



## **WORLD CUSTOMS CHIEF LAUDS TRANSFORMATION IN NIGERIA CUSTOMS**

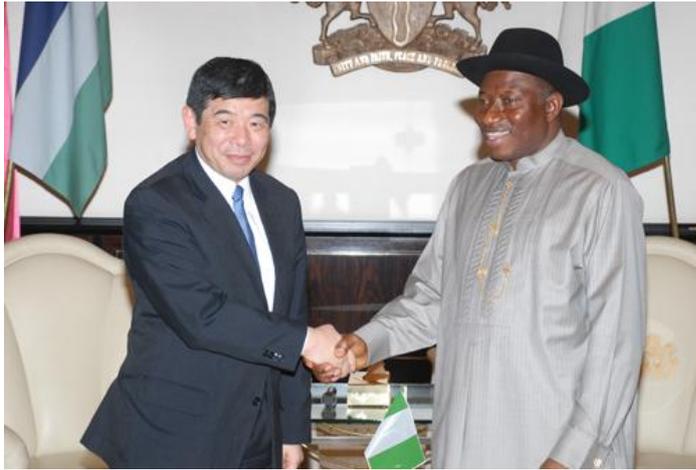
It was a remarkable time for the Comptroller-General of Customs, Dikko Inde Abdullahi and members of his Management team when the Secretary-General of World Customs Organisation, Kunio Mikuriya paid a 2-day working visit to Nigeria.

The visit was aimed at assessing the progress made by the Nigeria Customs Service in the implementation of Destination Inspection services since the Customs took over the scheme December last year and understand challenges facing the implementation process while seeking possible areas of collaboration and assistance by WCO.

The second day of the visit commenced with a parley with senior officials of the Service and pressmen. Speaking at the meeting, the Comptroller-General who referred to the World Customs Chief as a boss, friend and mentor, expressed appreciation for his unwavering support for the Nigeria Customs Service.

He expressed delight that the Secretary-General had the opportunity to assess Customs Processes in Lagos and interact with stakeholders on the new scheme.

He gave assurance that the business making venture undertaken by Service Providers has become a thing of the past as the service is ready to deliver efficiently through the continuous capacity building programmes and determination of officers to succeed.



***The President Federal Republic of Nigeria Mr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR and The Secretary General WCO Kunio Mikuriya during his two day visit to Nigeria***

In his own speech, the Secretary-General expressed delight on the level transformation that has taken place in the Service. He said after the tour around Customs facilities and operations in Lagos, he is encouraged to note that Customs future plan for capacity building and Human Resource Development are geared towards the economic development of this country.

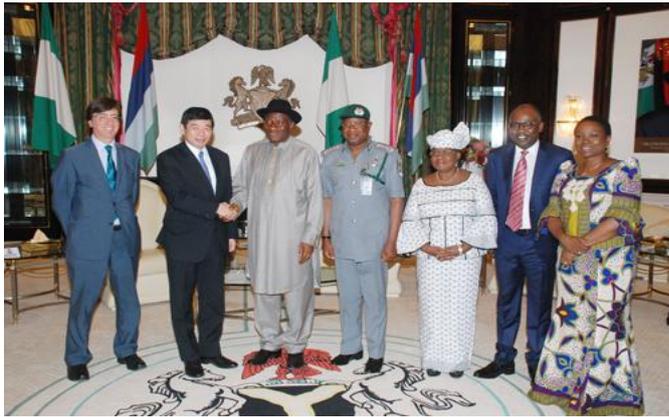
While lauding the service for improved use of IT in its operations, the Secretary-General said his interaction with stakeholders in Lagos reveals that they are supportive of the ongoing reforms enhanced by the trade hub and risk management techniques, thereby, creating a more conducive Customs environment through enhanced control of inflow and outflow of hazardous goods.

He explained that the private sector have proposed that Customs adopts better risk management techniques, advance ruling procedures and valuation database and are optimistic of the introduction of coordinated border management and single window for a better trading environment in Nigeria. According to him, the WCO will assist in the development of capacities in the mentioned areas.

He praised the Customs leadership role of Nigeria at the West and Central African region saying that neighbouring countries have began review of their systems due to the standard of efficiency set by the Nigeria Customs.

The Comptroller-General led the Secretary-General on a visit to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Investment where the Minister spoke to the press on the close working relationship his ministry has with the Nigeria Customs and other areas of collaboration.

The Secretary General also paid a courtesy visit to the President, Mr. Goodluck Jonathan who was accompanied by the Minister of Finance, Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Viola Onwuliri, and the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr. Mohammed Bello Adoke.



As part of the visit, the Comptroller-General of Customs and his Management team hosted the Secretary-General and Heads of Ghana, Niger Republic and Benin Republic Customs formations to a dinner at the newly built Customs Management Quarters in Jabi, Abuja.

The evening was characterised by social interactions and goodwill messages came from neighbouring Customs Chiefs.