



VANUATU DEPARTMENT OF  
CUSTOMS AND INLAND  
REVENUE

# Vanuatu

## ASYCUDA World Project

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### IN THIS EDITION:

- **Functional Mission successfully completed**
- **Project Manager attends OCO conference**
- **Customs team attends first Functional Training**
- **ASMP Technical Mission successfully completed**
- **Upcoming tasks**

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY

1. Customs to attend Single Window regional workshop in Fiji
2. NPT and Customs to continue with scheduled tasks

## Functional Mission successfully completed

In accordance to the Project Work plan, a Functional Mission was conducted from 30th May to 10th June 2016. The Customs Expert that conducted the mission was Mr. Ajantha Dias. Mr. Dias was a former Customs/IT expert from Sri Lanka Customs. Vanuatu was fortunate to have him for this mission.

The Terms of Reference of the mission was to document and review the:

- a) Existing Customs clearance processes and provide recommendations ;
- b) Current cargo manifest process and provide recommendations;
- c) Prevailing risk assessment & post audit mechanism and pro-

- vide recommendations;
- d) Payments process and provide recommendations;
- e) Existing warehousing process



Mr. Dias at the ICT section.

- and provide recommendations;
- f) Pre-release process and provide recommendations;
- g) Temporary imports / exports, transshipment processes and provide recommendations.
- h) Informal processes, if any, and provide recommendation;

A Inception Report is expected from the mission, to include the documented existing and recommended Customs procedures.

The mission carried a wide consultation with Customs management in Port Vila as well as with some stakeholders.

The recommendation from the mission will form the basis of a holistic overview of the Customs business in Vanuatu. This will greatly assist the National Project Team to build the Standard Operating Procedures required for each of the internal and external processes involved in the clearance process.

Vanuatu Customs thanks Mr. Dias and UNCTAD for the mission.

## Project Manager attends OCO Conference

The ASYCUDA World Project Manager was privileged to have attended the 18th Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Heads of Customs Annual Conference, on behalf of the Director of Customs and Inland Revenue. This year's Conference was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu from the

1st to 3rd June. The theme of the Conference was adopted from the World Customs Organization 2016 theme which was "Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement". This theme fits well with the Project Manager's attendance considering Vanuatu's commencement of the

ASYCUDA World project in 2016. On that note, the OCO Secretariat invited the Manager to do a presentation to the conference of Vanuatu's plans to adopt the Electronic Single Window system at the completion of the ASYCUDA World project in 2018.



# Customs team attends 1st Functional Training

As outlined in the signed Project paper between Vanuatu Customs and UNCTAD, the first functional training was organized at the ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Pacific (ASMP) office in Suva, Fiji from 6th to 17th June 2016 specifically for Vanuatu Customs only. The training was attended by 7 Officials from each of the Vanuatu Customs sections in Vila and Santo, including the Pro-

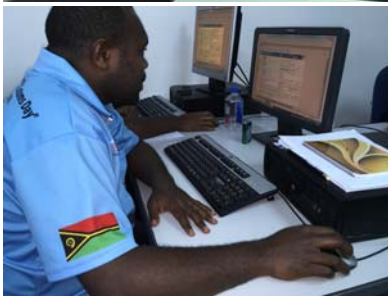
ject Team members.

The training was conducted by the very experience expert, Madam Marianne Dumont. Mme Dumont has had experience with AW projects in Cambodia, Laos and recently Solomon Islands.

The training was a great experience for the Vanuatu Officials as they get hands on ex-

perience of the system for the first time ever.

The team of Officials have now been identified as the wider project team to assist the National Project team to prepare the system, documentations and provide trainings to the internal and external users in Vanuatu.



# ASMP Technical Mission successfully completed

In accordance to the 2016 Work Plan for the ASMP office (ASYCUDA Support Mechanism for the Pacific), a Technical Mission was conducted from 27th June to 1st July 2016. The mission was conducted by ASYCUDA expert, Mr. Ravindra Abeyesinghe and ASMP Coordinator, Ms. Faitau Sione. The mission was primarily to provide assistance to the ASYCUDA++ system. The tasks carried out during the mission as per the TOR included:

1. Switched current ASYCUDA++ Product and Backup server from bare-metal to Virtual (V-sphere) server.
2. Server checked and Database fine tuned. The Techni-

cal Expert worked with the ICT team in reviewing the existing server status and provide assistance

3. The technical expert checked and assessed the situation to make sure

Standby servers can fully operational when production goes down.

4. Review the new Auto-Backup from Production to Training Server. The Consultant provided assistance

in reviewing of current auto-backup process from Production to Training servers. It is important to note that even though ASYCUDA World will come into operation in Vanuatu, the ASYCUDA++ server is still required to be up and running for at least the next 5 years for audit and statistics purposes. Despite the mission being fully ASYCUDA++ focus, the AW National Project team took the opportunity to seek assistance on certain aspects of ASYCUDA World system which the mission kindly provided. Mr. Abeyesinghe and Ms. Sione were both involved with the successful implementation of the ASYCUDA World Project in Samoa.





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**ASYCUDA World Project**

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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.

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## Upcoming tasks

The following tasks were identified by the National Project Team (NPT) and approved by the Customs Reform and Modernization Committee, as upcoming tasks in configuring the ASYCUDA World prototype server, the preparation and cleaning of the database, and the rolling out of trainings for internal and external users. They are brief tasks however involving large amount of work, giving the system an updated database from the current ASYCUDA++ setup. The tasks will not only involved the NPT, but the wider ASYCUDA World project team and Customs itself. Again, the scheduled date for the pilot site is still targeted for December 2016.

Tasks
Warehouse stock cleanup in ASY++ (in parallel with the work of the Warehouse Officers)
Inserting the HS2017 & supplementary units cleanup (in parallel with the work of the Tariff Committee)
Create SOPs
Creation and configuration of business units ( Customer accounts)
User guide creation and Testing
System configuration
Reference tables update and cleanup (in consultation with CRM)
Taxation rules update and cleanup
Insert and update selectivity criteria
Conduct user trainings (internal and external)
Note: in each task there should be parallel testing between ASY++ and AW