



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CUSTOMS BROKERS ASSOCIATIONS

"The World Customs Brokers Organization"

## IFCBA SPECIAL EVENT 2017 SEMINAR AND MEETING PROGRAMME SHERATON GRANDE SUKHUMVIT BANGKOK, THAILAND

*(Please note that all seminars and meetings will be conducted in English)*

### Monday, August 28, 2017

09:00            **Words of Welcome**

09:15            **WCO Asia/Pacific ROCB: Plans for Prosperity**

*Host: Carol West*

*Presenter: Dr. Tong Hua, CCF/CHINA Operational Manager & Program Manager(PI),  
World Customs Organization, Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building,  
Bangkok*

*The mission of the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building is to assist in the building of the capacity of its Member Customs Administrations to continuously improve the securing and facilitating of trade. In doing so, it is only natural that they engage the private sector as they pursue that mission. The Current WCO Asia/Pacific ROCB Action Plan includes items ranging from assisting Members with implementation of the TFA to supporting their development of compliance and risk management tools. How can trade chain partners work with the WCO Asia/Pacific ROCB in its mission?*

10:30            Refreshments

10:45            **e-commerce Administration in the Customs World: Implications for customs brokers  
and other trade chain players**

*Host: Carol West*

*Presenter: Mr. Pashupati N. Pandey, Technical Officer, Compliance and Facilitation,  
World Customs Organization, Brussels; Ms. Wang Min, China Customs Brokers  
Association and Ms. Candace Sider, Canadian Society of Customs Brokers*

#### **Background Materials:**

***Future work on E-commerce in the World Customs Organization - EU***

***Non-Paper by China – China Customs Exploration of Cross-Border E-Commerce***

***Digital Customs and e-commerce work for WCO Policy Commission***

*The growth of e-commerce has created challenges for Customs Administrations around the world, with pressures for trade facilitation balanced with responsibilities for effective risk management and revenue collection. A priority for the World Customs Organization is the development of guidelines that respond to these challenges, while recognizing the complexities and possibilities of e-commerce business models. IFCBA is involved in these discussions, with particular attention to the implications of e-commerce for customs brokers and their clients. How can customs brokers add value by adopting simplified, account-based procedures? What is the impact of de minimis levels on customs brokers' business? How can customs brokers work with e-commerce platforms and vendors?*

12:15 Lunch

13:45 **Blockchain Applications for International Trade**  
**Host: Shantanu Bhadkamkar**  
**Presenters: Amit Maheshwari, Softlink Global**

**Background Materials:**

**WCO Information Management Sub-Committee report on Blockchains**

**Global Trade Digitalization – Blockchain in the Domain of Customs Agencies**

*Everyone is talking about it - unchangeable data (in blocks), stored in sequence (a chain) and distributed across organizations (a business network). A blockchain is a distributed database that maintains a continuously growing list of records (known as blocks), secured from tampering and revision. Each block contains a timestamp and a link to a previous block. By design, blockchains are inherently resistant to modification of the data — once recorded, the data in a block cannot be altered retroactively.*

*International trade data in a blockchain can address current challenges faced by both traders and Customs administrations but the adoption on this technology depends on agreed upon standards. Can the international trade community reach the necessary agreement?*

15:30 Networking Break - Refreshments

**Tuesday, August 29, 2017**

09:15 **Customs Brokers: Trade facilitators and Partners in Secure Trade**  
**Host: Janice McBride**  
**Presenters: Mr. Pashupati N. Pandey, Technical Officer, Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization, Brussels and Ms. Carol West, IFCBA Secretary and Canadian Society of Customs Brokers President**

**Background Materials:**

**WCO Study Report on Customs Brokers**

*In 2015, the IFCBA was invited to work with the World Customs Organization in the design of a survey that would guide the WCO and its member states in the regulation of customs brokers. The survey attained unprecedented levels of participation and the work associated with that survey continues. Customs brokers in all countries can benefit from the sharing of this newly gained knowledge relating to customs broker regulation and can strengthen the global reputation of customs brokers, their value to their clients and their national economies and their relationships with their Customs Administrations by collaborating on best practices.*

10:45 Refreshments

11:15 **Facing the Challenges to Globalization: Implementing the TFA and other International Agreements**  
**Host: Mr. Pedro Bequengue**  
**Presenter: Mr. Rick Lighthart, Customs Attache, Netherlands Embassy, Singapore**

**Background Materials:**

**Trade Facilitation Agreement**

**WCO Guidance on National Committees on Trade Facilitation**

*While the loudest challenges to globalization during the past decade may have been advocates for social and economic justice and the voices of anti-corporatism and anti-consumerism, there now are players in positions of political power who are voicing their own challenges to global integration. How will the TFA and other trade agreements fare in this environment? What will this mean for trade facilitation and those who work in that field?*

12:30	Lunch
13:30	<b>Board of Directors meeting/Annual General Meeting – IFCBA members only</b>
19:00	Closing Dinner for all attendees