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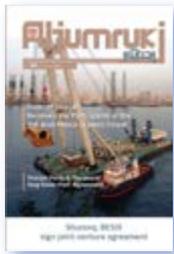
A quarterly Magazine issued by the Department of Seaports and Customs-Sharjah

Issue **94** July - October 2018

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Receives the Participants in the
5th Arab Media Leaders Forum**

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Sign Sister Port Agreement**

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Aljumruki



United Arab Emirates
Government Of Sharjah
Department Of Seaports & Customs

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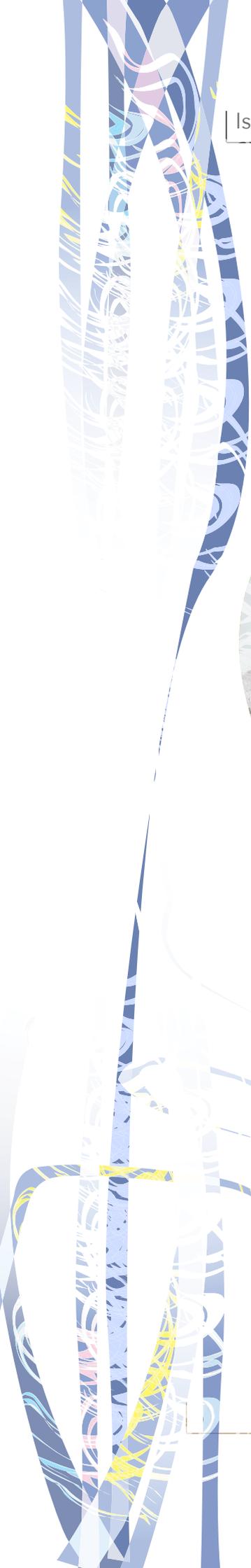
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Editorial

Customs administrations need to continuously assess strategies to respond to the challenges of the ever-changing world. This requires the administrations to seek an efficient policy to equip its working forces with skills and knowledge corresponding to their role responsibilities and specific tasks.

By this approach, the Department of Seaports & Customs spares no efforts to arrange adequate opportunities to train its staff in all fields of specializations ensuring that the administration's policies are well translated in effective operational activities. To that end, the Department maintains conducting training courses through the year in different domains including customs inspections, customers satisfaction, customs clearance, customs law and technologies related to the developed scanning equipment.

By emphasizing on training, the DSPC enhances skills and knowledge of its staffs to present the best services to traders, transporters, port users and passengers; to protect the community and tackle with the challenges of a fast-changing environment and contribute to the vision of the UAE in being one of the best states in the world.

Ruler of Sharjah

Receives the Participants in the 5th Arab Media Leaders Forum

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah affirmed that journalism is a science, professionalism, knowledge and skill. He added that the journalist, whether he is a writer or a speaker on television or radio, should be fully aware of the importance of the word he writes or utters.

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الملتقى الإعلامي العربي
ARAB MEDIA FORUM



This came while His Highness received the participants in the 5th Arab Media Leaders Forum (AMLF) organised by Sharjah Government Media Bureau's (SGMB) Press Club, at Sharjah Science and Astronomy Centre on September 27, 2018, in the presence of Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Sharjah Media Council (SMC).

Welcoming his guests, His Highness expressed honour to receive this distinguished media professionals saying that we should acknowledge and admit the fact that the media profession, like the entire professions, requires science and knowledge to avoid falling in the allurements of the word.

His Highness highlighted the great significance of preparing and rehabilitating media professionals so that they can capably carry out their media mission. He pointed out that the Journalists Syndicate in Cairo has asked for cooperation and I said that some of the floors in the building intended to do so are yet to be completed promising that he would cooperate to complete these unfinished floors in the forms of an institute that teaches and trains journalists who will be dispatched to the east and the west to gain more

expertise and knowledge.

Recognizing the role of Egypt in the field of media, His Highness said that the knowledge and science he possesses have their roots in Egypt adding that Egypt is the core incubator of science and knowledge.

Stressing on the importance of the word, its hazards and influence on societies and countries, His Highness said that the word is a trust; it may provoke wars and conflicts, urging journalists with good intent to learn and train well.

