

# ROCB

Asia Pacific Region

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

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WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

# Foreword



Dear Readers,

Greetings from Bangkok.

Over the last several months, we have had very hot and dry weather in Thailand. During the time of “Songkran Water Festival” in April, which is Thailand’s traditional New Year celebration, there were a series of warning messages from the authorities concerning water shortage and news media called for people’s cooperation in less water splashing. It was also reported that agriculture was severely affected by the water shortage. Finally, it seems that the season has begun to change. It is hoped that affected agriculture and other industries may enjoy good rainwater and bare sweet and delicious fruits in due course.

Often, the time of the season’s change is the time of personnel changes as well. It is with quite mixed feeling that I touch upon the departure of our fellow colleagues at the end of 2015/16. Mr. Cheng Jing from China Customs has successfully completed his four-year term at the ROCB A/P as Program Manager of the Pacific Sub-region and the first CCF/China Operation Manager in mid-June 2016. He contributed to a series of the ROCB A/P’s undertakings and represented the Office at several international meetings and seminars. Readers will find part of his contribution in the previous E-newsletters and on the ROCB A/P’s homepage.

In addition, Regional Development Manager for the A/P region at the WCO Secretariat, Ms. Harumi Chikada, returned to her home administration in mid-June to assume new responsibility starting from July. She provided the ROCB A/P with a great amount of insightful guidance and coordination support behind the scene, which has led to successful planning and delivery of the regional and national capacity building programs over the last three years. On behalf of the ROCB A/P colleagues, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Mr. Cheng and Ms. Chikada for their invaluable professional support and close friendship, and wish them continued success in their future undertakings. At the same time, we look forward to continuing close collaboration with their successors in the years to come.

This issue of the ROCB A/P E-Newsletter covers our activities undertaken during the quarter period from April 2016 through June 2016. This quarter was extremely busy with 11 regional workshops organized, in addition to several national workshops. I believe that the number of organized regional workshops in this one single quarter hit a new record in the ROCB A/P's history. Looking back at these very busy days in the last 3 months, I cannot help thanking the great dedication and hard work of all ROCB staff members, support by the WCO Secretariat and the RTCs as well as knowledgeable resource persons, and most importantly, active participation of the Member administrations to those regional training sessions. I sincerely hope that these capacity building programs may bare some fruits in various forms in the very near future.

As we have completed fiscal year 2015/16, my fellow colleagues in the Office have commenced editing of our Annual Report. In parallel with it, I am now

drawing the ROCB A/P's Annual Plan for 2016/2017 in cooperation with Regional Vice-Chair, as set out in our Terms of Reference, based on the Members' inputs and replies to the annual needs survey. Please rest assured that we will duly take these diversified capacity building needs into account in devising the Annual Plan for 2016/17 so that the ROCB A/P may better serve to the Members' needs and interest in Customs reform and modernization. The ROCB A/P very much looks forward to continuing good cooperation with the WCO Secretariat, Regional Vice-Chair and regional Directors General as well as other stakeholders over the next 12 months.

As usual, I would like to call for the Readers' candid feedback and inputs to this issue of the ROCB A/P E-Newsletter and any suggestions to the activities undertaken by the ROCB A/P over the last 3 months with a view to improving the quality of our work further.

Yours sincerely,



Kazunari Igarashi

Head of the ROCB A/P

# Special Topic



## Successful Completion of the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries on Customs Valuation Control

The entire 3-year project under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka) on Customs Valuation Control (Multi-year Project) has been successfully completed in June 2016. All planned activities under the Multi-year Project were duly carried out and all expected objectives were accomplished. Seizing this opportunity, the ROCB A/P would like to express its sincere appreciation to the ADB, the WCO



Secretariat, WCO accredited experts, respective SASEC Countries, and the Project Core Members (PCMs) and Project Support Members (PSMs) for their cooperation and hard work for the project.



