



VANUATU DEPARTMENT OF  
CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE

# Vanuatu

## ASYCUDA World Project

Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 11

1ST MARCH 2017

### IN THIS EDITION:

- ASYCUDA World User Guides
- Customs attends HNPW in Geneva, Switzerland
- Facilitating Disaster Relief Supplies
- ASYCUDA World Prototype updated with HS2017
- CRMC 7th meeting
- Contacting the Project Team made easier

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH

1. System Testing to continue
2. System Trainings to commence
3. CRMC 8th meeting

## ASYCUDA World User Guides

### Now available online!

Since the last week of January, the Customs Team commenced with creating System User Guides for both External and Internal users of the ASYCUDA system.

The process involves creating standardized, concise and very easy to use "How To Notes" (HTN) on how to conduct certain procedures in the ASYCUDA World system.

The Team took the opportunity to also test the system to ensure that any technical issues are fixed prior to the trainings and live implementation.

This process has now been com-

pleted at the end of February and the documentations are now available online for the users to access. External users can access the external documentations [here](#) at the DCIR website.

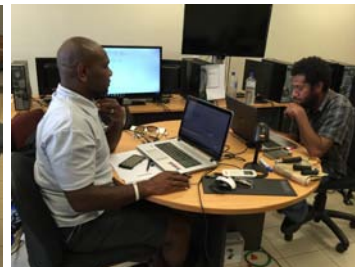
Internal users can access the internal documentations [here](#) on the DCIR Intranet.

So far, some users have already been accessing the system online. It is encouraged that all users should take the initiative to access the system now to:

- Ensure that the system does not come as a shock when it is live.

- Ensure that their computers can accommodate the system;
- Provide any other feedbacks to the Project team to improving the system;
- Ensure that there is a smooth transition from ASY++ to AW in April.

Despite the upcoming trainings, users who do not take the above initiatives may find themselves left behind when the system goes live. The system trainings now scheduled to commence in March.



The Documenting, Testing, Trainers team

## Customs attends HNPW in Geneva, Switzerland

Following Vanuatu's experience with Tropical Cyclone Pam, Vanuatu Customs was fortunate to be invited by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to attend the Humanitarian Networks & Partnership Week (HNPW) in Geneva, Switzerland on 6th to 10th February 2016.

The HNPW provides a platform for a vast variety of humanitarian actors to exchange experience and facilitate collaboration in common operational challenges. The program comprised of technical meetings, network meetings as well as inter-networks day to facilitate joint discussions and identification of possible common solutions.

Vanuatu's attendance was very insightful as we learnt of how we can better facilitate the clearance of relief supplies with collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). It was also useful to get some ideas of how minimize the issue of Unsolicited

Bilateral Donations or UBD's which was a real issue, even two years after TC Pam.

Vanuatu Customs was represented at this event by Director DCIR, Mr. Benjamin MALAS and NPM, Mr. Stanley TRIEF.



# Facilitating Disaster Relief Supplies

## And addressing the issue of Unsolicited Bilateral Donations

A takeaway for Vanuatu Customs from the Humanitarian Network Partnership Week (HNPW) was that some simple preparatory work are required to be done now by both Customs and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to prepare both agencies to facilitate disaster relief supplies at the wake of any disaster in Vanuatu.

A new ASYCUDA module created by UNCTAD, called ASYREC (Automated System for Relief Emergency Consignments) was also

presented during the HNPW as a possible solution to facilitate the clearance of relief supplies.

On the other hand, there is also the issue of Unsolicited Bilateral Donations (UBD's) where goodwill donations were sent to Vanuatu unannounced or at very short notice, with faulty or no paperwork, no clearly defined consignee, non-standard items, not appropriate for Vanuatu or the disaster or incorrect packaging. Such donations just create pressure on the

already stretched supply chain during a disaster. They also incur unexpected storage, handling and disposal fees for the Government. Furthermore, UBD's have an impact on the environment when the expired and damaged goods have to be disposed off.

Customs is already having talks with the NDMO to improve facilitation of disaster relief supplies in the future and to put in measures in place to minimize the issue of UBD's.

