

ROCB A/P E-Newsletter No.61



E-Learning in Thai Customs



Shanghai Customs College has made another academic advancement



Special contributions by regional Members on the application of innovative technologies in Customs



Limitation on cyber investigation and digital forensics in customs administrations and the recommendations to members



ROCB A/P Annual Work Plan 2018/19

FOREWORD



Dear Readers,

Greetings from rainy Bangkok.

In July every year, the WCO commences its new fiscal year. The ROCB A/P shares a similar financial calendar as do some member administrations. Accordingly, there might have been a number of personnel shuffling within the administrations and new people may have joined the international Customs club. Some colleagues may go away for summer vacations in order to relax and recharge their batteries after a year of hard work so that they may come back to the office revitalized and ready for the new year. Time

really flies. Four years has passed since I arrived here in Bangkok on 2 July 2014, and the final year of my five year tenure has started. I am still excited and passionate about the tasks at the ROCB A/P and I very much look forward to continuing to work together with the member administrations in the new fiscal year.

This issue of the E-Newsletter features the ROCB A/P's activities in the 4th quarter of 2017/18. Because it is the last quarter of the fiscal year, there are several meetings in which the WCO and the ROCBs are required to present on in its annual activity summaries and discuss the yearly activity plan for the following year. These meetings include, among others, the A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference held in May 2018 in Fiji, the Oceania Customs Organisation annual meeting held in June 2018 in Australia and the WCO Council Session in June 2018 in Belgium. It really made me happy to hear a number of compliments regarding the ROCB A/P's activity report and pertinent accomplishments, as well as words of encouragement from high-level delegates from various part of the region. I must admit that the accomplishments were not necessarily achieved by the ROCB A/P itself, it is indeed the tangible fruits of the continued efforts and commitment made by the member administrations. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my compliments to the leadership and wisdom of the members' executive officials and engagement and hard work undertaken by the countless numbers of fellow colleagues at various positions of the member administrations.

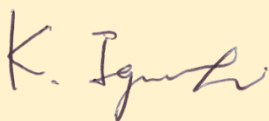
In this regard, as part of the member administrations' tangible progress in institutional capacity building, I am pleased to feature a special contribution from the Thai Customs Department on the development of their own e-learning modules and that from the Regional Training Center China, i.e. Shanghai Customs College, on the WCO's recognition of its Bachelor of Customs curriculum to have satisfied the WCO PICARD Professional Standards criteria. Along with these special contributions and achievements, we organized the Regional Workshop on Human Resource Development in Vietnam and discussed the need for providing life-long and high-quality learning opportunities to the Customs officials so that they may better cope with the need of the day. The application of technology is another imperative for Customs administrations with a view to providing better risk management capability and conduct the necessary controls against fraud and the smuggling of contraband and restricted goods at the border while assuring the facilitation of the cross-border movement of legitimate trade. In this regard, I am quite pleased to have another special contribution from Japan, which is a reproduction of the

keynote address delivered to the WCO IT Conference held in Lima, Peru, and tells us how Japan Customs copes with the supply chain security challenges and assuring trade facilitation. Talking about technology, some of the readers may recall that the ROCB A/P organized the Regional Workshop on Cyber Investigation and Digital Forensics in November 2017 in Hong Kong, China. Based on the lessons learned from this Regional Workshop, Ms. Eva Suen, my ROCB A/P colleague, prepared an essay on the possible way forward towards challenges associated with the digital age. I hope these special contributions and essays are of interest to you and your administrations.

With the commencement of the new fiscal year, the ROCB A/P is supposed to renew its 2-year Strategic Plan and devise the Annual Work Plan for 2018/19. In accordance with the members' suggestion, the Annual Work Plan specifies the key performance indicators to the respective planned work. We consulted the Regional Vice Chair (i.e. India) on the Annual Work Plan so that the planned activities are in line with the current A/P Regional Strategic Plan and it captures the Members' needs and concerns. The Annual Plan was agreed to by the WCO Secretariat for their readiness to deliver them in a timely and effective manner. I hope that the regional members may take full advantage of these planned capacity building and technical assistance programs, and at the same time, we look forward to closer collaboration with our development partners.

The ROCB A/P always welcomes and looks forward to the readers' feedback and suggestions to this E-Newsletter as well as activities undertaken by us. Please rest assured that I will do my very best to ensure that the ROCB A/P's standards live up to the members' expectations for the rest of my tenure. Your continued support and guidance are much sought to this end.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Igarashi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kazunari Igarashi
Head of the ROCB A/P

CONTENTS

SPECIAL TOPICS

1 E-LEARNING IN THAI CUSTOMS

By Mr. Prawat Chuenchavalit
Expert on Human Resource Development, Thai Customs Department

4 SHANGHAI CUSTOMS COLLEGE HAS MADE ANOTHER ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT

By Shanghai Customs College

6 SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY REGIONAL MEMBERS ON THE APPLICATION OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN CUSTOMS

By Mr. Hiroshi Kishimoto
Deputy Director-General, Japan Customs

10 LIMITATIONS ON CYBER INVESTIGATION AND DIGITAL FORENSICS IN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBERS

By Ms. Eva SUEN
Program Manager, the ROCB A/P

15 ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR ROCB A/P 2018/19

WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

Renewal of collaboration with New Zealand Customs Service	28
WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Environmental Topics	29
WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Human Resource Development	31
The ROCB A/P represents the WCO to the ASEAN Meeting for the Customs Directors General	32
19th Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference	33
A Training Strategy Development support to Lesotho Revenue Authority	35
ROCB A/P speaks at a regional meeting to counter online sales of counterfeit and illicit medicines	36
ROCB A/P contributes to the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) Workshop	37
Japan Customs DDG visits the ROCB A/P	38
ROCB A/P attends the WCO IT Conference and Exhibition 2018	39
ROCB A/P renews close collaboration with the ADB in the SASEC program	40
The ROCB A/P renews cooperative ties with the OCO	41
WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP)	43
ROCB A/P greets departing and arriving Customs Attachés of Japan	44
ROCB A/P introduces the WCO tools at the UNEP Risk Profiling Workshop	45
ROCB A/P participates in the CAREC Meeting for supporting implementation of the WTO TFA	46
WCO Council Session	47
The ROCB A/P accommodates an Internship Student from the Thammasat University	48

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

WCO A/P CB/TA PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS	49
--	-----------

Special Topics

Special Contribution from the Thai Customs Department E-Learning in Thai Customs



Mr. Prawat Chuenchavalit
Expert on Human Resource Development
Thai Customs Department

Nowadays, we are surrounded by technology that improves our life. The technology that makes life becomes easier, faster and safer. Everything has changed rapidly in society, economics, environment and technology called “Digital Era”. Therefore, we have to learn to live our life and learning is never end. In the past, learning was quite difficult to do since inconvenient reason, learners had to carry heavy books,

face to face with the instructors or go to a certain place. But now, Learning can be supported by technology called “e-learning” that spreads all over the world. For e-learning, we can gain knowledge anywhere and anytime by accessing the source from computer or mobile phone with internet. Not only private

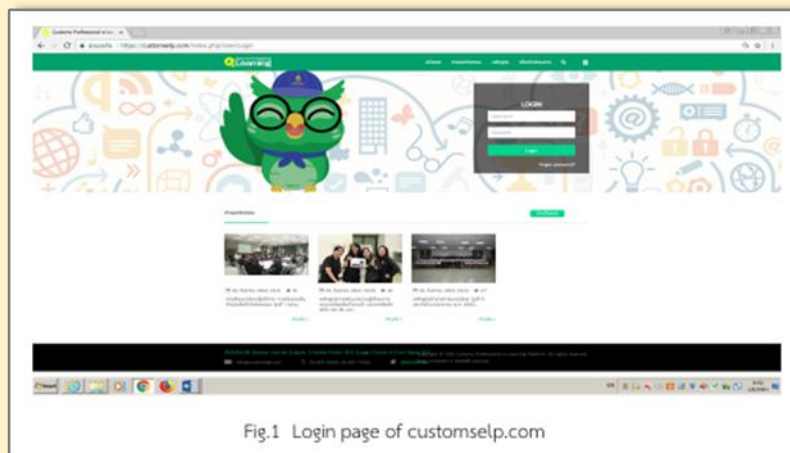


Fig.1 Login page of customself.com

sector but also public sector that has used this learning platform to develop the staff and to be consistent with Thailand 4.0 policy.



Fig.2



Fig 3



Fig.4



Fig5



Fig6



Fig.7

Thai Customs Department has set up a new platform of e-learning project called “Customs Professional e-learning Platform” since last year (fig.1 Login page). It is accessible, just enter the website and select the subject that learners want to learn. It supports text and animation motion graphic form which are beautiful and understandable (some example as fig.2 - 11). Learners can learn anywhere and anytime. In addition, the officers can evaluate the learning result by himself through post learning evaluation system and compile statistic to develop and improve the officers’ knowledge endlessly. This e-learning platform consists of 6 subjects in content, there are HS, ROO, Valuation, Customs Procedure, Privileges and Customs Act, including lesson, test and exam, also linking to HR Database of the personnel record.

In the last 3 years, Thai Customs Department has encouraged the officers to enroll WCO e-Learning “CLiKc!” which provides to WCO member countries. This e-learning platform gathers all WCO training-related tools in a single portal. We started the first year with some volunteer officers to take one course. Afterwards, Customs Technical officers, Practitioner and Professional level, are mandated to take two courses a year from selected 13 courses.

The effectiveness of e-learning can be seen from the result at the end of the course. The learners must control themselves to pay more attention while they are accessing the course, compare with sitting in the classroom. Otherwise, they might fail, and e-learning will be useless.