He pointed out that the current time has become easy to detect falsehood and manipulation of words, explaining that eyes are awake and watching, and the news circulates more than a media station.

His Highness further expounded that

the journalist must enjoy a sense of responsibility and have clear intent; he should be a constructive builder who brings people closer and disperses them.

Noting the important role of the translator, His Highness advised translators to be accurate and true in their translation from one language to the other and to convey the same image in the source language to the targeted language.

His Highness advised media persons and those who want to join this important field to be precise, accurate and transparent in collecting and conveying the information. He also recommended them to consult research centres to document what they communicate to people adding truth in the journalist's word is the truth with his self. ●



Sultan Al Qasimi

Inaugurates “The Echo of Caravans” Exhibition

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, The president of Saudi Commission for Tourism & National Heritage has inaugurated the ‘The Echo of Caravans: Pre-Islamic Civilization Sites in Saudi Arabia’ exhibition in Sharjah Archaeology Museum.





Opened on October 17, 2018, the showcase stems from a collaborative partnership between Sharjah Museums Authority and Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage. The exhibition will run at Sharjah Archaeology Museum until January 31, 2019. His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah

and His Highness the Amir toured various sections of the historic exhibition, discovered in the Saudi Arabia Kingdom history, which reveals for the first time to the public the deep historical ties and traditions and customs common to the people of the Arabian Peninsula. A total of six wonderfully preserved

artefacts from Sharjah Archaeology Museum's collection are displayed alongside objects from Saudi Arabia at 'Echo of Caravans'. Dating from the period of 2000 BC to 300AD, the artefacts were found at archaeological sites in Mleiha, Muwaileh and Jabal Al Buhais. ●

Sharjah Ports & “Delaware Sign Sister Port Agreement

Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Seaports & Customs, Sharjah Airport International Free Zone and Hamriyah Free Zone Authority, and Jeffrey Bullock, Secretary of State of Delaware (USA), signed Sister Port Agreement at the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on October 10 2018.

According to the deal the Department of Seaports & Customs and the Diamond State Port Corporation, a corporate entity of the State of Delaware, are mandated to cooperate in the development of international trade and logistics, exchange information, and build mutually beneficial commercial,

technological partnership. The agreement also enables private companies within the catchment area of the respective port authorities to collaborate on trade and investment prospects.

The signing took place following the official handover of the Delaware-based Port of Wilmington from the

Diamond State Port Corporation to Gulftainer to operate and develop the port over a 50-year concession period. Gulftainer is Container Terminal Operator in the Emirate of Sharjah, one of the world's largest privately-owned independent port operator and logistics company based in the UAE.



In attendance were high officials including H.E. Marwan Jassim Al Sarkal, Executive Chairman of Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq). H.E Philip Frayne, Consol General to the United States Consulate in Dubai, H. E. Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman, Director of the Department of Seaports & Customs, H. E. Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of the Free Zones in Sharjah, Peter Richards, Group CEO of Gulftainer, Badr Jafar, Chairman of Gulftainer's Executive Board, and members of an American Delegation. ●



Chairman Receives

Delegation of Sharjah Airport & Ports Police

Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Seaports & Customs, Hamriyah Free Zone and Sharjah International Airport Free Zone received at his office on September the 9th, 2018 the Sharjah Airport & Ports Police Delegation.

The delegation was Headed by Colonel Younis Al Hajri with Lieutenant

Colonel Matar Al Ketbi, Head of Sharjah Airport Police, Lieutenant Colonel Waleed Al Nahim, Head of Sharjah Terminals Police and Major Ahmed Al Suwaidi, Head of Sharjah Port Police and Major Mohammed Al Shehi, Head of Hamriyah Port Police.

In attendance were H.E. Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman, Director of the Department of Seaports & Customs

and Mr. Jarsh Mohammed bin Jarsh, Director of Creek Customs Centre.

The visit comes to further tighten the relations between the strategic partners; Sharjah Police and the Department of Seaports & Customs. Commemorating the visit, the delegation presented a courtesy plaque to the Department. ●



DSPC hosts Cancer Awareness Campaign



H.E.

