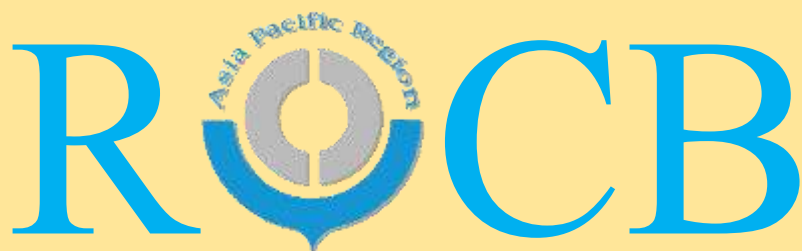


**E-newsletter
Issue No.52:
April 2016**



WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building



In This Issue:

- Special contributions from Maldives Customs and Sri Lanka Customs on successful completion of Multi-year CB Projects
- Publication of the ROCB A/P Good Practice Report
- Increased visit to the ROCB A/P homepage

Contents

3 Foreword

Special topics:

- 5** Contribution from Maldives
- 12** Contribution from Sri Lanka
- 16** ROCB A/P's Good Practice Report
- 17** Increase in the visit to ROCB A/P homepage

Guest Visits:

- 41** A/P Postal Union
- 42** Japan Customs DDG
- 42** Thai Customs new DDGs
- 44** AEO WS participants
- 44** Lao Customs DDG

46 Other Topics

48 ROCB A/P Staff Updates

50 Future Activities

Workshops/Meetings:

- 19** CCP Stakeholders Roundtable Meeting in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar
- 22** CCP Steering Committee Meeting
- 24** WCO Regional WS on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling
- 26** SASEC National Expert Mission to Maldives
- 27** 2016 TRS Exit Conference for Thailand
- 28** SASEC National Expert Mission to Sri Lanka
- 29** Lectures for University Students
- 30** WCO National WS on CBM for Thailand
- 32** Panel discussion on e-commerce
- 34** SASEC National Expert Mission to Nepal
- 35** A/P Regional Heads of Customs Conference
- 37** WCO Regional WS on Strategic Leadership in IT
- 38** WCO Regional WS on IPR
- 39** SASEC National Expert Mission to Bangladesh

Foreword

Dear Readers,

I would like to convey my warm greetings from Bangkok.



First and foremost, I would like to express my sincerest sympathy to the people of Belgium, including the WCO Secretariat colleagues, who have suffered from the recent heinous and cruel terrorists' attacks at the Brussels Airport and Metro on 22 March 2016. Our special sympathy goes to those whose family members and friends have been victimized from these bombing incidents. We made a sigh of relief with the WCO's prompt messaging on the confirmed safety of our colleagues.

Given these series of incidents, I do echo the WCOs call for further elevating the Customs community's solidarity in the fight against terrorism and assuring supply chain security through taking multi-faceted approaches (<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2016/march/solidarity.aspx>).

We, the Customs community, shall exercise all of our wisdom and competence, and solidify our collaboration with partner organizations and agencies at international and national levels with a view to reinstating the stability of the society and mitigate the risks of disruptions caused by malicious intentions.

We shall not underestimate the value of the capacity building programs being delivered under the WCO's Security Program for dealing with these challenges. In the A/P region, there are several security programs-related regional workshops to be conducted in the next few months, such as the ones on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (18-22 April in Shanghai), Passenger Controls (25-29 April in Bangkok), and Compliance and Enforcement Program (20-24 June in India). The ROCB A/P is going to consult the WCO Secretariat to provide Member administrations with more practical and detailed guidelines and experience sharing on both intelligence and operational aspects so that the Customs can undertake the expected leading role at the border on gate-keeper functions while providing trade

facilitation. Taking this opportunity, the ROCB would like to ask the regional Member administrations to be more active in these training opportunities, not only as the trainees but also supporting the Customs enforcement network.

This E-Newsletter features the ROCB A/P's activities undertaken in the period of January 2016 through March 2016. Among other things, I would like to highlight the "special topics", which is the contributions from the colleagues of Maldives and Sri Lanka on their experiences in the journey towards the completion of their multi-year projects on Customs valuation, which was delivered by the WCO, the ROCB A/P and the Asian Development Bank. Their contributions prove the ownership and forward-looking commitment of the parties concerned are essential for success, especially for those projects with multi-year implementation. I am very proud that the ROCB A/P had a series of invaluable opportunities to collaborate with these fellow colleagues and witness a set of tangible results accrued from the long-time commitment.

As usual, I would like to call for the Readers' candid feedback and inputs to this E-Newsletter as well as activities undertaken by the ROCB A/P over the last 3 months and even prior to this featured period. This is to ensure our work is relevant to the regional Members' needs to enable us to better serve the regional Member administrations for the sake of facilitating legitimate trade and securing cross-border supply chain.

Yours sincerely,



Kazunari Igarashi
Head of the ROCB A/P

Special Topics

Maldives Customs' experience in the successful completion of the Multi-year Project (2014-2016)

Ms. Fathimath Abdul Rahman (Superintendent),
Mr. Ahmed Waheed (Chief Customs Officer) and
Ms. Khadeeja Faiz (Customs Officer Grade III)

INTRODUCTION

As the title implies, this article is about the successful completion of the sub-regional capacity building project titled as “WCO-ADB Joint Multi-year Assistance for SASEC countries on Customs Valuation control” which was conducted by the SASEC countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). This article is also intended to share the knowledge and experience gained from the project.

We are the Project Core Members (PCMs) from Maldives, starting from left

1. Fathimath Abdul Rahman (Superintendent),
2. Khadeeja Faiz (Customs Officer Grade III) ,
3. Ahmed Waheed (Chief Customs Officer).



We believe that it was a golden opportunity given to us that enabled us to gain and enhance technical knowledge from WCO Accredited Experts and fellow participants. We thank our administration for giving us the opportunity and also we thank the WCO and the ADB for their support.

ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE PARTICIPANTS



The Project aimed to support proper Customs Valuation control through Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for the SASEC countries including Maldives. To this end, the project aimed to train 3 PCMs to become national trainers in area of Customs Valuation and PCA, who will be

working as key persons in building technical staff after the Project. In total four workshops (2 Sub-regional and 2 National) were conducted under this Multi-year Project.

FIRST AND SECOND SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

The first Sub-regional Workshop was held from 3rd to 7th February 2014, at Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo-Sri Lanka and the Second Sub-regional Workshop was held in Traders Hotel, Male' -Maldives, from 21st to 24th October 2014. These workshops were



organised and coordinated well, and most importantly the participants were provided the agenda in advance which helped everyone to be prepared and to use the time effectively. Utmost importance was given to make the participants understand the intended purpose of the workshop, which was communicated precisely. The sessions were designed in a very effective way with lot of presentations and class room activities.

