



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)*

and

**The Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
(OASIS)**

The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS), referred to hereinafter as "the Parties":

Recognizing that the mission of the World Customs Organization (WCO) is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Member Customs administrations, thereby helping them to contribute successfully to national development goals, particularly in the areas of trade facilitation, revenue collection, community protection and national security;

Recognizing further that that the WCO places high priority on the advancement of the use of secure and cost-effective information technology solutions for achieving its mission and the mission of its Member Customs administrations;

Recognizing also that the mission of the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) is to drive the development, convergence and adoption of open standards for the global information society through information technology standards along with standards for web services, security, e-business, and standardization efforts in the public sector and for application-specific markets;

Realizing that OASIS and the WCO pursue common goals to ensure and facilitate free and secure movement of global trade through simplified and globally accepted methods of interchange of trade information to facilitate Customs and Cross-Border regulatory clearance;

Noting the need for adoption of open and secure standards that help the interoperability of disparate systems run by different agencies implementing border services;

Aware that the use of information and communication technologies and electronic data interchange systems is of vital importance in further improving the speed, security and quality of Cross-Border regulatory clearance;

Aware also that collaboration in capacity-building initiatives would be to the benefit of both Parties;

* Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.

Believing that this co-operation in promoting efficient use of information technologies for Customs and Cross-Border regulatory clearance would be of benefit to members of both Parties;

Recognizing the need to identify clearly the possible areas of co-operation between the two Parties;

The Parties agree that the above-mentioned objectives shall be pursued through the following co-operation and consultation activities set out in this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU") :

I. Areas of Consultation and Co-operation

1. To consider practical measures to highlight and disseminate key trends in the adoption of technology standards in Governments and the public sector worldwide;
2. To identify and address the needs of Member Customs administrations in key technology areas such as web services, data security and data privacy standards, compliance with legal measures for data protection and other areas of common interest;
3. To pursue the development of minimum security standards and procedures to facilitate the overall security of the international trade and transportation network;
4. To encourage members of the information technology industry, in conjunction with the WCO, to adopt common data standards, such as the WCO Data Model, to expedite the Customs clearance process;
5. To encourage OASIS members of the information technology industry to participate in events for the promotion of technology solutions and standards, including latest developments in the use of information technology in the public sector. The events include, but are not limited to, meetings, conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops and training sessions organized by either Party;
6. To foster consultation and/or participation in standards development activities initiated by either Party or by third parties.

II. Guidelines on Co-operation

1. The co-operation and consultation in areas of mutual interest between the Parties will be limited by the availability of resources on the part of either Party and the willingness of both Parties to engage in the area.
2. The WCO and OASIS should appoint liaison persons to represent their respective organizations in activities/events/meetings. Such liaison persons may consult with each other to arrive at positions to further areas of mutual interest listed in this MOU.
3. Notwithstanding this MOU, either Party is at liberty to pursue other means to promote the areas that have been identified herein.

III. Entry into Force, Duration and Termination

The MOU shall come into effect on the date of its signature and shall remain in force unless terminated by mutual consent or by either Party giving three months' written notice of termination to the other Party. The provisions shall, however, remain in force beyond the date of such termination to the extent necessary to permit an orderly completion of activities.

IV. Amendment

The present MOU may be modified by mutual written consent.

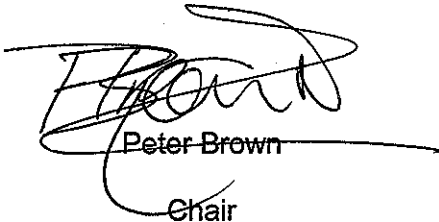
Any dispute over the interpretation or application of any provision herein shall be settled through negotiations or by other means as the Parties shall mutually agree.

In witness whereof, the Parties hereto, each acting through its duly authorized representative, have duly affixed their signatures on the two originals of this MOU in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Done at Brussels on 17 May 2010.

For OASIS :

For the World Customs Organization :



Peter Brown
Chair

Organization for the Advancement of *
Structured Information Standards



Kunio Mikuriya

Secretary General
World Customs Organization