

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

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Foreword



Dear Readers,

In Thailand, April is the month of Songkran Festival, the traditional New Year's Day, and amid of the hottest season of the year. These days, I happily appreciate a number of trees alongside the street blooming and it seems to me that they are waiting for the world's biggest water splashes during the Festival. The ROCB A/P trees, which were planted in commemoration of the ROCB A/P's 10th anniversary, are also growing and sprouting several young leaves thanks to the continuous good care provided by the Thai Customs Department.

According to a knowledge source, the term "Songkran" is originated from a Sanskrit "Sankrandhi" meaning change or transition. Along with the change of the traditional year in Thailand, there were staff changes in the Office. Mr. WONG Kai-wah, James, from Hong Kong Customs, completed his 2-year term and returned to his home administration on 18 March 2015. Mr. LEE Seung Kyoo, from Korea Customs Service (KCS), completed his extended secondment term of 1 year and 10 months and returned to home administration on 29 March

2015. They were both great and hardworking colleagues, and they are very close friends of the Customs colleagues in this region. I would like to extend my profound appreciation for their invaluable dedication to the region's capacity building activities and also pay my sincerest respect for their numerous accomplishments during their respective tenures. To succeed Mr. James WONG, Ms. WONG Siu-yin, Alpha, came to Bangkok in the middle of March and officially succeeded him on 18 March for a 2-year term. Although it has not been confirmed yet as of today, we anticipate continued human resource support from the KCS to the ROCB A/P. I do hope that the ROCB A/P may benefit from this inevitable personnel changes and make another histories based on the existing good practices, which their predecessors have accumulated over the years.

This E-Newsletter features the ROCB A/P's activities in the 1st quarter of 2015. As you may be aware, the theme of the WCO for 2015 is "Coordinated Border Management (CBM) - An inclusive approach for connecting stakeholders". Naturally, the foundation of the CBM is not only among the government agencies, but also entails collaboration with the trade and the relevant businesses in various aspects, including trade facilitation and border security among other things. In this respect, it may worth mentioning a big success of the Regional Workshop on Strategic Initiatives for trade Facilitation – Mercator Program -, which was held in mid-March in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the participation of more than 100 representatives from Customs and other government agencies as well as business associations and relevant Development Partner organizations. This Regional Workshop was the World's first one of this kind under the WCO's Mercator Program. There were a rounds of dialogue and collaboration with hosting Customs administration, i.e. Indonesia Customs, and our Development Partners, in particular the Asian Development Bank who has generously financed pertinent travel expenses for those representatives from other government agencies in the region. Indeed, the Workshop itself provided an opportune platform for

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stakeholders for the implementation of the WTO Trade facilitation Agreement placing the Customs at the center place. The ROCB A/P is going to make its utmost effort to further enhance existing close collaboration with our DPs and relevant stakeholders. As usual, I would like to call for the Readers' candid feedback and inputs to this E-Newsletter as well as activities undertaken by the ROCB A/P over the last 3 months, and even those done prior to this featured period, so that our work may be relevant to the regional Members' needs and better serve to cooperate the regional Member administrations for the sake of facilitating legitimate trade and securing cross-border supply chain.

Yours sincerely,



Kazunari Igarashi
Head of the ROCB A/P



WCO A/P Regional Workshop on SAFE Framework of Standards and Authorized Economic Operator

World Customs Organization Regional Workshop on SAFE Framework of Standards(SAFE) and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) 5th-9th January, 2015 New Delhi, India



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CUSTOMS, EXCISE & NARCOTICS FARIDABAD

5-9 January 2015, New Delhi, India

The ROCB A/P's capacity building activities in 2015 was started with the Regional Workshop on SAFE Framework of Standards (SAFE FoS) and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO), which was held from 5th-9th January 2015 in New Delhi, India. The workshop was hosted by the Indian Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and its National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) and funded by the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea). A total of 43 participants from 24 Members in the A/P region (including host administration), the WCO Secretariat and the ROCB A/P attended the workshop. The Workshop was led by WCO Technical Officer, Mr. Pashupati Nath Pandey, and two Accredited Customs Experts (ACEs) from the Korea Customs Service (KCS) and the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Kaushal Srivastava, Chairperson of the CBEC. The chairperson welcomed all participants and formally inaugurated the workshop.

