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University of Customs and Finance Students' Reflections

On the 10th WCO PICARD Conference
8 to 10 September 2015 Baku, Azerbaijan



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Introduction

The University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine (formerly the Ukrainian Academy of Customs) has been a long-standing Affiliate, and now Member, of the International Network of Customs Universities (INCUI) and an active participant in the World Customs Organization (WCO) Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) Programme.

I am pleased that Professor Victor Chentsov and Professor Olena Pavlenko together with a group of their students were able to join us at the 10th Annual WCO PICARD Conference including the Youth Forum and the Opening Ceremony of the INCUI Regional Office in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. I was also pleased that the University of Customs and Finance was awarded the INCUI Certificate of Recognition for their contribution to international academic and scientific cooperation in the field of Customs and for their contribution to the PICARD Programme.

I would like to thank the organisers and the host of the 2015 PICARD Conference for facilitating participation of so many students in this year's conference and I also thank the students for participating and for their presentations, and for providing reflections on their trip to Baku in September 2015, which are compiled in this publication.

I wish them best in their studies and future careers.

Sincerely

Dr Mikhail Kashubsky

Head of Secretariat

INCUI

Mr Vadym Riaboi

Student, Master of Management of External Economic Activity
Faculty of Economics and Management
University of Customs and Finance



The Week of Experience

Only few days ago you had to be in hurry, tried to find time to discuss important issues with people from different countries and to represent the University and the country at high level...

I want to share with you my impressions after the trip to Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, which hosted 10th Annual WCO PICARD Conference during the unforgettable week – the week of experience.

It is very difficult to single out individual moments of this event, because the general impression from the conference is awesome and indivisible. For starters, it should be noted the excellent organization of the forum and also to express my gratitude to everyone who was directly involved in the preparation of the conference. The next country

that will be hosting the conference have to put a lot of effort to be at the same level, which set the Azerbaijan, because everything from transfers and accommodation, the conference to cultural program, was on an excellent level.

Second one is the unforgettable beauty of Baku. The city is actively growing upwards, on the place of the old quarters like mushrooms grow ultra-modern skyscrapers, on the beach there are huge parks, embankments and artificial channels with the Venetian boats. It came even to create artificial Islands for future elite quarters, and one of them are going to be the base of the biggest Disneyland in the world. Night Baku looks amazing.

In the next paragraph I want to pay attention to the impression of the

content of the conference. To collect in one place Nobel laureates, theorists and practitioners in the field of customs and border management (from DGs, Ministers of Trade to teachers and students) – it is really an incredible opportunity to hear relevant and valuable information, because academic research, in my opinion, give a broad idea of how the customs service should look like in the 21st century and in what direction should be follow.

The performances of all the participants of the conference were very informative, educative and useful. A lot of valuable information in the frame of international affairs and innovations in customs I got from the reports and have the opportunity to use them in my future research activities as a Customs University student. It is interesting to note that many topics that were brought up for discussion at the conference, we have discussed in class at the University.

Especially for me, a very important and exciting moment was my report at the PICARD Youth Forum, because

you have an incredible opportunity to present the results of your work, to convey your own views and opinions, to gain experience of public speaking at international events.

We also had the unique opportunity to present our own presentations to all participants of the conference during the poster presentations, which were first organized in the framework of the PICARD conference. Everyone could ask any questions; get the answers, to communicate personally with us and to discuss the problematic aspects of our reports and ways of their solutions.

It should be noted that the conference has changed my attitude towards the future of scientific practice, forced to think about the necessity to continue it in other formats.

During the "week of the experience," we visited many events and institutions. Among the most brilliant are evenings at the Philharmonic and at the State theatre of musical Comedy, where artists and actors

with worldwide names won our hearts. It was very nice to receive an award from the International network of customs universities (INCU), a member of which is also our University, for the contribution into the development of international research at the opening ceremony of the regional office INCU in Baku. No less interesting was a visit to the WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building for the Europe Region, where students of the Azerbaijan customs Academy study now.

Special thanks to Prof. Viktor Chentsov, first Vice-rector of UCFU, and Prof. Olena Pavlenko, head of Foreign Languages and Professional Language Training Department/UCFU, our donors: Embassy of the Republic of Korea (Mr. Ambassador Sul Kyung Hoon), Dnipropetrovs' k school of Korean Language No.1 (Director Dr. Choi Kwang Soon), State Customs

Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Chairman Mr. Aydin Aliyev) and INCU (Prof. David Widdowson) for valuable advices, the necessary support, the opportunity to attend this event and for the great time in Baku.

