



Partnership in Customs Academic Research
and Development (PICARD)

 **PICARD** | **WCO**
Conference
2009

28-30 September 2009

Hotel Barcelo San Jose Palacio,
La Uruca, Urb. Robledal,
San José,
Costa Rica

Organizer:
World Customs Organization
Co-organizers:
International Network of Customs Universities
(INCU), PICARD Advisory Group and the
Universidad de Costa Rica



incu



Introduction

The WCO PICARD programme was launched in 2006 to provide a framework for cooperation between Customs and academic world. In parallel, through PICARD, academic institutions have created the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU) and a rich vein of research in the field of Customs, generated through its flagship publication - the World Customs Journal.

Working together, the WCO and INCU has progressed a range of initiatives in the areas of educational programmes, strategic management development, professional standards, and academic research and development.

In relation to standards, the WCO in partnership with the INCU has developed a set of Professional Standards necessary for operational and strategic customs managers to meet the requirements of the new strategic environment.

In addition, a process of assessing university curricula against the Standards has been developed and will be considered by the WCO later

this year. The outcome of that review will be discussed at this year's PICARD conference, along with a series of presentations and discussions on a number of key issues facing Customs and other members of the international trading community in these times of economic uncertainty.

This year's conference will build on the success of the previous conferences (Brussels 2006 and 2007, and Shanghai 2008) and will provide participants with an opportunity to interact with their government, commercial and academic counterparts from around the world.

To learn more about the PICARD Programme, please visit the WCO website at:

http://www.wcoomd.org/home_wco_topics_cboverviewboxes_programmes_cbpicardoverview.htm



incu



Objectives

The WCO, in partnership with the INCU and others, aims to:

- encourage Academic Institutions and Customs Administrations to increase their co-operation in the field of Customs education and research in order to raise the academic standing of the Customs profession
- support initiatives related to this collaboration by promoting the development of Customs-specific educational products and research activities, including the identification of research funding opportunities.

The 2009 conference will focus on the following specific issues:

- Current and planned academic research activities of particular relevance to Customs and international trade, including those areas of research interest identified during PICARD 2008
- Procedures for seeking WCO recognition of university education programmes
- The impact of the economic crisis on Customs and international trade
- The impact of Regional Trade Agreements on Customs and trade, with specific reference to the proliferation of such Agreements
- The impact of environmental protection on Customs and trade
- Ongoing research needs and opportunities to address those needs.

A key aim of the Conference is to provide a truly global representation of the issues, and consequently it is intended to include presentations that represent diverse geographic views.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact us

event@wcoomd.org



incu



Key Players

The World Customs Organization (WCO)

is the only intergovernmental organization uniquely focused on Customs matters and is regarded as the voice of the international Customs community. Dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of its 174 Members across the globe, the WCO is particularly noted for its work in areas covering the development of global standards, the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures, the security of the trade supply chain, the facilitation of world trade, the combating of Customs offences, anti-counterfeiting and piracy initiatives, and sustainable global Customs capacity building programmes. The WCO also maintains the international Harmonized System goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the WTO Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

Key Players

The International Network of Customs Universities (INCU)

was established to provide the World Customs Organization and other organizations with a single point of contact with universities and research institutes active in the field of customs research, education and training. The INCU also provides a global resource for governments and the private sector, and an educational source for students wishing to further their knowledge in the field of customs management and administration, and international trade and logistics management. More information about the INCU can be found at www.incu.org.

The INCU produces the World Customs Journal (<http://www.worldcustomsjournal.org>), the first edition of which was successfully launched at the WCO PICARD Conference in March 2007.

The Journal includes contributions from both academics and other interested parties.

The PICARD Advisory Group

- Prof. Aivars KRASTINŠ,
Riga Technical University, Latvia
- Prof. Dr. Hans-Michael WOLFFGANG,
Universität Münster, Germany
- Prof. David WIDDOWSON,
Centre for Customs and Excise
Studies, University of Canberra,
Australia
- Mr. Stéphane LAUWICK,
University of Le Havre, France
- Mr. Juha HINTSA,
Director; Cross-Border Research
Association, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Prof. Jhon FONSECA,
Universidad de Costa Rica.

Key Players

The University of Costa Rica is the oldest higher education institution in the country. The University has organized its academic function into colleges, schools, centers and institutes of investigation (research); and five Vice-Presidencies define the general policies for each of their fields: Teaching, Investigation (Research), Social Action, Students Life and Administration.

The Program in Customs Administration and Foreign Trade falls within the School of Public Administration in the Faculty of Economic Sciences, which in turn forms part of the Social Sciences Area. The program was created in 1977 and is the leader in Central America in customs and foreign trade issues.



With an annual enrolment of around 200 students in four different areas of the country, the program has four different degrees:

- Graduate in Customs Administration (3 years)
- Baccalaureate in Customs Administration and Foreign Trade (Graduate + 1 year)
- Licentiate in Customs Administration and Foreign Trade.(Baccalaureate + 1 year)
- Master in Public Administration with Emphasis in Customs Administration and International Trade (Baccalaureate or Licentiate + 2 years)

The program seeks to promote national and international development of customs and foreign trade, strengthening the capacities of both individuals and public and private entities. In this sense, the purpose of the program is to provide the customs and foreign trade sectors with professionals to enable them to enter and to successfully position themselves in an increasingly globalized world.

Participant Profile

Who Should Attend?

The conference is intended for:

- **Senior Customs executives responsible for**
 - Human resource development
 - Customs reform and modernization strategies
 - Strategic management and planning
 - Trade Policy issues

- **Universities and research institutions with an interest in Customs related research and education**

- **Trade executives and service providers**

- **Representatives from Donor and other international organizations.**

Registration

Registrations must be received by the 4th of September 2009.

More detailed information is given on the Registration form (on-line).

Venue and Accommodation

Hotel Barcelo San Jose Palacio,

La Uruca, Urb. Robledal | 458-1150 San José | San José | Costa Rica
Tel. (506) 2220-2034 Ext. 656 | Fax. (506) 2520-2046

More information about the Conference venue and accommodation can be obtained at:

<http://www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/enGB/Hotels/CostaRica/SanJose/SanJosePalacio/Home>

The accommodation will be reserved by the University of Costa Rica at the Hotel The “Barceló San José Palacio.

Contacts

World Customs Organization:

Mrs. Riitta Passi
E-mail : riitta.passi@wcoomd.org
Tel: +32 (0) 2209 9641
Fax: +32 (0) 2209 9496
Mobile: +32 (0) 498 56 63 84

Universidad de Costa Rica:

Mr. Jhon Fonseca
E-mail: jhon.fonseca@ucr.ac.cr
Tel: +506 2511-5660
Mobile: +506 8828 0232
Fax: +506 2234-1767

For further information and for registration please visit the WCO Web site : <http://www.wcoomd.org/event.htm>.



incu

