

Dear friends and colleagues in the Asia Pacific region

A Happy New Year and I wish the New Year turns out to be the happiest and the best for all of you.

ROCB A/P was born in 2004 in Bangkok and we celebrated its 7th birthday in September last year. In October last year, ROCB Europe was formally opened in Baku, Azerbaijan and now all 6 WCO regions come to have ROCB in their regions. I participated in the opening ceremony of ROCB EUR and celebrated its opening while, at the same time, promised to work together with other ROCBs to provide better assistance to our members through enhanced ROCB network. Since its opening as the first ROCB in the world, our office has been enjoying a strong support from the Asia Pacific members and it can be interpreted as a good sign of our success.

For instance, though our office started from only one staff, we now have 8 full time staff (as of 1st January 2012) from different customs administrations consisting 1 from China, 1 from Hong Kong China, 2 from Japan, 2 from Korea and 2 from Thailand. With their dedicated work, ROCB could properly identify regional needs, establish capacity building plan, and deliver effective and efficient capacity building programs which respond to the latest regional needs and priorities. I would like to express my utmost appreciation to the administrations who agreed to second their capable staff to ROCB in particular Thai Customs Department who has been the host of our office since its establishment and extended variety of support to our office as well as our staff. Another example is a significant contribution directly made by the regional members to our capacity building programs throughout 2011. Last year, we enjoyed very positive participation of WCO accredited experts to our activities, such as PCA regional workshop in India and Fiji, RKC mission to Nepal, Valuation mission to Timor-Leste and Mongolia, IPR regional workshop in Hong Kong, action planning mission to Lao PDR and Diagnostic mission to Bangladesh. In addition to that, Australia and Hong Kong China agreed to share their valuable experiences when we developed 7th issue of the regional good practice report on NII. Korea started to contribute

CCF Korea to the WCO and several activities have already been done in the A/P region. With these extremely positive developments, ROCB named 2011 as “year of members’ enhanced cooperation”. ROCB would like to express our sincere appreciation to all member administrations which kindly joined this positive move.

We are expecting another busy but fruitful year in 2012. Several key activities are expected to be conducted soon in our region, including the regional event on enhancing partnership with development partners, AEO Conference and various regional/national workshops which reflected latest needs and priorities. We are going to work together the WCO Secretariat, Regional Training Centers (RTCs), various development partners and of course with regional members for the successful implementation of these activities. To do so, we are expecting continued strong support from all of you. Let us continue our joint cooperative work for the better future of customs.

Sincerely



Yoshihiro Kosaka

Head

*WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for
Capacity Building*

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Special Topics

Thai Customs Department : Relief Measures for Flood

Victims in 2011

While the floods occurred in Thailand from October to December 2011, Thai citizens, entrepreneurs, government official including Thai Customs officers were severely affected by this inundation. In response to the exigent needs, Mr. Somchai Poonsawat, Director General in cooperation with the executive level officers and Thai Customs officers timely implemented the following relief measures to help out the parties concerned to get through this difficult time.

I. Relief Measures for Entrepreneurs

A temporary Customs Service Points was established at Terminal 1 Fl.1 Door 5, Don Muang Airport for the affected entrepreneurs. It aimed to serve for the Hitech Industrial Park and Bang Pa-In Industrial Park starting from 18 October 2011 (office hours) until the situation resumed normal. Another Customs service point, "Customs Care Center", was also set up to render necessary assistance to the flood victims.

Designated officers were deployed to facilitate entrepreneurs affected by this inundation. These officers were tasked to:

- ▽ facilitate entrepreneurs at export/import port for Customs clearance
- ▽ deal with Customs clearance problems as result of the flood; and
- ▽ work at Customs Call Center (1164) from 4.30 p.m. to 8.30 a.m. as consultants and cooperation officers.

Entrepreneurs were allowed to remove their goods, raw material, or machinery from the free zone or bonded warehouses which were affected by the flood without completion of customs formalities or submission of request for transferring their goods. When the situation resumed normal, entrepreneurs were required to notify Customs to relocate goods back to the warehouse. In this regard, Thai Customs worked closely with the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand to supervise the relocation and the entrepreneurs were then required to complete the Customs clearance procedures.