As part of the general introduction of the Workshop, Mr. S. K. Lee, CCF/Korea Operation Manager at the ROCB A/P, introduced the ROCB A/P's capacity building activities, including four pillars of ROCB A/P's activities and its efforts in assisting the Member administrations to implement AEO programs in particular. Mr. Pandey presented an overview of the SAFE FoS and the AEO program and briefed current developments on the SAFE FoS. Mr. Chul Hun Lee, the ACE from the KCS, demonstrated the AEO requirements and Mr. Weijian Shao, the ACE from the GACC, made a presentation on the AEO's benefits to both parties i.e. the AEO and the Customs.

Participants from China, India, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand shared their AEO best practices, challenges and solutions (do's and don'ts) learned through their experiences in implementing the AEO programs. Participants from the Member administration, which are at the stage of the introduction of AEO programs, namely Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, shared their current status of implementation of their national AEO/Trusted Trader programs as well.

Participants from Customs administrations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa and Vanuatu shared their plans towards trade facilitation, modernization, reform and feasibility of the introduction of AEO programs or their AEO implementation road maps.



Participants also discussed issues related to mutual recognition of the respective AEO programs under the facilitation of the ACE from KCS. Participants heard a presentation on Customs - Business partnership and introduced the different security programs as well.



In the course of the Workshop, participants had a chance to visit the premises of an AEO company and studied the practical aspects of how the AEO has put in necessary security and compliance mechanism in place.

At the end of the Workshop, participants discussed and compiled own recommendations on the way forward for their respective administrations with a view to implementing AEO program and Customs-Business Partnership and broaden/deepen existing programs.

The WCO-UNESCAP UNNEXTMASTERCLASS 2015: The Single Window in the Context of the WTO TFA



12-21 January 2015, Cheonan, Korea

The ROCB A/P organized the 2ND WCO-UNESCAP UNNEXTMASTERCLASS: The Single Window in the Context of the WTO TFA from 12 January through 21 January 2015 at the Regional Training Center (Customs Border Control Training Center (CBCTC) in Cheon-an, Korea. The Workshop was hosted by the Korea Customs Service (KCS) and funded by the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea).

A total of 38 participants from 24 Members in the A/P region (including the host administration), the WCO Secretariat, the ROCB A/P and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) attended the workshop. This 10-day Workshop aimed to provide Member administrations who are in the early stages of examining the WTO TFA commitments and Single Window implementation with the necessary knowledge to begin their Customs modernization journey.

The program was devised based on the WCO's Economic

Competitiveness Package (ECP) and the UNNExT Single Window Implementation Toolkit. Facilitators introduced the instruments and tools developed by the WCO and other international organizations, such as Single Window Compendium, Data Model and Business Process Analysis (BPA) etc. Experts from various field touched upon the legal issues and trade formsrelated to Single Window implementation.

The Workshop was led by Mr. Donald Tan (WCO), Mr. Sangwon Lim (UNESCAP) and Dr. Somnuk Keretho (Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand). As part of the general introduction of the Workshop, Mr. S. K. Lee, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, introduced the ROCB A/P's main activities, including the promotion of Single Window System and Mr. Sangwon Lim gave an overview of the second Masterclass.

Mr. Yann Duval (UNESCAP) explained the definition of Trade Facilitation, current situation of trade costs in developing regions, key factors in lowering trade costs and paperless trading. Several operators of national Single Window facilities from Singapore, Indonesia, Mauritius and Senegal were

Participants from Korea, Iran, India, Indonesia and Thailand shared their Single Window implementation experiences such as success factors, lessons learned and challenges. Participants from other Member administrations introduced the current status of agency in implementing a Single Window Environment. At the end of the Workshop, participants were divided into 4 groups to develop a plan for implementing a Single Window System and each group presented the result of their discussion.

