

WCO Global AEO Conference held from 17-19 of April in Seoul, Korea Outcomes

1. All stated that the event was useful. Many participants suggested repeating the event, best once more programmes have developed (in 2014).
2. General view is that AEO is a major facilitation tool that leads to modernizing customs when being introduced; AEO seen as a tool that guarantees economic growth and competitiveness. AEO tackles security AND facilitation, thus important for all countries. Supply Chain management is key.
3. The event allowed sharing experience with AEO programs; many attendees from the more developed countries in Asia and Europe were astonished about the progress with the developments in Latin/South America but also in some African countries. Hence the request from many country representatives to have another event once some more AEO programs will have been implemented, to see further progress and continue sharing developments.
4. Need to continue promotion of WCO standards; need for consistency, predictability, transparency, sustainability (while ensuring a certain level of customization according to situation in a country).
5. Need to ensure involving SMEs. Hence the need to explain how SMEs can be assisted and how the same criteria are applied in case of SMEs (e.g. no need for CCTV if small premises where everybody can see who enters and leaves). No support for “AEO light” from administrations as this would mean applying double standards. A company is either compliant or it isn’t.
6. Need to further explore and discuss impact of AEO on OGAs and other programs; need for cooperation and mutual recognition of those parts of programs that are equivalent. Need to continue transport/aviation/maritime security/customs cooperation on Regulated Agent and also ISPS Code.
7. Need to further explore linkages SW/CBM and AEO.
8. Need to continue sharing best practice; it had been perceived as very positive that the presenters in the workshops had also spoken about challenges and difficulties encountered when developing AEO programs or when negotiating MRA.
9. GNC will be helpful in terms of facilitating MRA negotiations, in particular as far as data sharing is concerned.
10. Benefits: more creativity is needed; some benefits as perceived by trade are outside the remit of Customs – need for trade to explain what additional benefits might be available, including in other agencies’ area of competence. Need to ensure that other agencies are also cooperating to give benefit (e.g. less controls by other agencies if Customs benefits should be meaningful).

11. Some discussions suggested that there would be more benefit in regional than in bilateral MRAs; this seems also to be the direction taken in many developing countries.
12. Need for tailor-made CB.
13. There seems to be still a lack of knowledge on AEO and MRA. Probably need to better communicate on available tools like AEO template, SAFE Package in general. A way forward could be to ensure that the tools can be found more easily on the public as well as the Members website.

If you are interested in seeing the presentations delivered during the three days, please go to the website: <http://www.aeo2012.org/>