The presentations were delivered by the WCO Accredited Experts. These presentations were very comprehensive and focused on technical aspects of Customs Valuation and PCA. Also, an expert from the WCO Secretariat delivered a comprehensive presentation on Training methodologies, which

enabled us to enhance our training skills. Other than that, the class activities



were found very effective, not only because of the techniques applied by the experts, but also the participants were given opportunities and encouraged to open up and discuss the existing issues within their administrations in relation with Customs Valuation control and PCA.

The issues raised by the participants were discussed and answered by the experts, who helped to clear very practical issues that often come across in the work environment.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Preparation of a National Action Plan was one of the key activities conducted in the first and second Sub-regional Workshops. In respect to that, the following areas were listed down in the National Action Plan, known as “Projects.”

#	Title	Selection
Project 1	Preparation of formulating an Audit Manual	
Project 2	Risk management	
Project 3	Creating traders profile	
Project 3	PCA Plan	
Project 4	Developing a training module (For Valuation & PCA)	Selected and approved by Customs Board
Project 5	PCA Awareness program	

The key project that we outlined in the Action Plan was designing and developing a tailor-made “**Training kit**” to be used for staff training



in area of Customs Valuation and PCA. The WCO and the ADB promised that they would provide technical and financial assistance through the project. In respect to that the priority was given to “**Training kit**”, which was selected and approved by the Maldives Customs Service, as the final Project to develop.

The Commissioner General Advisory Board approved team constituting the PCMs and Project Support Members (PSMs) and the Roadmap for implementation. The Team was released from the regular official work solely for this task, where drafting various modules of the Kit were given to the sub-groups formed within the team.

In this regard, the first internal meeting was held on 15th February 2015, where the members were briefed by the assistant Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Ismail Nashid and Senior Superintendent Head of International Relations, Mr. Ahmed Niyaz. After series of working sessions, the first draft of the kit with six modules was completed at the end of April 2015.

Modules	Title
Module 1	Legal provisions on document processing and PCA
Module 2	General understanding on declaration process and PCA
Module 3	Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994- Valuation for Customs purpose
Module 4	Understanding Valuation techniques
Module 5	GATT Valuation working with Declaration processing
Module 6	Valuation ideally through Post clearance audit (PCA)

FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP

The First National Workshop was held on 18th to 22nd May 2015 at the Maldives Customs Service. Twelve officers participated in this workshop which includes two officers from regional Customs. The main activity in the agenda was to revise and check the first draft of the kit with the WCO Accredited Experts, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, WCO ROCB A/P, Mr. MMM Rishafy and Mr. Muthucumarasamy Ravindrakumar from Sri Lanka. In result, the Kit was revised to Six Modules and it was segmented on specific targets including officers, brokers and stake holders.



SECOND NATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Second National Workshop was held in Salt Café from 24th to 28th January 2016. Other than the WCO experts, twenty officers from different sections participated in the workshop. Unlike the previous workshops, this time the workshop was mainly led by the PCMs. The newly developed tailor made training materials were used for the first time; after a very interactive session, the program was ended on 28th January 2016.

To mark the end of the Multi-year project and also to mark the 64th WCO anniversary, a Special Function was held at Customs. The Ceremony was attended by Mr. Ian Cremer, Senior Technical Officer of the WCO, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, Program Manager for South Asia of the ROCB A/P and Ms. Rose Mackenzie, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist of the ADB. Training Kit was officially launched at this ceremony.



THE CHALLENGES FACED

The biggest challenge that we faced during this project was releasing of staff, as most of the officers are key players who are working in the responsible post. Also we had limited PCA experiences which weren't sufficient to use as reference, which lead to resort to WCO materials only in developing of PCA module.

THE BENEFITS ASSOCIATED

The benefit Since the implementation of the WTO Valuation Agreement with the enactment of Customs Act in 2011, has been of an urgent requirement for the Maldives Customs Service to develop trainers to strengthen the capacity of officers working in the areas of Customs Valuation and PCA. This SASEC regional initiative provided Maldives with two major achievements.



1. Three well trained officers who now have good technical knowledge as well as the training skills to conduct trainings on Customs Valuation and PCA in the Maldives Customs Service;
2. A comprehensive and up-to-date National Training Kit was introduced with related provisions from Customs Act, General Regulations and procedures in effective implementation of Customs Valuation through PCA;

OUR FUTURE PLAN

Future looks brighter, where the PCM and Training Kit would be fully utilized to conduct Customs Valuation training programs for Customs staff, Customs brokers and to conduct awareness sessions for traders, government agencies, and other stakeholder agencies. The Training Kit would also be used to compliment regional training programs as well. The same would also be shared with other PCMs of the SASEC countries through the WCO CLiKC! Platform.

We appreciate the WCO and the ADB for their continuous support and assistance provided throughout the project to make this success a delightful one. Last but not the least, special thanks goes to the efforts and dedication shown by the PCMs and the PSMs as well.

Recalling the memories from the entire project



The final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation under the WCO-ADB Multi-year assistance for the SASEC countries - Sri Lanka

By M A M Nazir, PCM (Sri Lanka Customs)

The workshop was held at one of the Sri Lanka's iconic landmark venues-the Galle Face Hotel built in 1864 and situated in the heart of Colombo, along the seafront and facing the famous Galle Face Green, rendering an ideal atmosphere for our entire work.



The elegant image of the workshop venue in Colombo, one of the oldest hotels east of the Suez, built in 1864, the Galle Face Hotel embraces its rich history and legendary traditions looks amazing with the recent facelift

The workshop-related activities took place across the entire week from the 15th to 19th of February 2016. Even though the official commenced on the 16th, an earlier program involving the Project Core Members (PCMs) and Project Support Members (PSMs), and the two WCO accredited experts, Mr Takayuki Miyoshi, WCO ROCB A/P, and Mr Ismail Nashid, Maldives Customs Service, took place on the first day, the 15th of February.

The Sri Lankan trainers who had undergone training were led by Mr T Raviendrarah and comprised of three PCMs and the three PSMs who delivered their presentations as scheduled and actively participated throughout the program playing their given role with utmost commitment and enthusiasm. The three PCMs took the lead role while they were aptly supported by the three PSMs. All the trainers got an opportunity to showcase their newly acquired delivery talents by way of their presentations dealing with different aspects of the WTO Customs Valuation System. The audience who participated had been selected in such a way as to represent a strong cross section of the Sri Lanka Customs community mostly from the middle range management level, in order to ensure their interaction with the trainers and also to make them critically analyze the presentations.