This Multi-year Project was coordinated by the ADB, the WCO Secretariat and the ROCB A/P in response to strong requests from the SASEC Countries, aiming at improving trade facilitation while ensuring proper collection of national revenue with the establishment of effective

Customs Valuation Control through such as Post Clearance Audit (PCA). With guidance from the WCO Secretariat, the ROCB A/P has played a pivotal role in coordinating and implementing the project. Throughout the project, this included the ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the ADB, drawing up the project design and participating in all fourteen (14) workshops/missions as a lead facilitator and resource person with the WCO accredited experts. As the project's tangible outcomes, each SASEC Country has successfully developed its own final deliverable such as training materials and Standard Operational Procedures for Customs Valuation Control, etc.

In addition, the three (3) PCMs from each SASEC Country, who have taken a lead in implementing this project in each country and learned together with the WCO accredited experts and the ROCB A/P during the project, were able to have deep understanding of the international standards and establish a robust sub-



regional cooperation network among them. It is highly expected that the all PCMs, in concert with the developed materials, will continuously take a lead to enhance their capacity of proper Customs Valuation Control not only in their respective countries, but also in the SASEC sub-region.



# Workshops and Meeting

## WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridor for the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

6-8 April 2016, Shanghai, China

The World Customs Organization (WCO), in cooperation with the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), under the sponsorship of CCF China, successfully conducted the Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridor for the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) on 6-8 April 2016 at the Shanghai Customs College (SCC) in Shanghai, China, the workshop was attended by 19 participants from the WCO Member Customs administrations in the GMS. Resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, Turkey, Uganda and the Asian



Development Bank (ADB) also contributed to the Workshop. Mr. Cheng Jing, Program Manager of ROCB A/P, took part in the workshop as a resource person.

A pre-workshop survey was conducted by the WCO and the agenda items reflected the major concerns of the GMS members with regards to transit-related issues focusing on information sharing, furnishing of the guarantee and Coordinated

Border Management (CBM). A number of relevant WCO instruments and tools, such as Revised Kyoto Convention, Compendium of Single Window and CBM Compendium were introduced at the workshop. Good practices on the design of transit regimes from Turkey and Uganda were also shared for the reference of the participants.

To facilitate the exchange of practical views to improve regional transit regimes, the participants shared and discussed overviews of their respective national transit regimes, and in-depth information on the weaknesses of the existing transit regimes within the GMS were sought. On this basis, the participants had a better understanding on how to implement the WCO available resources to make further improvement.

As this Workshop is the first of its kind in the A/P region, the participant acclaimed the timeliness of this Workshop and were thankful for the concerted efforts made by the relevant parties. This led to the success of the workshop.

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## A/P shares the region's good practices with other WCO regions

7-8 April 2016 in Brussels, Belgium

The 11th Global Meeting of the Heads of the ROCBs and RTCs and Vice Chairs' Offices was convened on 7-8 April 2016 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, the meeting aimed at further empowering the regional structures to deliver their mission and fulfil their important roles. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi and Mr. Cho Kangsik of the ROCB A/P attended the 2-day event, along with the representatives from the RTC Malaysia, Japan and India. The Meeting discussed, among the other things, the WCO's policy on experts accreditation and mobilization policy, development of best practice guidance of ROCBs and RTCs, Regional Training Evaluation Package, and the way to foster core competence for sustainable capacity building environment.



At the Meeting, in addition to active participation in the discussion on series of important agenda items, the ROCB A/P representatives made commitments to share its initiatives and the region's good practices. Mr. Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, made a presentation on the findings from the A/P region's test run of the WCO's draft Regional Training Evaluation Package and the agreed way forward. He also introduced ROCB A/P's Good Practice Report on the Exemplifying Follow-Up Actions after the Regional Workshops in 2014/15, which was published in February 2016.

Mr. Miyoshi, Program Manager, made a presentation on the outline, characteristics, tangible outcomes, impacts and lessons learned of the WCO-ADB Multi-year Project, which commenced from July 2013 to end June 2016. Mr. Miyoshi highlighted the needs for the clear identification on the countries' needs and situation, strategic coordination and collaboration with stakeholders ensuring competent and adequate human resource and sound working environment for the



project implementation. Mr. Igarashi and Mr. Cho also attended the 7th Session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee held on 11-13 April 2016 at the WCO Headquarters with the theme of "Future of Customs – Capacity Building for Sustainability."

