



World Customs Organization

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Dear Director General,

I am pleased to inform you that the second **BACUDA Scholarship Programme**, intended for working-level officials of developing countries, which will last five months, will be held in-person from **4 September 2023 to 2 February 2024** at **SungKyunKwan University (SKKU) in Korea**, under the sponsorship of the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF-Korea).

As data use in Customs is of paramount importance, the effective and practical application of data analytics methodologies tailored to the Customs sector has become essential to manage the growing volume of data being collected and stored. Data analytics holds the potential not only to improve existing Customs processes, but also to help with revenue collection, post-clearance audit, compliance, risk management and many other areas.

In this connection, the WCO provides the BACUDA Scholarship Programme to enable carefully targeted participants to acquire analytical knowledge for Customs technical purposes, together with the relevant academic theory. This will assist them in contributing to the transformation of their Customs services into data-driven organizations.

Twelve (12) Customs officials from Member administrations whose qualifications meet the criteria set out in the appended documents, will be invited to participate in the Programme. In this regard, I cordially invite your Administration to identify and nominate no more than two candidates, for the purposes of optimal candidate selection and to ensure the success of the Programme.

To be eligible for the Programme, applicants will need to put forward a topic, or select one from the attached sample list, for the development of analytic models for Customs. They must submit a **Group Project proposal** on this topic which should, among others, address the challenges their Customs service is facing regarding data use, along with problem-solving methodologies, technical skills and expected outcomes.

From the beginning of the Scholarship Programme, the officials selected will be trained, in three or four groups, to work on analytic model development. Based on an evaluation of the documents submitted, an interview may be arranged for the final selection of the twelve successful applicants in order to identify talents.

Please note that your Administration must support each candidate's application with a formal commitment by the Director General that after completing the Programme, the official will be assigned to the relevant work area.

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The nomination form must be completed in English and returned by e-mail to the WCO Capacity Building Directorate and the SKKU Office at the addresses shown, **by 21 July 2023 (no later than 18:00 Korean Standard Time)**. Any applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

The Scholarship Programme will cover all costs for the selected participants, including the tuition fee, air tickets, etc., and the necessary support for their stay in Korea.

Please find appended hereto a set of documents explaining the administrative provisions governing the Programme, as well as the nomination form.

If you have any questions regarding this Programme, your staff may contact the following persons:

- Mr. Sungsig Kim, CCF-K Fund Manager in the WCO Capacity Building Directorate (sungsig.kim@wcoomd.org; Tel.: +32 2 209 94 22);
Mr. Joel Choi, Data analyst for BACUDA (joel.choi@wcoomd.org; Tel.: +32 2 209 94 22);
- Ms. Mitra Ghergherehchi, Faculty staff and Programme Coordinator at SKKU (mitragh@skku.edu; Mobile: +82 10 8266 5788).

Yours sincerely,

Kunio Mikuriya
WCO Secretary General