The Transaction Value Method, the PCA mechanism and the Risk Management, with reference to WTO Valuation Agreement and with the backdrop of the local legal provisions were handled respectively by Messer's T Raviendrarajah, M R Ranarajah and M A M Nazir- the three PCMs. There was well planned time allocation for each presenter with half of a day for one presentation leaving ample time for the ensuing discussion and questions by the participants. The special feature here is that the relevant articles of the subjects as well as the local legislation pertaining to them being dealt with in an intensive and extensive probing manner where the participants were made to experience a voyage of discovery



The three PSMs, namely Messer's Chandraratne, Sunil Jayaratne and Wijeratne Bandara, made presentations on Alternative methods, Introduction to WTO Valuation Agreement and the Related Party Transactions respectively. Each presenter had his unique approach where he applied different training techniques nevertheless the key characteristic was ensuring interaction of the participants with the trainer throughout the session. The culmination of the proceedings was on penultimate day where the compilation of the training modules prepared by the PCMs and PSMs was handed over to the Director General of Customs. The Additional Director

General of Customs Mr Tharaka Seneviratne himself being a WCO accredited trainer on Commodity Classification, accepted the Compilation on behalf of the Director General of Customs and chaired the program's conclusion ceremony. The country director of ADB, Ms Sri Widowatti was the special guest and delivered the key-note address on the closing ceremony of the program. She affirmed in her speech the commitment of the ADB and their continued support in the capacity building process of the SASEC member countries. Mr Tharaka Seneviratne, referring to the conclusion of the workshop, mentioned that it was not the end of anything but it is the beginning of a tough journey ahead for the trainers. Acknowledgement and Way-forward speech was made by Mr Takayuki Miyoshi. He expressed his appreciation on the performance of the entire team and he went on to emphasize the willingness of the WCO ROCB AP to implement more programs in order to assist the member countries in their capacity building process.

As a developing country we need to make every effort to enhance our



Ms Sri Widowatti-ADB Country Director with Mr Tharaka Seneviratne-Additional Director General Customs, Mr Takayuki Miyoshi-WCO ROCB AP Project Manager and Mr Ismail Nashid-Asst Commissioner (Customs Valuation expert)

efficiency in implementing procedures relating to Customs valuation without compromising the objectives envisaged in the WTO Valuation Agreement. Hence there is no doubt that the entire project throughout the last two years provided us with the much needed sophisticated mechanisms on valuation control. In fact, the entire training program is of immense use for the trainers as we, the trainers, acquired a great deal of techniques relating to training and teaching, especially on the Customs Valuation.

As a newly trained trainer on the WTO Valuation Agreement, I too feel a heavy burden has fallen on the shoulders of the new trainers where we need to keep on updating our knowledge on Customs matters generally and on Customs Valuation related matters in particular by absorbing new developments taking place on a day-to-day basis as well as keeping the training methodology and techniques up-to-date. It is in fact as the old adage goes as when the going gets tough the tough gets going. Thus the final national workshop on WTO Valuation Agreement -V6- held in Colombo came to conclusion on the 19th of February 2016

X X X

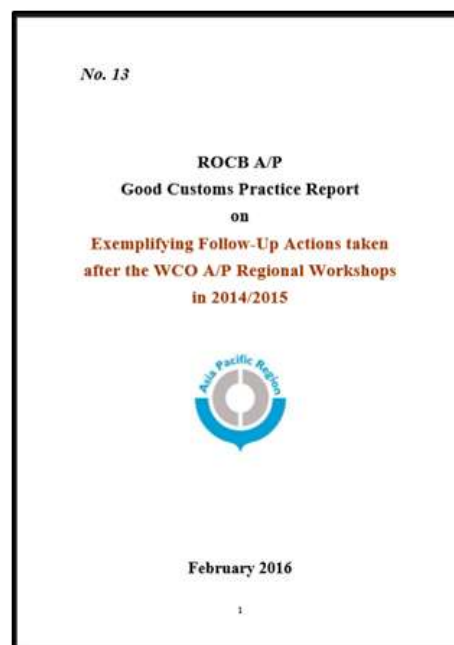
Special Topics

Publication of the ROCB A/P Good Practice Paper on “Exemplifying Follow-Up Actions after WCO Regional Workshops” (Feb.2016)

Some of the readers may recall the articles carried in the previous issues of the ROCB A/P E-Newsletter. (<http://rocb-ap.org/service/41/>) One of these articles featured the background, concept and the summary of the ROCB A/P's initiative in conducting surveys on the follow-up actions taken after the participation in the WCO Regional Workshops (see page 27 of the ROCB A/P E-Newsletter No. 50 of October 2015, and pages 5 – 9 of that of No. 51 of January 2016).

WCO and ROCB A/P do our best to accommodate Members' needs and deliver the regional workshops as required. In order to optimize the ramifications of these regional capacity building assistance programs, it is imperative to encourage the workshop participants to apply these lessons-learned to their daily operations wherever appropriate and disseminate the pertinent information to the right people in a timely manner. In this context, ROCB A/P has initiated the “Survey on the Follow-Up Actions taken after the Participation in the WCO Regional Workshop (Regional Workshop Follow-Up Action Survey)” organized in the previous fiscal year, - i.e. 2014/2015. This Survey intends to collect pertinent information on the follow-up actions taken at their respective home administrations in the wake of participation in the Regional/Sub-regional Workshops.

Detailed study results were compiled and published in February 2016 as a new issue of the “ROCB A/P's Good Practice Report of Exemplifying Follow-Up Actions taken after the WCO A/P Regional Workshops in 2014/15” Those who are interested in the full



copy of the said Good Practice Report, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

Study on the survey replies found that the ownership and commitment of the respective workshop/seminar participants with continued dialogue are the keys for reaping the good fruits from the collective efforts towards Customs reform and modernization. ROCB A/P is therefore going to continue this initiative to optimize the value and effectiveness of the regional capacity building assistance programs.

X X X

Number of Visitors to the ROCB A/P Homepage Increases



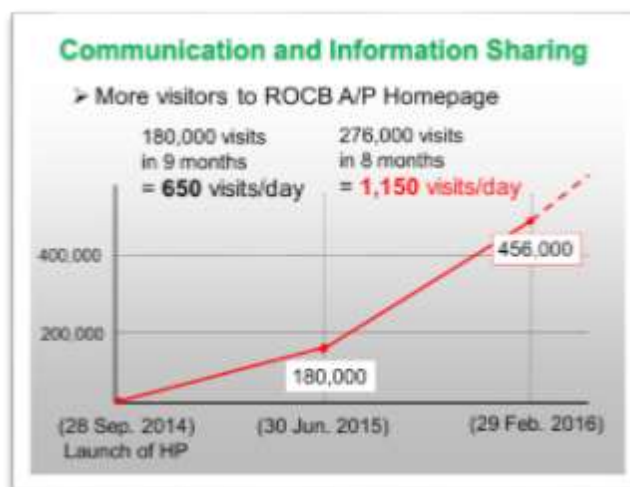
The ROCB A/P considers that, in order to encourage the Member Customs administrations' active participation in the regional capacity building programs, details of the pertinent information in advance is essential. The ROCB A/P therefore places its focus on

communication and information sharing through various means, including the ROCB A/P homepage (www.rocb-ap.org), E-Newsletters and the regional webpage administered by the Vice Chair.

