

ASYCUDA World

NEWSLETTER

ASYCUDAWorld (AW) Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1, July 2022



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Message from Australia and New Zealand

The economic impact of COVID-19 in the Pacific is unprecedented and continues to unfold. Australia and New Zealand are committed to supporting economic recovery and resilience in the Pacific through all available means. This includes maximizing opportunities for boosting trade and investment through regional integration initiatives such as the regional trade and development agreement PACER Plus, and its trade related support. Therefore, we are pleased to be funding partners for roll out of the integrated automated customs system ASYCUDA World, which will support six PACER Plus Pacific partner countries to access and leverage technology to help mitigate and recover from the impact of COVID-19. This will enable customs authorities, cross-border agencies, and traders to electronically submit documents and exchange data as well as computerize procedures to support swift clearance of goods, hence reducing the need for face-to-face interaction in a COVID-19 operating environment. PACER Plus provisions and related assistance encourages more cooperation between customs authorities, promotes efficient customs procedures and provides transparency and fairness to traders. ASYCUDA World deployment is a foundational part of the PACER Plus regional customs modernization work program. ASYCUDA World will reduce manual and cumbersome processes, thereby increasing the efficiency of customs cargo clearance, produce timely and accurate trade statistics, minimize the risk of fraud, maximize revenue collection, and ensure the smooth functioning of cross-border trade, especially for essential products.



Message from Australia and New Zealand (continued)

Enhanced transparency and simplified procedures for businesses trading in the Pacific will help to lower transaction costs and contribute to competitiveness.

Based on global evidence, basic trade facilitation measures such as harmonizing and simplifying documents and automating processes and risk management can reduce overall trade costs by 10% - and considerably more for low and low-middle income economies. Importantly ASYCUDA World provides a basis for countries to move towards a National Single Window which brings together all relevant agencies' border procedures under the one online platform, as well as add other digitized features which can continue to make the cross-border movement of goods, services and people safe, traceable and efficient. The PACER Plus Agreement commits Australia and New Zealand to support Pacific Island partner countries to become more active partners in and to benefit from regional and global trade. This ASYCUDA World project is an impactful contribution towards Australia's commitment to spend 20 percent of Pacific Official Development Assistance, alongside New Zealand's commitment of 20 percent of Total Official Development Assistance, on aid for trade in the Pacific.

Foreword

Gratitude and glory to the most high and loving God for its continue love and guidance on our journey in another challenging and busy year 2022. Firstly, on behalf of the Niue Government I take this opportunity to convey our utmost gratitude to the governments of New Zealand and Australia the leading partners of the PACER Plus Trade agreement for the ongoing support and assistance for Niue to Implement the ASYCUDA World project to address and enhancing Niue Customs business processes.

As we are adapting to the new norm of living through the impact of the current pandemic, our commitment to our duties and collaboration is very important at this particular point in time. It is anticipated that workload would increase for this important project with tight timeframes which the ASYCUDA project team will strive to meet the deadlines. Therefore I humbly seek your co-operation - the Niue people, the business community, the general public & all stakeholders for your greater collaboration with our ASYCUDA National project team (NPT). This project implemented this year will definitely mark some history for UNCTAD and exciting times ahead for Niue Customs Service and its stakeholders.

Lastly, I am very pleased to take this opportunity in welcoming you to this very first newsletter from Niue Customs. Kia fakamonuina mai he Atua a tautolu oti.

Fakaaue lahi

Chamberlin Pita

ASYCUDA Project Manager & Tariff/ Process Specialist
HM Niue Customs Service



ASYCUDA World Project

Niue's AW project originally planned to implement in 2020, however due to the public health and economic impact from the current Covid-19 pandemic, all planned activities for the project delay to 2022.

ASYCUDA World (AW) is the fourth and latest version of the Automated SYstem for CUstoms Data (ASYCUDA), a Customs Management software developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with the funding support from Australia and New Zealand under the PACER plus agreement readiness package. ASYCUDA is known for 40 years' experience in Customs reform and automation in more than 100 countries and territories. In the Pacific, there's eight countries have successfully implemented ASYCUDA world while five Customs administrations are in progress and the last three to start later on.

It is timely and fittingly appropriate that the implementation of ASYCUDA World is well aligned with Niue's Government vision of a prosperous Niue with a mission of Working Together to Protect the People and the Environment. ASYCUDA is an online application which means its paperless, saves travel times for officials and businesses stakeholders looking after cargo manifest. Additionally, the inception report highly recommended that Niue Customs to reform and modernization of its business processes through implementation of the ASYCUDA world project.

ASYCUDA World project aims to stimulating economic growth through effective and efficient collection of revenue, strengthening and modernization, expedite cargo clearance through risk management while facilitating legitimate trade. Further this ASYCUDA World system will also help authorities gather more reliable and timely trade and fiscal statistics for better economic planning.

The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency. The second is that automation applied to an inefficient operation will magnify the inefficiency." –Bill Gates

ASYCUDA World Project Phase 1: AW Manifest

For many years, Manifest submission and processing is manual based and involves a lot of time, delivering and printing. Niue's Manifest stakeholder's working relationship with Niue Customs during the past and to date is considered very close and strong.

The introduction of Automation the Manifest initiative is new and exciting to Niue Customs and its Manifest holders providing various benefits. ASYCUDAWorld Cargo Manifest system allows fast manifest capture (XML) and full processing, manifest generation from transit documents, bill of lading capture, generation of bar-codes, automatic cross-check between cargo control and declaration processing and reporting. There's a lot of activities involved in this phase of the project and can be only successful through good communication and collaboration.

Meeting with Public stakeholders and training – Niue Tax Department

Communication and meeting with stakeholders is very important and in this instance the NPT met first with the Niue Tax Office Principal officer in regards TIN numbers for all Customs Users in ASYCUDA world.

