



The Secretary
General

12.FL-0238E/A.M.

Brussels, 14 May 2012.

Dear Director General,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and World Customs Organization (WCO) Joint Conference on **“Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation – Synergy Through Cooperation”**. Singapore will host this important event which will be held from 5 to 6 July 2012 in the Orchard Hotel, Singapore.

This Joint Conference is the first major conference organized through cooperation between ICAO and the WCO. It will focus on raising the understanding and awareness of Customs and aviation security authorities to each other’s frameworks, mandates and tools. It will also seek to identify synergies that can be built upon to further enhance coordination and cooperation between aviation security, customs authorities and other key stakeholders with the aim to strengthen aviation and border security and facilitate the movement of air cargo.

The Secretaries General of the WCO and ICAO will each be giving a keynote address at the opening session and the closing session of the Joint Conference, and a Joint Communiqué will be issued. Panels of speakers from the regulatory and industry domains will also be invited to share their thoughts at the Conference.

The Joint Conference will offer an excellent opportunity for Customs administrations and stakeholders to gain a more in-depth understanding of the current international aviation trade challenges, the emerging security protocols around the world and how all stakeholders can work together to enhance aviation security and trade facilitation. The establishment and maintenance of standards is essential, especially in securing the supply chain. This event will pave the way for enhanced future cooperation and will support all stakeholders amidst a dynamic and rapidly changing international business environment. With this in mind, I look forward to welcoming you at the Joint Conference.

This Conference will also allow Customs executives to meet a wide cross-section of government and private sector representatives to discuss issues surrounding air cargo security in particular and supply chain security in general. The audience will be composed of Customs, aviation security authorities, business leaders, government representatives, industry experts, vendors and other interested participants.

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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 civil aviation security authorities.

If any further assistance is required or you have any questions, please have your staff contact Ms. Asha Menon of the WCO's Facilitation Sub-Directorate (Tel: +32 2 209 9347, asha.menon@wcoomd.org).

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

Yours sincerely,



Kunio Mikuriya.