

ROCB E-Newsletter No.65

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building



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New Head of the ROCB A/P

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Welcome Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, New Head of the ROCB A/P

Dear readers,

It is a great pleasure and honor to extend my greetings from Bangkok as the new Head of the ROCB A/P for the next five years succeeding Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI.

I would like to briefly touch on some of my background. I have worked for Japan Customs, Ministry of Finance for almost 30 years. During my Customs career, I had been dedicated to various fields for the first 15 years, for example import and export clearance, passenger inspection, Customs laboratory, and trade statistics. I have also worked for Japan Customs headquarters for the latter 15 years, which includes an overseas posting in the United States. The work experiences related to international affairs and capacity building are the great majority of my career. I strongly believe that my experience and knowledge will greatly contribute to the ROCB A/P and its endeavors.



It is indeed a great honor and privilege to assume the post of the Head of the ROCB A/P which is the focal point of the capacity building activities for the regional Members. Thanks to the great leadership of my predecessors and dedicated work of their staff as well as generous support and hospitality provided by Thai Customs Department, the ROCB A/P has been very active and has made a number of great achievements with a high reputation in the world Customs community. I am deeply flattered to accept the key function of the ROCB A/P and excited about the opportunities and potential of contributing further to achieving regional Customs Members' missions.

On my assignment at the ROCB, I will try my best to support expanding the fruits of the WCO. In doing so, I will always bear in mind the importance of sharing the strategic directions and initiatives at the WCO headquarters with the regional Members while aiming at promoting regional practices to be harmonized and aligned with international standards and practices of the WCO.

I would also like to continuously collaborate with all stakeholders namely the WCO Secretariat, Regional Vice Chair, Regional Training Centers, Regional Customs Laboratories


and of course Members in the Asia Pacific region. I will try my best to better coordinate with those stakeholders in delivering capacity building activities through close communication.

Needless to say, the environment surrounding Customs and international trade has been evolving and the expectation from the public sectors for the Customs administration has been ever-growing. To tackle and deal with our challenges from the capacity building angle, I pledge to try my best in leading the ROCB A/P office in close cooperation and coordination with all the players concerned. I believe such partnership is the indispensable driving power for the Member centric capacity building activities in an even more effective manner.

Last but not the least, I would like to ask you to join me in thanking my predecessor “Kazu” Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI for his tireless work. Under his spearhead, the region saw a substantial level of advancement in various fields. *Follow-up Actions Survey* six months after respective workshops is just one of those initiatives to demonstrate his exceptional leadership. I sincerely appreciate his contribution and am determined to work for the region with the same zeal as he did.

Now ladies and gentlemen, my journey at the ROCB A/P has just started. I am looking forward to tackling all the challenges that we might have. I’m sure, with the spirit of cooperation and trust, we can achieve our objectives for all the Members of the region with my reliable and passionate colleagues of the ROCB A/P. I look forward to every single opportunity to work with you.

Kind regards,



Norikazu KURAMOTO

Head of the ROCB A/P

Farewell Message from Mr. Kazunari Igarashi



Dear colleagues and friends,

Time has come to say goodbye to you. I am completing my 5-year tenure as Head of the ROCB A/P at the end of June 2019.

I clearly remember the moment when I was assigned to be the Head of the ROCB A/P at the Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference in May 2014 in Port Douglas, Australia. As a nominee to the post, I made 3-pronged pledges, namely: to continue and strengthen management principles exercised by predecessors; to maintain close communication and collaboration with the regional Members and relevant stakeholders; to assure continued delivery of quality capacity building programs; and to make utmost effort to further raise the profile of the WCO and the ROCB A/P as the center of expertise in the region. Since I have come to Bangkok, I placed a copy of these pledges and commitments at the entrance of my flat so that I may bear them in mind all the times as my guiding principles. Although these were my pledges, I am aware that they cannot be accomplished by myself alone. In fact, I was really happy to have been fully supported by my colleagues at the Office and guided by many stakeholders, including WCO Secretary General and the Secretariat colleagues, especially Regional Development Managers, Vice Chairs, regional Directors General, and colleagues of the host administrations, among others. I was indeed privileged to have had such a wonderful opportunity to serve at the ROCB A/P and enjoyed meeting so many colleagues and friends around the world. I learned a lot from them and I will surely apply these lessons learned in my future undertakings. I do not

