



Highlights!

International Customs Day 2014

**The Commencement of the Multi-year Assistance
for SASEC Countries on the Proper Management of Customs Valuation**

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Resource Mobilization

**WCO National workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)
in Brunei Darussalam**



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WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P)
Address: Thai Customs Department, Sunthornkosa Rd.,
Khlong Toey, Bangkok 10110 Thailand
Telephone: (66)-2-667-6777
Facsimile: (66)-2-667-6814
<http://rocb.wcoasiapacific.org>



SPECIAL TOPICS

The Commencement of the Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries on the Proper Management of Customs Valuation

Sri Lanka, 3-7 February 2014

ROCB A/P in cooperation with Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Sri Lanka Customs held the “WCO/ADB Joint Sub-regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Customs Valuation” in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 3-7 February 2014. This workshop commenced the joint WCO/ADB multi-year assistance project for SASEC (South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation) members on the proper management of Customs Valuation control.

The objectives of this multi-year assistance project are to implement the valuation control, ideally through Post Clearance Audit (PCA) among SASEC members; pool trainers for the sustainable implementation of valuation control; and enhance regional connectivity through the use of WCO accredited experts pooled in the target countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. In line with the ROCB A/P Work Focus 2013/2014, this multi-year project was initiated to materialize the proper management of Customs Valuation through PCA among SASEC members with financial support from ADB.



It involves a team of WCO accredited experts pooled in Japan, Maldives and Sri Lanka Customs, and is led by Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI of ROCB A/P who is responsible for the program management of South Asia.

This workshop was attended by 17 participants from 6 SASEC countries. Through the workshop, participants developed an understanding of the nature of the multi-year project for each of their administrations. The participants also actively networked with experts on topics that their administrations were concerned about. Participants developed national action plan, which is a pivotal achievement for a clearer roadmap towards more harmonized and consistent valuation control among the SASEC members. The participants also expressed strong commitment to the follow up

the outcomes of the workshop. The draft action plans will be brought to the top management of respective Customs Administrations, who will feedback to the ADB and ROCB A/P to specify follow-up activities under this multi-year project.

This multi-year assistance is part of the ROCB A/P's ongoing efforts of donor engagement work following the success of similar multi-year PCA project for Pacific Islands completed last year. The coordinated assistance from WCO, ROCB A/P and ADB, with leadership and ownership of recipient countries, is expected to deliver high quality assistance to developing partners and produce tangible outcomes from developing partners and tangible outcomes. ROCB A/P is



committed to continue its best efforts to achieve the objectives of this project together with ADB and SASEC countries.

MULTI-YEAR ASSISTANCE FOR SASEC COUNTRIES

ON THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF CUSTOMS VALUATION

- Effective implementation of valuation control ideally through PCA
- Pool of trainers for the sustainable implementation of valuation control
- Enhance regional connectivity through the use of WCO accredited experts in the SASEC countries

ROADMAP

ROADMAP		
1 st Regional Workshop	3-7 February 2014	Sri Lanka
1 st round of National Workshops (P)	From March to September 2014	Depending on the consultation based on each country's Action Plan except for Maldives and Sri Lanka
2 nd Regional Workshop (P)	October 2014	Maldives (P)
2 nd round of National Workshops (P)	2015-2017	Depending on the consultation based on each country's Action Plan except for Maldives and Sri Lanka

SPECIAL TOPICS

2014 INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY CELEBRATION IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Thai Customs Celebrated the International Customs Day 2014

Thailand, 27 January 2014



ROCB A/P participated in the celebration of the International Customs Day 2014 held by Thai Customs Department on Monday 27 January 2014. 10 Thai Customs officials were awarded WCO Certificate of Merit for their contribution towards Thai Customs over the past year.

The celebration was chaired by Ms. Chaweewan Kongcharaenkitkhun, Principal Advisor, Thai Customs Department and had a large attendance of representatives from other Government Agencies, members of Customs brokers, regional international agencies and business communities.

During the meeting, Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P delivered the message from Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, for the inauguration of 10th Anniversary of ROCB A/P. Mr. Mikuriya, in the message, specifically thanked Thai Customs for the continuous support to ROCB A/P since its inception.



He also stressed the importance of “Communication” in the successful operation of ROCB A/P.

In line with this year's celebrating theme “Communication: Sharing Information for Better Cooperation”, Thai Customs kindly arranged a board display for ROCB A/P to present its history and achievements over the past decade.

