TRADE FACILITATION WORKSHOP

Experience Sharing on Establishing and Maintaining a National Committee on Trade Facilitation

Wednesday, 8 June 2016

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES
1.1 Flavio TREVISAN SCORZA (Brazil)

Flavio Scorza is the Deputy Director of Competitiveness at the Brazilian Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services. The promotion of trade regulatory improvements and the management of the new National Single Window Program are some of his main attributions. He is the Ministry’s representative at the National Trade Facilitation Committee and also responsible for its Secretariat. His previous works in trade facilitation include the provision of support for the Brazilian delegation at the WTO Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation, the regulation of the national foreign trade enquiry point and the improvement of inward processing regimes.

1.2 Festus N. WILLIAMS (St. Vincent & the Grenadines)

Nathaniel Williams is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Commerce and Regional Integration in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He has over Twenty (20) years of service at the senior and top management levels in various ministries of Government in his country. He is Co-Chair of the National Trade Facilitation Task Force since 2012. His areas of Training are Business Administration, Accounting and Economics, International Trade, Trade Policy and Finance; and special studies in Theology and Philosophy. He is married with three sons.

1.3 Emmanuel MUTAHUNGA (Uganda)

Emmanuel Mutahunga is an Economist by training and holds a Masters Degree in Economics (Economic Policy and Planning) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Trade Policy. He obtained both his first and graduate degrees from Makerere University. Currently, Mr. Mutahunga is the Ag. Assistant Commissioner for External Trade in Charge of the Multilateral Trade Division, in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Republic of Uganda. He has eighteen years experience in the areas of economic policy formulation and implementation, research, trade negotiations, strategic economic planning, and management.

1.4 Harold TAROSA (Vanuatu)

Harold Tarosa is the Acting Manager for Customs in Vanuatu. He has been with Customs for 10 years, and 5 years on the Manager position. Part of his role deals with trade facilitation and he currently engages heavily with WTO TFA back in his home country.

1.5 Nevin OMURI (Albania)

Nevin Omuri works at the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship since 2010. Actually is working in the SMS department and works for the department of trade policies also. She is a member of the Trade Facilitation Committee for Albania in CEFTA and also is a member of the National Committee of Trade Facilitation established in May 12, 2016. She has studied economics and graduated in Economic Faculty of Tirana and has a Master's degree in International Trade. Have a long experience for more than 20 years in private sector related with trade before coming to the ministry.

1.6, 4.7 & 5.5 Jim WILLIAMS (World Bank)

World Bank Group Consultant in Border Management and Trade Facilitation issues with 33 years experience with HM Customs & Excise together with a post graduate diploma in Police and Criminal Justice studies and a MPhil in History focused on the Chinese Maritime Customs. Both within HM Customs and Excise and as a Consultant consultancy and assistance roles have been undertaken within a with range of countries in Africa, Middle East, the Pacific, South America, South East Asia and South East Europe. Recent activities have focused on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and especially the development of National Trade Facilitation Committees.
2.1 Kelebogile LEKAUKAU (Botswana)

Kelebogile Maureen LEKAUKAU holds a Master of Science; Purdue University, West Lafayette; Indiana, USA. Chief Trade Officer, Head of the Multilateral and Trade Policy Division Department of International Trade, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry. Currently responsible for coordinating the implementation of the existing WTO Agreements, chairing the Technical Committee on Trade in Services and the Technical Committee on Trade Facilitation; coordinating and lead in the SADC Trade in Services negotiations; coordinating issues for Landlocked developing countries and issues related to the National Aid for Trade Strategy and the National Trade Policy.

2.2 Laura ESCALANTE MONGE (Costa Rica)

Laura Escalante was appointed Trade Facilitation Coordinator at the Ministry of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica in 2011. In this capacity, she serves as the institution’s principal advisor, negotiator and spokesperson on trade facilitation issues. She currently acts as Secretary for the inter-institutional Border Council (established through Act 9154 in 2013). Ms. Escalante has been involved in trade policy matters internationally and domestically for the past ten years. Ms. Escalante has an International Relations degree from the National University of Costa Rica and a master degree from the –UN Mandated– University for Peace.