have enough words to express my gratitude, but I shall repeat that I very much appreciate everything you have provided to me. I was notified that I will be assigned to the Japan Customs Training Institute as Senior Director and will take care of the human resource development. I will continue to do my very best and share my experiences and knowledge on the world's good practices in my home administration. I would be pleased if our professional paths cross again in the very near future and renew our collaboration and friendship.

Thank you once again, dear colleagues and friends, and wish you all the best for continued success in your endeavor.

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

Kazunari Igarashi

WCO Regional Workshop on Non-Intrusive Instrument Equipment and Automated Threat Recognition



1-5 April 2019, Shanghai, China

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the General Administration of China Customs (GACC), organized the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on Non-Intrusive Instrument (NII) equipment and Automated Threat Recognition on 1-5 April 2019 at the new international training facility of the WCO Regional Training Center in Shanghai, China under the sponsorship of Customs Cooperation Fund of China (CCF/China). 37 participants from 24 regional Member administrations joined the workshop. Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager, and Mr. Poonyawee Sroythong, Program Coordinator of the ROCB A/P, participated in this workshop as facilitators.

In line with the WCO's theme for 2019, "SMART Borders for Seamless Trade, Travel and Transport", the workshop aimed at wider use of the WCO NII guideline and exploring the application of Unified File Format (UFF) of the scanned images, and providing an information and best practices sharing platform among the A/P regional Member administrations. At the workshop, Dr. Tong Hua delivered a presentation on the introduction to the WCO tools and initiatives on NII. He shared the relevant standards set forth within the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, particularly focused on the use of NII technologies and data analytics with a view to facilitating cross-border flows of goods and strengthening Customs supply chain controls. China Customs also kindly arranged a field study to Shanghai Port, in which all the participants observed the latest Customs X-ray facilities, intelligent images analysis and smart port operation.

14th Global Meeting of the Heads of the ROCBs, RTCs and Vice Chairs' Offices



4-5 April 2019, Brussels, Belgium

14th Global Meeting of the Heads of the ROCBs, Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and Vice Chairs' Offices was convened on 4-5 April 2019 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. More than 30 delegates from these WCO regional structures attended this Meeting. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues also attended.

The meeting elected Mr. Igarashi as the chair of the Meeting and facilitated a set of important agenda items, including the role and responsibilities of the regional structures in the promotion and implementation of the new WCO Strategic Plan, and the proliferation of the RTCs. Mr. Igarashi also made a presentation on the findings from the latest ROCB A/P's Workshop Follow-Up Survey under the agenda item on the evaluation of the WCO capacity building programs, which was followed by lively questions and answers session. Delegates from the A/P region discussed follow-up work undertaken by the ROCB A/P in the wake of the recent RTC Heads Meeting held in October 2018 in Shanghai, China, and reported back to the plenary session.

10th Session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee



8-10 April 2019, Brussels, Belgium

10th Session of the WCO Capacity Building was convened on 8-10 April 2019 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. More than 200 delegates from the WCO Member administrations and its regional structures as well as academia and development partners attended this meeting. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and his colleagues also attended.

The meeting discussed a set of important topics, including the WCO Capacity Building Strategy, Mercator Program for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, business process management, performance measurement, Customs professionalism and gender equality and diversity. In the course of the Session, Mr. Igarashi reported the conclusions and the recommendations from the 14th Global Meeting of the Heads of the ROCBs, RTCs and Vice Chairs' Offices, including the gist of the ROCB A/P's Workshop Follow-Up Survey.

