



Editorial

We are very pleased to be back with the latest issue of our newsletter. The 105th/106th Council Sessions are the opportunity to present the latest developments in the e-learning field.

Distribution and visibility of the e-learning programme have increased due to numerous installations within Member countries. Regional or national roll-outs of the programme are one of the main advantages provided by e-learning. In this way it is possible to take over ownership of the programme and customize it, thereby enabling students to learn by placing them in situations or giving them examples they encounter in their daily work.

Training of trainers in the use of the programme and its insertion in blended learning structures, using both traditional type courses and computer assisted training, ensure that the programme is vibrant, useful and used and plays a role in the modernization of Customs training. We hope to thus encourage the use of flexible training methods which facilitate or contribute to the transition towards modern and sustainable administrations.

The e-learning programme, if it is used jointly by Customs Administrations and public and private-sector partners such as operators and universities, will thus lead to the widest distribution of the WCO's tools and knowledge to face the challenges of Customs in the 21st century.

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Expanding roll-outs

Regional roll-outs

E-learning installation in the Regional Training Centres (RTC) in the regions has increased over the last few months. The e-learning programme has thus been installed in Burkina Faso and China, with India to follow this summer. Six of the eleven Regional Training Centres now host the e-learning platform, the aim being to install in all eleven before the end of 2006.

Integration of the e-learning programme at the regional level leads to numerous benefits. It enables students of the countries in the region to connect more rapidly due to geographical proximity. Use of the modules in blended learning is also made easier since Regional Training Centres have IT rooms which allow trainers to provide joint classroom and e-learning training.

Furthermore, availability of the modules at the local level means that the trainers in the Regional Training Centres benefit from full “ownership” of the technology and contents; local peculiarities can be taken into account and the modules can be adapted to the specificities of the region.



National roll-outs

Besides regional roll-outs, many administrations have indicated that they wish to receive WCO assistance in making the e-learning programme part of their national training policy.

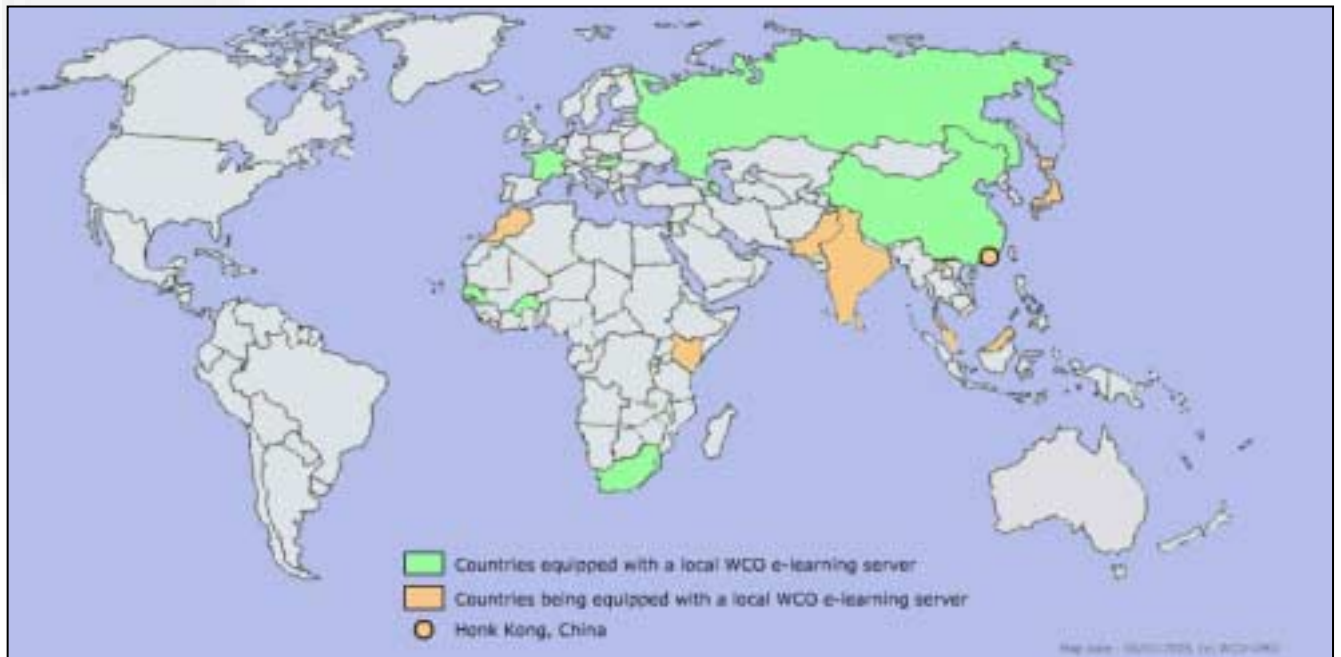
National roll-outs are as flexible and adaptable as regional roll-outs with an even greater “ownership” of the contents and methods used. The programme is usually installed within the Customs Academy of the Administration concerned. Senegal started this type of set-up in June and Pakistan and Morocco should follow within the course of the year.

