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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects of  
Intellectual Property Rights**

Original: English

**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM  
OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)

*Addendum*

At its meeting of 6 June 2019, the Council for TRIPS agreed to invite intergovernmental organization observers to the Council to update the information on their technical and financial cooperation programmes relating to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

The present document reproduces the information which has been received from the World Customs Organization (WCO) by means of a communication dated 25 September 2019.

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**INTRODUCTION**

**1 OVERVIEW OF WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO) ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS OF RELEVANCE TO THE TRIPS AGREEMENT**

1. The intellectual property rights (IPR), Health and Safety Programme of the WCO maintains its resolve to protect consumer health and safety, and continues to combat counterfeiting and piracy through a variety of activities described in the following paragraphs. The WCO experience in this field is in line with the other international organisations working in the field of IPR enforcement. There seems to be a shift of the modus operandi towards the use of small consignments thus reducing the numbers of large seizures, but there does not seem to be any significant fall in the number of counterfeits traded globally. The WCO's main activity is to raise awareness about Customs work in this area either towards other international organisations or by promoting capacity building activities for our member Administrations. The capacity building consists of two factors; training through workshops and education and training through operational activities. A list of the WCO activities is attached in the Annex I.

**1.1 Operations**

2. The WCO organizes simultaneous enforcement activities with multiple Customs administrations. These operations are aimed at knowing the scale of global counterfeiting whilst providing participating Customs officers with hands-on experience. Operations, which quantify and qualify the impact of counterfeit activities, can also serve as an excellent opportunity to strengthen Customs' enforcement capacity. Participating Members are able to learn about practical border enforcement measures through our Accredited Experts and gain hands-on experience using WCO tools, such as CENcomm.

3. Between October 2018 and September 2019, the WCO, in partnership with Interpol and Europol and health authorities, co-organised a large-scale operation, the global operation PANGEA against pharmaceutical products sold online. Last year's 11th operation was held in October 2018, involving police, customs and health regulatory authorities from a record 116 countries. Operation Pangea XI results in 859 arrests worldwide and the seizure of USD 14 million worth of potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals.

4. The impact of such a substantial level of interventions around the world sends a strong message both to offenders and the general public.

### **1.2 National/Regional seminars**

5. The WCO delivers extensive capacity building activities, mainly in the form of legislative training, document targeting training and product identification training, with private sector cooperations. But the organisation also performs diagnostic missions. In the diagnostic missions, WCO experts visit the country and assess the Customs administrations capabilities in the domain of fighting counterfeits. The evaluation includes both the legal base and practical and procedural arrangements, and leads to a recommendation from WCO. Between October 2018 and September 2019, the WCO conducted several training seminars/workshops for officers from a number of WCO Member administrations.

### **1.3 Counterfeit and Piracy Group (CAP) meeting**

6. The annual WCO Counterfeiting and Piracy (CAP) Group meeting provides a forum for Customs and related law enforcement agencies to exchange information, experiences and best practices on combating counterfeiting and piracy. At its 16th Meeting from 30 September to 1 October 2019, Members explored the challenges posed by the Internet and cyber investigations, e-commerce and small consignments but also food and plant varieties were discussed. During this meeting, Members also shared their experiences and exchanged practices on fighting counterfeits.

### **1.4 E-learning module (CLiCK)**

7. By using the WCO's internet-based e-learning module "CLiCK", Customs officers can acquire practical knowledge on border enforcement related to IPR. They can train themselves on intellectual property (IP) agreements, such as the TRIPS Agreement, and on practical, risk-based document targeting.

## ANNEX<sup>1</sup>

| Name of programme or project                 | National Workshop                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 12 November 2018 - 16 November 2018                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Lao People's Democratic Republic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and piracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | The Lao People's Democratic Republic Customs Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Participants were trained to improve effective Customs controls by applying risk management techniques, identifying risk indicators and focusing on appropriate targeting and selection of suspicious air cargoes/shipments, and performing various types of exercises. |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/november/wco-supports-lao-customs-to-strengthen-its-ipr-border-enforcement.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/november/wco-supports-lao-customs-to-strengthen-its-ipr-border-enforcement.aspx</a> |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                       |

  

| Name of programme or project                 | National Workshop                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 26 November 2018 - 30 November 2018                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Myanmar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Myanmar Customs Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Participants were trained to improve effective Customs controls by applying risk management techniques, identifying risk indicators and focusing on appropriate targeting and selection of suspicious air cargoes/shipments, and performing various types of exercises.         |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/december/wco-supports-myanmar-customs-to-strengthen-its-ipr-border-enforcement.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/december/wco-supports-myanmar-customs-to-strengthen-its-ipr-border-enforcement.aspx</a> |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                               |

<sup>1</sup> In English only.

