Annual Report 2016/2017
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**Part 1  Executive Summary**

This annual report covers the Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) activities conducted from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. During the fiscal year of 2016/17, the ROCB A/P organized 15 sub-regional and regional workshops and nearly 20 national workshops. ROCB A/P represented the World Customs Organization (WCO) in numerous national and regional conferences to raise the profile of the tasks undertaken by the WCO.

**Participation to the Sub-/Regional Workshops**

The primary objectives of organizing WCO workshops (especially regional workshops) include provision of platforms for the regional Members to share their good practices on various Customs business with a view to assisting Member administrations’ continued reform and modernization to meet various challenges of the day. One of the objective key indicators is the number of participants attending regional workshops. ROCB A/P confirms there were 349 officials from 30 Member Customs administrations in the A/P region who took part in the capacity building activities organized by the ROCB A/P, which was a slight drop of 2.79% compared to the year of 2015/16 (Diagram 1). The drop of the number of participants attributes to a fewer number of workshops conducted last year than the previous year.

![Diagram 1 – No. of Participants](image_url)
The ROCB A/P expresses its sincere appreciation to the WCO Secretariat, Regional Vice-Chair Secretariat (Fiji Revenue and Customs Service), Regional Training Centers (RTCs), accredited Customs experts (ACEs), regional Director Generals, development partners (DPs), our gracious host administration (i.e. Thai Customs Department) and, of course, workshop and conference participants for their insightful guidance, professional advice and contributions, active participation, cooperation and dedication to the capacity building assistance programs which the ROCB A/P has arranged. Without their continued guidance and support, the ROCB A/P alone cannot fulfill entrusted tasks and responsibilities. With a view to obtaining a better snapshot of our efforts, especially the benefits accrued from the sub-regional and regional workshops, the ROCB A/P continues to use the Regional Workshop Follow-Up Actions Survey. In 2016/17, the ROCB A/P conducted the Survey on the regional workshops conducted in 2015/16, and the replies to the survey were collated and analyzed. Summary and findings were published in February 2017 as the ROCB A/P Customs Good Practice Report and it has been made public on the ROCB A/P’s homepage (www.rocb-ap.org). The ROCB A/P firmly believes that this survey and feedback provides Members administrations with abundant information and encouragement for continued reform and modernization, by way of showcasing more successful stories.

Mobilization of the WCO Accredited Customs Experts (ACEs)

Use of the region’s expertise is one of the essential elements to foster collective efforts and mutual assistance among the regional Members to continue Customs reform and modernization. As a result of collaborative efforts exerted by the WCO, ROCB A/P and regional Member administrations, the Region has added and maintained a pool of WCO accredited experts who actively contribute to regional capacity building as resource persons. There are six categories of accredited experts under the WCO scheme, namely, Diagnostic Facilitators, Customs Modernization Advisors, Mercator Programme Advisors, Technical and Operational Advisors, Expert Trainers and Leadership and Management Development Advisors. The list of contributions made by the WCO accredited experts is shown below (Diagram 2).

Diagram 2 - List of contributions made by the Accredited Customs Experts (ACEs) to the regional workshops organized in the A/P region in 2016/17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>ACEs from</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop</td>
<td>Sep. 2016</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on</td>
<td>Sep. 2016</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>ROCB A/P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Clearance Audit (PCA)</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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Part 1: Executive Summary by Head of the ROCB A/P
ROCB A/P Annual Report 2016/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country 1</th>
<th>Country 2</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Train-The-Trainer Workshop for ACTION IPR A/P 2</td>
<td>Nov. 2016</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Intelligence-Led Risk Management</td>
<td>Nov. 2016</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Rules of Origin</td>
<td>Mar. 2017</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCO A/P Regional Strategic Workshop on the WCO Security Program</td>
<td>Apr. 2017</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCO Follow-up Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Customs Valuation and the WCO Revenue Package</td>
<td>Jun. 2017</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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ROCB A/P expresses its great gratitude to those experts as well as their home administrations for their remarkable and valuable contributions to the regional capacity building activities.

ROCB A/P Staff Changes

In 2016/17, there was a drastic change of personnel in the ROCB A/P. Five out of eight colleagues changed. The ROCB A/P sincerely welcomed Dr. TONG Hua from China, Ms. Eva SUEN from Hong Kong China, Ms. Saori NOJIMA from Japan and Mr. Poonyawee SROYTHONG from Thailand. In exchange, the ROCB A/P bid farewell to Mr. Kangsik CHO from Korea, Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI from Japan, Ms. Alpha WONG from Hong Kong China and Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON from Thailand.

Overview of the Regional Capacity Building Activities in 2016/17

The ROCB A/P is seen as the cornerstone of the regionalization approach to implementing the WCO's Capacity Building Strategy. Every year, the ROCB A/P and the regional training coordinator (i.e. Japan Customs) conduct a needs survey to collect and analyze Members’ progress in Customs reforms and modernization. Individual requests from Members are also received on an ad-hoc manner. Considering the Members’ needs and the regional priorities as enumerated in the A/P

Part 1: Executive Summary by Head of the ROCB A/P
Regional Strategic Plan (RSP), the ROCB A/P devises its own 2-year Strategic Action Plan and its Annual Work Plan. The Annual Work Plan enumerates the ROCB A/P’s specific actions categorized into the 4 pillars shown below.

**Pillar I: Support the Implementation of WCO Conventions, Instruments and Tools**

The WCO has developed a number of conventions, instruments and tools and introduced a number of programs and initiatives that are designed to significantly enhance effectiveness of Customs operations. In order to facilitate regional Member administrations to adopt and implement the international standards of WCO, the ROCB A/P conducted a number of relevant capacity building activities in the A/P region in 2016/17 as outlined below:

i. **Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)**
   - WCO ROCB A/P promoted the Customs framework (AEO program) for implementation of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Program in Philippines
   - WCO ROCB A/P promoted the Customs framework (AEO program) for implementation of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Program in Cambodia

ii. **Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR)**
    - ROCB A/P promoted the WCO tools and instruments in the implementation of PNR in Indonesia

iii. **Customs Valuation**
    - WCO Regional Workshop on Customs Valuation and Revenue Package in Japan
    - WCO National Workshop on Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing for Thailand

iv. **Digital Customs & E-Commerce**
    - WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Digital Customs and E-Commerce in India

v. **Information Technology (IT)**
    - ROCB A/P joined the WCO IT Conference and Exhibition 2017 in Georgia

vi. **Integrity**
    - Sub-regional Workshop on Integrity for the Pacific in Fiji

vii. **Intellectual Property Right (IPR)**
    - WCO Follow-up Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy in Japan
    - WCO A/P Regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop for Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the AP Region 2 (Action IPR A/P 2) in Thailand
viii. Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII)
    - WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Non-intrusive Inspection in Australia

ix. Post Clearance Audit (PCA)
    - WCO A/P Regional Workshop on PCA in Japan

x. Revenue Package and Trade Facilitation
    - ROCB A/P promoted the WCO Revenue Package and Customs-Tax Cooperation Guidelines to assist implementation of the AEC2025 in Thailand
    - WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Customs Laboratories for the Revenue Package Program and Trade Facilitation in Japan

xi. Risk Management (RM)
    - WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Intelligence-Led Risk Management in India

xii. Rules of Origin (ROO) and Advance Ruling
    - WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Technical Update of ROO for ASEAN Member Customs Administrations in Thailand
    - WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Advance Ruling and Origin Certification for ASEAN Member Countries in Malaysia

xiii. Security Program
    - WCO Regional Strategic Workshop on the WCO Security Program in Indonesia
    - ROCB A/P contributed to the WCO Sub-regional Security Program Meeting in Vietnam
    - ROCB A/P joined the WCO Security Program Mission in Thailand

xiv. Single Window (SW)
    - WCO-UNESCAP UNNEXT MASTERCLASS 2017: Digital Customs and Single Window in the context of WTO TFA in Korea

xv. Supply Chain Security
    - Joint WCO-UPU Customs-Post Workshop for A/P Region in Australia

Pillar II: Further Enhance Collaboration with Development Partners

The ROCB A/P continues strategic discussions and cooperation with Development Partners (DPs) by conducting joint projects and participating in meetings/seminars/conferences. Throughout the cooperation, it fosters mutual understanding between DPs and the ROCB A/P. It also creates synergy in assisting A/P Members in Customs modernization by working closely with DPs and seeking cooperation to create synergy in carrying out projects with common interests.

Part 1: Executive Summary by Head of the ROCB A/P
One of the ROCB A/P’s cornerstones for its working strategy is to collaborate with other DPs so that our capacity building assistance activities are complemented with their professional expertise. In this fiscal year, the ROCB A/P had excellent opportunities to work with other DPs in the A/P region.

For example, at the invitation of the United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Ms. Alpha WONG of the ROCB A/P, as the WCO representative, participated in the International Seminar on Trade Facilitation in North-East Asia, which was held in December 2016 in Incheon, Korea. The aim was to provide a platform for the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) members and the stakeholders to discuss emerging issues and areas for further cooperation to facilitate trade in the Greater Tumen Region. On behalf of the WCO and the ROCB A/P, Ms. WONG spoke during the panel discussion explaining the WCO’s Strategic Plan with focus on trade facilitation, promoting the harmonization of international standards, streamlining clearance procedures and risk management.

In May 2017 in Sydney, Australia, the WCO and Universal Postal Union (UPU) jointly organized a Joint WCO-UPU Customs-Post Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region in cooperation with the ROCB A/P, the Australian Border Force and Australia Post. The financial support was provided by the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea) to support Asia-Pacific Customs and Posts to strengthen cooperation and exchange of advance electronic information.

**Pillar III: Improve Needs Analysis, Planning, Delivery and Management of Regional Capacity Building Activities**

The ROCB A/P has maintained a comprehensive planning practice to understand the Member administrations’ technical assistance needs through the annual survey. In this regard, Japan Customs and the ROCB A/P jointly conducted an annual technical assistance needs’ survey in January 2017. This survey also aimed at taking a stock of implementing the international instruments and technical standards by the Members. The feedback and input provided by the Member administrations to the survey was very useful and constructive for our design and plan of action in the upcoming workshops.

Effective capacity building requires Member administrations’ active participation and good follow-up, complemented with ownership and political support. In this fiscal year, the ROCB A/P conducted the Follow-Up Survey on the regional workshops organized in 2015/16, and the workshop participants’ replies were consolidated and analyzed for the compilation of the Good Customs Practice Report No.15. Details of the Report can be found at Annex III. Accurate understanding of the Member administrations’ capacity building needs is another essential element to use WCO technical assistance that is effective and relevant.

Part 1: Executive Summary by Head of the ROCB A/P
Pillar IV: Enhance Communication and Information Sharing among Members

The ROCB A/P publishes an e-newsletter on a quarterly basis and lists the latest capacity building activities organized in the A/P region. As of 2016/17, ROCB has published 57 issues. The ROCB A/P homepage (www.rocb-ap.org) was launched in September 2014 and the access counter registered over 1,288,000 visits by the end of June 2017, which was an increase of 91.93% in 12 months in 2016/17 (Diagram 3).

Diagram 3 – ROCB A/P Website Statistics

Kazunari IGARASHI
Head of the ROCB A/P
Part 2  Highlights of the Last Year

127th/128th Sessions of the WCO Council (July 2016)

In the course of the WCO Council Sessions in July 2016, there was a regional consultation session for the respective WCO regions, including one for the A/P region, where the hand-over of the regional Vice Chairmanship from Malaysia to Fiji was made.


In accordance with the ROCB A/P’s Terms of Reference, the ROCB A/P developed its 2-year term Strategic Action Plan and Annual Work Plan in July 2017 for the purpose of assuring its work accountability and governance to the regional Directors General. The Plans are to be worked out in close consultation with the Regional Vice-Chair with the intent of assuring effective use of limited resources and making the region’s capacity building more focused and relevant to the needs of the regional Member Customs administrations. As such, the ROCB A/P’s Strategic Action Plan is closely linked with the incumbent A/P Regional Strategic Plan. The ROCB A/P’s Annual Plan for 2016/2017 was subsequently approved by the WCO Capacity Building Directorate.

The Annual Work Plan for 2016/2017 accommodated quite a good number of the regional/sub-regional and national workshops, both newly funded and carried forward from the previous years. These workshops sought to support improvements in the following 5 core Customs functions, namely: (1) Supply Chain Security; (2) trade facilitation; (3) revenue; (4) compliance and health and safety protection; and (5) organizational development, and they focused on the implementation of a series of internationally-recognized good practices for Customs reform and modernization.
ROCB A/P attended the A/P Vice-Chair’s Office Opening Ceremony (July 2016)

On 28 July 2016, the Official Launching Ceremony of the WCO A/P Vice Chair’s Office was held in Suva, Fiji, with presence of Honorable Mr. Aiyaz SAYED-KHAHYUM, Fijian Attorney General and Minister of Economy, Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, WCO Secretary General, and Dato’ Sri Khazali bin Hj Ahmad, then-Director General of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) and former A/P Vice Chair. Around 50 other invited guests, including Fiji-based diplomatic corps and participants to the WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Integrity, which was held consecutively, and Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended and witnessed the Ceremony.