In conclusion, e-learning is a change of technology that can spread knowledge, skills, and values to the younger generation, it will be useful, and life will be much easier than the conventional learning in the past.



Fig.8



Fig.9



Fig.10



Fig.11

Shanghai Customs College has made another academic advancement

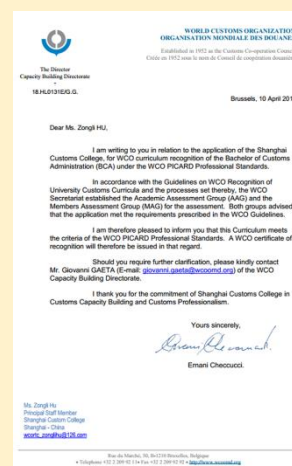


On 10 May 2018, the Shanghai Customs College (SCC), a WCO Regional Training Center, has become an accredited institution offering the Master's Degree of Taxation and Public Administration. On 10 April, its Bachelor Program of Customs Administration (BCA) has been recognized by the WCO Secretariat within

the framework of the PICARD Program.

The SCC is a regular institution of higher learning approved by the Ministry of Education and is a subordinate to the General Administration of China Customs. At present, the SCC has the School of Customs Administration, School of Economics and Business Administration, School of Law, School of Foreign Language and Department of Fundamental Education, offering eight undergraduate programs including Customs Administration, Logistic Management, Audit, International Business, Taxation, Law and English, which cover the disciplines of science of management, economics, science of law and literature.

Grounded in Customs and geared to the need of national society and the international community, the SCC cultivates high-quality, inter-disciplinary and practical elites in Customs administration to meet the demand of Customs undertakings and economic and social development, as well as talents in foreign trade to serve port logistics and international business. The SCC is also proactive in conducting the Customs theoretical research and international exchanges. In addition, the SCC is tasked with further education, knowledge upgrading and professional training for the mid and high-level officials in Customs. According to the assignment of the WCO and the need of the Member countries and territories in the Asia Pacific region, the SCC is gradually undertaking more and more tasks of training for the Customs officials in the region, carrying out corresponding international commitment.



Special contributions by regional Members on the application of innovative technologies in Customs

By ROCB A/P

Application of innovative technology is quite hot issue among Customs executives and no Customs administration cannot afford ignoring it with a view to keep the frontline Customs operations up with the nations' expectations for trade facilitation, protection of society and assurance of revenue collection while coping with increasing volume of cross-border movement of goods, people and means of transport. The WCO provide various opportunities to introduce these innovative technologies to the attention of the Members and led a series of discussion and experience sharing at the various platforms.

In the A/P region, under the initiative of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS), the former WCO Regional Vice-Chair for the A/P region, organized the Private Sector Engagement Meeting back-to-back with the recent Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference in May 2018 in Fiji and provided the high-level Member delegations with a platform to learn state-of-art technologies readily available for their daily applications and discussed foreseen implication of further advancement of the technologies, including disruptive technologies, and its innovation to the trade and commerce. FRCS' initiative was highly appreciated by both Customs and relevant stakeholders.

One of the prominent occasions for the global dialogue on the technological innovation to Customs is the WCO IT Conference, which is organized almost every year in different regions with expectation of wider and diversified participation of the Member administration delegations and stakeholders in the respective regions. As the readers of this E-Newsletter may be aware, the most recent WCO IT Conference was organized on 6-8 June 2018 in Lima, Peru. For more information on this event, the readers may visit the [WCO homepage](#) at and the [ROCB A/P homepage](#). To add-value to this well-attended WCO event, two high-level representatives from the A/P regional Member administrations, namely China and Japan, delivered their keynote addresses to set the scene and provide insightful food-for-thought. The ROCB A/P has the honor to be able to reproduce keynote addresses delivered by Japan Customs Deputy Director General in our E-Newsletter, as the first part of the series of featured contributions.

The ROCB A/P thanks Japan for their kind consent to share their views and hope that the readers may be inspired from their experiences for furthering on-going discussion on the advancement of the Customs operation in the innovation age.

Present Challenges to Japan Customs and Modern Technology



Mr. Hiroshi Kishimoto
Deputy Director-General, Japan Customs

Today, I discuss the challenges which Japan Customs faces and possible application of information technology. The key to success for modern customs is, firstly, collecting relevant information beforehand and, secondly, targeting high- risk items effectively with the help of information technology. Such risk management technique is also beneficial for businesses and tourists because they can go through the customs procedure quickly.

Before getting into detail, let me go over the background of today's discussion briefly. In 2019, next year, Japan is going to chair G20 Summit meeting and related ministerial meetings, following Argentine chairpersonship this year. Also in 2019, our Emperor will abdicate from the imperial throne and the Crown Prince will be enthroned. In the following year, 2020, Tokyo is going to host the Olympic and Paralympic games. These events are the occasions when a lot of overseas visitors are expected to travel to Japan. On those occasions, we should be alert for terrorism, which may target those important international events. At the same time, as the number of passengers increases, the risk of smuggling of illegal drugs will be augmented. This is the background of today's discussion.

Now, let's move on to two major areas of our concern. They are passenger inspection and e-commerce. The first area of our concern is passenger inspection. Tourism promotion is now a priority policy objective for the whole Japanese government. Japanese government expects as many as 40 million of annual inbound travelers in 2020, which is the year of the Tokyo Olympic Games. The number of annual inbound travelers increased by 20 percent to 29 million last year. The policy target of 40 million inbound travelers is well achievable. If you have ever visited Japan, you may have noticed that

customs officers interview all passengers, Japanese or non-Japanese, even if they do not have anything to declare. Customs officer's observation and interview is a traditional way of detecting smuggling. It is still very effective but at the same time it tends to be labor-intensive and it can potentially be a source of stress for passengers. So we are now seeking for more efficient way of passenger inspection.

One solution is the utilization of the PNR, passenger name record. PNR is a set of personal data which passengers register at the time of airplane ticket purchase. Those PNR data are submitted to the customs by the airline as a prior information. We find that the analysis of PNR is very useful for targeting high-risk passengers. PNR analysis has just started in Japan. So there remains much room for deepening the analysis. We need to keep studying the method of PNR analysis. Another insufficiency of PNR analysis stems from the fact that EU regulation prohibits EU airlines to submit privacy information to foreign government until EU and the concerned country conclude a privacy protection treaty. We propose EU that we should start negotiation for concluding a necessary treaty. We sincerely hope EU and Japan reach a mutually beneficial agreement as soon as possible. Besides PNR analysis, we explore the trial introduction of electronic customs declaration gate at the Tokyo-Narita airport this year. The idea is that passengers present their customs declaration using their smart phone application instead of a paper document. Lead time before the customs inspection will be largely saved. At the customs booth, the identity of the passenger will be confirmed through facial recognition technology. Difficult part is how to detect any hidden articles without relying on the traditional way of staff observation or interview. We are still halfway in this respect.

Our future vision is that high-risk passengers are targeted in advance by using prior information like PNR and that passengers are screened by electronic Customs declaration plus possibly some behavior analysis of the surveillance camera images. If these are achieved, automated inspection procedure will be realized at the Customs gate. Then, passenger inspection procedure will be stress-free and strict at the same time.



The second area of our concern is e-commerce. The imports by express delivery service companies like Federal Express, DHL and others are increasing very rapidly. The number of import declarations by such express delivery service companies was 27 million in 2017, 70 percent greater than 5 years before. Such increase is promoted by the flourishing of international e-commerce in

addition to international supply chain expansion. One distinguished feature of express delivery services is its speed. Quick Customs clearance is strongly expected. So the challenge for the customs is how to collect prior information concerning air cargos for the purpose of efficient targeting.

In March 2019, Japan Customs will expand the scope of air cargo prior information to include house-manifest in addition to master-manifest and make it mandatory to present the information in the form of electronic data. Airlines are required to present that information on arrival or one hour or three hours before the arrival, depending on the flight time. The customs will analyze the information to detect terrorism-related cargos. Besides such express delivery services, postal service is another frequently used vehicle for international e-commerce. The number of postal express mail service packages was about 6.5 million items in 2017. Furthermore, in case of postal packages, importers are not required to present customs declaration if the package value is under 200 thousand Japanese yen or roughly 2,000 US dollars. Therefore, collecting prior information concerning postal service is even more effective for the purpose of customs inspection. Under the framework of Universal Postal Union, postal service companies in the world started to exchange sender's and receiver's information concerning express mail service among themselves. Japan Post is a member of that initiative and Japan Post presents so-received electronic data to the customs as prior information. At the beginning, the country coverage was US, Canada, Australia, France and Spain, and it was afterwards expanded to include China, Hong Kong and UK. We hope that this initiative will be further promoted, and that blank data will be diminishing.

Our future vision is that customs receives sufficient prior information for data analysis in the area of e-commerce as well. To realize it, communication among and within the related businesses should be more effective so that those businesses can prepare relevant information efficiently. Information technology can help it. Efficient physical inspection is another challenge. For that purpose, customs has taken advantage of X-ray detection for a long time, and the function of X-ray machine is advancing. Our future vision in this aspect is that artificial intelligence automates image analysis. If packages could automatically be screened and ranked according to their risk, without any help of human eyes, we could save considerable amount of human resources.

These are the two major areas of our concern. Application of modern technology can be of great help in these areas. As I said at the beginning of today's discussion, the key to success for the customs is, firstly, collecting relevant information beforehand and, secondly, targeting high-risk items effectively with the help of information technology.

