



SUMMARY AND PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

ASEAN Workshops on Implementation of the Revised ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature 2007/1

Manila, Philippines, January 29-February 2, 2007

Bangkok, Thailand, February 26 – March 2, 2007

Hanoi, Vietnam, April 2-6, 2007

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, May 14-18, 2007



Customs officers are faced with hundreds of decisions every day. Should that clock-radio electric toothbrush be classified as a clock, radio, toothbrush or some other electrical device? Fortunately there are rules and guidelines in place to steer customs officers through such decisions, which mean the difference between whether or not a good is dutiable and, if so, at what tariff rate. As the Association of Southeast Asian Nations becomes a closely knit ASEAN Economic Community, it is important to ensure consistency in approach to goods classification. In 2006 ASEAN simplified and updated its harmonized tariff nomenclature (AHTN), bringing it in line with the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization and cutting the number of tariff lines by 22%. After these steps were agreed, ASEAN Member Country customs officials benefited from training to be able to implement the new, simplified nomenclature scheme in a consistent manner.

To assist with implementation of the revised AHTN the ASEAN-US Facility sponsored a series of four five-day trainings in ASEAN Member Countries. The trainings were held between January and May of 2007 and attracted 115 participants in total representing eight out of ten ASEAN Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). The training team was led by the ASEAN Secretariat's Director for Customs, Quang Anh Le and brought together regional and international experts, all of whom had assisted in the simplification of the revised AHTN. The team included Nathan Associates consultant Holm Kappler, former Director of Tariff and Trade Affairs at the World Customs Organization, as well as regional consultants Taufik Ismail of the Classification Division of Indonesian Customs, Ramon G. Lucero, Chief of the Tariff Commission of the Philippines, and Nguyen Viet Hung of Vietnam Customs.

The training was highly interactive, involving presentations and case studies for each of the 97 chapters of the AHTN. The trainers began by reviewing legal basis for the AHTN, discussed the harmonized system (HS) and its amendments, and providing an overview of the general structure, HS and AHTN numbering and dash system. An in depth, chapter-by-chapter review allowed participants to offer case studies in each product category, sharing experiences and explaining how they have encountered and dealt with challenges. Participants were also quizzed upon completion, many showing marked improvement in their classification.

Participants enjoyed the workshop, ranking it highly informative and useful for their jobs. They also rated course instructors highly, with an average score of 5 out of a possible 6 indicating that the instructors were knowledgeable and helpful. Participants favoured the case study portion of the workshop, and requested that future workshops focus on specific sectors or chapters, mentioning automobiles, machinery, chemicals, textiles and processed food in particular. Trainers agreed that sector-based workshops would be helpful. Training and capacity building needs persist, particularly given the turnover in classification staff and regular appearance of new products that raise unique classification issues.

Customs staff from ASEAN Member Countries appreciated this opportunity to come together and discuss changes in the harmonized system and challenges they face. Several requested more such opportunities –whether they are through workshops or email lists -- for exchange of information to compare case studies ensure a unified approach in ASEAN to implementation of the AHTN. The international consultant identified the need for ASEAN to establish a classification committee to deal with problem cases, disputes and disseminate results to Customs authorities in the region to ensure consistency in approach.

The workshops also brought to light problem areas in the revised AHTN 2007/1 which will help future review committees in streamlining and improving the harmonized system.



ASEAN WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AHTN 2007/1

Sponsored by United States Agency for International Development

(Manila, the Philippines, January 29 to February 2 2007)

Objectives of the AHTN 2007/1 Workshops:

1. Assist implementation of the AHTN 2007/1 by Member Countries in 2007.
2. Acquire knowledge to master AHTN 2007/1 (amendments to the HS 2002 and to the AHTN 2002/1).
3. Support the achievement of uniform application of goods classification under the AHTN 2007/1.
4. Acquire techniques as related to the revised AHTN for development of their national tariff nomenclatures.
5. Enhance networking and exchange of views and experiences in tariff classification.

Expert team:

- **Mr. Holm Kappler, International expert**
- **Mr. Quang Anh Le, Coordinator of Customs, ASEAN Secretariat**
- **Mr. Taufik Ismail, Classification expert, Directorate General of Customs and Excise, Indonesia**
- **Mr. Ramon Lucero (Jr.), Head, Tariff Commission, Philippines**
- **Mr. Nguyen Viet Hung, Head, General Department of Customs, Viet Nam**