Thai Customs also strengthened its cooperation and coordination with other related administrations were also strengthened in order to facilitate importing goods for the purpose of flood relief.

II. Relief Measures for Citizens

Thai Customs also rendered substantial support for a campaign organized by the Ministry of Finance at Tawung Lophuri, which aimed at helping out the flood victims. In this regard, Customs Department

made a donation and arranged voluntary officers to support the respective flood relief activities.

III. Relief Measures for Customs Officers

“Investigation and Suppression Bureau” and “Central Administration Bureau” were assigned of Thai Customs to establish the “Help Center for Customs Officers” with details as follows:

- ▽ Investigation and Suppression Bureau provided vehicles and boats as well as other equipment to help the flood victims to move out of their places.
- ▽ Central Administration Bureau established temporary shelter for officers affected by flood at the second floor of Customs Association Building with provision of free foods, drinks and necessities donated by bureaus of Customs Department.

Suvarnabhumi Airport Cargo Clearance Customs Bureau also established temporary shelters for officers affected by flood.

Cash subsidies were also provided to 349 officers in 2 separate periods. This measure aimed at meet the staff's immediate needs as well as boosting the morale in the Department.

Last but not the least, in order to protect the government property, Thai customs also swiftly deployed the officers from the Information and Communication Technology Bureau to terminate the computer system in order to remove all the equipment from the computer centre to other safer places. In other offices, officers were required to get prepared in order to minimize the damage that may occur to government properties.

All these relief

measures manifested that, during this critical time, Thai Customs not only has high awareness and alertness to social responsibility by rendering timely assistance to the officers and general public, but also works in high efficiency to protect the government property from the damage caused by the flood.



The 9th Meeting of Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers

The 9th Meeting of the Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers (RTCs) was held at the Shanghai Customs Collage in China from 31 October to 1 November, 2011. It was attended by the representatives from six RTCs (China, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Korea and Malaysia) as well as those from the WCO Secretariat, Vice Chair Office of the Asia Pacific Region and Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P). The representative from Fiji Revenue Service and Customs Authority (FRCA) also attended the meeting as observer.

The major discussion issues in this meeting included “ WCO Capacity Building Activities ” , “ Asia Pacific (A/P) Regional Activities ” , “ Capacity Building Activities in A/P Region ” , “ Development of RTC as Centre of Excellence ” , “ Framework to Pool, Utilize Support and Increase Accredited Experts in A/P Region ” and “ Promotion of Knowledge-based Customs through New WCO CLiKC! Portal ”.

During the meeting, all RTCs reported progress on their development as “Centre of Excellence” and exchanged their views to further enhance this initiative. The FRCA representative also made a presentation on establishment of RTC in Fiji, which outlined the infrastructure of the training center and explained the benefits for its establishment. Besides, to strengthen the capacity building activities in A/P region, participants also engaged in active discussion on pooling, utilizing support and increasing accredited experts in the A/P region. It was expressed in the meeting that enhanced communication and cooperation among the WCO, ROCB A/P, RTCs and Member Administrations was crucial in order to meet this end.

Introduction for New Staff from Thai Customs

It is our pleasure to introduce to you our new staff, Ms. Matchima (Kik) KIRIPET, Customs Technical Officer Professional Level from Thai Customs, who has joined ROCB A/P since October 2011.

Ms. Matchima is a talented officer with expertise and experience in application of Container X-ray Scanner Image Analysis. She was also a qualified trainer for X-ray scanner image in Thai Customs.

Outgoing and enthusiastic to work, Ms. Matchima plays an important role in the communication between Thai Customs and ROCB A/P. We hereby would like to extend our deepest appreciation to Thai Customs for its continuous and substantial support to the WCO and ROCB A/P.

Taking this opportunity, we would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Ketkanok (Numtan) from Thai Customs, the predecessor of Ms. Matchima, for her great work during the service of ROCB A/P. *Thank you, Numtan*

“I am really honored to be selected by Thai Customs to work in ROCB A/P. I would definitely give my best efforts during my term of service. If I have opportunity, I would also like to share my experience and know-how on the analysis of X-ray scanner image with our members.”



