



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
The World Customs Organization¹
and
The General Administration of Customs
of The People's Republic of China
regarding
the Establishment of a WCO Regional Customs Laboratory in China**

The World Customs Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "WCO") and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "GACC"), together referred to as the "Parties",

ACKNOWLEDGING the enormous challenges facing Customs administrations due to increased volumes and complexities of trade, its globalization, and regional integration;

ACKNOWLEDGING that changing trading patterns, the need for further facilitation and the requirement to achieve more with limited resources call for enhanced cooperation between Customs administration and the WCO;

RECOGNIZING that international and regional cooperation provides a useful framework for the promotion of Customs effectiveness and efficiency;

RECOGNIZING the role of the WCO as the central coordinating entity for the improvement of Customs administration;

RECOGNIZING that Customs laboratories are an important element of Customs administrations and their provision of analytical and scientific support significantly contributes to the achievement of the mission of Customs;

RECOGNIZING that the WCO provides relevant and meaningful training and technical assistance to its Members in respect of modernization of their Customs laboratories and chemical analysis for Customs purposes, as well as in respect of other related scientific matters;

¹ Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.

RECOGNIZING the important role and the substantial contribution of GACC in supporting the WCO in its efforts to provide assistance to WCO Members;

have reached the following understanding:

1. The Parties will confer the status of WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (hereinafter referred to as the "RCL") on the Nanjing Customs Laboratory of GACC (hereinafter referred to as the "NCL") in Nanjing, China.
2. The WCO will, in the context of the RCL's operation, provide regional training, technical assistance and information-sharing service in respect of chemical analysis for Customs purposes, as well as in respect of other related scientific issues, to the officials of Customs authorities.
3. GACC and the NCL will provide training manuals, conference rooms, laboratories and other facilities for the operation of the RCL and the compliance with the objectives set forth in its Strategic Plan.
4. The Parties' cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of promoting regional cooperation and networking will include:
 - Exchange of information and experience on methodologies and techniques of analysis within the applicable legal framework;
 - Participation in conferences, forums, consultations, seminars, symposiums, round tables and other events organized by either of the Parties;
 - Joint research and development, and the preparation of analytical reviews.

The conditions, procedure and funding of the cooperation events will be agreed between the Parties on a case by case basis within the framework of their respective regulations on the matter.

5. The Parties will seek to promote dialogue with other WCO Regional Customs Laboratories, for the purposes of exchanging experiences and best practices.

6. The Parties will exchange lists of their authorized officers designated to coordinate issues arising from the implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding, as well as relevant e-mail addresses, not later than thirty (30) days from the date of signing of this Memorandum of Understanding.
7. Any difference between the Parties concerning the application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved through consultations between the Parties.
8. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended and supplemented by mutual consent of the Parties.
9. This Memorandum of Understanding is not an international agreement and does not create any rights or obligations between the Parties.
10. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be applied from the date of its signature.
11. Each Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding at any time, subject to written notification to the other Party. Application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be terminated three (3) months from the date of receipt of such notification.

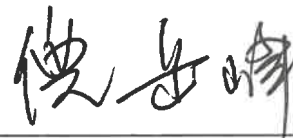
This document is signed in 4 (four) original copies, 2 (two) copies in English and 2 (two) copies in Chinese, both texts being equally authentic, on 24/06/2021, in Beijing, China and Brussels, Belgium, respectively. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the World Customs Organization

For the General Administration of Customs
People's Republic of China



Kunio MIKURIYA
Secretary General
World Customs Organization



NI Yuefeng
Minister
General Administration of Customs
People's Republic of China