2.3 Sharda NAIDU (Fiji)

Sharda Naidu is an experienced Customs official with over seventeen years experience in implementing Customs reforms and automation program in Fiji. He is currently working as Team Leader ASYCUDA in Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority and has successfully completed the ASYCUDA World implementation project recently. His responsibilities also includes the implementation of Customs centric Single Window system in Fiji using ASYCUDA World as the platform."

2.4 Richard BROWN (Jamaica)

Dr. Richard Brown is an International Trade Specialist with over 12 years of experience, having served in the Permanent Mission of Jamaica in Geneva and as Deputy Director with responsibility for Bilateral and Regional Trade in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Currently, Dr. Brown is the Acting Director of Trade in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MIGAF), and is the Ministry’s focal point on the national Trade Facilitation Task Force. In 2013, he received a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, specializing in International Trade.
2.5 Frank HEIJMANN (Netherlands)

Frank is a senior executive, holding over 30 years of Customs experience, having an in-depth knowledge in the fields of customs legislation, international business and logistics. He is recognized for motivating people and creating enthusiasm and support. This has resulted into the collective developments and implementation of novel ideas and solutions with trade, governments and academia, as there are the University MSc program Customs & Supply Chain Compliance, the supply chain innovation concept, The Pipeline Interface, the Innovation Platform within Dutch Customs and academic research in various areas of the customs domain.

2.6 Adamu Md. ABDULHAMID (Nigeria)

My name is Adamu Mohammed Abdulhamid, Assistant Director, WTO matters at the Department of Trade, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Nigeria. I am also the current National Secretary, National Trade Facilitation Committee of Nigeria.

2.7 Mohammad IRFAN (Pakistan)

Dr. Muhammad Irfan is a Deputy Secretary in the WTO Wing of the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan. He is responsible for various WTO related issues including the Trade Facilitation Agreement. In this role he is also the main coordinator for the National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee (NTTFC), especially monitoring the implementation of the TFA, progress of various stakeholders on decisions taken in the NTTFC, and their review and follow up. He joined the Ministry of Commerce in 2001 and holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

2.8 Toan NGUYEN (Viet Nam)

Toan Nguyen - Director of Dept. of International Cooperation of Vietnam Customs with more than 30 years of customs experience through customs enforcement and supervision and then moved to the field of international cooperation for the last 20 years. Toan is one of the key contributors for Vietnam accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention, leading the Vietnam negotiation team and now the task force to prepare for implementation of WTO TFA. Toan got a Bachelor of English language, a Bachelor of External Economy and a Master of Law of International Business. He also passed the training in the Ecole Nationale de Brigades de Douane de la France.

2.9 Mario APOSTOLOV (UNECE)

Mr. Mario Apostolov is working as a Regional Adviser at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). For the last 16 years he has been servicing intergovernmental bodies of experts and policy makers on trade facilitation in the framework of the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the UN Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, and networks in Southeast Europe and the Eurasian Economic Union. He is covering such topics as national trade facilitation bodies, the Single Window for export, import, and transit clearance, regional trade integration, trade facilitation reform, and others.

Mr Apostolov has a M.A. from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies at the University of Geneva. He teaches a course on the Dynamics of Regional Integration and Diplomacy at the International University in Geneva. He has published books on trade facilitation, regional cooperation and the geopolitics of Christian-Muslim relations.

2.10 Mohammad SAEED (ITC)

Dr. Mohammad Saeed is Senior Adviser Trade Facilitation with International Trade Centre (ITC) Geneva where he leads its trade facilitation team. Before joining this assignment in April 2014, He served as Senior Technical Adviser on Trade and Transport Facilitation with UNCTAD. He has vast experience of working on trade facilitation issues at national, regional and multilateral level. He also worked as lead negotiator for Pakistan in WTO negotiations for the Trade Facilitation Agreement for six years. His work experience of over 15 years with Pakistan Customs has contributed towards his pragmatic approach based on the ground realities in the TF area. He has enriched his experience by working with many developing countries for identifying their TF needs assessment and developing their national implementation plans.
3.1 **Anthony K. NYAME-BAAFI (Ghana)**

Mr. Anthony Kwasi NYAME-BAAFI is the Director for Multilateral, Regional and Bilateral Trade Division of Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana. As a former Minister/Commercial at the Ghana Permanent Mission to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Switzerland from August 2008 to December 2013, he was In-Charge of WTO and UNCTAD matters. Prior to his posting to Geneva, he worked on several international trade issues with more emphasis on Trade Facilitation. He has been monitoring and evaluating Ghana and other ECOWAS Member States Trade Facilitation performance for several decades. His career at Ministry of Trade and Industry started about 30 years ago.