Taking this opportunity, Mr. Igarashi and his colleagues paid a courtesy call to Secretary General, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, along with Mr. Roy Lagolago, Head of the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Secretariat, and reported the collaboration between the ROCB A/P and the OCO, which is leading to the additional accessions to the Revised Kyoto Convention by the non-WCO OCO Members. Mr. Igarashi also expressed his appreciation to the WCO Secretariat for continued support and guidance to the regional capacity building activities in the A/P region.

WCO/JICA IPR Benchmarking Study for East African Revenue Authorities to Thailand



7, 8 and 10 May 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Under the WCO/JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) project, a total of 11 officers from five revenue authorities of the East African Community (EAC), namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, and two representatives from EAC Secretariat visited Thailand for a benchmarking study on IPR and Customs Control on 7, 8 and 10 May 2019. The program in Thailand covered lectures and discussions, among others, on the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and IPR border enforcement practices by Thai Customs Department. The participants also had an opportunity to visit Bangkok port to observe Thai Customs' frontline practices. Ms. Saori Nojima, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, took part in the program as one of the lecturers and led some sessions together with other resource persons from Thai Customs Department. She delivered presentations on the introduction to IPR, WCO's IPR related activities, IPR's possible impact and implications to the national economy, and the overview of the TRIPS Agreement.

Through the benchmarking study visit to Thailand, the participants reaffirmed the needs and importance of strengthening the IPR border enforcement in the EAC region by taking into account its impact to the economic development in the region as well as the threats on public health and safety, and discussed possible way forwards. The participants expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Thai Customs Department, resource persons and program coordinators for their guidance, support and hospitality.

20th WCO A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administration Conference



8-10 May 2019, Kochi, India

20th WCO A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference was convened on 8-10 May 2019 in Kochi, India, in which more than 80 delegates from 19 Member administrations participated. In addition, 6 representatives from the WCO Secretariat, including Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, and the ROCB A/P and the RILO A/P attended as observers. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Conference and made presentations on the ROCB A/P's report and the implementation of the A/P Regional Strategic Plan 2018-2020 on capacity building. In the course of his presentation on the ROCB A/P's activities, he highlighted the invaluable dedication of other ROCB A/P staff seconded by the regional Member administrations, and the impact of the regional capacity building activities conducted over the last 4 years, which are leading to the initiation of new modernization projects and complementing the on-going efforts of reform and modernization. Given that Mr. Igarashi is to complete his terms at the end of June 2019, he expressed his sincerest appreciation for the support and guidance provided during his tenure by all of the ROCB A/P's stakeholders, among others, the Regional Vice Chairs (Malaysia, Fiji and India), the host administration (Thailand), his home administration (Japan), WCO Secretary General and the professionals



including Regional Development Managers, ROCB A/P staff and the regional Member administrations. In the wake of his presentation, several delegates took the floor and gave their kind words of compliments and encouragement. Mr. Igarashi also exchanged warm words with the delegates in the margins of the Conference and renewed friendship and professional exchanges with them. WCO Secretary General presented a plaque of commendation to Mr. Igarashi for his tireless efforts and engagement to the regional capacity building programs and accomplishments achieved during his 5-year tenure.

The Conference, which was chaired by Mr. P.K. Das, Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC), India and the Regional Vice Chair, discussed a set of important policy and technical issues, such as small islands economic development, trade facilitation, performance measurement, security and enforcement, and e-commerce among others. The Conference endorsed the appointment of Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto of Japan as next Head of the ROCB A/P for a 5-year term starting from July 2019.



21st Oceania Customs Organization Annual Conference



13-15 May 2019, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

At the invitation of Mr. Jose C. Mafnas, Director of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Customs Service cum Chairman of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 21st OCO Annual Conference, which was held on 13-15 May 2019 in Saipan, CNMI, along with Mr. Ricardo Trevino, Deputy Secretary General of the WCO. More than 80 participants, including delegates from 23 OCO Member customs administrations and representatives of the OCO's partners, including the WCO, took part in the conference.