Welcome to Our New Work Partner from ACBPS

We would like to introduce our new work partner from ACBPS, Ms Pam Radin, who has recently taken up the post of Counsellor (Customs & Border Protection) in the Australian Embassy in Bangkok, rendering regular assistance to ROCB A/P for the regional capacity building activities.

Ms Pam is a talented and experienced customs expert. During her years of service in ACBPS, she worked in a range of operational positions including Investigation roles focusing on revenue evasion, wildlife smuggling, Intelligence and Targeting roles focusing on drug interdiction, particularly in the maritime environment and in air and sea cargo. Prior to her deployment in Bangkok, Pam was the Director Air Cargo Operations and Detained Goods Management, having responsibility for the interdiction of prohibited substances and goods in the air cargo environment, the storage and disposal of seized goods, and the NSW Firearms training cell.

With her ample experience in Customs field, we trust that Pam would provide great support to ROCB A/P as well as our Members.

Taking this opportunity, we would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Dean Hogarth, the predecessor of Pam, for his great contributions and continued assistance extended to ROCB A/P during his tenure.

Thank you, Dean.

My first mission in Mongolia- M.M.M Rishafy from Sri Lanka

The national workshop on Customs valuation for Mongolian customs was conducted in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia from 24 to 28 October 2011. Invited by the WCO ROCB A/P, I along with Mr. Shinji Yamamoto, Section Chief, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan facilitated this workshop. This workshop was organized by the WCO ROCB A/P Pacific in consultation with Mongolian Customs and funded by CCF/Japan.



WCO

contact with my co-facilitator Mr. Yamamoto and the Mongolian Customs contact points Ms Mandukhai and Enkhjaargal in making logistical and academic preparations for this mission. My experience as a visiting lecturer on Customs valuation at the post graduated institute of management and my experience in conducting several national valuation training sessions in Colombo was immensely helpful in preparing for this mission. I also consulted Mr. Tharaka Seneviratne who is an accredited trainer on HS and recently conducted a HS training seminar in Timor-Leste. He gave me some useful tips on conducting a workshop.

The participants to this workshop were officers from various divisions of Mongolian Customs who were primarily handling the Customs valuation aspects. For me it was a new experience in new climes. I was excited. I was on top of the world, physically and literally. It was also a new experience to notice that out of the 20 participants just 3 participants were males! Due to the difficulty in interacting in the English language for some participants, assistance of translators was provided on all occasions during the seminar. The fluency and eloquence of the translators allayed our fear of not being able to overcome the language barrier.

The programme of the workshop was prepared in consultation with WCO giving special emphasis to certain areas such as transaction value method with adjustments, valuation of goods under alternative methods and building

valuation data base and exchange of Customs valuation information along with the other usual topics on valuation. However, as the workshop progressed, the enthusiasm shown by the participants motivated us to include two additional topics concerning the Customs valuation of second hand cars, and the sale for export in WTO valuation agreement. We prepared the presentations overnight. At every possible stage, sharing of national experiences of Sri Lanka, Japan and Mongolia was included giving the workshop a more practical outlook. The teaching methods included many case studies and group exercises which were welcomed and eagerly participated. We were able to suggest solutions to all the practical problems that were brought by the participants to the workshop.

The successful completion of the mission was evident not only in the answers to the WCO questionnaire but also in the satisfaction expressed by the participants and the Director General of Customs Mr. Tsevenjeev in their speeches at the closing ceremony.

I along with Mr. Yamamoto appreciate and cherish the hospitality extended to us by the Mongolian Customs. Personally I consider this workshop as a milestone in my Customs career and look forward to contribute in regional capacity building activities. I also express my gratitude to Sri Lanka customs and the Japan Customs for the support given and thank the WCO ROCB A/P for honoring me with this great opportunity.