3.2 **Hernán MUÑOZ PÉREZ (Paraguay)**

Hernán Muñoz P. is a civil servant and diplomat currently working at the Direction of Economic Multilateral Organisations, under the Vice-ministry of Economical Relations and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay. The issues on international and regional trade facilitation and multilateral dispute settlements are among his duties. Because of his experience and position, he acts as Deputy for the Secretariat of the ad hoc National Committee on Trade facilitation, and therefore is also responsible for the agenda, invitations, reports and follow-ups of the meetings.

3.3 **John Brian SAM (Papua New Guinea)**

Mr John Brian SAM – Assistant Commissioner, Trade and Revenue Administration of the Papua New Guinea Customs Service with 24 years of experience in all facets of customs. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Management and a Certificate in International Trade Law. He participated in the negotiation group on trade facilitation and he is now the Chairman of the Papua New Guinea National Trade Facilitation Committee.

3.4 **Dilshod SHARIFI (Tajikistan)**

3.5 **Maria R. CECCARELLI (UNECE)**

Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli has 17 years of experience in Trade and Transport Facilitation within UNECE where she is Acting Chief of the Trade Facilitation Section, responsible for Trade Facilitation, the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and related issues. She manages a group of some 300 experts working on Trade Facilitation projects to produce Trade Facilitation Recommendations and electronic business standards, that can foster growth in international trade and related services. In her former position in the UNECE’s Transport Division, she provided training and advisory services to promote the development of border-crossing and transport facilitation.

3.6 **Arántzazu SÁNCHEZ (UNCTAD)**

Arántzazu Sánchez has a degree of Political Sciences by the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain and the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. She also holds a Master Degree on Politics and Administration of the European Union by the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Before joining the UN, she worked over five years as project manager for European-wide communication campaigns. She has been working on trade facilitation within the United Nations for over four years. As a project manager for UNCTAD, she has undertaken WTO TFA related needs assessments and implementations plans in over 10 countries in Africa, South East Asia and Latin America. She is behind NTFC related publications such as UNECE Guide on How to Draft a TF Roadmap and UNCTAD publication on NTFCs in the world. She is currently project manager of the HMRC-WCO-UNCTAD Capacity Building Program for the WTO TFA implementation and she is currently implementing UNCTAD Empowerment Program for National Trade Facilitation Committees in several countries.
4.1 Anneli WENGELIN (National Board of Trade Sweden)

Anneli works since 2014 at the National Board of Trade Sweden as a trade policy adviser responsible for trade facilitation. She runs the Swedish Trade Procedures Council (SWEPRO) secretariat and represents Sweden in UN/CEFACT. She also participates in capacity development projects in Africa and Eastern Europe. Between 1996 and 2014, Anneli worked at the Swedish Customs where she held several different positions related to legal trade flows and trade facilitation. She worked for seven years as an adviser in International Affairs and was responsible for coordination of European Union customs related issues, WCO and bilateral cooperation. She was also the customs representative in SWEPRO.

4.2 Godfried SMIT (EuroPro)

Godfried is President of Europro the regional organization of Trade Facilitation in Europe, which secretariat is established in Paris. Godfried has more than 30 years of experience in International Law and more specifically in Customs Law. Godfried represents Europro in the Trade Contact Group (TCG) and the Electronic Customs Coordination Group (ECCG). Both Committees have been set up to involve international business associations in the decision-making on customs affairs (recently mainly the Union Customs Code). Prior to joining Dutch Pro-Organization EVO-Fenedex worked in the Dutch Customs administration. Godfried has been teaching as Associate Professor at the University of Leyden and as guest speaker at many Universities and seminars. Finally he is involved as author in a commentary on UCC for Mendel Verlag.

