



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

THE GLOBAL CUSTOMS INITIATIVE - 2008 FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has initiated a new, multi-phase Global Customs Initiative (GCI) to assist developing and middle-income countries in modernizing their customs infrastructure. This \$4 million initiative will address critical customs training and infrastructure requirements and incorporate private sector-driven approaches to customs-related technical assistance.

The GCI aims to improve host country policies, procedures, and regional cooperation; integrate participating countries more closely into the global trading environment; and enhance the global trade and investment climate. USTDA is implementing the GCI using various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits, and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment.

GCI BENEFITS

Customs modernization is an important step in moving developing and middle-income countries toward greater competitiveness in the global market. Streamlining the clearance process to move imports and exports more quickly is crucial in creating a transparent, business-friendly climate. In addition, countries that undertake customs modernization often benefit from increased customs revenue and improved supply chain security. By organizing customs modernization efforts into a flexible and innovative platform, USTDA's GCI will assist participating countries in their adoption of private sector-driven technical solutions, as well as create important business linkages between the U.S. private sector and participating customs administrations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS

The GCI is designed as a public-private partnership where U.S. private sector entities are invited to participate in the development and delivery of training and technical assistance in order to increase the awareness of their company's products and services to the target country representatives. Private sector participation in GCI's customs activities may also include sponsorship and other in-kind contributions, including promotional placements, event hosting, and logistical support.

SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR 2008

Orientation Visits in Spring 2008

Beginning in spring 2008, USTDA will implement a series of senior-level policy dialogues (Orientation Visits) in the United States for customs officials from Mexico and Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Delegations from Southeast Asia and Mexico are expected to arrive in the United States in June, 2008 to meet with U.S. government and state customs officials and U.S. company representatives and to participate in a variety of site visits. The Southeast Asian delegation will attend meetings in the New York Metropolitan area; the Mexican delegation will attend meetings in Arizona. The delegations will meet in Washington, D.C. where they will attend meetings and training sessions with key U.S. Government organizations together.

Business Briefing in Washington, D.C. Spring 2008

There will be a one-day business briefing held in Washington, D.C. where they delegates will update attending U.S. company and government representatives on the status of their market sectors,

current initiatives, and procurement needs. The delegates will be available to meet with attending U.S. company representatives privately during the event in a formal one-on-one session.

In-Country Training Sessions - Fall 2008

The orientation visits will be followed by in-country customs training workshops in Mexico and Brazil, and a Southeast Asia regional workshop in Vietnam. These activities will introduce senior-level trade, finance, and customs officials to their U.S. government counterparts and to potential U.S. private sector partners. The estimated timing for these workshops is fall 2008.

The anticipated curriculum will address a wide array of customs issues including:

- Port and supply chain security, Intellectual property rights licensing and enforcement,
- Anti-counterfeiting and anti-piracy measures, Customs valuation, Rules of origin, and
- Compliance with bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

GCI CONTACTS:

Management Options, Inc., a Washington, DC-based international consulting firm, in partnership with MFM Group, Inc. and KUPS International, has been selected by USTDA to implement the senior-level policy dialogues and training workshops.

To inquire about or confirm your participation in this program, please contact:

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For additional information on USTDA's Global Customs Initiative, or to inquire about submitting new customs-related project proposals under the GCI, please contact:

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ABOUT USTDA

USTDA advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle income countries. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment, and sustainable economic development. Operating at the nexus of foreign policy and commerce, USTDA is uniquely positioned to work with U.S. firms and host countries in achieving the agency's trade and development goals.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

USTDA NATIONALITY REQUIREMENTS AND PRIVACY POLICY:

Please note that participation at and/or sponsorship of an event held in the United States is limited to U.S. Individuals, U.S. Firms, or U.S. Consultants, each as defined in USTDA's Nationality Source and Origin Requirements. Also note that by registering for USTDA events, your contact information will be provided to USTDA and USTDA may make such information available to other interested persons upon request. In addition, please be informed that you will likely receive requests for information related to your participation in USTDA events and their outcomes via telephone, email or fax, from USTDA Evaluations, USTDA program evaluators, and others who share USTDA's mission. For more information on USTDA's Nationality Requirements and USTDA Privacy Policy, please go to USTDA's website at www.ustda.gov