In the course of the Workshop, participants had opportunities to visit the Customs Field Training Complex at the CBCTC to practice the KCS Single Window System (UNIPASS) and the Busan Main Customs in Busan city to have a hands-on experience of the UNIPASS.



WCO A/P regional Accreditation Workshop for IPR Technical Operational Advisers



19-23 January 2015, Kashiwa, Japan

As part of the current WCO Capacity Building Strategy, and to be responsive to the needs of the A/P region, the Regional Accreditation Workshop for the Technical and Operational Advisers in Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy was organized from 19th to 23rd January 2015 at the WCO Regional Training Center in Japan, under the Japanese Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan). Ten candidates from eight Member administrations participated in the Workshop, with six being in the category of Legal Advisor and four in Operational Advisor. During the 5-day long Workshop, participants demonstrated their knowledge and skills on IPR in such programs as role-plays, presentation sessions, case-study with scenario and discussion sessions. Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkoson, Program

Coordinator of the ROCB A/P made a presentation on the framework of effective use of regional Expertise in the A/P region. The participants who have successfully completed this Workshop phase will be invited to the next step; namely in-field missions for full accreditation.



WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Intelligence Management



10 - 13 February 2015, Hong Kong, China

The Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), in cooperation with the WCO and Hong Kong Customs, organized the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Intelligence Management in the Regional Training Center in Hong Kong, China from 10 to 13 February 2015 under the sponsorship of Customs Cooperation Fund/Japan.

A total of 37 participants from 27 countries took part in the Workshop which was led by experts in Risk Management and Intelligence Management from the WCO, Japan Customs and Sri Lanka Customs. Through the Workshop and its syndicate group assignments, participants shared knowledge and good practices on how to tackle and manage risks. They were also introduced to methodologies and techniques which can be used to produce intelligence. Such invaluable know-how is included in the WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium. The Workshop was very successful. Participants were actively

involved in the workshop and gained a deeper understanding of the fact that risk management was a key to the overall reconciliation of the requirements of enforcement, security and facilitation. Intelligence, in turn, is a key component of risk management. It is primarily by Customs decision-makers at all levels to support their decision-making, including at the strategic, tactical or operational levels.

Finally, all participants indicated that they would pass what they had learned onto their home Customs administrations. They all appreciated the hard work and contributions made by WCO, ROCB A/P and Hong Kong Customs.



ROCBs/RTCs/Vice Chairs Meeting held in Brussels



19-20 February 2015, Brussels, Belgium

The 10thROCBs/RTCs/Vice Chairs Meeting was held on 19-20 February 2015 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels. The ROCB A/P attended the Meeting and actively participated in the deliberation. The Meeting discussed a series of important topics, such as: the overall WCO strategy and supporting mechanism to maintain and enhance expertise of accredited experts; the Center of Excellence function of the RTCs; effective technical assistance needs assessment; and the regional training evaluation proposals. In the course of the Meeting, there was informal meetings for each region, where the ROCB A/P and RTCs discussed possible ways to have the RTCs' active involvement in the delivery of the regional capacity building program delivery and other relevant issues.

On this occasion, the ROCB A/P staff members paid a courtesy visit to the WCO Secretary General, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, to express their appreciation to the Secretariat's unsparing support and the Regional Development Manager's close

communication and guidance. Dr. Mikuriya commended the ROCB A/P's undertakings in coordinating the capacity building activities in the region. He also complimented staff members that are leaving soon, namely Mr. James WONG and Seung Kyoo LEE, for their dedication and contribution to the regional Capacity building activities during their tenure at the ROCB A/P.



