

2010 PICARD Conference Abu Dhabi (UAE), 23-25 November

About the Conference and Call for Papers

The 2010 PICARD Conference will be organised jointly by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU) and co-hosted by the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies of the University of Canberra and the Abu Dhabi University Knowledge Group.

About PICARD

The WCO PICARD (Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development) program was launched in 2006 to provide a framework for cooperation between Customs and the academic world. In parallel, through PICARD, academic institutions have created the INCU and a rich vein of research in the field of Customs, generated through its flagship publication, the *World Customs Journal*.

Working together, the WCO and INCU have progressed a range of initiatives in the areas of educational programs, strategic management development, professional standards, and academic research and development.

In relation to standards, the WCO in partnership with the INCU has developed a set of *Professional Standards* necessary for operational and strategic Customs managers to meet the requirements of the new strategic environment. In addition, the WCO has established a process of assessing university curricula against the Standards.

This year's PICARD conference will build on the success of the previous conferences (Brussels 2006 and 2007, Shanghai 2008, and Costa Rica 2009) and will provide participants with an opportunity to interact with their government, commercial and academic counterparts from around the world.

Objectives

The WCO, in partnership with the INCU and others, aims to:

- encourage Academic Institutions and Customs Administrations to increase their cooperation in the field of customs education and research to raise the academic standing of the Customs profession
- support initiatives related to this collaboration by promoting the development of Customs-specific educational products and research activities, including the identification of research funding opportunities.

Focus of the 2010 PICARD Conference

The 2010 PICARD Conference will focus on the following specific issues:

- **Customs-Business partnerships** – examining the objectives and expectations of such partnerships, and ways to improve public and private sector performance through partnerships
- **Performance measurement** – with a view to identifying appropriate methods to measure and benchmark Customs performance

- **Customs and revenue collection** derived from Customs Duties, VAT, and other taxes on traded goods – with a focus on ways of mitigating revenue risks caused by misclassification and misdescription, under-valuation, over-valuation, origin fraud, informal trade, and corruption
- **The impact of climate change on international trade and customs management in the post-Copenhagen era** – the consequences of climate change policies on trade facilitation, revenue collection, and supply chain security with a focus on issues such as Border tax adjustments (BTAs), carbon leakage, VAT fraud on carbon credits, trade barriers to Clean Development Mechanisms (especially clean technologies).

In examining and analysing these issues, conference participants will be encouraged to identify a range of solutions to address identified concerns, with a particular emphasis on capacity building, improving performance and research opportunities to address identified needs.

A key aim of the Conference is to provide a truly global representation of the issues and consequently, it is intended to include presentations that represent diverse geographic views.

Key players

World Customs Organization

The WCO is the only intergovernmental organisation uniquely focused on Customs matters and is regarded as the voice of the international Customs community. Dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of its 176 Members across the globe, the WCO is particularly noted for its work in areas covering the development of global standards, the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures, the security of the trade supply chain, the facilitation of world trade, the combating of customs offences, anticounterfeiting and piracy initiatives, and sustainable global Customs capacity building programs. The WCO also maintains the international Harmonized System of goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the WTO Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin. More information about the WCO can be found at www.wcoomd.org.

The International Network of Customs Universities

The INCU was established to provide the WCO and other organisations with a single point of contact with universities and research institutes active in the field of customs research, education and training. The INCU also provides a global resource for governments and the private sector, and an educational source for students wishing to further their knowledge in the field of customs management and administration, and international trade and logistics management. More information about the INCU can be found at www.incu.org.

The INCU produces the *World Customs Journal* (www.worldcustomsjournal.org) which is its flagship publication. The first edition of the Journal was launched at the WCO PICARD Conference in March 2007 and this is the seventh edition. The Journal includes contributions from both academics and customs practitioners.

The PICARD Advisory Group

Members of the PICARD Advisory Group are:

- Prof. Dr Aivars Krastiņš, Riga Technical University, Latvia
- Prof. Dr Hans-Michael Wolffgang, Universität Münster, Germany
- Prof. David Widdowson, Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, University of Canberra, Australia
- Mr Stéphane Lauwick, University of Le Havre, France
- Mr Juha Hintsa, Director, Cross-Border Research Association, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Prof. Jhon Fonseca, Universidad de Costa Rica.

CCES Abu Dhabi

The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, University of Canberra (CCES) has established a campus in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi University Knowledge Group (ADUKG).

CCES Abu Dhabi combines the global credibility of the CCES award-winning Customs training, education, research and consulting programs with ADUKG's comprehensive end-to-end series of education solutions, world-class educational facilities, and Abu Dhabi's convenient geographic location. CCES Abu Dhabi will be formally launched at the 2010 WCO PICARD Conference.

Participant profile – Who should attend?

The conference is intended for:

- Senior Customs executives responsible for:
 - Customs reform and modernisation strategies
 - Strategic management and planning
 - Trade Policy issues
- Universities and research institutions with an interest in customs-related research and education
- Trade executives and service providers
- Representatives from donor and other international organisations.

Registration

Registrations must be received by 29 October 2010. More detailed information is available in the online registration form, www.picard-abudhabi.com.

Venue

The conference will be held at the Beach Rotana Hotel & Towers, Abu Dhabi. Ideally located in the heart of Abu Dhabi's business and shopping districts, the Beach Rotana is set on its own stretch of pristine white beach in the Tourist Club Area, just 30 minutes away from the Abu Dhabi International Airport and 90 minutes from Dubai International Airport. Home to the prestigious Abu Dhabi Trade Centre complex, the hotel is directly linked by an exclusive passageway to the Abu Dhabi Mall, the city's most prestigious shopping mall.

Call for papers

Academics and practitioners are invited to submit proposals for papers that may be selected for presentation at the Conference and also for publication in the September edition of the *World Customs Journal*. Proposals are being sought for papers that address the specific issues identified above in 'Focus of the 2010 PICARD Conference'. Details will be posted on the WCO and INCU websites: www.wcoomd.org and www.incu.org.

To respond to this 'Call for papers', please forward the details on the next page by email to Ms Riitta Passi (riitta.passi@wcoomd.org) no later than 31 May 2010.

Authors will be notified via email by 26 June 2009 of acceptance or rejection of their papers for inclusion in the 2010 PICARD Conference. Accepted manuscripts must be submitted electronically to the WCO by 6 August 2010.

Note: All proposals, regardless of their acceptance for presentation at PICARD 2010, will be considered for publication in the September 2010 issue of the World Customs Journal.

About You:

Name and title:

Current position:

Organisation:

Email:

Telephone:

Mobile (GSM/Cell):

Brief Biography (limit of 100 words):

About the Research Paper:

Title of Paper

Abstract (limit of 250 words)

This Paper is (select one): (a) an original work, (b) a review

What key aspect(s) of the PICARD Conference themes does your research address? (dot point form)

What is the current status of your research? (progress, scheduled completion date).