WCO is working on these subjects very diligently. We appreciate the development which has been achieved so far with the help of WCO. Air cargo prior information is an initiative promoted by WCO. PNR analysis is a challenge which WCO is tackling with seriously. Collaboration with the Universal Postal Union is much enhanced by Secretary-General Kunio Mikuriya's leadership. We expect studies of modern technology conducted by WCO will be of great help for the customs world in the near future.

This IT seminar is another important initiative of WCO, in cooperation with the SUNAT of Peru, towards better utilization of new technology. I am sure participants can get various takeaways from the discussion. Japan appreciates the insight of WCO and the SUNAT of Peru and sincerely hope the success of the program.

Thank you very much.

Limitations on Cyber Investigation and Digital Forensics in Customs Administrations and The Recommendations to Members



By Ms. Eva SUEN
Program Manager, the ROCB A/P

Nowadays, Customs officers and Customs investigators have to face not only traditional investigations but also cyber-crime investigations. There is an increasing trend for criminals to commit Customs offences by making use of digital equipment. Drugs traffickers may communicate with each other via mobile phones and computers. Counterfeit medicines are sold on the internet. Illegal proceeds are transferred through internet banking. Thousands of transactions of illicit trade are completed through the internet and digital communication tools. Three main issues or challenges that arise are, among others: first, the way Customs conduct cyber-crime investigations and track and trace suspects in the cyber-world; second, the methods Customs manage a digital crime scene; and third, the practice Customs process and analyze the digital evidence so as to make it admissible in court. To raise awareness on the pertinent challenges and share some of the Members' good practices in the capacity building development in relation to cyber investigation and computer forensics in the A/P region, the ROCB A/P organized the Regional Workshops in August 2013 and November 2018 respectively in Hong Kong.

Though the topic is a very hot issue and the cyber investigation are of most concern to Customs administrations, it seems that most of the Customs administrations have not come up with the fast-changing cyber-crime environment. In order to stimulate our Member administrations' thought and put more concern in this area, I'd like to share my personal views on the limitations on the Customs' cyber investigation and digital forensics and make some recommendations for their considerations.

From my personal perspectives, the prominent hindrances to the Customs capability in contend with the cyber investigation and digital forensics may include: (1) the lack of support from top management; (2) limited competence with legislations/policy; (3) limited financial support; (4) absence of technical standards and tools; (5) fewer skills, training and certification; and (6) the state of prosecutions of crimes

involving digital evidence. Let me explain my observations on these perceived hindrances, and my personal recommendations to possibly remedy them.

(1) Support from top management

Some of the top management of Customs administrations have low interest and give less support for cyber investigation and digital forensics. It may be due to lots of concerns like financing, manpower and expertise etc. Without the support from the top management, it may not be easy to set up a specialized team for cyber investigation.

Accordingly, some of the top management has to consider broadly the fast-changing cyber-crime environment and acknowledge that Customs have to make advancements in cyber investigation in order to take concerted actions. For those members who still do not have any experiences in cyber investigation and digital forensics, they may arrange meetings or regularly communicate with those members who already have well developed cyber investigation and digital forensics capability, particularly those have set up computer forensics laboratories, which implies that those members have certain experiences in this expertise. In addition, management should encourage their staff members to attend related capacity building activities and disseminate the knowledge that they have learned when returning to their home administrations.

(2) Legislations / established policy

There are no legislations or any established policy on the handling of or the admissibility of digital evidence in court in some of the Customs administrations. Even though some of the Customs administrations have such legislation, it is not generally addressed or aware, or published not precisely and clearly, and the contents stipulated are not comprehensive at all.

In this regard, the administration should clearly stipulate the sections in the legislations and establish the policy on the acceptance of digital evidence under the law in their home administrations. The establishment of legislation and policy is a key to success in cyber investigation as it is a foundation and empowerment to Customs administrations.

(3) Financial support

The issue of the availability of funds for Customs administration is mixed. To set up forensic laboratories is very costly for digital evidence investigation. The costs associated with staying current with technology and maintaining training for the employees at the lab. As technology changes, the labs must continually update their hardware, software, and employee training which lead the cost even higher.

Administrations are recommended to allocate budget to set up forensic laboratories for digital evidence investigation. The budget planned should include the costs of current technology and the maintaining training for the employees at the laboratories. Since the technology of cyber investigation changes continuously, the laboratories must continually update their hardware, software, and employee training. Therefore, those costs should also be considered while planning the budget.

(4) Standards and tools

Some of the Customs administrations have found the tools and software available for examining networks or devices were lacking in the investigation of crimes involving digital evidence. The lack of availability for the tools because of funding, training, or lacking essential needs was noted as the main reason for this dissatisfaction. Encryption, wireless technologies, and steganography were noted as emerging technological issues that restrained an investigator's ability to successfully conduct an investigation. An additional concern was the ability of new tools to work quickly enough because of there being a broad range of skill levels of investigators.

Against this hindrance, a comprehensive resource guide is needed, as standard operating procedures for the Customs forensics investigators to follow. With the implementation of the standards, the Customs forensics investigators may have a guideline to follow and the consistency of conducting cyber investigations, collecting digital evidence, presenting the digital evidence in court can be preserved and maintained.

(5) Skills, training and certification

The ability of some Customs administrations to investigate and successfully prosecute criminals for these crimes is unclear. While some have been conducting these investigations for many years, they do not have the skills, training, or expert staff to effectively conduct investigations with the volume or complexity included many of these cases and whether they are engaged in investigating crimes involving



digital evidence. There is also a lack of awareness of available training courses or educational materials. Moreover, there is no certification on the qualified forensics investigators even though they will be the expert witness in court. The expert's professionalism is being challenged.

It is recommended that the administrations to employ some forensics experts from outsourcing with an aim to conduct training to those forensics investigators, also update their knowledge regularly, and set up training center/unit for training more experts in this specialized field as the personnel will be changing in future and more expert investigators should be trained for any contingency plan in future.

(6) State of prosecutions of crimes involving digital evidence

Even if the officers are properly handling digital evidence, and a thorough investigation is completed, the prosecuting attorneys must be able to effectively present the evidence in court for a successful conclusion to a case. The lack of understanding by prosecutors of digital evidence is still a great concern.

To be effective at prosecuting crimes involving digital evidence, prosecuting attorneys must have a minimal level of knowledge in computers and information technology. Funding for training of prosecutors in this area was also noted as a concern.

Customs and prosecutors should closely coordinate on cases relating to cyber investigation and digital forensics with an aim to increase efficiency on the types of data searched, understand the evidence involved, and ensure that all legal requirements of

disclosure to the defense are met. If prosecutors do not understand the digital evidence, these tasks become more difficult to complete.

In conclusion, there is an accelerating trend of cyber-crime in the 21st century as almost all of the activities going on around us are on the cyber world or on the internet. Mobile phones and lots of social media like 'LINE', 'WhatsApp', 'Viber', 'WeChat' are widely and commonly used as a communication platform and they might be used by smugglers as communication tools. One can imagine that in future cyber-investigations by Customs administrations will be far more demanding and challenging. Therefore, as one of the law enforcement entities, Customs administrations should prepare themselves for the upcoming challenges and the above recommendations might be taken as reference and considerations.

<Disclaimer>

Please be reminded that the above discussion does not represent any official views or position of the WCO or that of the ROCB A/P, and it is based on Ms. Suen's personal opinion. Any comments or suggestions are warmly welcomed, and please feel free to contact her at evasuen@rocbap.org.

Annual Work Plan 2018/19

In accordance with the ROCB A/P's Terms of Reference, the ROCB A/P is supposed to develop its Strategic Action Plan for a 2-year term and its Annual Work Plan for the purpose of assuring its work accountability and governance to the regional Directors General.

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 Work Plan is 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. Japan Customs and the ROCB A/P, as co-coordinator for the pertinent focus area of the Regional Strategic Plan, jointly conduct an Annual Technical Assistance Needs Survey each year, and the Members' technical assistance needs are duly incorporated in it. The Annual Work Plan for 2018/19 was subsequently agreed by the WCO Capacity Building Directorate in mid-July 2018 to make it open to the member administrations in the A/P region.

The Annual Work Plan for 2018/19 accommodates a good number of the regional/sub-regional and national workshops, both newly funded and carried forward from the previous years. These workshops are categorized into improvements in the following core competencies, namely: (1) implementation of trade facilitation; (2) counter-terrorism; (3) economic competitiveness and revenue collection; (4) intelligence and risk management; (5) health and safety protection; and (6) organizational and human resource development. In addition, the plan encompasses some programs that look at emerging issues, including E-Commerce.

The Strategic Action Plan for 2018-2020 and the Annual Work Plan for 2018/19 are annexed to this E-Newsletter. Also, they are made public on the ROCB A/P's homepage (www.rocb-ap.org) under the "Resources" column. The ROCB A/P hopes that the regional members may take full advantage of these planned regional and national capacity building programs.

Regional Training Centers (RTCs) play key roles to deliver those planned regional/sub-regional workshops for the interest of the member Customs Administrations in the A/P region. Accordingly, the ROCB A/P is currently consulting with the WCO Secretariat and RTCs and coordinating the dates and venues of these regional/national capacity building programs. For the most current calendar of these future events, please kindly refer to the "Future Activities" on the very last page of this E-Newsletter or on our homepage.