Valuation training in Portuguese

Modules on the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement will be fully available by around November 2005.

All practical cases relating to the course have now been translated. This update was made possible thanks to the participation of the Brazilian Customs Administration which made its translators available to the WCO for this purpose. We would like to thank them for their help.

Map of local installations of the e-learning programme



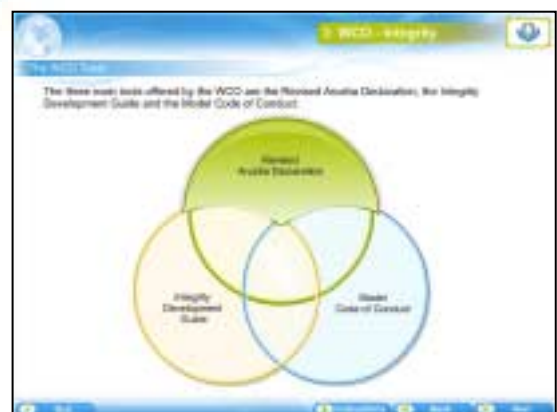
Launch of two free access modules

Two new training and awareness modules have been produced. The first “Discover the WCO” is aimed at learning more about the ins and outs of the WCO. It is already available on the dedicated training site learning.wcoomd.org.

The second module, which is more detailed, is aimed at making Members and private sector players aware of the WCO’s actions in the field of integrity.

This lesson, which is approximately 2 hours long, clearly identifies shortcomings in integrity and their impact on society. It also presents the WCO policy in this field and the practical tools available to Members.

These two modules are available free of charge to all interested parties.



E-learning modules catalogue

A new document covering all the e-learning modules currently available is now on our site (learning.wcoomd.org). It should be available in paper form at the end of the year.

The catalogue contains the teaching objectives, duration, contents and a preview for each module.

The screenshot shows a software interface for an e-learning module. At the top right, it says 'HARMONIZED SYSTEM'. The main title is 'Section XI - Textiles and textile articles : general presentation'. On the left, there are sections for 'Objectives', 'Structure', 'Duration', and 'Id.'. The 'Objectives' section lists two points: understanding the layout of Section XI and knowing classification criteria. The 'Structure' section lists 'Lesson' (checked), 'Case study' (unchecked), 'Quiz' (checked), and 'Fieldwork' (unchecked). 'Duration' is '90 min' and 'Id.' is 'SH111'. On the right, there is a preview window showing a lesson slide with two diagrams of textile patterns labeled 'Right angles' and 'Acute angles'. The interface includes navigation buttons like 'QUIT', 'INSTRUCTIONS', 'BACK', and 'NEXT'.

Universities and the e-learning programme

Use of the e-learning programme

The University of Münster (Germany) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the WCO for the use of e-learning modules by its students trained in Customs techniques. Each year about twenty students, Customs officials from developing countries, attend the university to supplement their training.

Professors from the University of Münster seized this opportunity to include the WCO e-learning programme on Customs Valuation and some parts of the programmes on Customs controls and the Harmonized System, in their curriculum.

Co-operation agreements

The WCO also initiated the first Customs-Universities meeting which was held in Brussels on 11 May 2005. This informal meeting brought together representatives from universities to discuss possibilities of co-operation between the academic world and Customs in the field of capacity building

This meeting enabled participants to get to know each other, to identify means of sustainable co-operation and to produce an action plan for the way forward. The aim was to achieve a common approach to training and the evaluation thereof and to lean towards a true recognition of Customs professional training on the one hand, and to offer a forum for knowledge sharing in the customs area on the other. The process is now in motion.

The meeting announced the establishment of the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU) which will be accessible via the WCO Web site. (learning.wcoomd.org). This will complement the work of the WCO which has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Dubai, and is in the process of concluding agreements with the Universities in Canberra and Riga.

This event is of great importance since it constitutes an opportunity for the WCO to respond not only to Members expectations but also to those of the international community by proposing an additional solution in synergy with the academic world aimed at the sustainable development of administrations capacity to modernize and evolve in a changing environment.

E-learning at the Avenir Export Show

The WCO was represented at the Avenir Export Show held in Paris from 31 May to 2 June 2005, and was able to present its training activities and publications. This event, which targeted companies active in international trade, led to greater awareness of the e-learning programme and its benefits for private sector players. The positive reactions noted should lead to future co-operation with this sector of the economy.

Want to know more?

Visit our e-learning Web page on <http://learning.wcoomd.org>

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Please feel free to pass this Newsletter on!

