



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

World First Certification: WCO Recognizes Trusted Trade Alliance's Affiliated Academic Programs

Vancouver, WA. 26 January 2010. In a world first achievement, the academic programs of two Trusted Trade Alliance ("TTA") member's affiliated universities have been recognized by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

As part of the International Customs Day celebrations at WCO headquarters in Brussels, Secretary-General Mr Kunio Mikuriya awarded the Certificates of Recognition to universities whose academic programs fully comply with the WCO international standards for the Customs profession. This is the first time that such recognition has been given to any educational institution by the WCO.

The certificates were awarded to three universities, two of which are affiliated with the Trusted Trade Alliance: The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, University of Canberra, Australia, and the University of Münster, Germany.

Professor David Widdowson (University of Canberra) and Professor Hans-Michael Wolfgang (University of Münster) are both leading members of the WCO Partnership in Academic Research and Development (PICARD) Advisory Group, and have been working closely with the WCO for the past five years to raise the academic standards of educational offerings tailored to the global Customs community.

Bryce Blegen, CEO of TTA said: "The Certificates of Recognition are a clear endorsement of the universities' vision, their commitment to this objective, and to the quality of the customs-specific programs offered. This notable achievement exemplifies the professionalism and innovation for which the members of TTA are renowned."

"It is in the interests of both Customs authorities and international traders that global organizations such as TTA continue to develop the highest standards of technical and management training to ensure that operators are in a position to facilitate secure and compliant international trade flows."

ENDS

See photos and contact information below.



Professor David Widdowson, University of Canberra, with Mr Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary-General



Professor Hans-Michael Wolfgang, University of Münster, with Mr Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary-General

About the [Trusted Trade Alliance \(TTA\)](#)

The Trusted Trade Alliance is comprised of a team of professionals located in more than 15 offices on five continents across the globe. TTA provides premier consulting in the fields of import and export compliance, supply-chain security, risk mitigation, and cross-border trade.

The TTA team also focuses on trade advocacy services for the private sector, educational and training programs for both the private and public sector, and technology assessments for companies looking to implement trade software solutions. Our notable team of experts includes trade compliance professionals with extensive practical experience in setting up successful customs and trade compliance organizations within major multinationals, former senior government officials, the founders of the leading graduate-level customs degree programs globally, and recognized experts who lead training programs for front-line customs officials on five continents. We are uniquely positioned to provide support and guidance in the implementation or expansion of compliance operations across multiple countries or globally. From Nuevo Laredo to New Delhi, from Munich to Minneapolis, the Trusted Trade Alliance stands ready to assist you with your trade and supplychain security needs.

CONTACT:

Contact Person: **Geoff Short, Associate Director, Asia Pacific**

Company Name: **Trusted Trade Alliance (TTA)**

Phone Number: **(+612) 9437 6020**

Email Address: **short@trusted-trade.net**

Website URL: **www.trusted-trade.net**