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UNION



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To:

- UPU member countries and their designated operators
- Members of the World Customs Organization

Berne, Brussels, 3 April 2023

Reference: 1600(DOP.SC.CFS)1030

Subject: Joint WCO–UPU global conference – challenges and opportunities for cross-border e-commerce through cooperation between Customs and Posts

Dear Sir/Madam,

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to the above conference to be held in-person in Tokyo, Japan, from 6 to 8 June 2023. The conference is jointly organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), hosted by the Japan Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan Customs and Japan Post, under the theme “Challenges and opportunities for cross-border e-commerce through cooperation between Customs and Posts”. The draft agenda of the conference is attached to this letter. An online link will also be provided for registered participants, allowing delegates who are unable to travel to Tokyo to attend, but not actively participate in, the conference remotely via an online platform. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be provided.

In line with the renewed WCO–UPU cooperation agreement, and to further strengthen collaboration between our respective organizations, we agreed that the first joint WCO–UPU global conference would be organized in June 2023, as a first significant and symbolic step under the new agreement. Japan has also shared its willingness to host the event to contribute to promoting cooperation between Customs and designated operators (DOs) at international and national levels.

The joint global conference will bring together policy and decision-makers, as well as operational experts from Customs and DOs around the world, for discussions. Its goal is to explore various topics relating to common challenges, seek cooperation opportunities between DOs and Customs, and identify related policy orientation with a view to implementation in a standardized and harmonized manner.

We expect the conference to provide opportunities for synergies to enhance coordination and cooperation, strengthen security and facilitate customs procedures in the global postal chain, and to serve as a global platform for high-level officials and experts from Customs and DOs, as well as other stakeholders, to exchange information, experiences, know-how and best practices. It will assist in identifying emerging challenges and their potential solutions, while increasing the awareness of customs and postal regulatory frameworks, their mandates, and available instruments and tools.

Given the importance of customs issues affecting postal items and the growing significance of cooperation between Customs and Posts in cross-border e-commerce, your participation is crucial.

Delegates are invited to visit wco-upuconference2023.wcoevents.org/ and register online for the event **by 28 April 2023 at the latest**. To that end, please use one of the following registration codes: UPUOP23 (for UPU member designated operators), UPUPOST23 (for UPU member governmental authorities), PSCGCCMEM23 (for UPU Consultative Committee members), WCOUPUSP23 (for moderators or speakers). Accommodation, visa requirements and other logistical information will also be published on the conference website shortly.

Should your representatives have any further questions or comments regarding this first joint WCO–UPU global conference, including regarding the agenda, please request them to contact the members of the WCO–UPU conference team (wcoupuglobalconf-event@wcoomd.org, customs@upu.int).

We thank you for your attention and look forward to welcoming you at the first joint WCO–UPU global conference.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Masahiko Metoki
Director General
UPU International Bureau

(Signed)

Kunio Mikuriya
Secretary General
World Customs Organization



WCO–UPU Global Conference: Challenges and opportunities for cross-border e-commerce through cooperation between Customs and Posts

Tokyo, Japan, 6–8 June 2023, Sheraton Miyako Hotel

A three-day conference hosted by the following Japanese entities:



Ministry of Internal Affairs
and Communications



In attendance:

- High-level officials and operational experts from customs authorities and postal operators
- Representatives from relevant ministries/departments responsible for Posts, IT and telecommunications

For further information about the conference, visit the event website: wco-upuconference2023.wcoevents.org/)

Conference agenda

| <i>Time</i> | <i>Programme</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Day 1 – Monday, 5 June</i> | |
| 8.30–19.00 | Arrival and registration |
| 19.00–21.00 | Welcome reception hosted by Japan |
| <i>Day 2 – Tuesday, 6 June</i> | |
| 8.30–9.30 | Registration |
| 9.30–10.45 | Session 1: Opening ceremony |
| 10.45–11.15 | Coffee break |

| <i>Time</i> | <i>Programme</i> |
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| <i>Day 2 – Tuesday, 6 June (cont.)</i> | |
| 11.15–12.30 | Session 2: Paradigm shift in the business and operational models for global postal supply chain and customs clearance |
| 12.30–14.00 | <i>Networking lunch</i> |
| 14.00–15.15 | Session 3: Securing compliance and managing risks in the postal supply chain |
| 15.15–15.45 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 15.45–17.00 | Session 4: Cross-border e-commerce of postal items – which data work and how can that data be utilized? |
| 18.30–20.00 | <i>Cocktail hosted by the World Customs Organization</i> |
| <i>Day 3 – Wednesday, 7 June</i> | |
| 9.30–10.45 | Session 5: Electronic advance data – policy frameworks, regulatory and practical challenges, and data quality |
| 10.45–11.15 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11.15–12.30 | Session 6: Leveraging digitization and technology to harmonize procedures and solutions for a global transport network |
| 12.30–14.00 | <i>Networking lunch</i> |
| 14.00–15.00 | Session 7: Secure and safe transport to protect the flow of postal supply chains through pandemics and beyond |
| 15.00–16.00 | Session 8: Synergies for efficiency in cooperation between Customs and Posts |
| 16.00–16.30 | Closing ceremony |
| 18.30–20.00 | <i>Cocktail hosted by the Universal Postal Union</i> |
| <i>Day 4 – Thursday, 8 June</i> | |
| 10.00–15.00 | Site visit to postal facility/Ship tour |