

OCO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

26th OCO Annual Conference
Rarotonga, Cook Islands
29 – 31 July, 2024

Theme: “Strengthening Partnerships for Dynamic Solutions and a Future-ready Blue Pacific”

AGENDA

Time	Item	Speaker / Presenter
Informal Conference Session (Open session) convenes		
Day One: Monday 29th July, 2024		
8:30AM – 8:55AM	Conference Registration	OCO Secretariat
9:00AM – 10:30AM	Welcome & Opening Ceremony Introduction by host Country and Prayer Traditional Item presentation from Host Country <i>(Speeches by Guest of Honour, WCO SG, Chair of OCO Steering Comm, HoS)</i> Presentation of Gifts <i>*Followed by Day 1 - Group Photo Session</i>	Chair and Host (Cook Islands)
10:30AM - 10:50AM	MORNING TEA	
10:55AM – 11:10AM	Agenda Item 1: Appointment of Drafting Committee and Adoption of Agenda & Working Procedures	Chair
11:10AM – 11:20AM	Agenda Item 2: Record of 25 th OCO Annual Conference in FSM	Chair
11:30AM – 12:40PM	<u>Session One: OCO Member Customs Administration Update on Customs Modernisation and Reform</u> Moderators: OCO Steering Committee Chair & Head of Secretariat <i>*Members to present in descending order Z-A [4 Key Areas]</i> Presenters: Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Samoa, PNG, Palau, CNMI, Niue and New Zealand Session Objective: OCO Members to share experiences and lessons learned from Customs Modernisation initiatives aimed at improving administrative efficiency, reduction of corruption and enhancing overall effectiveness of Customs Administrations in the Pacific Expected Outcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of signing up to the Arusha Declaration Update on implementation of HS and Customs Valuation 	Chair
12:45PM - 1:45PM	NETWORKING LUNCH	

Time	Item	Speaker / Presenter
1:45PM – 3:00PM	<p><u>Session One: OCO Member Customs Administration Update on Customs Modernisation and Reform</u> <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>Presenters: New Caledonia, Nauru, RMI, Kiribati, Guam, Fiji, FSM, Cook Islands, American Samoa and Australia</p>	Chair
3:05PM - 3:30PM <i>AFTERNOON TEA</i>		
3:30PM – 4:30PM	<p><u>Session Two: Navigating Borders: Enhancing Customs Regional Trade Facilitation through Data management and analysis (Panel Discussion)</u></p> <p>Moderator: OCO Secretariat [Mr. Mohammed Ajaz]</p> <p>Panelists: OCO Secretariat (TRMA), Guam, Vanuatu, UNCTAD and SPC.</p> <p>Session Objective: To explore how advanced data management and analysis techniques can streamline Customs procedures, reduce trade barriers, and enhance co-operation among regional Customs authorities whilst promoting regional trade integration to support economic growth and development.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Members and Partners update on current and emerging trends in trade facilitation activities within the region</i> • <i>Members and Partners update on challenges and opportunities for streamlining Customs procedures and emerging trends in Trade Facilitation activities within the region</i> • <i>Guam Customs update on challenges faced while implementing their Modernisation Project with OCO</i> • <i>Update from the OCO Secretariat on EDF11/IMPACT Project</i> • <i>UNCTAD to report on ASYCUDA Customization, supporting data collection and reporting</i> • <i>Update from SPC on PACCOM Trade database</i> 	OCO Secretariat
4:30PM – 5:20PM	<p><u>Session Three: Securing Global Supply Chains: Safeguarding Trade and Commerce (Presentation)</u></p> <p>Moderator: OCO Secretariat [Mr. John Sam]</p> <p>Presenters: PNG, Fiji, Australia and World Shipping Council</p> <p>Session Objective: Discussing measures to enhance Supply Chain Security, including the implementation of advanced cargo screening technologies, risk-based inspection protocols and collaboration with Industry stakeholders to prevent the infiltration of illicit goods and substances.</p> <p>Expected Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update from PNG & Fiji on Container Control Programs (CCP)</i> • <i>Updating and discussing with members and stakeholders on Supply Chain Security activities happening in the region</i> 	OCO Secretariat
5:25PM – 5:30PM	Recap	
Informal Conference session adjourns.		
Day One ends		

Time	Item	Speaker / Presenter
*Opening Dinner (Oceania Night) hosted by OCO Secretariat		
Day Two: Tuesday 30th July, 2024		
Informal Conference Session (Open session) convenes		
8:30AM – 8:35AM	Introduction & Prayer	Chair
8:35AM-9:30AM	<p><u>Session Four: Emerging Trends in Pacific Trade and Logistics (Panel Discussion)</u></p> <p>Moderator: OCO Secretariat [Ms. Laisa Kubuabola-Naivalurua]</p> <p>Panelists: Kiribati, PNG, New Zealand and, Forum Secretariat (Trade Facilitation Initiative)</p> <p>Session Objective: <i>Examining emerging Trends in global trade patterns, logistics and supply chain management such as the growth of E-commerce, the impact of mega trade agreements, and the increasing role of regional trade blocs shaping trade flows in the Pacific Region.</i></p> <p>Expected Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discuss progress of Emerging trends in Trade and logistics activities for members and partners</i> • <i>Update from members on their E-commerce initiatives</i> 	OCO Secretariat
9:35AM – 10:30AM	<p><u>Session Five: Combatting Illicit Trade and Transnational Crime (Panel Discussion)</u></p> <p>Moderator: OCO Secretariat [Ms. Laisa Kubuabola-Naivalurua]</p> <p>Panelists: New Caledonia, Australia, USPTO, WCO-RILO AP, and SINCB</p> <p>Session Objective: Collaborating on efforts between members and partners to combat illicit trade activities and transnational organised crime such as smuggling, trafficking of humans and drugs and contraband goods and money laundering, which pose significant threats to regional security and stability.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Update on Illicit Trade and Transnational Crime trends</i> • <i>Strengthening awareness on the impacts of transnational crime by promoting inter-agency communication at all levels</i> • <i>Strengthen national targeting structures by developing joint and standardized processes and intelligence products</i> 	OCO Secretariat
10:35AM - 11:15AM MORNING TEA *Day 2- Group Photo Session		
11:15AM – 12:15PM	<p><u>Session Six: Strengthening Regional Capability through Strategic Partnerships (Presentations)</u></p> <p>Moderator: OCO Secretariat [Head of Secretariat, Ms. Nancy Oraka]</p> <p>Presenters: CCES, WCO-ROCB/AP, WCO/JICA, USCBP, OPCW, Japan Customs and Pacific Security College</p>	OCO Secretariat

