

# Women's Network Newsletter



## News from the CCP

### The WPDP is back: Alumni Edition!

In 2021, 58 women from 11 countries within the Asia-Pacific region graduated from a four-week WPDP training course. Fifty-two of these original graduates have now participated in an online Alumni workshop that focuses on communication skills, public speaking, and emotional intelligence. On International Customs Day 2022, all women successfully completed this module. The participants have now gained credit points towards a Master of International Justice and Criminology or a Master of Global Studies. 100% of participants said that the workshop was useful or very useful for developing the skills to advance their leadership journey. CCP is grateful for the generous support of the Australian Border Force and RMIT University.

*'... through this programme, I conquered my fear and became a better version of myself. I feel confident to communicate and progress in my Customs leadership journey...'*  
~ WPDP graduate

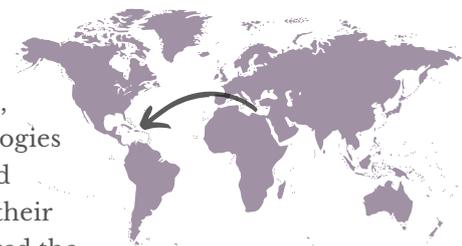


## Uniting women across continents



In November 2021, the CCP Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) took an exciting step towards promoting women’s empowerment and gender equality. The 'Customs, Cargo & Women – A Talk for Her!' initiative organized its first all-women inter-regional study visit to the Dominican Republic. In coordination with the CCP team in Latin America and the Caribbean, 12 women Port Control Unit (PCU) and Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) officers and officials from customs agencies in Tunisia, Jordan, and Lebanon met their counterparts on the other side of the Atlantic.

The women first visited the Ports of Caucedo and Haina, to enhance their technical and operational skills, learn about procedures and technologies used in the Dominican Republic, and determine potential applications in their own countries. Participants also toured the headquarters of the General Directorate of Customs, where they met with the Director-General and an all-women team of department heads, leading in areas such as Cargo Risk, Intelligence, and Operations. By engaging in dialogue with their Dominican counterparts, participants gained insight into their daily work, career trajectory, and commitment to the profession.



The study visit concluded with an inter-regional coaching session on leadership and management; participants discussed common challenges to gender equality, work/life balance, and the impact of gender stereotypes on women’s career advancement. The CCP Women’s Network hopes to replicate this initiative in other geographic regions and continue to support women’s technical and professional development.

## International Women's Day 2022

International Women’s Day is fast approaching and the theme of the year is “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”. Noting the significant impact of climate change on global populations, on 8 March, the CCP joins UN Women in celebrating and recognizing the role of women and girls in developing a more sustainable future.



## Meet the women of CCP - Solange Ortiz

Solange Ortiz is an Inspector at the Port Control Unit (PCU) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**CCP:** How did you become involved in CCP as an officer of the PCU in Buenos Aires?

SO: I began my customs career in RILO ARGENTINA where I worked for over 10 years in the coordination of international programs promoted by the WCO and other international organizations of which Argentina Customs is a member. Afterwards, I had the honour of leading the Customs Information Exchange Division, which developed my expertise in managing and exchanging information with other customs services, and in international relations in general. This allowed me - in the last stage and up to now - to work in the

Customs Investigations Directorate as part of the CCP PCU in Buenos Aires.

**CCP:** Have you encountered any discrimination based on your gender in your career so far?

SO: Fortunately, no. I work in an agency that is strongly committed to consolidating dignified workplaces free of all types of violence, including gender-based violence. In this context, the Federal Administration of Public Revenues -the superior agency on which Argentina Customs depends- includes in its structure since 2020 the Coordination and Gender and Human Rights Policies Directorate, an area whose objectives are -among others- to advance in the implementation within the agency of national policies on human rights, gender equity and equal opportunities.

**CCP:** What do you think is the added value of the CCP Women's Network to your work as a PCU officer?

SO: Despite the great progress made in recent years in the empowerment of women, in many cultures and societies there is still an asymmetry in the burden of domestic and family responsibilities, which places women at a social disadvantage compared to men, which is why the work of the CCP Women's Network is essential to raise awareness of these inequalities, create a support network and work hard to ensure equal working conditions for all genders.

**CCP:** Would you like CCP and the Women's Network to provide more support in any of your areas of work?

SO: Support and training are always welcomed by our administration. It is essential to ensure the continuity of online and in-person training, to strengthen technical knowledge in the development of profiles to identify and inspect high-risk containers, while at the same time keeping abreast of new trends in the commission of illegal acts in customs matters. I also believe it is important to provide support to operational points in order to guarantee security conditions that facilitate customs work.

**CCP:** What advice do you have for other women in customs and law enforcement roles?

SO: As a woman colleague, I say to all those women in customs and law enforcement roles: 'Give room for career development, trust your own intuition and move confidently ahead with your goals and objectives.'

*The CCP Women's Network would like to extend its sincere appreciation to one of its pioneers, Ricarda, and one of the most inspiring members of the Container Control Programme. Over the past 32 years with the United Nations, Ricarda's commitment to empowering women colleagues and officers alike in breaking glass ceilings has been instrumental to the creation and development of our Network. We wish her all the best as she moves on to a new chapter in her life, and we look forward to supporting, and witnessing, her next great adventure. We are certain that she will continue to inspire everyone around her. Thank you, Ricarda!*

*- The CCP Women's Network.*



Ricarda Amberg  
CCP Programme Manager  
Co-Founder of the CCP Women's Network