The ROCB A/P's new homepage, which is also open to the general public, was launched on 28 September 2014, coinciding with its 10th anniversary of the ROCB A/P's Office. The homepage is used as an integral part of the communication and information sharing with Member administrations and the general public who are interested in the Customs capacity building activities. It is updated to add the recent ROCB A/P's activities of the national and regional workshops and contribution to the various international arenas

to raise the profile of the Customs' roles in trade facilitation and supply chain security.

The ROCB A/P is very pleased the number of visitors to our homepage has reached more than 456,000 at the end of February 2016. The number of the visitors to our homepage during the first 9 months was 180,000 with 650 visits per day. We have now increased that number to 1,150 visits per day over the last 8 months. In the last 17 months, some 14,200 views visited our homepage. While encouraging the readers of the E-Newsletter to visit our homepage to obtain updated information on our activities, the ROCB A/P is going to maintain user-friendliness of our homepage for easier viewing and better service to the interested persons.



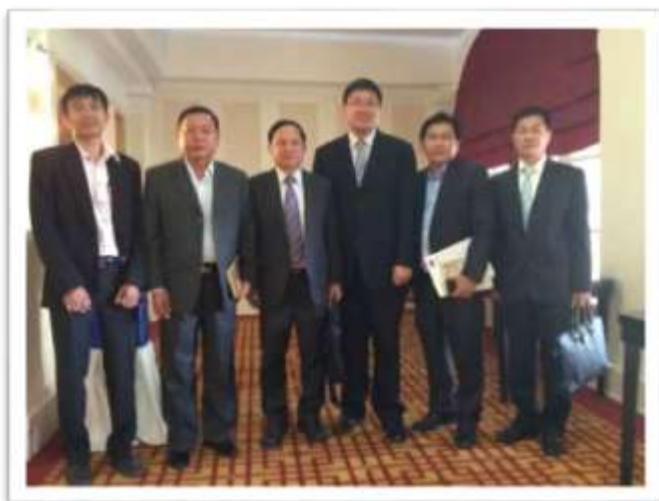
X X X

Workshops / Meetings

ROCB A/P Promotes the AEO Program and Coordinated Border Management (CBM) at the WCO/UNODC CCP Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

11 January 2016, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

WCO/UNODC Container Control Program (CCP) Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting was organized on 11 January 2016 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, by the UNODC Bangkok Office with the sponsorship of the Australia Department of Immigration and Border Protection (ADIBP) and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). The Meeting was attended by around 30 participants representing Customs, Police, Ministry of Commerce, National Authority for Combating Drugs and Shipping Agency and Brokers (KAMSAB), etc. This Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting was convened on the occasion of the national CCP implementation in Cambodia to exchange the view how the parties involved in CCP could work together for better law enforcement outcome through the creation of Port Control Unit and application of risk analysis techniques.



Mr. Cheng Jing, Program Manager for Pacific Islands of the ROCB A/P, attended this Meeting and made a presentation on the rationales of the AEO program and the CBM, which were illustrated in some international documents including the RKC, WTO TFA and WCO SAFE FOS focusing on Pillar 2 (Cooperation between Customs and Business) and Pillar

3 (Cooperation between Customs and other government agencies). His presentation emphasized the use of the AEO and the CBM to establish meaningful partnership between Customs and its stakeholders for an

enhanced information/intelligence exchange mechanism. He also introduced the ROCB A/P's activities on the AEO and the CBM in the A/P region since 2014.

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

X X X

ROCB A/P Promotes the AEO Program and Coordinated Border Management (CBM) at the WCO/UNODC CCP Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR

13 January 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR

WCO/UNODC Container Control Program (CCP) Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting was organized on 13 January 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, by the UNODC Bangkok Office with the sponsorship of the Australia Department of Immigration and Border Protection (ADIBP) and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). The Meeting was attended by around 24 participants representing Customs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of public security and Shipping/Freight Forwarders Associations. This Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting was convened on the occasion of the national CCP implementation in Lao PDR to exchange the views on how the parties involved in the CCP could work together for better law enforcement outcome through the creation of Port Control Unit and application of risk analysis techniques.



Mr. Cheng Jing, Program Manager for Pacific Islands of the ROCB A/P, attended this Meeting and made a presentation on the rationales of the AEO

program and the CBM, which were illustrated in some international documents including the RKC, WTO TFA and WCO SAFE FOS focusing on Pillar 2 (Cooperation between Customs and Business) and Pillar 3 (Cooperation between Customs and other government agencies). His presentation emphasized the use of the AEO and the CBM to establish meaningful partnership between Customs and its stakeholders for an enhanced information/intelligence exchange mechanism. He also introduced the ROCB A/P's activities on the AEO and the CBM in the A/P region since 2014.

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

X X X

WCO/UNODC CCP Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting in Yangon, Myanmar

15 January 2016, Yangon, Myanmar



WCO/UNODC Container Control Program (CCP) Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting was organized on 15 January 2016 in Yangon, Myanmar, by the UNODC Bangkok Office with the sponsorship of the Australia Department of Immigration and Border Protection (ADIBP) and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). The Meeting was attended by around 26 participants representing Customs, Police, Department of Trade and Ministry of Home Affairs etc. This Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting was convened on the occasion of the national CCP implementation in Myanmar to

exchange the views on how the parties involved in CCP could work together for better law enforcement outcome through the creation of Port Control Unit and application of risk analysis techniques.

Mr. Cheng Jing, Program Manager for Pacific Islands of the ROCB A/P, attended this Meeting and made a presentation on the rationales of the AEO program and the CBM, which were illustrated in some international documents including the RKC, WTO TFA and WCO SAFE FOS focusing on Pillar 2 (Cooperation between Customs and Business) and Pillar 3 (Cooperation between Customs and other government agencies). His presentation emphasized the use of the AEO and the CBM to establish meaningful partnership between Customs and its stakeholders for an enhanced information/intelligence exchange mechanism. He also introduced the ROCB A/P's activities on the AEO and the CBM in the A/ P region since 2014.

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

X X X

ROCB A/P participates in the Steering Committee Meeting for the Container Control Program (Southeast Asia)

19 January 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the UNODC Bangkok Office, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, accompanied by his colleagues, Mr. Jing Cheng, Mr. Kangsik Cho and Ms. Alpha Wong, attended the Steering Committee Meeting for the UNODC-WCO Container Control Program (CCP) in the Southeast Asia region, which was held on 19 January 2016 at the Thai Customs Department Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, as observers. Approximately 35 delegates from Customs administrations of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam as well as representatives of the Program donors (i.e. Australia, Canada and the United States), the UNODC and the WCO participated in the Meeting. A representative from New Zealand Customs Service also took part in as an observer.



