

ASYCUDA World

NEWSLETTER

ASYCUDA World (AW) Monthly Newsletter

Issue 7, October update 2021



National Project Teams of the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu in an online virtual MS Teams ASYCUDA World Functional Training

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October Program

The Cook Islands National Project Team officially started work on the declaration module of the ASYCUDA World program.

To commence this piece of activity, it was determined we would begin with identifying different Customs processes and requirements available in AW, followed by Customs declaration processing requirements.

The project steering committee met for the second time during the month where a detailed work plan was presented along with a progression and milestones update.

Joint NPT functional training II was delivered to the national project teams of the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu via MS Teams. The key focus was mainly related to declarations.

Customs procedures, HS Tariff, taxation rules, SAD configuration, selectivity and risk management were some of the areas covered in the training.

Declaration Module

This component of the project is now under way, and we have started with the identification of different types of declarations in ASYCUDA.

The declaration module is a big portion of the functionalities of AW.

This component allows for the clearance, payment and release of dutiable goods electronically and becomes critical to our risk management process and practices.

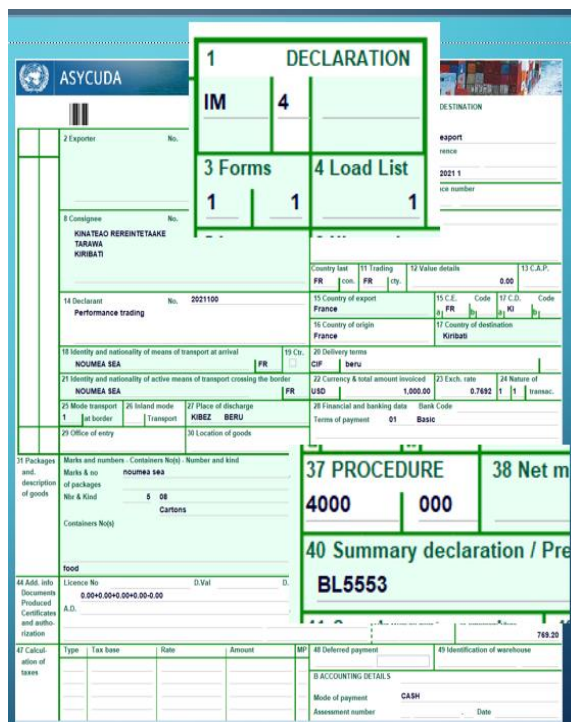
Other features available in the declaration module is automation of exports, various payment capabilities and a number of important reporting functions are also accessible.

To start this part of the project, the NPT along with AW experts met to discuss procedures code to be used. These are codes allocated to determine types of declarations such as importation, temporary importation, exports, and the like.

A number of other declarations will be available to cover other activities allowed under the Customs Act.



Above: NPT's with ASYCUDA experts undertaking online training on Declarations.



Above: a Single Administrative Document (SAD) declaration in the In the ASYCUDA System.

Two other important aspects required for the declaration component is the harmonized system tariff (HS) and taxation rules.

The HS outlines the description of goods and the tax rules will determine the type of taxes owing or which will require payment on a declaration before goods are released.

Other government agencies who will link into elements of the overall program are the Statistics Office and Ministry of Agriculture – Biosecurity Division.

Project Steering Committee Meeting

On 27 October, the second project steering committee met.

Members included First Secretary from New Zealand High Commission Okesene Moananu, Comptroller of Customs Xavier Mitchell, UNCTAD's ASYCUDA Regional Coordinator for the Pacific Jayvee Santos, New Zealand Customs Advisor to the Cook Islands Shane Panettiere, ASYCUDA expert Saeid Yarandi.

We received confirmation from UNCTAD that the project time line has been extended for completion in June 2022. Initial timeline was for the project to be completed by end of 2021. (Delays have been due to COVID disruptions)

A detailed work plan was presented to the committee encompassing work that has been completed, work that is under way and work to be completed in coming weeks and months.

An ASYCUDA progress update including milestones achieved was also delivered to the committee. Important outcomes to date are;

- The live deployment of the manifest to the prototype server on 30 September 2021.
- Seven companies are now submitting cargo manifests through ASYCUDA. These are;
 - Air New Zealand
 - Xcil Shipping
 - Transam
 - Rarotonga Freight Services
 - Kauvai Customs Agency
 - Cook Islands Courier

- 19 people including 5 Customs staff have been trained on the manifest module in AW.

Air New Zealand was also requested to have postal mail manifested correctly, and this took effect from 01 November 2021.

The national project team discussed and agreed that a "frequently asked questions" (FAQ) tab will be added to the <https://cookislands.asycuda.org/> webpage to assist users whilst using AW.

Having this available to users will minimize repeatedly asked questions and responses will be available to all users.

Upcoming Events

- Webinar - Leveraging PACER Plus to improve the ease of doing business, 29 November.
- CRMC update Meeting 9 November.
- Manifest stakeholder meeting 9 November.
- Selectivity and Risk Management controls in ASYCUDA



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