



VANUATU DEPARTMENT OF
CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE

Vanuatu

ASYCUDA World Project

Monthly Newsletter

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- Live Dates now confirmed!
- More users now online prior to live implementation
- Customs and Bio-Security discussing automation
- Introducing the AW Expert for Vanuatu
- Chairman PSC visits the Project
- CRMC 8th meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

1. System Trainings to continue
2. System configurations to continue
3. CRMC 9th meeting

Live Dates now confirmed!

Users Trainings have commenced.

Following the progress of the work done on the system configuration, process documentations and the arrival of the AW Expert, Director Benjamin Malas has approved a schedule covering the user trainings and the live implementation dates for Port Vila and Luganville.

The confirmed live implementation dates are **5th June** for Port Vila and **10th July** for Luganville.

CRMC further endorsed this schedule in its 8th monthly meeting on 31st March 2017. CRMC further approved that an event similar to the commencing of the Project at Warwick Hotel in April 2016 will be held to commemorate the launching of the system in Vanuatu. Stakeholders will be informed of the details of this event by May.

Meanwhile user trainings have commenced in Port Vila for all Customs Officials and will continue into April before trainings for external users will commence in May.

Now that these dates are finalized, users are encouraged to organize themselves to ensure they attend their trainings on the scheduled dates. Details of training groups will be communicated to the users in due course.

External users training dates

2 nd – 3 rd May	Manifest Processing – External Group 1
4 th – 5 th May	Manifest Processing – External Group 2
8 th – 9 th May	Brokers – Group 1
10 th – 11 th May	Brokers – Group 2
15 th – 16 th May	Brokers – Group 3

Internal users training in pictures



More users now online prior to Live implementation

Others encouraged to follow.

Despite the fact that users are yet to attend the upcoming AW Trainings, it is encouraging to see more users, both internally and externally, taking the initiative to accessing the system online.

Having access to the system now will:

- Ensure that the system does not come as a shock to users during the trainings and when it goes live.
- Ensure that users' computers can accommodate the system;

- Allow Users to provide feedbacks to the Project team to improving the system;
- Ensure there is a smooth transition from ASY++ to AW.

Users who do not take this initiatives may find themselves left behind during the trainings and when the system goes live.



Alain from "Alain's Clearance Agent" accessing AW on his laptop.

Customs and Bio-Security discussing automation

Electronic Single Window System the way forward



Similar to Customs, Bio-Security have also embarked on a Modernisation project to automate their procedures. To ensure the two border agencies are on the same page, Officials from the two Administrations have initialised talks to compare notes on their modernisation efforts.

During the discussions it was agreed that the submission of the same information to multiple systems is not viable and that it will only slow down the clearance of goods at our borders. Both parties agreed that a single point of submission of data should be the way forward.

Meeting with the team from Bio-Security, the AW Project Manager enlightened the team of the plans for Vanuatu to embark on a Single Window Project in 2018, as endorsed by the National Trade Development Committee. He added that both agencies should therefore support this national initiative by the NTDC.

Introducing the AW Expert for Vanuatu

The Vanuatu Project is excited to receive in March, the AW Expert to assist with the AW Project. He is Mr. Ravindra Abeysinghe.

Mr. Abeysinghe is no stranger to Vanuatu Customs. In fact he has been coming to Vanuatu for the last 13 years to assist Customs in its modernization and reform efforts.

Mr. Abeysinghe who was recruited by UNCTAD, has assisted Samoa in its own AW Project which saw Samoa successfully implementing the system in 2014. His experience in such AW Projects is therefore invaluable to Vanuatu's own Project.

Unfortunately, Mr. Abeysinghe's contract will only lapse in July and furthermore, due to UN travel policies, he will only be able to be physically with the Project team on one month periods during his contract. Despite these shortfalls, the Project Team is very fortunate to finally have an Expert on ground for longer periods to assist us with the Project.

The AW Expert is already busy working with the Team as there are still a lot of work to be done to ensure a successful implementation of the system come 5th of June.



Project Manager welcoming the AW Expert into the Team

Customs Reform and Modernization Committee

8th Meeting: 31st March 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 AW Expert. While matters are usually discussed and agreed over email, the Committee formally meets every month to discuss the reforms in detail.

March meeting agenda covered the following items, amongst other things:

1. Matters arising
2. Briefing from AW Expert
3. Endorsement of Selectivity Committee TOR
4. Endorsement of Training schedule and live implementation dates
5. Bio-Security system consultation
6. Feedback from overseas and local trainings attended by Officers, Managers and the Executive
7. AW Technical update
8. Many Other Businesses



CRMC members discussing reforms during the recent meeting.

PSC Chairman visits the Project

Chairman thanks the Team on the work being done



During his official tour of the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue, the AW Project was fortunate to receive the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Mr. Martin Mahe and his delegation, on a courtesy visit to the Project.

During the visit, the Project Manager made a brief presentation to the delegation on what the AW Project was all about. In response, Mr. Mahe

thanked the team on its efforts to further modernise the work of Customs to be able to meet its national objectives.

Director DCIR, Mr. Malas, acknowledged the visit by Mr. Mahe and his delegation, thanking them for taking the time from their busy schedules to visit the Project.



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The ASYCUDA (Automated SYstem for CUsoms 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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