Mohammed Meer Abdu Rahman, Director of the Department of Seaports & Customs received at his Office Dr. Aisha Al Hashmi and Mrs Amanh Al Suwaidi from Health Education Department at the Sharjah Medical Region. Both of the Visitors have shared professionally in conducting an awareness campaign to the staff of the Department.

The awareness campaign, which was launched on September 11 2018, aimed at raising awareness among the staff about cancer and encouraging them to detect that they are free from this fatal disease. It came within the cooperation between the Department and the medical entity.

Free medical checkups were offered for staff who attended the campaign. ●



Health Awareness Campaign for Staff

T

he Department of Seaport & Customs has conducted a health awareness campaign for the staff of the department with collaboration of NMC Group. This was the third of its kind since the beginning this year.

The campaign, which was launched

on January 16 2018, aimed at raising awareness among the staff about general health issues related to blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol.

Free medical checkups were made available for staff who gathered at the checking point for the purpose of the stated medical procedures. ●



DSPC

Demonstrates its E-Applications in GITEX Technology Week 2018

For the fifth year in a row, the Department of Seaports and Customs (DSPC) has participated in the 38th session of GITEX 2018 which was held at Dubai Trade Centre during the period 14- 18 October 2018.

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, officially inaugurated the 38th edition of GITEX Technology Week, at Dubai World Trade Centre on October 14th 2018.

The DSPC stand was within the pavilion of the Government of Sharjah which included 36 government entities set on leveraging state-of-the-art technological tools and standards to position the Emirate of Sharjah as a leader in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) innovation.

DSPC introduced its electronic services and applications which demonstrated the latest services render to the public, customers and establishments. By these services the departments has showcased its advanced solutions and applications that facilitates procedures and reduces time consumption for their customers.

The participation of DSPC came in line with the directions of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah to employ all



DSPC News



resources to provide reliable and accessible governmental e-services. The participation was also supported by Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi , Chairman of the Department of Seaports & Customs and the outstanding encouragement of Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of DSPC to the staff of IT section to upgrade applications and electronic solutions.

Senior Customs Officer, Sultan Bilrasheed described a new application which was showcased at the fair as very important. "it is small in size but great if efforts. It is a tablet with a programme that customs inspector can use in inputting cargo data and his comments and findings and the info directly transferred to customs operations system to further analyze the data with almost no time thus reducing time & paper consumption for the customers and the customs officers" said Sultan.

Several dignitaries and high officials visited DSPC stand and have been acquainted with customs clearance, cargo inspection and other customs & ports e-services and applications. Among the visitors were Khawla Al Mulla, Chairperson of Sharjah Executive Council Sultan bin Butti Al Muhairi, Secretary General of Sharjah Consultative Council, Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Sultan Al-Qassimi, Director General of of E- Government(Sharjah),Noor Al Noman, Director of Department of E- Government(Sharjah) and other officials.

Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarah, Director of the Department of Seaports & Customs also visited the stand.

DSPC's participation was represented by Abdul Wahid Al Ajmani, Project Manager (IT), Sultan Obaid Balrasheed Senior Customs Officer, Abudllah Al Mazimi, Customs Officer, Thomas John, Programmer who briefed the visitors on the e-services of the department. ●

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Training Courses

for Customs Staff

The Department of Seaports and Customs(DSPC) maintains continually its plans to enhance performance levels by organizing several training courses in which many customs inspectors and employees participated. It is aimed by these training courses to improve skills of the staff and to acquire more knowledge about the latest customs related developments which might reflect positively on their performance and Sharjah Customs as a whole. The following training courses were conducted during the third quarter of the year:



Customs Inspection Methods

Within its cooperation with Ras Al Khaima Customs, Sharjah Customs organized a training course about "Management of Customs Operation Room" on 10 and 16 July 2018 at the Container Customs Centre. Lecturer - (Customs Officer) Abdullah Al Yasi detailed the participants on the subject and about preparing customs operation reports.

Several Trainees from Ras Al Khaima Customs and one from the Federal Customs Authority participated in the training Course which was held at Container Customs Centre.

