

ASY DELUXE

CAPTURING MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Newsletter Edition 1

Dear Readers

We welcome you to our 1st edition of the ASY Deluxe. This issue brings you coverage of the progress in the ASYCUDA upgrade. We hope to keep you informed about the transition from ASYCUDA ++ platform to ASYCUDA World and we hope that you will enjoy reading this issue to enlighten you on the changes taking place.

The ASYCUDA World Project Team proudly welcomes the FRCA Community, the Stakeholders and FRCA partners to the first issue of the ASY DELUXE.

"It's when ordinary people rise above the expectations and seize the opportunity that milestones truly are reached..."

- Mike Huckabee



ASYCUDA World Project Team at the Mobilization Seminar held in Nadi

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Foreword



Mr. Tevita Tupou
General Manager Customs & Excise

Early identification of risk and improved clearance

The rapid expansion of international Trade Volume and limited resources means the organization cannot examine each consignment and traveller crossing the border. It follows, therefore that the organization must be selective and targets only those consignments or industries and industry sectors identified as representing a risk.

Where the cargo control, goods declaration, passenger processing functions or tax payment transactions have been automated, targeting can be carried out on a more informed and thorough basis. Intelligence profiling and selectivity criteria can be input into the ICT system and be taken into account for targeting purposes. The probability of finding illicit movements and practices is increased in an automated environment as selectivity profiles can be analysed more systematically, accurately and in a timely manner. The efficient processing of goods declarations, passengers and taxation documents is one of the main benefits of automation. It provides for:

- increased productivity
- better use of resources
- reduction in costs to both the agency and industry through the expedited release of goods or processing of documentation
- more accurate and timely information
- improved enforcement capabilities
- less congestion at ports and airports.

Automation of Customs procedures in conjunction with electronic exchange of information, such as cargo data and goods declarations, enables pre-arrival and/or pre-departure information processing. Processing of information in advance of the physical goods arriving in or departing from a country allows Customs to verify information and perform a risk assessment on the consignment. With this data available, decisions on the release status of the goods can be transmitted electronically immediately the goods arrive.

Improved transparency and predictability of decision-making

Customs may find difficulty in being sure all regulations have been taken into account when manually processing single transaction such as importation and exportation declarations.

a computerized system all transactions are processed in a consistent manner, thereby ensuring uniform application of the law and the equitable treatment of persons involved. The use of international standard data and business modelling techniques allow for a more uniform application and equitable treatment within the business rules so that when the law changes the rules themselves are changed.

In the Customs context, clearance is expedited, especially where pre-arrival lodgement procedures are put in place. This reduces costs by allowing quicker processing of imports and exports. Traders are aware that the law is being applied uniformly.

Reduced opportunity for inappropriate exercise of officer discretion

The ability of corrupt officers to interfere with an automated process is limited.

Enhanced management information

The automation of systems allows Customs immediate access to current information and, with the application of Management Information Systems (MIS), the possibility to manipulate this information in a meaningful way. Automation also enables more effective post-audit control at national and local level.

More efficient revenue collection and accounting

Revenue collection is a significant source of government funds in many countries and efficient collection and accounting of this revenue is essential to the national economy. The automation of revenue collection improves this process, both in accuracy and timeliness. Outstanding or bad debts can be identified quickly and dealt with.

More accurate and timely trade statistics

Most Customs organizations are responsible for the collection of trade data from import and export goods declarations and for the compilation of the country's external trade statistics. Without the use of ICT, it is difficult to perform this task efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner.

Where goods declarations are not processed by computer for clearance purposes, the capture of data must take place at a later time. Where, however, automated goods declaration processing does take place, the trade statistical data is captured at the point of importation and exportation. This is a cost effective approach and the statistics produced are more accurate and up to date.



Project Team Members

Mobilization Seminar

The ASYCUDA World Fiji Mobilization Seminar was a week long program initiated for the cognizance of the ASYCUDA World to the public as a whole.

The ASYCUDA World Project Team together with the FRCA Customs Management hosted the public to a Mobilization Seminar in December, 2014. FRCA hosted Government officials, the Diplomatic Corps, the Stakeholders and the business community. Attendees in the seminar were provided an awareness on the upgrade of the ASYCUDA++ system to a web-based environment. As expected, this was undoubtedly welcomed by all.