This Meeting aimed to review the past performance and discuss a plan of future activities under the CCP in the Southeast Asia region. At the opening session, Director General of the Thai Customs Department, Regional representative (Southeast Asia and Pacific) of the UNODC, and donor representatives delivered opening remarks. Speakers shared the same view on the value of heightening cooperation at national and inter-organizational levels in combating illicit trade and securing supply chain in the Southeast Asia region. In the course of the Meeting, ROCB A/P officers witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the UNODC and the Philippines Customs, which formalizes the fifth CCP in the ASEAN. The Meeting took note the respective participating countries' future work plans and their training needs on reinvigorating information and intelligence exchange as well as improving risk analysis techniques.

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

X X X

WCO Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling

25 January 2016, Melaka, Malaysia

WCO Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling was conducted on 25 – 29 January 2016 at the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL) in Melaka, Malaysia, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan, and in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Royal Malaysian



Customs Department (RMCD). A total of twenty-seven representatives from twenty-three Member administrations participated in this regional Customs training program. In addition, five resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, the ROCB A/P, Indonesia and Japan also took part in the Workshop.



One of the objectives of this Workshop included raising awareness of the WCO Revenue Package, especially recently developed tools with specific focus on advance rulings. During the course of the Workshop, participants shared their experiences and

challenges in providing advance ruling on Customs classification, valuation and origin. In the wake of the introduction of the WCO Technical Guidelines on Customs Infrastructure for Tariff Classification, valuation and Origin, workshop participants had a day-long break-out exercise on the WCO

Diagnostic Tool. Findings from the Break-out exercise were reported to the Plenary Sessions. Facilitator of the Session summarized the discussion points and highlighted the importance among 4 core issues, namely; human resources; legal and procedures for advance ruling and management of three areas; partnership with relevant departments and other government agencies; and information technology, as key elements for assuring trade facilitation.

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, facilitated the Workshop and made a presentation on the ROCBA/P's undertaking and regional capacity building arrangement mechanism. Given that the WCO's technical assistance are demand-driven, he underlined the need for their administrations' responses to the



Annual Technical Assistance Needs Survey. This is to ensure their needs and priorities, including those which could be identified through more comprehensive diagnostic exercises, may be duly reflected in the next year's capacity building program planning. He stressed the need for institutionalizing lessons learned through appropriate and effective follow-up actions. In this respect, he drew participants' attention to the ROCB A/P's initiatives in conducting the Regional Workshop Follow-Up Survey to take a snapshot of the ramifications of the lessons-learned from the workshops to the institutional performance improvement.

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org. Please also visit the WCO website at

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2016/january/malaysia-hosts-the-first-wco-ap-regional-workshop-on-revenue-package-and-advance-rulings.aspx> about this Regional Workshop.

X X X

The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Maldives Customs Service under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries

24 January 2016, Male, Maldives



The ROCB A/P and the ADB with support from the WCO Secretariat conducted the Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for the Maldives Customs Service under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) from 24 to

28 January 2016 in Male. Three Project Core Members (PCMs) of this Multi-year Project, eight Project Supporting Members (PSMs) from Maldives Customs Service and experts from the WCO, Sri Lanka and ROCB A/P joined the activity.



This Multi-year Project was designed to support SASEC Countries' efforts to realize the proper management of Customs Valuation control ideally through Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for ensuring both effective trade facilitation and collection of national revenue. Each participating country has determined their own needs and

anticipated deliverables under the Multi-year Project, namely the development of the training kit for Maldives Customs Service.

During the 5-day activity, the PCMs, PSMs and experts; (i) finalized the training kit, (ii) organized a 3-day National Workshop on Customs Valuation and its control with the newly developed training kit and (iii) reviewed the Multi-year Project and discussed future collaboration. The Maldives Customs Service has already started its sustainable capacity building activity through the PCMs and the training kit. The first event (National Workshop for Customs officers and private sectors) is now being held in the northern part of their country this week (1-5 February 2016).

For further information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org

(*) Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka

X X X

2016 Exit Conference on Time Release study (TRS) for Thailand

18 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation by the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Mr. Cho Kangsik, Ms. Alpha Wong, Mr. Cheng Jing and Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkoson of the ROCB A/P attended the 2016 Exit Conference on Time Release Study for Thailand, which was held on 18 February 2016 at the TCD Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. Around seventy representatives from Thai Customs and other organizations/agencies such as Office of the Public Sector Development Commission, World Bank, JICA, other government agencies, private sectors, Thai Chamber of Commerce, and other related associations, joined the Conference.

Over the past decade, the TCD has conducted six TRS. With the consistent efforts to facilitate trade and bring their operational standards into an international level, the latest TRS has been conducted from the end of November 2015 to early February 2016 at the Laem Chabang seaport, which records highest import volume and equipped with fully automated custom processing system. Mr. Kulit Sombatsiri, Director General of the TCD

expressed gratitude to all related stakeholders for their continued support for TCD and announced the next TRS will be conducted in December 2016.

For more information, please refer to TCD homepage at

http://en.customs.go.th/cont_strc_slide_image.php?current_id=251, or write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.



X X X

The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Sri Lanka Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries

15 February 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka



The ROCB A/P and the ADB with support from the WCO Secretariat conducted the Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for the Sri Lanka Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year

Project) from 15 to 19 February 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Three Project Core Members (PCMs) and three Project Supporting Members (PSMs) of the Sri Lanka Customs and experts from the Maldives Customs Service and the ROCB A/P joined the activity.

This Multi-year Project was designed to support SASEC Countries' efforts to realize the proper management of Customs Valuation through Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for ensuring both effective trade facilitation and proper collection of national revenue. Each participating country has determined their own needs and an anticipated deliverables under the Multi-year Project, namely the development of the training module for the Sri Lanka Customs.



During the 5-day activity, the PCMs, the PSMs and the experts; (i) finalized the training module, (ii) organized a 3-day National Workshop on Customs Valuation and its control for 31 Sri Lanka Custom officers with the newly developed training module and (iii) reviewed the Multi-year Project and discussed future collaboration. The PCMs and the PSMs are going to deliver further training events with the training module to their Customs colleagues and brokers community.

For further information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org

(*) Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka

X X X

ROCB A/P gives a lecture on the Customs community's roles in trade facilitation and security

26 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

On 26 February 2016, at a meeting room of the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, the Programs Manager of the same, gave a lecture on the Customs' roles in trade facilitation and supply



chain security, which has significant impact from the viewpoint of global economics. Twenty-four students from the Economics Faculty of Nagasaki University (Japan), led by two Associate Professors, were visiting Thailand as part of their special programs to study international economics and trade in goods. During their time in Thailand, they have visited a Japanese trading company and a warehouse operator, and observed dynamics in the international trade logistics at the Laem Chabang Port. Prior to the lecture by the ROCB A/P, a question and answer session was used to supplement and deepen their learnings from those field visits. ROCB A/P was very pleased that students asked a range of relevant and critical questions, including prominent challenges being faced by the Customs administrations in their daily operations.



