WORKSHOP ON THE COMPILATION OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
Addis Ababa, 8-11 November 2004

Country Presentation

Customs - Sudan

Presentation by the General Administration of Customs of the Republic of Sudan

Presentation on Trade Statistics Compilation Addis Ababa
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(A) Background

Due to the growing need for foreign trade statistics in Sudan the Customs Administration established special division for trade statistics in its organizational structure for the first time in 1972.

* During the Period 1972 - 1991 customs declarations were processed anually according to the following steps :-

(1) The required data was prepared by the clearing Agents on the prescribed Customs form and introduced to the Customs with the attached documents (in seven copies).

(2) A verification process was carried out in the various sections, the manifest,Tariff and Permit, then the declaration was forwarded to the Accounts section for the collection of duties and fees.

(3) Upon the release of goods a copy of each processed declaration wassent to the National statistical office for trade statistics compilation and analysis.

(4) Another copy of the processed declaration was sent to the Statistics Division of Customs located in the Head Quarters to compile foreign trade statistics for revenue estimates purposes and fiscal policies evaluation .

(B) Use Of Computerization For Processing Customs Data

- Asycuda was implemented in Sudan Customs Administration in 1991. Most import and export trade is through Port Sudan which is some I 100 kilometers from Khartoum. Import clearances may be obtained there are goods may be moved under Customs Control to the inland Container depot at Suba (in Khartoum) and cleared there, or moved to one of the 162 licensed warehouses in Khartoum area and cleared at the bonded werebouses and duty free zones office - Air cargo is cleared at Khartoum International Airport.
- Ninety - eight Percent of Import and export clearances are processed at 11 sites equipped with the Asycuda Computer System. Five of these sites including the Head Quarters are interconnected through a wide area network (WAN) , the Communications link for which is by Telephone line supplied by Suda Tel.
- The Number of Customs Stations which are still operating manually is (33) - only ten of this number is operating. The rest are closed due -to civil war in Southen and Western Sudan. But despite their

bigger Number Compared with the Computerized sites the size of trade Processed Through them accounts only for 2% of Sudan International Trade for the Simple reason that most of the Consignments are very Small.

- The number of declarations processed per year is 166.376 out of which 155576 is Processed in the Computerized Offices and the remaining 10800 in non- automated Offices.
- The majority of Import declarations are Processed within one working day from the time of entry Presentation Provided that the required documentation is satisfied.
- Sudan is Currently Using 74 different Customs Procedures.
- The Key activities in the declaration Processing flow are:
  I. Face check - to ensure that relevant fields on the hard copy declaration have data in them and that necessary Supporting documents are attached.
  II. Data input - Keying in the required Asycuda 2.7 Fields and Printing a hard copy.
  III. Manifest - no declaration can be registered by the system unless there is a match between the bill of lading input and the relevant line on the manifest.
  IV. Physical examination - in the current practice almost 100 percent of shipments are Examined.
  V. Tariff check - manual verification of classification, by reference to the results of Physical Examination of the Shipment and to the HSTariff itself , and of Value by reference to Value notices issued by Head Quarters or to manual files of Values of prior Shipments, and specifying the country of Origin by reference to the Shipping documents.
  VI. Permit check - Verifying permits, licenses, etc. issued by other agencies , including bank documents , are present and correct.
  VII. Exemption check - Verifying that any claimed exemption or concession is correct.
  VIII. Clearance - Printing the assessment notice after all checks are completed ~ and auctioning the release order and gate pass after the applicable duties have been paid and received.
- An Extraction of the processed data is Provided to the head quarters on monthly basis from each customs office, and then compiled into one national file.
- Data is released for the central national statistical office in electronic format also on monthly basis .

(C) Problems or Obstacles Faced

Despite the improvement that has been achieved in the quality and accuracy of trade data after the introduction of Asycuda yet, there are some Problems which affect the quality of our statistics those problems include : -

- Use of standards units of quantity for products measured by other units rather than weight
- Misclassification of products particularly if they are subject to the same rate of Import duty.
- Wrong coding in some cases for country of origin of imports or importer codes .