

EDITORIAL



Firstly, I would like to congratulate Mr Kunio Mikuriya on his election to the position of Secretary General of the World Customs Organization. Mr Mikuriya has been a great supporter of the *World Customs Journal*, and we look forward to his continuing support as he prepares to take up his new post. I would also like to thank Mr Michel Danet for his ongoing support and encouragement during his term as Secretary General, and wish him all the very best in his retirement.

The theme of this edition of the Journal is *capacity building*, and we have delayed its publication slightly to enable the inclusion of commentary from the recent WCO Global Dialogue on Capacity Building, which gives a clear indication of the importance placed on the topic by the WCO and its new Secretary General.

In this edition, Jhon Fonseca, the first of our academic contributors, examines the potential of the INCU as an instrument for effective capacity building. In doing so, he highlights the need to apply the knowledge and skills acquired academically to real-life situations and problems. Continuing the theme, Stephen Holloway discusses critical factors in achieving effective and sustainable capacity building outcomes, Creck Buyonge analyses various organisational constructs for customs administrations in Sub-Saharan Africa, and I examine the role of capacity building in achieving consistent application of international instruments.

The academic section includes a well-researched article by Achim Rogmann and Bernd Stadler, who discuss the importance of learning lessons from history in the context of the impending liberalisation of the trade in textiles from China. And, in the first of a two-part article, Jan Jansson examines the theory and practice of change management in the context of customs reform.

Our practitioner contributions provide further insights into a range of practical examples of capacity building in the customs context. In this section, Takashi Matsumoto discusses the WCO's regional approach to capacity building, and Jean Acri argues that a regulator's capacity to effectively manage borders in a globalised economy is facilitated by the adoption of internationally agreed mechanisms. Using Papua New Guinea as an example, Chris Wall highlights the need for capacity building initiatives to be well integrated and based on sound analysis in order to achieve relevant and more sustainable modernisation outcomes. Finally, Norbert Conchin provides an insight into the way in which e-learning can be used to meet the contemporary development needs of the customs and trade communities.

I trust that you enjoy the articles presented in this edition of the Journal, and I invite you to consider contributing to our next edition which will focus on the use of Information and Communication Technology in the cross-border environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Widdowson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

David Widdowson
Editor-in-Chief