At the conclusion of the training session, Mr. Khaled bin Samnoh, Director of Container Customs Centre distributed certificates of passing the training course to the participants and presented a commemorating plaque to the Ras Al Khaima Customs Department in recognition of the mutual cooperation between the two entities.





Humanitarian aspects in the Customs-Officer works

Sharjah Customs also organized a training course about Humanitarian aspects in the customs-officer works. The session held at the meeting hall of the Container Customs Centre for the period 24-26 July 2018. Seventeen Customs officers from Creek Customs Centre, Cargo Customs Centre, Container Customs Centre, and Hamriyah Customs Centre joined the course.



First Aid Training session

Admitting the importance of first aid practice in life saving and assisting injured persons during emergency situations, the Department of Seaports & Customs conducted first aid training course in which several employees from various customs centres took part in it.

The course was held during the period 911- September 2018 at Sharjah Red Crescent premises. First aid practices were demonstrated by trainer Saif Abdullah Al Radhwan from Sharjah Police.



The Second Basic Training Course for Customs Officers

The Second Basic Training Course for Customs Officers, which lasted for two weeks, was concluded at the Sharjah Police Science Academy on 17 September 2018.

Major Ali Yousif Al Midfa, Head of Occupational Development Section at the Academy distributed the graduation certificates to the customs officers.

Mr. Hassan Ahmed Dimas, Director of Passenger Customs Centre/ Sharjah Airport and several police officers from the Academy attended the graduation ceremony. Dimas praised the DSPC's

Training Courses



efforts in maintaining training sessions to enhance performance and present better services.

Thirty officers from Creek Customs Centre, Cargo Customs Centre, Container Customs Centre, Khatm Melaha Customs Centre, Passenger Customs Centre and Hamriyah Customs Centre joined the course.

A similar training course was conducted at the Eastern Region and was concluded on 27 July 2018 in which 22 customs officers from Khorfakkan Customs Centre and Khatm Melaha Customs Centre participated. Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Raesi, Director of Khatm Milaha Customs Centre attended the graduation ceremony and addressed the audience, emphasizing the keenness of the DSPC to maintain strong ties with its strategic partners by exchanging information and conducting training sessions to improve the performance of the staff.



Controls on dual-use commodities

Spanning three days, 16 customs officers from five customs centres in the Emirate of Sharjah participated in this training session. The session was concluded on the 2nd of October 2018 at the Container Customs Centre.





Preparation and formulation of confiscation reports

Sharjah Customs also concluded a training course on "Preparing and establishing confiscation Report" course which was held at Container Customs Centre during the period 28-30 October 2018. Twenty customs officers from five customs centres took part in this course.

All participants were awarded certificates for completing the session by Mr. Khalid Salim bin Samnoh Director of Container Customs Centre and Mr. Ahmend Hassan Dimas Director of Passenger Customs Centre/ Sharjah Airport. ●



SIAF Customs Centre

Witnesses the lunch of the first Export Shipment Under TIR Carnet to Europe

The service operation was witnessed by H.E. Mohammed Juma Buosaiba, Director General of the Federal Customs Authority (FCA), H.E. Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman, Director of the Department of Seaports & Customs (DSPC), H.E. Mohammed Bin Sulayem, President of Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE (ATCUAE) and officials of the participating entities in the ceremonial launch along with representatives of the concerned companies.

The action came with the successful joint efforts of the FCA, ATCUAE, DSPC, Dubai Customs and Indus International FZC.

The shipment which belongs to Indus International was inspected by the SIAF Zone Customs Centre Officers a day earlier at the company's warehouse and a customs declaration was issued, whereby the transport was facilitated with the TIR carnet issued by the ATCUAE and was used for this TIR transport.

The container was then transferred to SIAF Customs Centre and the officers affixed the customs lead seal on the container, performed the customs control on the TIR carnet and transmitted the "release of transit message" using the IT portal and handed over the TIR carnet to the

The first intermodal export shipment of containerized goods was launched under TIR Carnet to Europe at the Sharjah International Airport Free(SIAF) Zone Customs Centre on Wednesday the 19th of September 2018. The Shipment, which was the first of its kind in the United Arab Emirates, was on its way to Europe via Jabal Ali Port.





transport company, allowing to move the container towards Jebel Ali Customs center in the Emirate of Dubai. Later on, the Shipment was after further procedures, transferred to Hamburg Port (Germany) by sea via Jebel Ali Port on its way to its final destination at the Czech Republic under TIR Transport. The step will enhance the customs procedures, exportation and trade movement from and to the United Arab Emirates and support the rule of the UAE as a World Trade Hub.

