BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MAKABAGONG ADUANA, MATATAG NA EKONOMIYA

PROFESSIONALISM   INTEGRITY   ACCOUNTABILITY

OCOM Memo No. 66-2022

MEMORANDUM

TO	:	**ALL BOC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**
FROM	:	**REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO** BOC-09-30413 Commissioner
SUBJECT	:	**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS COURSE FOR HARMONIZED SYSTEM (HS) CODES RECOMMENDATION**
DATE	:	May 16, 2022

The WCO Director for Capacity-Building Taeil Kang informs Members that the World Customs Organization has released both online demonstration module and Advanced Data Analytics Course for Harmonized System (HS) Code Recommendation. These courses are now available on the CLiKC! Platform starting 25 April 2022.

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Module was created to provide a virtual experience on how AI could assist goods classifications for Customs administration. The module offers a demonstration of the functions of the AI HS algorithm and the newly developed analytic model for HS code predictions.

Attached herewith is a copy of the official notification for your reference. As these courses require a WCO CLiKC! Account, kindly coordinate with the External Affairs Office (external.affairs@customs.gov.ph) or proceed to their office at the OCOM Building, Gate 3, South Harbour, Port Area, Manila, for other information.

A Modernized and Credible Customs Administration That is Among the World's Best
South Harbor, Gate 3, Port Area, Manila 1099
8527-4537, 8527-1935 | www.customs.gov.ph | boc.cares@customs.gov.ph

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MESSAGE CENTER
R E C E I V E D
MAY 1 1 2022
BY: ERRY ROSF C. MALAT TIME: 0924
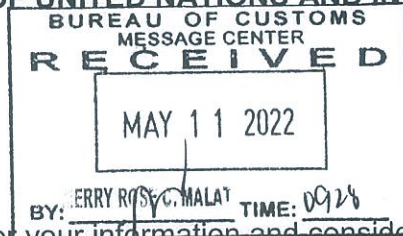
BOC-09-30413 06 May 2022

Sir:

Attached for your information and consideration are the following documents from the World Customs Organizations (WCO):

- ### 17th Annual WCO PICARD Conference

  WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya informs Member States that the 17th Annual WCO Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) Conference will be conducted from 08 to 09 December 2022.

  The format and details of the Conference will be communicated to the participants in due course. It will also be made available on the WCO website at http://www.wcoomd.org/en/events/upcoming-events/picard-2022.aspx.

  The invitation includes a Call for Papers on any subject of research that is related to the policy, operation and administration of Customs authorities. This includes core missions of Customs such as revenue collection, fraud detection, anti-smuggling, security of borders and trade facilitation, and emerging trends such as data analytics, disruptive technologies, and circular economy.

  The proposals (maximum of 500 words) should include the motivation for and objective of the research, the data sets and methodologies to be used, and possible outcomes. Submission of proposals is no later than 31 May 2022 through email at picard2022@wccomd.ord.

- ### Operation THUNDER 2022

  The Secretary General invites WCO Members to participate in Operation THUNDER 2022, an initiative that aims to stop the illegal wildlife and timber trade. The proposal to implement Operation THUNDER 2022, in the context of increased sustainability and environmental protection, was endorsed during the 42nd Session of the WCO Enforcement Committee conducted from 28 March to 01 April 2022.

  Members who wish to participate in this project must submit the names of two of their respective National Contact Points using the NCP Nomination Form to Ms. Tiffany Lormeau at tiffany.lormeau@wcoomd.org by 15 May 2022.

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- **Advanced Data Analytics Course for HS Code Recommendation**

WCO Director for Capacity-Building Taeil Kang informs Members that the WCO has released both the online demonstration module and Advanced Data Analytics Course for Harmonized System (HS) Code Recommendation. The courses are now available on the CLiKC! Platform starting 25 April 2022.

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Module was created to provide a virtual experience on how AI could assist goods classifications for Customs administration. The module offers a demonstration of the functions of the AI HS algorithm and the newly developed analytic model for HS code predictions. It can be accessed at http://49.50.165.5:19090/.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,
For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

KIRA CHRISTIANNE D. AZUCENA
Assistant Secretary

(ntd-sdg-ltb) UNIO-1-2339-2022

HON. REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO
Commissioner
Bureau of Customs
OCOM Building, South Harbor Gate 3 Port Area, Manila

World Customs Organization

Rue du Marché 30, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 (0)2 209 92 11 / info@wcoomd.org
Bank account: IBAN BE38 2100 4751 2672

Brussels, 25 April 2022
22SL0067E

Dear Director General,

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is pleased to announce that the 17th Annual WCO PICARD Conference will take place from 8 to 9 December 2022.

The attached Call for Papers has been issued by the WCO. I would like to encourage you to disseminate it widely within your Administration, as well as among academics and researchers in your country, to ensure a broad diversity of research paper submissions.

The Conference welcomes any subject of research that is related to the policy, operation and administration of Customs authorities. This includes core missions of Customs such as revenue collection, fraud detection, anti-smuggling, security of borders and trade facilitation, and emerging trends such as data analytics, disruptive technologies, the circular economy and fragile borders.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Call for Papers, please contact the WCO Research and Policy Unit at picard2022@wcoomd.org.