Mr. Igarashi made a presentation on the missions and relevant works undertaken by the WCO and the ROCB A/P, highlighting the significance of human resource development and institutional capacity building, towards further supporting sound growth of international trade. ROCB A/P sincerely hopes that their visit to Thailand and lectures

provided would further their interest in international affairs and be useful for their continued study at the University.

ROCB A/P is grateful for the TCD's assistance and courtesy service provided for the students.

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

X X X

WCO National Training on Coordinated Border Management for Thailand

29 February 2016



The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and with the sponsorship of CCF/Japan, organized the WCO National Training on Coordinated Border Management (CBM) for Thailand from 29 February to 4 March 2016 at the Thai Customs Department (TCD) Academy.

Seventy six TCD officials from relevant Divisions in the Headquarters and regional Customhouses attended this important Training, which was the first national training to supplement the A/P Regional Workshop held in December 2015 in Kashiwa, Japan.



This National Training session was officially opened by Mr. Paisal Chuenjit, Deputy Director General of the TCD, who stressed the imperative need for collaborative approaches amongst the relevant agencies to further elevate efficiency and effectiveness of their border

control as part of implementing WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and ASEAN Economic Community agendas. Two WCO-designated experts from Finnish Customs and Indonesian Customs facilitated the three-day program and shared their valuable knowledge as well as their administrations' experience in remedying a series of challenges associated with CBM with other border agencies including neighboring countries. Participants reviewed and discussed their current practices in the implementation of CBM at their respective regional Customhouses. TCD officers praised this session for successfully deepening their knowledge on CBM and its related WCO tools for enhancing their capacity in border management.



After the seminar-style session, the two experts and Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, joined Mr. Chuenjit and his staff members for a 2-day visit to Mukdahan Customhouse. The Customhouse is located along side of the Mekong River and one of the main border check points for the goods and passenger traffic with Lao PDR. They were briefed the customs, plant quarantine and the immigration authority on the CBM practice and on-going development projects, including future One-Stop Border Post initiatives with Lao authorities. They also had visits to Common Control Areas for so-called “single-stop” service in Mukdahan and

Nakhon Phanom, which further provided opportunities for practical discussions and constructive recommendations for their future consideration.

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

X X X

ROCB A/P joins the Panel Discussion on Cross-Border E-Commerce

10 March 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, joined a Panel Discussion in the ADB Regional Workshop on Cross-Border E-Commerce: Towards Seamless Connectivity, which was held on 10 March 2016 at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. The Panel Discussion was part of the 3-day Workshop programs for the ASEAN Member States, to which a total of

some 30 representatives from the relevant agencies from the respective Member States, including Customs, attended.

The Panel Discussion focused on the way to “tackle e-commerce challenges”



and discussed relevant topics from various perspectives from regulators, logistics service providers, and academia. Issues related market accessibility for the small and medium enterprises (SME) and needed logistics infrastructures were raised. Challenges associated with trade facilitation, revenue collection, including *de minimis* issue, and protection of the society were discussed as well. In this context, Mr. Igarashi introduced some of the works currently undertaken by the WCO on e-commerce and digital Customs concept, and suggested the need for open-minded consultation and experience sharing among relevant stakeholders with a view to better accommodating fast-growing cross-border e-commerce transactions for fulfilling Customs roles in both trade facilitation and border control.



For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org

X X X

The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Nepal Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries

7 March 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal

The ROCB A/P and the ADB with support from the WCO Secretariat conducted the Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for the Nepal Customs. This was under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) from 7 to 11 March 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal and successfully completing the 3-year Multi-year Project. In total 5 Project Core Members (PCMs) and Project Supporting Members (PSMs) of the Nepal Customs and experts from Maldives, Sri Lanka and the ROCB A/P joined the activity.



This Multi-year Project was designed to support SASEC Countries' efforts to realize the proper management of Customs Valuation control ideally through Post Clearance Audit (PCA) to ensure both effective trade facilitation and collection of national revenue. Each participating country has determined their own needs

and an anticipated deliverable under the Multi-year Project, namely the development of the training course with a set of training materials for the Nepal Customs.

During the 5-day activity, the PCMs, the PSMs and the experts; (i) finalized the training module, (ii) organized a 3-day National Workshop on Customs Valuation and its control for 24 Nepal Custom officers with the newly developed training materials and (iii) reviewed the Multi-year Project and



discussed future collaboration. The PCMs and the PSMs are expected to deliver further training events with the developed training materials to their Customs colleagues and brokers community.

For further information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org

(*) Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka

X X X

ROCB A/P Reports its Activities to Directors General and Commissioners in the region

15 March 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 17th Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference held on 15-18 March 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr. Igarashi reported the ROCB A/P's activities in 2014/2015 and the progress over the last 8 months in 2015/2016. In the course of the report, he

highlighted amongst other things: the increasing number of the participants in the WCO A/P regional workshops from the previous year; increasing access to the ROCB A/P website; conduct of the Workshop Follow-Up survey and publication of the survey summary. He also reported the ramifications from the region's joint IPR enforcement operation, code-named "Action IPR A/P", which was initiated under the Vice Chair's leadership and supplemented by the pre- and post-operational training sessions to optimize its results. The reports were well received and delegates to the Conference

took the floor to encourage the ROCB A/P to continue its supports for the region's joint efforts in reform and modernization through delivery of high-quality capacity building programs.

The RHCA Conference is an annual gathering of the heads of the WCO Member Customs administrations within the A/P region. This year's RBCA Conference was attended by delegates from 20 Members. Secretary General of the WCO and representatives from the WCO Secretariat, Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia/Pacific (RILO A/P) and US CBP also attended in the capacity of observers. Delegates heard a series of progress reports and discussed several policy matters, such as revised terms of reference for the Regional Contact Point meeting, renewal of the Regional Strategic Plan, nomination process of the Vice Chair and other WCO governance issues. Fiji was unanimously elected as the next Vice Chair for the A/P region with 2-year terms. On the second day of this Meeting (16 March 2016), a Private Sector Engagement Forum was organized to discuss the use of innovating technologies for Customs border control.

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org. Please also see WCO website at

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2016/march/heads-of-customs-administrations-in-the-asia-pacific-region-elevate-engagement-with-stakeholders.aspx>.

