



The Secretary
General

12.FL-0066E/A.M.

Brussels, 7 February 2012.

Dear Director General,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to participate in the WCO Global AEO Conference to be held in Seoul, Korea, from 17 to 19 April 2012. The Korea Customs Service will co-host this important event, for which an early draft programme is attached for your perusal.

The theme for the Conference is "*AEO, the way towards Secure and Competitive Growth*". AEO is one of the best examples of partnership between the Customs and private sector which is being successfully implemented worldwide. The AEO Programme enhances the security and facilitation of the international supply chain and promotes certainty and predictability in an increasingly competitive global environment. The Conference will look into the successes and challenges of Customs administrations and the private sector in their efforts to implement AEO Programmes focusing on enhancing cooperation and partnership between Customs, the private sector and the other key stakeholders, as well as fostering global public/private sector dialogue.

The Global AEO Conference will offer an excellent opportunity for Customs administrations and stakeholders to better understand the current international trade challenges, the increasingly visible control protocols around the world, the need to involve all stakeholders and operators engaged towards a single goal in the context of trade facilitation. The establishment and maintenance of standards is essential, especially with the aim of securing the supply chain. With this in mind, I look forward to welcoming you at the Conference.

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This Conference will allow Customs executives to meet a wide cross-section of Government and private sector representatives to discuss how AEO and other security programmes not only assist in securing the supply chain but also in facilitating legitimate trade. The audience will be composed of Customs, business leaders, government representatives, industry experts, vendors and other interested participants.

I would appreciate it if you could share information on this event with any national or regional partners that you think might be interested in attending. I am confident that your support and encouragement will be instrumental in the success of the event, and will pave the way for enhanced cooperation between Customs and the private sector.

If any further assistance is required or you have any questions, please have your staff contact Ms. Asha Menon (Tel: +32 2 209 9347, asha.menon@wcoomd.org) or Ms. Eleanor Thornton (Tel: +32 2 209 9602, Eleanor.Thornton@wcoomd.org).

Conference registration details are contained in the attached programme or visit our dedicated Internet site <http://www.wcoomd.org/event.htm> for on-line information. It should be noted that the AEO Conference will be held in English only.

Yours sincerely,



Kunio Mikuriya.