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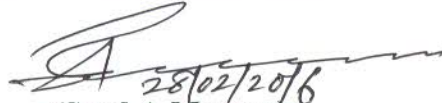
Press Release

The Advance Ruling Workshop Jointly Organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO), Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF), China and the National Board of Revenue (NBR), Dhaka (28 February-02 March, 2016).

The auspicious inaugural session of the WCO Revenue Package National Workshop on "Development of Advance Ruling System for Classification" was held on 28 February 2016 at the Conference Room office of VAT Online Project (VOP), Dhaka aiming to reduce the Cost of Doing Business (CODB). The four day long workshop is going to be held under the assistance of the World Customs Organization (WCO), Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF), China and the National Board of Revenue (NBR). Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman, honorable Secretary, Internal Resources Division, Ministry of Finance and Chairman, NBR has inaugurated the workshop. WCO Technical Officer for Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate Ms. Yara Carla Gil Silva Novis, WCO former Senior Technical Officer Mr. Sebahattin Kocas, China Customs expert Ms. Lin Hong attended the workshop. Fourteen senior officials of Bangladesh Customs have been participating in the workshop.

Advance Ruling is a written decision on the classification, origin, value or other information pertaining to the commodity issued by the Customs to the applicants prior to the importation. It is a written statement issued by the Customs Authorities that interprets and applies customs laws and regulations to a specific set of facts about a prospective transaction. It reduces time and facilitate trade, it assists to assess future duty thus helps in smooth planning process and it makes Customs foreseeable thus reduces the risk of revenue as well as reduces "the Cost of Doing Business (CODB)".

Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman cited in his inaugural speech that Bangladesh has acceded to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) in September 2013 and it is a prospective signatory to WTO-Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The Advance Ruling System (ARS) is one of the sophisticated customs procedures suggested in the RKC as well as in the WTO TFA. NBR has been finalizing the draft New Customs Act, 2016 which includes the provision of ARS in details. Mr. Rahman also mentioned that Bangladesh wants to be benefited from the world experience on ARS and the workshop will lead Bangladesh one step ahead. The Government is laying a great emphasis on the issue of Capacity Development of Customs officials in order to prepare them for facilitating trade and investment. He also mentioned that the holding a workshop on Advance Ruling System would help NBR in materialising the political guidance to modernize the Bangladesh Customs in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).


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(Syed A Momen)

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