## ROCB A/P participates in the Pre-Arrival Processing System Conference

11 April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Ms. Alpha Wong, Program Manager for ROCB A/P, attended the Pre-Arrival Processing System Conference, held on 11 April 2016 at the TCD Headquarters in



Bangkok, Thailand. Approximately 50 TCD officials and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, JICA, shipping agents and terminal operators participated in the Conference.

The aim of the Conference was to introduce the pilot run Pre-Arrival Processing System at the Leam Chabang Port in Thailand, which commenced on 18 April 2016 for 60 days. It is the first trial of the mandatory submission of electronic manifest data 6 hours before the arrival of the vessel to Thailand's ports. At the opening session, Mr. Kulit Sombatsiri, Director General of the TCD, thanked for the support from the stakeholders and hoped the pilot run would be success for further expansion to other terminals.

The advancement of TCD to be a digital Customs is in line with the WCO's initiative in utilizing technology to expedite the release of cargo and enhance paperless trade.

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## WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on the HS 2017 Implementation

18-22 April 2016, Kashiwa, Japan



WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on the HS 2017 Implementation 18-22 April,2016,japan

The WCO in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the RTC Japan organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the HS 2017 Implementation at the RTC Japan (Japan Customs Training Institute), Kashiwa, on 18-22 April 2016 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 34 officers representing the WCO Members including ROCB A/P plus 3 WCO officers, Mr. Ed DE Jong, Senior Technical Officer, Mr. Kaoru OMOTO, Technical Officer and Mr. Toshihiko YAMATE, Technical Attaché as resource persons, and 1 ROCB officer, Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, CCF/Japan Operation Manager as a facilitator.

Resource persons gave thorough explanation on the details of the HS 2017 amendments and how the HS Convention is being managed by the WCO, especially in the context of the Revenue Package. In addition, they underlined the need for an update of the rules of origin in line with the HS 2017 amendments for origin determination. The participants made the most of this Workshop opportunity to clarify their uncertainties on the upcoming HS 2017 implementation and shared their national practices to ensure the timely implementation of the HS 2017.



## WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement

18-22 April 2016, Shanghai, China



WCO organized the Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE) on 18-22 April 2016. The workshop was held at the Shanghai Customs College (SCC), Shanghai, China, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the General Administration of China Customs (GACC) under the financial support of Customs Cooperation Fund of Japan (CCF/Japan). A total of 27 participants from the 25 Member Customs administrations participated in this Workshop.

Mr. Kangsik CHO attended this Regional Workshop as a resource person, along with other resource persons from the WCO Secretariat. This workshop was initiated to meet with the need of



training assistance in implementing the STCE of Customs administrations in the Asia/Pacific region. This workshop provided the participants with a good opportunity to deepen their knowledge and enhance their ability of the STCE audit. It also led to heighten their awareness of the STCE for the prevention/detection of cross-border trafficking of Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBRN) substances including Strategic Dual-use goods. Participants also discussed how to establish and strengthen the STCE program within each Customs Administration.



## WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Transit Corridor for South Asia

26-28 April 2016, Faridabad, India

After the first Transit workshop held in China in early April, the WCO, in cooperation with the Indian Central Board of Excise and Customs and the ROCB A/P, organized a Sub-Regional Workshop on Transit Corridor for South Asia on 26-28 April 2016 at the National



Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (one of the WCO A/P Regional Training Centers) in Faridabad, India. This Workshop was sponsored by the CCF/Japan and designed for Customs administrations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. 13 Customs officials from the above-said four Customs administrations and a representative from Japan Customs participated in the Workshop. Ms. Alpha Wong of the ROCB A/P with the experts from the WCO Secretariat, Swiss Customs, Malawi Customs and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) facilitate the Workshop as resource persons.

The Workshop was intended to provide a platform for participants to exchange their practical views for improving regional transit regimes in South Asia. The experts explained the relevant WCO tools and instruments, in particular the different approaches mentioned in the WCO Transit Handbook, on the design of an effective transit system. They provided examples on the New Computerized Transit System of Europe, One Stop Border Posts of Africa and the progress development

on the BBIN\* Motor Vehicle Agreement of South Asia. Participant actively shared their national practices and regional experience in cooperation with their neighboring countries. Under the guidance of the experts, participants conducted a discussion on their main challenges and successfully concluding with some possible ways for a better transit system in South Asia.

