



World Customs Organization

Rue du Marché 30, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 (0)2 209 92 11 / hs@wcoomd.org
Bank account: IBAN 210-0475126-72

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Dear Director General,

I am pleased to inform you that the WCO will provide an opportunity for twelve Customs officials from developing country Members to take part in **the WCO Regional Customs Laboratory Professionals Programme**.

This Programme offers the possibility for technical officers to expand and update their knowledge and skills in the chemical analysis of samples for Harmonized System (HS) classification purposes. It is designed for laboratory analysts who are or will be working in Customs laboratories. Participants will gain practical experience at the WCO/Asia Pacific Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) in Japan or the Republic of Korea, and gain knowledge about the HS at the World Customs Organization (WCO).

This Programme, funded by the Customs Administrations of Japan and the Republic of Korea will be conducted in English.

The objectives of the Programme are:

- to provide knowledge and skills at the WCO and the RCL, especially through exposure to new technologies and techniques as well as the use of sophisticated equipment;
- to enhance the efficiency of the management of the Customs Laboratory;
- to enhance tariff classification abilities, particularly in the field of agricultural and chemical products;
- to improve general understanding of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Convention on the HS; and
- to understand how the HS and its instruments and tools operate at international and national level.

Under this Programme, selected Customs officials of an appropriate technical level will spend **one week, from 17 to 21 October 2022**, at the WCO Headquarters, and then, will be divided into two teams for the six weeks training at the RCL in Japan or the Republic of Korea, **from 24 October to 1 December 2022**, thus enabling them to acquire practical experience. This is a needs-oriented training programme which is commensurate with the trainee's needs and situation of his/her home administration. More detailed information, including the conditions regarding the training, is set out in Annex I.

If you wish to nominate a candidate for this Programme, please return the attached nomination form (Annex II) and application form (Annex III), duly completed by your Administration and the candidate respectively, to the WCO Secretariat (e-mail: rcl.hsclassification@wcoomd.org) **by 31 May 2022**.

WCO/OMD

Please note that applications received after the deadline will not be considered. If you nominate more than one candidate, please indicate the order of priority of the candidates.

If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this Programme, a member of your staff may contact Mr. Kazuhiro TONAI (tel: +32 2 209 92 71; or e-mail: rcl.hsclassification@wcoomd.org).

I look forward to receiving nominations of candidates for the WCO Regional Customs Laboratory Professionals Programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kunio Mikuriya', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Kunio Mikuriya
WCO Secretary General