ROCB A/P reported its Activities and Commitment to the Regional Contact Points (November 2016)

In November 2016, the 26th WCO A/P Regional Contact Point Meeting was held in Sigatoka, Fiji. Nearly 50 delegates attended and discussed a series of important subjects under the chairmanship of Mr. Visvanath DAS, Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) in the capacity of Regional Vice-Chair.

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, reported to the Meeting on the implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2014-2016 Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building), the ROCB A/P activities, and the Capacity Building support for the regional operation on Intellectual Property Right (IPR). Members appreciated the ROCB A/P’s undertaking in planning, coordination and delivery of the capacity building programs as they were relevant to the Region’s needs and priorities and encouraged continuation of a set of initiatives in assuring effectiveness of the regional programs. In the margin of the Meeting, Mr. IGARASHI talked with a number of participating Member delegations and discussed further coordination of the support and collaboration on their continued Customs reform and modernization commitment.

Part 2: Highlights of the Last Year
ROCB A/P joined the Discussion on the Region’s Future Priorities (January 2017)

In the wake of the discussion at the A/P Regional Contact Point Meeting held in November 2016 in Fiji, the regional working group meeting was convened in January 2017 in Canberra, Australia, to discuss the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) for 2018-2020 and other technical coordination issues. Along with other 22 delegates, Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the working group meeting and joined the discussion and exchanged views on the future priorities for the A/P regional Customs community and, in a broader context, the forecast changes in the business environment surrounding Customs. RSP for 2018-2020 is subject to further elaborated in the Regional Contact Point Meeting in October 2017 for subsequent adaption at the Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference in May 2018.

Publication of Customs Good Practice Reports (February 2017)

In June 2015, the WCO, the ROCB A/P and Asian Development Bank (ADB) completed their 3-year Joint Project to assist South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) countries on Customs valuation Control. Given its significant success, the ROCB A/P compiled its 14th Customs Good Practice Papers in October 2016 featuring roadmaps and abundant lessons learned from the WCO/ADB SASEC Multi-year projects to showcase the importance of the beneficiary Members’ continued commitment and good project management plan.

Effective capacity building requires Member administrations’ active participation and good follow-up, complemented with ownership and political support. In this regard, the ROCB A/P conducted the Follow-Up Survey on the regional workshops organized in 2015/16, and the workshop participants’ replies were consolidated and analyzed for the compilation of the 15th issue of the ROCB A/P Good Practice Report, which was published in February 2017.

Part 2: Highlights of the Last Year
ROCB A/P reported its Work Progress to the Regional Directors General (March 2017)

In March 2017, the 18th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference was held in Suva, Fiji. Along with the Secretary General of WCO as well as the representatives from the WCO Secretariat, RILO A/P and the OCO Secretariat, Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Conference as an observer.

Mr. IGARASHI made a brief report on the progresses of the ROCB A/P’s Annual Work Plan made in the last 8 months in 2016/17. Among others, he highlighted the outcomes of the Regional Training Center (RTC) Heads Meeting held in December 2016, and publication of the Customs Good Practice Report. In the wake of his presentation, several delegates took the floor and gave their kind words of compliments and encouragement to the ROCB A/P’s undertakings as well as some constructive suggestions for the future work.

Tallied with the WCO’s Theme 2017 “Data Analysis for Effective Border Management”

The WCO’s Theme for 2017 is “Data Analysis for Effective Border Management.” We need to consider how we better utilize readily available data for security purposes while assuring good trade facilitation. In order to tally with the theme, the ROCB A/P organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Digital Customs and E-commerce in India in December 2016 and also the WCO-UNESCAP UNNext Masterclass in Korea in April 2017 respectively.

Part 2: Highlights of the Last Year
Part 3 ROCB A/P Activities in 2016/2017

Introduction

The ROCB A/P is seen as the cornerstone of the regionalization approach to implementing the WCO's Capacity Building Strategy. Every year, the ROCB A/P and the Regional training coordinator (i.e. Japan Customs) conduct a needs survey to collect and analyze Members’ progress in Customs reforms and modernization. Individual requests from Members are also received on ad-hoc manner. Considering the Members’ needs and the regional priorities as enumerated in the A/P Regional Strategic Plan (RSP), the ROCB A/P devises its own 2-year Strategic Action Plan and its Annual Work Plan. The Annual Work Plan enumerates the ROCB A/P’s specific actions categorized into the 4 pillars, namely (i) support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools, (ii) enhance collaboration with development partners, (iii) improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities, and (iv) enhance communication and information sharing among Members.

Summaries of the ROCB A/P’s key activities undertaken during the 2016/17, from July 2016 to June 2017, are illustrated below.

Summary of the ROCB A/P Activities

3.1 Support the implementation of WCO Conventions, Instruments and Tools

Sub-regional Workshop on Integrity for the Pacific

27-29 July 2016, Suva, Fiji

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P, then-Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA. Currently, re-named to the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service) and Oceania Customs Organization (OCO), organized the Sub-regional Workshop on Integrity for the Pacific on 27-29 July 2016 at the Regional Training Center Fiji, in Suva, Fiji, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 23 high-level officials from the WCO Member Customs administrations in the Pacific region and 6
resource speakers, including Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, WCO Secretary General, and Dato’ Sri Khazali bin Hj AHMAD, Director General of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, participated in this important Sub-regional Workshop. In addition, 11 high-level representatives from the OCO Member administrations, who are not the WCO Member administrations, took part in the Workshop with sponsorship of the OCO. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, joined the Workshop as a facilitator.

The Workshop was opened with the remarks by Mr. Visvanath DAS, then-Acting Chief Executive Officer of the FRCA and Comptroller of Customs, which highlighted ramifications of the integrity to the border security and trade facilitation, as well as the entire Customs reform and modernization process, and underlined the Customs managers’ engagement to contend with a series of challenges through multi-faceted measures. The Workshop was led by the resources persons from the WCO Secretariat and Mauritius Revenue Authority and contained practical exercises on the WCO Corruption Risk Mapping, as well as a High-Level Dialogue Session participated by Dr. MIKURIYA and Dato’ Sri Khazali.

WCO fosters high-level support for the continued modernization of Samoa Customs

29 July 2016, Apia, Samoa

On 29 July 2016, Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, WCO Secretary General, and Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, visited Apia, Samoa, to pay courtesy calls to the Samoan political leaders with a view to calling for continued high-level support for on-going Customs reform and modernization of Samoa Customs, including expeditious accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention.

In Apia, Dr. MIKURIYA and Mr. IGARASHI paid a courtesy visit to Samoan Prime Minister, Mr. Tuilaepa Fatialofa Luplesollai Aiono Neioti Saiele Malielegaoi, who warmly welcomed the WCO delegation who visited Samoa for the first time. The Prime Minister recognized the roles of the Customs for Samoa government with its revenue collection and border security functions and thanked the WCO for the technical assistance provided to Samoa Customs. The Secretary General reiterated that WCO’s relevant instruments and tools, including the RKC, would lead to increase Samoa’s economic competitiveness as well as border security capacity, which the Prime Minister has concerned. In this respect, Dr. MIKURIYA encouraged the Samoan government to continuously engage in the regional economic integration effort through modernizing Customs procedures and practices. The Prime Minister asked for the WCO’s continued support for the Samoa Customs’ capacity building to this end.
Prior to the courtesy visit to the Prime Minister, Dr. MIKURIYA and Mr. IGARASHI met Samoa’s Minister for Revenue and Prisons, Mr. Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt, and his Associate Minister at the Samoa Customs Headquarters. In this meeting, the Secretary General explained the WCO’s continued commitment to the Members’ capacity building, especially for the Pacific region, in order to support connecting the region’s economies to the global trade chain and to counter transnational organized crime and terrorism. Articulating a set of challenges the Samoa government and Customs are facing, the Minister asked for continued provision of technical training to Samoa Customs.

WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Non-Intrusive Inspection

12-16 September 2016, Melbourne, Australia

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection, organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Non-Intrusive Inspection on 12-16 September 2016 at the Melbourne Customs House of the Australian Border Force (ABF) under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 30 officials representing 26 WCO Members, including the speakers from the host administration, participated in this Workshop. An Accredited Expert from the Dutch Customs participated in the workshop as the leading resource person and Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCVB A/P, took part in it as the facilitator.

This regional workshop was designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the principles of the WCO SAFE Frameworks of Standard (FoS) and the WCO’s Security Package by examining the latest development of the SAFE FoS, good practices in the identification of high-risk containers through the application of a tactical risk management approaches, and the latest technologies available. Participants were also briefed on the WCO’s on-going initiatives in unifying the NII image file format and subsequent pilot on data sharing with a view to facilitating NII image data file among the Member Customs administrations and developing the database thereof for possible development of training module. In the course of the Workshop, the participants were escorted to the site visit at the Melbourne NII facility, where the new large-scale NII scanner was installed recently, and observed ABF’s NII practices as well as supplementary facilities, such as mini-laboratory and health and safety equipment.
WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Post Clearance Audit

12-16 September 2016, Kashiwa, Japan

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Japan Customs, organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Post Clearance Audit at the RTC Japan (Japan Customs Training Institute), Kashiwa, Japan, on 12-16 September 2016 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 23 participants, and 5 resource persons, including Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI of the ROCB A/P as a facilitator, participated in the Workshop.

The resource persons gave a comprehensive guidance on the international standards and conducted varieties of practical PCA exercises based on the newly developed WCO PCA Training tools. The participants shared their national PCA practices, actual cases, as well as challenges. Through this Workshop, the participants and the resource persons actively exchange their views on PCA and the participants were able to obtain many concrete hints to implement/improve PCA in their respective administrations.

ROCB A/P joined the WCO Security Program Mission

4 November 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

On 4 November 2016, Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P joined the WCO mission in Bangkok, Thailand, which aimed at exploring possible areas of cooperation to promote the WCO Security Program with the Thai Customs Department. The mission was headed by WCO External Relations Officer, and accompanied by WCO Security Program Team members. The Mission visited the Suvarnabhumi Airport Passenger Control Bureau and the Suvarnabhumi Airport Cargo Clearance Customs Bureau and discussed Thai Customs’ ongoing initiatives in security.

These missions aim at developing a project to promote the WCO Security program in response to the G7 Action Plan of the Leaders’ Declaration at the recent Ise-Shima Summit, which highlighted the WCO Security Program as one of the international measures to be pushed forward as one of counter-terrorism measures for strengthening cooperation among border agencies.
WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Customs Laboratories for the Revenue Package Program and Trade Facilitation

9-11 November 2016, Kashiwa, Japan

The WCO, in cooperation with the Central Customs Laboratory (CCL) of Japan Customs and the ROCB A/P, organized a Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Customs Laboratories for the Revenue Package Program and Trade Facilitation from 9 to 11 November 2016 in Kashiwa, Japan. This Workshop was sponsored by the CCF/Japan and was attended by 33 Customs officials from 23 Customs administrations in the A/P region and Russian Customs. Ms. Alpha WONG of the ROCB A/P with Mr. Jørn HINDSDAL, Deputy Director of the WCO Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate and an expert of European Union facilitated the Workshop as resource persons.

The Workshop provided a platform for participants to share practices and experiences in chemical analysis for goods classification. The resource persons explained on the important role of Customs Laboratory on enhancing the quality of Customs chemical analysis for uniform classification and how it is related to Customs clearance, advance ruling and tariff. The impact of Harmonized System 2017 was also highlighted. Participant shared their national practices and methodology on analysis through presentations and discussions. The CCL, also known as the WCO Regional Customs Laboratory in the A/P region, made a number of presentations to share its good practices on chemical analysis, development of non-intrusive instrument for quick examination, experience on establishing Customs laboratory and their RCL initiatives in information sharing as well as capacity building for the WCO and A/P region.
WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Train-The-Trainer Workshop for Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the Asia/Pacific Region 2 (ACTION IPR A/P 2)

15-17 November 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the RILO A/P, organized the WCO A/P Regional Train-The-Trainer Workshop for Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the Asia/Pacific Region (ACTION IPR A/P 2) in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15-17 November 2016 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 21 participants and 7 resource persons, including Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI and Mr. Poonyawee SROYTHONG of the ROCB A/P as facilitators, participated in the Workshop.

