

Kunio MIKURIYA
Deputy Secretary General, World Customs Organization

Mr. Mikuriya joined the World Customs Organization (WCO) as Deputy Secretary General on 1 January 2002 after being elected to the post by the WCO Council in June 2001. Prior to taking up the post at the WCO he served for over 25 years in the Japanese Ministry of Finance. During his tenure in Japan he held a wide range of posts that included planning national budgets, legislation, Customs and trade policies, technical assistance and negotiations with other ministries and international organizations.

Mr. Mikuriya played a key role in Japanese involvement in the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations, initially as Geneva-based negotiator from 1990 to 1993 and subsequently as Tokyo-based negotiator for the Ministry of Finance. He also participated in the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha in November 2001 and was actively involved in the preparation of the Doha Development Agenda. In May 2001 he served as a panellist at the WTO Workshop on Technical Assistance in Trade Facilitation.

He also contributed to the Study Group of the Japan-Singapore Free Trade Agreement as one of the Japanese co-Chairs. The Group's report, submitted to the Japanese and Singaporean Prime Ministers in September 2000, served as the foundation for the successful conclusion of the Japan-Singapore Economic Partnership Agreement (JSEPA) signed in January 2002.

Mr. Mikuriya was responsible for the total personnel expenditure of the public sector and for budget planning in connection with Official Development Aid (ODA) during his tenure in the Budget Bureau in Japan. Subsequently, in the Customs area, he was responsible for border enforcement policies and, thereafter, for international affairs. He was also actively involved in the management of the World Customs Organization, as Chairman of the Finance Committee for the year 2000/2001.

He has given numerous lectures on Japanese budgetary policies, trade policies and Customs affairs, including lectures in the context of the International Tax Program at Harvard University. He has also served as Visiting Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Study in Tokyo.

Mr. Mikuriya is fluent in English, French and Japanese.

Education

Visiting Scholar, L'Institut des Etudes Politiques de Paris	1978-1979
Visiting scholar, L'Université d'Aix-en-Provence/Marseilles	1977-1978
BA in Law, Tokyo University	1976