

# ASYCUDA World

## NEWSLETTER

ASYCUDAWorld (AW) Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1, May 2021



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## Foreword

The economic impact of COVID-19 in the Pacific is unprecedented and continues to unfold. Australia and New Zealand are committed to supporting economic recovery and resilience in the Pacific through all available means. This includes maximising opportunities for boosting trade and investment through regional integration initiatives such as the regional trade and development agreement PACER Plus, and its trade related support.

Therefore, we are pleased to be funding partners for roll out of the integrated automated customs system ASYCUDA World, which will support six PACER Plus Pacific partner countries to access and leverage technology to help mitigate and recover from the impact of COVID-19. This will enable customs authorities, cross-border agencies and traders to

electronically submit documents and exchange data as well as computerise procedures to support swift clearance of goods, hence reducing the need for face-to-face interaction in a COVID-19 operating environment.

PACER Plus provisions and related assistance encourages more cooperation between customs authorities, promotes efficient customs procedures and provides transparency and fairness to traders. ASYCUDA World deployment is a foundational part of the PACER Plus regional customs modernisation work program.

The PACER Plus Agreement commits Australia and New Zealand to support Pacific Island partner countries to become more active partners in and to benefit from this ASYCUDA World project.



## Brief Background

The AW project is part of the Pacific Agreement for Closer Economic Region (PACER) Plus which is funded by Australia and New Zealand. The project is coordinated by UNCTAD.

AW project commenced in November 2019. However, due to COVID19 break out, the project activities were delayed.

With the appointment of the **National Project Team (NPT)**, AW project officially commenced on 1st March 2021 and aimed to be completed by the end of 2022.

## Proof of Concept in 2017

Until now, AW was only used by bigger Customs Administrations and became a trend that it may not be suitable for small Customs Administrations.

However, in 2017 Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) in its Annual Conference held in Tuvalu, 2016, Kiribati was appointed to spearhead the AW proof of concept for small customs administrations. This study was successfully

completed at the end of 2017 and released a report for all small Customs administrations proving that AW system is fit to all Customs Administrations no matter how big or small the administration.

During the study, number of recommendations were made after conducting detailed gap analysis which is suitable for all small customs administrations who want to install AW in future.

## National Project Team (NPT)



**Tekaié Ititaake**

A Project Manager. He is been with Customs since 1995 until to date prior taking this Project Manager role. He got a BA in Management & Economics from the University of the South Pacific and a Master of International Customs Law & Administration from CCES University of Canberra.



**Etekiea Betero**

An Automation/Trainer Specialist. Admitted to Customs in 2000. He is a system administrator for Customs and very familiar with PC Trade. He has a good understanding of the MS SQL Server. Obtain his Graduate Certificate in Customs Administration from Charles Sturt University in 2017. Have attended 10+ training and workshop on Customs field.



**Tokamaen Boubou**

A tariff/procedures specialist. Attend KGV & EBS High School with 16 years of Customs experience. Well versed in tariff classifications and ROO/PSR and in charge of tariff migration.

## Inception Mission in 2019

Inception Mission conducted by Ravindra Abeysinghe, AW Expert in 2019 revisited the Proof of Concept report that was prepared in 2017.

His report highlight the different processes that KCAE currently used in its manifest process, cargo clearance process etc., and recommend number of revised processes that KCAE should follow when AW is fully implemented.

KCAE required to align its legislation to support the AW implementation which follow the international standards and best practices. In other words, Customs

is required to reform their business process and practices to cater the AW implementation.

The Report is a very comprehensive report that gives guidelines for the overall implementation of AW and the roles of each bodies or committees that will involve in the project.

A list of recommendations that highlight the important role of the National Project Team and the Project Coordinator. Not only that, it also outlines the Committees that need to be established to support and oversee the project.





## Activities – Consultations

### Meeting with Shipping/Airline Agencies

NPT met with 3 major Shipping Agencies that looks after Container Ships and Tankers.

The visit was also extended to the minor Agencies and during the visit a questionnaire was distributed to each of them to fill and submit after a week.

The feedback is very helpful to formulate the new proposed manifest process which in line with the AW system.

NPT also visit Tax Office for the TIN number that need to be aligned as well. Meeting with Treasury Department is to ensure that e-Receipt is accepted to replace manual receipt.

The meeting with Customs is to make sure that their current manifest process have issues that need to be addressed before a new manifest process is introduced.

The questionnaires of Tax and Customs assist NPT to obtain all relevant feedbacks on the manifest process.



*“Resilience is not about Positive thinking ...Its accurate thinking.” JM*



### National Project Team

Kiribati Customs Administration & Enforcement (KCAE)  
BETIO, TARAWA

## Challenges

- Broadband access in the Small Pacific Island countries has been a continuous challenge. internet speed needs to be 2MB minimum bandwidth for Customs HQ, Seaport and Airport offices with backup connection from an alternative service provider. Current internet speed continuous to impede work progress but the NPT continuously Pivots its way through these challenges.
- E-receipt vs Financial Regulation for Government MANUAL Receipts. In order to full enjoying being AUTOMATED and PAPERLESS - this e-receipt need to be resolved to be recognized as Government receipts.

## Upcoming Events

- Internal Training for Customs officials;
- External Training for Key Stakeholders (Customs Brokers, Shipping, Airline, Partners);
- Review and Formulations of respective Business Processes;
- Access to AW system for on-hand training and practical exercise on Manifest Process;
- Commencement of Declaration Processes.



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**Tool for implementing Trade Facilitation without compromising Customs Controls & Border Protection.**



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