This Workshop was organized for the preparation of the second IPR operation in the A/P region, which is scheduled in 2017. The Workshop gave a good opportunity for the participants to review the 1st IPR operation held last year and share their views on how they can better conduct the 2nd operation.

WCO National Workshop on Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing for Thailand

21-25 November 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P, organized the WCO National Workshop on Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing for Thai Customs on 21-25 November 2016 at the Thai Customs Department (TCD) Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, under the sponsorship of CCF/China. A total of over 100 participants from the TCD and the Thai Tax Department attended the workshop, which was facilitated by a WCO Secretariat official and an Accredited Expert from China Customs. Mr. Kulit SOMBATSIRI, Director General of the TCD and the WCO resource person as well as Dr. TONG Hua, CCF/China Operational Manager of the ROCB A/P, delivered opening remarks and wished success of the workshop.

The Workshop targeted Customs and Tax Department officers, who are involved in Customs Valuation and transfer pricing, and the resource persons introduced the outlines of the latest Guidelines jointly developed by the WCO, the WTO and the OECD, Instrument and Tools in transfer pricing. The resource persons and the participants shared their cases and methodologies on Valuation and Transfer Pricing practices. One of the features for this workshop was to provide a platform for both Customs officers and Tax officers to share their understanding on the subject matters, which would create an effective communication mechanism of streamlined cooperation between the two Departments in the future.

Part 3: ROCB A/P Activities in 2016/2017
WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Intelligence-led Risk Management

21-25 November 2016, Faridabad, India

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the RTC India (National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotic, NACEN), organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Intelligence-led Risk Management on 21-25 November 2016 at the RTC India, Faridabad, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 26 participants from the A/P Member administrations, as well as 3 resource persons and 2 representatives from the RILO A/P, took part in the Workshop. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi and Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRIERT of the ROCB A/P participated in the Workshop as facilitators.

This Workshop program was designed to disseminate the notions and share experiences in using advance cargo information, which is stated in the Pillar 3 of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, with a view to contend with the increasing volume of the international trade in goods while striking appropriate balance between trade facilitation and supply chain security. In this vein, resource persons, i.e. WCO Secretariat official and Accredited Customs Experts from Japan and India, provided a series of comprehensive guidance on intelligence and risk management (RM) in the Customs context based on the newly developed WCO tools on RM. RILO representatives gave a presentation on the use of CEN database for the Members’ operational intelligence analysis. Participants shared their national RM practices in using intelligence support and conducted operational risk management exercise with a simulated case.

WCO Sub-regional Security Program Meeting

23-25 November 2016, Hanoi, Vietnam

The WCO organized the WCO Sub-regional Security Program Meeting on 23-25 November 2016 in Hanoi, Vietnam with a view to developing a concept of a project to promote the WCO Security Program, which consist of API/PNR, SALW and chemical precursor and components of improvised explosive devices (IED). The Meeting agenda was designed to discuss the situation in the region and identify the possible areas of cooperation to enhance the Customs’ counter-terrorism endeavor with the support of a potential donor. 21 delegates representing 8 ASEAN Member Customs administrations (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) attended the Meeting. Mr. Duong Van Tam, Deputy Director
of International Cooperation Department of Vietnam Customs, and Mr. Yoshiro BABA of the WCO co-chaired the Meeting.

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, joined the Meeting as part of the WCO resources and made a presentation on the WCO’s undertakings on the standard-setting and capacity building on the API and PNR as well as the latest discussion on the amendment in the technical standards and agreed practices thereof. Other WCO resources made presentations on the Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as the Project Global Shield on the control of the chemical comportment possibly used for the IED.

WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Digital Customs and E-Commerce

12-16 December 2016, Faridabad, India

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P, organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Digital Customs and E-Commerce on 12-16 December 2016 at the RTC India (National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotic, NACEN), India, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 27 participants and 5 resource persons, including Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI and Mr. Poonyawee SROYTHONG of the ROCB A/P as facilitators, participated in the Workshop.

The resource persons gave comprehensive overviews and guidance to rapidly growing E-Commerce and WCO activities under the slogan of Digital Customs, which is the WCO’s theme for 2016, as effective means to address challenges, which the E-Commerce presents to Customs administrations. National practices and views were also actively exchanged between the participants and the resource persons throughout the Workshop.
ASEAN Directors General Meeting on Excise Taxation

20 February 2017, Hua Hin, Thailand

At the invitation from the Fiscal Policy Research Institute Foundation (FPRIF) of Thailand, which is a research institute supporting Thailand’s economic and fiscal management, Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the ASEAN Directors General Meeting on Excise Taxation held on 20 February 2017 in Hua Hin, Thailand, as a guest speaker. The meeting was aimed to share ASEAN countries’ experiences on the excise administration and policies among high-level executives of the tax authorities in the ASEAN Member States with a view to contributing to the development of the measures regarding taxation cooperation as stated in ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025, with which the ASEAN Member States (MS) are supposed to explore the possibility of collaboration in excise taxation and information sharing on common excisable tax policies among them. 24 high-level delegates from 7 ASEAN Member States (i.e. Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand) and 3 guest speakers, including Mr. IGARASHI, as well as some 30 staff members from Thai Excise Department and the FPRIF attended and/or observed the Meeting.

In the wake of the presentations made by the representatives of the ASEAN secretariat and the Charles Sturt University, which gave an overview of the AEC Blueprint 2025 and several typologies for tax/excise collaboration frameworks, such as those of EU, SACU and SADC, Mr. IGARASHI made a presentation on the enhancement of revenue collection through collaboration among the relevant authorities, in which he highlighted the Customs’ roles in revenue collection at the border and the WCO’s on-going initiatives under the WCO’s Revenue Package. With the anticipation of providing some food-for-thought for devising he gave series of brief explanations on some of the WCO’s instruments and tools, which are related to the enhancement of the Customs revenue collection functions, including the newly adopted the WCO Customs-Tax Cooperation Guidelines.

Mission to the Union of Myanmar

20 March 2017, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

WCO Secretary General, Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, visited the Union of Myanmar to meet Union Ministers and Deputy Ministers in Nay Pyi Taw and call for high-level political support for further enhancing cooperation among the border control agencies, including Customs, with a view to facilitating legitimate trade and strengthening the country’s resilience to the terrorism and transnational organized crime. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, accompanied
Secretary General to this mission. Director General and Director for Administration Division of Myanmar Customs as well as JICA Senior Expert warmly welcomed the WCO team and kindly escorted them throughout the mission in the Union.

Prior to visiting Nay Pyi Taw, Secretary General observed Thilawa Special Economic Zone in the outskirt of Yangon, where number of foreign companies are constructing their production facilities with a series of economic incentives. In Nay Pyi Taw, Secretary General exchanged views with Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Union Minister for Transport and Communication, and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance and explained the WCO’s on-going initiatives on border security and trade facilitation, including the pertinent capacity building assistance programs. Upon coming back to Yangon, Secretary General visited Myanmar Customs Headquarters and observed Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS), which came to operational in November 2016, with the assistance from Japanese government. Secretary General met Yangon-based Japanese business representatives, who very much welcomed the introduction of MACCS which has drastically improved clearance process and time with better integrity.

WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Advance Ruling and Origin Certification for ASEAN Member Countries

20 March 2017, Melaka, Malaysia

WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Advance Ruling and Origin Certification for ASEAN Member Countries was conducted on 20-24 March 2017 at the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL) in Melaka, Malaysia, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan, and in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD). A total of 18 representatives (including 2 JICA Experts) from 6 ASEAN Member administrations participated in this Sub-Regional Customs training program. Along with the resource persons from the WCO Secretariat and
New Zealand, Dr. TONG Hua of the ROCB A/P took part in the Workshop as a facilitator.

Given the entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, the Workshop aimed to assist the ASEAN Member Customs to improve institutional capacity of origin work, especially administration of the self-certification regime, including developing and implementing an advance ruling on origin. During the Workshop, participants interacted each other and shared their experiences and knowledge, and thus reached to some common views on the need for further improving infrastructure and internal Customs procedures in accordance with the WCO Guidelines and instruments, enhancing the awareness both from Customs and Publics through traditional and new media, and sustainable professional capacity building. In the course of the Workshop, Dr. TONG Hua made a presentation on the ROCB A/P's undertaking and regional capacity building arrangement mechanism, in which he stressed the significance of creating a communication platform after the Workshop, and drew the participants’ attention to the ROCB A/P’s Website resources and Regional Workshop Follow-Up Survey.

WCO visit to Thai Ministry of Finance

23 and 24 March 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

On the occasion of visiting Bangkok for the Launching Ceremony of WCO Security Project for Southeast Asia region, which was held on 23 March 2017, WCO Secretary General, Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, paid courtesy visits to Vice Minister of Thai Department of Commerce on 23 March 2017, and to Thai Finance Minister on 24 March 2017 respectively. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P accompanied Secretary General to these visits.

Secretary General and Vice Minister for Commerce discussed variety of topics, including surrounding environment and mounting challenges in the international trade and travel, including trade facilitation, border control and counter-terrorism. Given that the Thai Department of Commerce is leading the country’s trade policy, Secretary General called for high-level political support for enhanced coordinated border management for the sake of trade facilitation and border management, which were supported by Vice Minister. At the meeting with Finance Minister, Secretary General thanked Thai Government for its continued support for hosting ROCB A/P since its inception and Thai Customs in on-going reform and modernization under the initiatives of Thai Customs Director General to contend with a series of the challenges of the day, in which he stressed the need for enhanced coordinated border management through hands-on cooperation among relevant border control agencies. Secretary General shared his views on the importance of capacity building assistance, which was echoed by Finance Minister.

Part 3: ROCB A/P Activities in 2016/2017
WCO Security Project Launching Ceremony

23 March 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

On 23 March 2017, the official launching Ceremony of the WCO Security Project for Southeast Asia, which is financed by the Japanese Government, was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Approximately 100 guests, including representatives of project participating Member administrations, International organizations and Customs Attachés stationing in Bangkok, were invited to the Ceremony. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P and his staff also attended the Ceremony.

The Ceremony was officiated by the opening address by Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, WCO Secretary General, followed by the remarks by Deputy Secretary General of Thai National Security Council, Japanese Ambassador to Thailand, and Thai Customs Director General. In his remarks, Secretary General explained the background and the rationale of this new WCO security initiative, which aims at assisting WCO Members, in particular Members in the Southeast Asia region, and introduced five key components of this initiative, namely: Passenger Controls by the use of API/PNR; Program Global Shield aimed at countering IEDs; Strategic Trade Controls; Small Arms and Light Weapon; and Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. Subsequently, facilitated by Deputy Director of the Compliance and Enforcement Sub-Directorate of the WCO Secretariat, panelists from INTERPOL, IATA, Counter IED Centre of Excellence, Indonesia Customs and Pakistan Customs shared their views and experiences in this regard.
WCO Regional Strategic Workshop on the WCO Security Program

25-27 April 2017, Jakarta, Indonesia

On 25-27 April, the WCO Regional Strategic Workshop on the WCO Security Program has organized in Jakarta, Indonesia, under the sponsorship of Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan). 34 participants from the WCO Members, including 1 observer from the RILO A/P, and 4 resource speakers participated in the Workshop. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in it as one of the workshop facilitators.

In the 3-day workshop, participants heard detailed explanation of the WCO Security Program, focusing the control of chemical substances and materials used to made improvised explosive devices under the Program Global Shield, enforcement against illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in air cargo and its diversifications, and the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) to contend with the threats of foreign terrorist fighters and other transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and cash smuggling among other things. Participants discussed their perceived security risk and exchanged possible actions and measures to mitigate security loopholes and vulnerabilities among them. Workshop participants has a chance to visit Sukarno Hatta Airport Customs and TNT Warehouse to observe the Indonesia’s practices in the use of API and PNR for passenger risk assessment and physical control thereof, and assuring air cargo supply chain security to prevent illicit trafficking in strategic commodities and other contrabands.

WCO Follow-up Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy

15-18 May 2017, RTC Japan

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the RILO A/P, organized the WCO Follow-up Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy on 15-18 May 2017 at the WCO Regional Training Center Japan (Japan Customs Training Institute) in Kashiwa, Japan, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 26 participants and 4 resource persons, including Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI from the ROCB A/P as a facilitator, participated in the Workshop.

This Workshop was organized for reviewing the second IPR operation in the A/P region, which was successfully completed in February 2017. The participants exchanged experiences and
practices they had in the operation and discussed how they remedy perceived challenges and further improve their IPR enforcement against illicit trafficking in various counterfeit goods.