ROCB A/P Annual Work Plan (2018-2019)

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

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2018-2020)	Annual Work Plan for 2018-2019	RSP Key Performance Indicator
<p>a) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment</p> <p><i>(RSP 1.1.1 - 1st milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on risk management for Cambodia, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam ➤ Organize a sub-regional workshop on risk management and compliance management for the Pacific <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on NII equipment and automated threat recognition <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on set-up of National Targeting Center for Pakistan <i>(See also 1-(b))</i> 	Number of implementing Members
<p>b) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing national risk management database (e.g. nCEN)</p> <p><i>(RSP 1.1.1 - 3rd milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance in developing national database for risk management ➤ Conduct a national workshop on set-up of National Targeting Center for Pakistan <i>(See also 1-(a))</i> 	Number of Members

c) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool <i>(RSP 1.1.1 - 4th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on valuation training and valuation database for Bhutan ➤ Organize a sub-regional Workshop on Revenue package for the Pacific <i>(See also 1-(h) and (i))</i> 	Number of Members
d) Upon request, assist Member's efforts to develop Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) program <i>(RSP 1.1.2 – 2nd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In cooperation with the WCO Secretariat, conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Afghanistan <i>(See also 1-(x) and (y))</i> 	Number of assistance provided
e) Upon request, assist Member's efforts in implementing trade recovery activities <i>(RSP 1.1.2 - 4th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon request, provide the assistance in implementing trade recovery activities 	Number of assistance provided
f) Upon request, assist Member's effort to accede to and implement the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 1st milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on the implementation of the RKC for Afghanistan 	Number of contracting Members

g) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 2nd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on TFA implementation and performance measurement <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> ➤ Upon request, conduct national workshop(s) on implementing WTO TFA ➤ Conduct national workshops on advance ruling on classification for Bhutan, Nepal and Papua New Guinea <i>(See also 1-(h) and (y))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Special Economic Zone ➤ Upon request, provide assistance on Special Economic Zone ➤ Organize a regional workshop on transit <i>(See also 1-(y))</i> 	Number of implementing Members
h) Upon request, assist Member's effort for: (1) smooth implementation of HS 2017 (for CPs) (2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 3rd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshop on HS for Vietnam ➤ Conduct national workshops on advance ruling on classification for Bhutan, Nepal and Papua New Guinea <i>(See also 1-(g) and (y))</i> ➤ Organize a sub-regional Workshop on Revenue package for the Pacific <i>(See also 1-(c))</i> 	(1)Number of implementing Members (2)Number of contracting Members
i) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing Advance Ruling System for tariff classification decision, origin of goods and Customs Valuation <i>(RSP 1.1.3 – 4th milestone)</i>		Number of implementing Members
j) Upon request, assist Member's effort in undertaking Time Release Study (TRS) in accordance with the WCO TRS Guidelines <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 5th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on TRS for Fiji and Samoa ➤ Organize a regional workshop on accreditation of TRS experts <i>(See also 3-(b))</i> 	Number of Members
k) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing self-certification for Rules of Origin (ROO) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 6th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on ROO for Laos 	Number of Members

l) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing WCO Data Model <i>(RSP 1.1.3 – 7th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize national workshops on Customs ICT for Iran and Pakistan ➤ In cooperation with partner organization, organize a regional workshop on ICT Masterclass <i>(See also 1-(r) and 2-(b))</i> ➤ Conduct national workshops on Single Window and data Model for Mongolia <i>(See also 1-(r))</i> 	Number of implementing Members
m) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief <i>(RSP 1.1.3 – 8th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the implementation of the WCO Resolution on Natural Disaster Relief 	Number of implementing Members
n) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Valuation Agreement <i>(RSP 1.1.3 – 9th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on Valuation and Transfer Pricing for Thailand ➤ Organize a Joint WCO-OECD regional workshop on Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing <i>(See also 2-(b))</i> 	Number of contracting Members
o) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing a Post Clearance Audit (PCA) scheme <i>(RSP 1.1.3 – 10th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on PCA for Sri Lanka and Vanuatu 	Number of Members
p) Upon request, assist Members' effort in implementing Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards (FoS) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 – 11th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on cross-border e-commerce Framework of Standards 	Number of implementing Members
q) Upon request, assist Member's effort in promoting cooperation and coordination for Coordinated Border Management (CBM) <i>(RSP 1.2.1 - 2nd milestones)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on CBM for Nepal 	Number of operating CBM

r) Upon request, assist Members' effort in implementing Single Window <i>(RSP 1.2.1 - 2nd milestones)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In cooperation with partner organization, organize a regional workshop on ICT Masterclass <i>(See also 1-(l) and 2-(b))</i> ➤ Conduct national workshops on Single Window and data Model for Mongolia <i>(See also 1-(l))</i> 	Number of operating SW
s) Upon request, assist Member's effort in enhancing Customs-Customs, and if appropriate, Customs-to-Business interconnectivities in various aspects <i>(RSP 1.2.2 - 1st to 3rd milestones)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In cooperation with business sector, organize a sub-regional workshop on IPR for ASEAN <i>(See also 1-(u) and (z))</i> 	Number of participation
t) Upon request, assist Member's effort in utilizing Advance Passenger Information (API) / Passenger Name Record (PNR) for the risk assessment of travelers <i>(RSP 2.1.1 - 4th milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the introduction and/or use of API/PNR ➤ Organize a regional workshop on the Regional Security Framework <i>(See also 1-(x) and (y))</i> 	Number of Members accepted WCO Recommendation
u) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues <i>(RSP 2.2.1 - 2nd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In cooperation with business sector, organize a sub-regional workshop on IPR for ASEAN <i>(See also 1-(s) and (z))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on accreditation of IPR-related legal advisors <i>(See also 3-(b))</i> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance on IPR issues <i>(See also 1-(z))</i> 	Number of discussions in meetings in A/P region
v) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote the application of sustainable anti-drug initiatives (e.g. WCO Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP)) <i>(RSP 2.2.1 - 3rd milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on commercial fraud and illicit financial flow <i>(See also 1-(z))</i> 	Number of discussion in meetings in A/P region

<p>w) Work with RILO A/P and Members to promote activities to raise awareness on environment issue (e.g. hazardous waste and wildlife)</p> <p><i>(RSP 2.2.1 - 4th milestone)</i></p>	<p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on environment program</p>	<p>Number of activities conducted in A/P region</p>
<p>x) Upon request, assist Member's effort in enhancing border security in order to tackle with terrorists threats</p> <p><i>(RSP 2.2.1 – 5th milestone)</i></p>	<p>➤ In cooperation with the WCO Secretariat, conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Afghanistan <i>(See also 1-(d) and (y))</i></p> <p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on the Regional Security Framework <i>(See also 1-(t) and (y))</i></p> <p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on money laundering <i>(See also 1-(z))</i></p>	<p>Number of activities conducted in A/P region</p>
<p>y) Undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region (e.g. SAFE FoS, RM and WTO TFA)</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.2 - 1st milestone)</i></p>	<p>➤ In cooperation with the WCO Secretariat, conduct a national workshop on evaluation of the implementation of the SAFE FoS for Afghanistan <i>(See also 1-(d) and (x))</i></p> <p>➤ Organize a sub-regional workshop on risk management and compliance management for the Pacific <i>(See also 1-(a))</i></p> <p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on TFA implementation and performance measurement <i>(See also 1-(g))</i></p> <p>➤ Conduct a national workshop on WTO TFA for Cambodia</p> <p>➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the implementation of WTO TFA</p> <p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on transit <i>(See also 1-(g))</i></p> <p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on NII equipment and automated threat recognition <i>(See also 1-(a))</i></p> <p>➤ Conduct national workshops on advance ruling on classification for Bhutan, Nepal and Papua New Guinea <i>(See also 1-(g) and (h))</i></p> <p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on the Regional Security Framework <i>(See also 1-(t) and (x))</i></p> <p>➤ Conduct a national workshop on SAFE for Myanmar</p>	<p>Number of CB activities undertaken</p>

<p>z) Work with RILO A/P and Members to undertake capacity building activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement in the region (e.g. IPR, Commercial Fraud, drugs and precursors, environmental crime and digital crime)</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.2 - 2nd milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In cooperation with business sector, organize a sub-regional workshop on IPR for ASEAN <i>(See also 1-(s) and (u))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on money laundering <i>(See also 1-(x))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on commercial fraud and illicit financial flow <i>(See also 1-(v))</i> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance on IPR issues <i>(See also 1-(u))</i> 	<p>Number of CB activities undertaken</p>
<p>aa) Upon request, undertake leadership and management training programs</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.3 - 1st milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct a national workshop on human resource development for Indonesia ➤ Conduct national workshops on training management for Myanmar and Vietnam ➤ Conduct national workshops on Leadership Management Development for Laos and Mongolia <i>(See also 1-(bb))</i> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on training management <i>(See also 3-(a))</i> 	<p>Number of activities</p>
<p>bb) Upon request, assist Member's effort in devising and implementing integrity action plan</p> <p><i>(RSP 3.2.3 - 2nd milestone)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops on Leadership Management Development for Laos and Mongolia <i>(See also 1-(aa))</i> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance on integrity action plan 	<p>Number of implementing Members</p>

2. Further develop partnerships with development partners

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2018-2020)	Annual Work Plan for 2018-2019	RSP Key Performance Indicator
a) Enhance cooperation, coordination and mutual understanding between development partners and ROCB A/P (RSP 1.2.3)	➤ Continue strategic dialogues and cooperation with development partners through participation in the meetings and seminars organized by them	Number of exchange of information
b) Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners (RSP 3.1.1 – 3rd milestone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In cooperation with partner organization, organize a regional workshop on ICT Masterclass (See also 1-(l) and (r)) ➤ Continue to work with WB, ADB, UNEP and other interested development partners to conduct joint projects for reform and modernization of Member administrations and send experts for the joint projects ➤ Participate in sub-regional meetings organized by development partners to monitor and assist Members' efforts in reform and modernization ➤ Organize a Joint WCO-OECD regional workshop on Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing (See also 1-(n)) 	Number of activities