The ROCB A/P Attends the 6th WCO Capacity Building Committee Meeting



23-25 February 2015, Brussels, Belgium

The 6th WCO Capacity Building Committee Meeting was held on 23-25 February 2015 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels and discussed a range of strategic topics and examined a series of guidelines, programs and tools on issues such as supporting people and donor engagement. The Head and Project Managers of the ROCB A/P attended the Meeting and advocated the A/P region's good practices, including the case

study of Bhutan and Papua New Guinea as featured in the WCO Capacity Building Report. In the course of the Meeting, the ROCB A/P representatives actively communicated and exchanged views with the WCO Secretariat and a number of delegates on the way to further increase the effective delivery and management of capacity building activities in the A/P region.

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Strategic Initiatives for Trade Facilitation - Mercator Program-



16-18 March 2015, Jakarta, Indonesia

WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Indonesian Customs, organized the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Strategic Initiatives for Trade Facilitation – Mercator Program from 16 March through 18 March 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The workshop was co-sponsored by Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan) and the ADB.



The Workshop was attended by nearly 100 participants from the WCO regional Member administrations, partner organizations and business associations. This Workshop was the first Regional Workshop of its kind under the auspices of the WCO for calling across the board collaboration to effective and early implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended this Regional Workshop as the coordinator and a resource person. The Workshop was opened with a series of remarks and key note addresses by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya (WCO Secretary General), Mr. Agung Kuswandono (Indonesian Customs DG), Mr.

Hideharu Tanaka (Japan Customs), Mr. James Lynch (ADB) and Dr. Faustin Luanga (WTO).

Each day of the Workshop was dedicated by a specific theme, namely (i) DAY 1; an overview of the Implementation of the TFA, (ii) DAY 2; on the Capacity Building Program, and (iii) DAY 3; on the cooperation with other Government Agencies. This included participants in the Workshop exchanging their ideas and initiatives in order to facilitate legitimate trade through concerted approaches initiated by the respective National Trade Facilitation Committees.

This Workshop provided a timely and opportune platform to gain further momentum for solidifying collaborative efforts among the relevant parties at national and regional levels.

The presentations delivered during this Workshop are made available for free downloading from the top page of the ROCB A/P's website until the end of April 2015.



