



Annual Report 2015/2016



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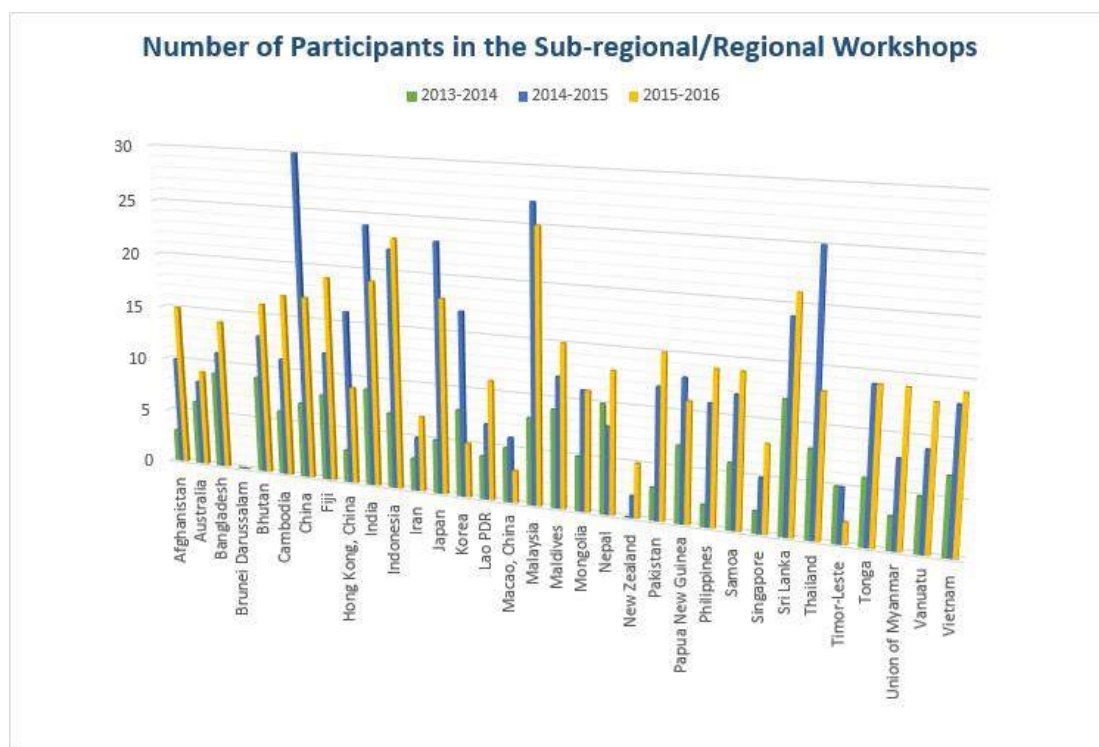
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Part 1: Executive Summary by Head of the ROCB A/P

The fiscal year of 2015/16 for the Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) was the busiest year since its inception in 2004 in terms of the number of regional workshops organized.

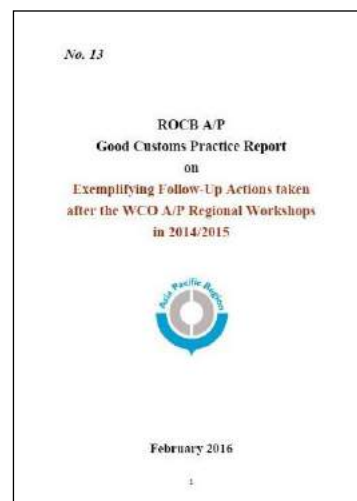
More workshops with high participation

During the fiscal year 2015/16, from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, the ROCB A/P has organized a total of 5 sub-regional workshops, 16 regional workshops and 15 national workshops. Nearly 400 officials from 33 Member Customs administrations in the A/P region took part in these capacity building activities organized by the ROCB A/P, which has recorded a steady increase in the number of officials trained from the previous year. It may be fair to say that their active participation demonstrated the enthusiasm of Customs administrations for further enhancing their efficiency and effectiveness in trade facilitation and Customs enforcement to cope with the slowdown of international trade growth and security threats. The ROCB A/P responded to Member administrations' requests properly and provided well designed programs by re-doubling the efforts in delivering more capacity building activities with more specific objectives. The WCO provides leadership and guidance while the ROCB A/P is the executive hand to implement the WCO strategic plan for a stronger Customs community in facilitating legitimate trade and strengthening supply chain security in the A/P region.



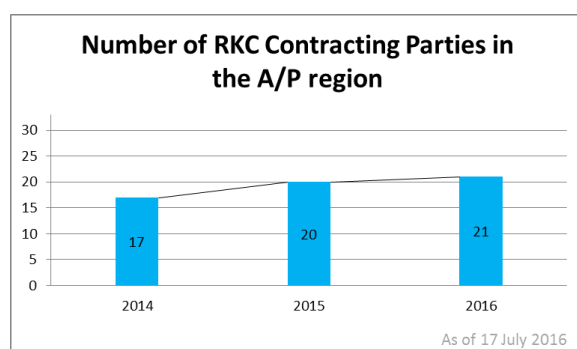
Follow-up action survey for sustainable development

Successful capacity building should be based on a sustainable and long-term strategy as well as good monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. After a workshop is delivered, it does not mean the capacity building need is satisfied and Customs administrations will be transformed in one day. Therefore, in this fiscal year, the ROCB A/P initiated a follow-up action survey on the regional workshops organized in the previous fiscal year, - i.e. 2014/15. A questionnaire was sent to the workshop/seminar participants six months after the program was organized. 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 respective regional workshop/seminar with a view to considering and designing possible subsequent tailor-made technical cooperation programs to the Members in need wherever possible to further enhance these continuous efforts. Moreover, the follow-up actions taken by Members provided a good reference for the other members to learn and encourage passing workshop knowledge within their administrations. Modernization projects were initiated based on the lesson-learned from the workshops. The study results were compiled and published as a new issue of the ROCB A/P's Good Practice in February 2016. The ROCB has adopted this as a new practice for conducting follow-up surveys for every regional workshop. Some innovative and commendable follow-up actions collected from the survey will be shared through ROCB A/P homepage and E-newsletter with a view to further encouraging other workshop/seminar participants to follow similar approaches.



ROCB A/P's contributions to Customs modernization and cooperation

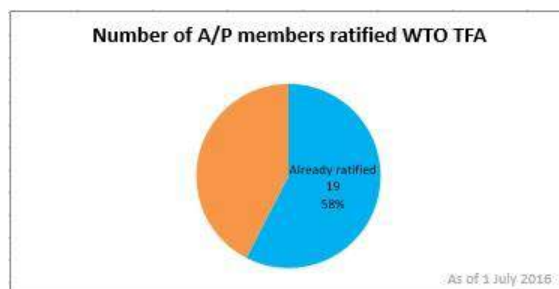
With year-long efforts in capacity building delivery for our A/P Members, the ROCB A/P is glad to know more Customs reform programs have been successfully implemented. For example, at the 127th/128th Council Sessions, Lao PDR deposited its instrument of accession of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC). After the conclusion of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the WCO Mercator Program was launched in June 2014 with an aim to assist Member administrations in implementing the TFA in a harmonized way by applying the relevant WCO



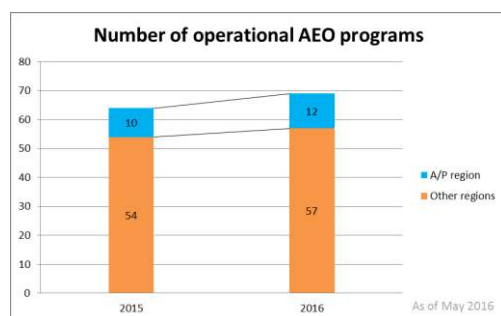
Source: WCO

tools and instruments. Following the first A/P regional workshop on the TFA in March 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the ROCB A/P commenced the program by organizing another regional workshop in Japan and a national workshop for Thailand in 2016. Possible remedies for a series of challenges in implementing TFA were also included in the agendas for these trade facilitation-related

workshops, e.g. Regional Workshop on Coordinated Border Management in December 2015. As of 1 July 2016, 19 A/P Members¹ have already ratified the TFA. The ROCB A/P has determined to keep the momentum in promoting trade facilitation and supporting A/P Members further towards ratification of the TFA and its implementation.



Source: WTO



Source: WCO

According to the WCO AEO Compendium 2016, Australia and Vietnam have launched their AEO programs in this fiscal year. The number of operational AEO programs in the A/P region has increased to 12. Bangladesh and the Philippines are working on their implementation of AEO program. Moreover, Hong Kong China and Malaysia signed AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangement in March 2016. The ROCB A/P is well aware of the capacity building needs of the A/P Members on development and advancement of the AEO program and will continue its efforts for the sustainable development of the programs in the A/P region.



Photo courtesy: WCO A/P Vice Chair Secretariat

To strike appropriate balance between trade facilitation and enforcement, the ROCB A/P contributes to border security capacity building as well. The A/P region has long been recognized both as the source and the destination of counterfeited products as stated by a Director General in the course of the regional consultation meeting held in the margin of the WCO Council in June 2015. Against this background, Regional Vice Chair initiated the A/P region's own joint enforcement action against counterfeiting, namely "Action IPR A/P", in November 2015 in cooperation with the WCO Secretariat. In supporting the Members to apply the WCO tools and review the results of the joint action, the ROCB A/P organized pre- and post-operational workshops. This combined approach was warmly welcomed by the A/P Members and recognized as good practice for future operations. Facing the security threat from terrorism and transnational smuggling, the ROCB A/P organized regional workshops on Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement; Compliance and Enforcement Packages; and Risk

¹ The 19 members are Hong Kong China, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Korea, China, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Thailand, Pakistan, Union of Myanmar, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Macao China, Samoa, India and Sri Lanka.

Management. With the support from the WCO Secretariat, donors, Regional Vice Chair and Member Customs administrations, the ROCB A/P will continue to strive for the betterment of A/P Member administrations through sharing experiences and good practices under the increasingly complex and rapidly changing environment.



Photo source: WCO Action IPR A/P Report



In line with the WCO Capacity Building Strategy and the A/P Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2014-2016, the ROCB A/P developed its own Strategic Action Plan 2014-2016 and Annual Work Plan respectively. The Annual Work Plan 2015/16 listed out the specific actions with timeframes and is based on the 4 pillars of the ROCB A/P activities:

Pillar I: Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools

To realize the ultimate goal of adoption of international standards and harmonization of Customs procedures, the WCO has developed a number of conventions, instruments and tools which provide guidance for Member Customs administrations for their reform and modernization as well as strength multilateral cooperation. In 2015/16, the ROCB A/P played a pivotal role in the A/P region to organize a wide range of capacity building activities as outlined below with generous financial support of major donor administrations, namely China, Japan and Korea:

- i. **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)**
 - ❖ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on AEO in India
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on AEO for Indonesia
- ii. **Compliance Enforcement Package (CEP)**
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on CEP in India
- iii. **Coordinated Border Management (CBM)**
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on CBM in Japan
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on CBM for Mongolia
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on CBM for Thailand
- iv. **Customs Valuation**
 - ❖ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Customs Valuation in Iran
- v. **Harmonized System (HS)**
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on HS 2017 in Japan

- vi. Information Technology**
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in Information Technology in Malaysia
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on Data Model for Indonesia
- vii. Intellectual Property Right (IPR)**
 - ❖ WCO Regional IPR Train-the-Trainers Workshop for the Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy (Action IPR A/P) in Malaysia
 - ❖ WCO Follow-up Regional Workshop for Action IPR A/P in Thailand
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on IPR in India
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on IPR for Bangladesh
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on IPR for India
- viii. Post Clearance Audit (PCA)**
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on Accreditation of PCA Experts in Korea
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on PCA for Cambodia
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on PCA for Samoa
- ix. Refresher Course**
 - ❖ WCO Accreditation Refresher Course in China
- x. Revenue Package and Advance Ruling**
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling in Malaysia
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on Advance Ruling for Bangladesh
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on Advance Ruling on Rules of Origin for Malaysia
- xi. Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)**
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on RKC for Samoa
- xii. Risk Management**
 - ❖ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Search and Interrogation in Fiji
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on Air Passenger Targeting and Control in Thailand
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on COPES² in Hong Kong
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on Risk Management and Selectivity with Advance Cargo Information in Japan
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on Risk Management for Vanuatu
 - ❖ WCO National Workshop on Risk Management for Vietnam
- xiii. Single Window**
 - ❖ WCO-ADB National Workshop on Single Window for Bhutan
- xiv. Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement**
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement in China
- xv. Time Release Study (TRS)**
 - ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on Accreditation of TRS Experts in India

² COPES - Compendium of Customs Operational Practices for Enforcement and Seizures

xvi. Trade Facilitation

- ❖ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for the Greater Mekong Sub-region in China
- ❖ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for South Asia in India
- ❖ WCO Regional Workshop on TFA in Japan
- ❖ WCO National Workshop on TFA for Thailand

Pillar II: Further enhance collaboration with development partners

The ROCB A/P works closely with development partners and seeks cooperation to create synergy in carrying out projects with common interests. The 3-year WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance Project was successfully completed in this fiscal year, which provides support to SASEC Countries' in developing proper management of Customs Valuation control, ideally through PCA. The ROCB A/P took the lead in this project and designated Accredited Customs Experts (ACEs) to deliver lectures. Moreover, at the invitation of other international organizations like ADB, ICAO, JICA, OCO, UNESCAP, UNODC, etc, the ROCB A/P staff participated in their seminars and meetings as speakers to promote the application of WCO tools and raised the awareness of cooperation with Customs with a view to enhancing information exchange and partnership.



