



World Customs Organization
Organisation mondiale des douanes

WCO Asia Pacific Plastic Waste Conference



24 - 25 February 2022
Hybrid

AP Plastic Waste Project



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Thursday 24 February 2022 (09:00 – 12:30 CET)

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Kunio Mikuriya

Secretary General
World Customs Organization (WCO)



Dr. Kunio Mikuriya has been Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO) since 1 January 2009. He provides leadership and executive management for the global Customs community's priorities, including developing global Customs instruments, standards and tools; securing and facilitating global trade; protecting taxable amounts through optimal revenue collection; building Customs-business partnerships; and delivering capacity building in support of Customs reform and modernization.

Prior to joining the WCO, he worked for Japan's Ministry of Finance for 25 years. During his career with the Ministry, Dr. Mikuriya occupied a variety of senior posts, which have given him broad experience and knowledge in Customs, trade, development, budget, and financial policies. He served as Director of Enforcement where he led efforts to fight illicit trade, then as Director of Research and International Affairs, paving the way for the conclusion of Japan's first regional trade agreement, and then as a Counsellor in the Tariff and Customs Bureau. He also served as Director of Salaries and Allowances to coordinate remuneration levels for the entire government workforce, and as the Budget Controller for Foreign Affairs, Official Aid, International Trade and Industry, in the Budget Bureau. In addition,

he spent time as a Counsellor at the Japanese Mission to the WTO in Geneva and participated in the GATT Uruguay Round trade negotiations.

Dr. Mikuriya has a degree in law from the University of Tokyo (Japan) and a PhD in international relations from the University of Kent (United Kingdom).

H.E. Makita Shimokawa

Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Belgium and NATO



Mr. Shimokawa Makita is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Belgium, and the Ambassador of Japan to NATO. After graduating from the University of Tokyo, Ambassador Shimokawa joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 1984.

Before coming to Brussels in September 2019, he has experienced various important posts in the Ministry, including Deputy Minister, Director-General for Cultural Affairs, and Deputy Director-General of Foreign Policy Bureau. In his earlier career, he was negotiator for trade in intellectual property (TRIPS) during the Uruguay Round negotiations and director for trade in service (GATS) during the Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Askolani

Director-General
Indonesian Directorate General of Customs and Excise
WCO Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair



Askolani started his career at the Ministry of Finance in 1992. He previously served as Head of State Revenue and Expenditure Budget Policy Center (December 31, 2008), Director of Non-Tax State Revenue in the Directorate General of Budget (June 21, 2011). From November 2013 until mid-March 2021, Askolani has served as a Director General of Budget of Ministry of Finance in charge of state finances and in relation to national and global economies. As of 12 March 2021, he served as Director General of the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGCE).

In September 2011, Askolani was appointed as Indonesia's representative as the Alternate Governor of OFID. In November 2014, due to changes in the organizational structure and changes of officials within the Ministry of Finance, Askolani was appointed as Governor of OFID for Indonesia, replacing the previous Governor.

Yogi Filemon L. Ruiz

Director, Enforcement and Security Service
Philippines Bureau of Customs



Director III Yogi Filemon Ruiz is a graduate of PDEA Academy Class “Unang Sinag” in Camp Castañeda, Silang, Cavite, Philippines. He has a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and a Master in Public Administration from the University of the Visayas in Cebu City. He is now writing his dissertation for his degree of Doctor in Philosophy, major in Management, from the same university. He has been trained in close quarter battle at PNP SAF School, Fort Santo Domingo in the year 2006.

He has also received training in water-based anti-narcotics operations by the United States Navy Special Warfare Unit in 2007. Mr. Ruiz is also trained in jungle-based anti-narcotics operations conducted by the United States Army Rangers in 2008.

He is one of the few Filipinos who had the chance to be sent for schooling in drug law enforcement to Yunnan Policy Officer Academy in the People’s Republic of China. His most recent training was in the prestigious International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok, Thailand, under the sponsorship of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to undergo the narcotics unit commander’s course.

