



VANUATU DEPARTMENT OF  
CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE

# Vanuatu

## ASYCUDA World Project

Monthly Newsletter

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19TH JUNE 2017

### IN THIS EDITION:

- New date for Vila Launching
- System configuration reaching final stages
- New AW Portal launched
- Automatic uploading of manifest successfully implemented

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

1. CRMC 11th meeting

2. System configurations to continue

## 11th July 2017

## New date for Vila Launching

### “Refresher Trainings scheduled for Users”

The Customs Reform and Modernization Committee (CRMC) have agreed for the AW launching for Vila to be postponed to Tuesday 11th July 2017. The venue remains the same at Warwick Le Lagon Vanuatu resort.

The details of the event will be communicated to all in due course.

The reason for postponing this event was due to the unavailability of CRMC

and National Project Team (NPT) members for the initial proposed dates.

In the meantime, to ensure the Vila Users are kept up to date with using the system when it goes live, the NPT have planned for half day Refresher Trainings for all external Users on the week commencing 26th June 2017.

The venue and schedule for the Re-

fresher Trainings will be communicated to the Users shortly.

Due to this change of the Vila plans, the Santo programs for trainings and launching have now been pushed back three weeks commencing 17th July followed by live launching on 1st August. Again details of the Santo program will be communicated to all in the coming weeks.

## System configuration reaching final stages

### “The Vanuatu AW system being configured to be the best”



*Totally dedicated: Members of the Project Team at the new office premises*

The postponement of the AW launching has somewhat comes as a blessing to the Project, allowing the Project Team and Customs to further work on the system and other operational matters prior to going live.

In fact the momentum has not slowed down in the Project room as the Team has been working tirelessly to further

test and configure the system to fit Vanuatu's requirements and needs. There were also some system glitches which were identified and fixed; some of which were critical while some minor but still important to ensure smooth system processing.

A significant goal in the system configuration was to further ensure that the

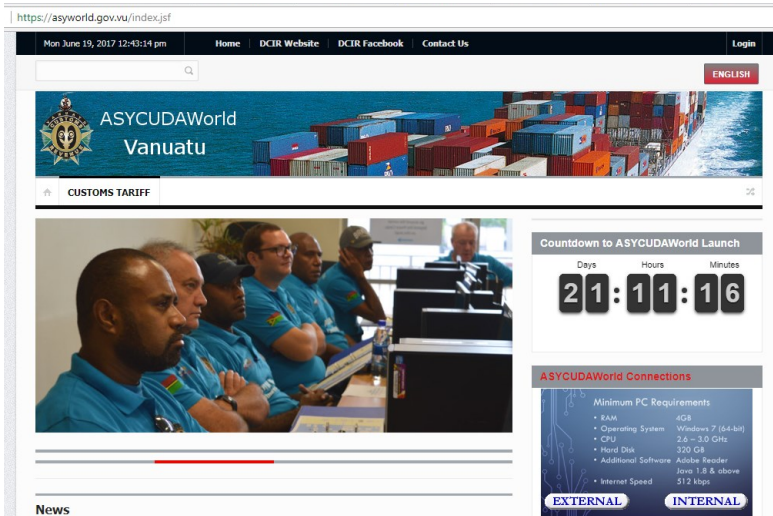
system is user friendly and that it meets both the users and Customs requirements. This involved a lot of system customization and simplification. The Team anticipates that the users will enjoy what is being developed to assist them with using the system.

As far as the Team is concerned, at the rate we're going, the Vanuatu AW system could be one of the best that we have seen. This is simply a result of the efforts being put in by the Team, working late hours even during weekends and public holidays (at no additional cost to the Government). 😊

In other developments, the Project Team have now been relocated from the OGCIIO office to the Customs conference room above the VAT office in town. This gives the Team a more closer working relationship with Customs for the final stages of the Project. The Team would like to thank the Chief Information Officer and his team for accommodating the Project Team during the initial 13 months of the Project.

# New AW Portal launched!

“Potentially the One Stop Shop for Customs Processing”



One of the major milestone of the Project was the launching of the brand new AW Portal on Friday 16th June 2017. Similar to what other Countries in the region have adopted for their own AW Portal, the NPT has further enhanced this platform for Vanuatu. Again, another result of the NPT's commitment and determination to deliver the best for Vanuatu.

The Portal currently consist of the major requirements of a AW Portal, however the NPT will be working on populating it with user documents, forms, news and so on in the coming weeks.

A major component of the Portal is the Customs Tariff which is linked directly to the AW database and thus is up to date and relevant. Looking into the future, the NPT will further add more useful links to the Portal directly from the AW database, such as Brokers contacts, Exemptions, Tariff Simulator and so on, thus meeting the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreements requirements.

The end result would be for the Portal to serve as the One Stop Shop for all required Customs Processing, boosting Trade facilitation in Vanuatu.

## Automatic uploading of manifest successfully implemented

“Other Carriers urged to follow suit”



For a Carrier to manually capture and submit its 100 bill manifest to Customs via the ASYCUDA system, within the legal timeframe without any errors can be time consuming and a hectic task.

To avoid this, and the possibility of being penalized by Customs for incorrect and/or late submission of data, Customs has been encouraging Carriers, sea freight and airfreight, to consider the option of electronically submitting their manifests to ASYCUDA directly from their logistics system. Unfortunately, only a few Carriers have taken up this advice which will see

them save massive amount of time (and money) and stress when submitting cargo manifests to Customs.

The AW Project Team has been working with a couple of these Carriers during the Project to achieve this. A major breakthrough came at the end of May 2017 when the Team managed to successfully upload into ASYCUDAWorld a manifest file from a major logistics system, CargoWise. This achievement will greatly assist the users of CargoWise in Vanuatu in submitting their manifests to Customs correctly and within the legal timeframes.

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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 ASYCUDAWorld. 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.