Photo courtesy: ADB

Pillar III: Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

Apart from the follow-up survey, in 2015/16, the ROCB A/P has revised the Workshop Evaluation Form in order to complement the WCO's Regional Training Evaluation Package. The ROCB A/P staff analyse the comments collected from workshop participants for better planning of the future capacity building programs. To improve the expertise in the A/P region, the ROCB A/P is keen to pool and utilize ACEs. In 2015/16, the ROCB A/P organized Accreditation



Workshops for PCA and TRS Experts respectively. The ROCB A/P staff also participated in the TFA Accreditation Workshop in Japan. Taking into account those global accreditation workshops organized by the WCO, more experienced officials in the A/P region are accredited. The ROCB A/P takes a great responsibility in assisting to mobilize the ACEs in participating in regional activities to share their professional knowledge and practical experiences with workshop participants. Taking this opportunity, the ROCB A/P would like to express its sincere appreciation to these experts and their home administrations for their valuable contributions to regional capacity building activities.



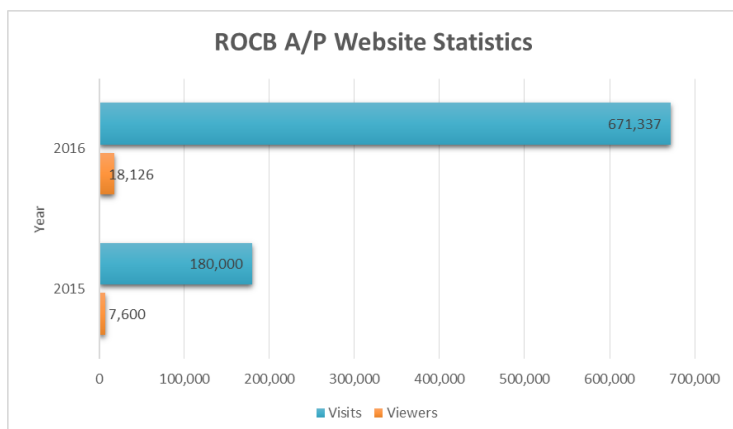
List of contributions made by the ACEs in the A/P region in the fiscal year 2015/16

Event	Date	Location	ACEs from
WCO National Workshop on IPR	August 2015	Bangladesh	China
The First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Nepal Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	August 2015	Nepal	ROCB A/P
WCO National Workshop on Risk Management	August 2015	Vanuatu	Australia Japan
WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Customs Valuation	September 2015	Iran	ROCB A/P
WCO Regional IPR Train-the-Trainers Workshop for the Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy (Action IPR A/P)	September 2015	Malaysia	Japan
The First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for India Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	September 2015	India	ROCB A/P
The First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Sri Lanka Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	October 2015	Sri Lanka	ROCB A/P

WCO-ADB National Workshop on Single Window	November 2015	Bhutan	Bhutan Japan
WCO National Workshop on PCA	November 2015	Samoa	ROCB A/P
WCO National Workshop on RKC	December 2015	Samoa	Japan
The First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Bangladesh Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	December 2015	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka ROCB A/P
WCO Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling	January 2016	Malaysia	Indonesia Japan
The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Maldives Customs Service under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	January 2016	Maldives	ROCB A/P
The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Sri Lanka Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	February 2016	Sri Lanka	Maldives ROCB A/P
WCO National Workshop on IPR	February 2016	India	Bhutan Japan
WCO National Workshop on CBM	February 2016	Thailand	Indonesia
The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Nepal Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	March 2016	Nepal	Maldives ROCB A/P
WCO Follow-up Regional Workshop for Action IPR A/P	March 2016	Thailand	Japan
The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Bangladesh Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	March 2016	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka ROCB A/P
The Final National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Bhutan Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries	May 2016	Bhutan	Maldives ROCB A/P
WCO National Workshop on TFA	May 2016	Thailand	Australia Japan ROCB A/P
WCO Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment and Selectivity with Advance Cargo Information	June 2016	Japan	Australia Mongolia
WCO Regional Workshop on TFA	June 2016	Japan	ROCB A/P
WCO Regional Workshop on CEP	June 2016	India	Sri Lanka ROCB A/B

Pillar IV: Enhance communication and information sharing among members

The ROCB A/P publishes an e-newsletter on a quarterly basis and sheds light on the latest



capacity building activities organized in the A/P region. In this year, it has accumulated to 53 issues. The ROCB A/P homepage (www.rocb-ap.org) was launched in September 2014 and its access counter registered over 670,000 visits as at the end of June 2016. The ROCB A/P maintains the website updated with pertinent information to share and connect

A/P Members as well as other stakeholders. With the support from Regional Training Centers (RTCs), the latest Good Practice Compendium on Customs Training and Report on the Special Training Facilities of RTC were issued in April 2016.

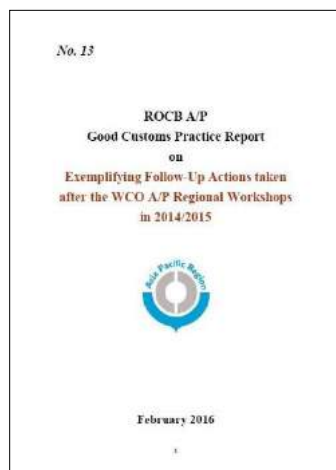
ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan 2016-2018 and Annual Work Plan 2016/17

The ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan for 2016-2018 incorporates the relevant capacity building-related actions outlined in the A/P RSP 2016-2018. Some new initiatives are included for the coming two years, e.g. assisting members in implementing WTO TFA and HS 2017, and enhancing border security in against terrorism. The ROCB A/P has further devised the Annual Work Plan 2016/17 for realizing the goals of the Strategic Action Plan, in particular with a focus on organizing more national workshops. The ROCB A/P will remain supportive and responsive to the A/P Members needs in their long term reform and modernization. The ROCB A/P is committed to do its utmost effort in capacity building delivery in line with the WCO strategy; elevating the quality of the workshops and connecting A/P Member administrations to promote the sharing of their good practices with a view for achieving the strategic goals.

Kazunari Igarashi
Head of the ROCB A/P

Part 2: Highlights of the Past Year

Continuous Improvement of Capacity Building Program



In 2015/16, the ROCB A/P initiated “Surveys on the Follow-up Actions taken after the Participation in the WCO Regional Workshop” organized in the previous fiscal year 2014/15.

Detailed study results were compiled as a new issue of the ROCB A/P’s Good Practice Report. Given a set of good lessons-learned worth sharing among the regional Member administrations, the ROCB A/P is going to continue this initiative to optimize the value and effectiveness of the regional capacity building assistance programs.

Capacity Building x Regional Operation = Significant Seizure + Effective Deterrent

The first ever IPR operation in the A/P region, namely “Action IPR A/P”, was conducted in November 2015. More than 370 thousand items and 470 metric tons of counterfeit items were intercepted by 26 participating Member administrations. To complement this regional operation, the ROCB A/P organized a pre-operation workshop in September 2015 and a post-operation workshop in March 2016 respectively. Participating members highly praised the combination of capacity building and operation to enhance their knowledge on the WCO tools and to apply this in detection of counterfeit items. The WCO is well aware of the positive response and will coordinate with the ROCB A/P to adopt this approach in planning global and regional operations.



Completion of a 3-year Joint Project with ADB

In 2014, the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance Project was formed with a view to supporting SASEC Countries' efforts in the proper management of Customs Valuation control, ideally through PCA, and with the ultimate goal of enhancing trade facilitation and proper collection of national revenue. All planned activities under the Project were duly carried out in the past 3 years, and all expected objectives were accomplished in June 2016.

Bangladesh



Bhutan



India



Maldives



Nepal



Sri Lanka



First CBM Regional Workshop in the A/P region



Coordinated Border Management (CBM) was the theme of the WCO in 2015. Echoing the theme, the first CBM regional workshop was organized by the ROCB A/P on 15-17 December 2015 in cooperation with the WCO and Japan Customs. Following this successful workshop, national workshops for Mongolia and Thailand were arranged to provide further strategic planning and diagnostic analysis in assisting the two Customs administrations in the implementation of CBM. The next national workshops are scheduled to be arranged for Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Sharing More Good Practices of RTCs



Good Practice Compendium on Customs Training

Regional Training Centre Hong Kong



With the support of RTCs, the latest Good Practice Compendium on Customs Training and the Report on the Special Training Facilities of RTC were issued in April 2016.

Report on the Special Training Facilities of RTC Hong Kong, China The Professional Development Training Block (PDTB)

The Professional Development Training Block of RTC Hong Kong, China is a 2-storey block with a total area of 100 m² which includes simulated training facilities, simulated clearing desks, mock court, mock residential unit and ware processing facilities. The date of operation began in March 2015.



The PDTB aims to imitate Customs work environment and provide trainees with simulated training. Customs trainees can learn passenger clearance process, cargo clearance process, risk management techniques, filing, court procedures, raiding techniques and criminal case processing via various kinds of simulated training facilities mentioned below.

1. Simulated training facilities for passenger clearance, cargo examination and ship search technique.
 - a. Passenger Clearance Hall
 - b. Vehicle Search and Cargo Examination Area
 - c. Mock Bridge

The simulated clearance training facilities are constructed to provide practical and simulated exercises in connection with the induction training of new recruits and vocational training of serving members for enhancing their professional competency.

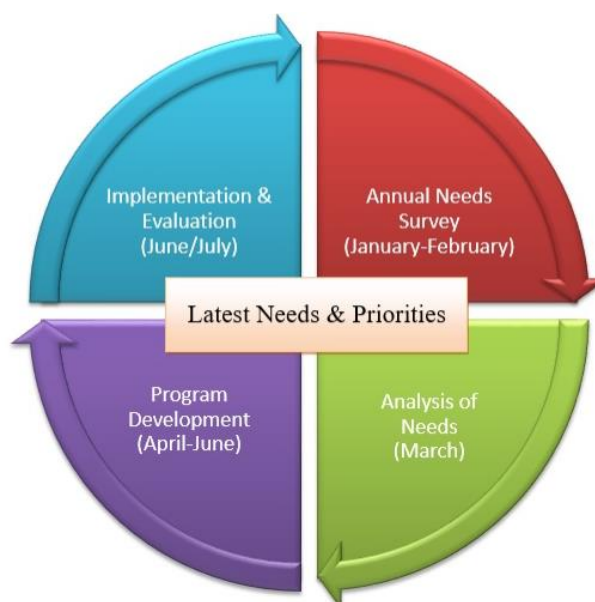
With the simulated facilities, the training activities on frontline operations for both new recruits and serving members will be more realistic and cost-effective without disturbing normal frontline operations. Below the

Part 3: Summary of the ROCB A/P Activities

Introduction

This annual report covers the ROCB A/P activities from July 2015 to June 2016. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the ROCB A/P develops its Strategic Action Plan for a 2-year term and Annual Work Plan respectively.

The Strategic Action Plan is closely linked with the A/P Regional Strategic Plan. For the purpose of devising the ROCB A/P's Annual Work Plan, the ROCB A/P conducts an annual Technical Assistance Needs Survey in cooperation with the Regional Training Coordinator (i.e. Japan) each year. Its aim is to collect and analyze Member Customs administrations' capacity building needs and priorities for further enhancing Customs efficiency, coping with new threats and emerging issues. The Annual Work Plan finalized out in close consultation with the Regional Vice Chair with the intension to assure effective use of limited resources to make the region's capacity building more focused and relevant to the needs of the regional Member Customs administrations. After consultations with donor administrations for the funding of the proposed capacity building programs, The ROCB A/P's Annual Work Plan is approved by the WCO Capacity Building Directorate accordingly.



According to the Annual Work Plan 2015/16, the ROCB A/P has successfully organized a wide range of capacity building activities under the 4-pillar strategic framework with the continued support from the WCO, Regional Vice Chair, RTCs and A/P Member Customs administrations.

3.1 Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools

3.1.1 To assist regional members in implementing HS

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the HS 2017 Implementation 18-22 April 2016, Kashiwa, Japan



The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Japan Customs, organized the Regional Workshop on the HS 2017 Implementation at the Japan Customs Training Institute (RTC Japan) in Kashiwa, Japan, on 18-22 April 2016 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of thirty-four officers representing the Member administrations, including one ROCB A/P staff member and three WCO officers, attended the Workshop. Resource persons provided 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.

3.1.2 To assist regional members in applying advance ruling system

WCO Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling 25-29 January 2016, Melaka, Malaysia

The WCO conducted the Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling on 25-29 January 2016 at the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL) (RTC Malaysia) in Melaka, Malaysia, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Royal Malaysian Customs Department and under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of twenty-seven representatives from twenty-three Member administrations participated in the Workshop. In addition, five resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, the ROCB A/P, Indonesia and Japan took part in the Workshop as well. Overall objectives of this Regional Workshop include, raising awareness of the WCO Revenue Package, especially recently developed tools with specific focus on advance rulings. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, facilitated the Workshop and made a presentation on the ROCB A/P's undertakings and regional capacity building arrangement mechanism, in which he stressed



the need for institutionalizing lessons learned through appropriate and effective follow-up actions.