Workshops / Meetings

UNESCAP Trade Facilitation Forum

Korea 3-8 Oct 2011

Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) and side events 2011, was held in Seoul, Korea from 3 to 8 October, 2011. It was co-organized by UNESCAP, ADB and Korea International Trade Association (KITA) and supported by relevant international institutions like the World Bank, UNCTAD, WCO, ASEAN, APEC and others. Around 200 participants including government officials, traders and public and private service providers from Central Asia, South, Southeast and East Asia as well as the South Pacific participated in the Forum. Mr. Gareth Lewis from the WCO Secretariat and Mr. Zhang Shujie from ROCB A/P joined as resource persons.

On 3 October, 2011, Dialogue on Regional Cooperation for Trade Facilitation was held. Opportunities to enhance cooperation on TF initiatives among partners are discussed. On behalf of ROCB A/P, Mr. Zhang briefed on the major WCO TF tools, elaborated regional priorities under Regional Strategic Plan 2010 – 2012 and introduced ROCB main work under the four pillars.

On 4 – 6 October 2011, APTFF was organized. A wide range of speakers from UNESCAP, ASEAN, APEC, UNECE, World Bank and relevant countries have been invited to address major sessions: supply chain efficiency and trade competitiveness, advances in single window concept and development, supply chain security, etc.

Mr. Gareth Lewis, on behalf of the WCO Secretariat, provided a short presentation on the WCO strategy and programs to tackle supply chain security, including SAFE FoS, Columbus Program, building blocks under Customs in 21st Century.

In parallel with the Forum, an Exhibition on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade was organized as well, aiming to maximize information sharing on the works, practices, case studies and findings of trade facilitation service providers, researchers. Around 20 development/donor agencies, international organizations and government agencies participated in the event.

As a side event, Capacity Building Workshop on Data Harmonization for Single Window Environment was also conducted on 7 to 8 October 2011, around 25 participants, including governmental officials (not only Customs) joined the workshop. It focused on how a country to realize data harmonization while moving from paper-based trade to paperless trade.

ASEM DG Meeting

Hua Hin 10-12 Oct 2011

On 10-12 October 2011, ASEM DG meeting was held at Dusit Thani Hua Hin Hotel and DGs and Commissioners from the Asia and Europe participated in the meeting, including newly designated DGs of Brunei Darussalam and the Union of Myanmar. From the WCO, Mr. Sergio Mujika, Deputy Secretary General of the WCO and Mr. Ray McDonagh, Head of Administration participated in the meeting. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka represented ROCB A/P in the meeting.

Agenda of the meeting covered wide range of topics, including intercessional development of ASEM, ASEM Working Group updates, prioritization of ASEM work, and the improvement of ASEM visibility. As for ASEM Working Group meeting, presentations were made on AEO Gap and Needs Analysis; ASEM Customs-Trade Day to improve business partnership; Combating infringement of IPR; and Members' efforts on protecting society and environment.

Mr. Mujika, WCO Deputy Secretary General, made presentation on the update of WCO activities, covering topics on Trade Facilitation; Globally Networked Customs; Society Protection; Revenue Package; Capacity building; Customs-Business Partnership and Governance.

At the end, the Hua Hin Declaration was adopted in the meeting.

ROCB EUR Opening Ceremony and Conference on Illicit Trafficking on Narcotics

Azerbaijan 17-18 Oct 2011

On 17-18 October 2011, the International Conference on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The conference was organized by Azerbaijan Customs in conjunction with the Opening ceremony of ROCB EUR there.

The conference and the opening ceremony was attended by the Secretary General of the WCO, DGs and Commissioners of the Customs administrations of the WCO Europe region as well as representatives of RILOs and ROCB. The representative of UNODC and other European institutions relating to drug trafficking were also present.

The conference focused on the development of illicit drug trafficking, the importance of improving the inter-agencies exchange of information and intelligence and strengthening the national, regional and international cooperation while touching many times on capacity building.

All participants to the conference were invited to participate in the opening ceremony of ROCB EUR and it is expected that ROCB EUR will contribute a lot for enhancing the regional cooperation on capacity building.



