To, All Members of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
All Pr. Chief Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Customs and Customs (Preventive)
All Pr. Chief Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Customs and Central Tax
All Pr. Directors General/Directors General
All Joint Secretaries/Commissioners working in the Board

Subject: Master’s Degree Programme in Public Finance at the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan (2022-23)-reg

Madam/Sir,

The Secretary General, WCO has informed vide their letter dated 02.12.2021 that the World Customs Organization (WCO) will award a number of scholarships for the Master’s Degree Programme in Public Finance at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan. Japan Customs will provide funds for these scholarships under the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme (Scholarship Programme).

2. The Scholarship Programme aims at promising young managers from the Customs administrations of developing-country Members. Candidates should demonstrate potential capability and commitment for contribution to the growth of the service of their administrations and should be fully proficient in English. This Master’s Degree Programme will start in September 2022 and finish in September 2023. The Master’s Degree Programme comprises two segments: an academic segment and a practical segment. The academic segment provides rigorous, economics-oriented training to develop a broad understanding of the theoretical, empirical and institutional aspects of Customs policy implementation and administration. The practical segment is taught in co-operation with Japan Customs, including the Japan Customs Training Institute, pursuing the acquirement by participants of sufficient knowledge and customs practices applying for their home administrations for further improvement of customs procedures and modernization.

3. Conditions of candidacy and selection are:

   • The candidates should be in good health to productively pursue studies in Japan, preferably below 35 years of age as of 1 April 2022.
   • The recipients of scholarships under this Programme will enrol for a Master’s degree in the Public Finance Program at the GRIPS.
   • This Scholarship is for 13 months academic year starting from September, 2022. The Scholarship period cannot be extended.
   • Individuals who have already been awarded a scholarship under the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme in the past will not be entitled to apply for this Scholarship Programme.
Candidates should be Customs officers fully proficient in English (Applicants are required to submit an official report of their TOEFL iBT or IELTS score. Admission priority will be given to applicants who have a TOEFL iBT score of 79 or higher, or an IELTS Academic score of 6.0 or higher.) Applicants who have completed or expect to complete an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited institution located in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or Ireland will be automatically exempted from submitting an English test score. Applicants who have completed or expect to complete an undergraduate or a graduate degree at an institution where the language of instruction is English may request a waiver of the English language proficiency requirement. They should have a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent. They should have at least two-year work experience in Customs field as of 1 September 2022, and should have assessed potential for advancement.

After the completion of the Programme, the candidates should continue to work in their home Customs administration for 3 years at least. For monitoring purposes, they are kindly requested to inform the GRIPS and the WCO beforehand, in the event that they plan to leave their home Customs administrations.

The candidates will be selected by the WCO in consultation with the GRIPS. The GRIPS shall inform the candidates about their selection or otherwise. The WCO will send an appropriate congratulatory letter to the home administration.

In accepting a Scholarship, the candidate: Must fill out and submit Scholar Guidelines to WCO, which will be shared later; Undertakes to work full time on the assigned Programme. It will not be possible to undertake other activities not related to the Programme; Undertakes to comply with the laws and show due respect for the culture and way of life of the host country.

4. The application process for candidates is as follows:

- The applicant fills out and submits the Online Entry Form (https://gast.grips.ac.jp/entry/) by 25 February 2022 (no later than 17:00 Japan Standard Time (JST)). The GRIPS Admissions Office will send you an ID and a password by e-mail.
- The applicant must then complete and submit the Online Application Form and send all the supporting documents by 4 March 2022 (no later than 17:00 JST) to the GRIPS Admissions Office address as indicated on the application Web page.
- The Nomination Form, which can be downloaded from the application Web page, should be completed and submitted along with the rest of the supporting documents.

The original set of all supporting documents, including the Nomination Form our administration, will be submitted to:
Admissions Office
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS),
7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-8677
Japan e-mail : admissions@grips.ac.jp
Website : http://www.grips.ac.jp/en/admissions/index/
Attached to this letter, you will find a set of documents explaining the administrative provisions governing the Programme, application procedures and information for applicants from the University.

5. It is requested to forward application of the willing and suitable officers, who fulfill the criteria specified by the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan, along with the vigilance clearance and APAR grading for the last 5 years in the attached proforma by e-mail to indiawco-cbec@nic.in. The forwarding office must ensure that the applicant is free from vigilance angle. The nominations should be sent on or before 24th December, 2021. Incomplete applications and those received after the stipulated date will not be entertained.

6. It is requested that the officers may be advised not to send their applications/nominations to WCO directly. Further, they should not enter into any correspondence with WCO in this regard. The nominations of suitable officers will be sent to WCO after approval of the Board.

Yours faithfully,

(Md. Salik Parwiz)
Joint Commissioner, WCO Cell

Encl:(i) WCO letter of invitation
(ii) Annexure I- Administrative provisions
(iii)Annexure II-Application Guidebook 2022
(iv) Proforma

Copy to: The Web Manager, CBIC with request to upload it on CBIC website.