3.1.3 To assist regional members in undertaking TRS in accordance with the WCO TRS guidelines

ADB Regional Conference on Time Release Study 6-8 October 2015, Tokyo, Japan

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, took part in the Regional Conference on TRS held on 6-8 October 2015 in Tokyo, Japan. The Conference was co-organized by the ADB, JICA and the WCO, and twenty-nine participants, including delegates from seven ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) and resource persons from the ADB, JICA and Japan Customs, gathered and discussed their experiences and challenges in monitoring and measuring the effects of their trade facilitation policies and administrative actions thereof. Mr. Igarashi joined a panel discussion on moving forward beyond TRS to further facilitate trade. He also made a presentation on capacity building activities for trade facilitation in the A/P region, in which he stressed the need for layered and combined implementation of a series of measures articulated in the WTO TFA. On the last day of the Conference, participants visited Honmoku Branch Office of Yokohama Customs house and received a comprehensive explanations on the cargo risk profiling process and selectivity.

Exit Conference on the 2014 Time Release Study 13 October 2015, Putrajaya, Malaysia

At the request of the WCO Secretariat, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the ROCB A/P represented the WCO to the Exit Conference on the 2014 TRS, which was organized by the Royal Malaysian Customs Department in cooperation with the ADB on 13 October 2015 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. Approximately one hundred eighty persons, including representatives from the other government authorities and the private sector attended the Conference. The Conference briefed the attendees on the findings of the 2014 TRS and had a series of constructive and interactive discussions on current and future TRS among the participants. Mr. Miyoshi made a presentation on the recent development and challenge of TRS in the context of trade facilitation and stressed the importance of the collaboration among relevant stakeholders for successful TRS, which would further contribute to promote trade facilitation through identifying bottlenecks in the import procedures to be remedied.



Exit Conference on Time Release Study for Thailand

29 October 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the ADB and the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkason of the ROCB A/P attended the Exit Conference on the TRS for Thailand held on 29 October 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, as an observer. Approximately seventy persons, including representatives from the other Thai government authorities and the private sectors, attended the Conference. The TCD reported to the Conference on the methodologies for the TRS conducted in 2014, as well as major findings and recommendations. Participants also discussed future TRS and the TCD's recent implementation of international standards, such as WCO RKC and WTO TFA, which will further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the trade facilitation initiatives undertaken by the TCD.

2016 Exit Conference on Time Release Study for Thailand

18 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Mr. Jing Cheng, Mr. Kangsik Cho, Ms. Alpha Wong and Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkason of the ROCB A/P attended the 2016 Exit Conference on TRS for Thailand, which was held on 18 February 2016 at the TCD Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. Around seventy representatives from the TCD and relevant



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 and the latest TRS was conducted from the end of

November 2015 to early February 2016 at the Laem Chabang sea port, which records the highest import volume for Thailand and is equipped with fully automated Customs processing system.

3.1.4 To assist regional members in implementing WCO Data Model

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in Information Technology

21-22 March 2016, Melaka, Malaysia

On 21-22 March 2016, the Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in Information Technology was organized at the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL) (RTC Malaysia) in Melaka, Malaysia, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of twenty-four officials representing the Member administrations, including the host administration, participated in the Workshop. Resource persons from the WCO Secretariat and Singapore Customs, as well as Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the Workshop as facilitators.

The Workshop program was designed to include a good combination of overview presentations on policy/technical guidance including group discussions. It also 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 organization of the Regional Workshop and discussed pertinent topics in a very lively and interactive manner.



18th Oceania Customs Organisation Annual Conference

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 as an observer held on 1 June 2016 in Funafuti, Tuvalu. The Conference was convened under the theme of "Digital Customs: Progressive Engagement" synchronized with the WCO's theme for 2016. The Conference was attended by twenty-six delegates from seventeen OCO Member administrations and twelve representatives from eleven OCO partner organizations, including the WCO. In the technical workshop session, 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 other building blocks of the WCO's 21st Century Customs Vision. Referring to the "SW environment" under the WTO TFA, he explained the pertinent provision of the WTO TFA on Single Window. He also introduced a set of the WCO instruments and guidelines for SW, as well as the WCO's Mercator Programs' two-pronged approach to support its Members to implement the WTO TFA.



Photo courtesy: OCO

3.1.5 To assist regional members in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment

Ad-hoc Study Meeting with Thai Suvarnabhumi Airport Customs 27 July 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

At the request of the Thai Customs Department (TCD) Suvarnabhumi Airport Passenger Control Customs Bureau, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, had an ad-hoc study meeting with Mr. Chaiyut Kumkun, then-Director of Suvarnabhumi Airport Passenger Control Customs Bureau, and his staff on practices in duty and tax calculation on 27 July 2015 at the ROCB A/P office. Mr. Igarashi, as former Deputy Director for Passenger Processing at Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau, gave a thorough explanation on duty free allowances for air passengers and duty and tax calculations by applying simplified duty rates in Japan. He further explained Japan Customs clearance procedures for commercial cargo carried by air passengers with a view to exploring further streamlining options for passenger processing at Suvarnabhumi Airport, especially taxation of air passengers goods, in the wake of the TCD's decision to introduce credit card payment of Customs duties and taxes.



Thai Customs Department's Pre-Arrival Processing System Conference 11 April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Ms. Alpha Wong of the ROCB A/P attended the Pre-Arrival Processing System Conference, held on 11 April 2016 at the TCD Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. Approximately fifty 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. It was the first trial of the mandatory submission of electronic manifest data six hours before the arrival of the vessel to Thailand's ports. The ROCB A/P welcomes the advancement of TCD to be a digital Customs as it is in line with the WCO's initiative in utilizing technology to expedite the release of cargo and enhance paperless trade.

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls 25-29 April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

On 25-29 April 2016, the WCO organized the Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls at the ICAO Asia and Pacific Office in Bangkok, Thailand, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. Thirty-seven officials, including the delegates from twenty-



seven Member administrations and RILO A/P, took part. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the Workshop as a co-facilitator. The program contained a combination of Member's sharing administrations' experiences and challenges in applying advance passenger information. This Workshop also held break-out practical exercises, which included intelligence

collection, risk assessment and targeting, investigation and reporting. There was also a break-out tabletop exercise on passengers' risk assessment. As part of the Workshop, participants had a field visit to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport Passenger Control Customs Bureau and discussed the good practices being employed by the Thai Customs Department at one of the world's busiest airports.

WCO 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 Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment and Selectivity with Advance Cargo Information on 20-23 June 2016 at the Japan Customs Training Institute (RTC Japan) in Kashiwa, Japan. A total of twenty-nine delegates from twenty-five Member administrations and three resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, Australia and Mongolia participated in the Workshop. Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkoson and Ms. Jate-arpa Benjaphong of the ROCB A/P participated in this Workshop as facilitators. Participants increased their knowledge on risk management with the advance cargo information in the four-day Workshop, including the benefits of assuring supply chain security while facilitating 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.

3.1.6 To assist regional members in enhancing cooperation under GNC

WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for the Greater Mekong Sub-region

6-8 April 2016, Shanghai, China

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P conducted the Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) on 6-8 April 2016 at the Shanghai Customs College (SCC) (RTC China) in Shanghai, China, under the sponsorship of CCF/China. The Workshop was attended by nineteen participants from the Member administrations in the GMS. Resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, Turkey, Uganda and the ADB also contributed to the Workshop. Mr. Jing Cheng of the 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. At the Workshop, relevant WCO instruments and tools were introduced. 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. From this understanding, participants had better knowledge on how to implement the WCO available resources to make further improvement.

WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for South Asia

26-28 April 2016, Faridabad, India

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and India Customs, conducted the Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for South Asia on 26-28 April 2016 at the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) (RTC India) in Faridabad, India, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. The Workshop was organized for the Member administrations of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal with a view to providing a platform to exchange their practical views for improving regional transit routes in South Asia. Thirteen Customs officials from the above-said four 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, Malawi Customs, Swiss Customs and the ADB facilitate the Workshop as resource persons. 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. Participant actively shared their national practices and discussed challenges and possible ways forward towards a better transit system in South Asia.

3.1.7 To assist regional members in implementing CBM

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Coordinated Border Management

15-17 December 2015, Kashiwa, Japan

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Japan Customs, organized the Regional Workshop on Coordinated Border Management (CBM) on 15-17 December 2015 at the Japan Customs Training Institute (RTC Japan) in Kashiwa, Japan, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. Twenty-four participants from twenty-one Member administrations and some



observers from the host administration attended the Workshop. Ms. Alpha Wong and Ms. Narumon Siricharoenwat of the ROCB A/P joined to facilitate the Workshop along with two experts from Finland and Poland. After comprehensive presentations on the concept of CBM and

the application of relevant WCO tools and instruments, participants exchanged their administrations' practical experiences. With the arrangement by Japan Customs, delegates had a field visit to the Haneda Airport Branch of Tokyo Customs and Plant Protection Sub-Station of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. They also observed the cargo selection and inspection of plant protection items under a Single Window environment.

WCO National Training on Coordinated Border Management for Thailand

29 February - 4 March 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P organized the National Training on Coordinated Border Management (CBM) for Thailand from 29 February to 4 March 2016 at the Thai Customs Department (TCD) Academy in Bangkok, Thailand, with the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. Seventy-six TCD officials from relevant Divisions in the Headquarters and regional Customhouses attended this Workshop, which was the first national training to supplement the A/P Regional Workshop held in December 2015 in Kashiwa, Japan. Two WCO designated experts from Finland and Indonesia facilitated the three-day programs and shared their valuable knowledge as well as their administrations' experience in striving for remedying a series of challenges associated with CBM with other border agencies and neighboring countries. After the seminar-style session, two experts and Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, joined a two-day field visit to Mukdahan Customhouse, one of the main border check points for the goods and passenger traffic with Lao PDR, this visit provided further opportunities for practical discussions and constructive recommendations for future consideration.

3.1.8 To assist regional members to undertake Customs reform and modernization

17th ASEAN Customs Capacity Building Working Group Meeting

20 August 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the Chairperson of the ASEAN Customs Capacity Building Working Group, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended their 17th Meeting held on 20 August 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, and spoke about the latest developments in the WCO CLiKC! to



encourage the ASEAN Member Customs administrations to make better use of the e-learning modules as part of their human resource development programs. More than twenty delegates from the ASEAN Secretariat and the Member Customs administrations participated in the Meeting. Mr. Igarashi also briefed them about the WCO's regional capacity building programs, which

were organized in cooperation with the ROCB A/P in the previous year, and the relevance of the planned regional capacity building programs contained in the ROCB A/P's Annual Work Plan for 2015/16 to their capacity building plan. Mr. Oentarto Wibowo, Chairperson of the Working Group, and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat appreciated the contribution made by the ROCB A/P in their efforts towards human resource development.

3.1.9 To assist regional members in promoting awareness of IPR issues and increasing the application of sustainable anti-drug initiatives

27th Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points of RILO A/P

15-17 September 2015, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 27th Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points of RILO A/P, which was held on 15-17 September 2015 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and made a presentation on the ROCB A/P's on-going efforts in supporting the regional Customs community's efforts in contending with various illicit trafficking through organization of pertinent capacity building programs. More than fifty delegates and observers, from nineteen Member administrations and three regional bodies (RILO ECE, RILO ME and ROCB A/P), attended the Meeting. Delegates heard presentations on the regional trends in illicit trafficking as well as Members' experiences in countering various Customs offences, such as drugs, including new psychoactive substances, environmental crime, IPR, commercial fraud; and re-affirmed further enhancing international cooperation and information sharing among them.



WCO A/P Regional IPR Train-the-Trainer Workshop for the Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P region (Action IPR A/P) 21-23 September 2015, Melaka, Malaysia

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P, RILO A/P and Royal Malaysian Customs Department, organized the Regional IPR Train-the-Trainers Workshop for the Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P region on 21-23 September 2015 in the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL) (RTC Malaysia) in Melaka, Malaysia, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of twenty-six participants from twenty-three Member Customs administrations participated in this Workshop. Mr. Kangsik Cho of the



ROCB A/P attended this Regional Workshop along with other resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, RILO A/P and Japan Customs. Participants had good opportunities to get practical knowledge on risk-based targeting for effective IPR border enforcement, information sharing among Member administrations and cooperation with right

holders. Representatives from eight private companies made presentations on how to identify the products and keep close contact with each other.

WCO Regional Seminar on COPES 22-24 September 2015, Hong Kong, China

The WCO and Hong Kong Customs jointly organized the WCO Regional Seminar on Compendium of Customs Operational Practices for Enforcement and Seizures (COPES) on 22-24 September 2015 at the Customs and Excise Training School (RTC Hong Kong, China) in Hong Kong, as the first regional seminar under the COPES Project. The ROCB A/P sent Ms. Alpha Wong to assist logistics arrangement and facilitate the Seminar. A total of thirty-two participants from fifteen Member administrations took part in the Seminar, which was led by criminal investigation experts from the WCO. Through the lectures and syndicate group exercises, Seminar participants were introduced the methodologies and techniques in handling intelligence and seizure properly with a view to increasing the quality of prosecution. It is expected that the COPES Seminar complements Customs capacity building aspect of the Customs Anti-Drug Strategy initiated by Hong Kong Customs.

