

ASYCUDAWorld

NEWSLETTER

ASYCUDAWorld (AW) Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1, June 2021



Inside this issue:

Foreword	1
ASYCUDAWorld Project	1
Parties involved in ASYCUDAWorld Project	2
Tuvalu National Project Team	2
Technical supports	3
Project Milestones	3
First three months of the Project	3
Message from Australia and New Zealand	4

Foreword

It is indeed my privilege in acknowledging our Traditional Partners Australia and New Zealand for their assistance through the PACER plus Readiness Package in making it possible for Tuvalu Customs to enhance its business process through the implementation of the ASYCUDAWorld System.

While we are still reeling from the impact of COVID-19, UNCTAD Expert were already on the ground providing training for Customs and its stakeholders. This Training Modality has gone virtual as we progressively engage to achieve AW Project Outcomes. I am therefore privileged to foreword this First news Letter.

*Fakafetai Lasi
Temumuni Talitiga
Director of Customs*

ASYCUDAWorld Project

Tuvalu's government aims to become the world's first paperless society, using Blockchain technology to create a national digital ledger.

The AW Project fits in very neatly with the overall objective of the Government of Tuvalu. **Automated SYSTEM for CUSTOMS Data** (ASYCUDA) system is an online computerized platform designed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to help improve Customs clearance processes. It will simplify and expedite Customs clearance processes and data management.

Project Inception report recommends that Tuvalu Customs Service engage in a business process review and reengineering process with the aim of streamlining business processes and implementing international standard and best practices as part of the ASYCUDAWorld project.

ASYCUDAWorld aims at

- Modernizing customs operations and helping to improve revenue collection
- Facilitating trade efficiency

"The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency. The second is that automation applied to an inefficient operation will magnify the inefficiency." Bill Gates



and competitiveness by substantially reducing transaction time and costs. Improving security by streamlining procedures of cargo control, transit of goods and clearance of goods

- Helping fight corruption by enhancing the transparency of transactions
- Promoting sustainable development by cutting down on the use of paper, through the use of electronic transactions and documents.



Parties involved in ASYCUDAWorld Project

In July, 2019 the Government of Tuvalu with UNCTAD, New Zealand and Australian Government have signed a Project Agreement for the introduction of Automated Customs Processes and the Deployment of ASYCUDAWorld. The Project is funded by the Australian and New Zealand governments as part of their commitment to the PACER Plus Agreement.

The Tuvalu Customs Service is responsible to the Management and Implementation of the ASYCUDAWorld Project through the National Project Team, and with the assistance and guidance from the UNCTAD specialists. There are committees that have been established to provide oversight and also monitor and evaluate the Project. These committees are the Customs Reform and Modernization Committee (CRMC) and National Project Steering Committee (PSC). The two committees consist of Tuvalu Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu Customs Service, National Project Team, Stakeholders, Other government and none government agencies involved with Customs clearance process and UNCTAD. As the donors of the project, MFAT and DFAT representatives may participate as observers in the PSC meetings.

Tuvalu National Project Team

Tuvalu National Project team consist of three members, including the Project Manager Mr Tuilagi



Teii, Mr Tebeke Teaukai as Automation and Training Specialist and Mr Faleasiu Mono as the Tariff and Process Specialist. The National Project Team signed their contracts on the 14th of march and commence work the very next Day. The provision of Office space together with its amnesties are provided by the Tuvalu Customs Service.

National Project Manager Main tasks

The National Project Managers key responsibility is the overall monitoring and the effective delivery of project activities. He must also ensure the timely reporting of activities on a weekly and monthly basis. The Project Manager Must also ensure timely delivery of tasks within the agreed timeframes, allocate resources and with the required standard of performance of His team. The coordination and implementation of the Project activities will also be assisted by the UNCTAD ASYCUDA Regional Coordinator and the two ASYCUDA Experts assigned for the Tuvalu project.

Automation and Training Process Specialist tasks

The Automation and Training specialist is responsible for the development and testing of the prototype. He will also Provide technical institutional memory and specific technical documentation throughout the project life cycle and beyond. It is also his responsibility to consolidate the migration of data from the PCTrade system currently used by the Tuvalu Customs into ASYCUDAWorld, and assist with the development and testing of management reports.

Tariff and Process Specialist tasks

The Tariff and Process Specialist key responsibility is to assess and make recommendations on customs procedures, tariff management, classification and other procedure aspects of Customs clearance as well as overall Customs process management. It also assists with the review of Customs procedure and configuration and implementing approved new procedures and processes ASYCUDAWorld. Assists with validation of procedures and documentation by competent authorities.