**ASEAN Customs Directors General Meeting**

17 May 2017, Bali, Indonesia

In response to the request by the WCO Secretariat and at the invitation by Indonesia Customs, Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, spoke at the Dialogue Session between the WCO and ASEAN Directors General (DGs) held as part of the ASEAN DGs Meeting on 17 May 2017 in Bali (Denpasar), Indonesia, in the capacity of a WCO representative. The Meeting was convened for 3 days and attended by more than 60 delegates, including DGs and high executives of 10 ASEAN Member Customs administrations, ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN’s development partners. Each Dialogue Session was assigned separately to the respective partners and no other partners were allowed to observe the other Sessions, with a view to assuring exchange of candid views among the ASEAN DGs and the respective partners.

At the Session assigned to the WCO, Mr. IGARASHI made a presentation on the recent progress on the WCO’s prioritized issues, which was highlighted by Secretary General at the recent Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference held in March 2017 in Suva, Fiji. He also referred to some of the emerging issues identified by the WCO’s technical committees, such as possible application of artificial intelligence and machine learning as well as Internet of Things, blockchain and global value chain, which may have significant implications to the border control and supply chain management in the near future. He then presented the ROCB’s perspectives to complement these perceived emerging issues in the context of planning of capacity building assistance activities for the next fiscal year. DGs welcomed WCO and appreciated its continued collaboration with ASEAN Member Customs administrations in various domains. DGs then raised several issues of their concerns and views, including the imperative needs for dealing with growing e-commerce trade, which are to be conveyed to the WCO for further discussion at the forthcoming Policy Commission and the Council Sessions in July 2017.
Mission to Bangladesh

24-25 May 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, visited Bangladesh National Board of Revenue (NBR) in Dhaka on 24-25 May 2017 with a view to consulting Chairman and Members of the NBR how the WCO and the ROCB A/P could further strengthen current cooperative ties with the NBR in order to better contending with a series of the WCO prioritized issues, such as supply chain security and counter-terrorism, trade facilitation, e-commerce, Customs-Tax cooperation and illicit financial flows. Prior to the meeting with Md. Nojibur Rahman, Senior Secretary for the Internal Resource Division of the Ministry of Finance and Chairman of the NBR, Mr. IGARASHI met three NBR Members and exchanged views on the way to cooperate for continuously advancing on-going reform and modernization efforts of the Bangladesh Customs from various perspectives and raise the profile thereof. Md. Rahman warmly welcomed Mr. IGARASHI and gave him a briefing on couples of prominent challenges the NBR is tackling with and appreciated the WCO for continuously taking the lead of the international Customs community on these prioritized issues, which he considered quite relevant to the NBR's strategy as well. In particular, Md. Rahman appreciated the WCO's Security Project and expressed the NBR's commitment to it. In this regard, he looked forward to the Secretary General’s planned visit to Bangladesh in mid-July.

WCO Regional Workshop on Customs Valuation and Revenue Package

5-9 June 2017, Kobe, Japan

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Japan Customs, organized the WCO Regional Workshop on Customs Valuation and Revenue Package was held on 5–9 June 2017 at the Kobe Customs Headquarters in Kobe, Japan, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 33 officials representing 26 WCO A/P regional Member administrations participated in the workshop. Resource speakers from the WCO Secretariat and Japan Customs led the workshop program. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the workshop as a facilitator.

The main objective of the Workshop was to provide the participants with the up-to-date technical information on the topic of Customs valuation, and to share and discuss good practices for effective valuation controls. Accordingly, the Workshop program featured a range of Customs
valuation issues, including technical questions relating to multi-national companies, such as royalties and license fees and transfer pricing. In the course of the workshop, Mr. IGARASHI made a presentation on the regional capacity building assistance program and underlined the importance of the workshop participants’ recommendations to their respective home administration to make betterment in their daily operation in Customs valuation domain.

3.2 Enhance collaboration with development partners

ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting

11-13 July 2016, Seoul, Korea

Ms. Alpha WONG of the ROCB A/P, as a WCO representative, attended the ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Logistics, which was held on 11-13 July 2016 in Seoul, Korea. Approximately 400 delegates, including government officials from ASEM member countries and Eurasian countries, representatives from international organizations, institutions, industries and academia in the areas of transport and logistics, participated in this Meeting.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Kang HOIN, Minister, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and transport of Korea delivered a key note address and stressed the economic benefits on the integrated transport networks for connecting Asia and Europe, in particular by railway and road. During the Meeting, speakers raised the awareness on multilateral cooperation and harmonized Customs standards for seamless cargo and passenger flow. In this regard, WCO’s SAFE Framework of Standard was referred and duly recognized as one of the key guidelines and tools to
be taken into account for their future design of the integrated transport network with assurance of facilitating trade and securing supply chain.

28th Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points of Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P)

1-3 November 2016, Seoul, Korea

At the invitation of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P), Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, attended the 28th Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points of RILO A/P, which was held in 1-3 November 2016 in Seoul, Korea, and introduced ROCB A/P’s Capacity Building efforts in supporting Customs Administrations in the A/P region, in particular in the Customs enforcement domain, stressing the importance of sustainable Capacity Building to strengthen the Member’s capacity to contend with illicit trafficking. More than 70 delegates and observers, from 19 Member administrations, 4 regional bodies (ROCB A/P, RILO ME, RILO WE and UNEP), 4 Embassies (Japan, Russia, United Kingdom and United States) attended the Meeting and shared information on various transnational crimes, such as drugs, security and environment-related crimes.

UNODC-WCO Container Control Program Customs-Business Workshop for Cambodia

8 November 2016, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The WCO ROCB A/P, on behalf of the WCO, joined the Customs-Business workshop on UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme to enhance the relationship between Customs and Business including related stakeholders. The Container Control Programme (CCP) was initiated in 2003 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and WCO to profile high risk containers for security and trade facilitation at the same time. Mr. Kangsik CHO attended this national workshop and introduced new Customs Framework (AEO program) for CCP as an efficient and effective way to accomplish security and
trade facilitation simultaneously and stressed the importance of advance cargo information for risk assessment and selectivity. More than 40 participants and observers representing Customs, Police, Ministry of Commerce, National Authority for Combating Drug and Sihanoukville Port Authority and importers/exporters, shipping companies etc. attended the workshop and shared information and suggestions to develop the CCP and to raise the partnership between Customs and Business.

UNODC-WCO Container Control Program Customs-Business Workshop for Philippines
11 November 2016, Manila, Philippines

The WCO ROCB A/P, on behalf of the WCO, joined the Customs-Business workshop on UNODC-WCO Container Control Program to enhance the relationship between Customs and Business including related stake holders. The Container Control Program (CCP) was initiated in 2003 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and WCO to profile high risk containers for security and trade facilitation simultaneously. Mr. Kangsik CHO attended this national workshop and introduced new Customs Framework (AEO program) for CCP as an efficient and effective way to accomplish security and trade facilitation at the same time and stressed the importance of advance cargo information for risk assessment and selectivity of high risk cargos. More than 30 participants and observers representing Customs, Importers/Exporters, Shipping Agencies and Carriers etc. attended the workshop and shared information and suggestions to develop the CCP and to raise the partnership between Customs and Businesses.

UNESCAP-GTI International Seminar on Trade Facilitation in North-East Asia
13-14 December 2016, Incheon, Korea

At the invitation of the United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Ms. Alpha WONG of the ROCB A/P, as the WCO representative, participated in the International Seminar on Trade Facilitation in North-East Asia, which was held on 13 December 2016 in Incheon, Korea. The Seminar was jointly organized by the UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office and the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) Secretariat. It aimed to provide a platform for the GTI members and the stakeholders to discuss the emerging issues and areas for further cooperation to facilitate trade in the Greater Tumen Region. Approximately 40 representatives from the GTI Member countries including Customs
administrations and private sector participated in this Seminar. Representatives of the GIZ, IRU, UNCITRAL, UNESCAP, UNIDO, WTO and WCO joined the Workshop as resource speakers.

On behalf of the WCO and the ROCB A/P, Ms. WONG spoke at the panel discussion in which she explained the WCO’s Strategic Plan with focus on trade facilitation promoting the harmonization of international standards, streamlining clearance procedures and risk management. Referring to the momentum of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), she highlighted the WCO’s initiatives in establishment of the TFA Working Group and the launching of the Mercator Program. She also cited the activities conducted by the WCO, such as updating the TFA Implementation Guidance, sharing good practices from members on the establishment of National Committee on Trade Facilitation, and providing technical assistance at regional and national levels. She further briefed on the WCO’s themes on Coordinated Border Management and Digital Customs with the highlight on multilateral cooperation and use of technology with a view to attaining the goal in facilitating legitimate trade without compromising on society security.

RILO A/P Seminar on Detector Dogs

15-17 November 2016, Cheonan, Korea

Mr. Kangsik CHO, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P participated in the RILO A/P Seminar on Detector Dogs held on 15-17 November 2016 at the Customs Border Protection Institute (CBCTI) in Cheonan, Korea and introduced the ROCB A/P’s capacity building activities.

The Seminar was organized with the aim of strengthening the capability of interdicting the drugs, firearms and explosives etc. posing big threats to the social security and providing Members with an opportunity for collaboration and information exchange to maximize the efficiency of detection dogs in the A/P region. More than 40 participants and observers representing the Member Customs administrations and other agencies attended the Seminar and shared uncover cases detected by detector dogs. “Availability of cloned detector dog” was introduced as a new way of breeding Detector Dogs.

APEC Workshop - Enhancing Travel Facilitation and Security through the Implementation of PNRGOV

23-24 November 2016, Bali, Indonesia

At the invitation of the APEC, Ms. Alpha WONG of the ROCB A/P participated in the APEC Workshop - Enhancing Travel Facilitation and Security through the Implementation of PNRGOV, which was held on 23-24 November 2016 in Bali, Indonesia. Approximately 50 representatives from Customs, airlines, and IT service providers participated in this Workshop. Representatives of the IATA, the ICAO, and the ROCB A/P joined the Workshop as resource speakers.
On behalf of the WCO and the ROCB A/P, Ms. WONG spoke at the panel discussion with the resource speakers from the Indonesian Customs, the IATA and the ICAO. She emphasized the importance on global standards for passenger information exchange as well as the cooperation and collaboration among the WCO, the IATA and the ICAO in the implementation of international standards on Advance Passenger Information (API) and PNR. She also highlighted latest initiatives of the WCO in the development of new guidance on using the API/PNR data and building relevant systems. She briefed on the relevant capacity building activities organized by the ROCB A/P and encouraged the participants to join the future workshops for further enhancing their capacity in the use of API/PNR in contending transnational crimes and facilitating legitimate travelers.

WCO-UNODC CCP Steering Committee Meeting

12 January 2017, Bangkok

The WCO-UNODC Container Control Programme (CCP) Steering Committee Meeting was convened on 12 January 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand, and more than 50 officials representing eight ASEAN CCP participating countries (i.e. Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Union of Myanmar and Vietnam), the UNODC, donor countries (i.e. Australia, Canada and the United States of America), the RILO A/P, the Oceania Customs Organisation and other observers, attended. The ROCB A/P was also invited to participate in this Meeting on behalf of the WCO.

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P spoke at the Meeting on securing and facilitating global trade from the capacity builders’ perspective. He articulated the WCO’s on-going initiatives for trade facilitation and security under its Strategic

Part 3: ROCB A/P Activities in 2016/2017
Plan and introduced some of the WCO Economic Competitiveness package tools and guidelines. Referring to the latest ratification situation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), he explained that the CCP and the TFA are complementing each other by way of formalizing risk management, Authorized Operators programs and border agencies cooperation. He stressed that the other regional capacity building programs are supplementing the specific training provided under the CCP, and should not consider them as a separate and stand-alone support. Mr. IGARASHI also recommended that the lessons learned and know-how accumulated through the CCP PCU operation be shared and transferred to other points of entry so that the benefits of the CCP be enjoyed nationwide.

International Academic Conference on Economic Security

27-30 January 2017, Baku, Azerbaijan

At the invitation of Prof. Aydin ALIYEV, Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan, Dr. TONG Hua, ROCB A/P Program Manager, participated in the International Academic Conference held at the Azerbaijan Economic University in Baku, Azerbaijan, on the occasion of International Customs Day and the 25th Anniversary of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the International Academic Conference, Dr. TONG Hua moderated a panel discussion on “Economic Security - Aspect of Trade Facilitation and Security.” He spoke about facilitating global trade from the capacity builders’ perspective. He introduced the ROCB A/P’s on-going capacity building activities and gave brief introduction of its publications, such as annual report, E-newsletters and best practice reports, which are made public on the ROCB A/P website. He highlighted the newly launched think-tank function concept of the ROCB A/P, and sought close collaboration with the Development Partners in Academic and Research field. As a moderator, he commented the contribution made by Azerbaijan Customs to support high-quality research conference and the interactive discussion of professors and experts from lots of prestigious universities.

