



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

Guam's First Line of Defense | Protecting Our Island, Our People, and Our Resources

Director's Office

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GUAM TO HOST THE 19th OCO ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MAY



Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) – The Annual Conference

Guam will host the 19th Oceania Customs Organisation Annual Conference from 2-5 May 2017. The conference will bring about 50 delegates representing 23 Customs Administrations of the Pacific island countries and territories including Australia and New Zealand, as well as 17 global stakeholders and representatives of international and regional organizations and development partners such as the World Bank, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development, and the World



The Governor's Cabinet members met with the Head of Secretariat of the Oceania Customs Organisation back in February, in preparation of their conference in May.

Customs Organization. Conference participants will discuss customs modernisation and reforms related to the conference theme of "Data Analysis for Effective Boarder Management".

This year's conference theme is relevant and timely as our region, including Guam, has seen a steady increase in transnational organized crime, particularly drug trafficking and financial crimes. Human trafficking has also become a great concern to our region. The OCO conferences provide member administrations the platform to network, form partnerships, collaborate, and share knowledge, information, training, intelligence and data to better protect their borders.

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No single country or organization could tackle and address transnational organized crimes all on its own due to the transnational nature of threats. By continuously seeking to strengthen our region collectively, we are able to more effectively manage our borders.

Having Guam as the host country will bring much publicity and opportunities to Guam by way of increased economic benefits, attract international publicity and attention, and build a value-adding global network.

OCO – The Organization

OCO commenced in 1986 under the Customs Heads of Administration Regional Meeting (CHARM) banner. The main focus of OCO in those formative years was twofold: to facilitate the annual conference and to coordinate communication and information sharing among members. The organization has now grown and developed to what is now called the Oceania Customs Organisation with its focus shifting from coordinating meetings towards the delivery of services and capacity development of its customs member administrations.

Customs reform and modernization remains an important strategic objective for OCO that aims to enhance trade facilitation, revenue collection, border security and combating of cross border criminal activities that ultimately would lead to greater economic prosperity, improved border security, and safer communities.

For more information, please contact our Public Information Officer Ms. Jessi Santos at (671) 475-6202 or email jessi.santos@cqa.guam.gov.

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