Subject: Master’s Degree Programme in Public Finance at the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan (2023-24) reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to inform that the 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. Funds for these scholarships will be provided by Japan Customs under the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Programme (Scholarship Programme).

2. The Scholarship Programme is aimed at promising young managers from the Customs administrations of developing-country Members. Candidates should demonstrate potential capability and commitment to contribute to the growth of the service of their administrations and should be fully proficient in English. Conditions of candidacy and selection are specified in the attachment. This Master’s Degree Programme will start in September 2023 and finish in September 2024.

3. The Master’s Degree Programme comprises two segments: an academic segment and a practical segment. The academic segment provides rigorous, economics-oriented training aimed at developing 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 acquirement of enough knowledge and Customs practices applying for the home administration for further improvement of Customs procedures and modernization.

4. The conditions of candidacy and selection are as under:-

- The candidates should be in good health to productively pursue studies in Japan, preferably below 35 years of age as of 1 April 2023.
- 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 2023. 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.

• The candidates should be eligible to participate in this Programme according to the rules and regulations of the home administration and relevant authorities.

• 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.

5. The application process for candidates is as follows:

• Finalization of nomination by our administration from the applications received.

• The nominated candidate/s, will fill out and submit the Registration Form by 24 February 2023.

• The applicant must then download the designated forms and send a complete set of their required supporting documents by 3 March 2023 to the GRIPS Admissions Office address.

• 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.

6. It is requested to forward applications of willing and suitable officers, who fulfill the criteria specified by WCO along with duly filled Nomination form, 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 30.12.2022. Incomplete proforma, applications not forwarded through proper channel, and applications received after the stipulated date will not be entertained. The applicants must carefully read all the scholarship's provisions before applying.
7. It is requested that the officers 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 finalised after requisite approvals and will be communicated to them for subsequent actions for application.

Yours faithfully,

(Vivek Kumar)
Deputy Commissioner

Encl:
i. Proforma
ii. WCO Invitation Letter
iii. Administrative provisions
iv. Nomination Form

To,

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