However, this is just the beginning and as with any other project, the set pieces need to be in place for any transition. Doubts and questions were raised in separate seminars held in Suva and Nadi for the western clients and these have been highlighted gradually in time. With technology influence, it is only right for one to agree that the upgrade is indeed a milestone. On the other hand, the support of the top level Management and the stakeholders is vital to complete the task as planned.



Project Team

The project team consists of eight vibrant members., directed by the UNCTAD consultant, Mr Jayvee Santos and managed by Mr. Sowani Nabukavou.

The team consists of two senior Customs Officers from Lautoka and one from Nadi. These officers are most familiar with the current ASYCUDA module in all ports. Also, there is one Analyst Programmer dedicated in handling programming matters and one Customs Officer.

In addition, the ASYCUDA++ support team is on deck to maintain the current version for ease of transition when it comes to ASYCUDA World.

The first step into this incredible journey was the launching of the ASYCUDA World Prototype on Friday, August 29th, 2014. This will be used as the foundation of the building block for the application in FRCA's application.

Since then, there has been a continuity in the development process and also consultations with internal and external stakeholders and numerous trainings with recommended users.



Launching of the ASYCUDA World Prototype.

ASY-WORLD ON MEDIA

Brokers Embrace Move to ASYCUDA World

The Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Fiji is a body where the introduction of the ASYCUDA World has been welcomed, literally, with open arms.

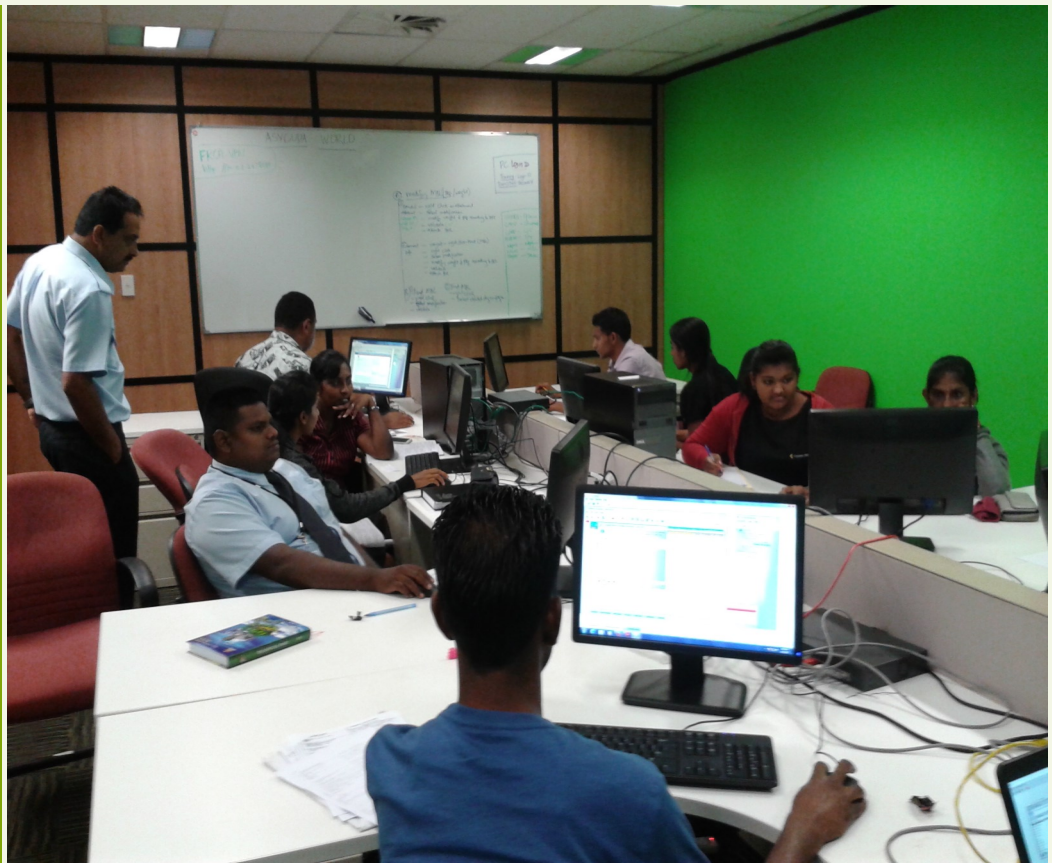
The revised version of the ASYCUDA system is sufficient enough to minimize administrative costs to the business community and the economies of countries.