\*BBIN - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal



## WCO Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls

25-29 April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



On 25-29 April 2016, the WCO Organized the A/P Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls at the ICAO Asia and Pacific Office in Bangkok, Thailand, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P under the sponsorship of Japan Customs Cooperation Fund. Thirty seven persons, including the representatives from 27 Member Customs administrations and RILO A/P, took part. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P participated in the Workshop as co-facilitator.

The Workshop was following up the one held in May 2015 in Japan focusing on the use of advance passenger information, namely API and PNR data (Passenger

Name Record), from an operational perspective. Accordingly, the Workshop program included a good combination of Member's sharing administrations' experiences and challenges in applying advance passenger information and this workshop also held break-out practical exercises, which included intelligence



collection, risk assessment and targeting, investigation and reporting. There were also a break-out tabletop exercise on passengers' risk assessment.

ROCB A/P, RILO A/P and ICAO made presentations on the

capacity building opportunities in relation to passenger controls upon request from the interested Member Customs administrations. As part of the Workshop, the participants had a field visit to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport Passenger Control Customs Bureau and discussed their good practices being employed by the Thai Customs at one the world's busiest airports.



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

9 to 12 May 2016 in Phuentsholing, Bhutan

The ROCB A/P and the ADB with support from the WCO Secretariat conducted the Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for the Bhutan Customs under the WCO-ADB multi-year assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) from 9 to 12 May 2016 in Phuentsholing, Bhutan, successfully completed the 3-year Multi-year Project. Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, Program Manager for South Asia ROCB A/P, took part in this final mission as a lead resource and facilitator working with 25 Bhutan Customs colleagues, including 3 Project Core Members (PCMs) and 3 Project Supporting Members (PSMs), including an expert from the Maldives Customs Service.



This Multi-year Project was designed to support (\*)SASEC country' efforts in the proper management of Customs Valuation control, ideally through Post Clearance Audit (PCA), with a view to ensuring both trade facilitation and proper collection of national



revenue. Each participating country determined their anticipated deliverables under the project considering the country's situation and needs. Bhutan Customs decided to develop a standard operational procedure (SOP) on Custom Valuation control in line with the international standard and the new Customs Act, to achieve the above-mentioned goal.

On the 1st day of the 4-day Mission, the PCMs, the PSMs and the experts finalized the SOP, and on the 2nd and 3rd day they organized a training session on Customs Valuation control to their Customs colleagues by using the newly developed SOP and the WCO training materials. On the final day, they reviewed the Multi-year Project and discussed future collaboration. The SOP will be officially launched when the new Customs Act enters into force.

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

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## WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy

16-20 May 2016, Faridabad, India

The WCO, in cooperation with the Indian Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and the ROCB A/P, organized a Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy on 16-20 May 2016 at the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (one of



the WCO A/P Regional Training Centers) in Faridabad, India. This Workshop was sponsored by the CCF/Japan and was attended by 27 Customs officials from 25 Customs administrations in the A/P region. Ms. Alpha Wong of the ROCB A/P with two experts from the WCO Secretariat facilitated the Workshop as resource persons.

The Workshop was intended to provide a platform for participants to share practices and experience in combating counterfeiting and piracy. The experts discussed the Intellectual Property Right (IPR) theory, legislations, international agreements as well as WCO tools and instruments. Participant shared their national practices and challenges including, group discussions, and exercises with a view to enriching their knowledge on IPR issues and enhancing their capacity in IPR enforcement.

During the 5-day workshop, a Right Holders Day was arranged. Representatives of 17 brands made presentations on their product features, security characteristic, raid actions and views on counterfeiting activities. Participants had the opportunity to compare the genuine and fake products in hand and discussed with right holders on how to developing closer cooperation between Customs and private sector. BASCAP and GS1 were also invited to share their initiatives in promoting IPR protection and cooperation with the WCO.