The international road transport system "TIR", which joins 70 countries, is a globally applicable international customs transit and guarantee system. It enables goods to be shipped from a country of origin, through transit countries, to a country of destination in sealed load compartments that are controlled by customs via a multilateral, mutually recognized system. TIR system also maintains the highest standards of safety in the transport of goods with the unification of customs procedures, and reduces the waiting time for trucks on the border using fast tracks. ●



The HS lights the way for traders¹

By Beth Jenior²,

As industry continues to innovate, the work on amending the Harmonized System is never complete. This article looks at the origin and evolution of LED products to illustrate how the System can adapt to product developments over time, lighting the way for traders and guaranteeing the flow of legitimate trade across international borders.



The international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, also known as the Harmonized System or HS, is a powerful instrument of trade. Every five years after the conclusion of the WCO's review cycle, each Contracting Party to the HS Convention implements amendments to the System. These amendments are the result of meetings of both the WCO's HS Committee and the HS Review Subcommittee. HS Contracting parties may submit a draft

¹ This article was published in WCO's News Magazine, issue No. 86, June 2018

² Beth Jenior, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection



amendment for consideration to these two working bodies. Proposals to amend the HS often arise when the domestic industry raises an issue with its home Customs administration. The industry representatives may specifically request an amendment to the HS Nomenclature to solve a specific problem, or may request a tariff classification decision which ultimately reveals a challenge best addressed by amending the legal text.

At the beginning of every HS review cycle, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), which is charged with maintaining updates to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, publishes a request for amendment proposals in the Federal Register. The Federal Register is a daily publication of proposed and final administrative regulations of U.S. federal agencies. In addition, U.S. Customs and

Border Protection (CBP) publishes its own weekly bulletin, which contains agency rulings, domestic court decisions on trade, and the agenda for the HS Committee. This is one of the ways in which the U.S. Administration communicates with its domestic industry about particular agenda items before the WCO working bodies, or identifies areas where the HS may be improved.

DEVELOPMENTS AND HISTORY

The U.S. lighting industry reached out to CBP and USITC when light emitting diode (LED) products appeared on the HS Committee agenda in 2012. Over the course of the next several years, we had regular meetings with representatives of the lighting industry to further our understanding of the development

of LED technology, which informed our approach to these products in the context of the upcoming HS amendments. The origin and evolution of LED products provide the perfect example of how the HS can adapt to product developments over time.

In order to understand LED products, it is helpful to understand the history and evolution of electric lights. On 14 October 1878, American inventor Thomas Edison filed his first patent application for an electric filament lamp, or light bulb. By 1880, Edison's company was selling its lamps to the public. In 1892, the Edison General Electric Company merged with its main competitor, the Thomas-Houston Company, to form the General Electric Company. The companies' directors agreed that they could advance lighting technology faster if they worked together. By 1904, engineers at General Electric had

Customs affairs

developed a tungsten filament lamp, which lasted longer and shone brighter than the original carbon filament lamps.

In 1939, engineers from General Electric and Westinghouse introduced fluorescent lamps at both the New York World's Fair and the Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco. The need for efficient lighting in World War II factories resulted in the rapid expansion of fluorescent technology. In 1962, researchers at General Electric invented the first visible-spectrum LED in the form of red diodes. LEDs are semiconductor devices which emit light when electric current passes through them. Pale yellow and green diodes were invented next. As companies continued to improve red diodes and their manufacturing, they began appearing as indicator lights and calculator displays in the 1970s. As the lighting industry expanded its development of LED products, their applications remained limited. Before the advent of the blue LED, manufacturers were unable to produce white light. In the early 1990s, approximately 100 years after Edison's patent, Professors Isamu Akasaki and Hiroshi Amano of Nagoya University, and Shuji Nakamura of Nichia Corporation, concurrently discovered that gallium nitride was the key ingredient in producing blue LEDs. Now, blue LEDs are easily altered to provide white light. These three Japanese scientists won the 2014 Nobel