No less noteworthy for Prof. Igbal Babayev, the chief of the Main Directorate for evaluation of the effectiveness and development programmers of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan; the person who was every day close to us, impelled to action by his own life example and experience, shared knowledge, supported us and we are looking forward for his visit to the University.

The week passed quickly, there were no enough time, because I wanted to see everything at once, but I wish for each of us to find out your own Baku in your heart. I hope for further meetings, unforgettable moments and fruitful cooperation.

Ms Olena Riabych

Student, Master of Accounting and Audit
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My PICARD 2015

A wide range of issues which was reviewed, dynamic discussions and sharing experience between representatives of customs administrations, international organizations, the scientific community, exciting cultural program and live, informal communication - all this combines conference Picard 2015.

For me personally to participate in the forum of this level was a great honor and a valuable experience because it allowed me not only to share results of my research with other participants of the conference, but to discuss interesting topics with experts in the area of customs practice from different countries, to hear their comments, remarks and recommendations.

The conference program was very saturated: so various reports, current

topics, and active discussion that participants, carried away by dialogue, often went beyond the allotted time and continued discussions during coffee breaks and stand up buffets.

Presentation of the research works of the students of our University took place in a format that became a novelty not only for us but also for the whole conference Picard – there was a format of poster report. Each participant of the forum could join to discuss the most interesting topics for it, ask questions, and share their experience or the experience of his country in this direction.

Equally interesting was informal part of this wonderful event. During the conference we visited the theater, philharmonic, informative and fascinating tour of cultural

monuments of Baku, thus met with a rich history and traditions of Azerbaijan and seemed to become a part of it.

It is impossible to ignore particular relevance to students by the conference organizers. In particular, the head of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan Aydin Aliyev repeatedly stressed the need to support talented students and to develop links between customs universities

of different countries. As a prove of his words, Mr. Aliyev presented the Ukrainian students very valuable and useful gifts for everyone.

We express our deep gratitude to the organizers of the conference Picard in 2015 for the extremely high level of this event and the opportunity to be a part of this great action that has become a platform for cooperation of representatives of many countries in the customs field.

Ms Mariana Homeniuk

Student, Master of Management of External Economic Activity
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PICARD 2015 – My Expressions and Thoughts

To protect and guard the borders of their state is a task that always has been and will be relevant in all countries. In addition there are many new problems, connected with the customs service, which require immediate solutions.

PICARD conference, organized under the auspices of the World Customs Organization and INCU, and also thanks to the financial support of the Korean Customs Administration and Korean school was held for the 10th time. It was designed specifically for exchange of experience in solving various problems, presentations of new solutions and ideas that can be tested, and also to find the answer to the question: Where to go and what to do for it?

It would be remembered that by copying solutions and offers one country may not bring any results for others at all. Different economic development of countries, differences in legislation and the need for immediate problem solving, despite its similarity to many countries, made one and the same conclusions as effective, and not useful at all. Therefore, the main objective of the conference was to find and bring necessary things that a representative of each country will be able to approve under an individual situation and own legislation.

An interesting innovation has been consideration of constant issues such as stimulation of labor, corruption, smuggling, from a new

perspective and another angle (for example, comparison of superheroes). Just such moments helped to cause even greater interest in problems and focus attention on important aspects.

It is impossible not to mention the performances of Nobel laureates whose performances we were waiting with great impatience. It is difficult to say that we heard a lot of new things, but their reports were always accompanied by plenty of questions.

Very exact and useful were comments of the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization Dr. Kunio Mikuriya. He singled out the most important aspects, made accurate comments and expressed his views on the issues highlighted in the reports.

Generally, this trip was a complete opening to me. First, participation in the Youth Forum was a great opportunity to prove ourselves and gain new experience in international event. Secondly, it's a chance to make new acquaintances and communicate with people of different professions and status,

representatives of different countries and people with radically different views, which are united by common problems concern customs services. The format of posters allowed us to experience it on ourselves, because when you answer questions or explain unclear points first of all you try to satisfy interest and then begin to understand whom you had the opportunity to speak to. What is more, it is a wonderful chance to prove, and also get interesting suggestions, including different programs for students. In fact many countries are interested in that the gifted students cooperated with them or shared new ideas or new views on solving various problems and unusual situations.

Actually, I want to thank our leaders from the University of Customs and Finance / Ukraine Viktor V. Chentsov and Olena O. Pavlenko, all our donors who provided an opportunity to take part in the event at this level and helped to prove ourselves from the best sides.