IPR Business Partnership National Workshop on Counterfeiting, Piracy and Border Measures for the Philippines

26-27 November 2015, Manila, Philippines

At the invitation of the IPR Business Partnership, Ms. Alpha Wong of the ROCB A/P participated in the 2015 National Workshop on Counterfeiting, Piracy and Border Measures, which was co-organized by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and the IPR Business Partnership on 26-27 November 2015 in Manila, the Philippines. Approximately sixty officials from Customs, Police and other law enforcement agencies of the Philippines participated in this Workshop. The main objective was enhancing the capacity of the frontline officers of the Philippines in identifying counterfeited goods. On behalf of the WCO and the ROCB A/P, Ms. Wong made a presentation on WCO's IPR strategy and its anti-counterfeiting tool – Interface Public-Members (IPM). She briefed about the new interface of IPM which was launched in September 2015 and highlighted that this innovative tool was a platform to facilitate information exchange between Customs and right holders and encouraged them to join IPM with a view to cooperating in fight against counterfeiting and piracy.



WCO Follow-Up Regional Workshop for Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P 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 A/P region (Action IPR A/P) on 21-23 March 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of twenty-two participants from twenty Member administrations participated in this Workshop. Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkoson of the ROCB A/P attended this Workshop as a resource person, along with other resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, RILO A/P and Japan Customs. Participants had opportunities to share their learnings and good practices, identify the challenges regarding the Action IPR A/P, and the use of the WCO tools. Participants had established the communication network through CENComm for future consultation and collaboration.



WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy 16-20 May 2016, Faridabad, India

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and India Customs, organized the Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy on 16-20 May 2016 at the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) (RTC India) in Faridabad, India, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. Twenty-seven Customs officials from twenty-five Member administrations attended the Workshop. 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 to share practices and experience in combating counterfeiting and piracy. The experts discussed the 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. Representatives of seventeen right holders joined an open session and made presentations on their product features, security characteristics, raid actions and views on counterfeiting activities.



WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the Compliance and Enforcement Package 20-24 June 2016, Faridabad, India

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and India Customs, organized the Regional Workshop on the Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP) on 20-24 June 2016 at the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) (RTC India) in Faridabad, India, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of twenty-six officers representing the Member administrations and resource persons from the WCO Secretariat and RILO A/P including Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the ROCB A/P 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 context. In addition, the participants shared their successful seizure cases and good practices on intelligence activities. Participants deepened their understanding on the WCO's CEP and established a good network among themselves for future collaboration.



3.1.10 To undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region

ASEM Eurasia Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network 10 September 2015, Seoul, Korea

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network on 10 September 2015 in Seoul, Korea. The Symposium was organized to discuss the social and economic potentials to reinvigorate a momentum to establish multi-modal transport and network corridor between Asia and Europe, as proposed by Korean President Park Geun-hye at the ASEM Summit Meeting in October 2014. Approximately five hundred delegates, including Transport Ministers/Vice Ministers and



Ambassadors of ASEM member countries, attended this Symposium. Mr. Igarashi, as the WCO representative, joined the Panel Session on “Seamless Transport Network in Eurasia: Maritime Transport” and spoke about the WCO’s missions and on-going initiatives in facilitating trade through the

development of pertinent tools and guidelines and the provision of technical assistance. Among other things, he highlighted the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP), which participating countries in the Eurasian Network may adopt and refer to in the course of designing harmonized and simplified common border-crossing procedures on every mode of transport while assuring supply chain security.

WCO National Workshop on Post Clearance Audit for Samoa Customs 16-20 November 2015, Apia, Samoa

Responding to a strong request from Samoa Customs, the ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO Secretariat and under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan, conducted the National Workshop on PCA for Samoa Customs on 16-20 November 2015 in Apia, Samoa, as a Follow-Up action of the WCO Multi-year (2011-2013) PCA Project for OCO Members, which was also coordinated by the WCO Secretariat and the ROCB A/P. A total of twenty-four officials representing Customs and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) attended the Workshop. Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the ROCB A/P and an expert from Japan Customs led the Workshop, including lectures, case studies and exercises. Participants actively contributed to the Workshop and a number of issues were raised and discussed. Participants renewed their understanding of PCA and the



importance of cooperation among related Sections, including IRS, for materializing proper revenue collection while maintaining trade facilitation.

Special lecture to the Nagasaki University students

26 February 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

On 26 February 2016, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi and Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the ROCB A/P received twenty-four students from the Economics Faculty of Nagasaki University (Japan) provided a presentation on the Customs' roles in trade facilitation and supply chain security, as part of their special programs to study international economics and trade in goods. 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 capability in supporting sound growth of international trade. The 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.

ADB Regional Workshop on Cross-Border E-Commerce

10 March 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation from the ADB, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, joined a Panel Discussion in the ADB Regional Workshop on Cross-Border E-Commerce, which was held on 10 March 2016 at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. 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 relating to market accessibility for the SMEs and needed logistics infrastructures were raised. In this context, Mr. Igarashi introduced some of the work currently undertaken by the WCO on e-commerce and the digital Customs concept. He suggested the need for open-minded consultation and experience sharing among relevant stakeholders to better accommodate fast-growing cross-border e-commerce transactions to fulfill Customs roles in both trade facilitation and border control.



WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement 18-22 April 2016, Shanghai, China

The WCO organized the Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE) on 18-22 April 2016 at the Shanghai Customs College (SCC) (RTC China) in Shanghai, China, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and China Customs under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A



total of twenty-seven participants from twenty-five Member administrations participated in this Workshop. Mr. Kangsik Cho of the ROCB A/P attended the Workshop as a facilitator, along with other resource persons from the WCO Secretariat. This Workshop was initiated to meet the need of training assistance in implementing the STCE of Customs administrations in the A/P region, and providing the participants with a good opportunity

to deepen their knowledge and enhance their knowledge of the STCE audit. It also heightened 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 their own administration.

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 the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) for the Thai Customs Department (TCD) at the TCD Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 31 May - 3 June 2016 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of forty-two representatives from TCD Headquarters and regional branch offices undertook the training, which was facilitated by resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, Australia, Japan and the ROCB A/P. Resource persons provided an overview of the WTO TFA and pertinent WCO activities, including the Mercator Program and development guides and tools for the implementation of the 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.

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

6-10 June 2016, Kashiwa, Japan

The WCO, in cooperation with the WTO, the ROCB A/P and Japan Customs, organized the Regional Workshop on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on 6-10 June 2016 at the Japan Customs Training Institute (RTC Japan) in Kashiwa, Japan, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of twenty-nine delegates from twenty-three Member administrations and



four resource persons from the WCO Secretariat, the WTO Secretariat and Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the Workshop. This Workshop was the first of its second round of the “over-all track” initiative under the on-going Mercator Program. The Workshop featured experience sharing among the Member administrations on the least implemented provisions of the TFA. 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. 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 and shared their views and effort in facilitating trade and improve transparency.

3.2 Further enhance collaboration with development partners (DPs)

3.2.1 Enhanced cooperation, coordination and mutual understanding with DPs

4th Meeting of the ADB SASEC Customs Sub-group

28 October 2015, Cebu City, Philippines

At the invitation of the ADB, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 4th Meeting of the ADB SASEC Customs Sub-group held on 28 October 2015 in Cebu City, the Philippines. Approximately forty high-level officials representing Customs and transport authorities from six SASEC Countries and an observer country (Myanmar), as well as the ADB officials participated in the Meeting and discussed a number of important subjects, including sub-regional collaboration on trade and transport facilitation through pushing forward a series of joint actions under their Work Plan. Delegates also shared progress on their respective modernization programs. Mr. Igarashi made a presentation on the SASEC Multi-Year Project on Customs Valuation Control through PCA and the focus of the WCO A/P regional and national workshops for 2015/16 and suggested some key principles to optimize the benefits accrued from these workshops.

Steering Committee Meeting for the WCO-UNODC 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, and 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 thirty-five 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. 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.

3.2.2 Promotion of joint activities

First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for India Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries

28 September - 1 October 2015, Faridabad, India

The ROCB A/P and the ADB, with support from the WCO Secretariat, conducted the First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for India Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) from 28 September to 1 October 2015 in Faridabad, India. Three Project Core Members (PCMs) of this Multi-year Project of India Customs and experts from India, Sri Lanka and the ROCB A/P joined the work to develop the model training module (course) and training materials for conducting National Workshops of Train-the-Trainers in India. During the four-day activity, the PCMs and the experts organized a three-day National Workshop for training of trainers program on on-site PCA and discussed how to further improve the quality of the training course and its materials for the next final activity under this Project.



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

26-30 October 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The ROCB A/P and the ADB, with support from the WCO Secretariat, conducted the First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Sri Lanka Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) on 26-30 October 2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Two Project Core Members (PCMs) of this Multi-year Project from Sri Lanka Customs, three Project Supporting Members (PSMs) from Sri Lanka Customs and experts from Maldives and the ROCB A/P joined the mission to draw up a national training course with a set of training materials with the assistance of WCO experts for the implementation of Customs Valuation Control through PCA. During the five-day activity, the PCMs, PSMs and experts conducted a rehearsal of training sessions by using their created training materials and discussed how to further improve the quality of the training course and its materials and prepare for the final activity under this project.



First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Bangladesh Customs under the WCO-ADM Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries

14-18 December 2015, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The ROCB A/P and the ADB with support from the WCO Secretariat conducted the First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Bangladesh Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) on 14-18 December 2015 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Two Project Core Members (PCMs) of this Multi-year Project of Bangladesh Customs, five Project Supporting Members (PSMs) of Bangladesh Customs, and experts from India, Sri Lanka, and the ROCB A/P joined the work to upgrade the existing Valuation Database for effective Customs Valuation Control. The PCMs, PSMs and experts shared skills and knowledges on how to utilize the database for Customs Valuation Control in line with the WTO Valuation Agreement and Guidelines on the development and use of a national valuation database as a risk assessment tool, and conducted a comparative study for the gap analysis on the current Customs Valuation Database in Bangladesh comparing with practices of other countries.

WCO-UNODC CCP Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting for Cambodia

11 January 2016, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The 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 Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection and



Canada Border Services Agency. The Meeting was attended by around thirty participants representing Customs, Police, Ministry of Commerce, National Authority for Combating Drugs and Shipping Agency and Brokers (KAMSAB), etc. of Cambodia. Mr. Jing Cheng 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). He also introduced the ROCB A/P's activities on the AEO and the CBM in the A/P region since 2014.

WCO-UNODC CCP Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting for Lao PDR

13 January 2016, Vientiane, Lao PDR

The 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 Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Canada Border Services Agency. The Meeting was attended by around twenty-four participants representing Customs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of public security and Shipping/Freight Forwarders Associations. Mr. Jing Cheng 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). He also introduced the ROCB A/P's activities on the AEO and the CBM in the A/P region since 2014.

WCO-UNODC CCP Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting for Myanmar

15 January 2016, Yangon, Myanmar

The 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 Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Canada Border Services Agency. The Meeting was attended by around twenty-six participants representing Customs, Police, Department of Trade and Ministry of Home Affairs etc. of Myanmar. Mr. Jing Cheng 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). He also introduced the ROCB A/P's activities on the AEO and the CBM in the A/P region since 2014.

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

24-28 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) on 24-28 January 2016 in Male, Maldives, and successfully completed the Multi-year Project. 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 the ROCB A/P joined the activity to develop the training kit for Maldives Customs Service to accomplish the objectives under the Multi-year Project. In this regard, the PCMs, PSMs and experts finalized the training kit, organized a three-day National Workshop on Customs Valuation and its control with the newly developed training kit, and 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.



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

15-19 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) on 15-19 February 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Three Project Core Members (PCMs) and three Project Supporting Members (PSMs) of the Sri Lanka Customs including experts from the Maldives Customs Service and the ROCB A/P joined the activity to develop the training module for the Sri Lanka Customs for proper management of Customs Valuation Control through PCA. The PCMs, the PSMs and the experts finalized the training module, including organizing a three-day National Workshop on Customs Valuation and its control for thirty-one Sri Lanka Customs officers. They also 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.



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

7-11 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 under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) on 7-11 March 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This Mission successfully completed the three-year Multi-year Project. In



total five 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 to develop the training module for the Nepal Customs for proper management of Customs Valuation Control through Post

Clearance Audit (PCA). The PCMs, the PSMs and the experts finalized the training module, organized a three-day National Workshop on Customs Valuation and its control for twenty-four Nepal Custom officers from the newly developed training materials. They also 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.

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

22-24 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) on 22-24 March 2016 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This completed the three-year Multi-year Project. Nine Bangladesh Customs colleagues, including Project Core Members (PCMs) and Project Supporting Members (PSMs), and two experts from Sri Lanka including the ROCB A/P joined this Final Mission.



During the three-day Mission, experts worked with the PCMs and the PSMs to finalize the Action Plan, review the Multi-year Project, and discuss future collaboration. The PCMs and the PSMs are expected to implement the Action Plan with the guidance from the Bangladesh Customs.

