



Activity Title and Number: EU-China Seminar on Customs Professional Training, A278-C4

Location and Date: Shanghai, 24-25 November 2014

Beneficiary: Shanghai Customs College (SCC); General Administration of China Customs (GACC)

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

The workforce capacity of modern customs administrations is challenged by a number of pressures:

- *Increasing responsibilities* – customs administrations no longer simply collect revenue at the border but also play an important role in national security, consumer and environmental protection, and the implementation of trade policies.
- *Trade facilitation* – customs is now viewed an integral part of complex global supply chains in which trade costs are an increasing concern for government and business. Expectations for streamlined, efficient customs procedures are high.
- *Resources* – increasing efficiencies in the public sector are slowing or reducing financial and human resource investment in customs, while at the same time, international trade is growing.

Quality higher academic education and professional training is essential for producing a highly skilled and professional customs workforce capable of responding to these challenges with innovative policy development and effective day-to-day regulation on the ground. This is particularly so in light of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation which will require legal and policy changes in China, which can only be implemented by a professional customs workforce.

Activity Description

As China's principal education and training institution for customs professionals entering government and private sector roles, SCC sought technical assistance to develop a long term strategy for customs education, training and capacity building that aligns with international best practice. Senior academics and course designers attended this seminar as they consider new directions for China's customs education system. The WCO bases its capacity building work on the principle of "competency based" training, which is the basis for the EU Customs Competency Framework. The WCO and DG TAXUD gave detailed presentations on how to design, implement and update competency based training systems. Other key topics included:

- Customs-business cooperation on information exchange/trade facilitation: A Dutch expert presented EU research on reuse of commercial data for customs compliance purposes, creating efficiencies for customs and business in line.
- Supply chain security: A Finnish expert presented research on how border management agencies can work together to monitor supply chains to identify and prevent both regulatory and criminal infractions that undermine legitimate trade.
- Customs higher education: A Dutch expert presented on the design and implementation of the Master of Customs and Supply Chain Compliance at the Rotterdam School of Management.

Results and Dissemination

- ✓ SCC and the WCO are discussing further technical assistance on designing a competency based training framework for GACC and also "train the trainer" programs to ensure SCC has ongoing capacity to implement competency based training.
- ✓ Belgian Customs and the University of Lausanne have both offered to cooperate with GACC and SCC on academic and professional training program design.