

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION



Customs and Excise Department  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**between the**  
**World Customs Organization**  
**and the**  
**Customs and Excise Department of Hong Kong, China**  
**regarding the**  
**establishment of a World Customs Organization**  
**Regional Training Centre in Hong Kong, China**

The World Customs Organization<sup>1</sup>, hereinafter referred to as the WCO, and the Customs and Excise Department of Hong Kong, China, hereinafter referred to as the Hong Kong, China Customs Administration:

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the enormous challenges facing Customs administrations due to increasing volumes of trade, globalization of trade, and regional integration;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that changing trading patterns, the need for more facilitation of trade and the requirement to produce more with limited resources call for enhanced co-operation among Customs administrations and with the WCO;

---

<sup>1</sup> Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.

**RECOGNIZING** that international and regional co-operation provides a useful framework for the promotion of Customs effectiveness and efficiency;

**RECOGNIZING** that the dissemination of information, training and technical assistance are indispensable for the uniform implementation of key Customs-related international conventions, recommendations and other standards;

**RECOGNIZING** that the WCO provides relevant and meaningful training and technical assistance to its Members;

**RECOGNIZING** the important role and the significant potential of Hong Kong, China in supporting the World Customs Organization in its efforts to provide assistance to WCO Members;

Have decided as follows :

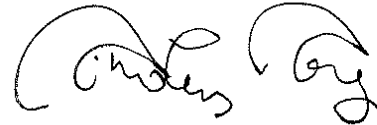
1. The WCO and the Hong Kong, China Customs Administration will establish a WCO Regional Training Centre, hereinafter referred to as the Training Centre, in Hong Kong. The WCO will use the facilities of the Training Centre for the purposes of regional training, technical assistance meetings and other Customs-related events.
2. In order to achieve the objectives laid down in paragraph 1, the Hong Kong, China Customs Administration will make available to the WCO its Customs Training Centre located in Hong Kong.
3. The Hong Kong, China Customs Administration will continue to run the Training Centre, and use it for its own programmes, including regional and international programmes.
- 4.1. The Parties will communicate to each other their training plans in order to define the use of the facilities of the Training Centre. The WCO should give advance notice of not less than 2 months before each planned event, along with the necessary information to confirm the event.
- 4.2. Within one month from the date of signing of this Memorandum of Understanding the Parties will designate liaison officers to co-ordinate matters arising from its implementation.
5. The Hong Kong, China Customs Administration will make available classrooms, together with regular training aids, meeting rooms, residential rooms and other service facilities of the Training Centre, for use by the WCO.

- 6.1 This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of its signature.
- 6.2 This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party at any time, by written notification. This Memorandum of Understanding will cease to have effect immediately after the receipt of such notification by the other Party.
- 6.3. This Memorandum of Understanding can be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties, in written form.

Done in Brussels, Belgium, on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2004 in two copies in the English language.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danet', enclosed within a large, horizontal, oval-shaped flourish.

Michel Danet,  
Secretary General,  
World Customs Organization

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Tong', with a large, decorative flourish extending to the left.

Timothy Tong,  
Commissioner of Customs and Excise,  
Hong Kong, China