The Workshop was well received by the participants. They not only praised the content of the workshop as comprehensive and practical to their operation, but also appreciated on the logistics arrangement provided by the CBEC and the ROCB A/P



## 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors General (DGs) of Customs

26 May 2016 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia



ROCB A/P provided a briefing on the WCO's latest initiatives. At the request of the WCO Secretariat and at the invitation by the ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P

participated in the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors General (DGs) of Customs, which was held on 26 May 2016 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the meeting was attended by some 50 participants, including DGs and representatives of the Customs administrations from 10 ASEAN Members States and the ASEAN Secretariat.

At the designated session for the WCO and ROCB A/P, Mr. Igarashi gave a briefed delegates on the progress of WCO's work on some of the prioritized areas, including security, trade facilitation, digital customs and capacity building. Chair of the Meeting (Dr. Kun Nhem, DG of Cambodia Customs) welcomed the briefing and appreciated ROCB A/P's continued collaboration with ASEAN Customs administrations in various domains, including capacity building activities.

## ROCB A/P provides a briefing to Thai Customs Managers

27 May 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the request of the Thai Customs Academy, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, gave a lecture on the activities of the WCO and the ROCB A/P on 27 May 2016 at the Thai Customs Department Headquarters. The lecture was part of a special national program for managers/directors, with more than 40 officials from various field offices taking part.

Referring to the introduction made by an Academy staff, Mr. Igarashi began his first part of the lecture by asking the participants how Customs could contribute to the economic growth of the country. He also asked them what the world-class Customs means from a managerial viewpoint.



Based on these theme-setting questions, he introduced the history and the mandates of the WCO. Also covered were the WCO missions and visions, including Custom in the 21st Century visions, as well as priority agendas and recent progress on supply chain security, trade facilitation and revenue, among other things. He underlined the significance of early implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, supplemented by series of WCO's instruments and guidelines, in the context of growing the country's economic competitiveness.

Given the mounting concerns over security, he highlighted the WCO's Security Package initiatives. In the second part of the lecture, he featured the A/P region's working mechanisms and cooperative framework, including the ROCB A/P's roles and responsibilities. He also covered the capacity building program planning and delivery processes to better serve and collaborate with the Members in the region for their continued Customs reform and modernization efforts. At the end of this interactive lecture, participants complimented Mr. Igarashi for his lecture and pledged that they will bear in mind the international standards and best practices, including those of the WCO, in their frontline operations with a view to achieving world-class Customs.

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## ROCB A/P Collaborates with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for capacity building of SASEC countries

26 May 2016, Maldives



At the invitation of the ADB, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, Program Manager for South Asia of the ROCB A/P, attended the ADB SASEC 5th Meeting of Customs Subgroup held on 26 May 2016 in Maldives. The Meeting was hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and attended by senior Customs executive officials from 6 SASEC countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka). The delegates discussed a series of important issues including capacity building activities.

Mr. Miyoshi made a presentation on WCO/ADB Multi-year Project on Customs Valuation for SASEC countries, including planned workshops under the Project in 2015/2016. He highlighted, among other things, the three (3) tangible outcomes of the Project: (i) Pool of national trainers in SASEC countries, (ii) Development of a final deliverable set of products by respective SASEC countries such as tailor-made training materials, SOP, etc. and (iii) Enhancement of sub regional cooperation for Customs Valuation Control, which enable the countries to conduct sustainable capacity building activities. The delegates, ADB and ROCB A/P reaffirmed the need for continued collaboration in pushing forward on-going Customs reform and modernization efforts in the SASEC countries.

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## ROCB A/P participates in the GFP Meeting

31 May – 1 June 2016

At the request of the WCO Secretariat, Ms. Alpha Wong of the ROCB A/P accompanied Ms. Ana Hinojosa, WCO Director of Compliance and Facilitation, and participated in the Meeting of the Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade (GFP), which was held on 1 June 2016 in Shanghai, China. Some 70 representatives of the private sector and international organizations took part in this event.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the participants to discuss the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) through public-private partnerships. The representatives of international organizations raised the awareness of the private sector on the importance and benefits of the WTO TFA. The private sector representatives shared their views on how WTO Member governments and international organizations could further reduce red tape to maximize the benefits not only to large corporations but also to small and medium enterprises. At the panel discussion, Ms. Hinojosa highlighted the critical role of Customs in global trade and the WCO's active encouragement in promoting Customs-Business cooperation with a view to enhancing transparency and streamlining the clearance procedures and thus facilitating legitimate trade.