On Monday 30th May 2022 at Niue Fale Fono 1, Sialekula Alofi, the ASYCUDA national project team in collaboration with the experts from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) conducted and introduction training for the Niue Tax Department on TIN processing in ASYCUDA World.





Niue ASYCUDA World National Project Team (NAWNPT) & ASYCUDA Experts

Part of the project is the recruitment of the National project team to implement ASYCUDA world together with forming of committees to monitor and ensure successful implementation of the project. There are two committees for this project namely, the National steering committee (NSC) responsible for the policy level oversighting and coordination of the project, and lastly the Niue Customs Reform and Modernization committee (NCRMC) responsible for reviewing of existing customs

clearance processes and procedures and also making recommendations for enhancement and make changes.

In March 2022, formalization of the Niue Customs National Project Team (NPT) approved to implement ASYCUDA world project together with two committees namely, National Steering Committee (NSC) and Niue Customs Reform and Modernization Committee (NCRMC).

ASYCUDA Project Manager & Tariff/ Process Specialist:

Chamberlin Pita



A Project Manager & Tariff/ Process Specialist. Mr Chamberlin Pita joined HM Niue Customs Service in year 2000. He is a former user of PC Trade. Graduated with Master of International Customs Law and Administration from the Center for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES) at the University of Canberra, Australia and lately graduated in 2021 with Master in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of the South Pacific (USP)

Automation Trainer Specialist

Acestacey Kalauni



An Automation Trainer Specialist, Mr Acestacey Kalauni joined HM Niue Customs in July 2011. Attend Niue High School and currently studying for certificate in IT fundamentals at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Niue campus. Have attend many Customs regional trainings including Malaysian Customs Academy

UNCTAD Experts

Saeid YARANDI – ASYCUDA Expert

ASYCUDA Expert, I have more than 20 years of experience with ASYCUDA World project implementation in Southeast Asia region.



Patricia HAVAN – Customs Expert

Customs Expert for ASYCUDA, I worked more than 15 years with ASYCUDA++ in New Caledonia as a Senior Customs officer.





ASYPAX Meeting & Training – Immigration



This is the first ASYPAX meeting and training for the Niue

Immigration Department conducted by UNCTAD expert via online platform supported by the Niue ASYCUDA National project team. Immigration Department is represented by Mrs Margaret Siosikefu – Senior Immigration officer and Officer Mrs Olive Jessop

Niue's Immigration business processes at the frontline for both airport and sea port are manual

based and the team at the training express interest in the new automated system.

In the ASYPAX module it is designed specifically to support the Immigration department in facilitating legitimate travelers, Visa processing and managing risks.

Private stakeholder engagement introduction meeting

One of the first activities in this project is creating awareness among carriers, agents, freight agents, freight forwarders who were the main Manifest holders and the users of ASYCUDAworld to communicate the objectives of the project, roles, and the National project team (NPT) that will be

implementing the AW. The response from manifest holders is very positive. Some manifest holders were unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances and some are able to connect via an online platform. Furthermore, onsite meetings were also held for those that weren't able to attend.



ASYCUDA World Manifest Presentation Seminar for Stakeholders



On Wednesday, 15th June 2022, the National project team (NPT) conducted a two hour Seminar on ASYCUDA World Manifest for Stakeholders in Collaboration with the experts from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) via online platform. The seminar starts with an opening prayer by the Collector of Customs followed by opening remarks from Mr. Frank Sioneholo head of Trade and Investment and UNCTAD expert Saeid Yarandi.

This is the first training of this nature for manifest stakeholders, Air New Zealand Agent, Matson Shipping Agent, and our Freight Forwarders.

Participants were encouraged to bring their laptops to this meeting, so the NPT could install the AW software for the second phase of onsite one-to-one training the following week. Furthermore, similar training was conducted for the Niue Customs staff the following week and the recording sent to our stakeholders who were unable to attend before onsite practical training. To improve future meetings the participants were asked to complete an evaluation questionnaire. Based on this seminar evaluation feedback from participants shows that the training is excellent, the overall effectiveness of training is very much above average, training materials given is excellent and delivery is outstanding.



Hannan International Airport

The tariff

The Harmonized Commodity Description HS Tariff and coding system is a universal economic language used for collecting international trade data. It is used by Customs and Statisticians, Governments, International Organizations, Private Sector for decision making and policies, for revenue collection, to protect local industries, to negotiate trade agreements, and the application of rules of origin.

HM Niue Customs Service is currently using the HS Tariff 2017 and will be implementing the new HS Tariff 2022 and PACHS 2022 in the new AW automation project.

The Tariff field in AW is mandatory when submitting declaration in which we refer to as "import or export entries" in the Niue.

Working environment

Niue's ASYCUDA National project team (NPT) is based and operated at the old parliament house, FALE FONONO 1, Sialekula, Alofi, Niue. Our new office is yet to be fully resourced, but it is well centralized and closer to most stakeholders and have great space for hosting trainings.

Trainings and Meetings of the NPT is conducted by the UNCTAD ASYCUDA experts via online platform MS Teams. The schedule for these weekly meetings and trainings is from Tuesday to Thursdays, 10am to 1pm. On our field work is from Monday to Sunday; this is for meetings and onsite trainings with our business stakeholders one-to-one on times convenient to stakeholders at their premises.

Upcoming Events

- Internal Training for Customs officials.
- External Training for Key Stakeholders (Customs Brokers, Shipping, Airline, Partners);
- Review and Formulations of respective Business Processes.
- MS Teams Access to AW system for on-hand training and practical exercise on Manifest Process.
- Commencement of Declaration Processes.



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Tool for implementing Trade Facilitation without compromising Customs Controls & Border Protection.