DAY ONE

Time Allocation	Activity	Resource Person/s
8:30 - 9:00	Registration of Participants	
9:00 – 9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the Third Workshop by the ASEAN Secretariat. • Opening remarks by the Commissioner of Customs and the Chairman of the Tariff Commission of the Philippines 	Mr. Quang Anh Le, Coordinator of Customs
9:30 - 9:45	Coffee Break	
9.45 –11:15	Legal backgrounds of the AHTN and review process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protocol governing the implementation of the AHTN. 2. MOU to implement the AHTN (December 2003, Langkawi). 	Mr. Quang Anh Le, Coordinator of Customs
11:15 – 12:00	Adopted Technical Criteria of the AHTN Review .	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 – 14:00	The Harmonized Systems and its Amendments.	Mr. Holm Kappler, International Consultant
14:00 – 14:30	HS/AHTN General Structure, Numbering, Dash System	Mr. Holm Kappler
14:30 – 14:55	General Interpretative Rules and Exercises	Mr. Nguyen Viet Hung
14:55 – 15:05	Coffee Break	
15:05 – 16:00	Chapters 1-15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1 • Cases Study 	Mr. Taufik Ismail
16.15 – 17.00	Chapters 16 - 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1 • Cases Study 	Mr. Nguyen Viet Hung

DAY TWO

Time Allocation	Activity	Resource Person/s
9:00 – 9:45	Chapters 22 - 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Nguyen Viet Hung
9:45 – 10:30	Cases study of Chapters 1 to 24 of the AHTN 2007/1	Mr. Holm Kappler
10:30– 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 - 11:30	Case presentations of Chapters 1 to 24 of the AHTN 2007/1 & Discussions	<i>Participants of Member Countries</i>
11:30 –12:00	Chapters 25 to 40 (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1and• Cases Study	Mr. Holm Kappler & Mr. Ramon Lucero
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 – 14:00	Chapters 25 to 40 (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1and• Cases Study	Mr. Ramon Lucero
14:00 – 15:30	Case presentations & Discussions of issues of Chapters 25 to 40	<i>Participants of Member Countries</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 16:15	Chapters 41 - 49 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Ramon Lucero
16:15 – 17:00	Case presentations of Chapters 41 to 49 of the AHTN 2007/1 & Discussions	Participants of Member Countries

DAY THREE

Time Allocation	Activity	Resource Person/s
9:00 – 10:00	Chapters 50 – 57 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Quang Anh Le
10:00– 10:15	Chapters 58 – 63 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Ramon Lucero
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Cases presentation of Chapters 50 - 63 of the AHTN 2007/1	<i>Participants of Member Countries</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 14:00	Chapters 64 to 68 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Ramon Lucero
14:00 –14:45	Cases presentation of Chapters 64 - 68 of the AHTN 2007/1	<i>Participants of Member Countries</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00 – 15:45	Chapters 69 to 73 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Nguyen Viet Hung
15:45 – 16:30	Cases presentation of Chapters 69 to 73 of the AHTN 2007/1	<i>Participants of Member Countries</i>
16:30 - 17:00	Chapters 74 – 83 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Holm Kappler

DAY FOUR

Time Allocation	Activity	Resource Person/s
9:00 – 10:30	Chapters 84 to 87 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Holm Kappler
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 - 12:00	Cases presentation of Chapters 84 to 87 of the AHTN 2007/1 (1)	<i>Participants of Member Countries</i>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 - 13:45	Chapters 88 to 90 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Holm Kappler
13:45 - 14:30	Cases presentation of Chapters 88 to 90 of the AHTN 2007/1 (1)	<i>Participants of Member Countries</i>
14:30 – 15:15	Chapters 91 to 97 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to the AHTN 2002/1• Cases Study	Mr. Taufik Ismail
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30 – 16:30	Cases presentation of Chapters 91 to 97 of the AHTN 2007/1 (1)	<i>Participants of Member Countries</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Updates by participants on the implementation of AHTN 2007/1	

DAY FIVE

Time Allocation	Activity	Resource Person/s
9:00 – 10:00	Classification Exercises for Chapters 84 to 97	Expert Team
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break	
10:15 - 12:00	Questions & Answers	Expert Team
12:00 –13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 – 14:00	Quick Test of Exercises of Chapters 1 to 97	Participants of Member Countries
14:30– 15:00	Case presentations & Discussions of Chapters 84 to 97	Participants of Member Countries
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break	
15:15 – 16:00	Closing ceremony and Certificate Awarding	

Evaluation

ASEAN-US Technical Assistance & Training Facility

ASEAN Workshop on the Implementation of the AHTN 2007/1

Various Locations, 2007

Your answers to this questionnaire will help us to improve our training programs. Thank you.

Personal data

Country of representation:

Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

Total Attendees

115

Gender

32 Female; 79 (of those reporting)

Presentations

Please rate the workshop performance in the following areas on a scale of 1 to 6, one being the lowest ranking and indicating negation and 6 being the highest ranking, affirming the statement.