In the margins of this Meeting, the GFP Steering Committee Members\* had a meeting on 31 May 2016 to share their work progress on trade facilitation-related activities. Ms. Hinojosa

noted the WCO's strong commitments in assisting WCO Member administrations in the implementation of the WTO TFA. She also underlined the contributions of the ROCB A/P in organizing capacity building activities which complement the Mercator Program in the A/P region.

\* The members include International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Trade Center (ITC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Bank Group (WB), and World Customs Organization (WCO).



## WCO National Training on Trade Facilitation Agreement for Thailand

31 May - 3 June 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P, organized the WCO National Training on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) for Thai Customs at the Thai Customs Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 31 May - 3 June 2016 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 42 participants from Thai Customs Headquarters and regional branch offices undertook the training, which was facilitated by Ms. Hermie George, Technical Attaché of WCO Secretariat; Ms. Maki Kitaura, Japan Customs; Mr. Franco Alvarez, Australian Border Force; and Mr.

Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operation Manager of ROCB A/P, as resource persons.

Resource persons gave an overview of the WTO TFA and pertinent WCO activities, including Mercator Program and development of guides and tools for the implementation of the TFA, including Implementation Guide and Analysis of Section 1 of TFA. Challenges associated with the implementation of TFA, in particular those classified into Category B by the Government of Thailand, were discussed. The resource persons explained each provision and introduced relevant international instruments and WCO tools to the participants. The participants made the most of this training opportunity to clarify their uncertainties on the TFA to ensure its proper implementation.



## ROCB A/P introduces WCO instruments and tools for Digital Customs

1 June 2016, Funafuti, Tuvalu

At the invitation of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 18th OCO Annual Conference held on 1 June 2016 in Funafuti, Tuvalu, as an observer. The Conference was convened under the theme of “Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement” synchronized with the WCO’s theme for 2016, and attended by 26 delegates from 17 OCO Member Customs administrations, 12 representatives from 11 OCO partner organizations, including WCO.



The Conference officiated by the key note address by Honorable Mr. Maatia Toafa, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of

Finance and Economic Development Planning of Tuvalu, in which he stressed the relevance of the Conference theme with the needs of the day to better contend with trade facilitation and supply chain security as well as assuring revenue collection. He underlined the needs for improving Customs effectiveness and efficiency with streamlining Customs procedures and pushing forward business re-engineering, while paying due attention to the diverse realities in Customs working

environment, especially in small islands countries, and their predominant priorities on revenue collection.



Under the chairmanship of Tuvalu, the delegates discussed OCO's governance and management issues, including budget and annual work plan, which was followed by an informal technical workshop session. Under the workshop session, in the wake of an introductory presentation made by OCO Secretariat, Mr. Igarashi made a presentation on "Digital Customs and Single Window Implementation," in which he highlighted the implications of the digitization in Customs operation along with the relevance with other building blocks of the WCO's 21st Century Customs Vision. Referring to the "SW environment" under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), he further touched upon the pertinent provision of the WTO TFA on Single Window, and introduced a set of the WCO instruments and guidelines for SW, as well as the WCO's Mercator Programs' 2-pronged approach to support its Members to implement the WTO TFA.

The OCO Secretariat and Members thanked the WCO and the ROCB A/P for their continued cooperation with the OCO and WCO Members in the Pacific Sub-region.

## The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for India Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC countries

6-9 June 2016 in Faridabad, India

The ROCB A/P and the ADB with support from the WCO Secretariat conducted the Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for the India Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) from 6 - 9 June 2016 in Faridabad, India, and successfully completed the 3-year Multi-year Project. Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, Program Manager for South Asia of the ROCB A/P, took part in this Final Mission as a lead resource and facilitator and worked with 32 India Customs colleagues, including 4 Project Core Members (PCMs), and an expert from Sri Lanka.