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, ROCB A/P is now planning and organizing a number of activities, which has full support from Thai Customs. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to extend our appreciation to Thai Customs for their generosity and cooperation.

Indonesia Customs Celebrates the International Customs Day 2014

Indonesia, 28 January 2014

At the invitation of Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DGCE) of Indonesia, Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P participated in the Ceremony of the International Customs Day (ICD) which was organized by the DGCE in Jakarta, Indonesia on January 28th, 2014. The ceremony was a part of a week-long celebration of ICD in Indonesia

On January 28th, the ceremony started with the message from the Director General, Mr. Agun KUSWANDONO and was followed by several commemorative events, including the history of customs uniforms and a demonstration of the ability of the Customs Enforcement Team in fighting drug smuggling. The commemorative seminar titled "Modern Customs Administration" took place immediately after those events and with the attendance of approximately 400 officials from the DGCE and former DGs of DGCE. Based on the presentation prepared in cooperation



with the WCO Headquarters, Mr. Kosaka made a presentation titled "Customs Administrations in the 21st Century". In the presentation, he mainly talked about the WCO and ROCB A/P; the four packages of WCO tools and instruments; and the regional capacity building strategy highlighting the importance of regional cooperation and leadership/ownership. The presentation was well-received by the participants and they indicated their strong interest in continuing this kind of seminar at the ICD in 2015.



SPECIAL TOPICS

Afghan Customs Department Celebrates International Customs Day 2014

(This article was contributed by Afghan Customs)

Afghanistan, 3 February 2014



Afghan Customs Department (ACD) celebrated International Customs Day 2014 in a gorgeous function on 3 February 2014 at its Headquarters in Kabul. The Deputy Minister for Customs and Revenue Department (CRD) Mr. Gul Maqsood Sabit and the Director General of ACD Dr. Najibullah Wardak graced the reception and WCO Certificate of Merit awarding ceremony. The Directors of ACD, Regional Directors, Deputy Director of Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and Director of Afghan Customs Brokers were present at the function, among others.

20 Customs officials and dignitaries from the private sectors were awarded WCO Certificate of Merit for their contribution towards Afghan Customs and to the theme of the year: Communication: sharing information for better cooperation.

In his key note speech, Mr. Gul Maqsood Sabit, Deputy Minister echoed the theme and stressed the importance of communication and information for day-to-day Customs and trade facilitation affairs, both nationally and globally. He also emphasized that Afghan Customs should play a more important role for the economic and social development of the country.

Speaking at the reception, Dr. Najibullah Wardak, DG of ACD praised the achievements done by Afghan Customs Officers in various Departments and explained the importance of ICT including ASYCUDA, with the latest version being successfully implemented in Afghanistan. He also promised his strong commitment to fighting corruption in 2014 and beyond.

The award recipients committed themselves to assisting with the successful implementation of the reform and modernization agenda in the coming years. The ceremony was well attended by about 50 guests from different sectors.

It is worth mentioning here that Afghan Customs Department became member of WCO in 2004 and has since been using WCO Harmonized System codes.



WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

WCO National workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) in Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam, 13-16 January 2014

Responding to the invitation made by Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei Darussalam, Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P as well as a WCO accredited expert on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), visited Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei Darussalam and conducted the WCO National Workshop on RKC on 13-16 January 2014. It was attended by a total of 29 customs officers of Brunei Customs.

In light of the Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014, ROCB A/P has been making every effort to accelerating the members' accession to the RKC in the Asia Pacific region. In April 2013, the WCO Sub-regional workshop on the RKC for South East Asian Countries, under the sponsorship of CCF Japan, was held in

Malaysia, and which Brunei Customs also participated in. As one of the follow up activities, upon invitation by the Brunei Customs, this national workshop was held to provide targeted and country-focused technical support to Brunei Customs based on the identified gap between the RKC provisions and national legislation of Brunei Darussalam during the sub-regional workshop.

The outcome of the workshop has been tangible, enabling Brunei Darussalam to develop a clear understanding of RKC, particularly its benefits and the accession process. With the sessions on gap analysis and strategic planning, they now have a clear roadmap to accede to RKC in the near future. ROCB A/P has agreed to continue to support Brunei Customs to achieve that goal.



WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

ROCB A/P Contribution to the 1st Conference of Heads of National Training Centres (NTC) for the World Customs Organization Europe Region

Azerbaijan, 22-24 January 2014



WCO, ROCB European Azerbaijan Customs jointly organized the 1st Conference of Heads of WCO Europe National Customs Training Centers on 22-24 January 2014 at Baku, Azerbaijan. At the invitation, Mr. James Wong, Program manager of ROCB A/P for South East Asia region, joined this meeting.

The conference was chaired by Mr. Erich Kieck, Director from the Capacity Building Directorate of the WCO. The conference provided a platform to share information and experience between delegates from National Training Centers, and to discuss issues with contemporary Customs training and deliberate how to

enhance the professionalism for Customs. The participating units updated the meeting on their latest training programs and initiatives, and shared their views and experience on the topics related to training management.

During the meeting, Mr. Wong outlined the operation of ROCB A/P and its ongoing efforts to improve the collaboration with Regional Training Centers (RTCs) in the Asia Pacific Region.

WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Resource Mobilization

Malaysia, 24-28 February 2014

WCO and ROCB A/P, in cooperation with Malaysia Customs, organized the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Resource Mobilization at the Regional Training Center in Melaka, Malaysia from 24 to 28 February 2014 under the sponsorship of Customs Cooperation Fund/Japan.

A total of 24 participants from 23 Asia Pacific regional members took part in the workshop. Ms. Heike Barczyk, Deputy Director, and Mr. Richard Chopra from the Capacity Building Directorate of the WCO, as well as Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P, facilitated the workshop. In addition, 3 development partners, namely World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan Customs, participated in the workshop and contributed significantly to the discussion on the resource mobilization for the successful implementation of customs reform and modernization program by sharing their valuable experience on this topic from the donor's perspective.

This workshop is part of the ongoing efforts of the WCO and ROCB A/P in supporting Asia Pacific customs administrations to enhance engagement of development partners for their reform and modernization programs. WCO and ROCB A/P jointly organized regional donor conference in May 2012 which provided members in the A/P region with the opportunity to enhance their understanding of partnership with development partners. This Workshop built upon the event in 2012 and enabled participants to address



needs in the field of resource mobilization, which are essential for subsequent Capacity Building / Customs Reform and Modernization processes at national level.

Reflecting the strong interest of A/P regional members on this emerging topic, many Directors-General and Deputy Directors-General participated in this workshop and discussed the way forward. The workshop was very timely and is expected to further enhance the collaboration between A/P customs administrations and development partners for the successful implementation of customs reform and modernization program. WCO, ROCB A/P, participating members and development partners agreed to continue to work together in this regard.



WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

ROCB A/P Contribution to the 9th Global Meeting of the Heads of ROCBs, RTCs and Vice Chairs' Offices

Brussels, 27-28 March 2014

The 9th Global Meeting of the Heads of ROCBs, RTCs and Vice Chairs' Offices was held on 27 - 28 March 2014 in Brussels. This annual event brought together nearly 60 representatives from the Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCBs), the Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and the Vice Chairs' offices. Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P together with other 4 staff members participated in this meeting.

This meeting serves as a mechanism for regional structures from all over the world to inspire each other and enhance the dialogue to further strengthen their roles, functions and strategies. It discussed how the regional structures can effectively co-operate with the WCO to deliver support to Members. The agenda provided a good opportunity for ROCBs, RTCs and Vice Chairs to discuss their commitment to Capacity Building delivery, and their roles in fulfilling their responsibilities in the areas of the WCO annual Capacity Building needs assessment, donor engagement, as well as identification and maintenance of expertise in the region.

During the break-out sessions, two presentations from ROCB A/P were made to share its practices on the collaboration with RTCs, training evaluation and the pilot projects to improve the quality of regional experts as well as the donor engagement. The presentation also summarized ROCB A/P's ongoing efforts to strengthen the partnership with Development Partners

(DP). Over these years, a number of laudable achievements have been made including the organization of DP regional dialogue, development of multi-year assistance project and coordination of technical support to DPs meeting. ROCB A/P also outlined its joint effort with A/P RTCs to improve the quality of regional expertise with the Accredited Customs Experts and Candidates program. The four step approach to pool regional experts was highly regarded by the WCO. The presentations were followed by active discussions among the participants to further exchange the views on these issues of common interest.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Erich Kieck invited Yoshihiro Kosaka to the stage and introduced that Mr. Kosaka would be leaving ROCB A/P at the end of June 2014. The meeting expressed great appreciation to him and ROCB A/P for their valuable contribution to this meeting as well as global capacity building discussion in the past with a round of applause.



