

**Circular N° 24/08**

Montevideo, 30 de Junio de 2008.

De: Secretaria General de ASAPRA

A: Sres. Consejeros

Ref: **Nuevo Secretario General en OMA.**

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Sr. Consejero:

Por la presente llego a Ud. con el objeto de informar que en las pasadas 111 y 112 Sesiones del Consejo de OMA y tal como estaba previsto, se efectuó la elección del nuevo Secretario General de la Organización Mundial de Aduanas, en reemplazo del Sr. Michel Danet y para el período de cinco años que se inicia a partir del 1 de enero de 2009.

En dicho acto resultó electo como nuevo Secretario General de OMA el **Sr. Kunio Mikuriya**.

En la referida sesión en representación de ASAPRA estuvo presente, y gracias a la colaboración de la Asociación de Despachantes de Aduana del Uruguay, el Sr. Rafael Querol Vázquez.

ASAPRA aprovecha la ocasión para destacar los vínculos de mutuo interés que siempre han existido con Sr. Mikuriya, con quien todos nuestros asociados tuvieron la oportunidad de departir en la reciente Asamblea de República Dominicana. A continuación proporcionamos una reseña con los principales aspectos de su hoja de servicio.

Sin otro particular, le saluda muy atentamente.

**Dr. Alvaro Pinedo Arellano**  
Secretario General

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## Japan

- Family name: Mikuriya
- First name(s): Kunio
- Sex: M
- Date of birth: 13 January 1954
- Place of birth: Ehime
- Nationality: Japanese
- Language skills
  - Mother tongue: Japanese
  - Other language(s):



	Read	Write	Speak
English	Very well	Very well	Very well
French	Very well	Very well	Very well
Spanish	Beginner	Beginner	Beginner

## Professional experience

- Since 2002 – Deputy Secretary General of the WCO (*re-elected in 2007 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term*)
- 1999-2001 – Director: International Affairs, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance (MOF), Japan - (WCO [ratification of the Revised Kyoto Convention, Chairperson of the WCO Finance Committee], World Trade Organization, free trade agreements, mutual administrative assistance, technical assistance to developing countries, customs-to-customs cooperation, etc.)
- 1997-1999 – Director: Enforcement Division, Customs and Tariff Bureau, MOF, Japan - (Intelligence, investigations, inspection of conveyances, etc.)
- 1996-1997 – Director: Budget Bureau, MOF, Japan - (Formulation and coordination of budgets for the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Official Development Aid)
- 1995-1996 – Director: Salary and Allowance Division, Budget Bureau, MOF, Japan - (Control of emoluments and related issues for all public sector employees in Japan)
- 1993-1995 – Director: International Negotiations, Customs and Tariff Bureau, MOF, Japan - (GATT Uruguay Round, drafting legislation to incorporate the results of the trade negotiations into Customs law)
- 1990-1993 – First Secretary and Counsellor, Mission of Japan to the WTO, Geneva - (Directly responsible for the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations)

## What I would you like to achieve during my term of office

To create a truly efficient Member-driven and Member-responsive Organization that is dynamic in nature and action, using an inclusive management approach based on flexibility and transparency, underpinned by good governance, accountability, fairness, corporate integrity, and responsibility.

## My vision for the future of the WCO

Customs administrations play a central role in improving investment climate by facilitating and securing trade. A well functioning Customs is necessary to deal with international trade issues and to integrate developing countries into the world trading system as this will encourage social and economic prosperity and alleviate poverty.

However, Customs is confronted with new challenges, including the growing trade in counterfeits and environmentally hazardous goods. Through re-energized cooperation, Customs can jointly improve its competencies and assure the consistency and overall efficiency of trade procedures.

To realize my vision, implement cutting-edge transformation, and ensure that the WCO takes the lead in these efforts, I will personally follow through by implementing some key initiatives:

- Firstly, I will enhance governance by strengthening the participation of Members from setting the agenda to overseeing its execution, underscored by the principle that sharing information, rather than withholding it, is the source of the Secretariat's power. Reviewing the Secretariat's structure, making its recruitment policy more accountable, and addressing transparency, communication and language issues is essential to better serve Members.
- Secondly, I will establish a Capacity Building Centre, mobilizing all the Secretariat's resources and regional structures, as well as the network of development partners to address the real needs of Members and the regions, and most importantly to secure the necessary funding. Capacity building assistance must take into account revenue-related issues too.
- Thirdly, in order to enhance human resource development, I will launch a WCO internship programme to ensure that Members gain valuable work experience over a six-month period at the Secretariat and within ROCBs.
- Fourthly, I will create a Centre of Excellence in Customs Matters, supported by research-based expertise, especially in the area of emerging issues, including regional integration, environmental protection and border agency cooperation. This will enable Customs to further develop its role as the leading agency for border management and address its expanding responsibilities in close dialogue and cooperation with public and private stakeholders.