4.3 Omar CHUNG (Guyana)

Omar Jason Chung, Customs Policy Officer, Guyana Revenue Authority, I am also a member of the National Trade Facilitation Committee of Guyana since its establishment in 2015. In addition some related functions within my capacity that supports the NTFC are: Team Leader for the Container Control Programme with the UNODC & WCO CCP, member of Classification Committee and Member of Customs Trade Committee.

4.4 Khemdeth SIHAVONG (Lao PDR)

Mr Sihavong is Deputy Director General Department of Import and Export, Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR, responsible for policy making of Trade Facilitation under WTO, regional and sub regional and Cross Border Trade. In 1992 he entered the government official as teacher at National University of Laos and in 1995 moved to work in Foreign Trade Department Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR. His career includes Trade relation between Lao PDR and Western European Countries and USA. Until now he was assigned to be responsible for Trade Facilitation area including implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

4.6 Ana B. HINOJOSA (WCO)

Director Hinojosa assumed her elected post in the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate of the World Customs Organization (WCO), effective January 1, 2016. She leads the directorate that is responsible assisting Members in implementing effective and efficient controls, ensuring fair and accurate revenue collection, and protecting society by intercepting and suppressing illicit and criminal activities. The directorate has the twin goal of securing and facilitating legitimate global supply chains through the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures. In order to accomplish this, the Directorate, working with WCO Members, develops international standards covering all aspects of trade processes. Prior to her election and transition to her current post, she served nearly 29 years with the United States Custom Service/Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Throughout her career with CBP, she held a number of different leadership positions in a number of different geographic locations in the United States. Although she served most of her career along the US/Mexico land border, she also served in several key leadership positions overseeing major airport operations in the Los Angeles, California, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas areas. Following her service as the Director, Field Operations (Regional Director) in the El Paso, Texas region, she served as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for International Affairs, in Washington, DC through December 2015.
4.8 Bismark SITORUS (UNCTAD)

Bismark Sitorus deals with trade facilitation issues for more than 16 years. Currently, he and his colleagues in the Trade Facilitation Section team at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) focus on their contribution to the establishment and empowerment of National Trade Facilitation Committees around the world. UNCTAD's Trade Facilitation Section also assist governments in advancing their National Trade Facilitation reforms, advocates developing countries interest in the standardization of international regulatory framework that governs international trade procedures, and shares analysis, technical notes, advances and news in Trade Facilitation to a wider community. In his former positions in UNCTAD, he was involved in substantive, capacity building and promotional activities for the wider use/implementation of the United Nations Convention on International Multimodal Transport of Goods, and subsequently contributed to the work of UNCTAD's Training in Maritime field programme (TrainMar) through which UNCTAD established a network of qualified training centers and trainers.

5.1 Gib BROWN (USAID)

Gib Brown is USAID’S Development Advisor at the US Mission in Geneva, working primarily on trade and health development issues. He works closely with the Office of Trade and Regulatory Reform in USAID’s Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment and USAID’s Bureau of Global Health. Gib previously worked for USAID in Burkina Faso and Liberia; supported the work of Borderless Alliance, the West Africa Trade Hub, and Agriculture Trade Promotion in Burkina Faso; and served as Deputy Director for an INGO in the Republic of Georgia.

5.3 Virginia CRAM-MARTOS (UNECE)

Mrs. Virginia CRAM-MARTOS is the Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). She has many years’ experience working on trade facilitation, public-private partnerships, innovation, technical barriers to trade, and standardization issues. Prior to joining UNECE, Mrs. Cram-Martos was the Secretary General of the International Data Exchange Association and, before that; she worked for more than 12 years in the private sector in retail and international trading companies. She holds an MBA degree in International Business from the University of Chicago, and a Masters Degree in Finance from the Université Catholique de Louvain.

5.6 Philip WOOD (WCO)

Philip Wood is a Customs and Strategic Management expert with 25 years of experience in thirty countries. Philip was previously a member of HM Revenue and Customs in the UK and has obtained a wide experience of Customs work including management of operational teams, working with ministers, developing and implementing policy, delivering capacity building for senior managers and providing change management assistance to Customs organisations on behalf of international organisations such as World Customs Organisation, World Trade Organisation and International Monetary Fund. Philip is an accredited WCO Customs Modernisation Advisor and Stakeholder Engagement Expert and has spent the last two years working as a Project and Fund Manager for the WCO Capacity Building Directorate.

----------v----------