

JICA Senior Representative Speaks at panel on Customs Capacity Building as a Tool for Trade Facilitation at the [Trade Facilitation and Cargo Security Summit 2022](#)

On July 19, Senior Representative from JICA USA, Mr. Daisuke Iijima, gave a speech at the Trade Facilitation and Cargo Security Summit 2022, which was hosted by the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection agency. He spoke about JICA's contributions to improved trade facilitation and connectivity by supporting the capacity building of customs administrations in the Asia and Africa regions. After his speech, Mr. Iijima joined panel discussions.

The Summit, which featured key industry speakers, panel discussions and workshops, focused on the latest requirements and best practices in custom operations for navigating today's complex supply chain challenges.

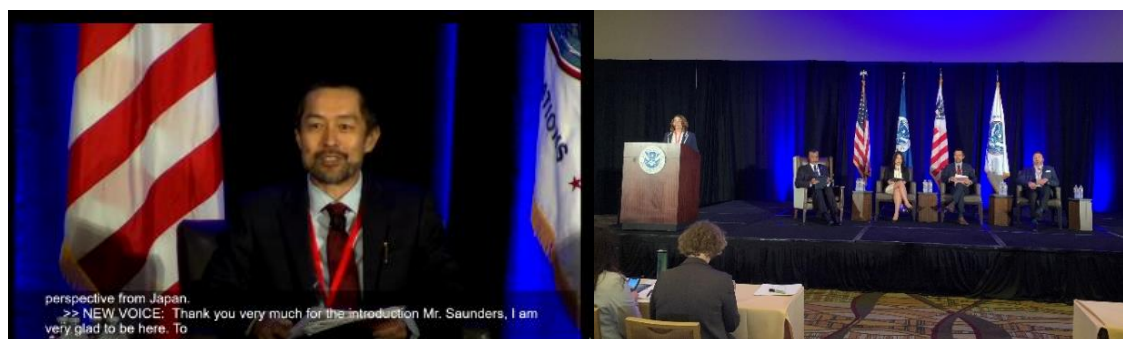
The Capacity Building panel was moderated by Ian Saunders, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The panel included Mr. Iijima from JICA USA, Debbie Seguin, Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Mark FeDuke, Director of Trade Compliance and Policy, ArdoVLM.

In the panel, Mr. Iijima explained how JICA has been dispatching resident-based long-term customs experts to customs Headquarters in partner countries in Southeast Asia since the 1990s. He also highlighted the success of the Thai Customs Academy as a Center of Human Resource Development not only in Thailand, but also in the ASEAN region as a WCO (World Customs Organization) accredited Regional Training Center.

Turning to Africa, he shared JICA's contributions to promote economic and regional integration by supporting the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) initiative and the capacity-building program, Master Trainer Program (MTP), which fosters Master Trainers (MTs) who provide technical assistance to customs staff in our respective partner countries. Over the last seven years of collaboration with the WCO since the exchange of Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in January 2015, more than 150 MTs have supported 23,000 trainees in 16 countries across the African region.

During the Q&A session, the panel discussed the advantages of multilateral support, such as cooperation with WCO, and bilateral support that JICA provides in collaboration with Japan Customs, respectively. They also spoke about the future of capacity building in customs and the results of JICA's support. In particular, Mr. Iijima underlined that based on this positive impact thus far of JICA's initiatives to support trade facilitation and customs modernization globally, JICA would like to explore future collaboration with the CBP and will continue to work closely with the WCO to provide further support.

[Trade Facilitation and Cargo Security Summit | U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(cbp.gov\)](#)



Mr. Daisuke Iijima spoke at panel on the Trade Facilitation Summit 2022 in Anaheim, CA