



World Customs Journal Special Edition

Call for Papers

The World Customs Organization (WCO), in partnership with the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU), is pleased to announce that a special edition of the *World Customs Journal* (WCJ) will be published to coincide with the PICARD Conference 2020, which will take place in September/October 2020 in Jamaica.

The primary focus of this special edition of the WCJ will be the WCO itself, “**the WCO and Customs and trade community: past and future**”, acknowledging the important role and achievements of the WCO and the support it provides to the international Customs and trade community. This special edition of the WCJ will address two general themes: “**the WCO’s impact to date and lessons learned**” and “**the future direction of the WCO**”.

Papers will be selected for publication and contributions are being sought from across the WCO, Customs administrations, private sector and academia. Authors of selected papers will be invited to present their papers at the PICARD Conference 2020. The journal will be released in September 2020.

As a guide, submissions should focus on the following topics:

1. The WCO’s impact to date and lessons learned:

- a. The work/achievements of the WCO and the practical ways in which it has supported Member administrations and the international trading community since its inception.
- b. What lessons have been learned regarding the role and functioning of the WCO in relation to developments in the Customs community during the last 20 years?
- c. How has the WCO contributed to the evolution of the Customs mission and the implementation of international agreements since its inception? How is the impact of the WCO or its instruments on Customs administrations’ performance or on society as a whole measured (in the context of performance measurement)?
- d. Has the role of Members, donors, international governmental organizations and international associations of private stakeholders evolved at the WCO?
- e. How has the WCO and academia cooperated to improve the capacities of Customs and to promote Customs topics in research agendas? What has the WCO PICARD Programme achieved to date? Has it met its objectives? Has it fulfilled stakeholders’ expectations? To what extent has it linked in with other WCO capacity-building initiatives?

2. The future direction of the WCO:

- a. Since the creation of the WCO, the nature of borders and border management has evolved. For example, the mission of some Customs administrations has seen the addition of security and migration control, and trade facilitation is emerging as a key global issue. Are we still operating within the same paradigm as in the 1950s from the perspective of borders and international trade? How is the evolution impacting the functioning of the WCO and the way in which Administrations are represented at the WCO? Are the WCO Members’ expectations evolving regarding the functioning of the WCO and its deliveries?

- b. "International instruments" constituted the "law" with respect to Customs and international trade issues. Is this still the case? Can rules be considered to be more "flexible", practical; data and fact-based? Do we currently find ourselves in a "peer governance" environment, whereby a more diffuse governance structure is in operation, as opposed to the usual top-down approach that particularly fits with the existing structure and work of international organisations? Are we still governed by rules and legal norms when we see the influence of Doing Business, governance by data and the increase of public participation and influence in policy-making processes (even through "populism", new media, etc.)?
- c. The relevance and future of the WCO PICARD Programme. What are stakeholders' expectations? Is there a need for an update of the PICARD Strategic documents (PICARD Programme 2020/2025) (from the perspective of both research and education)?
- d. How do we ensure that the PICARD strategic documents remain consistent with other WCO initiatives such as the competency framework, career path development, etc.?
- e. What are the policy drivers that drive Customs and that influence the mission and objectives of Customs administrations from a political perspective? How do these drivers impact the administration of Customs at the national, regional and international level, and, in turn, the role of the WCO?
- f. Customs from a strategic (as opposed to a more traditional "administrative") perspective, including the trajectory of Customs. This topic could explore issues like leadership in Customs as well as Customs policy versus Customs administration.
- g. Are developments in technology impacting Customs and the WCO from different perspectives, particularly in the context of data-driven governance? What impact will this have in the coming decades?
 - i. Will data and machines increasingly drive policy formulation and initiatives, and guide and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations?
 - ii. How can Customs leverage new and emerging technologies to support their management of risk?
 - iii. Do we need new approaches to boost innovation in Customs technologies and solutions? Customs administrations are major users of diverse types of technologies including detection technologies, laboratory equipment, risk management software, etc. Are these technologies developed based on the real challenges and needs of Customs?
 - iv. To what extent are Customs administrations collaborating with the private sector in the development of better performing and more tailored solutions? Do open innovation and user innovation strategies—widely exploited by firms for new product development—present opportunities to contribute to the development of new products and services that support Customs administrations?
- h. Future of the Revised Kyoto Convention and an ongoing RKC review process.

To respond to this Call for Papers, please submit your proposal in English language to info@incu.org and Picard2020@wcoomd.org before **31 December 2019**. A proposal must contain a working title of the paper, an abstract of about 200 words, details of the author (name, title, current position, organisation and country) and a contact email. Contributors will be notified by **15 January 2020** of whether their paper has been selected for publication. Completed papers should be submitted by **15 March 2020**.

Submissions should conform to the [Guidelines for Publication](#) and be formatted in accordance with the Journal's [Style Guide](#).

For further information please visit the [Journal's website](#) and if you have any questions, please email info@incu.org and Picard2020@wcoomd.org.