It is impossible to miss Prof. Igbal Babayev – Chief of according to efficiency and development

programs of the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan, which has always been close, supported us, inspired and directed us in the right way.

Of course, it must be said about the place of conference. Country of lights and city of winds sunk into the soul at first sight. Every day, the more we are acquainted with the city, the more we admired it. The old town and new architectural creation, the intersection of Western and Eastern cultures, Europe and Asia – were all amazed, excited and kept in our hearts. And the incredible

entertainment, which was held in the evening allowed us to get acquainted with Azerbaijan culture, national cuisine, dance and music.

And finally I want to say that the conference has changed our views on the future. If before participating in PICARD I had never considered the possibility of studying at graduate school, then I realized that the prospect of life combined with science is seen much more attractive to me. And may be after graduating the University of Customs and Finance/Ukraine I will try the forces in writing the advanced studies.

Mr Ramil Imanov

Student, Master of Transport Systems and Technologies
Faculty of Information and Transport Systems and Technologies
University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine



Five fabulous days ended which we were given by the land of fires, which also call Republic of Azerbaijan. From the first day in Baku I felt all his grace and majesty, accompanied by the excellent organization and holding the Annual WCO PICARD Conference, which became the tenth and anniversary.

To highlight memories for each day is difficult, because they gradually, during the conference, filled with new colors and emotions. It was nice to hear the report of the Nobel Prize laureates, WMO members, customs officers and students.

Each report presented new information, new experience and knowledge, which were not only theoretical but also practical.

The fourth day was very special, when all our students, including me,

had a speech on the stand, which was held for the first time at the conference PICARD. After the report I had the opportunity to hear the views of foreign representatives about my report, answered questions and gave my opinion to the audience.

I liked the evenings in Baku, during which participants were able to visit the Philharmonic Society and the State Musical Theatre, where the participants touched to the culture and history of Azerbaijan.

I remember the present to Republic of Azerbaijan and organizers of the conference by Ukrainian students, who presented beautiful dance that showed although small, but a part of our appreciation.

I want to thank Chair of the State Customs Committee of AR Mr. Aliyev Aydin and Prof. Dr. Babayev

Ihbal who did everything possible to hold PICARD Conference in Baku perfectly in all aspects.

I want to say a special "thank you" to Mr. Victor V. Chentsov and Ms. Olena O. Pavlenko, who gave us the opportunity to visit the "city of winds", get unforgettable experience, meet new people and made a step forward in our scientific activity.

Finally I want to say that this level, such standards of organization and conducting the conference, which were offered by the Republic of Azerbaijan, will be very difficult to beat in the next host countries, because these standards are a model.

Mr Rasim Imanov

Student, Master of Transport Systems and Technologies
Faculty of Information and Transport Systems and Technologies
University of Customs and Finance, Ukraine



PICARD - Baku - Expressions

It is difficult to realize that 10th Annual WCO PICARD Conference in Baku has finished. It was fantastic and the best five days of my life.

I want to say that the organizers were able to create a friendly atmosphere, an atmosphere of spiritual satisfaction and enjoyment. Every day was very rich and varied, and there was such a lot of information and impressions that at the end of the day I felt tired, nevertheless it was so cool.

The first day was dedicated to the opening ceremony of the Regional Dog Training Centre of the WCO and a tour of the capital of Azerbaijan - Baku. Baku is one of the most beautiful cities in the world that amazes everyone by the speed of his development and modern architecture.

The days of the conference were particularly interesting and informative, and the speeches of Nobel laureates, WCO employees, professors and students were very cognitive. Especially I liked the practice "speech near the stand" , where I could share my experience and ideas, debate and listen to different opinions of experienced customs officers from the different countries of the world.

The last day was dedicated to opening the regional office of the International Network of Customs Universities and tour around the "Old Town". The architectural landmarks of the city are the "Maiden Tower" and the complex of Shirvanshahs Palace, which are considered the pearl of Azerbaijani architecture.

I want to admit the well-organized cultural programs, which connected the participants of the conference and Azerbaijani national dances everyone without exception enjoyed dancing!

I cannot thank to Mr. Aydin Aliyev and the team of organizers for the great time and organization at the highest level. I want to express my deep gratitude to Prof. Iqbal Babayev, who did everything in order to make the conference better.

Also I want to thank to Chentsov Viktor Vasilevich and Pavlenko Elena Alexandrovna, who gave me the opportunity to participate in this beautiful conference, to get experience and to make friends from different countries.

At the end I surely want to say that I came back home with a sense of enjoyment and pride for the "Land of Fire" - Azerbaijan.



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