



TRADE BEAT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
LIAISON UNIT

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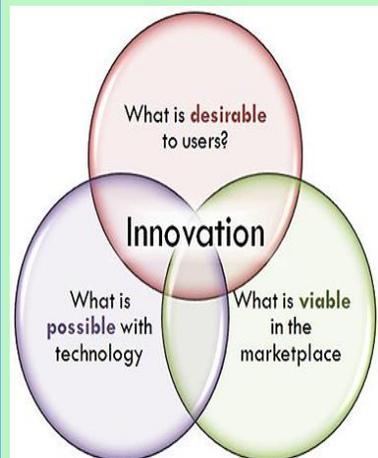


This issue will inform readers about the importance of innovation for Customs and how it supports progress through reform and modernization

The role of International Organizations in promoting Collective Innovation

The Processes that Drive Innovation

Innovation in Customs, where we are at and where we want to be



Supporting Customs Reform and Modernization through Innovation

'Fresh thinking that creates value'
'Better than what was there before'
'Introducing something new'

With the importance of innovation now acknowledged universally and its positive impact recognized by global leaders, several international organizations are committed through international partnerships to implement strategic development programs which consider innovation the vector for sustainable customs modernization.” Through this communication by the European Commission Press, there is an appreciation of just how important innovative processes are, and the recognition by the international community, that strategic partnerships are critical to the way forward in achieving development objectives.



Innovation is not only critical in the business arena, but also serves as a key driver for modernization and reform in international organizations. The same processes that ensure sustainable development in businesses, resulting in product development and brand continuity, are easily translated to the scope of international organizations, in terms of its innovations. More and more international organizations are coming up with innovative solutions to provide better service to their stakeholders with the aim of establishing sustainable development.

Within the global customs community there is an urgency to push for innovation as a tool for international cohesiveness through standardization, as well as encourage domestic communities to develop solutions crucial to modernization and progress. International organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO) has undertaken several initiatives that address innovation and demonstrate cooperation with other international organizations in meeting these objectives. One such initiative sees the collaboration of the WTO the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Through their combined efforts, there is a commitment to address the global challenge of public health, by collaborating to promote access to medical technologies and innovation for the purpose of advancing medical and health technologies to the people who need it most.

There is also a commitment by the World Customs Organization (WCO), to put Innovation to the fore in addressing calls for modernization and reform. In a speech by the Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya, the announcement was made that the year 2013 would be dedicated to promoting innovation under the slogan “Innovation for Customs Progress”. The progress of customs is largely dependent on its ability to modernize its operations and promote sustainable customs reform, through innovation. Due to the dynamic nature of customs in general, innovation strategies are often developed according to the context of the customs operation, and is executed differently depending on the specific customs community. Innovation encompasses new design, implementing new products, technology, policy, operating changes, as well as the continuation of investments in all aspects of customs work. It also recognizes that the human capital is critical in ensuring the sustained progress and success of customs, largely due to the dynamism of the individual operations. As such, the global customs communities and its stakeholders are urged to be innovative and creative in all facets, especially throughout this year in promoting innovation.

OBJECTIVES OF COLLECTIVE INNOVATION

- Economic competitiveness

Allows for the strengthening of the global economy by coming together to enhance the economic viability and development of all nations

- Global growth increases

Through enhancing the facilitation of trade, increases in global growth can be achieved

- Supply chain security

There is a shift in emphasis from traditional methods to a balanced risk-based approach to achieve this

- Global compliance and good governance

Through collective action there is a deepened commitment to achieve this



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DRIVERS OF INNOVATION

- Evidence based research

Research must be conducted, based on evidence, to ensure accuracy of results and consistency

- Thought provoking dialogue

This is especially important when partnerships are considered

- Knowledge sharing

With the sharing of information progress can be achieved

- Solution driven development

Visualizing the goal in formulating the process

- Modern management practices

Logistics approach in managing operations

- Use of new technologies

Innovation depends on new technologies or improvement of existing ones

- Dynamic partnerships among stakeholders

Important in finding solution to niche sectors and a chance for them to have an input in the decision making process

- Excellent customer relations

This is critical in service to obtain feedback which can be critical to the innovative process

- Creative thinking

Essential for the improvement of the product or operation



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JAMAICA CUSTOMS

Currently in Place

Night Lodgment Service– this was introduced on May 2, 2011. This is an efficient and timely turnaround service for the processing of customs entries. This service allows importers and brokers to physically lodge their C87 import entries between the hours of 5pm to 11pm, Mondays through Fridays and retrieve them by 8am of the following business day, provided that the entry passes the invoice inspection.

Electronic Processing (EP) – is another efficient processing mechanism for import and export documents, and is currently provided for at the Kingston Wharves Limited and at the Kingston Container Terminal. EP has also been extended to some warehouses, namely, Adolph Levy and Universal Freight. EP is to be implemented at Seaboard and Freeport warehouses in the customs operations of Montego-Bay.

E-payment – this was introduced on July 9, 2003; brokers and importers are able to make duty payments online once an application process is completed. E-payment is a trade facilitation mechanism under the umbrella of the government E-commerce initiative, which seeks to strengthen the business interface capabilities of government agencies.

Information Technology Initiatives

ASYCUDA World Information System– An automated customs management system which covers most foreign trade procedures. Coming out of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the system handles manifests and customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit and suspense procedures, and generates trade data which is beneficial for statistical analysis. It integrates customs processes in a single window environment, allowing for the ease of communication of interfacing trade regulatory agencies and is currently used in approximately 45 countries. A technical feasibility study has been completed for Jamaica Customs and the findings are being reviewed.

RTGS Services - Real Time Gross Settlement is a money transferring mechanism, used for large value interbank funds transfers. It provides for the continuous settlement of payments on an individual order basis throughout the day, which lessens the settlement risks associated with traditional end of day monetary settlements. Due to the large sums of money collected by Customs the RTGS is an efficient and convenient service that will allow for timely settlements for money transfers.

Vision

As part of the public sector modernization initiative, the Jamaica Customs has committed to modernizing its procedures, in response to the dynamic international trading system, as well as to face the challenges in protecting our borders. Innovation within the service, has seen significant adjustments and improvements to the operations, in order to facilitate trade and build the department's capacity to provide service and protect its interests. Improved interface with the stakeholders becomes possible through innovation, as the majority of the systems currently in place and those underway allow for improved customer service and efficiencies in the operations. In achieving the objectives of Customs reform and modernization, units such as Information Technology and Risk Management, among others, continue to be instrumental in the processes that ensure the global vision for Customs.



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