

“Promoting the academic standing of the customs profession”



“Ten years promoting the academic standing of the customs profession”

“Through academic research and debate the INCU strives to help the people who make the big decisions in Customs to formulate strategies and policies. This is important work and it has never been more relevant.”

H.E. Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General, World Trade Organization

“I think we have to stop thinking in one vein and start adopting new ways of seeing and then, with the help of the INCU over the course of the next generation, work towards principles and standards and intellectual frameworks that can handle the circumstances in which we live.”

Dr Alan D Bersin, Assistant Secretary, US Department of Homeland Security

“I would like to commend the efforts of the INCU in providing customs professionals, academics, industry researchers, and research students with a medium through which to share insights and knowledge in the customs field.”

Dr Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary-General, World Customs Organization

TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

Feb 2005	International Network of Customs Universities (INCU) conceived
May 2005	INCU Concept formally presented to WCO
Jul 2005	INCU Website launched and first 4 Institutions joined
Apr 2006	WCO PICARD Programme launched
May 2006	1st PICARD Conference held at WCO Headquarters
Mar 2007	World Customs Journal launched
Feb 2008	INCU becomes an Incorporated Association
May 2008	WCO Professional Standards launched
Jun 2009	WCO adopts University Curriculum Recognition Guidelines
Sep 2009	INCU and WCO sign MOU
Jan 2010	WCO accredits first courses under PICARD Standards
Jul 2011	INCU Membership reaches 100 Institutions
Mar 2012	New INCU Governance and Membership Arrangements introduced
May 2014	INCU holds its Inaugural Conference and adopts the Baku Resolution
Feb 2015	INCU 10th Anniversary

Some noteworthy “firsts” for the INCU

2005

The first of many significant “firsts” for the INCU occurred in February 2005 when, for the first time, the term the ‘**International Network of Customs Universities**’ was created and used in print.

2008

In May 2008, the **INCU** joined with the World Customs Organization to host the **2008 WCO PICARD Conference** at the Shanghai Customs College. This was the *first* PICARD conference held outside of WCO headquarters, Brussels. Other significant milestones reached at this Conference included the release of the PICARD Standards, and the initial composition of the PICARD Advisory Group.



Attendees at the 2008 PICARD Conference, Shanghai, People’s Republic of China.

2010

On 26 January 2010, during an historic ceremony at the World Customs Organization headquarters in Brussels, the Secretary-General of the WCO, Dr Kunio Mikuriya, awarded the *first WCO Certificates of Recognition* to three universities certifying that the academic programs offered by these institutions comply with the WCO international standards for the Customs profession.



From left: Professor David Widdowson, Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, Canberra, Australia; Professor Aivars Krastiņš, Riga Technical University, Latvia; WCO Secretary-General Dr Kunio Mikuriya; Professor Dr Hans-Michael Wolfgang, University of Münster, Germany; Mr Lars Karlsson, Director, WCO Capacity Building Directorate.

2014

The **Inaugural INCU Global Conference 2014** held in Baku, Azerbaijan, was the *first* INCU conference and, notably, was the *first* international Customs conference to specifically address the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (the Bali Agreement). Another *first* at this conference was the honour of featuring presentations by three Nobel Laureates in Economic Sciences, Professor Sir Christopher A Pissarides (2010), Professor Thomas J Sargent (2011), and Professor Alvin E Roth (2012).



Attendees at the Inaugural INCU Global Conference 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan.

2015 and beyond ...

With your ongoing support and commitment to enhancing the administration and practices of customs authorities worldwide, the Management Committee of the INCU is confident there will be more significant "firsts" to come.

