



VANUATU DEPARTMENT OF  
CUSTOMS AND INLAND  
REVENUE

# Vanuatu

## ASYCUDA World Project

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### UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

1. **Customs reform inception mission**
2. **Functional Training in Suva Fiji**
3. **System configuration continue**

## First Technical Mission successfully completed

In accordance to the Project Work plan, the first ASYCUDA World Technical Mission was conducted on 2nd to 13th May 2016. The AW Expert that conducted the mission was Mr. Jayvee SANTOS. Mr. SANTOS just completed the AW Project for Fiji, and Vanuatu was fortunate to have him for this mission.

The Terms of Reference of the mission were:

1. To conduct an evaluation of the ICT environment of DCIR, the proposed AW server and the clients.
2. To assist the National Project Team with the installation of the AW Prototype server.
3. To assist the National Project Team with the develop-

ment and configuring of the Prototype server.



**The AW Expert and the Project Automation Specialist.**

While the official report of the mission is yet to be received, Mr. SANTOS mentioned to the Acting Director DCIR during the mission debrief that the ICT environment, the specialists (both in DCIR and the OG-CIO), the server and the clients are more than sufficient and capable to handle the AW system. This news was very much welcomed by the Acting Direc-

tor who is also the Chairman of the Customs Reform and Modernization Committee as well as the vice Chairman to the Project Steering Committee.

During the mission, Mr. SANTOS had the opportunity to speak to the OG-CIO team as well as a couple of Freight Forwarders and Customs Brokers.

We hope to see Mr. SANTOS back in Vanuatu again very soon.



**The AW Expert consulting the Database Manager at the OG-CIO.**

## Prototype server installed!

Following the purchase of the SOClass middleware license for the training server, the National Project Team managed to install the Prototype server with the assistance of the visiting Technical AW Expert.

It was a great learning experience for the National Team who are, for the first time ever, now very familiar with the installation of an AW server.

This server will be used as the training and testing server prior to rolling out the system to the pilot site.

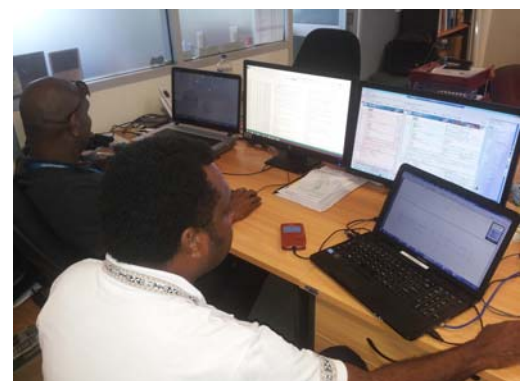
The National Project Team are now working on configuring the

Prototype server to Vanuatu's configuration. Once all configuration are in place and the tests are proved successful, the cleaned configuration will be replicated to the new Production server.

The ASYCUDA++ data will not be carried across to the new ASYCUDA World server; it will be a clean database. The ASY++ data will be available separately for reporting.

A fresh start to the Customs database!

**The busy National Team conducting the configuration clean up exercise**



# CTB Approves Sole Sourcing for SOClass



In its meeting on 26th May 2017, the Government Central Tender Board has agreed on the sole sourcing of the SO-Class middleware from Strategic Object.

Strategic Object will be providing the SO-Class licenses for

ASYCUDA World Production server, the training server and the development server.

The total cost of the licenses is USD86,860. The cost will be shared between the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO).

The AW National Project Manager was present at the CTB board meeting to table this request.

Now that this approval is granted by the Central Tender Board, the next step now is for the Project team to

submit the Agreement to the State Law Office for review. Once SLO approves this Agreement, a Council of Ministers (COM) paper will be submitted to the COM for final endorsement.

On behalf of the AW Project Steering Committee Chairman, the Project Manager would like to sincerely thank the Chairman of the Central Tender Board and his board members for considering this sole sourcing request and for approving it accordingly.

*In a nutshell*  
**SOClass secures the ASYCUDA database connections, allowing UNCTAD to focus on the ASYCUDA application**

## What is SOClass?

Java is the programming language on which ASYCUDA World was developed by UNCTAD, United Nations Conference for Trade And Development. The SOClass middleware is an extension of the standard Java libraries that manages database connection, full document history and tracking, and security among others. This enables ASYCUDA World to be deployed on a variety of computing platforms and architectures,

while allowing UNCTAD to focus on developing the features to support different Customs administrations and environments.