Following the opening ceremony, which was attended by CNMI's Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of Finance, Mr. Trngila Elikana, Associate Minister of Finance of the Cook Islands and Mr. Tuilagi Teii, Director of Tuvalu Customs deposited their instruments of accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) to Deputy Secretary General for Secretary General. In his congratulatory remarks, WCO Deputy Secretary General welcomed these two accessions by non-WCO Member States as complementing the WCO's on-going discussion on the small islands economics development initiatives.

The Conference discussed sets of pertinent topics under the theme of "A United Pacific Working Towards A Common Solution." WCO Deputy Secretary General and Mr. Igarashi

joined the other panelists and discussed the WCO's initiatives on trade facilitation and e-commerce under the Session 1 on Trade facilitation and the Session 2 on Revenue Mobilization, respectively. Other panel discussions focused on border security and digital capacity, in which the representatives of the OCO Members and its partners spoke about challenges and possible way forward. In the course of a social program organized at the end of first day, Mr. Roy Lagolago, interim Head of the OCO Secretariat, presented a token of appreciation to Mr. Igarashi in recognition of his professional dedication and cooperation with the OCO and its Members, which has led to series of OCO Members' accessions to the RKC, during his 5-year tenure.

5th Meeting of the UNNExT Task Force on Cross-border Electronic Data Exchange



14-16 May 2019, Xiamen, China

At the invitation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), in cooperation with the General Administration of China Customs (GACC), Mr. Hong-Young Jo of the ROCB A/P attended the 5th Meeting of the UNNExT Task Force on Cross-border Electronic Data Exchange held on 14 - 16 May 2019 in Xiamen, China.

Approximately 20 representatives from Customs administrations and government agencies participated in the Meeting. The Meeting focused on identifying possible electronic data exchange models, including reviewing data requirements, harmonizing data and implementation of electronic certificate of origin for facilitating legitimate shipments in the cross-border trade environment.

Mr. Jo delivered a presentation on the WCO's new initiatives and pertinent WCO instruments and tools on cross-border paperless trade and digital Customs, as well as the ROCB A/P's activities in assisting Members facilitate the implementation of the electronic data exchange. Particularly, he encouraged the use of international standards for advance electronic data, data analytics, and other cutting-edge technologies to develop a safe, secure and sustainable cross-border data exchange platform.

This event provided the participants with an opportunity to share their good practices on harmonization of data elements, requirements and feasible models, and application of electronic certificate of origin for cross-border electronic data exchange. Key advancements made since the 4th meeting and future directions in developing data dictionaries for targeted documents on certificate origin, cargo manifest, and Customs declaration were discussed. The participants recognized their administrations' current data exchange status on cross-border trade and envisaged possible solutions for application of electronic data exchange models by participating discussions, and exercises. During the workshop, the participants had a study visit to the Xiamen Customs' cross-border e-commerce center and Xiamen area of China (Fujian) pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) for understanding the practical elements of electronic data exchange.



WCO Regional Workshop on the Accreditation of Technical and Operational Advisors on IPR



27-31 May 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Under the sponsorship of the CCF/Japan, the WCO Regional Workshop on the Accreditation of Technical and Operational Advisors (TOA) on IPR was held on 27 - 31 May 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Saori Nojima, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, participated in the workshop as a facilitator along with two facilitators from the WCO Secretariat.

The Workshop aimed at establishing a pool of experts capable of independently leading legal advisory and institutional training activities on behalf of the WCO. Eleven Customs officials, whose applications were pre-screened and qualified, were invited to participate in the Workshop. The participants were assessed against the requirements for WCO-accredited TOA especially on the IPR legal aspects through presentations, simulated interviews, role plays, group exercises and plenary discussions. Those who successfully demonstrated extensive knowledge as well as high competency in designing and delivering capacity building activities during this accreditation workshop were pre-accredited and they will be further invited to join subsequent WCO field missions to further demonstrate their performance for their full accreditation as the WCO TOA.