ROCB EUR Building

The 5th WCO Counterfeiting and Piracy (CAP) Group Meeting

Brussels 25-26 Oct 2011

At the invitation from the WCO Secretariat to the 5th WCO CAP Meeting held in Brussels, Belgium, on 25-26 October 2011, Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P attended the meeting. The meeting was divided into two sessions. The first day is allocated to Customs administrations and regional entities such as ROCB and RILO as a closed session. The second day is open for private sector as a joint session and Right Holders Consultative Group (RHCG) were attended in addition to the participants of the first day.

Mr. Katsu made a presentation on “Lessons Learned from Capacity Building Activities from the Regional Perspective”. He first introduced ROCB A/P very briefly and then explained regional Capacity Building experience on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) related events. He mentioned that there were two ways of approaches in national and regional in Asian Pacific region in the form of seminars and workshop. Finally, he touched upon some lessons learned from these events and the way forward of continuing two ways approaches. The presentation was well received by the participants.

As the 2nd joint session of WCO CAP Group and RHCG was held on 26 October 2011, a number of presentations were made from Customs administrations and RHCG. In particular, use of IPM (Interface Public-Members) was highlighted from both Member’s and Right Holder’s perspectives. In addition, experiences and initiatives on IPR surrounding issues were shared and well received.

Trans Pacific Symposium on Combating Corruption and Illicit Trade

Phuket 27-29 Oct 2011

The Trans-Pacific Workshop on Combatting Corruption and Illicit trade was held in Phuket, Thailand from 27-29 October 2011. It is the follow-up of the inaugural Transpacific Symposium in Hawaii in 2009 and New Zealand in 2010. It was attended by more than 125 law enforcement and other governmental officials from 30 Asia-Pacific economies and representatives of regional and international organizations including Mr. Lee, SangHyup from ROCB A/P.

The workshop highlighted the importance of inter-regional partnerships to combat corruption and illicit trade, sharing of information and best practices. It focused on the urgency of targeting web of crime and corruption across borders. It was agreed that Customs are key organizations involved in fighting these operations: narcotics trafficking; falsified/counterfeit medicines; environmental crimes such as illegal logging and associated trade and trafficking in wildlife; and corruption and money laundering that facilitate illegal trade.

Participants agreed that enhanced coordination and communication among governments, international agencies, and non-governmental organizations (including private sector) were indispensable for effectively disrupting criminal networks and achieving greater operational results. Consensus was also reached that depriving the networks of their profits and funding is one of the most effective ways to deter them.

A/P Regional Contact Point (RCP) Meeting

Brisbane 9-11 Nov 2011

On 8-11 November 2011, Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meeting as well as Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meeting were held in Brisbane, Australia. The ROCB A/P was represented by Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, the Head of ROCB A/P.

In the Meeting, Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka from ROCB A/P made presentations on the outline of capacity building activities and future direction and progress made under RSP Focus Area III and introduced the document on the framework to pool, utilise, support and increase accredited experts in the region. Many member administrations expressed their appreciation to the work done by the ROCB

The GMS Customs Seminar on Trade Facilitation

China 8-10 Nov 2011

GMS Customs Seminar on Trade Facilitation (APTFF) was held in Kunming during November 9 to 10, 2011. It was sponsored by China Customs as series capacity building activities under the cooperation framework between China and GMS countries. 2 Customs officers from each GMS countries participated in the meeting. In addition, officials from Chinese authorities of commerce of both Yunnan and Guangxi provinces were also invited to join. Mr. Zhang Shujie from ROCB AP, along with Customs attaches' of Australia and Belgium who are based in Beijing attended the seminar as resource persons.

In the seminar, Mr. Zhang introduced the WCO standards, and tools regarding trade security and facilitation. RKC, SAFE and TRS and etc. are highlighted. Regional priorities and relevant activities are also elaborated. Representatives of Australia and Belgium introduced their practices and experiences in trade facilitation implementation, and possible barriers and challenges are also mentioned. The contents were well received by the participants.

As the most important session, each country was invited to give a short presentation on the ongoing trade facilitation measures. Opportunities for cooperation are also discussed.

