

World Customs Journal Special Edition – PICARD Conference 2020

Publication of a special edition of the *World Customs Journal* will coincide with the 2020 World Customs Organization (WCO) Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) Conference, which is being jointly organised by the WCO and International Network of Customs Universities (INCU). The overall theme of the special edition will be ‘WCO and the customs and trade community, past and future’.

The special edition will have two sub-themes, with the following general scope:

1. WCO impact to date and lessons learnt:

- The work/achievements of the WCO and the practical ways in which it has supported member administrations and the international trading community since its inception.
- What lessons have been learnt on the role and functioning of the WCO in relation to developments in the customs community during the last 20 years?
- How has the WCO contributed to the evolution of the customs mission and the implementation of international agreements since its inception?
- Has the role of Members, donors, international governmental organizations and international associations of private stakeholders changed at the WCO?
- How has WCO and academia cooperated to improve the capacities of customs and promote customs topics in research agendas? What has the WCO PICARD Programme achieved to date? Has it met its objectives? Has it fulfilled stakeholders’ expectations? To what extent has it linked in with other WCO capacity-building initiatives?

2. WCO future directions:

- Since the creation of the WCO, the nature of borders and border management has evolved. For example, the mission of some customs administrations has seen the addition of security and migration control, and trade facilitation is emerging as a key global issue. Are we still in the same paradigm as in the 1950s from the perspective of borders and international trade? How is the evolution impacting the functioning of the WCO and the way in which administrations are represented at WCO? Are WCO Members’ expectations evolving regarding the WCO functioning and deliveries?
- The nature of ‘international instruments’ was the law. Is it still the case? Aren’t rules more ‘flexible’, practical, based on data, facts? Are we in a ‘peer governance’, a more diffuse governance rather than the usual top-down one that particularly fits with the existing structure and work of international organisations? Are we still governed by rules and legal norms when we see the influence of Doing Business, governance by data and the increase of public participation and influence in policy making processes (even through ‘populism’, new media...)?
- The relevance and future of the WCO PICARD Programme. What are the stakeholder expectations? Is there a need for a new PICARD Strategy (from the perspective of both research and education)?
- How do we ensure that the PICARD strategy is consistent with other WCO initiatives such the competency framework, career path development, etc.?

- The policy drivers of Customs that influence the mission and objectives of customs administrations from a political perspective. How does this impact the administration of Customs at the national, regional and international level, and in turn the role of the WCO?
- Customs from a strategic (as opposed to the more traditional administrative) point of view, including customs direction of travel. This topic could explore issues like leadership in customs as well as customs policy vs customs administration.
- Are developments in technology impacting customs and the WCO from different perspectives, particularly in the context of data-driven governance? What impact will this have in the coming decades?
 - › Will data and machines increasingly drive policy formulation and initiatives, and guide and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of customs administration?
 - › How can Customs leverage new and emerging technologies to support their management of risk?
 - › Do we need new approaches to boost innovation in customs technologies and solutions? Customs administrations are major users of diverse type of technologies including detection technologies, laboratory equipment, risk management software, etc. Are these technologies developed based on the real challenges and needs of Customs?
 - › To what extent are customs administrations collaborating with the private sector in the development of better performing and more tailored solutions? Do open innovation and user innovation strategies – widely exploited by firms for new product development – present opportunities to contribute to the development of new products and services that support customs administrations?
- Future of the Revised Kyoto Convention and an ongoing RKC review process. An article based on previously published short article in the WCO News, but more detailed and with an academic approach.
- A compilation of edited interviews with leaders in our field, each answering very specific questions about where customs is heading.

Contributors

Approximately 20 articles will be chosen for publication. Authors will be selected by way of a dual process – specific people are being invited to contribute articles to this edition and, in addition, a general call for papers is being made. Contributions are being sought from across the following groups:

- WCO
- Customs administrations
- Private sector
- Academia.

It is anticipated that a formal call for papers will be jointly issued by the WCO and INCU in November 2019.