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

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2018-2020)	Annual Work Plan for 2018-2019	RSP Key Performance Indicator
a) Encourage and provide Members with platform to exchange knowledge and training materials amongst national training centers <i>(RSP 3.1.1 – 2nd milestone)</i>	➤ Organize a regional workshop on training management <i>(See also 1-(aa))</i>	Number of opportunities provided
b) Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework <i>(RSP 3.1.2 - 1st milestone)</i>	➤ Organize regional accreditation workshops on experts of IPR-related legal advisory and TRS respectively and utilize the region's accredited experts on various occasions of regional/national workshops <i>(See also 1-(j) and (u))</i> ➤ Discuss and cooperate with Regional Training Centers to keep update the knowledge and skills of these accredited experts and candidates	Number of experts utilized
c) Upon request, assist Members to promote the WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and accredited experts <i>(RSP 3.1.2 - 2nd milestone)</i>	➤ Take every possible opportunity to promote the WCO e-learning programs and CLiKC! platform in cooperation with the RTCs and accredited experts to support Members' continuous self-efforts for training of their personnel	Number of implementing Members
d) Work with developed Members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities <i>(RSP 3.1.2 - 3rd milestone)</i>	➤ Identify areas of existing expertise and their possible inputs from the developed Members and seek further contribution from them for the regional capacity building activities at an early stage of planning	Number of contributions

e) Work with regional training coordinator to identify and review Members' capacity building needs and priorities through conducting a needs assessment via a survey and ongoing consultation <i>(RSP 3.2.1 - 1st milestone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with the Regional Training Coordinator to further review capacity building needs survey aiming at properly collecting Members' most current needs and reform/modernization priorities ➤ Work with the WCO Secretariat, Member and development partners to plan, deliver and review capacity building activities paying due attention to the Members' needs and priorities. ➤ Conduct Regional Workshop Follow-Up Action Surveys and share findings with the WCO Secretariat, RTCs and Members as appropriate 	Number of surveys conducted
f) Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due attention to the needs and priorities identified <i>(RSP 3.2.1 - 2nd milestone)</i>		Number of CB activities
g) Work with the WCO Secretariat and Members to evaluate the regional capacity building program <i>(RSP 3.2.1 - 3rd milestone)</i>		Results of participants' evaluation
h) Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back into planning for regional capacity building activities <i>(RSP 3.2.1 - 4th milestone)</i>		Number of post action undertaken
i) Evaluate the impact of capacity building activities through follow-up surveys <i>(RSP 3.2.1 – 5th milestone)</i>		Result of the evaluation
j) Further strengthen cooperation among Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and ROCB A/P paying due attention to establishing /supporting regional experts for more sustainable capacity building delivery in the region <i>(ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP))</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In cooperation with the Regional Vice Chair, convene a Meeting of Heads of RTC to further strengthen their network and devise regional strategy for the pooling and better use of the regional experts in capacity building activities 	Number of activities

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2018-2020)	Annual Work Plan for 2018-2019	RSP Key Performance Indicator
<p>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) (RSP 3.1.1 - 1st milestone)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Issue ROCB A/P e-newsletters every 3 months and include more information on Members' experiences in reform and modernization ➤ Maintain ROCB website and upload pertinent information in a timely manner to inform Members and stakeholders of the ROCB A/P's activities. 	<p>Number of sharing experiences</p>
<p>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 (ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP))</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist Members, Vice Chair and the RTCs to share good practices by issuing a series of regional good practice reports on selected topics 	<p>Number of items shared</p>
<p>c) Work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and interested Members to hold "visiting expert" exchanges, speaking events, webinars or TED talks featuring keynote speakers and experts (from inside or outside region) to highlight pertinent strategic issues (RSP 3.3.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As appropriate, work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and interested Members to hold "visiting expert" exchanges, speaking events, webinars or TED talks 	<p>Number of talks and uptake across the region</p>

Workshops and Meetings





17-19 April 2018, Busan, Korea

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Korea Customs Service (KCS), organized the WCO Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Customs Laboratories from 17 April to 19 April 2018 in Busan, Korea, under the financial support of Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea) to enable the sharing of analytical techniques in the A/P region.

28 participants from 22 regional Member administrations, four resource persons, and two officials from the Russian Federation attended in this workshop. Mr. Hong-Young Jo of the ROCB A/P attended this workshop as a resource person and gave a presentation on the ROCB A/P's contributions and activities in capacity building.

Through this 3-day workshop, the participants actively took part in all the discussions and exercises and shared their views on possible steps for their administration to raise awareness of the importance of a Customs laboratory in achieving the Customs' mission. The workshop was successfully concluded with the participants' clear understanding of key challenges in Customs laboratory analysis and capacity development approaches to accommodate evolving sophisticated analytical techniques. The participants shared their current situation of Customs laboratories' operations and Customs analysis results, inter alia, natural and re-esterified fish oil, illegal drugs and precursors, toxic substances, alumina

refractory cement and alumina cement, activated carbon and charcoal, and environmental hormone.

The ROCB A/P is going to continue its collaboration with the regional members for improving the accuracy and effectiveness of Customs laboratory analysis work through providing opportunities for sharing latest analytical techniques, and Customs laboratory analysis trend and results.

Renewal of collaboration with New Zealand Customs Service



20 April 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

On 20 April 2018, Mr. Brian Lamb, Customs Counsellor of the New Zealand Embassy in Thailand, and Mr. Daniel Brunt, a successor of Mr. Lamb, paid a courtesy visit to the ROCB A/P. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues warmly welcomed them.

Mr. Lamb has been a strong supporter of the ROCB A/P and he maintained good relationship and collaboration in various capacity building activities, especially in enforcement and investigation domains. He is about to complete his tenure as the Customs Counsellor and is going to return to New Zealand. Mr. Igarashi and his colleagues thank

Mr. Lamb from the bottom of their hearts for his friendship and unsparing support for improving and maintaining the quality of the ROCB A/P's public relations.

Mr. Brunt has become a friend of the ROCB A/P colleagues very quickly with his nice smile. Mr. Igarashi discussed with Mr. Brunt some ideas and notions of the future regional capacity building programs and he sought New Zealand Customs' continued support and guidance in the region's collective efforts as the Office benefitted from Mr. Lamb's support. Both gentlemen kindly gave the ROCB A/P their words of commitment and support for the regional capacity building activities.

On this occasion, Mr. Lamb and Mr. Brunt were invited to water the so-called "ROCB trees" which was planted in commemoration of the ROCB A/P's 10th Anniversary Ceremony in November 2014. Mr. Lamb recalled how short the trees were 4 years ago and wished that the regional capacity building would continue to flourish like the ROCB trees through continued collaboration between the regional member administrations and the ROCB A/P.

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Environmental Topics



23-27 April 2018, Shanghai, China

The WCO, in cooperation with the General Administration of China Customs (GACC) and the ROCB A/P, organized the Regional Workshop on Environmental Topics from 23 to 27 April 2018 at RTC-China (Shanghai Customs College) under the sponsorship of the China Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/China). 38 representatives from 20 Member administrations, including the host administration, nine speakers from different

international organizations including INTERPOL, UNEP, UN Ozone Secretariat and Basel Convention Secretariat, one Professor from Tsinghua University, three Customs Counselors based in China, three resource personnel from the WCO Secretariat, Green Customs Initiative Secretariat and Netherlands Environment Protection Department participated in this workshop. Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, Mr. Poonyawee SROYTHONG, Program Coordinator of the ROCB A/P attended the workshop as facilitators.

During the workshop, the GACC and the WCO jointly organized a special event on 24 April for a briefing on the International Joint Operation Demeter IV. Mr. Zou Zhiwu, Deputy Minister of the GACC, two Directors General and four Deputy Directors General of the GACC Headquarters and Regional Customs attended the event. Deputy Minister Zou delivered a keynote speech on behalf of China Customs and Minister Ni Yuefeng congratulated the success of the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Environmental Topics. He pointed out that the global effort to combat solid waste smuggling is a matter of great urgency to our future generations, as the law enforcement agency along the border, Customs should play its due role. According to the WCO rules, China Customs will participate in the joint operation Demeter IV and work with other members to reinforce border management, the dismantling of waste smuggling criminal syndicates, further strengthening international law enforcement cooperation in the fight against smuggling of waste and other contraband and protect the ecological environment of the earth.

In the course of the Workshop, the participants studied and discussed the guidelines and conventions related to solid waste, hazardous chemicals and wildlife protection developed by the WCO and the Green Customs Initiative partners. The participants also shared their experiences and best practices on information sharing, risk profiling, large-scale operations and joint actions. A professor from Tsinghua University touched upon the topic of advanced technology in the application of customs supervision on solid waste. The participants had a heated discussion at a brain storming session on the topics of major obstacles and possible solutions, including support and cooperation in implementing and enforcing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) both domestically and internationally. RTC-China also kindly arranged a field study to Yang Shan Port for the participants and resource personnel, in which the participants observed the latest customs X-ray facilities and smart port operation.



24-27 April 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam,

The WCO, in cooperation with the Viet Nam Customs and the ROCB A/P, organized the Regional Workshop on Human Resource Development (HRD) from 24 April to 27 April 2018 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam under the sponsorship of the Korea Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Korea). 36 representatives from 25 Member administrations, including the host administration, and three resource personnel from the WCO Secretariat and the ROCB A/P took part in this workshop. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P participated in the Workshop as a facilitator.