Mr. Ruiz is the former Regional Director of PDEA Regional Office 4A, 6, 7, 12 and ARMM. He currently is the Director of the Enforcement and Security Service of the Philippine Bureau of Customs.

During his leadership ESS has successfully implemented letters of authority which led to seizure of numerous smuggled articles and merchandise. He also led the creation of the Bureau of Customs Quick Reaction Team (QRT) and personally trained its members. He also supervised BoC projects such as the body-worn cameras and BoC fast patrol vessels. He is a recipient of various commendations and awards by the agency and the community as well. He is a member of the Philippine practical shooting association and is ranked sharpshooter by the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA). He is a loving father to 3 daughters and a son.

Mohamed Ashraf Samsudeen

Superintendent of Customs, Consumer and Environment Protection Unit
Sri Lanka Customs



Mr. Mohamed Ashraf Samsudeen joined Sri Lanka Customs in 1997. His academic qualifications include a Master of Law (IPR & International Trade) (2020) from Cardiff Metropolitan University; a Master of Customs Administration (2011) from the University of Canberra and PIM (USJP); a Post Graduate Diploma in Education (Merit) (1995) from the National Institute of Education; a Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) (1993) from the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka as well as a Reading PhD in Business Management from Girne American University, Turkey.

Among the career achievements of Mr. Samsudeen we note his service as National Contact Point of WCO in IPR Matters, as National Contact Point of INTERPOL in IPR Matters as well as the establishment of an IPR Dedicated Office in Sri Lanka Customs in 2016. Mr. Samsudeen was invited by the WCO to make a presentation on IPR Capacity Building programme at the 13th Counterfeit and Piracy Meeting (CAP) in 2016 in Brussels, Belgium. He drafted the Standard Operational Procedure for the IPR Dedicated Office of Sri Lanka Customs in 2017 and served as a Pre-Accredited Technical and Operational Advisor to the WCO on IP Law Enforcement.

Mr. Samsudeen was awarded the World Customs Organization's "Certificate of Merit" for rendering exceptional service to the International Customs Community in 2018.

Nguyen Anh Tai

Deputy Director, International Cooperation Department
General Department of Vietnam Customs



Mr. Nguyen joined Vietnam Customs in January 1996. He served as Head of Division for General Affairs under the Department of International Cooperation (2010) and was promoted to Deputy Director of the international Cooperation Department in July 2013.

Mr. Nguyen joined the General Directorate of Vietnam Customs in January 1996. Head of Division for General Affairs under the Department of International Cooperation (2010) and promoted to Deputy Director of the international Cooperation Department in July 2013.

Mr. Nguyen holds a Master of Public Finance (2006) from the National Graduates Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan; a BA of Economics (1995), University of Hanoi (Vietnam National University); a Diploma of Political Theory (2019), Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi; a Certificate of Academic English (2017), University of Adelaide, Australia; a Certificate of Multi-diplomacy and the UN system (2001), Diplomacy Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi and a Certificate of Customs techniques (1997), Vietnam Customs

College, Ho Chi Minh City. He attended various customs training course guided by experts from Japan, China, Korea, the US, New Zealand, the UK, WTO and WCO

During his career Mr. Nguyen was a member of teams of Vietnam Government in various rounds in negotiations of ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-India, ASEAN-ATIGA, RCEP. He was Head of the Vietnam Customs Teams in ASEAN Customs Coordination Committee (2013-2019) and Assistant to the Chair during the ASEAN Customs Director General/Commissioners Meeting (2014).

Mr. Nguyen was manager and chief coordinator of JICA projects and Japanese Grand Aid extended to Vietnam Customs (2008-2012; 2014-2018). He served as Assistant to the DG in negotiations of Agreements/MoUs on Customs Cooperation and Mutual assistance with India, Turkey, Holland, the UK, Myanmar, China, Russia, New Zealand; Azerbaijan, Laos, Cambodia and others.