Prize in Physics for their discovery. The invention of blue LEDs led to an explosion in breakthroughs using LED technology. Blue, red and green LEDs can now be combined to make any colour of light. This has led to the development of screens for cell phones, computers, televisions, tablets, and many other electronic devices in today's world. In addition to coloured light advancements, LEDs are also more energy efficient than traditional lighting. A modern white LED lamp converts more than 50% of the electricity it uses into light. By contrast, a traditional filament lamp only has a 4% conversion rate. LED lamps last up to 100,000 hours, compared to 10,000 hours for fluorescent lights and 1,000 hours for filament lamps. As consumers switch to LED lamps, global consumption of electricity and materials for lighting will reduce dramatically.

CLASSIFICATION JOURNEY

As technology advanced, the HS also progressed through the hard work of WCO Members. For the 49th Session of the HS Committee in March 2012, the European Union (EU) submitted a request for the Committee to classify certain LED lamps, which in the U.S. are referred to as "light bulbs." They also introduced a draft amendment pertaining to these products. The EU delegate noted that lamps were generally classified under heading 85.39, which provided for "Electric filament or discharge lamps, including sealed beam lamp units and ultraviolet or infra-red lamps; arc lamps."

The EU delegate pointed out that the text of heading 85.39 did not cover lamps incorporating LED technology. Consequently, most WCO Members were classifying LED lamps under heading 85.43, a basket provision, which provides for "Electrical machines and apparatus, having individual functions, not specified or included elsewhere in this chapter."

Given the growing use of LED lamps, the EU delegate stated that it would be useful to classify them together with the other lamps covered by heading 85.39. The lamps of heading 85.39 were being replaced by LED lamps at an astonishing pace. Indeed, the manufacture and sale of filament lamps were reduced substantially in the EU following the coming into force of legislation

that was applicable throughout the European Community. Finally, the delegate noted that LED lamps were of paramount economic and ecological importance.

Noting the short time frame left to finalize amendments for the 2017 version of the HS (the HS Committee needed to finalize these amendments by March 2014), the majority of the delegates expressed the view that LED lamps should be provided for in the Nomenclature as soon as possible. Therefore, the Committee decided to send the draft amendment to the HS Review Subcommittee for discussion while the Committee continued to examine the classification of the LED lamps under the 2012 HS text. At the 43rd Session of the HS Review Subcommittee in April 2012, the Subcommittee examined two proposals for LED lamps. The EU proposal involved adding the term "semiconductor lamps, including light-emitting diode (LED) lamps," to heading 85.39, as well as subheadings for "LED lamps" and "other" semiconductor lamps. The proposal submitted by Korea was to add the term "light-emitting diode (LED) lamps" to heading 85.39, and to add one new subheading, which provided for the same.

The EU delegate explained that their proposal was worded broadly in order to cover products such as organic light-emitting diodes (OLED), or phosphorescent organic light-emitting diodes (PHOLED), which may not be covered by the



term "LED lamps." Some delegates agreed with the EU delegate's observation. The delegate of Korea stated that the term "LED lamps" could be read broadly to cover goods such as OLED and PHOLED products. Several delegates agreed with this interpretation.

At the 44th Session of the HS Review Subcommittee in November 2012, the Subcommittee agreed to proceed with Korea's proposal. Several delegates noted that the HS Explanatory Notes could clarify that the term "LED lamps" also covers similar LED technologies such as OLED and PHOLED. The Explanatory Notes are the official interpretation of the HS. The Review Subcommittee sent the proposal to the HS Committee, which provisionally adopted the amendment for inclusion in the 2017 version of the HS.

