor-Leste Customs Administration with financial backing from the Japan Customs Cooperation Fund. In addition, the Customs Administration of Sri Lanka made available a WCO accredited trainer in the Harmonized System domain.

With the overall objective to enhance tariff classification, the workshop focused on the core fundamentals of the Harmonized System (HS), so that participants would understand the basic rules for classifying goods in the HS and could justify their classification decisions.

Twenty-five Timor-Leste Customs officers attended the Workshop. It afforded beginners an understanding of the mechanics of tariff classification and enabled experts to share their experiences. Participants acknowledged that the workshop was very useful and fruitful, and commitments were made to utilize WCO HS classification tools in their daily work.