Dr. TONG Hua also attended the 25th Anniversary Ceremony of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 30 January 2017. On behalf of the ROCB A/P, he
congratulated the tremendous contribution and accomplishments made by the Azerbaijan Customs in Trade Security and Facilitation, Culture Heritage Protection and Economic Prosperity. In the ceremony, Dr. TONG Hua was awarded the Honorary Medal of International Cooperation for contribution to Azerbaijan Customs Service by Chairman Aydin ALIYEV witnessed by over 300 Azerbaijan Customs officers and international participants.

18th Meeting of Asian Regional Partners Forum on Environmental Crime

15 February 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

On 15 February 2017, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the UN Environment Programme hosted the 18th meeting of the Asian Regional Partners Forum on Environmental Crime (ARPEC) in the UN building in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme for this event was ‘Human Rights and Gender in Environmental Crime’. 20 Participants representing Customs, WCO ROCB A/P, Interpol, UNODC, the Thai Government, the Swedish Embassy, TRAFFIC, Freeland, USAID Wildlife Asia, AECEN, BAN Toxics and UN Environment attended the Meeting. Participants had a constructive meeting with a rich dialogue on the different dimensions of gender and human rights issues in relation to the environmental crime. Participants also had a productive session updating each other on their identified priorities and upcoming work plans. During this session, Dr. TONG Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, spoke about the related activities of Environment Protection from the capacity builders’ perspective. He introduced the ROCB A/P’s tailor-made capacity building activities for increasing the awareness and skills of frontline Customs officers, pointed out the new illicit trade in E-commerce and online shops, and highlighted the recently published WCO paper on ‘Illicit Wildlife Trade and the Role of Customs.’

WCO-UNESCO UNNEXT MASTERCLASS 2017: DIGITAL CUSTOMS AND Single Window in the Context of WTO TFA

19-28 April 2017, Cheonan, Korea

The WCO and the UNESCO organized the Regional Workshop on Digital Customs and Single Window so called the 3rd UNNExT MASTERCLASS 2017 on 19-28 April 2017 in Seoul and Cheonan City, Korea, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the Customs Border Control Training Institute (CBCTI) under the financial support of Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea). A total of 26 participants from the 17 Member Customs administrations participated in this workshop. Mr. Kangsik CHO of the ROCB A/P attended this workshop as a resource person, along with UNESCO and WCO resource persons. This workshop has been planned for intensive ten-day capacity building assistance program on trade facilitation and Single Window focusing on the emerging innovative Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs),

Part 3: ROCB A/P Activities in 2016/2017
including Internet of Things (IoTs), Big Data and Cloud Computing and its application to trade facilitation for realizing Digital Customs environments.

**Joint WCO-UPU Customs-Post Workshop for AP region**

1-5 May 2017, Sydney, Australia

The WCO and UPU jointly organized a Joint WCO-UPU Customs-Post Workshop for the A/P region from 1 to 5 May 2017 in Sydney, Australia, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P, the Australian Border Force, the Australia Post under the financial support of CCF/Korea to support Asia-Pacific Customs and Posts to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of advance electronic information. Over 100 participants representing Customs administrations and Postal operators from 30 countries of the A/P region participated in this workshop. Mr. Kangsik CHO and Ms. Jane-arpa BENJAPHONG of the ROCB A/P attended this workshop as resource persons.

Through this 5-day workshop, Customs and UPU participants had the opportunity to examine various ways to implement advance electronic exchange of information between Customs and Post by using the UPU’s Customs Declaration System (CDS) and /or other customized solution based on the joint WCO/UPU Customs-Post EDI messaging standards and the WCO Data Model and had opportunities to share their national experiences of existing Postal-Customs clearance and potential ways to improve it.

**Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Annual Conference**

3-4 May 2017, Guam, USA

19th Annual Conference of the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) was convened on 2-5 May 2017 in Guam, the USA, and approximately 60 delegates, including observers representing the OCO’s partner organizations, including the WCO, attended. Mr. Ermani CHECCUCCI, Director of CB Directorate of the WCO Secretariat, and Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Conference as observers representing the WCO. Sessions on the OCO’s management and governance issues were closed for its Membership only and Mr. CHECCUCCI and Mr. IGARASHI were invited to contribute at the informal workshop sessions opened to the OCO partners as panelists.
Mr. Igarashi joined the sessions focusing on the “Data Analysis for Managing Risks” and “Building Regional Capacity through Strategic Partnership” along with the speakers from the PTCN, the Mariana Regional Fusion Center, the UNODC, Australian ISCIS, the US Homeland Security Investigation, the Charles Sturt University, the PFTAC and the OCO Secretariat. As for the trade facilitation aspect, he highlighted the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), which is the core instrument for the implementation of the TFA, and its stipulation on the ratification being open to the Members of the UN and UN Special Agencies so that these OCO Members may consider applying almost TFA-equivalent international instrument.

South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Customs Subgroup Meeting

14-15 June 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan

At the invitation of the ADB and Bhutan Customs, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 6th Meeting of the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Customs Subgroup (SCS-6), which took place on 15 June 2017 in Thimphu, Bhutan, as one of the resource speakers. The Meeting was attended by 42 delegates from 7 SASEC Member Customs administrations (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka) as well as resource speakers and representatives from the ADB. The meeting was officiated by the opening remarks delivered by Director of the Bhutan Customs, ADB’s Country Director for Bhutan, and Finance Minister of Bhutan.

In the context of capacity building in the sub-region, Mr. Igarashi made a presentation on the WCO Priorities and capacity building support, in which he highlighted the accomplishments achieved by the SASEC Customs Members, including the Nepal’s accession to the RKC and the completion of the SASEC Multi-Year Project on Customs Valuation Control and updated the progress in the WCO’s priority agendas, such as counter-terrorism, e-commerce, TFA implementation and Customs-Tax cooperation, and the progress of the related worked undertaken since the last Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference held in March 2017 in Fiji.

Seizing the opportunity of visiting Bhutan, Mr. Igarashi had a bilateral consultation meeting with Mr. Yongten Namgyel, Director of the Bhutan Department of Revenue, and some 20 officials on 16 June 2017 to discuss the way to optimize the effects of the WCO capacity building assistance programs for the sake of the Bhutan Customs, grasp their on-going modernization
efforts and discuss better coordination mechanism for future assistance programs with a view to better accommodating their needs and interests in a candid and friendly manner.

FIATA 11th Region Asia/Pacific (RAP) Field Meeting

28 June 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), Ms. Eva SUEN of the ROCB A/P participated in and contributed to the 11th FIATA Region Asia/Pacific (RAP) Field Meeting held on 28 June 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand, in which about 100 representatives from 14 countries attended.

This was an annual meeting for the FIATA RAP members to discuss policy and technical matters pertaining to airfreight forwarders industry. Topics discussed at the meeting included the make-up project in Thailand, e-commerce, the readiness of digital platform in the industry and investment/business opportunity in the future. Use of Electronic Cargo Tracking Systems (ECTS) between Thailand and Indochina, as well as possible improvement of Logistics Business with Mobile Self-services were also discussed. Ms. SUEN made a presentation of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, the AEO Compendium (2016) and the action plan for the joint pilot project on AEO-Regulated Agent/Known Consignor, which was initiated by Vietnam authorities in 2015. Representatives from the TRAFFIC, the Federation of Freight Forwarders Association in India (FFFAI), the Thai International Freight Forwarders Association (TIFFA) were also invited to speak about illicit trafficking in wildlife and discussed how the transport sector could manage associated risks.
3.3 Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

14th Meeting of Heads of the WCO A/P Regional Training Centers

7-8 December 2016, Hong Kong, China

On 7-8 December 2016, 14th Meeting of Heads of the WCO A/P Regional Training Centers (RTCs) was convened at the Hong Kong Customs Headquarters Building. 22 delegates, including Heads of the 7 RTCs, representatives from the WCO Secretariat and the A/P Regional Vice-Chair’s Secretariat as well as ROCB A/P staff, attended the Meeting. Mr. Thomas LIN, Assistant Commissioner of the Hong Kong Customs, officiated the Opening Ceremony and delivered a remark, in which he stressed the needs and importance of high quality capacity building in order to better contend with a number of challenges the Customs administrations are facing under the fast-changing international trade environment.

Mr. Chi Kong FAN, Commandant of the Customs and Excise Training School, i.e. RTC Hong Kong China, presided the Meeting. The delegates discussed series of capacity building strategies and tactics, including the updated reports from the respective RTCs, and exchanged high-level views on the way forward towards further raising the profiles and the roles of the Customs capacity building in the A/P region by way of reinvigorating collaboration among the stakeholders, namely the WCO, the Regional Vice-Chair, the ROCB A/P and the RTCs. Among other things, delegates discussed result-oriented capacity building program management through Regional Workshop Follow-Up Survey, furtherance of the Center of Excellence concept, and conduct of study on the impact and good practices of the development and the use of e-learning training modules for the Customs professionalism.

In the course of the Meeting, the delegates had an opportunity to visit RTC Hong Kong China and observed their specialized training facilities, such as shooting range, mock court, simulation training room for house search, passenger examination cubicle and container and vehicle inspection modules. RTC Hong Kong China also made a short demonstration of their e-learning system, which provided the delegates with invaluable food-for-thought for their in-depth discussion on the ROCB A/P’s possible think-tank functions.
ROCB A/P joined the discussion on the region’s future priorities

17-20 January 2017, Canberra, Australia

In the wake of the discussion at the last A/P Regional Contact Point Meeting held in November 2016 in Fiji, the regional working group meetings were convened from 17-20 January 2017 at the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection to discuss the Members’ interests in the private sector engagement with Customs community as well as the development of the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) for 2018-2020 and other technical coordination issues. 23 delegates from the Vice Chair Secretariat (Fiji), Australia, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, the RILO A/P and the ROCB A/P participated in the meetings. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the above-mentioned working group meetings and joined the discussion and exchanges views on the future priorities for the A/P regional Customs community and, in a broader context, the forecast changes in the business environment surrounding Customs, such as trade facilitation, counter-terrorism, development in e-commerce, and so on. As for the Customs-business engagement, the delegates discussed possible topics and modality thereof. In terms of developing future RSP, delegates discussed the implementation and relevance of the specific actions embraced in the current RSP for 2016-2018 and projected several adjustments for further discussion by Directors General of the WCO Member Customs administrations in 2018.

ROCBs discussed Mercator Program at the WCO Headquarters

2 March 2017, Brussels, Belgium

12th Global Meeting of Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCBs), Heads of the Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and Vice-Chairs’ Offices was convened on 2 and 3 March 2017 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and the delegates discussed a set of important capacity building agenda, including the implementation of the WCO’s Mercator Program, regional strategic plan and the regional donor conferences among other things. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues attended the Meeting and contributed to the discussions among some 40 delegates. Given that the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement entered into force on 22 February 2017, the Meeting had a panel on the roles and responsibilities of the regional structures on supporting the tailor-made track approach under the Mercator Program, in which Mr. IGARASHI participated and spoke
his views on the lessons learned from the A/P region’s perspective. Implementation of the Mercator Program was further discussed at the WCO Capacity Building Committee, which was convened in the following week in Brussels.

**Development Partner Meeting for Myanmar Customs Department**

*2 June 2017, Yangon, Myanmar*

With the invitation of Myanmar Customs Department (MCD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, CCF/Japan Operation Manager of ROCB A/P, attended the Development Partner Meeting for the MCD, which was held on 2 June 2017 in Yangon, Myanmar. About 50 officials from the MCD, including Mr. Kyaw HTIN, Director General of the MCD, and its senior officers, as well as development partners attended the Meeting.

At the Meeting, the MCD’s Reform and Modernization Strategy (2107-21) and the technical assistance needs priorities were introduced and the potential future technical assistance to the MCD as well as its coordination were discussed among the participants for further collaboration between the MCD and the development partners.

**ROCB A/P joined the WCO IT Conference and Exhibition 2017**

*7 June 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia*

Dr. TONG Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, attended the WCO IT Conference and Exhibition 2017 held from 7 to 9 June 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia, under the theme “The Power of Data”. More than 500 delegates from 80 countries gathered at the Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi to discuss highly topical and strategic issues related to the operational IT border management solutions while addressing the challenges and opportunities in the use of big data in their operations. Speakers for the Conference included representatives from the WCO, World Bank, United Nations Atomic Energy Agency, EU TAXUD, International Air Transport Association, International Road Transport Union (IRU), as well as representatives from the leading IT companies operating in Customs and transportation fields.

