



**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 Director
Capacity Building Directorate

14.HL-0122E/B.M.

Brussels, 21 March 2014.

Dear Colleague,

The 9th PICARD (Partnerships in Customs Academic Research and Development) Conference, jointly organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Mexican Customs Administration, will take place during three days in the city of Puebla, Mexico, during the week of 16 September 2014.

The WCO Secretariat will co-ordinate, in cooperation with the Mexican Customs Administration, this annual event which serves as the ideal platform to discuss Customs education and Customs research. Since 2006, the PICARD Conference has helped to foster high-level exchanges between Customs administrations, academia and the trade community.

The WCO PICARD Programme strives to initiate research in relevant Customs areas in order to prepare future leaders of Customs and to offer Conference participants an opportunity to interact with government, commercial and academic counterparts.

Sessions will include vigorous discussions on national and international issues to Customs service relating to three challenging topics : 1/ The WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation : Implications for Customs; 2/ The Digital Dilemma in Customs and 3/ Customs Role in Securing Supply Chains and Preventing Illegal Trades.

In relation to the above-mentioned Conference, please find below a Call for Papers.

I would like to thank you once again for your co-operation and support of the Customs Capacity Building agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Erich Kieck.

**To : WCO Members; Universities;
PSCG; International Organizations;
PICARD 2013 Participants**

Call for Papers

A key aim of the annual PICARD Conferences, held since 2006, is to promote high-level exchanges on Customs professionalism and to encourage more academic research into topics relevant to Customs. The 9th PICARD Conference is scheduled to take place in the city of Puebla, Mexico, from 16 to 18 September 2014 (tentative dates).

As a platform for Customs research, the PICARD Conference 2014 continues the theme of “Promoting Research-based Knowledge to Support Customs Decision-making” and will focus on the following 3 topics. Papers that address these issues from either an academic or practitioner perspective are being invited.

1) The WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation : Implications for Customs

In December 2013, the Ninth Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference agreed on a package of pro-trade and development initiatives. The most significant element is the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF) which is expected to be officially adopted by the end of July 2014. The Agreement highlights the role of Customs administrations and the WCO in its implementation and administration.

Contributors to this topic are called to focus on (1) the implications of the ATF for Customs administrations; (2) collaboration and coordination between Customs administrations and other regulatory agencies in applying some of the provisions of the ATF; or (3) approaches and lessons learned to prepare for implementation.

2) The Digital Dilemma in Customs

The significant increase in e-commerce has impacted globally on Customs administrations. Technology has enabled the rise of corporations and electronic marketplaces such as Amazon and e-Bay. E-commerce sales exceeded US\$ 1 trillion in 2012. The international express sector was projected to grow at 5.3 % per year through to 2031.

Contributors to this topic are called to focus on the effects of e-commerce on Customs administrations and the ways in which administrations have repositioned themselves to respond to this issue.

3) Customs Role in Securing Supply Chains and Preventing Illegal Trades

According to the WCO Illicit Trade report of 2013, illicit trade involves money, goods or value gained from illegal and otherwise unethical activity, and encompasses a number of illegal trading activities, including environmental crime, human trafficking, illegal trade in natural resources, intellectual property infringements, trade in substances that cause health or safety risks, smuggling of excisable goods, drug trafficking, and a variety of illicit financial flows. These activities are damaging to the economic, social, environmental and political landscape, and while estimates of the global retail value of illicit trade vary, recent estimates by Global Financial Integrity (GFI) place the total at 650 billion US dollars for goods and at 2 trillion dollars if illicit financial flows are included. Information and intelligence form the basis of all enforcement activities not just on the investigation side but also for detection and control. This includes the exchange of information and this issue is the focus of Article 12 of the WTO ATF that deals with Customs cooperation.

Contributors to this topic are called to focus on (1) new strategies, techniques and methods to combat illicit trade; (2) legal frameworks necessary to combat illicit trade, including the exchange of information; (3) the use of IT solutions in information management; or (4) changes in organizational structures, working methods and training.

In examining and analysing these issues, Conference participants are encouraged to identify a range of solutions to address identified concerns, with a particular emphasis on capacity building, improving performance and research opportunities.

To respond to this Call for Papers, please forward the paper **abstract** as requested in the **format guidelines** below via e-mail to Ms. Benedicte Meille (E-mail : Benedicte.Meille@wcoomd.org) or to Mr. Libing Wei (E-mail : libing.wei@wcoomd.org) **no later than 1 June 2014**. Following the assessment process, authors will be notified via e-mail by 15 July 2014 as to whether or not their paper has been accepted for the PICARD Conference. Selected authors will then have to submit their full manuscript electronically to the WCO by 20 August 2014.

Those who wish to have their articles considered for publication in the World Customs Journal (WCJ) should send directly to its Editorial Board and refer to the Guidelines and Style Guide published on the WCJ Website.

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WCO PICARD CONFERENCE

Format Guidelines

Please prepare your paper abstract and manuscript using these guidelines.

All documents should be sent by e-mail to the following address :
Benedicte.Meille@wcoomd.org

General elements¹	
Format	<p>All files should be submitted as an e-mail attachment, in WORD document including country name and the author name (for example : Belgium, Smith Brown, A Perspective on the Digital Dilemma in Customs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Paper Size : A4- Margins : Top, 2,5 cm; Bottom, 2,5 cm; Left, 2,5 cm; Right, 2,5 cm- Font : Arial; Style : Regular; Size : 11; Line Spacing All : Single; Alignment : Justified- Indent of paragraphs is 1,25
Cover Page²	
Title	<p>The title is in Arial 16. A title of not more than 10 words should be provided.</p>
Author Details	<p>Brief presentation of the author(s) (max.150 words) including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Full name of each author;<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliation of each author, at time research is completed;<input type="checkbox"/> Where more than one author contributes to the article, details of who should be contacted for correspondence;<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail address of the corresponding author;<input type="checkbox"/> Brief professional biography of each author.
Which Research Topic addressed	<p>Identify which topic of the Call of Paper is tackled.</p>
Classification	<p>Categorize your paper :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review; or- Original research
Keywords	<p>Please provide less than 10 keywords which encapsulate the principal topics of the paper.</p>

¹ Examples are available upon request.

² Mandatory for all submissions.

Paper Abstract³	
Paper Abstract Length	<p>Paper abstracts shall not exceed 1000 words, including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Purpose (mandatory) <input type="checkbox"/> Design/methodology/approach (mandatory) <input type="checkbox"/> Findings (mandatory) <input type="checkbox"/> Research limitations/implications (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Practical implications (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Originality/value (mandatory)
Full Manuscript⁴	
Full Manuscript Length	<p>Articles should be a <u>maximum</u> of 10000 words in length. This includes all text including references and appendices.</p>

³ Paper abstracts are to be submitted before 1st June 2014 for the papers' selection.

⁴ Full manuscripts are to be submitted once the authors are informed of their selection.