GREEN CUSTOMS AND PLASTIC WASTE TRADE – OPERATION DEMETER VII

Pranab Kumar Das

Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate
World Customs Organization (WCO)



Mr. Pranab Kumar Das is the Director of the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate of the World Customs Organization.

Mr. Das has rich experience of over 36 years in customs and indirect tax administration having worked in various positions in the frontline offices and specialized directorates of Customs and Indirect Taxes in India and finally as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs under the Government of India. As Chairman he was entrusted with the task of administration of Customs, Goods & Services Tax and Central Excise Duty and led a team of over 85,000 officers and staff spread across the country.

Mr. Das' deep commitment to customs reforms has seen India's World Bank Ranking under the pillar of "trading across borders" improve from 146 in 2017 to 68 in 2019 and overall EODB rankings from 100 in 2017 to 63 in 2019.

Apart from the initiatives taken for India, Mr. Das has supported initiatives for easing the traffic in transit of India's land-linked neighbours which has led to significant reduction in dwell time and cost. He has spearheaded major trade facilitation and customs modernization initiatives in India such as the Single Window, AEO program, MRAs with key trade partners, paperless processes, strengthening Customs laboratories and off-border clearances through land borders by leveraging track and trace technology.

Mr. Das holds a Master's degree in economics and a degree in law apart from a masters in philosophy on, "GST and its role on economic security". He is also the recipient of the President of India's Award for 'Specially Distinguished Record of Service'.

PROJECT FINDINGS RELATED TO COMPLIANCE AND FACILITATION

Stefan Kirsch

Deputy Director, Compliance and Enforcement Sub-Directorate
World Customs Organization (WCO)



Customs officer since 1987, experience in the field, focused on land borders, control and clearance

1993 until 1997 working in the German Ministry of Finance in the Ministers Cabinet, tasked with public relations and media work related to Customs and Excise matters

1997 until 2001 German Customs attaché in France

2002 until 2007 German Ministry of Finance, Customs and Excise Directorate, tasked with International Customs law enforcement cooperation on policy level, especially Customs Cooperation Working Party in EU framework

2008 until 2011 Head of the WCO RILO for Western Europe, based in Cologne, Germany

2011 until 2014 Senior officer in German Ministry of Finance, Customs and Excise duties Directorate, Customs law enforcement and investigation unit, responsible for export control, prohibitions and restrictions and smuggling of excise goods

2014 until 2015 German Ministry of Finance in the Ministers Cabinet, being responsible for public relations and media work related to Customs and Excise matters (again) and preparation of G7 Ministers of Finance Meeting in Germany

2016 until 2018 German Central Customs Authority Headquarters, Spokesperson of the President of the Authority and Head of Media Unit

2018 until March 2019 German Central Customs Authority Headquarters, Head of international coordination unit and coordinator for upcoming German Presidency to the European Union in 2020 for customs matters

Since 1 April 2019 Deputy Director Compliance & Enforcement at the WCO Secretariat

Brendan O'Hearn

Deputy Director, Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate
World Customs Organization (WCO)



Mr. O'Hearn serves as the Deputy Director of the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate in charge of the Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate at the World Customs Organization (WCO) where he directs the development, implementation and maintenance of international treaties, conventions, standards, guidelines and other trade facilitation and Customs procedure tools. He oversees a large staff and the preparation and execution of more than 20 Member driven committees, sub-committees and working groups, which includes the preparation of meeting agendas, documents and reports. Mr. O'Hearn also provides counsel to the Director, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General on matters relating to the Sub-Directorate.

From July 2013 to November 2019, Mr. O'Hearn served as both the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Attaché and Department of Homeland Security Attaché in Tokyo, Japan. In these positions, he managed a broad range of Homeland Security, Customs and Immigration issues. He was also responsible for providing advice and counsel to U.S. Ambassadors to Japan Caroline Kennedy and William Hagerty, as well as numerous Japanese lawmakers, on Homeland Security issues.