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|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name of programme or project</b>          | <b>National Workshop</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 4 December 2018 - 7 December 2018                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Cambodia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and piracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Cambodia Customs Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Participants were trained to improve effective Customs controls by applying risk management techniques, identifying risk indicators and focusing on appropriate targeting and selection of suspicious air cargoes/shipments, and performing various types of exercises.                                                               |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/december/wco-national-workshop-for-cambodia-customs-on-border-enforcement-of-intellectual-property-rights.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2018/december/wco-national-workshop-for-cambodia-customs-on-border-enforcement-of-intellectual-property-rights.aspx</a> |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name of programme or project</b>          | <b>National Workshop</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 28 January 2019 - 1 February 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Ghana                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and piracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Ghana Customs Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization in collaborate with Swiss IP office                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Participants were trained to improve effective Customs controls by applying risk management techniques, identifying risk indicators and focusing on appropriate targeting and selection of suspicious air cargoes/shipments, and performing various types of exercises.             |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/february/the-wco-organized-a-national-ipr-workshop-for-ghanaian-customs-in-accra.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/february/the-wco-organized-a-national-ipr-workshop-for-ghanaian-customs-in-accra.aspx</a> |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                                   |

| Name of programme or project                 | National Workshop                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 1 April 2019 - 5 April 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Bahamas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Bahamas Customs Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Participants were trained to improve effective Customs controls by applying risk management techniques, identifying risk indicators and focusing on appropriate targeting and selection of suspicious air cargoes/shipments, and performing various types of exercises.                     |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/may/bahamas-customs-and-excise-department-enhances-skillset-to-combat-counterfeiting.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/may/bahamas-customs-and-excise-department-enhances-skillset-to-combat-counterfeiting.aspx</a> |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                                           |

| Name of programme or project                 | Sub-Regional Workshop                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 25 April 2019 - 26 April 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Costa Rica; Cuba; El Salvador; Honduras; Panama                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | Sub-Regional Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Each Customs Administrations(Panama, Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | In collaboration with WIPO, Sub-regional workshop was held in Panama. Participants were trained to improve effective Customs controls by applying risk management techniques, identifying risk indicators and focusing on appropriate targeting and selection of suspicious air cargoes/shipments, and performing various types of exercises. |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Name of programme or project                 | Benchmark Study                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 7 May 2019 - 10 May 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Burundi; Kenya; Rwanda; Tanzania; Uganda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | The WCO/JICA(Japan International Cooperation Agency) Joint Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Each Customs Administrations(Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Through the benchmarking study, the participants identified a number of useful good practices and recommendations by Thai and Japan Customs that they will take back to their home administrations in order to further enhance their border control functions on IPR infringing goods.                                            |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/may/east-african-customs-participates-in-benchmarking-study-on-ipr-border-control-in-thailand-and-japan.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/may/east-african-customs-participates-in-benchmarking-study-on-ipr-border-control-in-thailand-and-japan.aspx</a> |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Name of programme or project                 | Benchmark Study                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 13 May 2019 - 16 May 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Burundi; Kenya; Rwanda; Tanzania; Uganda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | The WCO/JICA(Japan International Cooperation Agency) Joint Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Each Customs Administrations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Through the benchmarking study, the participants identified a number of useful good practices and recommendations by Thai and Japan Customs that they will take back to their home administrations in order to further enhance their border control functions on IPR infringing goods.                                            |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/may/east-african-customs-participates-in-benchmarking-study-on-ipr-border-control-in-thailand-and-japan.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/may/east-african-customs-participates-in-benchmarking-study-on-ipr-border-control-in-thailand-and-japan.aspx</a> |
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|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name of programme or project</b>          | <b>Accreditation Workshop</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 27 May 2019 - 31 May 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Australia; Hong Kong, China; India; Iran; Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Myanmar; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Viet Nam                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | Accreditation Workshop for Technical Operational Advisers on Intellectual Property Rights for the Asia/Pacific(A/P)region                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | The accreditation of TOAs comprises two phases, the first being a workshop to identify participants with high potential and the second being field missions to finally assess participants' ability to facilitate capacity building activities in these specific domains. Only participants having successfully completed the workshop phase can proceed to the field mission phase. Once fully accredited, they are expected to facilitate IPR-related missions and offer practical advice to Member countries wishing to strengthen their IPR border measures. During the five-day intensive Workshop, participants demonstrated their IPR knowledge and skills through a number of exercises, including presentations, discussions and role-plays. |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/june/accreditation-workshop-on-ipr-for-the-asia-pacific-region.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/june/accreditation-workshop-on-ipr-for-the-asia-pacific-region.aspx</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name of programme or project</b>          | <b>National Workshop</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 17 June 2019 - 21 June 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Senegal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | National Workshop on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Senegal Customs Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Participants were trained to improve effective Customs controls by applying risk management techniques, identifying risk indicators and focusing on appropriate targeting and selection of suspicious air cargoes/shipments, and performing various types of exercises. |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Contact point for further information</b> | Mr. Yusuke INOUE Technical Attaché. Compliance and Facilitation Directorate(Enforcement) The World Customs Organization (yusuke.inoue@wcoomd.org)                                                                                                                       |

| Name of programme or project                 | National Workshop                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and end date</b>                     | 26 June 2019 - 28 June 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Beneficiary country or countries</b>      | Armenia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Brief description</b>                     | National Workshop in Cooperation with the State Revenue Committee of Republic of Armenia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Beneficiary institution or audience</b>   | Armenia Customs Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Technical cooperation provider(s)</b>     | The World Customs Organization                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Outputs or impact</b>                     | Participants were trained to improve effective Customs controls by applying risk management techniques, identifying risk indicators and focusing on appropriate targeting and selection of suspicious air cargoes/shipments, and performing various types of exercises.                                                         |
| <b>Website for further information</b>       | <a href="http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/july/national-ipr-seminar-on-combating-counterfeiting-and-piracy-health-and-safety-republic-of-armenia.aspx">http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/july/national-ipr-seminar-on-combating-counterfeiting-and-piracy-health-and-safety-republic-of-armenia.aspx</a> |
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