Regional Workshop on Intelligence Management

Malaysia 14-18 Nov 2011

The WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Intelligence Management was held at the AKMAL, Melaka, Malaysia on 14-18 November 2011. This workshop was facilitated by Mr. Oguz Onal from the WCO, Mr. Kelvin WONG from ROCB A/P and the intelligence experts from Japan Customs and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. In total, 27 participants from 20 member and counterpart administrations in the Asia Pacific region attended the workshop. This workshop was also a successful example for pooling the expertise in A/P region to deliver the regional capacity building activities.

Upon the completion of this workshop, the participants enhanced their knowledge and skills on intelligence management with better understanding on the relevant WCO tools, including the IPM Model, the WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium, Global Information and Intelligence Strategy, Commercial Frauds Manual, Mutual Administrative Assistance, etc; an overview on intelligence management; the national good practices shared by other Administrations.

The participants found the workshop useful and well-structured and welcomed other workshops for intelligence management to be organized by ROCB A/P in future.



National AEO Seminar

Indonesia 23-25 Nov 2011

ROCB A/P together with Indonesia Customs organized the WCO national seminar on AEO at Bandung, Indonesia on 23-25 November 2011. This seminar was a part of the continuous work of the WCO and ROCB A/P to support member countries in the area of AEO. The WCO/ROCB experts as well as experts from Japan, Korea and the Netherlands contributed to this seminar by sharing their valuable experiences on the AEO program development and implementation.



As a result of 3-day seminar in Bandung and through the active discussion and exchange of views among experts and participants, participants from Indonesia Customs significantly improved their understanding on the WCO SAFE FOS and the AEO programs of Japan, Korea and the Netherlands.

Indonesia Customs is going to move forward for establishing its AEO program by further studying AEO programs, such as cost and benefits, and by talking to other stakeholders including business sector. The WCO and ROCB A/P together with Japan, Korea and the Netherlands will continue their collaborative work to assist Indonesia Customs for the successful implementation of AEO program.

World Customs and Trade Forum

Guangzhou 24-25 Nov 2011

The World Customs Organization (WCO), in cooperation with China Customs and partnership with Conference of Asia Pacific Express Carriers (CAPEC), organized the World Customs & Trade Forum 2011 at Chime Long Hotel, Guangzhou, China on 24-25 November, 2011. The Forum attracted around 500 participants key thought leaders from around the world, including policymakers from Customs administrations and multilateral organizations, leading representatives of major trade and industry advocacy groups, recognized experts in global trade, supply chain security and trade law, as well as stakeholders from the logistics industry and other governmental agencies. On behalf of ROCB A/P, Mr. Zhang Shujie attended the Forum to keep update of major discussions.

The theme of this forum was “Knowledge: a Catalyst for Customs Excellence”, which highlighted 2011 being the WCO Year of Knowledge. The major issues for discussion included Customs in the 21st Century, Professional Knowledge Based Service Culture, Intelligence Driven Risk Management, End to End Supply Chains: Public-Private Partnership in Operation, The Role of Information and Data in Knowledge Management, Customs-Trade Partnership and Technology, especially ICT.

A majority of Customs administrations Asia Pacific region have their delegates at presence. China, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore were invited to share their experience on respective areas.

UNDP GTI Trade Facilitation Committee Seminar

Beijing 24 Nov 2011

The Seminar and Inaugural Meeting of the Trade Facilitation Committee was held in Beijing, China, on 24 November 2011. It is one of the cooperation projects of the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) which is the intergovernmental cooperation mechanism supported by the UNDP with four member countries of China, Mongolia, Korea and Russia. Mr. Lee, SangHyup from ROCB A/P attended the workshop at the invitation of the Organizers. The seminar was attended by 38 participants from four member countries and International organizations such as WCO ROCB, ADB, GIZ (Sino-German Economic program), UNESCAP, UNAPCAEM.

In the seminar, Mr. Lee made presentation on Capacity Building of Trade Facilitation based on ROCB A/P 's experience. In response to the participants' concern, he also introduced the ROCB A/P 's experience in Cambodia Customs organizing national donor meeting. Other speakers also emphasized the importance of trade facilitation based on World Bank's Doing Business Index and shared their experience of CAREC and GMS.