This Multi-year Project was designed to support SASEC Counties' efforts in the proper management of Customs Valuation control, ideally through Post Clearance Audit (PCA), with a view to ensuring both trade facilitation and proper collection of national revenue. Each participating country has determined its anticipated deliverable under the project considering the country's situation and needs. India Customs decided to develop a model standardized training module (course) and training materials to accomplish the above-mentioned purpose.



On the day 1st to 3rd of the 4-day Mission, the PCMs and the experts organized a training session on Customs Valuation control to their Customs colleagues by using the newly developed training materials, and on the final day, they reviewed the Multi-year

Project and discussed future collaboration.

With this mission to India, the entire Multi-year Project for SASEC Countries has been completed. All planned activities under the Multi-year Project were duly carried out and all expected objectives were accomplished.

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

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## WCO A/P Regional Workshop on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

10 June 2016, Kashiwa, Japan

The WCO, in cooperation with the WTO, ROCB A/P and Japan Customs, organized WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on 6-10 June 2016 at the Regional Training



Center in Japan (Japan Customs Training Institute) in Kashiwa, Japan. A total of 29 delegates from 23 WCO Member administrations in the A/P region and 6 resource persons, including 2 WCO Secretariat officials, namely Mrs. Milena Budimirovic and Mr. Theo Hesselink, as well as a WTO Secretariat resource person, Mr. Alejandro Gamboa-Alder, participated in this important regional capacity event. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in this important Workshop as a facilitator and one of the resource persons. This Workshop was the first of its second round of the “over-all track” initiative under the on-going Mercator Program, following the one held in March 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia.



The Workshop was opened with the remarks by Mr. Hiroshi Kishimoto, Deputy Director General of Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, in which he stressed the significant economic implications accrued from the early and full implementation of the WTO

TFA. As of 6 June 2016, when the Workshops started, 81 WTO Members have accepted the TFA and thus it is anticipated that this instrument may enter into force by the end of 2016. Therefore, the Workshop was a very timely event.

The program of the Workshop featured experience sharing among the Member administrations on the least implemented provisions of the TFA, such as Authorized Operators, separation of the release of goods from determination of duties and taxes, risk management and post clearance audit, transit, advance

rulings, establishment and publication of Time Release Studies, among other things.



WCO Regional Workshop on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement(TFA) 6-10 June 2016,Japan

Following presentations on the interpretation of the respective provisions, a series of the WCO instruments and tools were introduced in detail with a view to deepening the Members' understanding on these facilitation measures. Participants contributed by sharing their national practices and experiences in their implementation, followed by an interactive question and answer session. In the context of the cooperation among relevant border agencies and private sector, representatives from the International Organization of Animal Health (OIE) and

Japan's export industries association joined the Workshop at the invitation of the WCO and contributed to the Workshop during the panel discussions.

Participants recognized the value of this Regional Workshop and reaffirmed their continued commitment in implementing the WTO TFA at national and regional levels through close contact and experience sharing among them. The WCO and ROCB A/P are going to remain committed to provide various opportunities and platform to this end.

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## ROCB A/P supports Thai Customs' human resource development initiative

14 June 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the request of Mr. Vichak Apirugnuchai, Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and Ms. Alpha Wong, joined the selection process for so-called "STAR Project"



which is led by Mr. Vichak to identify Thai Customs officers with potential and to broaden their future carrier paths. 40 selected candidates were interviewed and evaluated for their English communication skills and positive working attitudes. ROCB A/P is pleased to have such an opportunity to contribute to this part of the Program and welcomes the DDG's human resource development initiative, which

is in line with the WCO's professional career development concept. ROCB A/P wishes all the best for the future STARs.