ASYCUDA Will Improve Efficiency: CEO

Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority's implementation of ASYCUDA World, an upgrade of the Customs' Information Technology system will improve efficiency and trade within Fiji and the region, says chief executive Jitoko Tikolevu.

“More importantly, ASYCUDA World will improve security and revenue compliance. We will eliminate fraudulent practices because whatever is seen in another country will be seen in Fiji.”

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One of the many training sessions with the Stakeholders

Stakeholders Consultations & Training

The FRCA supporting stakeholders are highly acknowledged for their contributions, therefore, one of the main objectives of the project team is to account for their opinions and suggestions and considers how these can be facilitated in the ASYCUDA World reformations.

Our stakeholders are mainly the potential users of ASYCUDA . This includes Customs Brokers, Shipping Lines, Freight Forwarders and FRCA staff themselves.



The consultation started in February and continued for one whole week with different categories being familiarized on their respective portion of role played during clearance of goods.

Each opinion brought to the floor on these seminars are highly valued and analyzed on how they can be facilitated in accordance to achieving a smooth trade facilitation without incurring more costs for the final consumers.

Profile

The team is privileged to engage the consultancy of ASYCUDA World expert from the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade & Development), Mr. Santos. He had worked in a number of countries who, like Fiji, had transited from ASYCUDA C++ to ASYCUDA World.



Full Name: Jayvee SANTOS
Nationality: Philippines
Occupation: ASYCUDA Expert, UNCTAD

What is your role in the ASYCUDA World Implementation in Fiji?

Technical adviser to FRCA to assist the national project team in implementing ASYCUDA World in Fiji

What would have been one of the most memorable time that you would like to share during your experience of ASYCUDA consultation?

I have been very impressed with the dedication of the national project team members and the hard work they all put in to accomplish many of the project activities over a short period. The warm welcome that my family and I received when we arrived in Fiji was also overwhelming.

What would you like to inform readers of the ASY DELUXE of the contribution of ASYCUDA World to the enhancement of trade in Fiji?

The ASYCUDA World project will contribute and support towards implementation of the WCO recommendations contained in the Revised Kyoto Convention, SAFE framework and other international conventions and instruments, while also providing support for the Single Window implementation through electronic interfacing with external systems from the private and public sectors. ASYCUDA World provides users with a user-friendly web-based access to the customs automated system, enhanced security for remote lodgment, and increased transparency through availability of decisions and regulations. The ASYCUDA World project also aims to improve the existing customs processes and enable these improvements with technology to reduce clearance time and to facilitate trade while maximizing revenue collection for the government.

Functional Training

Prior to the inception of the ASYCUDA WORLD Project, the ASYCUDA National Team attended a 2 weeks course in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The objective is to get a first hand experience of what ASYCUDA world has to offer and to develop ground scenarios on how the application will be applicable locally.

This esteem responsibility was received well by the members as they develop passion combine with sacrifice to enable a robust team that is taking over the development phase of ASYCUDA World in FRCA.



Team With ASYCUDA team in Honiara

SPECIAL EVENTS

Consultations & Trainings



Mobilization Seminar



Ship Talk FIJI BUSINESS WEEKLY DECEMBER 23, 2014
www.fiji.com.fj

Wahneema Lubiano is the chairman of the Customers Brokers and Forwarders Council of Fiji.

Brokers Embrace Move in the ASYCUDA World

The ASYCUDA programme is directed at reforming the customs clearance process. It aims at speeding up customs clearance through the introduction of computerisation and simplification of procedures.



What is your reaction to Government's decision?

Functional Training - Solomon Is



ASU++ Support Corner



From The Editors

The ASY Deluxe serves to keep interested readers informed of the progress of the ASYCUDA World project and updates of events and activities.

The overall perspective of the newsletter is to capture moments that matter and create awareness to internal and external stakeholders on initiatives undertaken by the authority through ASYCUDA for the betterment of international trade facilitation and border management.



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