WCO Asia Pacific Security Conference



28-30 May 2019, Kyoto, Japan

At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the WCO Asia Pacific Security Conference held on 28-30 May 2019 at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan, where the International convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures, a.k.a. Kyoto Convention as revised in 1999, was adopted in 1973. Nearly 70 high-level delegates from 25 Member administrations in the A/P region, as well as representatives from the partner organizations including United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO), attended the Conference. The Conference was officiated with the opening remarks of Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, Mr. Motoya Nakae, Director General of Japan Customs, His Excellency Ambassador Yamamoto, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, and Mr. Krisada Chinavicharana, Director General of Thai Customs. Delegates actively discussed the pertinent topics of global security environment, security threats and Customs' response, achievements in the Japan-funded WCO A/P Security Project and the future vision on the Customs' roles and responsibilities in counter-terrorism. Delegates reaffirmed that Customs has important roles in counter terrorism, in particular in prevention and suppression of illicit trafficking in chemical substances used to produce improvised explosive devices, small arms and light weapons, and passenger controls. They further underlined the need for enhancing coordinated border management approaches at both national and international levels and the exchange of information and intelligence

among the relevant stakeholders. The importance of striking the right balance between trade and travel facilitation and border control was acknowledged along with the need for continued capacity building in a tailor-made manner. Delegates unanimously agreed to continuously raise the profile of Customs in this critical domain to contribute to the economic growth with the promotion and facilitation of legitimate trade in the years to come.

ROCB A/P Highlights the WCO Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-commerce at Asia Pacific Postal College



5 June 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), Dr. Tong Hua of the ROCB A/P, as a guest speaker, contributed to the workshop on Network Innovation for China Express Sector in ASEAN Countries, which was held from 29 May to 5 June 2019 at the Asian-Pacific Postal College in Bangkok, Thailand. Around 20 directors from the headquarters and different regional post bureaus of State Post Bureau of China participated in this workshop.

During a session on 5 June 2019, Dr. Tong made a presentation on lifting barriers for Cross-Border E-Commerce in ASEAN countries. He highlighted key points of the WCO Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce and the most current work progress of the WCO E-Commerce Working Group. He also articulated a snapshot on the ASEAN Members' profiles analysis on E-Commerce development. He underlined Customs' unique

role on securing supply chains and facilitating legitimate trade at the border by applying cutting-edge technologies and risk management techniques. Mr. Lin Hongliang, Secretary General of the APPU, complimented Dr. Tong's contribution as a good example of the ROCB-APPU collaboration, which brought postal staff a better understanding of Customs business processes.

ROCB A/P Spoke about the WCO Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards to Business Representatives in Thailand



6 June 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the Royal Thai Embassy in Belgium, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the Thailand – European Union Seminar on E-Commerce and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) held on 6 June 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. More than 150 participants representing various government ministries and authorities, including the Thai Customs Department, as well as business associations gathered and discussed pertinent topics on challenges and opportunities in the digital age. Mr. Igarashi participated in a panel discussion on the state of E-Commerce in the world, along with an Executive Director of the Bureau of Trade in Services and Investment of the Ministry of Commerce of

Thailand, and spoke about the WCO's undertaking in the development of the "Cross- Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards" and its supplementary technical guidelines. He highlighted joint work with all relevant stakeholders, including vendors, e-commerce platform providers, e-payment service providers and logistics operators, as well as the WCO's implementation and capacity building strategies to this end. He also stressed the need for a prompt and globally concerted implementation of the Framework of Standards with a view to allowing legitimate e-commerce to flourish while assuring effective border controls against illicit trafficking in harmful goods achieved through partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

ROCB A/P Introduces the Work Progress of the Comprehensive Review of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) at FIATA Region A/P Field Meeting



10 June 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), Dr. Tong Hua of the ROCB A/P participated in and contributed to the 13th FIATA Region Asia/Pacific (RAP) Field Meeting held on 10 June 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, to which about 60 representatives from FIATA Members attended.