CONTINUING INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE

However, as industry continues to innovate, the work on amending the HS is never complete. Given that LED products are manufactured in a wide array of configurations, the HS Review Subcommittee is working on additional amendments to clarify their classification for the 2022 version of the HS. In consultation with their domestic lighting industries, the U.S., the EU and Japan have all submitted draft amendments to the HS Nomenclature. These amendments cover the following products: LED modules, or lamps equipped with electrical connectors other than a cap, of heading 85.39, assemblies of individual light-emitting diodes of heading 85.41, and luminaires and lighting fittings designed for sole use with LEDs of heading 94.05. This illustrates the beauty and challenge of the HS review cycle. Very soon, these new LED technologies will have a home in the text of the HS Nomenclature. As a living, breathing document, contracting parties to the HS can continuously update the nomenclature to cover new products and advancements in technology. And the global Customs and trade community can rely upon its text to guarantee that legitimate trade continues to flow across international borders ●

Shurooq, BESIX

sign joint venture agreement

The Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq) and BESIX, the region's leading company operating in infrastructure concessions and construction, has signed a joint venture agreement to operate and maintain an existing wastewater treatment plant in Al Saja'a area in Sharjah.

The newly formed company, called QATRA (Arabic for a Drop), will continue developing and expanding the wastewater infrastructure in line with Sharjah's masterplan, whilst ensuring the highest level of operating excellence and service to all stakeholders. The expansion plans will also enable the plant to maximize the amount of reused water produced, thereby doubling the capacity from 30 million literse of high-recycled water to per day to 60 million litres per day, mainly for industrial use. The agreement was signed by Marwan Bin Jassim Al Sarkal, Executive Chairman of Shurooq and Olivier Crasson, Executive Vice





President of BESIX Middle East. "The partnership with BESIX broadens the Shurooq portfolio even further in keeping with our commitment towards investing in sustainability and creating a highly positive impact on the environment. The formation of QATRA is not only extremely beneficial in terms of Sharjah's ecology, but also the emirate's economy," said Marwan Al Sarkal. He continued: "We are delighted to be working with BESIX who have played a fundamental role in constructing some of the UAE's most impressive and recognised landmarks including the Burj Khalifa and the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi. Our common vision of delivering environmentally

responsible services aligns perfectly with one of the five pillars of Shurooq's development strategy." Sustainable water use is one of the core objectives of the new Private-Public Partnership (PPP), and strengthens Sharjah's commitment to furthering an important UN Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG). "We are pleased and honoured to partner with Shurooq, as part of our 40-year history in Sharjah," explained Olivier Crasson, Executive Vice President of BESIX Middle East. He added: "We now have a unique project involving innovation, technology, the environment, sustainability and water, and we are very happy to participate in the

evolution of this sector, for Sharjah, with Sharjah, and with Shurooq." "We also share the same values in aspiring to create long-term sustainable and profitable partnerships to support Sharjah's development goals, and we are investing in a long and prosperous relationship," added Crasson. Al Saja'a Wastewater Treatment Plant currently processes and treats more than 30,000 m³ of wastewater per day. ●

WCO

publishes 2018 edition of SAFE Framework of Standards

On 26 July 2018, the World Customs Organization published the 2018 edition of the SAFE Framework of Standards, following its adoption by the Council - the Organization's highest decision-making body - at the end of June 2018. The Framework provides baseline international standards to secure and facilitate global trade. It is updated every three years to ensure that it remains relevant and reflects new opportunities, challenges and associated solutions.

Launched in 2005, this unique instrument ushered in modern supply chain security standards, heralding the beginning of a new approach to the end-to-end management of goods moving across borders while recognizing the significance of a closer partnership between Customs and businesses. The 2018 version augments the objectives of the SAFE Framework with respect to strengthening cooperation between and among Customs administrations, for example through the exchange of information, mutual recognition of controls, mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs), and mutual administrative assistance. In addition, it calls for enhanced Customs cooperation with government





agencies entrusted with regulatory authority over certain goods (e.g., weapons, hazardous materials) and passengers, as well as with entities responsible for postal issues. The Framework now also includes a comprehensive list of AEO benefits with certain minimum assured benefits.

The updated SAFE Framework offers new opportunities for Customs, relevant government agencies and economic operators to work towards a common goal of enhancing supply chain security and efficiency, based on mutual trust and transparency.