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## WCO Asia/Pacific (A/P) Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment and Selectivity with Advance Cargo Information

20-23 June 2016, Kashiwa, Japan



The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Japan Customs, organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment and Selectivity with Advance Cargo Information on 20-23 June 2016 at the Regional Training Center in Japan (Japan Customs Training Institute) in Kashiwa, Japan. A total of 29 delegates from 25 WCO Member administrations in the A/P region and 5 resource persons, including WCO Secretariat official, a WCO accredited Customs expert from

Australia, and a pre-accredited Customs expert from Mongolian Customs, participated in this important regional capacity building program. Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON and Ms. Jate-arpa BENJAPHONG, Program Coordinators of the ROCB A/P, participated in this Workshop as facilitators.

The participants deepened their knowledge about risk management with the Advance Cargo Information (ACI) in this 4-day Workshop, including the benefits of assuring supply chain security while expediting the movement of goods at the same time. Participants had active



and positive participation in the sessions, exercises and group work. Participants also benefited from a site visit at the FedEx clearance facility in Tokyo.

Participants recognized the value of this Regional Workshop and reaffirmed their continued commitment in better utilization of the ACI, including the so-called “7+1 information”, at national and regional levels through close contact and experience sharing among them. The WCO and ROCB A/P remain committed to providing various opportunities and platforms to this end.

## WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on the Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP)

20-24 June 2016, Faridabad, India



The WCO in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the RTC India (National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotic, NACEN) organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP) at the RTC India, Faridabad, on 20-24 June 2016 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 26 officers representing the WCO Members and Ms. Michelle MEDINA, WCO Technical Officer, Mr. Loic GUNN, WCO Technical Attaché, Mr. Jung Sub YUM, RILO A/P CEN Manager and Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, ROCB A/P CCF/Japan Operation Manager, as resource persons, participated in the Workshop.

Resource persons introduced various tools in the WCO CEP as well as some key techniques regarding intelligence and investigation activities in the Customs



themselves for further collaboration.

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context. In addition, the participants shared their successful seizure cases and good practices on intelligence activities. The participants deepened their understanding of the WCO CEP and established a good network among



# Staff Updates

## Farewell message from Mr. Cheng Jing

Time flies. I have spent 4 year working with the ROCB A/P in Thailand. I have traveled to many places and made a lot of friends. I think that living and working in this smiling land is the most wonderful part of my life. All the happy moments will remain in my heart. I would like to thank all the people who have kindly helped me. Without your generous assistance, I could not successfully complete my work here. I understand that words like “thank you” and “appreciation” are not enough. So if you come to Shanghai, please let me know and allow me to show my hospitality. Please feel free to contact me if you or your friends have any plan to visit China.



Finally, I hope that all colleagues and friends could render assistance to Mr. Tong Hua, my successor for the post in the ROCB A/P.

I wish you all good health and good luck. See you somewhere and sometime on earth.

Welcome  
Ms. Vareemon  
Chairungsilert



Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Vareemon Chairungsilert which you can call me “Op.” I’m a graduate from Thammasat University in International Relations. It’s my pleasure to start my first career path in Thai Customs and to be working with ROCB A/P as Program Coordinator. I will do my best and use my skills to support the organization. I look forward to working with the team, improving my knowledge and gaining a wonderful experience here at ROCB A/P.

# Future Activities

## WCO A/P Regional CB Programs / Meetings Schedule

### July 2016 - Onwards (Indicative)

(NB) Official invitation will be circulated in due course

Event	Dates	Venue
◆ WCO Council Sessions	14-16 Jul. 2016	Brussels, Belgium
◆ WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Integrity for the Pacific	27-29 Jul. 2016	Suva, Fiji
◆ WCO National Workshop on IPR for Myanmar	1-5 Aug. 2016	Yangon, Myanmar
◆ WCO National Workshop on Customs Laboratory	29 Aug.–2 Sep. 2016	Suva, Fiji
◆ WCO National Workshop on Passenger Controls for Mongolia	5-9 Sep. 2016	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on NII Image analysis	12-16 Sep. 2016 (tbc)	Melbourne, Australia
◆ WCO National Workshop on Transit and Inland Container Depots	20-22 Sep. 2016	tbd, Lao PDR

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

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Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI

Mr. CHO Kangsik

Mr. TONG Hua

Ms. Alpha WONG

Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON

Ms. Jate-Arpa BENJAPHONG

Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRILERT

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