Topic Area	Average Rating
This workshop was informative.	5
This workshop will help me in my job.	5
Presentations were clear.	5
Materials (handouts, etc.) were useful.	5
Instructors seemed knowledgeable about the topic.	5
I was satisfied with this workshop.	5

Over →

Subject Matter

Would you like to see more, the same or less time devoted to the following topics:

Day	Topic	More	Same	Less
Mon.	Introduction	26	68	8
	Legal background & adopted technical criteria	41	53	9
	The HS and its Amendments	45	54	2
	HS/AHTN General Structure, numbering & dash system	45	53	4
Tues.	Chapters 1-15	36	65	3
	Chapters 16-21	36	66	0
	Chapters 22-24	34	68	1
	Chapters 25-40	40	63	1
	Chapters 41-49	33	69	1
Wed.	Chapters 50-57	39	62	1
	Chapters 58-63	40	61	1
	Chapters 64-48	39	61	1
	Chapters 69-73	38	61	2
	Chapters 74-83	43	57	0
Thur.	Chapters 84-87	68	35	3
	Chapters 88-90	53	45	3
	Chapters 91-97	46	53	2
Fri.	Q & A	43	50	3
	Quick Test	30	60	7

General Questions

What part of this workshop did you like the most?

Case studies and exercises:

- **Case Study (42 persons)**
- Discussion of case studies (**6 persons**)
- Exercise and Case Studies (**3 persons**)
- Exercises & Other practical applications
- Case study from member countries (**2 persons**)
- Q&A, Case Study
- Case studies for a new practical application of fee calculations
- Case study of member countries' participants
- Sample cases & case studies presented by different participants and the application of rules on said cases.
- General interpretation rules of exercises

HS and amendments:

- The Harmonized System and its Amendments (**7 persons**)
- Amendments & Case Studies

- Amendments & Correlations table
- Correlation explanation & Explanation of amendment.
- Discussion of amendments regarding high-tech products
- HS/AHTN General Structure

Specific Chapters:

- Chapter 84-87 **(7 persons)**
- Chapter 84-85 **(4 persons)**
- Chapter 84-97
- Chapters 88-90
- Chapter 50-87 **(2 persons)**
- The last part. Heading 85 > 85
- Chapter 81 – Machinery **(2 persons)**
- Chapter 50-63; 84-87 & GIR
- Chapters 50-63 and Amendment to the AHTN 2002/1 Case Studies
- Chapters 41-49
- Chapters 41-83
- Chapters 16-49; Chapters 74-87
- Chapters 25-40
- Classification Chapters 25-72
- Chapter 1-97, Q&A
- May be you can explain more about EH for the new products
- Section XVI
- All Chapters **(5 persons)**

Legal issues:

- Legal background adopted technical customs, HS/AHTN General Structures,
- 1a. Legal background of the AHTN and review process; 2a. Activity Chapter 84-87; 3a. Chapter 90-97
- About the GIRs, Legal Notes and the principle of Harmonize System Classification

Other:

- Question and Answers and Quick Test **(2 persons)**
- Q&A
- Learn from experts
- The presenters were very well prepared
- Presentation by some not so good English speaking presenters.
- Lecture of GIR and Lecture of Taufik
- Discussion on case study and opinion from Mr. Kappler
- All **(4 persons)**
- The overview presentation has been beneficial that help me in the analysis of the case studies. Therefore the workshop as a whole is very much appreciated.
- As you can see, my appreciation of the topics is somewhat the same, so I could not really say what I like the most or the least.

2. What part of this workshop did you like the least?

- None (**21 persons**)
- Not at all (**2 persons**)
- None, all parts I like most
- None. All topics are very useful and informative.
- None. They are all important as far as tariff classification is considered
- All are useful !
- All parts of the workshop I like
- All topics were very informative and would be very helpful in our job

Specific Chapters:

- Chapter 25-40 (**6 persons**)
- Chapters 25-60
- Chapters 50-57
- Chapters 88-90 Amendment to the AHTN 2002/1 Case studies
- Chapters 84-97 because there're difficult to problem
- Chapter 1-15
- Chapters 22-24
- Chapters 69-73
- 58-68
- Chapter 64 – 48
- Chapter Textiles
- Chapter without not relevant to ASEAN Trade
- Chapter 1-49
- Chapter 25
- Coffee break
- Identification product
- Chapter w/ the least amendments
- Chemical

Other:

- Quick Test (**2 persons**)
- Legal background (**2 persons**)
- Explanatory Notes books; we don't have them.
- About books (EN, etc), I think it's not enough/minus.
- GRI Explanation. We need more explanation for GRI
- GIR
- The HS and its Amendments may need to be further summarized and discussed only very crucial points.
Newest amendment of AHTN
- Case studies with less information

Logistical comments:

- Document printed in very small character.
- The sample case materials FONT are too small. However, presenter helps
- Some lectures spoke very fast
- Speech given during Mr. Nguyen.
- Line by line presentation
- Less time for examination

- Tuesday to Thursday
- Lengthy discussion on the amendments. Maybe because we already saw the amendments beforehand.