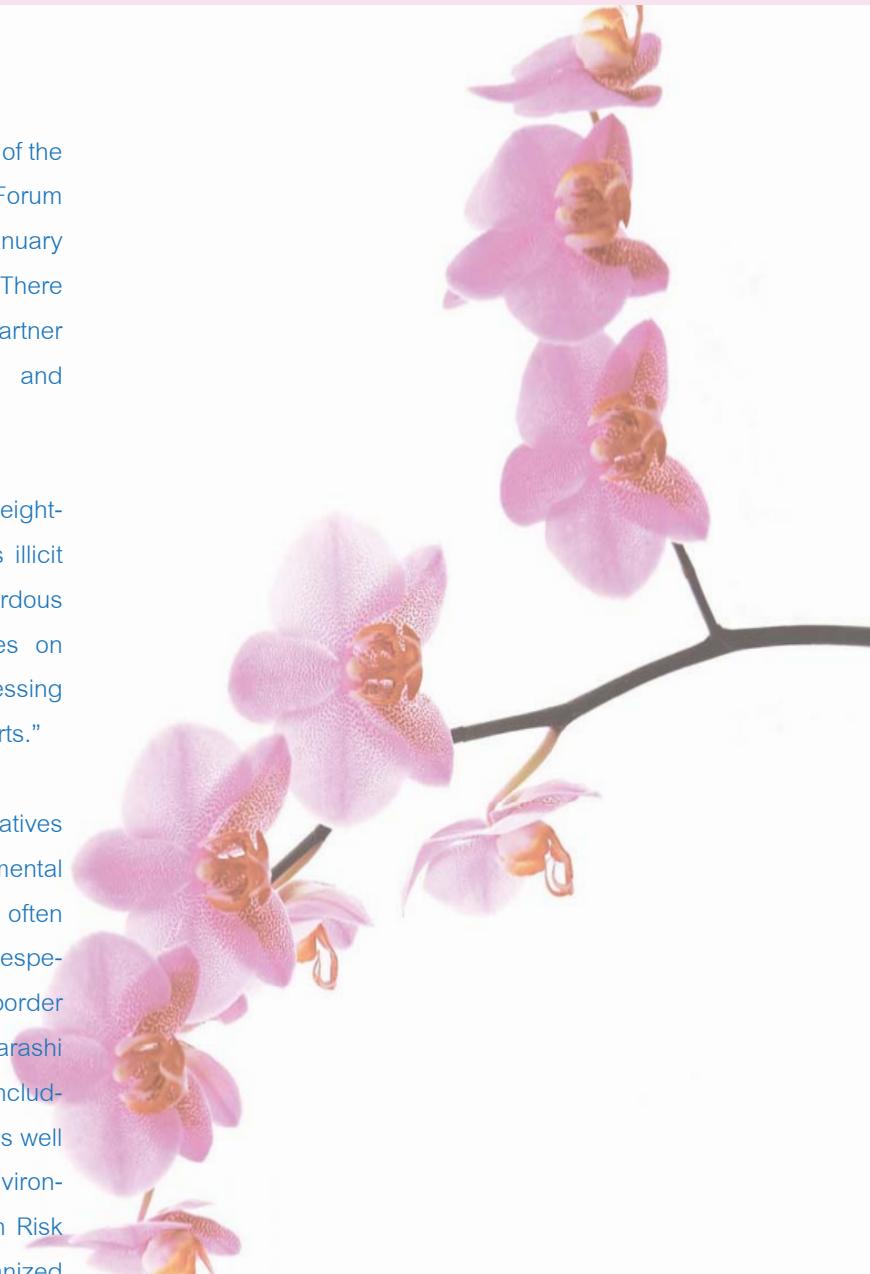
ROCB A/P joined partners to discuss Customs capacity building to contend with environmental crime

15 January 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the UNEP, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 16th Meeting of Asia Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime (ARPEC) on 15 January 2015 at the UN Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand. There were 26 representatives at the meeting from the UNEP's partner organizations and entities, including UNODC, WWF and Freeland foundation.

ARPEC was launched 9 years ago in the wake of the heightened political interest in environmental crimes, such as illicit trafficking in wildlife, ozone depleting substances, hazardous wastes, and each meeting discusses specific themes on environmental crimes. This meeting's theme was "addressing environmental crime applying anti-money laundering efforts."

A session was dedicated to information sharing on the initiatives taken by partner organizations/entities in tackling environmental crimes. Throughout the meeting, Customs role was often referred which reflects the nature of environmental crime, especially exploitation of wildlife, which often involves cross-border movement of commodities (wildlife, ODS, etc.). Mr. Igarashi briefed the group on the WCO's environment programs, including the Green Customs Initiatives and the ENVIRONET, as well as planned regional training sessions in countering environmental crime, such as the WCO Regional Workshop on Risk Management against Environmental Crime to be co-organized with the UNEP in April 2015 in Malaysia. He also called for participants continued support for Customs capacity building to complement the strengths of respective partners in this regard.



ROCB A/P witnesses the signing ceremony of the Container Control Program for Thailand

19 January 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

On 19 January 2015, at the invitation of the UNODC, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the signing ceremony of WCO-UNODC Container Control Program (CCP) for Thailand at the Thai Customs Department (TCD) as an observer. The Ceremony was attended by Executive officials from the TCD and representatives of the UNODC, as well as the Canadian Embassy, who is the donor for this project in Thailand. After remarks from the TCD, the UNODC and the Canadian Embassy, Mr. Paisal Chuenjit, Deputy Director General of the TCD, and Mr. Jeremy Douglas, Regional Representative of the UNODC, signed the Memorandum. This signing is the first for the program in the Southeast Asia region, where the volume of the container trafficking is growing strongly. It is strongly hoped that the implementation of the CCP at Laem Chabang Port, the largest seaport in Thailand, leads to furthering coordinated border management for enhanced control as well as trade facilitation through joint targeting by relevant enforcement agencies, including Customs.