Mr. O'Hearn started his public service career with the U.S. Customs Service in 1995 as an Import Specialist at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York.

NATIONAL EXPERIENCES: PANEL DISCUSSION, FOLLOWED BY A Q&A

Soma Baskoro

Head Section of Transnational Crime III, Directorate Enforcement and Investigation
Indonesian Directorate General of Customs and Excise, Ministry of Finance



Mr .Baskoro holds a Bachelor of Law from the University of Indonesia (2008) as well as a Diploma III Customs and Excise Specializations from the State Accounting College (1999).

Since December 2021 Mr. Baskoro serves as the Head of the Section of Transnational Crime III. He previously was Head of the Section of Telecommunication and Electronics of Operating Facilities Base of the Prime Customs and Excise Office Type B Tanjung Priok (October 2018 - December 2021), Head of Internal Compliance and Explanation Section of The Customs and Excise Office Type C Ternate (May 2016 – October 2018), Head of Customs and Office Hangar Subsection VIII of The Customs and Excise Office Type B Bandar Lampung (November 2014 – May 2016), Head of Enforcement Subsection I of the Customs and Excise Office Merak (November 2013 – November 2014) and Head of Intelligent Subsection of the Customs and Excise Office Type B

Medan (October 2011 – November 2013).

Paul Ditona

Acting Chief, Radio Communication Division
Acting Chief, Environmental Protection and Compliance Division
Head, BOC-NCWC Task Group
Philippines Bureau of Customs



Paul was born on 30 May 1958 in Pampanga to Marcelino Ditona and Cresencia Cunanan - Ocampo. He finished his elementary education at St. Anthony Elementary School and attended his high school at the Zambales National High School. He finished with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology and took further studies at the PMI Colleges Manila acquiring a Masters in Customs Administration.

He started his career with the Bureau of Customs in 1979 as a messenger and rose from the ranks therefrom. After passing his board exams in 1981 he was promoted to Customs Policeman. He served various ranks under the Customs Police Division starting as a Special Agent I to Special Police Captain from 1982 to 2015, he was eventually appointed as Special Police Major by reason of his achievements and contributions to the Customs Police Force.

Paul has made notable apprehensions during his start as a Customs Policeman and in 2011 he was awarded as Junior Officer of the Year for his outstanding service to the Customs Police Force.

It was during his leadership when the Environmental Protection and Compliance Division made remarkable apprehensions against importations deemed to be in violation of environmental and customs laws, such as but not limited to the Canadian Waste, Korean Waste, and Neutralized Phosphogypsum. His achievements bolstered his career in the Bureau. In 2018, he was appointed as the Chief of the Radio Communications Division. He is also the current Chief of the Environmental Protection and Compliance Division, the Bureau of Customs' lead office in ensuring the protection of Philippine Borders against hazardous goods which pose a risk to humanity, health, and the environment.

Achala Isuranga

Assistant Superintendent of Customs
Sri Lanka Customs



Mr. Isuranga is a Graduate (BSc Engineering, 2016) from the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and also read for a Master in Public Administration and Management from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He successfully completed the course “Pier side Vessel Search Techniques” held within the framework of the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme.

He is an Associate Member of Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) and successfully completed the “Fire Protection and Detection System” CPD course (IESL). Mr. Isuranga furthermore successfully completed the “Human Resource Management – CCHRM” course (IPM Institute, Sri Lanka) as well as the PLC workshop organized by NIKINI Automation System (Pvt) Ltd, Sri Lanka.

Trang Quynh Do

Customs Officer,
General Department of Vietnam Customs

Nguyen Anh Tai

Deputy Director, International Cooperation Department
General Department of Vietnam Customs

Mr. Nguyen's biography can be found under “Keynote speeches”.