X X X



WCOA/P Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in Information Technology

21 March 2016, Melaka, Malaysia



On 21-22 March 2016, the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in Information Technology was held in the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL) in Melaka, Malaysia, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 24 persons representing the WCO Member Customs

administrations, including those represented by the host administration, participated in the Workshop, which was supported by Mr. Tejo Kusuma (Technical Officer of the WCO Compliance and Facilitation Directorate) and Ms. Beng Huay Yeo (Chief Information Officer of Singapore Customs), as resource persons, including Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, as a facilitator.



The Workshop program was designed with a good combination of overview presentations on policy/technical guidance and a set of group discussions. Ms. Yeo shared her views and descent experiences in strategic planning for ICT, governance

and project management. Participants from Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam shared their national experiences in such topics as strategic planning, governing ICT implementation, project management, and continual improvement. Throughout the Workshop, it was

highlighted the need for managerial guidance and commitment, institutionalized project committees/teams for sustained ICT development, as well as close dialogue with all of the relevant parties from both public and private sectors. Given the WCO's 2016 theme, namely "Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement", participants appreciated the Regional Workshop and discussed pertinent topics in a very lively and interactive manner.



For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

X X X

WCO Follow-up Regional Workshop for Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the Asia/Pacific region ("Action IPR A/P")

21-23 March 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P, RILO A/P and Japan Customs, organized the WCO Follow-up Regional Workshop for Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and

Piracy in the Asia/Pacific region (Action IPR A/P) on 21-23 March 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, under the financial support of Customs Cooperation Fund of Japan (CCF/Japan). A total of 22 participants from the 20 Member Customs administrations and 1 observer from the ROCB A/P participated in this Workshop. Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkason attended this Regional

Workshop as a resource person, along with other resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, RILO A/P and Japan Customs.

Participants had the opportunity to share their learnings, good practices and challenges regarding the Action IPR A/P and in their use of WCO tools. Participants undertook to use the communication network, CENComm, for further consultation and collaboration.



For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

X X X

The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Bangladesh Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries

22 March 2016, Dhaka, Bangladesh



The ROCB A/P and the ADB with support from the WCO Secretariat conducted the Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for the Bangladesh Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) from 22 to 24 March 2016 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and successfully completed the 3-year Multi-year Project. None Bangladesh Customs colleagues, including Project Core Members

(PCMs) and Project Supporting Members (PSMs), and two experts from Sri Lanka and the ROCB A/P joined this Final Mission.

This Multi-year Project was designed to support SASEC Countries' efforts in the proper management of Customs Valuation control through Post Clearance Audit (PCA) with a view to ensuring both trade facilitation and collection of national revenue. Each participating country has determined their own needs and anticipated deliverables under this Multi-year Project in accordance with the Action Plan to upgrade the current Customs Valuation database for effective Customs Valuation control in line with the WTO Valuation Agreement for the Bangladesh Customs to accomplish the above-mentioned purpose.



During the 3-day Mission, experts worked with the PCMs and the PSMs and finalized the Action Plan, reviewed the Multi-year Project, and discussed future collaboration. The PCMs and the PSMs are expected to implement the Action Plan with the guidance from the Bangladesh Customs.

For further information, please

write to us at rocb@rocbap.org

(*) Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka

X X X

Guest Visits

ROCB A/P seeks further collaboration with APPU

7 January 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



On 7 January 2016, Mr. Lin Hongliang, Director of Asia-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), and Mr. Amitabh Singh, Course Director of APPU, kindly visited the ROCB A/P for a New Year's greetings. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues warmly welcomed them and discussed future

collaboration among Customs and post authorities, especially in conducting capacity building programs on supply chain security of postal items. Given the recent adoption of the pillar 3 of WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, which is about cooperation between Customs and other government agencies and embraces pre-loading risk assessment of goods including postal items, as well as the WCO's theme for 2016 "Digital Customs", Mr.



Lin and Mr. Igarashi shared the view that the collaboration is much needed and agreed to seek further collaboration and mutually assist each other's relevant training sessions wherever possible.

X X X

Visit of Japan Customs Deputy Director General to ROCB A/P

14 January 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau (CTB) delegation led by Mr. Hiroshi Kishimoto, Deputy Director General of CTB, and accompanied by Mr. Shinji Taniguchi, Counselor for International Cooperation, as well as his colleagues, visited ROCB A/P seizing an opportunity of their mission to attend JICA Customs Expert Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of ROCB A/P and his colleagues warmly welcomed the delegation. During the visit, Mr. Kishimoto exchanged some friendly words



with the ROCB colleagues. He gave them some words of appreciation and encouragement for their dedication to the regional capacity building activities. The delegation also visited the Office of JICA Experts and Customs Museum situated in the Thai Customs Department premises.

X X X

ROCB A/P pays courtesy visit to new DDG of the Thai Customs Department

2 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

On 2 February 2016, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Chutiwat Watanaphol, new Deputy Director General of the Thai Customs Department (TCD) at his office to congratulate his promotion and call for continued support for the ROCB A/P. Mr. Chutiwat's responsibilities include AEO, Customs procedures and tariff as well as international affairs. Taking this opportunity, Mr. Igarashi asked



for the TCD's continued active participation and contribution to the regional capacity building activities as one the key model players in the ASEAN region with good practices and strong commitment to further improve Customs efficiency and effectiveness under the leadership of TCD

executives.

X X X

ROCB A/P pays courtesy visit to new DDG of the Thai Customs Department

3 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



On 3 February 2016, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Vichak Apirugnunchai, new Deputy Director General of the Thai Customs Department (TCD) at his office to congratulate him on his promotion and call for

continued support for the ROCB A/P. He kindly re-affirmed his support for the ROCB A/P. Mr. Vichak was Director of Investigation and Suppression Bureau.

X X X

AEO Workshop participants visited the ROCB A/P

4 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



On 4 February 2016, AEO workshop participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam visited the ROCB A/P, accompanied by colleagues of the AEO Department of the Thai Customs Department (TCD) and JICA Experts. Mr. Kazunari

Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues warmly welcomed them. Because Mr. Igarashi attended the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop on 1 February, in welcoming the Workshop participants and resource persons from Japan Customs to the Office, he referred to the points raised in the key note address delivered by Mr. Kulit Sombatsiri, Director General of TCD, and echoed the significance and timeliness of the Workshop held with generous support by TCD and JICA. He then encouraged the visiting colleagues to exercise what they have learned from the 5-day Workshop. At the same time, Mr. Igarashi reminded them that the WCO and the ROCB A/P are willing and ready to extending assistance and consultation, upon their needs and priorities, within the available resources.