The Conference was opened by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Dimitri KUMSISHVILI. The participants of the conference were addressed by Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, WCO Secretary General, and Mr. Giorgi TABUASHVILI, First Deputy Minister of...
Finance and Director General of the Georgian Revenue Service. In three days, the speakers and delegates shared experiences and learn from each other through the exploration of high priority topics such as E-Commerce, Big Data and Predictive Analytics, Blockchain technology, Data Governance, Single Window and Integrated Supply Chain Management.

1st WCO Global Mercator Program Advisor Workshop

19-23 June 2017, Brussels, Belgium

The first WCO Global Mercator Program Advisors (MPAs) Workshop was held on 19-23 June 2017 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, with a view to exploring way forward towards coherent and result-oriented delivery of the WCO’s Mercator Program Tailor-Made Track approach through networking MPAs and sharing their experiences in participating Mercator Program missions as well as updating the development of pertinent WCO tools and guidelines for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). A total of 19 MPAs from various WCO regions gathered and shared their experiences. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, took part in this first event of this kind as one of the fully accredited MPAs. On the last day of the WS, Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, WCO Secretary General, met MPAs and had a roundtable dialogue with the participating MPAs.

Mercator Program was launched in June 2015 at the WCO Council Session for the purpose of helping needed Member administrations implement the WTO TFA through mobilizing qualified experts and applying pertinent WCO tools and guidelines, including the Revised Kyoto Convention.
3.4 Enhance communication and information sharing among Members

A/P Vice-Chair’s Office Opening Ceremony

28 July 2016, Suva, Fiji

On 28 July 2016, the Official Launching Ceremony of the WCO A/P Vice Chair’s Office was held in Suva, Fiji, with presence of Honorable Mr. Aiyaz SAYED-KHAIYUM, Fijian Attorney General and Minister of Economy, Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, WCO Secretary General, Dato’ Sri Khazali bin Hj AHMAD, Director General of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD). Around 50 other invited guests, including Fiji-based diplomatic corps and participants to the WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Integrity, which was held coincidentally, and Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended and witnessed the Ceremony.

In the wake of the singing of the Fijian national anthem and the devotion, Mr. Visvanath DAS, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) and Comptroller of Customs, made a speech in the capacity of new A/P Regional Vice-Chair. He expressed FRCA’s honor to succeed the new role or the next 2 years as the first WCO Member in the Pacific region to take over the important tasks, which would lead to raising the profile of the FRCA as well as other Member administrations in the Pacific region amongst the international Customs community, and reassured his determination to continue to foster close communication and coordination among the regional Member administrations with a view to contending with a series of challenges ahead of the Customs community. In the wake of speeches, the A/P regional flag, which was officially handed over from RMCD to FRCA at the A/P regional consultation session held in the margin of the recent 127th/128th Sessions of the WCO Council, was unfolded and the plaque of the A/P Regional Vice Chair was unveiled.
ROCB A/P reported its activities and commitment to the Regional Contact Points Meeting

9-11 November 2016, Sigatoka, Fiji

26th WCO A/P Regional Contact Point Meeting was held on 9-11 November 2016 in Sigatoka, Fiji. Nearly 50 delegates from 21 Member administrations, 4 observer organizations (WCO, RILO A/P, ROCB A/P and OCO) and the Regional Vice Chair’s Secretariat attended and discussed a series of important subjects, such as Private Sector engagement, development of the A/P Regional Strategic Plan 2018-2020, nomination process of the next Regional Vice-Chair, and development of Terms of Reference of the Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference, under the chairmanship of Mr. Visvanath DAS, Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) in the capacity of Regional Vice-Chair.

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Meeting as an observer and contributed to the Meeting by making presentations on the implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2014-2016 Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building), the ROCB A/P activities, and the Capacity Building support for the regional operation on IPR. Members appreciated the ROCB A/P’s undertaking in planning, coordination and delivery of the capacity building programs as they are relevant to the Region’s needs and priorities and encouraged continuation of a set of initiatives in assuring effectiveness of the regional programs. In the margin of the Meeting, Mr. IGARASHI had talks with a number of participating Member delegations and discussed further coordination of the support and collaboration on their continued Customs reform and modernization commitment.

18th A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference

14 March 2017, Suva, Fiji

The 18th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference was held in Suva, Fiji. Delegates from Australia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Along with Secretary General of the WCO as well as the representatives from the WCO Secretariat, RILO A/P and the OCO Secretariat, Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Conference as an observer.
The Conference commenced with the Fijian traditional welcoming ceremony at the Great Council of Chiefs in Suva. Fiji’s Attorney General and Minister of Economy made a key note address, stressing the important role of Customs in border control and trade facilitation. Under the chairmanship of the Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority and the WCO A/P Regional Vice Chair, the Conference discussed a series of agenda items, including the Regional Strategic Plan and the WCO governance. Mr. IGARASHI made a brief report on the progresses of the ROCB A/P’s annual work plan made in the last 8 months in 2016/2017. Among others, he highlighted the outcomes of the recent RTC Heads Meeting held in December 2016 in Hong Kong, China, and publication of the Customs Good Practice Papers on the Lessons learned from the WCO/ADB SASEC Multi-year projects and the findings from the Survey on the follow-up actions taken after the participation in the WCO regional workshops in FY2015/16. He also touched upon the ROCB A/P website, which has exceeded 1 million visits at the beginning of March 2017 since its launching in September 2014. In the wake of his presentation, several delegates took the floor and gave their kind words of compliments and encouragement to the ROCB A/P’s undertakings as well as some constructive suggestions for the future work, including the implementation of the WCO Mercator Program Tailor-made track designed for assisting the WCO Member administrations to implementation of the WTO Trade facilitation Agreement, which came into force on 22 February 2017.
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), the ROCB A/P has been located within the premises of the TCD Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand.
The ROCB A/P acts as a cornerstone for the region’s approach to implement the WCO’s Capacity Building Strategy. In cooperation with seven WCO Regional Training Centers (RTCs) in the A/P region, it supports 33 Member administrations.

With the WCO Customs Cooperation Funds (mainly contributed from China, Japan and Korea), ROCB A/P organizes a series of capacity building activities for A/P regional Member Customs administrations in need of technical assistance. The ROCB A/P works with the WCO’s Development Partners, such as the ADB and UN agencies, 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

To deliver organizational development support to the WCO member administrations in the region

To project WCO Strategy

To deal with regional specific issues in a more immediate and relevant way

To liaise closely with regional and local stakeholders and donors supporting capacity building

To exploit regional synergy

Mission of ROCB A/P

4.3 Staff

The ROCB A/P has 8 full-time seconded staff members (as of 4 September 2017). This includes one from China, one from Hong Kong China, two from Japan (including Head of the ROCB A/P), and one from Korea and three 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 Members, the ROCB A/P has designed posts of Program Managers responsible for different sub-regions. 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 on various DPs.
## Contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-region</th>
<th>A/P Members</th>
<th>Responsible Program Manager</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East, Central and West Asia (ECWA)</td>
<td>Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong China, Iran, Japan, Korea, Macao China, Mongolia, Pakistan</td>
<td>Mr. JO Hong-Young</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:johy@rocbap.org">johy@rocbap.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Tel No.: +66 2 667 6542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islands (PI)</td>
<td>Australia, Fiji New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu</td>
<td>Dr. TONG Hua</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:tonghua@rocbap.org">tonghua@rocbap.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Tel No.: +66 2 667 6539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia (SA)</td>
<td>Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Ms. Saori NOJIMA</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:saori.nojima@rocbap.org">saori.nojima@rocbap.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Tel No.: +66 2 667 6018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Asia (SEA)</td>
<td>Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Union of Myanmar, Vietnam</td>
<td>Ms. Eva SUEN</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:evasuen@rocbap.org">evasuen@rocbap.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Tel No.: +66 2 667 6552</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During the year 2016/2017, Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI from Japan Customs extended his secondment term by 1 year and completed his 4-year service at the ROCB A/P and returned to his home administration in June 2017. Mr. CHO Kang-sik, from Korea Customs Service, completed his 2-year term and returned to his home administration in June 2017. Ms. Alpha WONG from Hong Kong successfully completed her 2-year term of secondment in the ROCB A/P and returned to her home administration in March 2017. The ROCB A/P would like to extend its profound appreciation for their dedication to the ROCB A/P. Their successors will continue their paths to contribute to the Customs community in the A/P region.
Annex I

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Upon request, assist Member's effort for:</th>
<th></th>
<th>(1) Number of implementing Members</th>
<th>At least 24 Members</th>
<th>On-going</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1)</td>
<td>smooth implementation of HS 2017 (for CPs)</td>
<td>1.1.3 - 3rd milestone</td>
<td>(2) Number of contracting Members</td>
<td>At least 4 new Members (for non-CPs)</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2)</td>
<td>adoption of the HS (for non-CPs)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

|   | 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 | Ongoing |
2. Further develop partnerships with development partners