3. What other topics would you like to see included?

Case studies, classification, correlation:

- More Case Study (**10 persons**)
- More cases particularly on new goods
- More case studies w/ examples if possible
- Case studies of other countries
- Additional case studies
- Case studies on Note 2,3, & 4, Section XVI
- More examples of classification
- More case study with purpose functions
- Experience from NCO and other ASEAN Countries
- Identification of goods (**5 persons**)
- More emphasis on correlations and table specially transposition headings.
- The criteria intended to determine the type of approach applicable to a certain product that would subsequently make easier the classification of such product. Like on the aspect of its nature, function, essential composition, or use

Legal/disputes:

- More on Legal background & adopted technical customs and more case study
- Decided disputes/protected cases at WCO Level

Specific sectors:

- About vehicle, steel and iron
- Automotive
- Motor cars, Medical apparatus
- Machinery and Dash
- Processed or prepared foods
- Interested chapters such as textile & machine may need more time to discuss.
- Lacquers, surfactants, minerals and rocks.
- More on Chapter 84-87

General comments:

- Special Explanatory Notes (SEN) are the legal notes also for AHTN it should be included in the workshop
- More explanation of SEN
- Explanation on Note 3(a), Chapter 85 regarding the "of any weight" but of a kind commonly used for domestic purposes.
- On the job training
- None (**6 persons**)
- Nothing (**2 persons**)
- Enough

- Reasonable
- I am satisfied with the topics discussed.

4. Did this course use a good mix of presentation and interactive discussion?

- Yes **(69 persons)**
- Yes, very much **(2 persons)**
- Of course **(4 persons)**
- Excellent **(2 persons)**
- Yes, definitely **(3 persons)**
- Yes, understood
- Yes, it helped us expand our knowledge, particularly in the classification of the products.
- Yes, very good
- Yes, very much !
- Precise
- Yes, the course used a good mix with a good and information presentation as well as the cases.
- Yes, but more study case will be more attractive
- Yes, it did but you have to encourage other countries to take a part into discussion.
- Yes. But the duration of course are too short. Yes it did. However it could be better with additional interactive session like more case studies. More on classification interpretation.
- Yes, however red colored characters against blue-backed pages are less visible. Suggestion make them "yellow" or "bright orange" and reproduction of pages from notes to be enlarged. Yes, but I suggest that next questions should be allowed only after each lecture should so that time can be managed wisely.
- OK
- No

5. What sorts of follow-up activities for this course would you find useful?

Training/capacity building needs:

- Sectoral workshops **(2 persons)**
- More specialized workshop according to chapters or sections
- Another workshop on specific chapters
- More workshop on case studies **(2 persons)**
- More workshop in order to keep a ... & The introduction of modern technology
- More workshops to keep up with the new or latest development of new products and of the other ASEAN Countries.
- In-depth seminar on manner and procedure and proper classification
- Another workshop
- More workshop or exercises
- Advanced workshop on classification?
- Follow-up workshop on tariff classification. Thank you very much for making us learn tariff classification, AHTN and WCC agreement.
- Another course after 3 months
- Seminar of each country to rank & file

Information exchange on classification:

- Interchange the case between customs officer so we can compare how to manage the same case in our country.

- Discussion among us.
- Circularize copies of decisions on highly problematic classification issues
- Email communication suggestion for Tariff Classification
- Contact point. If I have the problems I can e-mail to ask that problems direct to contact point.
- More on classification interpretation.

Technical requests:

- The HS & Its Amendments
- Legal background & adopted technical criteria.
- Chapter 80 to 97
- GIR's Method
- Further training focus on Section XVI
- Case study **(5 persons)**
- **Case study and all topics (2 persons)**
- The explanation of the case study and discussion.
- Case studies and explanation from the experts
- Examples and case study of each country

Other comments:

- Not much for now. But we will get to know their (topics/problems) along the way. So far we have gained much of the resolutions/remedies on possible problems that we may encounter in the future.
- Give the softcopy of presentation for preparing training in my home country. The information before workshop is not clear. Please inform everything about workshop and accommodation through email of each participant.
- We have a good professional expert with us like Mr. Holm Kappler.