DONOR ENGAGEMENT

WCO/ADB Sub-regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Customs Valuation

Sri Lanka, 3-7 February 2014

The WCO/ADB joint Sub-regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Customs Valuation was held from 3 to 7 February 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was attended by a total of 17 participants from 6 SASEC (South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation) members, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Program manager of ROCB A/P for South Asia facilitated the Workshop together with experts from ADB, Japan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka Customs.

During the SASEC Trade Facilitation Week held in April 2013 in Bangkok Thailand, there was strong need identified by SASEC members to improve their practices on Customs Valuation Control. To support their efforts, ADB and ROCB A/P developed a multi-year assistance program to ensure sustainable development for South Asia sub-region on Valuation control ideally through PCA. The sub-regional train the trainer workshop as the kick off of the project was therefore specified and organized.

The workshop discussed a number of key issues that were closely related to the valuation control. It covered the WTO Valuation Agreement, review of the effective valuation control through PCA, and the necessary steps to move about the implementation of PCA etc. Through the intensive discussion, participants exchanged their respective practices on the valuation control and deliberated how to improve the customs valuation control in line with the respective national contexts.

Through the workshop, the participants learned the latest information on WCO instruments on Customs Valuation control. With the support of the experts, they successfully drafted national action plans, which would be immediately submitted to the respective administrations for approval.

Mr. Jagath P. Wijeweera, Director General of Sri Lanka Customs, expressed the appreciation to all facilitators and participants for their positive contribution. All participants also thanked Sri Lanka customs for the kind hospitality and considerate arrangements.

DONOR ENGAGEMENT

ADB National Workshop on Transportation and Trade Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM)

Bhutan, 10-14 March 2014

WCO, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) jointly organized a national workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) for Bhutan from 10 to 14 March 2014. At their invitation, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, Program Manager for South Asia and Mr. Jing CHENG, Program Manager for Pacific Islands joined this workshop as resources persons on behalf of the WCO.

TTFMM program aims to strengthen the capability of SASEC (South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation) members in examining its self trade barriers through the combined use of performance measurement instruments and tools, such as Business Process

Analysis, TRS and Time Cost and Distance. The objective of the national workshop was set to assist the individual countries to develop the suitable strategy for the better implementation of these tools, taking their actual geographical and trade situation into consideration.

During the workshop, the WCO representatives introduced the WCO Time Release Study, a useful tool to improve the overall border performance. The convening parties of the workshop thanked the WCO for the valuable contribution to this workshop.



ROCB A/P Internal Study Workshop

Bangkok, 11 February 2014

ROCB A/P organized an internal study workshop on February 11th 2014 with the objective to further enhance the knowledge and expertise of its staff members. The internal study workshop is a platform to share the respective knowledge and experience of ROCB staff for the improvement and development of our own staff. It enabled deliberation among staff members on which support should be provided to meet the regional demands in line with the four pillars of ROCB A/P.

During the workshop, presentations covered a number of emerging customs topics which have the most concern from the regional members, such as Risk Management Compendium, ASEAN Agreement on Customs, Revenue Package, and the Multi-year Assistance for SASEC Countries, Air Cargo Security. Some staff members also provided an update on the practices of WCO and ROCB A/P for continuous improvement of delivery of training programs.

Through the discussion, the participants learned the latest information on the relevant WCO instruments and tools and understood the importance of collaborative approach for responding to the members' needs.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

FUTURE ACTIVITIES		
No.	Event Name	Timing
1	5 th WCO Capacity Building Committee in Brussels	31 March – 2 April 2014
2	WCO/ADB National Workshop on Transportation and Trade Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) for Nepal	15 – 17 April 2014
3	IFCBA Global Conference in Korea	14 – 16 May 2014
4	WCO Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference (RHCA) in Australia	30 April – 2 May 2014
5	2014 WCO IT Conference and WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Leadership in Single Window and WCO Data Model in Australia	5 – 9 May 2014
6	WCO/ADB National Workshop on RKC for Myanmar	28 – 30 May 2014
7	WCO Sub-Regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on HS for Pacific Islands	9 – 13 June 2014
8	WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment in Korea	9 – 13 June 2014
9	WCO/ADB National Workshop on RKC Implementation for Bhutan	9 – 13 June 2014
10	The 123 rd /124 th WCO Council Sessions	26 – 28 June 2014