During the inaugural meeting of the GTI Trade Facilitation Committee, the Terms of reference (TOR) was amended and several project proposals were endorsed. The approved projects include capacity building programs of its government official and CB research projects. The committee also selected its first chairperson for one year

RILO CP Meeting and Closing Ceremony**Beijing 5-7 Dec 2011**

The 23rd RILO National Contact Point meeting was held in Beijing International Hotel in Beijing, China from 5-7 December, 2011. A number of important topics for the activities were presented by the representatives of RILO A/P and Members and Observers for sharing their experience. For this purpose, there were several sessions including Activities Reports, Joint Operations, Capacity Building, CEN, Drug Trafficking Situation, Commercial Fraud, IPR and Environmental Crimes. The meeting also took note of the RILO A/P Work Plan for 2012.

Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, as a representative from ROCB A/P presented in the session of Capacity Building, explained the outline of ROCB A/P, Capacity Building Activities in the AP Region and way forward. He emphasized the cooperation among RILO A/P and Vice-Chair Office as well as Members for better capacity building. His presentation was well received by the participants of the meeting.

After the meeting, the participants had opportunities to visit Beijing International Airport and Beijing Drug Detector Dog Training Center of GACC.

Official Closing Ceremony of RILO A/P was conducted on 8 December 2011 in the International Beijing Hotel. All of the Heads of RILO A/P from China Customs in the past 8 years were present.

The representatives from Korea Customs Service as a next host administration of RILO A/P, Hong Kong China Customs as a representative of the Members and Mr. Giorgio SINCOVICH, Technical Attaché Compliance and Facilitation Directorate as a representative from the WCO Secretariat were invited to make respective speeches.

Opening ceremony RILO A/P in Seoul Korea will be organized early next year.

Regional AEO Expert Accreditation Workshop**Korea 5-9 Dec 2011**

The WCO A/P Regional AEO Accreditation Workshop was held at the Korea Customs Border Control Training Center in Cheonan, under the funding of CCF/Korea on 5-9 December 2011,

This workshop aimed to nurture more WCO AEO accredited experts to meet the increasing demand and attention paid to AEO which is the policy of WCO SAFE FoS relating to trade security and facilitation. It is a timely workshop because the numbers of capacity building requests from developing countries are increasing, while the WCO have only limited regional experts.

10 AEO experts from 5 countries participated to the workshop. Mr. Simon Royals and Ms Asha Menon, WCO Technical Officers, and Mr. Min Han, CCF/Korea Fund Manager facilitated the workshop.

Before the workshop, the WCO pre-selected ten applicants to participate the workshop and at the workshop five candidates were given A rank and the rest five were given B evaluation. The selected AEO experts in this workshop will finally be accredited after the WCO's on-site performance evaluation of their mission capabilities.

The accredited AEO Technical and Operational Advisors will be expected to contribute to the global application of WCO AEO programs by supporting AEO related missions and providing AEO consulting for countries needing technical assistance in implementing AEO program.



The ADB/WCO Time Release Study Planning Workshop for ASEAN Member Countries

Manila 19-20 Dec 2011

The WCO, ROCB AP and ADB co-hosted this workshop at ADB Office in Manila, the Philippines on 19-20 December 2011. This workshop was facilitated by experts from the WCO, ADB, Japan Customs and ROCB AP. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka and Mr. Zhang Shujie from ROCB AP rendered their professional support by sharing their knowledge and experiences in Time Release Study (TRS) and moderating certain program sessions. 23 participants from the various Customs administrations of the Countries in the ASEAN region attended the workshop.

The objectives of the workshop are to disseminate information on the revised WCO TRS Guidelines and share experience among participants so as to facilitate Members' implementation of the TRS and prepare the TRS by countries in the ASEAN region.

In the workshop, the participants have enhanced their knowledge on TRS implementation, in particular the WCO TRS software and updated guide and formulation of the TRS survey. Participants have also attained better understanding about the TRS implementation through experience sharing and discussion.