It is because of this flexibility that UNCTAD opted to work with the SOClass middleware other than the other available middleware.

The SOClass license is used for both operation of the system and development. DCIR purchased two licenses

- a 20-users license that will be used for training and testing, a 5-users license for development, and a 100-users license for operations (inclusive of another 100-users backup license). The technology will allow DCIR to extend the functionality of standard ASYCUDA modules to suit national requirements, as well as provide a platform to potentially develop a Single Window implementation.

**Strategy Object are the sole provider of the SO-Class software**



The SOClass licenses purchases are perpetual licenses that do not require regular renewals. However, activation keys are issued for a limited duration, but subject to re-issuance free of charge, and linked to specific server hardware configuration. This allows DCIR to migrate to more powerful hardware in

the future without requiring the purchase of a new license. Should the number of concurrent users ever exceed 100, DCIR has the possibility to modify the license to accommodate the extra number of users at a cost proportional to the number of extra users.

# AW Project showcased at the Pacific ICT Days 2016

Automation Specialist explaining.



PSC Chairman showing great interest in the Project.



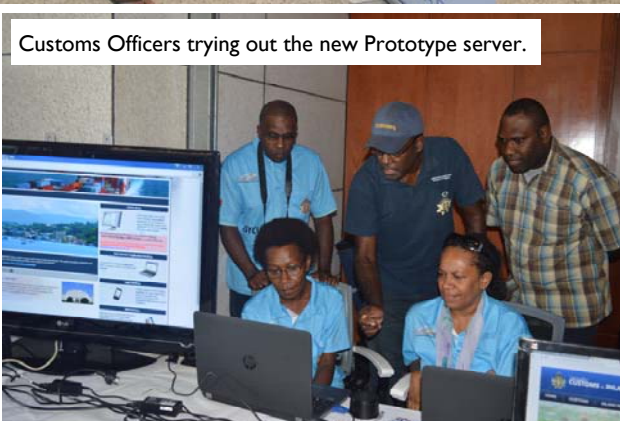
The Public turned up in numbers.



Students keen to hear of the new system.



Customs Officers trying out the new Prototype server.



Licensed Customs Brokers also having a go.



## ICT DAYS Pacific 2016

ICT ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SOCIAL IMPACT  
17<sup>th</sup> AND 18<sup>th</sup> OF MAY 2016 FROM 9AM TO 5PM  
INAUGURATION OF THE NEW NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE - NEAR PARLIAMENT HOUSE

EVENT OPEN TO ALL  
ICT HEMI BLONG EVRIWAN!  
EVENT TO BE REBROADCASTED  
LIVE ON TBV AND RADIO VANUATU



FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK A FOOD STALL:  
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# ASYCUDA world

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.

*Please visit our website for past editions of this Newsletter!*

## Tax Identification numbers to be used for Customs processing

To assist with dealing with debts right across tax and Customs, the Customs Reform and Modernization Committee (CRM) has agreed that the current CT numbers used for tax purposes will be used by Customs in the new AW environment.

This decision came about following an agreement reached by the Tax Reform Committee on its meeting on 26th May 2016 that the current CT numbers will now be considered as the **Tax Identification Numbers**.

The use of TIN numbers across both Customs and Tax will also be useful for Tax clearance purposes for departing passengers, especially when AW will also be used as the passenger processing system once Customs takes over the primary line at our borders.

Furthermore, the use of this common identifier across Customs and Tax will assist both entities on conducting their risk assessment and

compliance checks more effectively.

Talks have been initiated between DCIR and Finance to extend the use of this common identifier into the finance system as well. If this is achieved, it would mean all debts and risks can be tracked across the entire Government department, since the Finance system is being used by a number of Government departments as their accounting and finance system.

## The Project now has a vehicle!

Implementing a Project without the means of mobilizing the Project team, can be quite a challenge. The Chairman of the CRM (Director DCIR), realizes this difficulty and has therefore approved the purchase of a brand new vehicle from the Project funds to be used by the Project team.

The vehicle will assist with the mobilization of AW experts during their missions to Vanuatu, for in-country AW trainings and for conducting consultation with stakeholders.

It was agreed that the vehicle will be transferred to replace the current DCIR ICT vehicle, which will be due for replacement, by the completion of the Project in 2017.

