2008 WCO PICARD Conference

“Single Window” Workshop Outcomes

Shanghai, China

14-16 May 2008
Research Demands

• How do we stimulate active research?
• Customs should be at the forefront of defining research needs
• WCO should be prepared to provide strategic support to academia for relevant research
• Accessibility to the research
• Defining the scope of research
Barriers

• Conflicting priorities and interests among government agencies
• Conflicts between private sector and government
• Academics are not recognized as potential contributors
• Lack of institutions involved in customs research
• Funding is the major problem
• Local Capacity
• Technological and infrastructural difficulties/problems
Underlying Principles

• Creating pools of researchers, lists of research topics on INCU or WCO websites
• Strategic support from the WCO is necessary
• Consultation between all stakeholders is necessary (private sector, government, academia)
• Taking advantage of existing mechanisms for defining research priorities
• Potential for regional cooperation in ‘single window’ approaches
• Encouragement of joint research projects/activities (sponsored research)
Proposed Methodology

- Leveraging existing WCO mechanisms
- Creating a ‘Customs Research Fund’
- Potential for short-term secondment for customs officers and academia
Potential Research Topics

- Comparative studies including ‘single window’ structures and export-import procedures?
- Support for harmonization and standardization
- What is the best structure/practice?
- Can there be a universal ‘single window’ structure? Alternative structures.
- What works, what does not work?
- Economic impact of customs (e.g., in Africa)
- Currency of customs response to organized crime – has risk management kept pace?
Questions?

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