



Mr. Toshihiko Osawa
Policy Advisor to Director General,
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As of April 2018, Mr. Toshihiko Osawa is working at the Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance as a Policy Advisor to the Director General. His main responsibility is to analyze international matters relevant to Customs administrations such as Free Trade Agreements and the World Customs Organization (WCO) and give strategic advice to the Director General of Customs and Tariff Bureau, who is the head of Japan Customs.

Before he got the current position in July 2017, he was working at the WCO. He joined the WCO in 2012, and in this capacity, he was in charge of the Economic Competitiveness Package which comprises all WCO tools and instruments contributing economic growth and trade facilitation. He was also dealing with various WCO projects regarding trade facilitation including the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and known as an officer of “Mercator Programme”. He was also an expert of Transit. He developed the WCO Transit Guidelines and organized the WCO Transit Conference in July 2017 to support economic growth of land-locked developing countries. In addition, his task at the WCO included the management of several international Conventions on temporary admission such as the Istanbul Conventions as well as the Container Convention and has organized several administrative committees on such issue.

Before the WCO, he worked at the Ministry of Finance of Japan several years. His main responsibility was to negotiate bilateral agreements on mutual assistance in Customs issues. Also, He was a member of special taskforce of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Strategy in the Cabinet office of Japan and developed a strategic plan to protect/promote IPR of Japan.

During his carrier, he completed a Master Degree in International Relations at the University of Warwick (the United Kingdom) in 2005.