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

9-12 May 2016, 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) on 9-12 May 2016 in Phuentsholing, Bhutan. This successfully completed the three-year Multi-year Project. Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the ROCB A/P took part in this final mission as the lead resource and facilitator working with twenty-five Bhutan Customs colleagues. This also included three Project Core

Members (PCMs); three Project Supporting Members (PSMs) and an expert from the Maldives Customs Service. During the four-day Mission, the PCMs, the PSMs and the experts finalized the standard operational procedures (SOP) on Customs valuation Control, and organized a training session on the pertinent topic by using the newly developed SOP and the WCO training materials. They also reviewed the Multi-year Project and discussed future collaboration.

5th Meeting of the ADB SASEC Customs Sub-group

26 May 2016, Male, Maldives

At the invitation of the ADB, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the ROCB A/P attended the ADB SASEC 5th Meeting of Customs Sub-group held on 26 May 2016 in Male, Maldives. The Meeting was hosted by the ADB and attended by Customs executive officials from the six 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 2015/16. The delegates, the ADB and the ROCB A/P reaffirmed the need for continued collaboration in moving forward Customs reform and modernization efforts in the SASEC Countries.



Meeting of the Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade

31 May-1 June 2016, Shanghai, China

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, to participate in the Meeting of the Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade (GFP), which was held on 1



June 2016 in Shanghai, China. Some seventy representatives of the private sector and international organizations took part in this event. The meeting provided the participants with an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the WTO TFA through public-private partnerships. In the panel discussion, Ms. Hinojosa highlighted the critical role of Customs in global trade and the WCO's endeavor to promote Customs-Business cooperation to enhance

transparency and streamlining the clearance procedures to facilitating legitimate trade. In the margins of this Meeting, the GFP Steering Committee Members met on 31 May 2016 to share their work progress on trade facilitation-related activities. Ms. Hinojosa noted the WCO's strong commitments in assisting Member administrations in the implementation of the WTO TFA, and underlined the contributions of the ROCB A/P in organizing capacity building activities in the A/P region under the WCO's Mercator Program.

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

6-9 June 2016, 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 India Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) on 6-9 June 2016 in Faridabad, India. This successfully completed the three-year Multi-year Project. Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the ROCB A/P took part in this Final Mission as the lead resource and facilitator and worked with thirty-two India Customs colleagues, including four Project Core Members (PCMs), and an expert from Sri Lanka. In the course of the four-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 objectives were completed.



Special Contribution from Maldives Customs Service

Our experience on the successful completion of the Multi-year Project (2014-2016)

By: Fathimath Abdul Rahman (Superintendent)
Ahmed Waheed (Chief Customs Officer)
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 4	PCA Plan	
Project 5	Developing a training module (For Valuation & PCA)	Selected and approved by Customs Board
Project 6	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

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; and
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

Special Contribution from Sri Lanka Customs

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, Project Core Member (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 workshop-related activities took place stretching into the entire week from the 15th to 19th of February 2016. Even though the official inauguration was held on the 16th, the matters incidental to the 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 elegant image of the workshop venue in Colombo, one of the oldest hotel 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 Sri Lankan trainers who had undergone training were led by Mr. T. Raviendrarajah 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 show case 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 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 re-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 during his speech mentioned- referring to the conclusion of the workshop- 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 the WCO ROCB A/P 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 efficiency in implementing procedures relating to Customs valuation without compromising the objectives



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)

envisaged in the WTO Valuation Agreement. Hence there is no doubt that the entire project though out 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

Report on WCO-ADB Joint Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries on Customs Valuation Control

By: Takayuki Miyoshi (ROCB A/P)

Introduction

In response to strong requests from SASEC Countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka), the WCO-ADB Joint Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries on Customs Valuation Control (Multi-year Project) was coordinated by the ROCB A/P in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the WCO Secretariat to aim at materializing trade facilitation while ensuring proper collection of national revenue with the establishment of effective Customs Valuation Control through, such as application of Post Clearance Audit (PCA) technique.

In the process of designing the Multi-year Project, we had heard some views regarding Capacity Building needs from the target countries, saying “This is not a simple issue and no one size-fits-all solution in this regard. It needs time and support to make a change, hence we (target countries) expect tailor-made and middle-term support from the WCO”. However, on the other hand, we had to admit that it is difficult for us to provide all WCO’s one hundred eighty (180) Members with such ample support due to limitations in our budget, time, and number of experts.

Deliberation of these crucial issues brought us an idea of this Multi-year Project. Different from the WCO’s conventional one-week workshop style support, this Multi-year Project was strategically designed to focus more on fostering core competence in the target countries for developing their sustainable Capacity Building environment with a 3-year support period. As the result, this Multi-year Project successfully produced the following three (3) tangible outcomes, which enable the target countries to conduct their tailor-made and sustainable Capacity Building activities even after the Project:

- Pool of National trainers in the target countries for conducting their tailor-made and sustainable Capacity Building activities by the countries themselves for enhancing their Customs Valuation Control,
- Development of a final deliverable (e.g. training materials) set by each target country, and
- Enhancement of Sub-regional cooperation for Customs Valuation Control

Seizing this opportunity, the ROCB A/P would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to the ADB, the WCO Secretariat, WCO Accredited Experts (ACEs), and the respective SASEC Countries among others their Project Core Members (PCMs) and Project Support Members (PSMs) for their cooperation and hard work for the Project. I also would like to commend my fellow colleague, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, a leading resource for these Multi-year project, for taking good care and management of difficult tasks.

This Report is a summary of our 3-year journey challenging our everlasting mission, materializing trade facilitation and proper revenue collection, which was successfully completed in June 2016 with all planned activities were dully carried out and all expected objectives were accomplished. We understand that this is not the ultimate goal of our journey, but rather it should be a good start for further collaboration and challenges. The ROCB A/P do hope that this Report will be a useful reference/foundation to launch a new Project for the benefits of all regional Member Administrations.



1. Project Outline

(1) Background and Aim

Proper management of Customs Valuation ideally through PCA is one of the key measures to materialize trade facilitation while ensuring the proper collection of national revenue. As such, implementation of audit-based control (PCA) is a component of the Revised Kyoto Convention and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. This Multi-year Project was coordinated by the ROCB A/P in cooperation with the ADB and the WCO Secretariat in response to strong requests from the SASEC Countries, aiming to accomplish trade facilitation and proper national revenue collection with the establishment of effective Customs Valuation Control through, such as application of PCA techniques.

(2) Target Countries

The target countries are from “South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation”, so-called SASEC Countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

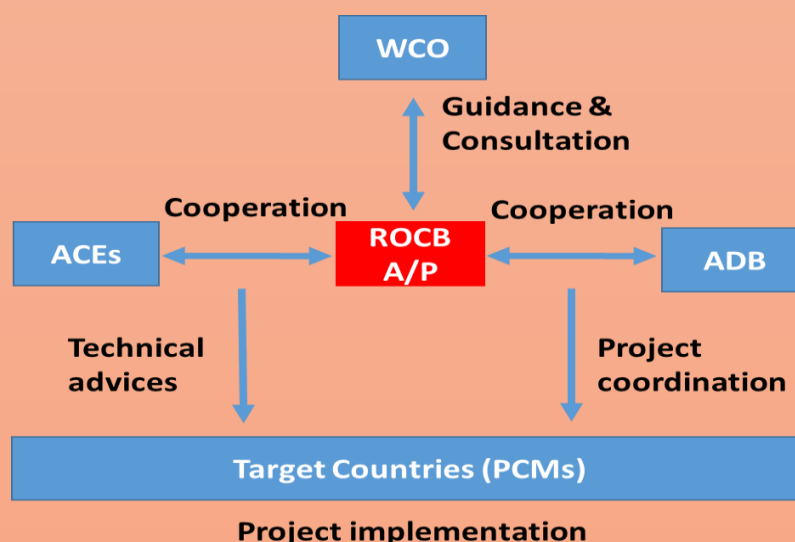
(3) Duration

The duration of the Project was three (3) years from July 2013 to June 2016.

(4) Roles

There were five (5) parties involved in this Project, which were: (i) the ADB, (ii) the WCO Secretariat, (iii) the ACEs, (iv) the target countries, and (v) the ROCB A/P. As seen in the following [Table 1](#), the ROCB A/P had been playing a pivotal role in coordinating the Project among these five (5) parties. Regarding the Project coordination, in consultation with the WCO Secretariat, the ADB and the ROCB A/P drew up the Project concept and structure. The ADB also generously financed all activities and took charge of all logistic arrangements, such as booking venues for workshops and purchasing air tickets for the ACEs and the PCMs, etc. As to the technical input to the target countries, the ACEs and a Project coordinator of the ROCB A/P, who is also the ACE on Customs Valuation and PCA, provided the target countries with technical advice during the Project. With such support and input from the ADB, the WCO Secretariat, the ACEs and the ROCB A/P, the six (6) target countries implemented the Project.

(Table 1)



(5) Activities

The Project was divided into two (2) phases.

In the first phase, two (2) Sub-regional workshops were organized, in which three (3) PCMs from each target country participated. At these two (2) Sub-regional workshops, the PCMs together with the ADB, the WCO Secretariat, the ACEs and the ROCB A/P:

- Set up their own National Action Plans to decide how to carry out the following two (2) National missions to achieve their determined final deliverables under the Multi-year Project,
- Learned international standards on Customs Valuation and its control and skill and methodologies for trainers, and
- Discussed regional cooperation for Customs Valuation Control and agreed to exchange information about the Customs Valuation Control among the PCMs through WCO “CLiKC!” platform.

At the second phase, two (2) National missions for each target country were conducted based on their developed National Action Plans. For example, the PCMs with support from the ACEs and the ROCB A/P:

- Conducted a brief diagnostic mission to target countries to identify technical gaps that required improvement for further enhancing the target countries’ capacity for proper Customs Valuation Control,
- Developed the final deliverable determined by the country itself in its National Action Plan to accomplish the ultimate objective of the Project, namely establishing the effective Customs Valuation Control in the target country, and
- Conducted a National workshop to their Customs colleagues with their newly developed tailor-made training materials, Standard Operational Procedure (SOP), etc.

In total, we had fourteen (14) on-site activities under the Project as shown in the following Table 2. In between the activities, we also had close virtual communication through e-mails and the WCO “CLiKC!” platform.

(Table 2)

[1st Phase]

No.	Activity	Date	Venue
1	1 st Sub-regional workshop	03-07 Feb. 2014	Sri Lanka
2	2 nd Sub-regional workshop	21-24 Oct. 2014	Maldives

[2nd Phase]

No.	Activity	Date	Venue
1	1 st National mission	18-22 May 2015	Maldives
2	1 st National mission	22-26 Jun. 2015	Bhutan
3	1 st National mission	19-21 Aug. 2015	Nepal
4	1 st National mission	28 Sep. - 01 Oct. 2015	India
5	1 st National mission	26-30 Oct. 2015	Sri Lanka
6	1 st National mission	14-18 Dec. 2015	Bangladesh
7	2 nd National mission	24-28 Jan. 2016	Maldives
8	2 nd National mission	15-19 Feb. 2016	Sri Lanka
9	2 nd National mission	07-11 Mar. 2016	Nepal
10	2 nd National mission	22-24 Mar. 2016	Bangladesh
11	2 nd National mission	09-12 May 2016	Bhutan
12	2 nd National mission	06-09 Jun. 2016	India

2. Project Characteristics

(1) Structure

Even where the situation in the target country is different from one to the other, and where is there no simple one-size-fits-all solution, we must not forget about the importance and necessity to stay in-line with international standards. Without them, we cannot materialize trade facilitation through the harmonization of the Customs procedures, which is one of the biggest missions of Customs administrations in the world.

In the Project, we focused on applying of these international standards. Namely by using the WCO Guidelines, with technical advices from the ACEs and the leading resource of the ROCB A/P, the designated three (3) PCMs of each target country developed their own tailor-made localized training materials, SOP, etc. This process of developing the localized training materials, gave a valuable opportunity to the PCMs to thoroughly learn about the WCO international standards on Customs Valuation Control, including PCA, and they developed full understanding by the end of the Project. In addition to obtaining this knowledge on the international standards, with their ample existing knowledge and experience on their national regulations and practices, the localized training materials developed by the PCMs fully met their actual needs and became very practical.

Moreover, this Project was designed to cover their post-Project activities, too. It is expected that the PCMs, who with their knowledge of relevant WCO Guidelines and, newly developed tailor-made training materials will conduct National workshops for their Customs colleagues and trade sectors by themselves, which, the ROCB A/P considers, will ensure the achievement of the ultimate objective (i.e. trade facilitation and proper national revenue collection) of this Project.

(2) Individual issues

The followings are individual issues which were considered to make the Project meet the countries' needs and practical:

Tailor-made

Although the target countries are the members of the same economic sub-regional group, namely SASEC, their situation, such as population, size of economy, capacity of Customs Valuation Control, etc. varies from one to others. Therefore, we considered that the Project should be tailor-made to each country. Under the Project, each target country developed its own National Action Plan to carry out the Project in accordance with its unique situation.

