



**Activity Title and Number:** EU-China Seminar on EU and International Customs Law A406-C4

**Location and Date:** Shanghai, 25-27 March 2015

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

## Brief Activity Report

### Relevance and Impact

A highly skilled and professional customs workforce is essential for innovative policy development, effective customs regulation and customs enforcement. GACC south assistance to enhance SCC's curriculum on international and EU customs law, with a view to improving the knowledge and research capacity of SCC graduates entering the customs professional and research workforces in China. Key developments changing the operating environment for customs administrations include:

- The WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, China will need to implement a number of reforms to comply with the provisions of the Agreement
- Emergence of free trade agreements dealing with customs/trade facilitation: Several regional trade agreements are being negotiated which may include provision for trade facilitation reforms in customs and other border management agencies (TPP, RCEP, TTIP).

In the context of the EU-China trade relationship, impending changes to the Union Customs Code will also be important as a reference for GACC's ongoing customs modernisation reforms under its *Customs 2020 Strategy*.

### Activity Description

Approximately 40 SCC teachers and students, and several senior policy makers in GACC attended the 2.5 day seminar. GACC is particularly interested in the forthcoming EU Union Customs Code (UCC) as it considers new customs legislation under the *Customs 2020 Strategy*. In-depth seminars on the UCC, the future of customs regulation in Europe and the role of customs in trade facilitation policy-making and implementation prompted extensive discussions amongst GACC officials.

The seminars also formed the basis for further discussions between SCC and the University of Munster in Germany on potential cooperation in the form of teacher and student exchanges.



Participants at the EU-China Seminar on EU and International Customs Law

### Results and Dissemination

- ✓ Updated GACC's policy and operational knowledge of customs law and policy reforms underway in Europe which provide an excellent reference for China's Customs 2020 Strategy.
- ✓ Provided an opportunity for the two academic institutions to discuss further collaboration on topics like the UCC and trade facilitation. Research collaboration, and teacher and student exchanges are of particular interest to SCC.