Subject: International Customs Day (ICD) Celebration 2023: Seeking nominations for award of WCO Certificate of Merit—reg

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to inform that the International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrated worldwide, every year, on the 26th of January, to commemorate the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council held in Brussels on 26th January 1953. Later, the Customs Cooperation Council adopted a new name — World Customs Organization (WCO). On 26th of January every year, the Customs administrations of member administrations of the WCO organize various national events to celebrate the occasion and to promote a dedicated theme, chosen every year by the WCO Secretariat, for the International Customs Day. The theme is to be promoted throughout the year.

2. In continuation of this practice, the WCO Secretariat has decided to dedicate International Customs Day 2023 to Customs administrations’ efforts to support the Customs officers of the future, encourage knowledge-sharing and heighten the sense of belonging to the global Customs community with the theme “Nurturing the Next Generation: Promoting a Culture of Knowledge-sharing and Professional Pride in Customs”. This is in line with the efforts to place human capital, and especially the new generation, at the heart of this transformative process.

3. In this context, WCO has invited the Members to consider the following:

- **The Next Generation**: In order to attract and retain talent, Customs administrations need to both empower and protect this generation through knowledge management policies.

- **Organizational culture and knowledge management**: Customs administrations are invited to adopt a coherent and holistic knowledge management system that fosters knowledge creation and sharing. Customs should strive to ensure that there is no loss of organizational memory, so that mistakes are not repeated and experience is transmitted between departments and to the new generation.

- **Professional pride in Customs**: Customs administrations should communicate in a planned, consistent and coordinated manner to keep raising the profile and visibility of Customs.

4. On the occasion of the International Customs Day 2023, Customs officers and representatives of the private sector who have demonstrated their commitment to the
efforts of Customs as per the above theme for the International Customs Day, 2023, will be awarded the *WCO Certificate of Merit*.

5. You are requested to recommend/nominate names of suitable officers and representatives of the private sector for the award of the *WCO Certificate of Merit*, along with the justification/proposal for their nomination and duly filled proforma. Nominating office should ensure that the officers are free from vigilance angle. The nominations should reach the WCO Cell on or before **1st January, 2023**. Incomplete nominations, nominations received after the due date or not forwarded through proper channel will not be entertained. The nominations may be sent by email to indiawco-cbec@nic.in.

**Encl: Proforma**

Yours faithfully,

[Vivek Kumar]  
Deputy Commissioner  
WCO Cell, CBIC

To,

All Members of CBIC  
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  
The Web Manager, NIC with the request to upload it on CBIC website.