Details of the Conference will be made available in due course on the WCO website at http://www.wcoomd.org/en/events.aspx.

I look forward to your contribution to this important WCO event.

Yours sincerely,

Kunio Mikuriya
WCO Secretary General

Korea Customs
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INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF CUSTOMS UNIVERSITIES

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GLOBALIZATION of Victoria

University
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17th Annual WCO PICARD Conference
2022
CALL FOR PAPERS
8 - 9 December 2022

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is pleased to announce that **the 17th Annual WCO PICARD Conference will take place from 8 to 9 December 2022**. The Conference will take place either as a web-based event or in a hybrid format hosted in Brussels. The format and details of the Conference will be communicated to participants in a due course.

The WCO PICARD Conference is an international platform to foster dialogue between the Customs administrations, academic communities and private sector. The Conference is pleased to **call for papers** as follows.

The Conference welcomes **any subject of research that is related to the policy, operation and administration of Customs authorities.** This includes core missions of Customs such as revenue collection, fraud detection, anti-smuggling, security of borders and trade facilitation, and emerging trends such as data analytics, disruptive technologies, the circular economy and fragile borders.

The Conference also welcomes and encourages submissions from Customs officials, as well as researchers from various academic disciplines, such as anthropology, criminology, economics, geography, history, international relations and international trade, law, mathematics and political science.

Registration for the Conference
The registration website will open in **August**.

Submission process
Two tracks for submission are offered, one for academics and one for Customs experts.

Submissions by Customs experts
Applicants may submit proposals (maximum 500 words) no later than 31 May 2022. The proposal should include the motivation for and objective of the research, the data sets and methodologies to be used, and possible outcomes. The PICARD Scientific Board Members will select the successful proposals and notify the applicants by 15 June 2022.

The selected applicants will draft their research paper under the supervision of a Member or Members of the Scientific Board. The selected applicants are entitled to participation in the week long online course in the second half of July 2022 provided by Victoria University in Canada, with a tuition waiver supported by CCF Korea. The selected applicants who wish to participate the course shall register for the course by 30 June 2022 (https://www.uvic.ca/humanities/intd/europe/travel-and-learn/summer/index.php).

The selected applicants must complete their paper by 15 October 2022.

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Submissions by academics

Applicants may submit proposals (maximum 500 words) no later than 30 June 2022. The proposal should include the motivation for and objective of the research, the data sets and methodologies to be used, and possible outcomes. The PICARD Scientific Board Members will select the successful proposals and notify the applicants by 20 July 2022.

The selected applicants must complete their paper by 15 October 2022.

Format of the submissions

To respond to this Call for Papers, please submit your proposal by email to picard2022@wcoomd.org. The submission should include the following details:

- Name, title, and biography (maximum 250 words) of researcher or researchers.
- Current position, organization, and country of researcher or researchers.
- Contact email address and telephone number.
- Proposed title of contribution.
- Preference of participation in the online course (for Customs experts)

Submissions should be submitted in accordance with following requirements:

- Arial font size 11.
- Submissions should be in English or French.

Important deadlines

For Customs experts

- Submission of proposal: **31 May 2022**
- Notification to applicants: **15 June 2022**
- Registration in the online course (if applied): **30 June 2022**
- Completion of research paper: **15 October 2022**

For academics

- Submission of proposal: **30 June 2022**
- Notification to applicants: **20 July 2022**
- Completion of research paper: **15 October 2022**

The WCO is particularly grateful to:

- the Korea Customs Service for its donor support; and
- The PICARD Scientific Board Members, including Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, Grégoire Rota Graziosi, Jamie Ferrill, Todd Hataley, Christian Leuprecht, Jong Seo Chai, Gael Raballand, Jeffrey Snyder, David Widdowson, Hans-Michael Wolffgang, Andrew Grainger and Mikhail Kashubsky, for participating in the selection of papers.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please email the Research and Policy Unit (picard2022@wcoomd.org).

Issued April 2022

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**Save
the
Dates**

2022 BIG SUMMER INSTITUTES
University of Victoria

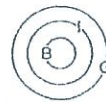### Week 1 (July 11-15, 2022)
*Theme: Trade & Customs Borders in
the 21st Century*

Week 2 (July 18-22, 2022)
Theme: Managing Cross-Border Regions

Registration and program details to follow

**BORDERS IN
GLOBALIZATION**

OCOM Memo No. 66 - 2022

World Customs Organization

Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council

Rue du Marché 30, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 (0)2 209 92 11 / info@wcoomd.org
Bank account: IBAN BE38 2100 4751 2672

Att. Director General/Commissioner,

26.04.2022 / Brussels
22FL0227E

Dear Director General/Commissioner,

During the 42nd Session of the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Enforcement Committee, held from 28 March to 1 April 2022, a proposal for the implementation of **Operation THUNDER 2022** was endorsed. Co-led by the WCO and INTERPOL, the Operation will unite Customs and police efforts, along with relevant partners, to clamp down on illegal wildlife and timber trade.