The Workshop was officiated with the opening remarks of Mr. Dao Duc Hai, Director of International Cooperation Division of the Viet Nam Customs, in which he stressed the importance of fostering professionalism of Customs officials with a view to properly addressing the dynamic business environment and tasks of Customs. In the course of the workshop, the participants studied and discussed the pertinent WCO guidelines and tools relating to the HRD and professionalism, including the WCO Framework of Principles and Practices on Customs Professionalism, PICARD Professional Standard, WCO People Development Diagnostic Tool and HRD Guide. Workshop program included the topics on the knowledge management and blended training approach and the use of distance learning in training. Mr. Igarashi introduced the ROCB A/P's study outcomes on the regional members' use of e-learning programs at national level as an introduction to the subsequent experience sharing and discussion among the participants. The participants had break-out discussions on the way to optimize the benefit of the advanced technology in HRD as well as regional HRD challenges and possible remedies.

Viet Nam Customs, the host administration of this workshop, invited the participants and resource personnel to their newly built Customs Training School in the suburb of Ha Noi city and facilitated an observation tour. Mr. Nguyen Dinh Phien, Director of the Customs Training School, warmly welcomed the workshop participants and the resource personnel and wished to establish and maintain cooperative ties with other national training centers in the region, which was cordially echoed.

Workshop participants and resource persons appreciated Viet Nam Customs for their hospitality and wonderful arrangements. They re-affirmed to continue good dialogue and experience sharing among them to further optimize their respective HRD policy and training management.

The ROCB A/P represents the WCO to the ASEAN Meeting for the Customs Directors General

3 May 2018, Langkawi, Malaysia

At the request of the WCO Secretariat and invitation from the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 27th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors General (DGs) meeting held on 3 May 2018 in Langkawi, Malaysia, as a representative of the WCO. The meeting was convened on 2-4 May 2018, but it was only open for the consultation sessions with the ASEAN partners, including the WCO, on 3 May 2018. More than 60 delegates from 10 ASEAN Member administrations and the ASEAN Secretariat participated in the session.



At the session allocated to the WCO, Mr. Igarashi gave a presentation on the WCO's six priority works and their progresses, touching upon trade facilitation, e-commerce, security issues, illicit financial flows, Customs-Tax cooperation and performance measurement. ASEAN DGs expressed their appreciation of the WCO's on-going work and provided some of their thoughts on these subjects, especially on the consultation with the World Bank to sort out the Members' concern over the Bank's "Doing Business Reports." on the initiatives, responded and commented on the SG's contact with the WB on the issues on the "Doing Business Report." Dato' Sri Subromanian Tholasy, Director General

of the RMCD and the Chairman of the Meeting, thanked Mr. Igarashi for his contribution and provided his kind words of encouragement.

After the session with the ASEAN DGs, Mr. Igarashi met delegation from the US ASEAN Business Council (US ABC), headed by Ambassador Michael Michalak, for an informal exchange on the way to collaborate between the ROCB A/P and the business community to promote efficient cross-border trade and provide technical support through their inputs and model showcasing of the application of disruptive technologies, such as blockchain, and new business practices, as well as public education on e-commerce and anti-counterfeiting, in particular, in order that the Customs in the region could improve their performance and contributing to optimizing business opportunities in accordance with the WCO's 2018 theme "A secure business environment for economic development."

Prior to the meeting with the ASEAN DGs, Mr. Igarashi visited the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy in Langkawi (AKMAL Langkawi) and met Director of AKMAL Langkawi, Mr. Zulkurnein Bin Abd Rahman, and his deputy, and had a tour to their facilities, including class rooms and dormitory. The Director looked forward to the upcoming WCO sub-regional Workshop on IPR for ASEAN in early July 2018 and invited more opportunities to accommodate the WCO workshops in his Academy.



19th Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference



14-17 May 2018, Sigatoka, Fiji

The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS), who is currently assuming the role of the WCO A/P Regional Vice Chair, convened the 19th Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference on 14-17 May 2018 in Sigatoka, Fiji. Over 50 delegates from the regional member administrations and observers from the WCO Secretariat as well as RILO A/P and ROCB A/P participated in this high-level regional conference. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Conference.

In the wake of the Opening remarks by Mr. Visvanath Das, Chief Executive Officer of the FRCS, and keynote address delivered by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the WCO, the Conference heard a series of activity reports and discussed wide range of topics which are relevant to current and future Customs work. As one of the key documents, the conference unanimously adopted the revised Terms of Reference of the ROCB A/P, which further elaborates the tasks of the ROCB A/P and instructs to set and monitor its key performance indicators. Under the designated agenda item, Mr. Igarashi made a presentation on the ROCB A/P's activities undertaken in this current fiscal year and relevant statistics. Among others, he introduced the recently published Customs Good Practice Reports highlighting the increasing positive impacts accrued from the regional capacity building activities as identified by the Regional Workshop Follow-Up Survey. A good number of delegates took the floor and gave their kind words of compliments and encouragement, as well as some suggestions for the future capacity building and technical assistance programs in the A/P region. Mr. Igarashi also presented a progress report on Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building) of the A/P Regional Strategic Plan 2016-2018. Accordingly, the Conference adopted the proposed Regional Strategic Plan 2018-2020 to renew and further enhance regional collaboration among the member administrations and the WCO's regional entities, including the ROCB A/P. In the margins of the conference, Mr. Igarashi had a round of informal talks and consultations with the delegates on future collaboration in capacity building and technical assistance activities in the years to come.

The Conference endorsed Korea's proposals on accrediting their Central Laboratory as a WCO Regional Customs Laboratory and renewing their hosting of the RILO A/P for another term. The Conference also discussed the region's threat assessment and needed collective actions focusing air passengers and cruise ships. Delegates also heard oral presentations made by the vying candidates for the WCO Secretary General, who was elected at the WCO Sessions in June 2018. The Conference appreciated and presented sincere compliments to Mr. Das, CEO of the FRCS, and his colleagues for their tenacious and hard working as the Regional Vice Chair last two years and welcomed India's undertaking as the incoming Vice Chair.

Prior to the RHCA Conference, the FRCS organized the Private Sector Engagement Conference on 14 May 2018 under the theme of "Border Management Solutions: the way forward" which was attended more than 100 delegates from both Customs and private

sectors. Following a key note address by a multi ward-winning speaker and researcher from Australia, which provided the delegates with the speaker's insights on the foreseeable trends in technological innovation in trade and e-commerce. Delegates also took part in a series of interactive technical workshops regarding data solutions, border solutions, and trade solutions, which provided invaluable food-for-thought for the main sessions of the RHCA Conference.

A Training Strategy Development support to Lesotho Revenue Authority



14-18 May 2018, Maseru, Lesotho

At the invitation of WCO Secretariat, Dr. Tong Hua, the ROCB A/P Program Manager, joined the WCO Seminar on Training Strategy and Simplified Human Resource Management (HRM) Diagnostic Study held from 14 May to 18 May 2018 at the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) Training Center in Maseru, Lesotho, as chief expert. Four Full-time and 13 Part-Time trainers, including senior managers of Human Resource and Training Divisions of LRA, participated in the seminar.

Dr. Tong led a three-day seminar on Training Strategy. He introduced the WCO instruments and tools for human resource development and management, i.e. WCO Framework of Principles and Practices on Customs Professionalism and WCO PICARD Standards. He focused on the training cycle implementation and shared lots of live examples and best practice in the A/P region. The seminar highlighted the key points on five modules, namely: Customs Competency Framework; Adult Learning Principles; Training Design; Training Facilitation Skills and Training Evaluation. Participants shared

their working experiences in these key points. Participants recognized the significance of the seminar in assessing and improving their training skills for their future practice.

From 17 May to 18 May, Dr. Tong, together with another expert from the Botswana Unified Revenue Service, conducted a simplified HRM Diagnostic study for the LRA, which was attended by middle and senior level managers from various divisions and units of the LRA. They reviewed and validated the main challenges, the way forward and recommendations in the HRD and training strategy. This helps the LRA build a modern Customs administration with more effective and high-performance culture.

In the course of his mission, Dr. Tong paid a courtesy call on Mr. Tseko Nyesemane, Deputy Customs Commissioner, on 18 May 2018. Deputy Commissioner Nyesemane and his colleagues warmly welcomed Dr. Tong. On behalf of the ROCB A/P, he donated a CD Album to the LRA Training Center Library. He also visited the Maseru Bridge Customs, which is the biggest cross border checkpoint between South Africa and Lesotho.

ROCB A/P speaks at a regional meeting to counter online sales of counterfeit and illicit medicines



15-17 May 2018, Singapore

At the request from the WCO Secretariat and the invitation from the INTERPOL, Ms. Saori Nojima, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, attended the Asian Region Meeting held

from 15 to 17 May 2018 in Singapore as a representative of the WCO to discuss joint enforcement against counterfeit and illicit medicines. Approximately 40 representatives from Police, Customs, health regulators, international organizations and the private sector participated in the Meeting.

Customs administrations are cooperating closely with the Police and other competent authorities as well relevant private sector to combat counterfeit and illicit medicines, including those sold online and traded internationally, because of the huge risks the pose to the consumers' health and safety. This meeting provided the participating authorities and partners with an opportunity to reinforce the network for coordinated tacking to the counterfeit and illicit medicines and to further strengthen online investigation capability. Ms. Nojima gave a presentation on the WCO's initiatives in this domain. She highlighted Customs' dedication towards combating counterfeit and illicit medicines at the borders and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation and coordination among the related parties.

