WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council
Créée en 1952 sous le nom de Conseil de coopération douanière

The Secretary General

12.HL-0108/B.M.

Brussels, 29 May 2012.

Dear Director General,
Dear Colleague and Partner,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend the WCO PICARD Conference 2012, which will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 25 to 27 September 2012. The Conference will be jointly organized by the WCO and the University of Cadi Ayyad of Marrakesh, with support from the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU) and the Customs Administration of Morocco. In an earlier letter, the WCO had already informed you about the "Call for papers" for this Conference. I am attaching this letter again for your convenience. Please note that the date to submit proposals for papers has been extended to 13 June 2012.

Since its inception in 2006, the WCO PICARD Programme has aimed to promote the professional standing of Customs and provide a channel for co-operation between Customs, academic partners and other stakeholders undertaking Customs-related capacity building. By working together with INCU, a range of initiatives have been rolled out in the areas of research publication, Customs professional standards, WCO recognition of academic programmes and management development.

The annual PICARD Conference has been in place for six years now, with previous events being held in Brussels, Shanghai, Costa Rica, Abu Dhabi and Geneva. This year's PICARD Conference will build on the success of the previous Conferences and will provide participants with an opportunity to interact with government, academic and trade counterparts from around the world. Sessions will include discussions on national and international challenges relating to Emerging and Evolving Risks faced by Customs, the Impact of Regional Economic Integration and Preferential Trade Arrangements on Customs Services, and Customs Strategic Human Resource Management, amongst others.

Early registration for the Conference is encouraged (discounts apply). For detailed information about the registration procedure and fees, hotel reservations and visa procedures, please visit the WCO webpage http://www.wcoomd.org/event_picard2012.htm which will soon provide the link to the Conference website for registration.

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To : WCO Members;
Universities; PSCG;
International Organizations,
PICARD 2011 Participants

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The final Agenda for the Conference will be developed based on the inputs from the Call for papers and will be available on the WCO website as well as the Conference website. Should you have any queries on the content or arrangements for the Conference, please do not hesitate to contact the Capacity Building Directorate at capacity.building@wcoomd.org or Ms. Bénédicte MEILLE from the WCO Capacity Building Directorate at benedicte.meille@wcoomd.org.

I look forward to meeting you in Marrakesh for the Seventh PICARD Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Kunio Mikuriya.