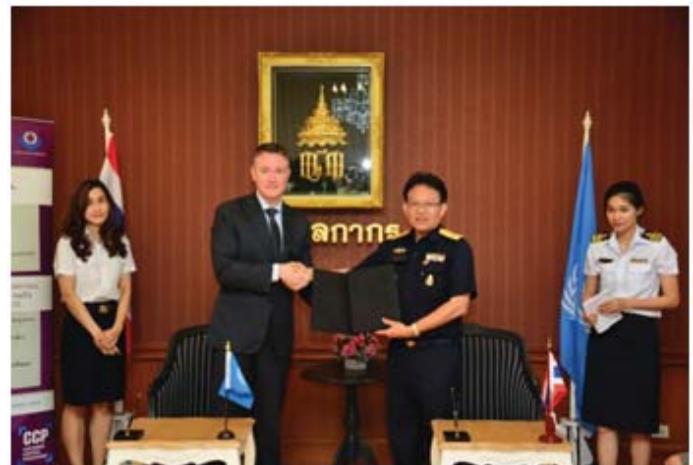
For further information, please also refer to the following articles on the homepages of the TCD, the UNODC and the ROCB A/P:

<http://www.customs.go.th/wps/wcm/jsp/home/index.jsp>

<http://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/2015/01/wco-ccp/story.html>

<http://www.rocb-ap.org/article-detail/64/?crmid=p-k19ebh270ajarfndkbtc1r4c1>

<http://www.rocb-ap.org/article-detail/79/?crmid=kc-j5f51vaq5hackln45ssksph3>



ROCB A/P Collaborates with Cambodia Customs for the Next Phase of Reform and Modernization



26 January 2015, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) of Cambodia organized the 4th Development Partners Meeting on 26 January 2015 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Primary objectives of the Meeting was to share the implementation result of the GDCE's 5-year Reform and Modernization Plan (2009-2013) and the overview of the next 5-year Reform and Modernization Plan (2014-2018) with the GDCE's Development Partners. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P attended the Meeting along with other representatives of World Bank, JICA, ADB, European Commission, UNESCAP and USAID.

The Meeting was opened with the welcome remarks by Dr. Kun Nhem, Director General of the GDCE, followed by the Remarks by a representative of JICA Cambodia and Vice Minister of the Minister of Economy and Finance. Given that the Meeting coincided with the International Customs Day, there was a Special Session of presenting the WCO Certificates to GDCE officials and private sector representatives who made exceptional contribution to the GDCE's initiatives on reform and modernization.

Mr. Nuon Chanrith, Deputy Director General of GDCE, made a

presentation on the implementation of their Strategy and Work Program on Customs Reform and Modernization (2009-2013), which consisted of a series of actions under the 8-pillar objectives. Mr. Chanrith also briefed the summary of the technical assistance provided by the Development Partners to the GDCE during 2009-2013. Then, Dr. Kun Nhem, Director General of the GDCE, made a presentation on the GDCE's new Reform and Modernization for 2014-2018, which consist of (i) GDCE's Vision and mission statements; (ii) GDCE's core value and guiding principles; (iii) 6 strategic objectives; and (iv) specific initiatives. Dr. Nhem made a presentation on their technical assistance needs to implement the new plan. After the GDCE's presentations, Development Partners were invited to make presentations on their support and future assistance for GDCE. Mr. Igarashi made a presentation highlighting the GDCE's participation in the Regional Capacity Building programs as well as the growth of Cambodia's import and export values, which could be more robust through implementation of the international Customs standards, such as the Revised Kyoto Convention, among other things. The Meeting also discussed way forward towards better coordination of the technical cooperation provided by the Development Partners in the course of pushing forward the new Reform and Modernization Plan for 2014-2018.