Result-oriented

ROCB A/P is of the view that, without a concrete Project deliverable, the Project cannot be efficient and effective. Therefore, under the Project, each target country set its own final deliverable in its National Action Plan. The National Action Plan was authorized by the Director General of each Customs Administration at the initial stage of this Project to ensure organizational commitment and support for this Project.

Sustainability-focused

In order to settle the afore-mentioned requests/situations of the target countries and resource limitations of the WCO Secretariat, parties concerned shared the views that the Project should be designed to foster core competence in the target countries for developing their sustainable Capacity Building environment.

Country's needs and Expert's diagnosis-based

There is no doubt that the Project should be designed based on the actual needs of the target countries. Normally, the needs must/should be well-recognized by the country itself, however, it is also true that outside people, especially experts on a specific matter, may be able to identify points that need to be improved. Therefore, in this Project, at the first National mission for each country, the ACEs and the ROCB A/P in cooperation with the PCMs and the PSMs conducted a brief diagnostic mission to the country to identify the gaps between their current situation and international standards and the findings of the diagnostic mission were fully reflected to their final deliverables.

Recipient-driven

We believe that one of the most effective teaching methods is to let people do exercises, not just lecturing them. Therefore, during the Project, the ADB, the WCO Secretariat, the ACEs and the ROCB A/P had kept this belief in mind and tried to let the PCMs and the PSMs do as much as possible while providing them with necessary support. Actually, in this Project, Project members of the target countries themselves developed their National Action Plan, implemented the Project based on it, and successfully created the final deliverables. The ROCB A/P considers that this Recipient-driven methodology functioned very well and was able to greatly enhance their capacity.

Multi-year-basis

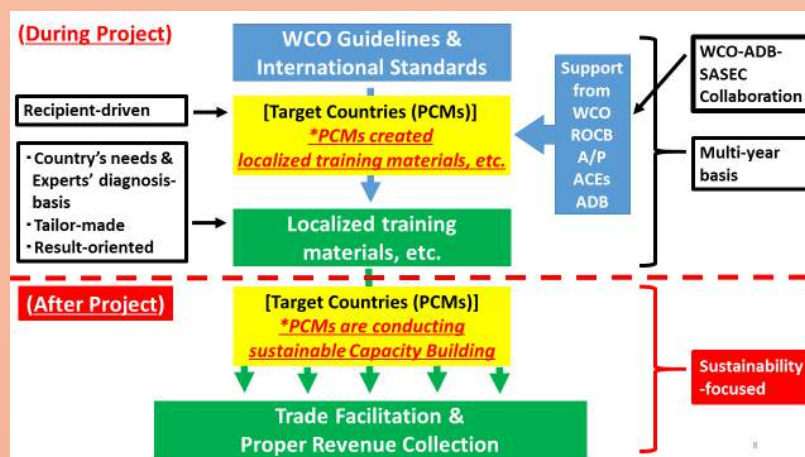
In order to reasonably incorporate these afore-mentioned issues into the Project, it requires a certain Project period, therefore, we drew up the Project design on a Multi-year basis.

WCO (ROCB A/P)-ADB-SASEC Sub-regional Collaboration

It was decided to jointly organize this Project with the ADB as this collaboration would create a great deal of synergy and make the Project more fruitful. Among others, the ADB's robust relations and networks with the SASEC Countries, including their ex-Customs National consultants stationing in the SASEC Countries, which are established through their long history of collaboration with these countries, helped to facilitate the Project coordination, and their professional logistic arrangements allowed the ACEs and the ROCB A/P to concentrate on Customs technical matters.

A summary chart is shown in the following [Table 3](#).

(Table 3)



(3) Project Tangible Outcomes

This Project produced the following three (3) tangible outcomes:

- Pool of National trainers (Three (3) designated PCMs of each country) in the target countries for conducting sustainable Capacity Building activities by the countries themselves for enhancing their Customs Valuation Control. Some of them participated in the WCO Accreditation Workshop and successfully passed the first examination stage to become ACEs.
- Development of the final deliverable (*) set by each target country, namely India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka developed their comprehensive tailor-made training materials, which include international standards, national regulations and practices, and practical case studies, etc. To be more specific, Bangladesh developed a practical Action Plan to upgrade their Valuation database in line with the WTO Valuation Agreement, and Bhutan developed a SOP for their Customs Valuation Control in line with their upcoming new Customs Act.
- Enhancement of Sub-regional cooperation for Customs Valuation Control. The PCMs from the respective SASEC Countries established a firm relationship among themselves through the Project, and agreed to exchange information about the Customs Valuation Control through the WCO “CLiKC!” platform.

These tangible outcomes enable the countries to conduct their tailor-made and sustainable Capacity Building activities.

(*) Final deliverables:



(4) Project Impacts

Since the Project was just completed in June 2016, it is still early in the implementation phase to discuss the full Project Impacts. To-date the following Project Impacts have been observed:

- Strengthened Customs Valuation Control, especially through PCA;
- Facilitated improvement of Customs Valuation Database in line with the WTO Valuation Agreement;
- Supported establishment of a strategic human resource development policy; and
- Facilitated programs to promote traders' compliance.

In the near future, the ROCB A/P expects to hear further good reports on the Project Impacts from the respective target countries, such as shortening the Customs clearance time, improvement of transparency of their clearance procedures, detection of frauds, etc.

(5) Lessons Learned

(1) Keys

Clear identification on country's needs and situation is a must for the strategic Project coordination. For this purpose, it would be effective to conduct a diagnostic mission by the experts to confirm the country's declared needs and situation. In addition, as introduced above, the issues, such as Tailor-made, Result-oriented, Sustainability-focused, Recipient-driven and Multi-year-basis are considered to be the keys for good Project design. Last but not least, it should be also pointed out that it is impossible to successfully complete the Project without securing competent and adequate human resource and their sound working environment for the Project.

(2) Suggestions

This type of Multi-year-based Project to develop a sustainable Capacity Building environment in the target country is considered to be one of the most efficient and effective Capacity Building approaches. Member administrations should consider similar Projects along these lines.

For questions and comments about this Report on the WCO-ADB Joint Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries on Customs Valuation Control, please write to miyoshi@rocbap.org.

3.3 Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

13th Heads of the A/P WCO Regional Training Centers Meeting

3-4 November 2015, Melaka, Malaysia

The 13th Heads of the A/P WCO Regional Training Centers (RTCs) Meeting was convened on 3-4 November 2015 at the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL) in Melaka, Malaysia. Heads and delegates of seven RTCs, representatives from the WCO and the A/P Vice-Chair's Office attended and charted the way forwards for strengthening the cooperation between RTCs and the ROCB A/P and better contributing to the A/P regional capacity building activities. Under the chairpersonship of Ms. Azimah Binti Abd Hamid, Director of AKMAL, delegates discussed over a number of important agenda items, including way forward with the WCO Regional Training Evaluation Package and the ROCB A/P Follow-Up Survey Exercise. The Meeting agreed to continue the on-going evaluation exercise with slight adjustments. To further facilitate the concept of "Center of Excellence", the Meeting welcomed the new initiative proposed by the ROCB A/P in developing research papers on the topics of the regional workshop hosted by the respective RTCs. Under the excellent and insightful chairpersonship of Ms. Hamid, the Meeting concluded with a success.

25th WCO A/P Regional Contact Points Meeting

17-19 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 25th WCO A/P Regional Contact Points Meeting was convened on 17-19 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Forty-seven representatives from twenty-two Member administrations and three observers (WCO, RILO A/P and ROCB A/P) attended the Meeting. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Meeting and reported the ROCB A/P's undertakings under the A/P Regional Strategic Plan as well as the summary of its activities in the year 2014/15. He highlighted the ROCB A/P's new initiatives on the Regional Workshop Follow-Up Action Survey, which is to take some snapshots of the effects accrued from the regional training programs delivered under the auspices of the WCO. He also made a presentation on the capacity building support for optimizing the outcomes of the operational activities initiated in the A/P region, which was well received by the delegates.



17th Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference

15-18 March 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 17th Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference held on 15-18 March 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr. Igarashi reported the ROCB A/P's activities during 2014/15 and the latest undertakings in the first eight months of 2015/16. He highlighted the increased number of the participants in the WCO A/P regional workshops from the previous year; increased access to the ROCB A/P website; conduct of the Workshop Follow-Up survey and publication of the survey summary. He also reported the results 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 the outcomes. The reports were well received and delegates took the floor to encourage the ROCB A/P to continue its supports for the region's joint efforts forward reform and modernization through delivery of high-quality capacity building programs.

11th Global Meeting of the Heads of the ROCBs, RTCs and Vice Chairs' Offices and 7th Session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee

7-8 and 11-13 April 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The 11th Global Meeting of the Heads of the ROCBs, Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and Vice Chairs' Offices was convened on 7-8 April 2016 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Mr. Kangsik Cho and Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the ROCB A/P attended the Meeting, along with the representatives from the RTC India, Japan and Malaysia. The Meeting discussed the WCO's policy on the experts accreditation and mobilization policy, development of best practice guidance of ROCBs and RTCs, the Regional Training Evaluation Package, and the way to foster core competencies for sustainable capacity building. At the Meeting, the ROCB A/P representatives shared its initiatives and the region's good practices. Mr. Igarashi 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 the ROCB A/P's Good Practice Report on the Exemplifying Follow-Up Actions after the Regional Workshops in 2014/15, which were published in February 2016. Mr. Miyoshi, Program Manager, made a presentation on the outline, characteristics, tangible outcomes, impacts and lessons learned from the WCO-ADB Multi-year Project, which commenced from July



2013 to June 2016. He 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 a 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 under the theme “Future of Customs – Capacity Building for Sustainability.”

25th Meeting of the ASEAN Director Generals of Customs

26 May 2016, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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 Director Generals (DGs) of Customs held on 26 May 2016 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Meeting was attended by some fifty participants, including DGs’ representatives of the Customs administrations from ten ASEAN Members States and the ASEAN Secretariat. At the designated session for the WCO and ROCB A/P, Mr. Igarashi 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 the ROCB A/P’s continued collaboration with ASEAN Customs administrations in various domains, including capacity building activities.



3.4 Enhance communication and information sharing among members

Special lecture 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 (TCD) Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. The lecture was part of a special national program for managers/directors, with more than forty officials taking part. 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 world-class Customs meant from a managerial viewpoint. He then introduced the WCO’s missions and visions, including Custom in the 21st Century vision document, as well as the priority agendas and recent progress on supply chain security, trade facilitation and revenue. He underlined the significance of early implementation of the WTO TFA, supplemented by the WCO’s instruments and guidelines, in the context of growing the



country's economic competitiveness. He also covered the capacity building program planning and delivery processes in the A/P region.

Thai Customs' human resource development initiative

14 June 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

At the request of a Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Thai Customs Department (TCD), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi and Ms. Alpha Wong of the ROCB A/P joined the selection process for the "STAR Project" which is being led by the DDG to identify Thai Customs officials who have potential to broaden their future career paths. Forty pre-selected candidates were interviewed and evaluated for their English communication skills and positive working attitudes. The 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. The ROCB A/P wishes all the best for the future "STARs".



Part 4: Understanding the ROCB A/P

4.1 Who WE Are



The ROCB A/P was formally established on 28 September 2004 as the world's first ROCB. Since its establishment, through the generous hosting of the Thai Customs Department (TCD), we have been located at the TCD Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand.

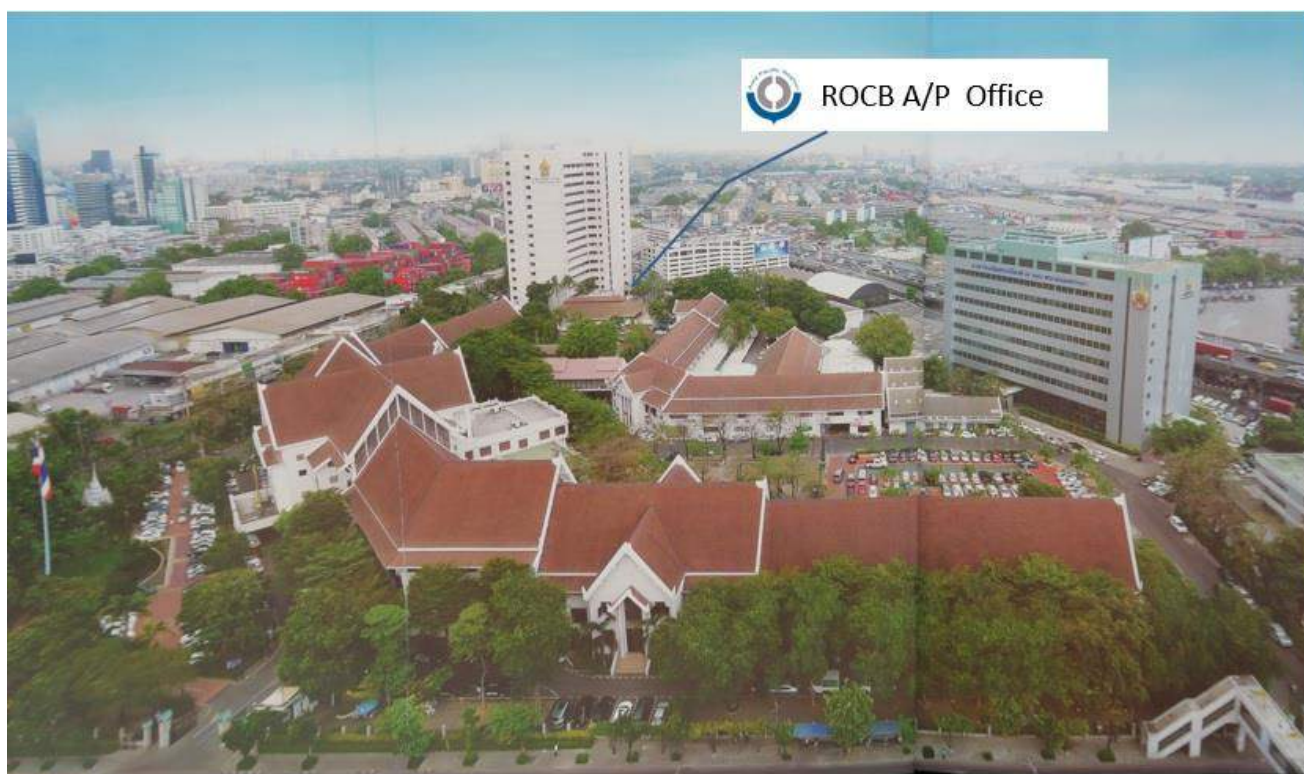


Photo Courtesy: Thai Customs Department



(NB) For 2016/17, Fiji undertakes the role of the Regional Vice Chair for a 2-year term.