ROCB A/P contributes to the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) Workshop



30 May 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), Dr. Tong Hua of the ROCB A/P, participated and contributed to the Workshop for State Post Bureau China on the Belt and Road Initiative, which was held on 30 May 2018 at the Asian-Pacific Postal College in Bangkok, Thailand, as a guest speaker. 16 directors from the headquarters and different regional post bureaus of China Post participated in this Workshop.

At the Workshop, Dr. Tong gave a presentation on Customs modernization and good practice as well as the overview of the WCO, including its capacity building activities

in the A/P Region. He highlighted the WCO-UPU Cooperation mechanism and latest version of the WCO-UPU Postal Customs Guide. He also made a member profiles analysis of the ASEAN Customs Administrations in securing supply chain and facilitating legitimate trade from the perspective of the Belt and Road Initiative. Mr. Lin Hongliang, Director of the APPU complimented Dr. Tong's contribution to the Workshop and suggested a possible joint research on the topic of Customs procedure reform and best practice for the postal traffic in the era of E-Commerce.

Japan Customs DDG visits the ROCB A/P



4 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Sumiya Shibasaki, Deputy Director General of the Customs and Tariff Bureau (CTB) of the Ministry of Finance of Japan, visited the ROCB A/P on 4 June 2018, accompanied by Ms. Emako Hirabayashi, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division of the CTB. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues warmly welcomed the Japanese delegation, and gave DDG a briefing on the ROCB A/P's activities and the overview of the impacts of the regional capacity building programs, to which Japan provides significant contribution in various forms. He thanked Japan Customs' contribution and called for continued support. Mr. Shibasaki gave the ROCB A/P staffs his kind words of encouragement and assured continued support.

Taking this opportunity, Mr. Shibasaki visited so-called the "ROCB A/P's trees" and was amazed how fast the trees have grown since they were planted on the occasion of the ROCB A/P's 10th anniversary event held four years ago. He also visited the WCO Security Project Office located within the premises of the Thai Customs Department,

which is a base for the contracted experts to deliver technical assistance on counter-terrorism measures with funding provided by the Japanese government. After receiving a short explanation on their activities and pertinent challenges, on behalf of his government, Mr. Shibasaki stressed a great amount of importance being placed on this Program and highly appreciated their efforts and dedication to this end. Mr. Shibasaki visited the Thai Customs Museum, where he signed the guest book.

ROCB A/P attends the WCO IT Conference and Exhibition 2018

6-8 June 2018, Lima, Peru

Mr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, attended the WCO IT Conference and Exhibition (WCO ITC) 2018 held from 6 to 8 June 2018 in Lima, Peru. The WCO ITC discussed the various topics for “Building a Reliable Digital Landscape to Boost Cross-Border Trade”, the theme of this year’s conference. More than 600 delegates from 75 countries gathered in Lima to discuss the cutting-edge technologies such as big data, artificial intelligence, blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT), which can help Customs administrations to enhance smart capability, exchange information, identify high-risk goods and ensure facilitation of legitimate trade. This WCO IT Conference is being co-hosted by the Customs and Tax Administration of Peru (SUNAT), and with support from the Korea Customs Service and the Private Sector stakeholders.



The Conference was opened by National Superintendent of the SUNAT, Mr. Victor Shiguiyama. The participants of the conference were addressed by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, and Dr. Taeil Kang, Director General of Information and International Affairs Bureau of Korea Customs Service. In three days, the speakers and delegates shared experiences and learned from each other through the exploration of high priority topics such as Cross-Border E-Commerce, Big Data and Predictive Analytics, Blockchain technology, cybersecurity, Internet of Things, maritime IT environment, Single Window and Integrated Supply Chain Management. During the conference, the WCO announced official launching of the WCO Academy, which is aiming at building the

Customs skills of current and future trade professionals, as well as further enhancing their work performance. This online platform provides representatives from the trade community and academia with access WCO e-learning courses, webinars, books and news.

ROCB A/P renews close collaboration with the ADB in the SASEC program



7 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. Rosalind Y. McKenzie, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), visited the ROCB A/P on 7 June 2018 to discuss continuous cooperation and collaboration between the ADB and the ROCB A/P under the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and Ms. Saori Nojima, Program Manager for South Asia, warmly welcomed Dr. McKenzie, with whom the ROCB A/P has been closely working for many years.

The ROCB A/P maintains close collaborating with the ADB as good partners in various capacity building opportunities in the SASEC sub-region, such as the WCO-ADB Multi-year Project on Customs Valuation Control for the SASEC countries (please refer to <http://www.rocb-ap.org/article-detail/255/>). Seizing the opportunity of Dr. McKenzie's visit, they vigorously discussed a way forward and approaches for sustainable assistance towards Customs modernization in tandem with strategically structured roadmaps. They also shared their respective endeavors and its progresses as well as future plans regarding capacity building activities, especially in the implementation assistance for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in the SASEC countries, and reconfirmed renewing close

corroboration and make the best use of limited resources for optimizing relevant joint activities' outcomes.

The ROCB A/P renews cooperative ties with the OCO



11-13 June 2018, Melbourne, Australia

At the invitation of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P participated in the 20th OCO Annual Meeting held on 11-13 June 2018 in Melbourne, Australia, accompanying Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, as an observer. More than 60 delegates from the OCO Member administrations and partner entities, including the WCO, participated.

The Conference was officiated with an opening address by Mr. Michael Outram, Australian Border Force Commissioner, followed by key note address by Secretary General Mikuriya, in which he highlighted the WCO's current and future priority work. Among other things, Secretary General highlighted the WCO's support for the islands' economic development and supply chain security. As cross-cutting issues for those enumerated priority work, Secretary General referred to data analysis, application of technology and human resource development. Taking this commemorating Annual Conference, 15 OCO Member administrations signed to the memorandum of intention for closer administrative assistance in information and intelligence exchange to contend with the threats posed by terrorism and transnational organized crime. Taking this opportunity,

the Honorable Natan Teewe, Kiribati Minister of Justice, deposited the instrument of accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) to Secretary General, which marked the first accession of a non-WCO Member to it. Secretary General commended the Kiribati government for showcasing the determined leadership towards Customs reform responding to the suggestions made by the ROCB A/P at the last OCO Annual Conference held in May 2017 in Guam (please refer to: <http://www.rocb-ap.org/article-detail/325/?crmid=7rs9sr6983e912m132d26tngr6>). OCO also celebrated the launching of the Pacific Harmonized Commodity and Coding System (PACHS2017), which was developed based on the WCO's Harmonized System nomenclature to better capture commodity trade statistics in line with the international standard. Secretary General was presented a copy of the PACHS2017 as a token of the WCO's support and dedication in this regard.

The Conference discussed a wide range of topics in 3 days, which was opened for the observers, including: (1) Enhancing the role of Custom in regional integration and trade facilitation; (2) Strengthening cooperation and information exchange on law enforcement matters; (3) Development of technical and professional capability of Customs in the Pacific; and (4) Strategies for the Reform of Customs administrations. Mr. Igarashi gave a presentation under the Session 3 regarding the development of technical and professional capability. Mr. Igarashi explained capacity building collaboration with the OCO and its Members and suggested a way towards furthering human resource development for smoother implementation of Pacific Agreement for Closer Economic Relationship (PACER Plus) and pertinent WCO instruments and guidelines for trade facilitation. In terms of providing consistent and transparent Customs services to legitimate trade, he stressed the significance of advanced ruling in accordance with the PACHS2017 and, to the extent possible, the HS Convention by acceding to it. In the wake of the discussion on the possible WCO Membership of the OCO Member administrations, Mr. Igarashi gave an explanation on the benefits of the WCO Members as well as simple cost-benefit comparison thereof, which drew great attention of the non-WCO administrations. In the margin of the conference, Mr. Igarashi exchanged views and discussed future work plans with Member administrations and stakeholders.



WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on the Compliance and Enforcement Package 11–15 June, 2018, Japan, Nagoya

11-15 June 2018, Nagoya, Japan

The WCO, in cooperation with the Japan Customs and the ROCB A/P, organized a Regional Workshop on Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP) on 11-15 June 2018 at the Nagoya Customs, Japan. This was the first WCO workshop held at Nagoya Customs. The workshop was sponsored by the CCF/Japan and was attended by 24 Customs officials from 23 Customs administrations in the A/P region. Ms. Eva Suen of the ROCB A/P and experts from the WCO Secretariat and the RILO A/P facilitated the workshop as resource persons.

The workshop was intended to provide a platform for participants to share practices, experiences, methods and approaches to operational planning to address high-risk areas for Customs enforcement at the global, regional and national levels. The experts explained on the CEP Toolkit, the WCO Networks and IT Tools, the Post-Clearance Audits (PCA), Enforcement Cycle and Intelligence Cycle, etc. Participants shared their national practices and challenges via presentations, group discussions, and exercises with a view to enriching their knowledge on the CEP.

The Workshop was well received by participants. They praised the content of the workshop stating it was comprehensive and practical to their operations, and appreciated the logistical arrangements provided by the Nagoya Customs and the ROCB A/P.



19 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Keiichi Tatsumi, departing Customs Attaché of Japan, and Mr. Tetsuro Higuchi, successor of Mr. Tatsumi, paid a courtesy visit to the ROCB A/P on 19 June 2018. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues warmly welcomed them. On behalf of the ROCB A/P colleagues, Mr. Igarashi expressed his gratitude to Mr. Tatsumi for his friendship and support for the regional capacity building assistance programs and wished continued success after his return to his home administration at the end of this month. Mr. Igarashi welcomed Mr. Higuchi and hoped continuing close cooperation with Japan Customs and the Embassy in Thailand. Taking this opportunity, both gentlemen were escorted to so-called the “ROCB A/P’s trees” to water them to make a wish for the regional capacity building activities be well-rooted and further flourish in the years to come.