X X X

Lao Customs DDG visits the ROCB A/P to discuss their continued modernization effort

26 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



Mr. Bounpaseuth Sikounlabout, Deputy Director General of Lao Customs, and his colleagues visited the ROCB A/P on 26 February 2016 on the occasion of his business trip to Thailand to study management practices in dry ports and container depots. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues warmly welcomed the

delegation. Mr. Sikounlabout explained on-going modernization efforts undertaken by Lao Customs, including the way to realize “from land-lock to land-link” motto through establishing several inland container depots (ICDs) within the territory. He discussed possible ways to change their efforts toward effective management of the ICDs, including application of transit and temporary admission regimes, risk management and authorized economic operators programs to complement the new system. Possible technical assistance in the context of the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which Lao PDR has ratified in September 2015, was also tabled. On this occasion, Mr. Sikounlabout explained the current status of the work towards Lao PDR’s accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention (Refer <http://www.rocb-ap.org/article-detail/83/>).



Mr. Igarashi welcomed this face-to-face consultation with the high-level delegation on the future collaboration in tandem with the existing annual needs survey practice.

Mr. Igarashi also called for continued active participation in the WCO’s capacity building activities by sharing their precious experience in developing new regimes, including ICD systems.

X X X

Other Topics

ROCB A/P joins Thai Customs Department to celebrate International Customs Day

26 January 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



At the invitation of the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Mr. Kangsik Cho and Ms. Alpha Wong represented the ROCB A/P to join the 2016 International Customs Day Celebration Ceremony, which was held on 26 January 2016 at the TCD Headquarters. The ceremony was officiated by Mr. Kulit Sombatsiri, Director General of the TCD, and was attended by representatives from foreign Embassies and other government agencies, and TCD colleagues.

The WCO theme for this year is “Digital Customs: Progress Engagement”. Mr. Sombatsiri remarked that the theme was timely and relevant to their strategic plan. He said that the TCD has applied information and communication technology (ICT) for enhancing Customs efficiency, for example, in the development of mobile application, implementation of Time Release Study, and establishment of National Single Window. He re-affirmed the determination of the TCD to make optimized use of ICT in facilitating trade and combating Customs offence.

At the same occasion, Mr. Sombatsiri thanked the continuous support of the WCO and ROCB A/P to the modernization of the TCD. After the speech, Mr. Sombatsiri presented the WCO Certificate of Merit to 23 TCD officers for their outstanding contribution towards advancement of the “digital Customs.”

For more information, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org. Please also refer to Thai Customs Department homepage at www.customs.go.th for more information.

X X X

Staff Updates

Farewell to Ms. Narumon Siricharoenwat, Program Coordinator of the ROCB A/P



Ms. Narumon Siricharoenwat or Khun “Nok”, a Program Coordinator, who has been seconded to the ROCB A/P since September 2015, concluded her service at the ROCB A/P on 23 February 2016 and goes back to the Thai Customs Academy, where she used to work as Human Resources Officer in Customs

academy with responsibility for cooperation in overseas Technical Assistance for fourteen years. During her 6-month service, she took good care of the administration of the ROCB A/P’s Homepage and compilation of the E-Newsletters. She also assisted coordination and facilitation of several capacity building programs, including the Regional Workshop on Coordinated Border Management held in December 2015 in Kashiwa, Japan. ROCB A/P appreciates her contribution and dedication to its undertakings, and wish her continued success in the Thai Customs Academy.

X X X

Welcome Ms. Chanakarn Songsiri, our new colleague



It is my honor to introduce myself to you. My name is Chanakarn Songsiri or you can call me “Foam.” I am glad to work with ROCB A/P, which helps me develop positive interpersonal relations, and understand international standards and good practices. I look forward to work well as a team member and serve to international Customs community here in Bangkok with due sensitivity and proactivity. I am always going

to do my best and open to learn new experiences to be a good professional and growing up together with the firm.

X X X

Welcome Ms. Jate-Arpa Benjaphong, our new colleague



Dear Everyone,

Thank you so much to let me introduce myself. My name is Jate-arpa Benjaphong, nicknamed “Mai.” I worked at private companies for many years since I graduated the Bachelor Degree from Assumption University. Starting from March 2016, I have been seconded to the WCO ROCB A/P in Bangkok as a Program Coordinator. Thank you for the warmest welcome and look forward to working together with all colleagues here and in the A/P region.

X X X



Future Activities

WCO A/P Regional CB Programs / Meetings Schedule

April 2016 - Onwards (Indicative)

(NB) Official invitation will be circulated in due course

Event	Dates	Venue
◆ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Transit for the GMS	4-8 Apr. 2016	Shanghai, China
◆ ROCBs-RTCs-VCs Meeting	7-8 Apr. 2016	Brussels, Belgium
◆ WCO Capacity Building Committee Meeting	11-13 Apr. 2016	Brussels, Belgium
◆ WCO Integrity Sub-Committee Meeting	14-15 Apr. 2016	Brussels, Belgium
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement	18-22 Apr. 2016	Shanghai, China
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on HS2017	18-22 Apr. 2016	Kashiwa, Japan
◆ WCO National Workshop on Advance Ruling on Rules of Origin for Malaysia	25-28 Apr. 2016	Melaka, Malaysia
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on Air Passenger Targeting and Control	25-29 Apr. 2016	Bangkok, Thailand
◆ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for South Asia	26-28 Apr. 2016	Faridabad, India
◆ WCO National Workshop on CBM for Mongolia	2-6 May 2016	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on Accreditation of PCA experts	9-13 May 2016	Cheonan, Korea
◆ ADB National Workshop on Valuation/PCA for Bhutan	9-13 May 2016	tbc., Bhutan
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy	16-20 May 2016	Faridabad, India
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on NII	30 May – 1 Jun. 2016 (P)	tbc, Australia (P)
◆ WCO National Workshop on TFA Implementation for Thailand	31 May – 3 Jun. 2016	Bangkok, Thailand

◆ OCO Annual Conference	1-3 Jun. 2016	Funafuti, Tuvalu
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on Implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement	6-10 Jun. 2016	Kashiwa, Japan
◆ ADB National Workshop on Valuation/PCA for India	6-10 Jun. 2016	tbc., India
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on Compliance Enforcement Package	20-24 Jun. 2016	Faridabad, India
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on Risk Management Using Advance Cargo Information	20-24 Jun. 2015	Kashiwa, Japan
◆ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Interrogation and Investigation of Drug Smuggling Cases for Pacific Islands	27 Jun. – 1 Jul. 2016	Suva, Fiji
◆ WCO Council Sessions	14-16 Jul. 2016	Brussels, Belgium

WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P)

Address: c/o The Thai Customs Department, 120 Years Building,
Sunthornkosa Rd., KhlongToey, Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Telephone: +66-2-667-6777 / Facsimile: +66-2-667-6814

E-mail: rocb@rocbap.org

<http://www.rocb-ap.org>

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI,

Head, WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P)

Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI

Mr. CHO Kangsik

Mr. CHENG Jing

Ms. WONG Siu-Yin, Alpha

Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON

Ms. Chanakarn SONGSIRI

Ms. Jate-Arpa BENJAPHONG

Regular Supporters: Mr. Dale FURSE, Mr. Brian LAMB