



Timor-Leste Customs officers at the Indonesia Customs Education and Training Centre, Jakarta

BUILDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In a significant step towards fostering bilateral cooperation, the Customs Authority recently facilitated the participation of twenty-five staff members in a comprehensive Basic Customs Training Course. The initiative, which took place at the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGCE) Education and Training Center (Pusdiklat) in Jakarta, was carried out under the MoU signed between the two entities.

From 2nd to 16th June 2023, the intensive two-week program encompassed key subjects such as Customs Tariff classification, World Trade Organization (WTO) Valuation Rules, WTO Rules of Origin, Risk Management, and fundamental principles of Customs control.

CA officers expressed their deep appreciation for the opportunity to engage with their Indonesian counterparts and gain valuable insights during the training program, which helped them in enhancing their comprehension of roles and responsibilities within the Customs Authority

Looking forward, the Customs Authority eagerly anticipates further collaborations with the Indonesian Directorate General of Customs and Excise. The success of this training has bolstered their commitment to pursuing future joint initiatives..

training endeavor has bolstered their commitment to pursuing future joint initiatives, including training programs and other cooperative activities.



Commissioner joined the TL team at WTO in Geneva



CA women sharing ideas during the session

INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING TO CA WOMEN

On the 27th of April 2023, USAID-Trade Governance Activity assisted the Customs Authority (CA) women to have their regular monthly meeting to discuss important topics related to women capacity building issues with the Activity's GEVE Specialist.. As part of the previously discussed topics on 'Content Development and Public Speaking Skills', a practical session was held with CA women to put into practice their skills in some steps and how to have better preparation ahead of their presentations.

Each participant had an opportunity to speak for 2 minutes about the specific topic given by the facilitator. Participants expressed that they enjoyed the session where topics were chosen randomly from a keyword list. They indicated they felt a bit nervous initially, because they had short time to

prepare, but they understood that the exercise was to prepare them for the unexpected.

The facilitator and the DCOP, Mr. Sergio Riveros encouraged the participants to 'always be prepared for an unexpected situation', particularly in public speaking-related skills as they may be asked to do so in a particular meeting'.

Following this, participants were shown a video of their practical sessions, so they identify and correct the gaps and to improve future public speaking practices. Considering the number of CA women participants has been getting lower in the last 2 meetings, the facilitator, and the Director of CA HR and Training Unit Mrs. Marlina discussed options such as changing the venue or reporting the attendance with superiors at CA to look at possible strategies to increase the participants in the next monthly meeting. The next CA Women Monthly Meeting is scheduled to be held in July 2023, where CA, HR team will present Human resources-related topics.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

From 15-22 April 2023, CA Commissioner and Coordinator, Institutional Relations and Communication and representatives from Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry (MTCI) went to Geneva for a special mission on Timor-Leste Accession to the World Trade Organizations (WTO). The team met and reviewed agreement content and signed pending agreements with WTO members and discussed further meeting plans to finalize the agreement signing issues with the remaining WTO members.

The next 6th Working Party meeting will be held in September 2023 and hopefully Timor-Leste will become member of WTO during the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) meeting in February 2024. The Working Party members appreciated the efforts made by Timor-Leste and offered training opportunities to accelerate the WTO accession process.

The meeting was chaired by Timor-Leste's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs (MCAE) Mr. Joaquim Amaral.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELECTRONIC DECLARATION (E-DECLARATION) FOR PASSENGERS IN AIRPORT AND BORDER AREAS.

On May 1st, 2023, the Timor-Leste Customs Authority started implementing passengers' Electronic Declaration launched online for passengers who enter Timor-Leste through President Nicolau Lobato, International Airport and the border areas of Batugade and Suai.

Mr. Zeca Amaral, the Coordinator of CA Informatics and Statistic Unit, said, it was a success for Customs

to start transforming everything electronically.

"We need to ensure that paperless strategy must continue to be developed and implemented at Customs so as to sequence time, and make everything technically organized." he said.

E-Declaration was developed by Timor-Leste National Single Window project team that works to unite or link the parties involved in a Customs process.