20-22 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation from the UN Environment Ozone Action Asia and Pacific Office, Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, attended the Risk Profiling Workshop for Customs and Border Control Officers and National Ozone Officers of India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which was held from 20 to 22 June 2018 at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand, as a resource person. Around 25 participants from the Customs administrations and the National Ozone Units of the targeted countries and the UN Environment attended the workshop.



Dr. Tong gave a presentation on the WCO tools and instruments for combating illegal ozone depleting substances (ODS) trade and member's practices in the A/P Region. He introduced the steps of risk profiling and risk assessment by using the WCO Risk management Compendium. In particular, Dr. Tong highlighted how to utilize Harmonized System nomenclature, open source information, trade route analysis, data mining and trader credit management to target the high risk trade in the ODS commodities. He further introduced useful tools and instruments, such as the WCO Cargo Targeting System, IRIS Platform and e-Learning environmental topic courses. His presentation was well received by the participants. During the workshop, Dr. Tong attended another meeting regarding consultation for a proposed 2019-2023 Regional Enforcement Network (REN) for Chemicals and Waste project on 20 June 2018. He exchanged candid views on the logical framework of the REN Project and sought closer cooperation between the ROCB A/P and the REN in the future.



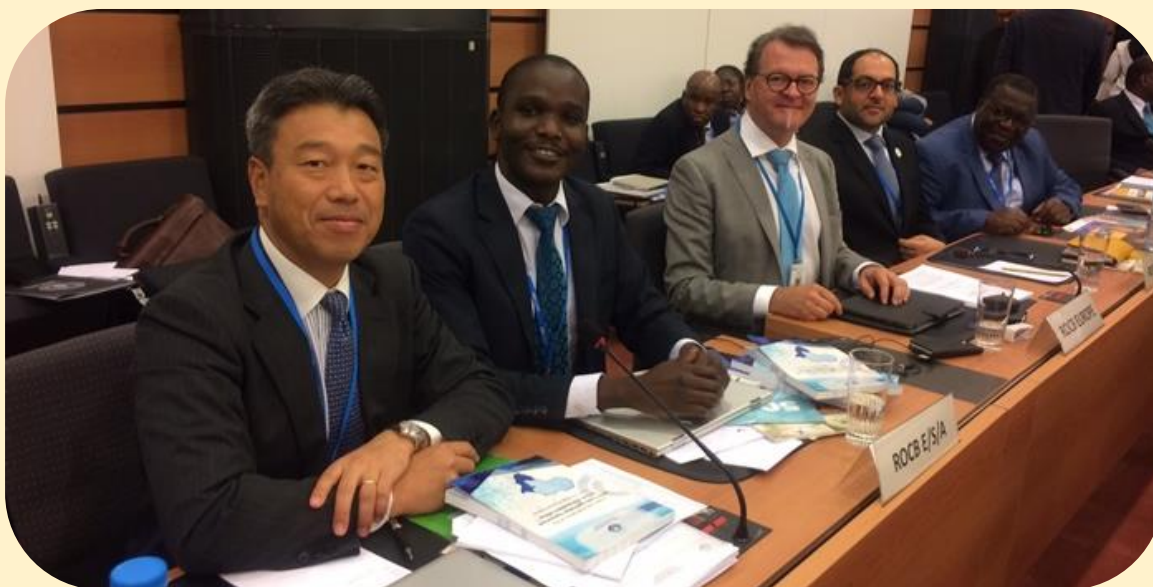
25-28 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Hong-Young Jo of the ROCB A/P, participated in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Inaugural Meeting of Regional Trade Group (RTG) and CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), which were held consecutively on 25-26 June 2018 and 27-28 June 2018 respectively in Bangkok, Thailand. More than 60 officials from the CAREC Member countries and its development partner organizations (e.g. IMF, WB, UNESCAP, UNDP, and CAREC Institute), as well as ADB representatives took part in this workshop.

In the wake of the introductory presentations, the representative from the ADB explained the results of the ADB's assessment of status of compliance and early implementation by the CAREC member countries on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and areas to address identified challenges and capacity building needs, followed by the representative from the UNESCAP presentation on the results of the United Nations Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation for the CAREC member countries. Mr. Jo shared the ROCB A/P's activities for facilitating the implementation of the WTO TFA with participants. He also emphasized the importance of collective cooperation and sharing information among the CAREC member countries, and capacity building conducted by competent authorities for coping with challenges in implementing the WTO TFA at the initial stage.

Following the sessions, participants discussed the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 (CITA 2030) and their Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2018-2020 (RSAP 2018-2020), which focused on five (5) priority areas including simplification and harmonization of customs procedures. Mr. Jo joined the discussion on how to collate activities supporting the TFA implementation into the CITA 2030 and the RSAP 2018-2020 in a concerted manner.

WCO Council Session



28-30 June 2018, Brussels, Belgium

At the invitation by the WCO Secretariat, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the 132nd Session of the WCO Council, which took place on 28-30 June 2018 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, as an observer. Nearly 500 delegates from member administrations and observers attended.

In the wake of the Secretary General's report on the WCO activities, delegates commended the Secretariat's accomplishment in the last 12 months and commented their observations on the reported activities. Then, the delegates heard the reports from the Chairpersons of the respective WCO technical committees and discussed future course of the WCO's actions against a set of emerging topics, such as e-commerce, Illicit financial flow, trade facilitation, security initiatives. The Council subsequently adopted a number of newly developed and updated tools and guidelines for those emerging issues, including among others: Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards and accompanying Council Resolution, and updated SAFE FoS 2018 version. On this occasion, Vanuatu deposited their instrument of accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention as the

115th Contracting Party to it. Also, as so endorsed by the recent A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference held in May 2018 in Fiji, Korea signed an MOU with the WCO regarding the establishment of Regional Customs Laboratory. During the regional consultation meeting for the A/P region, Vice Chair Flag hand-over ceremony was arranged. Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, incumbent Secretary General of the WCO, was re-elected for another 5-year term.

In the margins of the meeting, Mr. Igarashi had a series of small talks with DGs of the A/P Member administrations, who appreciated the work of the ROCB A/P.

The ROCB A/P accommodates an Internship Student from the Thammasat University

30 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

The ROCB A/P welcomed an intern from the Thammasat University, ASEAN-China program, Ms. Patcharamon Namchan or Khun “Benze” for one-month internship starting from 1 June 2018 to gain valuable work experience and to further the knowledge of how international organizations carry out their undertakings and coordinate with relevant stakeholders. During her internship, Khun Benze has reviewed the ROCB A/P’s publication and public relation practices and assisting it the preparation of the ROCB A/P’s Annual Report 2017/2018 and the next issue of its E-newsletter. Also, she gave us her candid views on our website from the public user’s perspective, which will be a good benefit for us to improve our website. She completed her intern program on 30 June 2018. This one-month long work experience in English-speaking environment gave her an opportunity to refine her English skills and explore a potential career path to pursue after her graduation. ROCB A/P colleagues enjoyed a wonderful experience with her internship and we all wish her a successful professional career in the future.



Future Activities

WCO A/P CB/TA Programs and Meetings Schedule

July 2018 and onwards (Indicative)

(NB) Official invitation will be circulated in due course

Event	Dates	Venue
◆ WCO National Workshop on HS and Advance Ruling for Bhutan	2-6 Jul. 2018	Thimphu, Bhutan
◆ WCO National Workshop on HS for Vietnam	2-6 Jul. 2018	Hanoi, Vietnam
◆ WCO Mercator Program Advisors Forum	2-6 Jul. 2018	Brussels, Belgium
◆ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on IPR for ASEAN	9-12 Jul. 2018	Langkawi, Malaysia
◆ WCO National Workshop on HS and Advance Ruling for Papua New Guinea	9-13 Jul. 2018	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
◆ WCO Regional High-Level Seminar on Cross-Border E-Commerce FoS	16-17 Jul. 2018	New Delhi, India
◆ WCO National Workshop on TFA Scoping for Cambodia	6-15 Aug. 2018	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
◆ WCO Regional Workshop on Frontline Border Capability against Terrorist Threats	17-21 Sep. 2018	Sydney, Australia
◆ 16 th Meeting of Heads of the WCO A/P Regional Training Centers	24-25 Oct. 2018	Shanghai, China
◆ Meeting of Heads of the ROCBs, RTCs and Vice Chair's Offices	4-5 Apr. 2019	Brussels, Belgium
◆ WCO Capacity Building Committee	8-10 Apr. 2019	Brussels, Belgium
◆ WCO Integrity Sub-Committee	11-12 Apr. 2019	Brussels, Belgium
◆ WCO Council Sessions	27-29 Jun. 2019	Brussels, Belgium

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

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

Address: c/o Thai Customs Department, 120 Years Building,
Sunthornkosa Rd., KhlongToey, Bangkok 10110 Thailand
Telephone: +66-2-667-6777 / Facsimile: +66-2-667-6814
E-mail: rocb@rocbap.org
<http://www.rocb-ap.org>

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head, WCO ROCB A/P

Ms. Saori NOJIMA

Ms. Eva SUEN

Mr. Tong HUA

Mr. Hong-Young JO

Ms. Jate-Arpa BENJAPHONG

Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRILERT

Mr. Poonyawee SROYTHONG

Regular Supporters: Mr. Vince SHAW and Mr. Daniel Brunt

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: ROCB@ROCBAP.ORG