

Dear Members of the IFCBA, Esteemed Customs Brokers, and Logistics Service Providers,

It is with great pride and anticipation that I welcome you all to the **KYOTO 2025 IFCBA WORLD CONFERENCE**, scheduled to take place from **March 25 to 28, 2025**, in the beautiful and culturally rich city of Kyoto, Japan. This landmark event provides us with an unparalleled opportunity to unite as a global community to advance the practices of customs brokerage and international trade facilitation.

The **World Customs Organization (WCO)** has dedicated 2025 to the theme, “**Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security and Prosperity**,” highlighting the critical role customs administrations play in enabling seamless trade while ensuring safety and economic growth. Building on this vision, the **IFCBA** is proud to present its complementary theme for the conference: “**Borders Divide: The Value of Customs Brokers’ Strategic Connection**.”

This theme underscores the indispensable role that customs brokers play in bridging divides created by borders, facilitating global trade, and ensuring compliance in an increasingly complex regulatory landscape. As strategic connectors, we not only navigate the intricacies of customs procedures but also drive innovation, collaboration, and trust among businesses, governments, and other stakeholders.

The **IFCBA’s longstanding partnership with the WCO** continues to yield significant progress in harmonizing global customs practices, promoting digitalization, and fostering trade facilitation. This conference serves as a powerful platform to align our efforts with the WCO’s mission and explore how customs brokers can further enhance efficiency, security, and prosperity in global trade.

The discussions at **KYOTO 2025** will focus on critical issues such as **digital transformation, green logistics, compliance excellence, and enhancing connectivity across borders**. The sessions will provide a unique opportunity for customs brokers and logistics professionals to interact with global experts, adopt best practices, and contribute to shaping the future of trade facilitation.

Set against the serene and inspiring backdrop of Kyoto—a city where tradition meets modern innovation—this event promises not only insightful dialogues but also a chance to experience Japan’s remarkable cultural heritage.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the host Association Japan Customs Brokers Association (JCBA), organizers, sponsors, and participants who have worked tirelessly to make this event a reality. Your dedication ensures that **KYOTO 2025** will be a milestone in developing collaboration, learning, and growth for the global customs and logistics fraternity.

Let us seize this opportunity to engage deeply, exchange ideas, and strengthen the bonds that unite us in our shared commitment to facilitating global trade. I look forward to welcoming you all in Kyoto and working together to elevate the standards of our profession.

Shankar Shinde

Chairman, International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations (IFCBA)