The ROCB A/P acts as a cornerstone for the region's approach to implementing the WCO's Capacity Building Strategy. In cooperation with seven WCO RTCs in the A/P region, it supports thirty-three regional Member Customs administrations.

With the WCO Customs Cooperation Funds, mainly contributed from China, Japan and Korea, the ROCB A/P organizes a series of the capacity building activities for A/P regional Member Customs administrations in need of technical assistance. The ROCB A/P works with development partners, such as the ADB, UN agencies and ICAO, as well as the private and business sectors. The WCO Secretariat and the Regional Vice Chair provide the ROCB A/P with guidance and support to fulfill the mandates and responsibilities as set forth in its Terms of Reference.

4.2 Mission

The ROCB A/P's missions are:

- ♦ To deliver organizational development support to the WCO Member administrations in the region;
- ♦ To project WCO strategy;
- ♦ To exploit regional synergy;
- ♦ To liaise closely with regional and local stakeholders and donors supporting capacity building; and
- ♦ To deal with regional specific issues in a more immediate and relevant way.

4.3 Staff

The ROCB A/P consists of 8 full-time seconded staff members. This includes 1 from China, 1 from Hong Kong China, 2 from Japan (including Head of the ROCB A/P), 1 from Korea and 3 from Thailand. In addition, representatives from the Australian Border Force and New Zealand Customs Service based in Bangkok provide ad hoc support and assistance to the ROCB A/P's activities, especially for its communications and publications.

In order to provide more focused quality assistance to the A/P Member Customs administrations, the ROCB A/P has designed a Program Manager responsible for a particular sub-region. Their roles and responsibilities as well as contact details are as follows:



◆ Role and responsibilities

- To enhance contact with responsible countries;
- To encourage participation of responsible countries to the regional events;
- To take care of individual requests made by responsible countries;
- To collect Customs related information from responsible countries; and
- To liaise with officers responsible for the sub-region of various development partners.

◆ Contact details

Sub-region	A/P Members	Responsible Program Manager	Contact
East, Central and West Asia (ECWA)	Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong, China, Iran, Japan, Korea, Macao, China, Mongolia, Pakistan	Mr. Kangsik Cho	Email: choks@rocbap.org Tel No.:+66 2 667 6000 ext. 5920
South Asia (SA)	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka	Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi	Email: miyoshi@rocbap.org Tel No.:+66 2 667 6018
Southeast Asia (SEA)	Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Union of Myanmar, Vietnam	Ms. Alpha Wong	Email: alphasywong@rocbap.org Tel No.:+66 2 667 6000 ext. 5922
Pacific Islands (PI)	Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu	Coming soon	Tel No.:+66 2 667 7026



During the year 2015/16, Mr. Jing Cheng, from China Customs, completed his 4-year term and returned to his home administration in June 2016. The ROCB A/P would like to extend its profound appreciation for his dedication to the ROCB A/P. His successor will continue his path to make contributions to the Customs community in the A/P region.

Strategic Action Plan 2016-2018
For
WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P)

1. Vision

Being a focal point of capacity building to achieve “World Best Regional Customs effectively enhancing security and prosperity together”

2. Mission

To assist building the capacity of Member Customs Administrations to continuously improve securing and facilitating trade

3. Strategic Action Plan

In accordance with the direction given by the Director-Generals and Commissioners of the Customs Administrations in the Asia Pacific Region, the ROCB A/P has set the following Strategic Action Plan. In order to ensure the close linkage and alignment between RSP 2016-2018 and ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan, most of the actions under the ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan refer to or are directly quoted from the RSP 2016-2018, which are specified under the following four pillars of ROCB activities:

- (1) Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools
- (2) Further enhance collaboration with development partners
- (3) Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities
- (4) Enhance communication and information sharing among members

In line with the RSP 2016-2018, this ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan also applies for 2-year term from July 2016 to June 2018.

ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan (2016-2018)

1. Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2016-2018	KPI	Target	Timeframe in the RSP
a) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment	1.1.1 - 1st milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 22/33 Members	On-going
b) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing national risk management database (e.g. nCEN)	1.1.1 - 3rd milestone	Number of Members	At least 14/33 Members	June 2018
c) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool	1.1.1 - 4th milestone	Number of Members	33/33 Members	June 2018
d) Work with the WCO Secretariat to assist all requesting developing Members to have undertaken Diagnostic Phase II	1.1.2 - 2nd milestone	Number of Members assisted	27/27 Members	On-going
e) Upon request, assist Member's efforts to develop AEO (Authorized Economic Operators) program	1.1.2 - 3rd milestone	Number of assistance provided	At least once per year	On-going
f) Upon request, assist Member's efforts in implementing trade recovery activities	1.1.2 - 5th milestone	Number of assistance provided	At least once per year	On-going
g) Upon request, assist Member's effort to accede to and implement the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)	1.1.3 - 1st milestone	Number of contracting Members	At least 24/33 Members	June 2018
h) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)	1.1.3 - 2nd milestone	No. of implementing Members	At least 19/33 Members	June 2018
i) Upon request, assist Member's effort for: (1) smooth implementation of HS 2017 (for CPs) (2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs)	1.1.3 - 3rd milestone	(1)Number of implementing Members (2)Number of contracting Members	At least 24 Members At least 4 new Members (for non-CPs)	On-going

j) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing Advance Ruling System for tariff classification decision, origin of goods and Customs Valuation	1.1.3 - 4th milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 20/33 Members	On-going
k) Upon request, assist Member's effort in undertaking Time Release Study (TRS) in accordance with the WCO TRS Guidelines	1.1.3 - 5th milestone	Number of Members	33/33 Members	June 2018
l) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing self-certification for Rules of Origin	1.1.3 - 6th milestone	Number of Members	33/33 Members	June 2018
m) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing WCO Data Model	1.1.3 - 7th milestone	Number of implementing Members	33/33 Members	On-going
n) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	1.1.3 - 8th milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 20/33 Members	On-going
o) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Valuation Agreement	1.1.3 - 9th milestone	Number of contracting Members	33/33 Members	On-going
p) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing a Post Clearance Audit System	1.1.3 - 10th milestone	Number of Members	33/33 Members	On-going
q) Upon request, assist Member's effort in promoting cooperation and coordination for Coordinated Border Management (CBM)	1.2.1 - 1st to 2nd milestones	Number of operating SW	33/33 Members	June 2018
r) Upon request, assist Member's effort in enhancing Customs-Customs, and if appropriate, Customs-to-Business interconnectivities in various aspects	1.2.2 - 1st to 3rd milestones	Number of participation	At least 6/33 Members	June 2018
s) Upon request, assist Member's effort in utilizing Advance Passenger Information (API) / Passenger Name Record (PNR) for the risk assessment of travelers	2.1.1 - 4th milestone	Number of Members accepted WCO Recommendation	At least 17/33 Members	June 2018
t) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues	2.2.1 - 2nd milestone	Number of discussions in meetings in A/P region	At least once per year	June 2018
u) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote the application of sustainable anti-drug initiatives (e.g. WCO Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP))	2.2.1 - 3rd milestone	Number of discussion in meetings in A/P region	At least once per year	June 2018

v) Work with RILO A/P and Members to promote activities to raise awareness on environment issue (e.g. hazardous waste and wildlife)	2.2.1 - 4th milestone	Number of activities conducted in A/P region	At least once per year	June 2018
w) Upon request, assist Member's effort in enhancing border security in order to tackle with terrorists threats	2.2.1 - 5th milestone	Number of activities conducted in A/P region	At least once per year	June 2018
x) Undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region (e.g. SAFE FoS, RM and WTO TFA)	3.2.2 - 1st milestone	Number of CB activities undertaken	At least 3 times per year	June 2018
y) Work with RILO A/P and Members to undertake capacity building activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement in the region (e.g. IPR, Commercial Fraud, drugs and precursors, environmental crime and digital crime)	3.2.2 - 2nd milestone	Number of CB activities undertaken	At least 3 times per year	June 2018
z) Upon request, undertake leadership and management training programs	3.2.3 - 1st milestone	Number of activities	At least once per year	June 2018
aa) Upon request, assist Member's effort in devising and implementing integrity action plan	3.2.3 - 2nd milestone	Number of implementing Members	33/33 Members	On-going

2. Further develop partnerships with development partners

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2016-2018	KPI	Target	Timeframe in the RSP
a) Enhance cooperation, coordination and mutual understanding between development partners and ROCB A/P	ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of exchange of information	At least 4 times per year	On-going
b) Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners	3.1.1 - 2nd milestone	Number of activities	At least twice per year	June 2018

3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2016-2018	KPI	Target	Timeframe in the RSP
a) Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework	3.1.2 - 1st milestone	Number of experts utilized	Use of accredited experts for at least one half of the requested missions	June 2018
b) Upon request, assist Members to promote the WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and accredited experts	3.1.2 - 2nd milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 12/33 Members	June 2018
c) Work with developed Members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities	3.1.2 - 3rd milestone	Number of contributions	Meet at least 75% of the ROCB requests	June 2018
d) Work with regional training coordinator to identify and review Members' capacity building needs and priorities through conducting a needs assessment via a survey and ongoing consultation	3.2.1 - 1st milestone	Number of surveys conducted	At least once per year	June 2018
e) Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due attention to the needs and priorities identified	3.2.1 - 2nd milestone	Number of CB activities	At least once per year	June 2018
f) Work with the WCO Secretariat and Members to evaluate the regional capacity building program	3.2.1 - 3rd milestone	Results of participants' evaluation	At least average of 4 out of 5	June 2018
g) Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back into planning for regional capacity building activities	3.2.1 - 4th milestone	Number of post action undertaken	At least once per year	June 2018
h) Work with Members to ensure their inputs to the development of the ROCB A/P annual plan by responding to the regional needs survey	4.1.2 - 1st milestone	Number of contributing Members	33/33 members	June 2018
i) Further strengthen cooperation among 7 Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and ROCB A/P paying due attention to establishing /supporting regional experts for more sustainable capacity building delivery in the region	ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of activities	At least once per year	June 2018

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2016-2018	KPI	Target	Timeframe in the RSP
a) Work with Members, Vice Chair and RILO A/P to share experiences on capacity building activities with Members on regular basis via regional communication tools (e.g. WCO A/P Website and Newsletter, ROCB A/P Website and E-Newsletters)	3.1.1 - 1st milestone	Number of sharing experiences	At least once every quarter	June 2018
b) Work with Members, Vice Chair and Regional Training Centers (RTCs) to share good practices and forward thinking work with other Members via regional communication tools	4.1.4 - 1st milestone	Number of items shared	At least once per quarter	On-going

Annual Work Plan for ROCB A/P (2016/17)

1. Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2016-2018)	Annual Work Plan for 2016/17	Timeframe
a) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment <i>(RSP 1.1.1 - 1st milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on risk management for Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. ➤ Conduct a national workshop on risk management for Indonesia with focus on export controls <i>(See also 1-(w))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on risk management with the use of the pre-loading advance cargo information <i>(See also 1-(w) and (x))</i> 	June 2017
b) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing national risk management database (e.g. nCEN) <i>(RSP 1.1.1 - 3rd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance in developing national database for risk management 	June 2017
c) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool <i>(RSP 1.1.1 - 4th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on Revenue Package, focusing Customs valuation, for Indonesia and Thailand <i>(See also 1-(o))</i> 	June 2017
d) Work with the WCO Secretariat to assist all requesting developing Members to have undertaken Diagnostic Phase II <i>(RSP 1.1.2 - 2nd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In cooperation with the WCO Secretariat, conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Fiji <i>(See also 1-(w) and (x))</i> 	June 2017

e) Upon request, assist Member's efforts to develop AEO (Authorized Economic Operators) program <i>(RSP 1.1.2 - 3rd milestone)</i>	➤ Conduct a national workshop on AEO for Vietnam	June 2017
f) Upon request, assist Member's efforts in implementing trade recovery activities <i>(RSP 1.1.2 - 5th milestone)</i>	➤ Upon request, provide the assistance in implementing trade recovery activities	June 2017
g) Upon request, assist Member's effort to accede to and implement the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 1st milestone)</i>	➤ Conduct national workshops on implementation of the RKC for Iran and Vanuatu	June 2017
h) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 2nd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon request, conduct national workshop(s) on implementing WTO TFA ➤ Conduct a national workshop on Inland Container Depot and Transit for Lao PDR <i>(See also 1-(x))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Customs transit ➤ Conduct a national workshop on advance ruling for Bangladesh <i>(See also 1-(j) and (x))</i> 	June 2017
i) Upon request, assist Member's effort for: (1) smooth implementation of HS 2017 (for CPs) (2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 3rd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on HS for Lao PDR and Mongolia ➤ Conduct a national workshop on advance ruling on classification for Bangladesh <i>(See also 1-(h) and (x))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Customs laboratory and chemical analysis <i>(See also 1-(u) and (y))</i> 	June 2017
j) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing Advance Ruling System for tariff classification decision, origin of goods and Customs Valuation <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 4th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on Customs laboratory for Fiji and Myanmar <i>(See also 1-(u), (x), (y) and 3-(c))</i> ➤ Conduct national workshop on Revenue Package (Customs valuation and HS) for Samoa <i>(See also 1-(o))</i> 	

k) Upon request, assist Member's effort in undertaking Time Release Study (TRS) in accordance with the WCO TRS Guidelines <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 5th milestone)</i>	➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the conduct of TRS	June 2017
l) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing self-certification for Rules of Origin <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 6th milestone)</i>	➤ Organize a sub-regional workshop on rules of origin for ASEAN countries	June 2017
m) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing WCO Data Model <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 7th milestone)</i>	➤ Organize a regional workshop on Customs ICT ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Digital Customs and e-commerce <i>(See also 1-(r))</i>	June 2017
n) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 8th milestone)</i>	➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the implementation of the WCO Resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	June 2017
o) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Valuation Agreement <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 9th milestone)</i>	➤ Conduct national workshops on Customs valuation for Indonesia and Thailand <i>(See also 1-(c))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Customs valuation ➤ Conduct a national workshop on Revenue Package (Customs valuation and HS) for Samoa <i>(See also 1-(j))</i>	June 2017
p) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing a Post Clearance Audit (PCA) System <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 10th milestone)</i>	➤ Conduct a national workshop on PCA for Lao PDR and Malaysia ➤ Organize a regional workshop on PCA	June 2017

q) Upon request, assist Member's effort in promoting cooperation and coordination for Coordinated Border Management (CBM) <i>(RSP 1.2.1 - 1st to 2nd milestones)</i>	➤ Conduct national workshops on CBM for Bangladesh and Malaysia	June 2017
r) Upon request, assist Member's effort in enhancing Customs-Customs, and if appropriate, Customs-to-Business interconnectivities in various aspects <i>(RSP 1.2.2 - 1st to 3rd milestones)</i>	➤ Organize a regional workshop on Digital Customs and e-commerce <i>(See also 1-(m))</i>	June 2017
s) Upon request, assist Member's effort in utilizing Advance Passenger Information (API) / Passenger Name Record (PNR) for the risk assessment of travelers <i>(RSP 2.1.1 - 4th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on passenger controls, including the use of API/PNR, for Lao PDR and Mongolia ➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the introduction and/or use of API/PNR ➤ Organize a regional workshop on passenger controls 	June 2017
t) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues <i>(RSP 2.2.1 - 2nd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on IPR for Fiji, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vanuatu <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Organize a regional Train-the-Trainers workshop for Action IPR A/P <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on IPR for Indonesia <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance on IPR issues <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on the follow-up of the Action IPR A/P <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> 	June 2017

<p>u) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote the application of sustainable anti-drug initiatives (e.g. WCO Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP))</p> <p><i>(RSP 2.2.1 - 3rd milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Drug Detector Dogs handling <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Customs laboratory and chemical analysis <i>(See also 1-(j), (x) and (y))</i> ➤ Conduct national workshops on Customs laboratory for Fiji and Myanmar <i>(See also 1-(j), (x), (y) and 3-(c))</i> 	<p>June 2017</p>
<p>v) Work with RILO A/P and Members to promote activities to raise awareness on environment issue (e.g. hazardous waste and wildlife)</p> <p><i>(RSP 2.2.1 - 4th milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon request, work with RILO A/P and Members to raise awareness on environmental issues 	<p>June 2017</p>
<p>w) Upon request, assist Member's effort in enhancing border security in order to tackle with terrorists threats</p> <p><i>(RSP 2.2.1 - 5th milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Non-Intrusive Inspection <i>(See also 1-(x) and (y))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapon <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on risk management for Indonesia with focus on export controls. <i>(See also 1-(a))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on risk management with the use of the pre-loading advance cargo information. <i>(See also 1-(a) and (x))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on security screening on postal items <i>(See also 1-(x))</i> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Fiji <i>(See also 1-(d) and (x))</i> 	<p>June 2017</p>

<p>x) Undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region (e.g. SAFE FoS, RM and WTO TFA)</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.2 - 1st milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Non-Intrusive Inspection (See also 1-(w) and (y)) ➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the implementation of WTO TFA ➤ Conduct a national workshop on WTO TFA for Lao PDR ➤ Conduct national workshops on Customs laboratory for Fiji and Myanmar (See also 1-(j), (u) and (y)) ➤ Organize a regional workshop on security screening on postal items (See also 1-(w)) ➤ Organize a regional workshop on risk management with the use of the pre-loading advance cargo information. (See also 1-(a) and (w)) ➤ Conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Fiji (See also 1-(d) and (w)) ➤ Conduct a national workshop on Inland Container Depot and Transit for Lao PDR (See also 1-(h)) ➤ Conduct a national workshop on advance ruling for Bangladesh (See also 1-(h) and (j)) 	<p>June 2017</p>
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<p>y) Work with RILO A/P and Members to undertake capacity building activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement in the region (e.g. IPR, Commercial Fraud, drugs and precursors, environmental crime and digital crime)</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.2 - 2nd milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on IPR for Fiji, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vanuatu <i>(See also 1-(t))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapon <i>(See also 1-(w))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Customs laboratory and chemical analysis <i>(See also 1-(j), (u), (x) and 3-(c))</i> ➤ Conduct national workshops on Customs laboratory for Fiji and Myanmar <i>(See also 1-(j), (u), (x) and 3-(c))</i> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance on IPR ➤ Organize a regional Train-the-Trainers workshop for Action IPR A/P <i>(See also 1-(t))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on the follow-up of the Action IPR A/P <i>(See also 1-(t))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Drug Detector Dogs handling <i>(See also 1-(u))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Non-Intrusive Inspection <i>(See also 1-(w) and (x))</i> 	<p>June 2017</p>
<p>z) Upon request, undertake leadership and management training programs</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.3 - 1st milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on human resource management strategy for Fiji ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Framework on Customs Professionalism 	<p>June 2017</p>
<p>aa) Upon request, assist Member's effort in devising and implementing integrity action plan</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.3 - 2nd milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a sub-regional workshop on integrity for the Pacific 	<p>June 2017</p>

2. Further develop partnerships with development partners

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to RSP 2016-2018)	Annual Work Plan for 2016/17	Timeframe
a) Enhance cooperation, coordination and mutual understanding between development partners and ROCB A/P <i>(ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in RSP))</i>	➤ Continue strategic dialogues and cooperation with development partners through participation in the meetings and seminars organized by them	June 2017
b) Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners <i>(RSP 3.1.1 - 2nd milestone)</i>	➤ Continue to work with WB, ADB, UNEP and other interested development partners to conduct joint projects for reform and modernization of Member administrations and send experts for the joint projects on such areas as Customs valuation and PCA ➤ Participate in sub-regional meetings organized by development partners to monitor and assist Members' efforts in reform and modernization	June 2017

3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to RSP 2016-2018)	Annual Work Plan for 2016/17	Timeframe
a) Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework <i>(RSP 3.1.2 - 1st milestone)</i>	➤ Organize regional accreditation workshops on experts of transit, HS and risk management respectively and utilize the region's accredited experts on various occasions of regional/national workshops on their respective expertise ➤ Discuss and cooperate with Regional Training Centers to keep update the knowledge and skills of these accredited experts and candidates	June 2017

b) Upon request, assist Members to promote the WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and accredited experts <i>(RSP 3.1.2 - 2nd milestone)</i>	➤ Take every possible opportunity to promote the WCO e-learning programs and CLiKC! platform in cooperation with the RTCs and accredited experts to support Members' continuous self-efforts for training of their personnel	June 2017
c) Work with developed Members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities <i>(RSP 3.1.2 - 3rd milestone)</i>	➤ Conduct a national workshop on the establishment of Customs laboratory for Fiji and Myanmar, in cooperation with the WCO A/P Regional Customs Laboratory <i>(See also 1-(j), (u), (x) and (y))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Customs laboratory and chemical analysis <i>(See also 1-(j), (u), (x) and (y))</i> ➤ Identify areas of existing expertise and their possible inputs from the developed Members and seek further contribution from them for the regional capacity building activities at an early stage of planning	June 2017
d) Work with regional training coordinator to identify and review Members' capacity building needs and priorities through conducting a needs assessment via a survey and ongoing consultation <i>(RSP 3.2.1- 1st milestone)</i>	➤ Work with the Regional Training Coordinator to further review capacity building needs survey aiming at properly collecting Members' most current needs and reform/modernization priorities ➤ Work with the WCO Secretariat, Member and development partners to plan, deliver and review capacity building activities paying due attention to the Members' needs and priorities. ➤ Conduct Regional Workshop Follow-Up Action Surveys and share findings with the WCO Secretariat, RTCs and Members as appropriate	June 2017
e) Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due attention to the needs and priorities identified <i>(RSP 3.2.1 - 2nd milestone)</i>		
f) Work with the WCO Secretariat and Members to evaluate the regional capacity building program <i>(RSP 3.2.1 - 3rd milestone)</i>		

<p>g) Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back into planning for regional capacity building activities</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.1 - 4th milestone)</i></p>		
<p>h) Work with Members to ensure their input to the ROCB A/P annual plan by responding to the regional needs survey</p> <p><i>(RSP 4.1.2 - 1st milestone)</i></p>		
<p>i) Further strengthen cooperation among 7 Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and ROCB A/P paying due attention to establishing/supporting regional experts for more sustainable capacity building delivery in the region</p> <p><i>(ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in RSP))</i></p>	<p>➤ In cooperation with the Regional Vice Chair, convene a Meeting of Heads of RTC to further strengthen their network and devise regional strategy for the pooling and better use of the regional experts in capacity building activities</p>	<p>December 2016</p>

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P <i>(Relevance to A/P RSP 2016-2018)</i>	Annual Work Plan for 2016/17	Timeframe
a) Work with Members, Vice Chair and RILO A/P to share experiences on capacity building activities with Members on regular basis via regional communication tools (e.g. WCO A/P Website and Newsletter, ROCB A/P Website and E-Newsletters) <i>(RSP 3.1.1 - 1st milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Issue ROCB A/P e-newsletters every 3 months and include more information on Members' experiences in reform and modernization ➤ Maintain ROCB website and upload pertinent information in a timely manner to inform Members and stakeholders of the ROCB A/P's activities. 	June 2017
b) Work with Members, Vice Chair and Regional Training Centers (RTCs) to share good practices and forward thinking work with other Members via regional communication tools <i>(RSP 4.1.4 - 1st milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist Members, Vice Chair and the RTCs to share good practices by issuing a series of regional good practice reports on selected topics 	June 2017

Abbreviations

ACE	Accredited Customs Expert
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEO	Authorized Economic Operator
A/P	Asia Pacific
API	Advance Passenger Information
ASEM	Asia-Europe Meeting
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asia Nations
CADS	Customs Anti-Drug Strategy
CBM	Coordinated Border Management
CCF	Customs Cooperation Fund
CEN	Customs Enforcement Network
CENComm	Customs Enforcement Network Communication
CEP	Compliance Enforcement Package
CLiKC!	Custom Learning and Knowledge Community
CTS	Cargo Targeting System
DP	Development Partner
ECP	Economic Competitiveness Package
GNC	Globally Network Customs
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPM	Interface Public-Members
IPR	Intellectual Property Right
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
nCEN	national Customs Enforcement Network
NII	Non-Intrusive Inspection
OCO	Oceania Customs Organisation
PCA	Post Clearance Audit
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PNR	Passenger Name Record
RILO A/P	Asia Pacific Regional Intelligence Liaison Office
RKC	Revised Kyoto Convention
RM	Risk Management
ROCB	Regional Office for Capacity Building
ROCB A/P	Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building
RSP	Regional Strategic Plan
RTC	Regional Training Center
SASEC	South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation
SAFE FoS	SAFE Framework of Standard
SW	Single Window
SME	Small and medium sized enterprises
TRS	Time Release Study

TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
UN	United Nations
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCO	World Customs Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization



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