



INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS: IMF Training on Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Enhance Customs Operations (APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026)

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SARTTAC

**SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER**

NEW 5-DAY TRAINING COURSE (In-Person)

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Enhance Customs Operations

REGISTER HERE

September 14 – 18, 2026

9:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. (IST)

Registration Deadline

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

We are pleased to inform you that the IMF Revenue Administration Department (RA) and South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center (SARTTAC), with support from the Government of Japan is organizing a 5-day training titled "**Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Enhance Customs Operations**" (SA26.36, CAD) during **September 14 – 18, 2026** New Delhi, India. This event builds on the webinar on Unlocking the Power of AI to Improve Customs Operations that was held in November 2025. A draft agenda and information about the course, including the target audience for the course is attached.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Regional Training on Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Enhanced Customs Operations aims to support selected Asia-Pacific economies in advancing digital transformation and strengthening data-driven decision making. In a region where AI adoption is progressing but remains uneven, with notable gaps in infrastructure, skills, and integration, the training will focus on practical pathways for developing and implementing AI strategies in customs operations. Building on emerging regional initiatives and use cases, sessions will explore applications of AI in risk management, trade facilitation, and compliance, while addressing key challenges such as data quality, interoperability, governance frameworks, and resource constraints. Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting participants in designing tailored AI strategies that move from concept to implementation, including identifying investment priorities and resource requirements, financial, technological, and human. Through interactive discussions, country presentations, and group exercises, participants will exchange experiences and develop actionable roadmaps.

LINKS TO IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Administrative and Logistical Arrangements for Regional Courses

Course Nomination/Application, Sponsor Endorsement Instructions, and Selection Procedures

Course Attendance, Certificate of Participation, and IMF Training Record, and Code of Conduct

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Interested officials should apply online for the course in the IMF Training Application System (TAS) using this link – **Register Here** or copy the entire link address,

<https://www-ins.imf.org/TAS/signon.aspx?pkey=7440272600009131>, and paste it into the web browser's address bar. The application deadline is **Friday, July 17, 2026**, which will be strictly observed. Your kind cooperation in submitting timely nominations is greatly appreciated.

ABOUT THE FACULTY

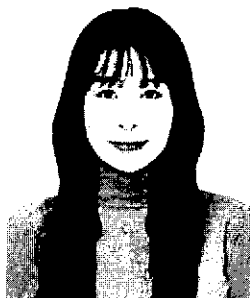


Mr. Mohammad Ehteshamul Hoque joined the IMF as a Technical Assistance Advisor specializing in customs administration in January 2025, bringing over 20 years of experience in customs reform, trade facilitation, and enforcement across various government and inter-governmental organizations, including the World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations, and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Earlier, he worked for the National Board of Revenue of Bangladesh (NBR), as First Secretary for Customs Modernization and Joint Commissioner for Counterterrorism and Post Clearance Audit. He is a WCO-accredited advisor on the Authorized Economic Operators Program. He holds a Masters in International Customs Law and Administration and an MSc in Development Studies.

Mr. Jonathan Koh has led and supported major national and regional programmes across more than 40 countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific. His expertise covers trade digitalisation strategy, legal and institutional frameworks, customs system design, cross-border data interoperability, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement implementation, and the practical adoption of AI in customs operations. As



Head of Customs for NEOM in Saudi Arabia, Jonathan led the design of a next-generation customs administration, including its legal, institutional, operational, digital, and border infrastructure architecture. Jonathan is also a recognised author and practitioner in digital customs and AI. As an IMF Visiting Scholar, he co-authored the chapter "Customs Administration and Digitalisation" in Customs Matters (2022). For the World Customs Organization, he authored the Detailed Report on the Adoption of AI and Machine Learning in Customs (2025) and developed its AI Readiness Self-Assessment Tool. He also developed ADB's Toolkit on AI-Powered HS Classification.



Ms. Miryang Kim is a Senior Assistant Director at the Korea Customs Service, where she has served for nearly 20 years. She currently works in the AI Innovation Division and is responsible for developing strategies to promote the adoption and effective use of AI in customs operations. She also contributes to Business Process Reengineering and Information Strategy Planning initiatives to redesign customs procedures by leveraging advanced AI technologies. Ms. Kim leads an AI project focused on developing AI-based risk management solutions for food and pharmaceutical products in cross-border e-commerce. She has extensive experience in operating data and AI platforms and has led a pilot project to establish LLM-based question-and-answer services, exploring effective approaches for implementing generative AI solutions within the customs environment. Ms. Kim is an accredited World Customs Organization expert in Data Analytics. Through WCO workshops and other international capacity-building programs, she has trained customs officers from various countries in advanced data analytics and AI-related topics and has shared practical experiences in applying AI to customs administration.

QUALIFICATION, NOMINATION, AND SELECTION

This course is open to senior customs officials handling digitalization, technology management, modernization, policy and operations, currently or potentially, in their respective country administrations. The training event is open only to the customs and ICT experts from **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam**. Though no limits are placed on the number of officials who apply for this training, whether on their own or through nomination, preference will be given to those nominated by a sponsoring agency (customs administration of member country). In nominating officials, the sponsoring agency should ensure that participation in the course is relevant and appropriate to officials' work. Each applicant/nominee must designate a course sponsor in their online application, who must submit a sponsor form. Upon submission of the application and receipt of the sponsor form, all will be reviewed in SARTTAC, with each applicant receiving an email indicating whether they have been selected for the course. Officials who apply or are nominated can also view their application status by logging into the IMF Training Application System (TAS). The selection process will give priority to those whose professional assignments are closely related to the subject matter of the course and who have not received previous IMF training in the same area. Complete details on applying to courses (in-person) in SARTTAC can be found in the links above on important information for course participation and at Applying to Courses (in-person).

TRAINING DELIVERY PERIOD

The course will be conducted in-person. For this course, daily training sessions are scheduled during weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (India Standard Time). Please see the draft agenda for more details. Participants are expected to arrive in New Delhi on Sunday, September 13, 2026, and depart following the end of training on either Friday, September 18, 2026, or Saturday, September 19, 2026, depending on the earliest flight availability to their home country.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

For selected participants, SARTTAC will make air travel arrangements to Delhi and reserve hotel accommodations. SARTTAC will also provide a per diem allowance for participants to cover meals, airport transfers in Delhi, and other incidentals. During training days, tea/coffee and lunch will be provided to participants.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions related to this course content and qualification requirement, please contact **Mohammad Ehteshamul Hoque, Technical Assistance Advisor** (email: mhoque2@imf.org) in Revenue Administration Department.

For questions related to the application link and local arrangements, please contact **Debraj Chaudhuri, Sr. Course Administrator** (mobile: +91 9711460576, email: dchaudhuri@imf.org) or **Sumit Kumar, Course Administrator** (mobile: +91 9971514863, email: skumar7@imf.org) in SARTTAC.

For information on upcoming training in SARTTAC, visit www.sarttac.org or follow us on  

IMF SARTTAC: Atelier Suites No. 7 & 8, Ground Floor, Worldmark 3 Building | Aerocity, New Delhi 110037 | India
Member Countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka

Development Partners: Australia, EU, Korea

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DEBRAJ CHAUDHURI

Senior Course Administrator

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5 attachments

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