

ASYCUDA World

NEWSLETTER

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Above: NPT Team with Asycuda Expert Saeid Yarandi (top left) and Customs Expert Patricia Haran (inset)

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July Activities

July has been a very busy month for the National Project Team (NPT). We commenced training with several stakeholders specifically related to manifested goods. These stakeholders consisted of shipping agents, airline agents and freight forwarders.

The NPT whilst ensuring training is being delivered to stakeholders, also continue with their own skills developments on the ASYCUDA system. The ongoing training for the NPT confirms the commitment to certification of the system for the Cook Islands.

We also had our very first steering committee meeting late in the month. The steering committee consists of representatives from the following agencies: Cook Islands Customs Service (Chair), Cook Islands Immigration (Deputy Chair), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – New Zealand (MFAT), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Australia (DFAT), United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD), Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce.

Manifest Automation

As we get closer to automating cargo manifests, the pressure to ensure this initiative is delivered on the agreed timeline increases.

Therefore, to accomplish this, it was necessary to ensure that the following tasks were completed. Creation and development of flowcharts for ease of reference for users. Creation of business units as well as the creation and registration of users of ASYCUDA system, specifically those involved in handling of shipping and airfreighted cargo.

However, to make the transition from a manual process to full automation seamless and without entering details line by line. We encouraged the shipping and airline agents, Co-loaders and freight forwarders to request from their shippers overseas to send documents in a specific XML file format. This stands for Extensible Markup Language. It is a flexible way to create information formats and electronically share structured data via the public Internet, as well as via corporate networks.

Having the manifest in XML format allows the user to automatically upload a file directly into the ASYCUDA system.

Training

During the month, training was organized and delivered to shipping agents, airline, co-loaders and freight forwarders on manifest automation.



Above: manifest training being delivered to Xcil Shipping staff by Customs ASYCUDA trainer Mii Takioa in the front. Xcil staff L to R Maru Apera, Mavis Tere and Nga Turua.

Areas covered in the training included providing access to the system, creation of user's names and passwords as well as the steps required to upload cargo data into ASYCUDA system. Training continued throughout the month for the manifest stakeholders so that they can confidently continue to manage their way around the system without assistance.



Above: more manifest training being delivered by Customs ASYCUDA trainer Mii Takioa (L) to Pua Nicholls (M) of Hawaii Pacific Maritime and Daniel Gribble (R) of Transam Cook Islands.

Access to an ASYCUDA Test server was also given to stakeholders to continue their own training with the support of Customs ASYCUDA trainer.

Project Steering Committee

On 28th July, the first steering committee meeting convened via zoom link. The committee consists of representatives from various agencies, and they are as follows; Comptroller of Customs Xavier Mitchell (Chair), Principal Immigration Officer Kairangi Samuela (Vice Chair), UNCTAD Jayvee Santos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand Okesene Moananu, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia Chris Watkins, Chamber of Commerce Eve Hayden.

An overview presentation of the project was delivered by UNCTAD and ASYCUDA regional representative for the pacific Jayvee Santos. His presentation touched on UNCTAD being the specialized agency to help developing countries to target their problems that hinder them from participating in global trade. Also, to identify appropriate international actions to address these challenges.

A presentation on progress to date of the project was delivered by Walter Tangata. This was to confirm our choice to go with manifest automation to start off the project. A project plan and key milestones was also presented to the committee. This contained ten initiatives that will cater for all activities to be undertaken before system goes live later in the year.

Update on progress with new Immigration system was delivered by ASYCUDA expert Saeid Yarandi. He advised of a plan to work on an ASYPX server and preparation of training materials for user training. Training documents will require verification by Immigration officers to ensure it is in accordance with legislation.

Training will commence from October to first week of November and will include front line officers which will be a top priority.

Upcoming Events

- Internal Training for Customs officials;
- 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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