Dr. Tong delivered a presentation on the progress of the comprehensive review of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC). He highlighted that in order for the RKC to remain a living strategic document for modern Customs procedures in the 21st century, the comprehensive

review would require an overall needs analysis to accommodate updated or new concepts contained in the WCO tools as well as the Member administrations' best practices. He underlined the importance of stakeholders' engagement, which includes the FIATA as a partner of the WCO, to further develop their proposals for the success of the comprehensive review. The president of FIATA complimented the ROCB A/P's contribution to update their Members with the review of the WCO's flagship instrument. There was a lively Q&A session after Dr. Tong's presentation.

28th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors General of Customs



12 June 2019, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, accompanied Mr. Ricardo Trevino, Deputy Secretary General (DSG) of the WCO, to attend the 28th Meeting of the ASEAN DGs of Customs, which was held on 12 June 2019 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The WCO delegation had a closed consultation session with nearly 50 delegates from the ASEAN Member Customs administration and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, and spoke about the backgrounds and points of consideration on the key agenda items being tabled to the upcoming WCO Council sessions. At the request of co-chair of the consultation session, Mr. Igarashi recalled some cases of the collaboration with ASEAN

Member administrations in capacity building programs during his 5-year tenure and complimented their spontaneous mutual assistance, which supplemented those of the WCO. He also took this opportunity to bid farewell to the ASEAN DGs and thanked them for their support and cooperation, and wished them continued success in reform and modernization. In the margin of the meeting, the WCO delegation had series of bilateral meetings with ASEAN DGs and heard their needs and priorities in the future work of the WCO.

Joint UPU–WCO Postal Security Workshop on Countering Transportation of Dangerous Contraband in the Asia Pacific Region



10-13 June 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

The Joint Universal Postal Union (UPU)–WCO Postal Security Workshop on Countering Transportation of Dangerous Contraband in the Asia Pacific Region was held on 10-13 June 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand with the financial support of the United States. A total of 64 Customs officials and Postal operators from 29 countries in the region participated in the workshop. The Workshop aimed at enhancing capacity for countering illegal movement of dangerous items and contraband in the postal chain and sharing best practices in application of the pertinent UPU and WCO instruments and standards. Ms. Chloe Au, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, attended the workshop on 12-13 June 2019 as one of the resource

speakers. Other speakers included representatives from the UPU, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the Asia-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) and the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS).

At the Workshop, Ms. Au presented on the WCO's ongoing efforts in organizing and coordinating global anti-drugs programs and operational activities, and raised participants' awareness on the emerging trends in drug trafficking routes and modus operandi. Ms. Au also updated the participants on the latest developments of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards and the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program and encouraged their administrations to join the AEO Program. She also reaffirmed the importance of the application of risk management techniques and the use of electronic advance data for identifying high-risk consignments in the course of handling huge volume of e-commerce trade.

WCO Follow Up Mission on People Development Plan of the BCED



18-20 June 2019, Nassau, Bahamas

At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, from 18-20 June 2019, Dr. Tong Hua, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, with other experts from the WCO worked together with their counterparts in the Bahamas Customs and Excise Department (BCED) to review the administration's Human Resource Management (HRM) and training approaches at the BCED Headquarter in Nassau, Bahamas. The working groups comprised members of the BCED's HR and Training Units, as well as representative from the Ministry of Public Service of Bahamas.

The objective of this mission is to follow up the People Development Plan focused on training initiatives.

Using the methodologies and frameworks drawn from the WCO Framework of Principles and Practices on Customs Professionalism (FPPCP), Dr. Tong Hua led the sessions on adult learning principles, blended learning approaches and training evaluation tools. He underlined the key findings and good practices of “the ROCB A/P Study on the Use of e-learning Modules for the Customs Professionalism and Human Resource Development” as well as promoted the ROCB A/P’s training evaluation instruments package. A draft report on the BCED’s People Development Plan 2019-2020, as the main outcome of this mission, will be submitted to the Comptroller of the BCED for final approval.

This mission was under the WCO-Bahamas Training Programme, which was delivered as part of a wider program of training support to BCED, linked to the WCO-Mercator Programme aiming to help Bahamas align with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and under the umbrella of the IADB (Inter-American Development Bank)’s Bahamas Trade Sector Support Program.



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