



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CUSTOMS BROKERS ASSOCIATIONS

"The World Customs Brokers Organization"

## IFCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS (Online)

08 February 2023

### Draft Minutes

#### Introductory Remarks (West)

Ms. West welcomed the directors, provided an overview of the platform, and the context for the combined meeting.

The following sixteen (16) countries were in attendance: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Mozambique, Thailand, Philippines, United States and Uzbekistan.

#### Call to Order/Welcome from the Chairman (Ge)

Mr. Ge welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Ge spoke of his time as Chairman, and reminded us all that the most important role of the Chairman is to support the members. He recognized the past Chairs, Ms. Candace Sider and Mr. Jamie King. Mr. Shantanu Bhadkamkar did participate later and was recognized for his past service.

Ms. West then provided an overview of the recent HS study led by the WCO in which the IFCBA participated in by surveying our members. Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the WCO provided a message to our members recognizing our 30th anniversary, which was shared.

#### Approval of the Agenda (Ge). *Motion approved.*

#### Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual and Board of Directors Meetings (Ge). *Motion approved.*

#### Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 IFCBA Board Meeting (Singapore) (Ge). *Motion approved.*

#### Report of the Secretariat (West)

##### a. Membership Status

Ms. West reviewed the current list of directors by country. Any discrepancies should be reported to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

b. The WCO International Customs Day (Ge). The WCO event was held on January 26, 2023. Mr. Ge reported on China, and invited members to share their events. A round table discussion ensued. There was wide disparity on the activities, from week-long celebrations, sharing of information, country specific days of different observations of Customs Administrations, to no observance at all. (Australia has an important national holiday on January 26, which likely contributed to the lack of activities.)



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c. Ms. West provided an overview of the activities that occurred during the Singapore conference as they related to the education, HS case studies and the knowledge sharing of country associations. Ms. West provided more details on the HS study and a round table discussion ensued.

d. Ms. West provided a reminder of the IFCBA best practices on Broker Licensing. In the coming months Ms. West will look at the document with an eye to areas that can be enhanced and updated. Ms. West will circulate her work amongst the managing directors and will be calling on IFCBA members for their input.

e. The IFCBA has observer status at the WCO, and sits on the WCO Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG). Ms. West was the chair for 3 terms, and Jamie King who serves as the current PSCG chair now represents us. Mr. King presented to the conference and provided updates on the work of the PSCG. The pandemic provided an engagement point for the PSCG to provide timely information to the WCO, and thus strengthened this important relationship. The economic recovery/inflation impacts of the pandemic is becoming a stronger issue as the recovery continues. Mr. King spoke of the war in Ukraine, its impact to the supply chain, and this remains a challenge. In June of 2023, the WCO will be holding elections for the new Secretary General. The PSCG does not have a vote in this matter. Currently the only declared candidate is from the United States.

## Report of the Treasurer (Basarke)

Ms. Basarke provided the following information

a. The audited financial statement. **A motion to accept the March 31, 2022 financial statement was made, and approved.**

b. The 2022-23 budget was presented. **A motion to accept the 2022-2023 budget was made, and approved.**

c. **Motion made for the appointment of Auditors for the coming year. Motion approved.**

## Considerations for the Next IFCBA Conference

Ms. West outlined the IFCBA conference protocol, with the next conference slated for 2024. A key component in considering the location is support from the country's association members. This is a revenue generation opportunity for both the IFCBA and the country association. Early suggestions were Japan, an Asian location, Shanghai and India. This discussion will continue.

## Elections for the Chairman

**Mr. Shankar Shinde, India, was acclaimed for the position of Chairman.**

## Elections for the Managing Directors Positions



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The IFCBA has 6 positions for Managing Directors and elections will be required. Despite holding detailed rehearsals, we were surprised and disappointed by the technical issues that prohibited our ability to vote during our online conference.

**Ms. West made a motion to conduct the voting through email to the IFCBA to expedite and resolve this issue. Motion approved and carried.**

The following candidates were elected and announced via email:

- **Clive Coke, Jamaica**
- **Angela Collins, Canada**
- **Paul Damkjaer, Australia**
- **Bai Fengchuan, China**
- **Seisaku Okafuji, Japan**
- **Kristiann App, United States**

Our congratulations to all!

## **Appointment of the Secretary**

Ms. West has been appointed as the Secretary of the IFCBA. **Motion made, carried.**

## **Adjournment**

**There was a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Carried**