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Actions of ROCB A/P</th>
<th>Relevant part of RSP 2016-2018</th>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Timeframe in the RSP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>3.1.1 - 1st milestone</td>
<td>Number of sharing experiences</td>
<td>At least once every quarter</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>4.1.4 - 1st milestone</td>
<td>Number of items shared</td>
<td>At least once per quarter</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Annual Work Plan for ROCB A/P (2017/18)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2016-2018)</th>
<th>Annual Work Plan for 2017/18</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| a) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment *(RSP 1.1.1 - 1st milestone)* | ➢ Conduct national workshops on risk management for Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Philippines.  
➢ Conduct a national workshop on risk management for Indonesia with focus on export controls *(See also 1(w))*  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on risk management and post seizure analysis *(See also 1(w)and (x))* | June 2018 |
| b) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in developing national risk management database *(e.g. nCEN)* *(RSP 1.1.1 - 3rd milestone)* | ➢ Upon request, provide assistance in developing national database for risk management | June 2018 |
| c) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool *(RSP 1.1.1 - 4th milestone)* | ➢ Conduct national workshops on Revenue Package, focusing Customs valuation, for Indonesia and Mongolia *(See also 1(j) and (o))* | June 2018 |
| d) Work with the WCO Secretariat to assist all requesting developing Members to have undertaken Diagnostic Phase II *(RSP 1.1.2 - 2nd milestone)* | ➢ In cooperation with the WCO Secretariat, conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and Tonga *(See also 1(w) and (x))* | June 2018 |
| e) Upon request, assist Member’s efforts to develop AEO (Authorized Economic Operators) program  
(RSP 1.1.2 · 3rd milestone) | ➢ Organize a regional workshop on AEO (See also 1-(r) and (x))  
➢ Conduct national workshops on AEO for Samoa and Sri Lanka (See also 1-(r) and (x)) | June 2018 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| f) Upon request, assist Member’s efforts in implementing trade recovery activities  
(RSP 1.1.2 · 5th milestone) | ➢ Upon request, provide the assistance in implementing trade recovery activities | June 2018 |
| g) Upon request, assist Member’s effort to accede to and implement the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)  
(RSP 1.1.3 · 1st milestone) | ➢ Upon request, conduct national workshop(s) on implementation of the RKC (See also 1-(h)) | June 2018 |
| h) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)  
(RSP 1.1.3 · 2nd milestone) | ➢ Organize a regional workshop on TFA  
➢ Upon request, conduct national workshop(s) on implementing WTO TFA  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on accreditation of Mercator Program Advisors (See also 3-(a))  
➢ Upon request, conduct a national workshop(s) on implementation of the RKC (See also 1-(g))  
➢ Conduct a national workshop on advance ruling for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea (See also 1-(f) and (x))  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on Customs Laboratory (See also 1-(j), (u), (y) and 3(c))  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on Special Economic Zone  
➢ Upon request, provide assistance on Special Economic Zone | June 2018 |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i) Upon request, assist Member’s effort for: (i) smooth implementation of HS 2017 (for CPs) (2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs) (RSP 1.1.3 · 3rd milestone)</td>
<td>➢ Conduct national workshop on HS for Lao PDR ➢ Conduct national workshops on advance ruling on classification for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea (See also 1(h) and (x)) ➢ Organize a regional workshop on accreditation of HS experts (See also 3(a)) ➢ Organize a regional workshop on Customs laboratory (See also 1(h), (u), (y) and 3(c)) ➢ Conduct a national workshop on Customs laboratory for Cambodia (See also 1(u), (x), (y) and 3(c)) ➢ Conduct national workshop on Customs valuation for Indonesia and Mongolia (See also 1(c) and (o))</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in introducing Advance Ruling System for tariff classification decision, origin of goods and Customs Valuation (RSP 1.1.3 · 4th milestone)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>k) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in undertaking Time Release Study (TRS) in accordance with the WCO TRS Guidelines (RSP 1.1.3 · 5th milestone)</td>
<td>➢ Conduct national workshops on TRS for Maldives, Myanmar, Samoa and Vanuatu</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in introducing self-certification for Rules of Origin (RSP 1.1.3 · 6th milestone)</td>
<td>➢ Organize a regional workshop on accreditation of ROO experts (See also 1(j) and 3(a))</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in implementing WCO Data Model (RSP 1.1.3 · 7th milestone)</td>
<td>➢ Organize national workshops on Customs ICT for Iran and Pakistan ➢ Organize a regional workshop on accreditation of Single Window experts (See also 3(a))</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief (RSP 1.1.3 · 8th milestone)</td>
<td>➢ Upon request, provide assistance for the implementation of the WCO Resolution on Natural Disaster Relief</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| o) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Valuation Agreement  
(RSP 1.1.3 · 9th milestone) | ➢ Conduct national workshops on Customs valuation for Indonesia and Mongolia (See also 1(c) and (j)) | June 2018 |
| p) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing a Post Clearance Audit (PCA) System  
(RSP 1.1.3 · 10th milestone) | ➢ Conduct a national workshop on PCA for Malaysia, Bhutan and India | June 2018 |
| q) Upon request, assist Member's effort in promoting cooperation and coordination for Coordinated Border Management (CBM)  
(RSP 1.2.1 · 1st to 2nd milestones) | ➢ Conduct national workshops on CBM for Samoa | June 2018 |
| r) Upon request, assist Member's effort in enhancing Customs-Customs, and if appropriate, Customs-to-Business interconnectivities in various aspects  
(RSP 1.2.2 · 1st to 3rd milestones) | ➢ Organize a regional workshop on AEO (See also 1(e))  
➢ Conduct national workshops on AEO for Samoa and Sri Lanka (See also 1(e) and (x)) | 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  
(RSP 2.1.1 · 4th milestone) | ➢ Conduct a national workshop on passenger controls, including the use of API/PNR, for Lao PDR  
➢ Upon request, provide assistance for the introduction and/or use of API/PNR  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on passenger controls | June 2018 |
| t) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues  
(RSP 2.2.1 · 2nd milestone) | ➢ Organize a regional workshop on IPR (See also 1(y))  
➢ Organize a sub-regional workshop on IPR for the Pacific (See also 1(y))  
➢ Conduct national workshops on IPR for Indonesia and Vietnam (See also 1(y))  
➢ Upon request, provide assistance on IPR issues (See also 1(y)) | 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)) (RSP 2.2.1 - 3rd milestone) | ➢ Organize a regional workshop on Computer Forensic (See also 1(γ))
➢ Organize a regional workshop on CEP
➢ Organize a regional workshop on Customs laboratory (See also 1(h), (j) and (γ))
➢ Conduct national workshops on Customs laboratory for Cambodia (See also 1(j), (x), (γ) and 3(c)) | 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) (RSP 2.2.1 - 4th milestone) | ➢ Organize a regional workshop on environmental issues | June 2018 |
| w) Upon request, assist Member’s effort in enhancing border security in order to tackle with terrorists threats (RSP 2.2.1 - 5th milestone) | ➢ Organize a regional workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapon (See also 1(γ))
➢ Conduct a national workshop on risk management for Indonesia with focus on export controls. (See also 1(a))
➢ Organize a regional workshop on money laundering (See also 1(γ))
➢ Conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and Tonga (See also 1(d) and (x)) | June 2018 |
| X) Undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region (e.g. SAFE FoS, RM and WTO TFA)  
(RSP 3.2.2 - 1st milestone) | ➢ Upon request, provide assistance for the implementation of WTO TFA  
➢ Conduct a national workshop on Customs laboratory for Cambodia (See also 1(j), (u), (y) and 3(c))  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on AEO (See also 1(e))  
➢ Conduct national workshops on AEO for Samoa and Sri Lanka (See also 1(e) and (r))  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on risk management and post seizure analysis (See also 1(a) and (w))  
➢ Conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and Tonga (See also 1(d) and (w))  
➢ Conduct a national workshop on advance ruling on classification for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea (See also 1(h) and (j)) | 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)  
(RSP 3.2.2 - 2nd milestone) | ➢ Conduct national workshops on IPR for Indonesia and Vietnam (See also 1(t))  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapon (See also 1(w))  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on Customs laboratory (See also 1(h), (j), (u) and 3(c))  
➢ Conduct national workshops on Customs laboratory for Cambodia (See also 1(h), (j), (u) and 3(c))  
➢ Upon request, provide assistance on IPR  
➢ Organize a regional workshop for IPR (See also 1(t))  
➢ Organize a sub-regional workshop on IPR for the Pacific (See also 1(t))  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on computer forensics (See also 1(u))  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on money laundering (See also 1(w)) | June 2018 |
### Annex II

| z) | Upon request, undertake leadership and management training programs  
(RSP 3.2.3 · 1st milestone) | ➢ Conduct a national workshop on human resource management strategy for Fiji  
➢ Organize a regional workshop on human resource development strategy | June 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|
| aa) | Upon request, assist Member’s effort in devising and implementing integrity action plan  
(RSP 3.2.3 · 2nd milestone) | ➢ Upon request, provide assistance on integrity action plan | June 2018 |
2. Further develop partnerships with development partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Actions of ROCB A/P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Relevance to A/P RSP 2016-2018</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Enhance cooperation, coordination and mutual understanding between development partners and ROCB A/P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in RSP))</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(RSP 3.11 · 2nd milestone)</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2016-2018)</th>
<th>Annual Work Plan for 2017/18</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| a) Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework *(RSP 3.1.2 – 1st milestone)* | ➢ Organize regional accreditation workshops on experts of HS, ROO, Single Window and WTO TFA respectively and utilize the region’s accredited experts on various occasions of regional/national workshops  
➢ Discuss and cooperate with Regional Training Centers to keep update the knowledge and skills of these accredited experts and candidates | June 2018 |
| b) Upon request, assist Members to promote the WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and accredited experts *(RSP 3.1.2 – 2nd milestone)* | ➢ 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 2018 |
| c) Work with developed Members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities *(RSP 3.1.2 – 3rd milestone)* | ➢ Organize a regional workshop on Customs laboratory *(See also 1-(h), (j), (u) and (y))*  
➢ Conduct a national workshop on Customs laboratory for Cambodia, in cooperation with the WCO A/P Regional Customs Laboratory *(See also 1-(h), (j), (u) and (y))*  
➢ 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 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 *(RSP 3.2.1 - 1st milestone)* | ➢ 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 | June 2018 |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due</td>
<td>attention to the Members’ needs and priorities.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>attention to the needs and priorities identified</td>
<td>▶️ Conduct Regional Workshop Follow-Up Action Surveys and share</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(RSP 3.2.1 - 2nd milestone)</td>
<td>findings with the WCO Secretariat, RTCs and Members as appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>Work with the WCO Secretariat and Members to evaluate the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>regional capacity building program</td>
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<td>(RSP 3.2.1 - 3rd milestone)</td>
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<td>g</td>
<td>Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back</td>
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<td>into planning for regional capacity building activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(RSP 3.2.1 - 4th milestone)</td>
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<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>Work with Members to ensure their input to the ROCB A/P annual</td>
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<td>plan by responding to the regional needs survey</td>
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<td>(RSP 4.1.2 - 1st milestone)</td>
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<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Further strengthen cooperation among 7 Regional Training</td>
<td>▶️ In cooperation with the Regional Vice Chair, convene a Meeting</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Centers (RTC) and ROCB A/P paying due attention to</td>
<td>of Heads of RTC to further strengthen their network and devise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>establishing/supporting regional experts for more sustainable</td>
<td>regional strategy for the pooling and better use of the regional</td>
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<td></td>
<td>capacity building delivery in the region</td>
<td>experts in capacity building activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in RSP))</td>
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4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

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<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>a)</strong> 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) <em>(RSP 3.1.1 - 1st milestone)</em></td>
<td>✓ 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.</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b)</strong> Work with Members, Vice Chair and Regional Training Centers (RTC) to share good practices and forward thinking work with other Members via regional communication tools <em>(RSP 4.1.1 - 1st milestone)</em></td>
<td>✓ Assist Members, Vice Chair and the RTCs to share good practices by issuing a series of regional good practice reports on selected topics</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Good Customs Practice Report No. 15 on the results of the ROCB A/P

Survey on Follow-Up Actions taken after the WCO Regional Workshops organized in FY 2015/16

1. Background of the ROCB A/P’s Survey

One of the ROCB A/P’s important missions is to evaluate the progress of the A/P Members at regular intervals to confirm progress and identify further development requirements. In order to optimize the effectiveness of regional capacity building assistance programs, the ROCB A/P encourages the workshop participants to apply lessons learned to their daily operations wherever appropriate and disseminate pertinent information to the right people in a timely manner. In this regard, in 2015, the ROCB A/P initiated a “Survey on the Follow-Up Actions taken after the Participation in the WCO Regional Workshop” (hereinafter referred to as “the Survey”) on the WCO Sub-/Regional Workshops organized in the FY 2014/15 and developed a questionnaire template. The Survey intended to collect pertinent information on the modalities of the follow-up actions taken at their respective home administrations in the wake of participation in the WCO Sub/Regional Workshops. The Survey did not intend to evaluate and/or criticize any of reporting or recommendations the workshop participants made. Rather, it was to take a ‘snapshot’ of the impact the capacity building assistance programs has had on the regional Member administration’s performance efficiency and effectiveness. It was also expected that the questionnaire would remind the workshop participants of their expected roles and encourage them to continuously utilize the skills and knowledge they have gained, wherever possible, after the respective regional capacity building assistance programs.

2. About the second round of the ROCB A/P Survey

This special topic features the summation of the second round of the Survey and highlights exemplified follow-up actions taken after the participation in the WCO Sub-/Regional Workshops organized in the FY2015/16 (July 2015 – June 2016). The questionnaire was circulated 6 months after the respective WCO Sub-/Regional Workshops have been organized, and the last survey was completed in December 2016. Accordingly, the ROCB A/P published its Good Practice Paper No. 15 on “Exemplifying Follow-Up Actions” in February 2017.
The ROCB A/P takes this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation to those who responded to the Survey and shared to his/her administration the lessons learned from the respective WCO Sub/Regional Workshops.

3. Summation of the replies/inputs to the Survey

(1) Responses from the participants

In the FY2015/16, the ROCB A/P organized a total of 19 Sub/Regional Workshops, which is the largest number in a single year in the ROCB A/P’s history. Of the 19 workshops, excluding 3 regional workshops for the accreditation of Customs experts, 16 were subject to this second round of the Follow-Up Action Survey in 2016. The ROCB A/P circulated questionnaires to all participants approximately 6 months after the workshops had been organized. Titles of the surveyed WCO Sub-/Regional Workshops, as well as the numbers of the participated administrations and the replies, are shown in the following Table 1.

(Table 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WCO Regional Workshops subject to the Survey</th>
<th>No. of participated administrations</th>
<th>No. of replies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Customs valuation (Sep. 2015)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) WCO Train-the-Trainers Workshop for the Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P Region (Sep. 2015)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) WCO Regional Workshop on Coordinated Border Management (Dec. 2015)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) WCO Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling (Jan. 2016)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in Information Technology (Mar. 2016)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) WCO Follow-Up Workshop for Joint Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P Region (Action IPR A/P) (Mar. 2016)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for the GMS (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) WCO Regional Workshop on HS2017 Implementation (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for South Asia (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy (May 2016)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment and Selectivity with Advance Cargo Information (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on the Compliance and Enforcement Package (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Search, Interview and Investigation Techniques (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ROCB A/P’s endeavor to collect more replies and inputs to the Survey**

Given the commendable and exemplifying follow-up actions taken by the workshop participants, which came to light as a result of the first round of the Survey, it was important to showcase practical examples to the workshop participants. The ROCB A/P took every possible opportunity to give an explanation about the Survey, especially in the course of the Regional Workshops organized in the FY2015/16. The ROCB A/P also informed the workshop participants of importance of the Survey for their preparedness. Furthermore, in an attempt to collect more replies to the Survey, the ROCB A/P sent reminders to the workshop participants prior to the due dates for the reply. Thanks to these continued awareness-raising actions taken by the ROCB A/P, the number and rate of replies increased from the previous year (from 28.22% (in 2015) to 47.25%).

**Provision of feedback to the workshop participants to further encourage follow-up actions**

With a view to further encouraging participants’ continued engagement to the reform and modernization based on the lessons-learned from the respective workshops and, hopefully, further stimulating their interests in the follow-up actions taken by other workshop participants, the ROCB A/P provided the workshop participants regardless of whether they replied nor not, with feedback with aggregated table of their replies. This initiative also led to additional inputs to the Survey even after the due date for the reply.
(2) Follow-Up actions taken by the workshop participants

Below table 2 shows the number of replies indicating the specific follow-up actions taken after the respective Sub-/Regional Workshops.

