

Editorial



The principal theme of this edition of the Journal is customs integrity. This has been an area of research interest for many years, and its recent re-emergence in the literature is reflective of the ongoing prevalence of corrupt customs practices in many countries of the world. No administration is immune from the problem, and it can in no way be considered to be simply a problem of developing countries. The Editorial Board thanks all contributors to the Journal, particularly the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service for the forthright way in which it has addressed its integrity challenges in this edition's special report.

Earlier this month, the 8th PICARD (Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development) Conference was held in St Petersburg, Russia. The annual conference, which is a joint initiative of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and International Network of Customs Universities (INCU), was again successful in providing a forum for debating matters of mutual interest to WCO members and to those universities and research institutes that are active in the field of customs research, education and training.

There is, however, a clear need for the establishment of a forum that provides academics with a greater opportunity to present the findings of their research activities, and for research candidates to present their proposals to the broader research community. I am therefore pleased to advise that the inaugural global INCU conference will be held in May 2014, the details of which will be announced in November. While the conference will first and foremost be held for the benefit of INCU members, an invitation will be extended to other members of the international community that have an interest in empirical research that informs decision-making in the field of customs and related areas.

I trust that you enjoy the articles selected for this edition of the Journal and invite submissions for the March 2014 edition, the theme for which is trade facilitation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Widdowson'.

David Widdowson
Editor-in-Chief