Technical supports

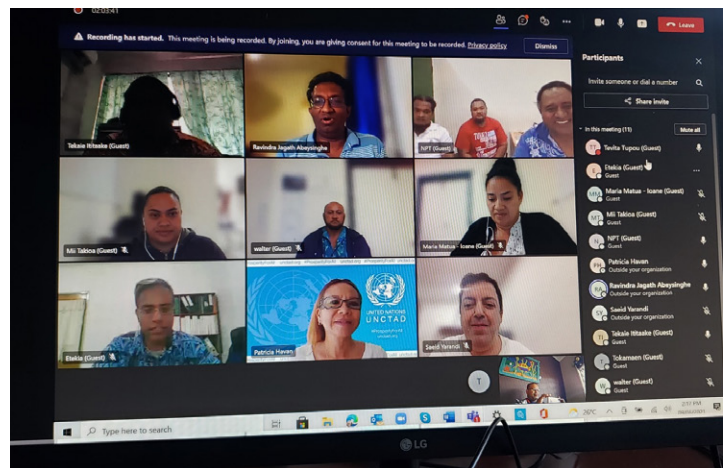
The United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) provides the ASYCUDAWorld System and technical assistance through its experts, Mr. Jayvee Santos as ASYCUDA Pacific Coordinator, Mr. Ravindra Abesinghe, ASYCUDA Expert and Mr Tevita Tupou, Customs Expert. Due to current COVID19 pandemic situation UNCTAD experts are currently based in Suva, Fiji and Virtually conducts weekly meeting with the National Project Team to provide guidance and technical assistance. UNCTAD Experts are expected to Travel across to Tuvalu and provide onsite assistance once the border opens.

Project milestones

Programme	
Signing of project document	Q3 2019
Official commencement of the Project	Q4 2019
National Project Team setup and begin work	Q1 2021
National Project Team Training	Q2 2021
Prototype endorsement	Q3 2021
Pilot site endorsement	Q3 2021
Live Implementation	Q4 2021
Roll out endorsement and the final report on project completion	Q1 2022

The first three months of the Project

- On March 14th the National Project Team signed their Contracts with the UNDP, and on the 15th the Project team commence work at the Tuvalu Customs Service office, Government building;
- Project Team have been issued with working equipment's, stationaries, laptops and computers;
- Manifest Process survey completed and proposed Manifest process has been finalized and distributed to respective shipping agents and freight forwarders;
- Consultation with Shipping agents and freight forwarders on proposed manifest completed on the first week of May. The Consultation was done by the NPT along with ASYCUDAWorld experts virtually engaging with Partners;
- NPT and AYCUDAWorld experts have a weekly Friday zoom Meeting;
- Customs Reforms and Modernizations Committee together with the Project steering committee Has been appointed to Provide oversight to the Project;
- The National Project Team have access into ASYCUDA Platforms for the Purpose of Training;
- ASYCUDAworld Functional Training for the National Project Team is conducted Virtually on a daily basis right through out the week.



Team Meeting & AW Training



Stakeholder Consultation



Message from Australia and New Zealand

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.

ASYCUDA World will reduce manual and cumbersome processes, thereby increasing the efficiency of customs cargo clearance, produce timely and accurate trade statistics, minimise the risk of fraud, maximise revenue collection, and ensure the smooth functioning of cross-border trade, especially for essential products.

Enhanced transparency and simplified procedures for businesses trading in the Pacific will help to lower transaction costs and contribute to competitiveness. Based on global evidence, basic trade facilitation measures such as harmonising and simplifying documents and automating processes and risk management

can reduce overall trade costs by 10% - and considerably more for low and low-middle income economies. Importantly ASYCUDA World provides a basis for countries to move towards a National Single Window which brings together all relevant agencies' border procedures under the one online platform, as well as add other digitised features which can continue to make the cross-border movement of goods, services and people safe, traceable and efficient.

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 regional and global trade. This ASYCUDA World project is an impactful contribution towards Australia's commitment to spend 20 percent of Pacific Official Development Assistance, alongside New Zealand's commitment of 20 percent of Total Official Development Assistance, on aid for trade in the Pacific.



Phone 1: +???????

E-mail: t?????@i



ASYCUDA
AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR CUSTOMS DATA



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

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



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere



Cook Islands

Kiribati

Nauru

Niue

Tonga

Tuvalu