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ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. FIATA Participates in 2017 ITF Summit: Governance of Transport

The ITF's 2017 Summit on Governance of Transport explored the trends shaping transport governance and identified the most pressing challenges in the transport sector. Through the governance lens, it focussed on infrastructure, global connectivity, the right regulation for innovation, and urban access and mobility.

Transport governance affects decisions regarding everything from local cycle paths to global trade routes. FIATA participated in the event and report back on key items relevant to members.

For more details please visit: <http://2017.itf-oecd.org/>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2. WTO Issues 2017 Annual Report

The WTO has published its 2017 Annual Report covering the organisation's activities in 2016 and early 2017. The Report opens with a message from Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, who looks back on a year marked by the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and an important amendment to the WTO's intellectual property agreement as well as heightened engagement by a range of stakeholders in the activities of the WTO.

For more details please visit:

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/anrp_31may17_e.htm

3. WTO - DG Azevêdo Briefs APEC Trade Ministers on Preparations for MC11

Speaking at an APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) trade ministers' meeting in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on May 20th, Director-General Roberto Azevêdo reported on the state of play in WTO work and on preparations for the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, in December this year.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/dgra_22may17_e.htm

4. WCO Leads Discussions on Freedom of Transit for Landlocked Countries

WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya emphasised that "the key to unlock the potential of LLDCs is the implementation of international standards for efficient transit regimes, thus boosting international and regional trade for all countries." There is an urgent need to harmonise and simplify current transit operations, eliminate unnecessary border requirements and harmonise different transit systems to support international trade of LLDCs.

Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/may/wco-leads-discussions-on-freedom-of-transit-for-landlocked-countries.aspx>

5. The WCO Now Has 182 Members

Antigua and Barbuda deposited with the Belgian Government its instrument of accession to the Convention Establishing a Customs Co-operation Council on 10th of April 2017 and became the 182nd Member of the Organisation.

Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/may/the-wco-now-has-182-members.aspx>

6. The WCO Supports MENA Region in the Implementation of the WTO TFA

The WCO Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) for the North Africa, Near and Middle East Region was held on 14th - 18th of May 2017 in Doha, Qatar under the sponsorship of Qatar Customs Authority.

The Workshop provided a good opportunity for the participants to discuss the issues of establishing NCTF, applying Advance Rulings in Customs, Coordinated Border Management, Customs Brokers, AEO Programmes development, Risk Management, Post clearance Audit, Time Release Study, Single Window, etc. Participants also shared their national experiences and lessons learned in implementing the trade facilitation measures.

Read more: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/may/the-wco-supports-mena-region-in-the-effective-implementation-of-the-wto-tfa.aspx>

7. WCO - Mexico and Israel Sign Joint Action Plan on AEO Programs

In order to enhance their commitment regarding trade facilitation, as well as a follow up to the SAFE Framework of Standards particularly Pillar 2, established by the World Customs Organisation (WCO), a Joint Action Plan between the Ministry of Finance of the State of Israel and the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit of the Mexican United States regarding the Mutual Recognition of their Respective Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programs, was signed on May 17th during a ceremony held in Mexico City.

Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/may/mexico-and-israel-sign-joint-action-plan-on-aeo-programs.aspx>

8. UNCEFACT - Paperless Trade White Paper

UN/CEFACT announced the launch of a white paper project on paperless trade. This joint project with the World Economic Forum will aim to provide a short issue brief outlining the history, the current context and some best practices of paperless trade. The first conference call was scheduled on 26th of May.

To read more please visit:

<https://www2.unece.org/cefact/display/uncefactpublic/Paperless+Trade+White+Paper>

9. UNECA - African Chambers of Commerce discuss SW in Enabling Cross Border Trade

The Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI), in collaboration with the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) concluded a two-day consultative meeting that discussed ways for African chambers of commerce to utilise single windows in enabling cross border trade.

To read more please visit: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/african-chambers-commerce-discuss-best-practices-use-single-windows-enabling-cross-border>

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

10. ICAO Secretary General Highlights Role of Aviation in Belt and Road Forum in Beijing

"A key dynamic for the Belt and Road Partner States to appreciate is the direct relationship which exists between investments in aviation development, and returns in terms of sustainable socio-economic prosperity for local citizens and businesses," Dr Liu, ICAO Secretary General, stressed on 15th of May, signing a new agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation with the Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce.

To read more please visit: <https://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-Secretary-General-highlights-the-role-of-aviation-at-High-level-Dialogue-of-the-Belt-and-Road-Forum-in-Beijing.aspx>

11. UNFCCC - Climate action 'a necessity and an opportunity,' says UN chief

"The effects of climate change are dangerous and they are accelerating," Secretary-General Guterres told a gathering of students, business leaders and academics at the New York University Stern School of Business. "It is absolutely essential that the world implements the Paris Agreement [on climate change] - and that we fulfil that duty with increased ambition," he underscored, recalling the ground-breaking agreement that entered into force last November.

Read more at: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56865#.WS7aNmjys2y>

12. UNFCCC - Leading Economists: A Strong Carbon Price Needed to Drive Climate Action

Meeting climate goals in the most cost-effective way while fostering growth requires countries to set a strong carbon price, with the goal of reaching \$40-\$80 per tonne of CO₂ by 2020 and \$50-100 per tonne by 2030 according to the High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices, led by Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz and Lord Nicholas Stern. The Commission's report, recently released in Berlin at the Think20 Summit, concluded that a well-designed carbon price is an indispensable part of a strategy for efficiently reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also fostering growth.

Read more at: <https://www.carbonpricingleadership.org/news/2017/5/25/leading-economists-a-strong-carbon-price-needed-to-drive-large-scale-climate-action>

13. ICAO to Seek Global Traffic Management Solutions for Drone Operations

"Our 191 Member States asked us to begin looking into this at our 39th triennial Assembly last October, and these new activities are ICAO's response to that call," confirmed the President of the ICAO Council, Dr Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu. ICAO's over-riding goal is to better define the issues involved, whether technical, operational or legal, and also to ensure safety continues to remain the driving priority. The agency understands that the sooner this framework is agreed upon globally, the sooner industry will be able to launch their UAS businesses with suitable levels of investment confidence.

To read more please visit: <https://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-to-seek-global-traffic-management-solutions-for-drone-operations.aspx>

14. Abuja to Host Dialogue on Mainstreaming SDGs in National Development Plans

The Capacity Development Division of the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) will in June jointly host a High-Level Policy Dialogue on Development Planning in Africa in Abuja in collaboration with Nigeria's Budget and National Planning Ministry. In Africa, the SDGs are being implemented concurrently and in an integrated manner with Agenda 2063, Africa's 50-year strategic framework for

socio-economic transformation which seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

For more details please visit: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/abuja-host-high-level-policy-dialogue-mainstreaming-sdgs-national-development-plans>

15. Nairobi to Mombasa high-speed railway opens

East Africa is now more accessible than ever. After two years of construction, Kenya's largest infrastructure project since independence, a \$3.8 billion Chinese-built high-speed railway, is up and running. 300 miles long, connecting the port city of Mombasa to the capital of Nairobi, built by China Road and Bridge Corporation and 90 percent financed by China Eximbank, it is the largest infrastructure project since independence in 1963.

To read more please visit: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/31/africa/kenya-nairobi-railway/>