Dealing with UBD's, two years after TC Pam:



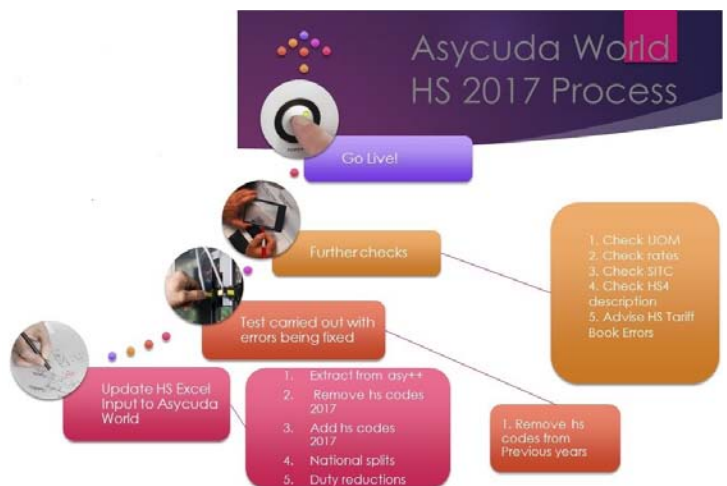
## ASYCUDA World prototype updated with the HS2017

Following the signing of the World Customs Organization (WCO) HS2017 by the Finance Minister, to enter into force on 5th January 2017, the ASYCUDA World prototype server has been updated accordingly by the Project team.

This updating exercise was not straight forward as it involved a lot of cleaning up on the database as well as on the signed HS2017. It was probably the first ever thorough cleanup of the HS since its implementation in Vanuatu back in 1999. This exercise should now allow for better goods classification, improved revenue collection and realistic statistics now and into the future.

The findings of the above exercise was presented to the Customs Reform and Modernization Committee in its February meeting and later forwarded to the Customs Revenue Unit (CRU) for review and action. CRU will be updating the HS2017 accordingly and seek further legislative changes where necessary on the relevant legislations.

With the AW Prototype now updated with the HS2017, the Project team is now in a better position to re-configure the system taxation rules and test the system accordingly.



The work done by the Project Tariff Specialist on the HS2017.

# Customs Reform and Modernization Committee

7th Meeting: 23th February 2017

The CRMC's purpose is to drive the reforms and changes in Customs, not only to ensure the successful implementation of the ASYCUDA World (AW) project but to ensure Customs meets its overall objectives of revenue collection, protecting our borders and facilitating trade.

Chaired by Director DCIR, CRMC consists of the Deputy Director Customs, all Customs Managers, Customs TA and visiting UNCTAD Experts. While matters are usually discussed

and agreed over email, the Committee formally meets every month to discuss the reforms in detail.

February's meeting agenda covered the following items, amongst other things:

1. Matters arising
2. Apportionment of Customs Value
3. HS2017 update
4. Warehouse stock clean up

5. AW Technical update
6. Facilitating Disaster Relief Supplies
7. Customs Value on Warehouse entries
8. Many Other Businesses

The 8th CRMC monthly meeting is scheduled for 30th March 2017.

## Contacting the Project Team made easier:



To further improve our communication with our clients and stakeholders, the Project Team can now be contacted easily via the "Contact Us" page on the DCIR website.

Just visit <http://customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu>, click on the "Contact Us" link and select "ASYCUDA World Project Team" from the "To" drop down menu.

We would like to hear from you!



### Department of Customs and Inland Revenue ASYCUDA World Project

Office of the Government Chief Information Officer  
Private Mail Bag 9108

Port Vila

Vanuatu

Phone: (+678) 33380

Gov. VOIP: 3732

E-mail: [awnpt@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:awnpt@vanuatu.gov.vu)

Website: <http://customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VuDCIR/>



The ASYCUDA (Automated SYstem for CUstoms DAta) software, used by over 90 Customs Administrations around the World, was developed by the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD). An earlier version of ASYCUDA called ASYCUDA++ was implemented in Vanuatu in 1999.

ASYCUDA++ is a DOS based program with ICT limitations and therefore obsolete in this day and age. UNCTAD has therefore developed a web-based version of ASYCUDA known as ASYCUDA World. It takes advantage of the significant progress made in the field of ICT to provide improved automated support to the evolving requirements of both the Trading Community and Customs administrations.

For past editions of this Newsletter, please click on the ASYCUDA World [Project logo](#) on our website.