(Revised Table 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Shared Training materials</th>
<th>Submitted reports</th>
<th>Made Recommendations</th>
<th>Organized in-house workshop</th>
<th>Developed operational manuals</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>(5)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>(10)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NB) Numbers in parentheses in the far right column correspond to the sequential numbers of Regional Workshops shown in the Table 1.

The Survey revealed that the common means of workshop follow-up actions are submission of their reports to their management and sharing of distributed training materials with their colleagues at the relevant departments/divisions either by circulation of physical print-outs or placing them in digital form on their intranet.
Wider use of intranet for disseminating the workshop materials

Thanks to these commendable information sharing actions taken after the workshops, especially by using intranet, the training materials have been made available to a large number of their colleagues. Indeed, it is difficult to specify the number of these colleagues who actually have had access to the training materials brought back and shared by the workshop participants, but the replies indicate that the average number increased by some 20% to 25% from the average number of approximately 20 in the FY2015/16. There were several replies indicating that all of the officials within the administrations became aware of these materials.

More in-house workshops were conducted to share lessons-learned from the WCO Sub/Regional Workshops

It is worth mentioning that more Member administrations organized in-house workshops to disseminate their lessons-learned and discuss particular recommendations for their operational amelioration. It is hoped that the other Member administrations’ good practices for disseminating workshop materials, as showcased in the previous year, has resulted in encouraging the participants or administrations to follow it. The results of the 2016 Workshop Follow-Up Survey show that, in addition to 6 administrations, whose participants organized in-house workshops in the FY2014/15 (namely, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Tonga), the participants from 12 Member administrations conducted at least 42 in-house workshops in the FY2015/16. The administrations who initiated in-house workshops in the FY2015/16 were: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Hong Kong China, Maldives, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Union of Myanmar and Vanuatu.

Specific recommendations filed for possible improvement in their operational efficiency and effectiveness

It is encouraging that the participants’ reports are often accompanied by specific recommendations which the administrations may adopt in their daily operations or take more fundamental measures in order to remedy perceived gaps between their current practices and internal good practices. Answers indicated as “others”, include outreaching to other government agencies and private sector, including contribution to the amendment of relevant laws and regulations to align with learned good practices. Some of the prominent other follow-up actions are as follows:

- Initiated Customs code amendment based on the Valuation Agreement (Afghanistan after the Sub-regional Workshop on Customs Valuation);
- Drafted IT policy based on the lessons-learned (Maldives after the Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in IT);
- Included some areas in the IT Scorecard under Disaster Recovery operations
(Samoa after the Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in IT);

- Briefed Customs Management on Strategic Trade Control and Enforcement (STCE) and what needs to be done on national front (Fiji after the Regional Workshop on STCE);
- Formulated and trained the HS2017 Task Force (Samoa after the Regional Workshop on HS2017);
- Defined own PNR data requirement which derived from the PNR Guidelines and experiences of participated Customs administrations (Thailand after the Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls);
- Refer to legal officer to check with national law about Advance Passenger Information (Tonga after the workshop on passenger controls);
- Updated relevant provisions of newly re-written Customs legislation (bill) to be presented before the National Legislative Assembly in 2017. (Tonga after the Regional Workshop on Trade Facilitation Agreement); and
- Presentation on the Trade Facilitation Agreement was prepared jointly with the MoFA and presented to the Ruling Party members of the Parliament, which has led to the approval of the ratification to the TFA. (Mongolia after the Regional Workshop on Trade Facilitation Agreement).

(3) Observed direct effects realized from the application of lessons-learned

In the wake of the sharing of the workshop materials and application of lessons learned at the administrative level on operational and institutional context, the Sub-/Regional Workshops have resulted in a series of tangible benefits. The counts of the replies to this question are shown in the following Table 3.

(Table 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(ref., Total no. of replies)</th>
<th>Direct effects realized</th>
<th>Direct effects not realized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Customs valuation (Sep. 2015)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>WCO Train-the-Trainees Workshop for the Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P Region (Sep. 2015)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>No. of Respondents</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling (Jan. 2016)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in Information Technology (Mar. 2016)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>WCO Follow-Up Workshop for Joint Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P Region (Action IPR A/P) (Mar. 2016)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for the GMS (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on HS2017 Implementation (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11)</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for South Asia (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy (May 2016)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment and Selectivity with Advance Cargo Information (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on the Compliance and Enforcement Package (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16)</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Search, Interview and Investigation Techniques (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>146</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NB) Total numbers of replies to this question do not necessarily equal to the number of replies to this Survey, since some participants did not indicate either yes or no.
Nearly two-thirds of the replies indicated positively, while the remaining replies indicated they have not found particular effects up until the time the questionnaires were circulated. In fact, some of the negative replies explained that it could take more time to realize the effects at the border mainly because the topics covered at the Workshops have not been introduced yet or the time required for the installation and mature usage of the new methodologies.

Turning to the positive indications, the most immediate and prominent tangible results were the increase in the number of cases and seizures of contrabands and additional collection of revenue. In addition, the Survey shows that the following tangible and direct effects were realized, among other things:

- Amendment of the customs code to align with the Valuation Agreement (Afghanistan after the Customs Valuation Sub-regional workshop);
- Coordination of opening and closing time of the work between Iran and Iraq Customs through consultation. (Iran after the Regional Workshop on Coordinated Border Management);
- Being able to track down the delay and streamlined clearance processes through implementation of new SOP. (Fiji after the Regional Workshop on Coordinated Border Management);
- Accurately fixed the classification controversies by utilizing the diagnostic tool. (China after the Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling);
- Reformulated policies and regulations concerning advance ruling on valuation (Customs advice) to be conformity with best international practices (i.e. WCO Technical Guideline on Advance Ruling and WTO TFA). (Indonesia after the Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling);
- Establishment of Disaster Recovery site (Maldives after the Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in IT);
- Application of the knowledge on ICT Project Management to prepare ICT projects which will be invested in 2017 (Vietnam after the Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in IT);
- Strengthened check on chemical materials with reference to the extensive list of strategic chemicals (Sri Lanka, Fiji, Singapore and Pakistan after the Regional Workshop on STCE);
- Introduction of new methods to communicate between selection officers and control officers (Tonga after the Regional Workshop on Passenger Control);
- Organization of joint meeting and promotion of open-door activities with IPR holders (Mongolia after the Regional Workshops on Counterfeiting and Piracy);
Drafted manual to give guidance to Customhouses throughout the country for TFA implementation (China after the Regional Workshop on TFA);

Law reform to align with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Revised Kyoto Convention and change staffs’ mindset (Tonga after the Regional Workshop on TFA); and

Changes in risk management approaches and day-to-day control activities (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Tonga after the Regional Workshop on Compliance and Enforcement Package).

(4) Modernization project initiated based on the lessons learned from the Workshops

As stated in the WCO’s current Capacity Building Strategy, the WCO or the ROCB A/P does not necessarily supervise the Members’ continued reform and modernization efforts and programs. Rather, it greatly relies on the Member administrations’ organizational priority and ownership. In this regard, the ROCB A/P is keen to hear how the WCO Sub-/Regional Workshops have led to fostering the Members’ ownership and self-efforts towards improving frontline work performance and its efficiency and effectiveness.

In addition to the above question on the realization of direct effects (i.e. 2(3)), this question focuses on whether the dissemination and application of lessons learned at the administrative level in the operational and institutional context have led to initiating any modernization project. It is indeed encouraging to find that a series of new modernization projects have been initiated with a view to materializing anticipated improvement in the administrations’ performance efficiency and effectiveness from mid- and long-term perspectives.

The counts of the replies to this question is shown in the following Table 4.

(Table 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(ref.) Total no. of replies</th>
<th>Project initiated</th>
<th>Project not initiated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Customs valuation (Sep. 2015)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) WCO Train-the-Trainers Workshop for the Joint Enforcement Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P Region (Sep. 2015)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) WCO Regional Workshop on Coordinated Border Management (Dec.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling (Jan. 2016)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in Information Technology (Mar. 2016)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>WCO Follow-Up Workshop for Joint Action against Counterfeiting and Piracy in the A/P Region (Action IPR A/P) (Mar. 2016)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for the GMS (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (Apr. 2016)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on HS2017 Implementation (Apr. 2016)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>WCO Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls (Apr. 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridors for South Asia (Apr. 2016)</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Search, Interview and Investigation Techniques (Jun. 2016)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(NB) Total numbers of replies to this question do not necessarily equal to the number of replies to this Survey, since some participants did not indicate either yes or no.
For the purpose of this Workshop Follow-Up Action Survey, the ROCB A/P did not specify the definition of the “modernization projects” in a strict term, but as a common sense, it can be rather institutional engagement work towards future amelioration of the current systems and regime with mid-term projections. These modernization projects may not be new initiatives, but could complement on-going reform and modernization projects as a matter of course.

Below showcases some of the positive replies on the modernization projects initiated and/or complemented in the wake of the participation in the WCO Sub/Regional Workshops and applying these lessons learned:

- Initiated formulation of Task Force for IPR enforcement (Sri Lanka after the Train-the-Trainers workshops for Joint Enforcement Action on IPR);
- Application of the acquired knowledge into the introduction of new IT system (Iran after the Regional Workshop on CBM, and Philippines after the Regional Workshop on Strategic Leadership in IT);
- Working on acquiring advance version of APIS in collaboration with Immigration (Maldives after the Regional Workshop on CBM);
- New approach to reform Customs clearance and revenue collection system by establishing revenue collection centers aiming at improving uniform application of rules of classification, Customs valuation and origin. (China after the Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling);
- Formulation and revision of the regulations concerning advance ruling on classification, Customs valuation and origin. Planning to design effective and efficient examination project of classification and Customs valuation (Indonesia after the Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling);
- Development of Customs Valuation Project (Cambodia after the Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling);
- Incorporation of advance ruling under the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (Philippines after the Regional Workshop on Revenue Package and Advance Ruling);
- Upgrading of the technology to assist Strategic Trade Control and Enforcement (Singapore after the Regional Workshop on STCE);
- Accelerating on-going project on misclassification identification and correction. (Maldives after the Regional Workshop on HS2017);
- Revision of pertinent legislation to require API and PNR (India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Tonga after the Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls);
- Initiated development of interface to analyze passenger data (Sri Lanka after the
Regional Workshop on Passenger Controls;

- New modernization plan for smooth transit system (Bangladesh after the Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridor in South Asia);
- Initiated intelligence sharing on commercial fraud and outright smuggling with Customs administrations in the neighboring countries (Bangladesh after the Sub-regional Workshop on Transit Corridor in South Asia);
- Revision of IPR protection legislation (Lao PDR after the Regional Workshop on Counterfeiting and Piracy);
- Initiated a study scheme on developing risk analysis mechanism (China after the Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment and Selectivity with ACI); and
- Reorganization of import processing mechanism (Sri Lanka after the Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment and Selectivity with ACI).

4. General observations by the ROCB A/P

As seen in the above interim summation, it is clear that the workshops participants brought an abundance of information and lessons-learned back home and properly shared them with the right persons for their attention and practical application thereof. Indeed, the impact from the participants’ follow-up actions showed that the potential of application of these learns-learned are huge and they should not be underestimated. In order to further optimize the ramifications of the WCO’s capacity building assistance programs, it is imperative for the ROCB A/P to encourage the workshop participants to continue to follow these good practices. The ROCB A/P believes that the ownership and commitment of the respective workshop participants and continued dialogue are the keys for reaping the good fruits from the collective efforts towards Customs reform and modernization. The ROCB A/P is going to continue this initiative to optimize the value of the regional capacity building assistance programs in cooperation with the WCO Secretariat and other development partners.

For questions and comments to this Survey on the Regional Workshop Follow-Up Actions, please feel free to write to Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, by e-mail at igarashi@rocbap.org.
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
CCF Customs Cooperation Fund
CDS Customs Declaration System
CEN Customs Enforcement Network
DP Development Partner
ECTS Electronic Cargo Tracking Systems
EDI Electronic Data Interchange
GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GTI Greater Tumen Initiative
ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
ICTs Information and Communication Technologies
IPR Intellectual Property Right
IRU International Road Transport Union
JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency
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
ROO Rules of Origin
RSP Regional Strategic Plan
RTC Regional Training Center
SASEC South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation
SAFE FoS SAFE Framework of Standard
SW Single Window
TFA Trade Facilitation Agreement
UN United Nations
UNCITRAL United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNESCAP United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UPU Universal Postal Union
WCO World Customs Organization
WTO World Trade Organization