On this occasion, WCO Secretary General Dr. Kunio Mikuriya said : "All WCO Members and stakeholders should deepen the implementation of the SAFE Framework and its

associated tools in an effective and harmonized manner to further strengthen supply chain security and facilitation, by leveraging the collective lessons learned thus far and the new opportunities outlined in the 2018 edition of the Framework." The WCO, through its Columbus and Mercator Programmes and a host of tools contained in the SAFE Package, will continue providing technical assistance and capacity building support to Members and stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the Standards set out in the SAFE Framework, as well as AEO and other related programmes. ●



Air Arabia

Reports Net Profit of **AED 230 Million** in First Half of 2018, Carrying **4.2 m Passenger**

Air Arabia reported a net profit of AED 230 million for the first half ending June 30, 2018; a 12 per cent less than the AED 261 million reported for the same period last year. The company's turnover for the first six months of 2018 reached AED 1.816 billion, an increase of 6 per cent compared to AED 1.716 billion in the corresponding period last year. Air Arabia's strong profits are registered despite the economic pressure that airlines have witnessed in the second quarter of this year, which was driven by lower yield margins, higher fuel prices and seasonality shift in traffic that the market has experienced.

Marking strong growth in passenger demand, Air Arabia flew 4.2 million passengers during the first half of 2018 and the airline's average seat load factor for the first six month of 2018 - passengers carried as a percentage of available seats - stood at impressive 79 per cent.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohamed Al Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia said: "Air Arabia's strong financial results are a testament to the airline's robust growth strategy, operational efficiency and unwavering commitment to delivering on its value-added proposition for customers."

Air Arabia (PJSC) announced strong financial results for the first half ending June 30, 2018 as the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier continued to deliver solid and sustained financial performance.





He continued: "The global aviation industry had to cope up with pressing economic challenges during the second quarter of this year and we are glad to see Air Arabia continuing to deliver strong financial and operational performance while maintaining its momentum growth across the breadth of its network."

The company's turnover in the second quarter ending June 30, 2018 reached AED 938 million, a 4 per cent increase compared to the same period of 2017. Net profit during the second quarter 2018 stood at AED 120 million, a 24 per cent less than the corresponding period of 2017. Air Arabia flew over 2.05 million passengers in the second quarter ending June 30, 2018 and the airline's average seat load factor for the same period stood at a high 78 per cent.

He concluded: "Trading conditions continue to be influenced by the regional geopolitical and economic challenges, however, the outlook of low-cost travel in the region remains very strong. We continue to focus on further expanding our reach and

operational efficiency capitalizing on the fundamental strength of our business model and the value driven product offering to our customers". During the first half of 2018, Air Arabia received three brand new Airbus A320 airplanes bringing its fleet size to 53 aircraft. The carrier added a total of 12 new routes to its global network in the first half of this year. Flights from Air Arabia's main hub in Sharjah commenced to Moscow Sheremetyevo and Grozny in Russia; Bodrum and Izmir in Turkey; and Qabala in Azerbaijan. The carrier also expanded its operation from its Egypt hub with new flights connecting Alexandria to Milan; Alexandria to Sharm El Sheikh; Sohag to Jeddah and Kuwait; and Sharm El Sheikh to Beirut and Hurghada. The carrier also expanded domestic operation from its Morocco hub with a new flight connecting Nador with Casablanca. Air Arabia today operates flights to over 150 global destinations in 49 countries from four hubs in the UAE, Morocco, and Egypt.

In March, Air Arabia received the

'Corporate Editor Choice Award' at the 2018 Air Transport Awards organised by Air Transport News, in recognition of Air Arabia's continued commitment to passenger satisfaction and development within the industry. In June, the carrier declared that the financial exposure it has with the private equity firm "Abraaj" is limited to the Group's investment portfolio and that there is no significant impact on Air Arabia's business or on its liquidity status. As the court-supervised restructuring of Abraaj's financially stressed funds is currently taking place, Air Arabia's appointed team of experts continue to be actively engaged with the appointed JPL's as well as all stakeholders and creditors involved in this matter to ensure that the rights of investors - including Air Arabia - are preserved. ●