



**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
AND
THE JAPAN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION
REGARDING
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD
CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL CUSTOMS LABORATORY
IN KASHIWA, JAPAN**

**Memorandum of Cooperation
between
the World Customs Organization
and
the Japan Customs Administration
regarding
the Establishment of a World Customs Organization
Regional Customs Laboratory
in Kashiwa, Japan**

The World Customs Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "WCO") and the Japan Customs Administration (hereinafter referred to as "Japan Customs"),

which may be individually referred to as "Participant",

Acknowledging the enormous challenges facing Customs administrations due to increasing volumes of trade, globalization of trade, and regional integration;

Acknowledging that changing trading patterns, the need for further facilitation of trade and the requirement to achieve more with limited resources call for enhanced cooperation between Customs administrations and the WCO;

Recognizing that international and regional cooperation provides a useful framework for the promotion of Customs effectiveness and efficiency;

Recognizing that the dissemination of information as well as training and technical assistance is indispensable for the unified implementation of key Customs-related international conventions, recommendations and other standards;

Recognizing that Customs Laboratories are important elements of Customs administrations and their provision of analytical and scientific support significantly contributes to the achievement of the mission of Customs;

Recognizing that the WCO provides relevant and meaningful training and technical assistance to its Members in respect of chemical analysis for Customs purposes, as

well as in respect of other related scientific matters;

Recognizing the important role and the substantial contribution of Japan Customs in supporting the WCO in its efforts to provide assistance to WCO Members;

Have decided to cooperate as follows:

1. The WCO and Japan Customs will establish a WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (hereinafter referred to as the "RCL"), in Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan.
2. The WCO will, in the context of the RCL's operation, provide regional training, technical assistance and an information-sharing service in respect of chemical analysis for Customs purposes, as well as in respect of other related scientific matters.
3. Japan Customs will make available its Central Customs Laboratory, (hereinafter referred to as the "CCL") located in Kashiwa City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, including a conference room, together with training aids, small meeting rooms, laboratory and other facilities for the operation of the RCL, to the extent compatible with the functions of the CCL. Japan Customs will continue to use the CCL for its own national and international programmes.
4.
 - (1) The WCO and Japan Customs will provide each other with their training plans in order to define the use of the facilities of the CCL. The WCO should give advance notice of at least two months before each of its planned events, along with the necessary information for the organization of the event.
 - (2) Within one month from the date of signing of this Memorandum of Cooperation, the WCO and Japan Customs will designate liaison officers to coordinate matters arising from its implementation.

5.

- (1) This Memorandum of Cooperation will commence on the date of its signature by the WCO and Japan Customs.
- (2) This Memorandum of Cooperation may be terminated by either Participant at any time, subject to three months' written notification in advance to the other Participant.
- (3) This Memorandum of Cooperation may be modified by mutual consent of the WCO and Japan Customs, in writing.

Signed in duplicate on 28 June 2014, in the English language.

For the World Customs Organization :



Kunio MIKURIYA,
Secretary General.

For the Customs Administration of Japan :



Yutaka MIYAUCHI,
Director General.