Operation THUNDER 2022 is the sixth edition of the very successful "Thunder" operation series, following Operation THUNDER 2021 conducted in October 2021 with 118 countries participating. During Operation THUNDER 2021, over 1,002 seizures were made and 300 offenders were apprehended.

Members present at the 42nd Session of the WCO Enforcement Committee overwhelmingly supported the proposed continuation of the Operation THUNDER enforcement concept, and endorsed the proposal to implement Operation THUNDER 2022 in the context of increased sustainability and environmental protection. Furthermore, the WCO is dedicating 2022 to scaling up Customs digital transformation by enhancing its data culture. Operation THUNDER 2022 provides Customs administration the opportunity to record quality data on illegal wildlife trade, which in turn will enable Administrations to enhance risk profiles and refine their policies.

The WCO Environment Programme and INTERPOL's Environmental Security Programme will co-lead the global enforcement Operation THUNDER 2022. The key dates for this important initiative are:

- Pre-operational phase - from 1 July to 2 October 2022;

- Operational phase - from 3 to 30 October 2022; and

- Post-operational phase - from 31 October to 31 December 2022.

Please treat these dates as confidential.

A series of trainings will be conducted during the pre-operational phase. The WCO Secretariat is closely monitoring further developments of the global COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Should the pandemic possibly impact the proper implementation of Operation THUNDER 2022 activities, the Secretariat will review the respective dates in the implementation plan, and inform participating Members accordingly.

An Operational Control Center (OCC) will be established for the duration of the Operation.

Your Administration is invited to participate in Operation THUNDER 2022. Should your Administration wish to participate, please nominate two National Contact Points

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(NCPs), indicating their details in the attached Nomination Form (Annex I). Please confirm your Administration's participation and send back the NCP Nomination Forms to Ms. Tiffany Lormeau (tiffany.lormeau@wcoomd.org) by **15 May** 2022 at the latest. Please note that only participating Administrations will receive the Operation THUNDER 2022 Operational Plan.

The National Contact Point is responsible, amongst others, to ensure that pre-operational risk profiling is conducted, that operational teams are briefed and directed, and that seizure and other relevant operational data is exchanged with the OCC. Based on the experience of previous "Thunder" operations, we would like to kindly impress on participating Members that designated NCPs should be duly mandated to perform the essential functions required from an NCP.

Lastly, it bears mention that the operational phase for Operation Thunder 2022 will run concurrently with the WCO Operation Demeter VII on the illegal transboundary movements of dangerous waste as well as ozone depleting gases and other gases, in an attempt to better coordinate environmental enforcement operations and avoid unnecessary demands on resources. A separate letter of invitation will be sent out in this regard.

I am confident that I can rely on your support for this Operation and can assure you that your involvement will be critical in achieving a successful outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Kunio Mikuriya
WCO Secretary General

National Contact Point NOMINATION FORM	
Operation THUNDER 2022 3-30 October 2022	
If possible, please return the filled out Excel form in **.xls or .xlsx** (no scan, no pdf).	

Last name(s)	
First name(s)	
Title (Mr/Ms)	
Country	
Unit/ Department	
Job title	
E-mail (primary)	
E-mail (secondary)	
Phone number	

OCOM Memo No. 66 -2022

World Customs Organization

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Att. WCO Members,

26.04.2022 / Brussels
22HL0143E-1

Dear Director General,

I have the honour to inform you that the WCO has released both **Online demonstration module and Advanced Data Analytics Course for HS Code Recommendation.** The courses are now available in English and French on CLiKC! as of 25 April 2022 with the **Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF-Korea)** support.

The AI HS module is created to provide a virtual experience on how AI could assist goods classifications for Customs administrations (**http://49.50.165.5:19090**).

The module offers a demonstration on what functions the AI HS algorithm, the newly developed analytic model for HS code predictions, presents (http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2022/march/wco-bacuda-experts-develop-a-neural-network-model-to-assist-classification-of-goods-in-hs.aspx).

Upon entering commercial descriptions into the AI module's search bar, the corresponding HS codes with their probabilities are given. You can check the recommendations, the corresponding standard goods descriptions in the HS Nomenclature, the visualization of the search result in two/three dimensions and key statistics on importers, Customs agents and exporting countries.

The advanced e-learning course has been developed as a succeeding edition of the online beginner, intermediate courses uploaded on CLiKC! in 2021. The advanced course consists of four chapters that holistically guide the user through all requirements and steps to learn theoretical aspects, train, and evaluate the AI HS algorithm based on Customs data **voluntarily provided by the Nigerian Customs Service.** You can download the model's source code and experience the referral service firsthand through the online course uploaded to the CLiKC! platform.

Should you require any additional information about the online course, your staff may contact the Data Analytics Project (BACUDA) team in the Capacity Building Directorate (bacuda@wcoomd.org).

I look forward to your administration's active engagement in this important training.

Yours sincerely,

Taeil Kang
WCO Director, Capacity Building

www.wcoomd.org