Time	Item	Speaker / Presenter
	<p>Session Objective: <i>Sharing best practices and experiences in capacity building and professional development for Customs Officials to strengthen their skills and capabilities.</i></p> <p>Expected Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthen global and regional partnerships through capacity building programs and information sharing tools</i> • <i>Update members on capacity building and professional development programs</i> 	
12:15PM – 1:30PM	<p><u>Session Seven: Partner Updates on Regional Law Enforcement, Border Security and Maritime Domain Awareness (Presentation)</u></p> <p>Moderator: OCO Secretariat [Head of Secretariat, Ms. Nancy Oraka]</p> <p>Presenters: PIDC, PICP (& PTCCC) FFA, UNODC, PFC, and Forum Secretariat (FSRS)</p> <p>Session Objective: <i>Enhancing cooperation and information sharing among members and stakeholders in the Pacific to address common challenges and facilitate information sharing and institutional strengthening for Law Enforcement agencies.</i></p> <p>Expected Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strengthening partnerships through enhancing cooperation, collaboration, and information sharing tools among members and partners aligned with border security and maritime domain awareness</i> • <i>Update from parties to the Declaration of Partnership on Regional Cooperation on Law Enforcement, Border, Fisheries and Maritime Security agreement</i> • <i>To review OCO’s operational collaboration with other Partners and Border Agencies and using information and data to manage risks and strengthen customs enforcement activities.</i> 	OCO Secretariat
1:35PM – 2:30PM NETWORKING LUNCH		
2:35PM – 3:00PM	<p><u>Session Eight: Advancing Gender Equality: Empowering Diversity in the Modern Customs Workplace (Presentations)</u></p> <p>Moderator: OCO Secretariat [Ms. Stephanie Waqanivalagi]</p> <p>Presenters: OCO EDF11/IMPACT Project Gender Specialists and Australian Border Force (PWPDP- Pacific Womens Professional Development Programme)</p> <p>Session objective: <i>This session looks at OCO’s collaboration with other Border Agencies and stakeholders to strengthen its activities with members and partners to progress Gender Equality and Workplace Diversity</i></p> <p>Expected Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Awareness on the progress of work carried out on Gender Equality & Workplace Diversity.</i> • <i>Update on the OCO Gender Equality and Workplace Diversity programs and initiatives.</i> 	OCO Secretariat

Time	Item	Speaker / Presenter
3:05PM – 3:30PM AFTERNOON TEA		
3.35PM – 4:30PM	<p><u>Session Nine: Fostering a future-ready Customs: Climate Change Resilience and Digital Transformation trends (Presentations)</u></p> <p>Moderator: OCO Secretariat [Mr. Raginald Khan]</p> <p>Presenters: Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga, Japan Customs and Vanuatu.</p> <p>Session Objective: <i>Discussing Strategies for Managing Customs Operations in the face of Climate Change impacts such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events and disruptions to trade routes and exploring the adoption of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence and electronic Customs systems to enhance efficiency, transparency, and security in Customs processes.</i></p> <p>Expected Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sharing strategies across the membership and with partners on how Customs manages their operations when affected by Climate Change Impacts.</i> • <i>Sharing of information with Members and partners on where the Pacific has progressed in terms of digital technologies</i> 	OCO Secretariat
4:35PM – 5:20PM	<p><u>Session Ten: Addressing Undervaluation challenges in Regional Trade (Collaborative Exercise)</u></p> <p>Moderator: Australia</p> <p>Panelists: OCO Secretariat (CEA), New Zealand, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.</p> <p>Session Objective: <i>To enhance understanding among Customs officials about the risks and impacts of undervaluation on regional trade as well as to explore strategies for detection, prevention, and collaboration to mitigate this issue effectively.</i></p> <p>Expected Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enhanced awareness: Customs officials will gain a heightened awareness of the methods and consequences of undervaluation in regional trade.</i> • <i>Knowledge sharing: members and partners will share best practices in detecting and combatting undervaluation, fostering cross-border collaboration.</i> • <i>Action Plan development: by the end of the session members and partners will collaboratively develop actionable strategies and initiatives to strengthen regional cooperation and combat undervaluation effectively.</i> 	Australia
5.25PM – 5.30PM	Recap	
Informal Workshop Session (Open session) closes		
<i>Day Two Ends</i>		
*Dinner hosted by Members Australia & New Zealand		

Formal Conference Meeting (Closed session) convenes

Day Three: Wednesday 31st July, 2024

CLOSED SESSION FOR MEMBERS ONLY