ROCB A/P Attends the TRAFFIC Consultative Workshop

29-30 January 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Upon the invitation of the TRAFFIC, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and Mr. Jing CHENG, Technical Attaché of the ROCB A/P, along with the experts from the WCO and WCO RILO A/P attended the Consultative Workshop which was held from 29 to 30 of January 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The main theme of the Workshop was "Countering Illegal Wildlife Trade: Collaborative Actions along Supply Chains".

The Workshop was convened by the TRAFFIC and the WCO, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Wildlife Trafficking Response, Assessment and Priority Setting (TRAPS) Project. For the first time the Workshop's targeted participants were logistic operators, and was attended by the representatives from leading air and sea carriers, logistic companies, industry associations, Customs, UN organizations and wildlife experts. Being fully aware of the important role of transportation in disseminating and smuggling illicit goods, the primary objective of the workshop was to increase awareness of the role of transportation and logistics industries in the illegal wildlife trade, build a deeper understanding of the risks and weak points along supply chains, and enhance collaboration and leadership to identify effective solutions to prevent illegal wildlife smuggling operations with a view to strengthening healthy supply chains and corporate policies.

Through this workshop, the participants were kept abreast with global trends, routes and challenges of illegal trade in wildlife and gained a deepened understanding on the importance of a comprehensive approach for the wildlife protection. Through the well designed discussions, the participants examined the risk areas throughout the irrelevant businesses and brainstormed the possible ways to address the problems from the logistics, Customs and the NGO perspectives.



ROCB A/P Promotes the AEO Program During the WCO/UNODC CCP Customs Business Workshop in Port Klang, Malaysia

11 February 2015, Port Klang, Malaysia

The ROCB A/P once again contributed to the successful opening of the WCO/UNODC Container Control Program (CCP) Customs-Business Workshop. This time the workshop was held in Port Klang, Malaysia on 11 February 2015, by the UNODC Bangkok Office with the sponsorship of the United States and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

It was the ROCB A/P's third contribution to CCP Customs-Business Workshop in South East Asia region. This National Workshop was organized by the UNODC on the occasion of the national Container Control Program (CCP) implementation in Malaysia for the purpose of promoting the AEO program. The AEO program has been considered as a tool which can realize the supply chain security and trade facilitation simultaneously.

The Workshop was attended by some 40 participants representing importers and exporters, Customs brokers, Freight forwarders and Port Operator based in Port Klang, Malaysia.

Mr. Seung Kyoo Lee, Program Manager for East, Central and West Asia made a presentation on the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade – Pillar 2 (Customs –Business). His presentation was focusing on the practical ways to secure supply chain logistics through the Authorized Economic Operator(AEO) programme. He also emphasized the ROCB A/P's activities for the promotion of the AEO program in Asia Pacific Region such as the Regional Workshop for the WCO Regional Workshop on the SAFE Framework of Standards (SAFE) and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) which was held in New Delhi India from 5-9 January 2015.



ROCB A/P Continues to Collaborate with the ADB on Customs Capacity Building for the South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Countries



11-12 March 2015, Goa, India

Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, Program Manager for South Asia of the ROCB A/P, participated in the ADB SASEC 3rd Customs Subgroup Meeting held on 11-12 March 2015 in Goa, India. The meeting was hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and attended by Director Generals and senior executive officials from Customs administrations of the SASEC countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka).

The delegates discussed a series of strategic topics, including;

- (i) a Work Plan for 2014-2016 for the Customs-related strategic thrusts of the SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework;
- (ii) national and sub-regional capacity building programs for Customs;
- (iii) a proposed study on electronic exchange of trade-related documents between SASEC countries.

Mr. Miyoshi made a presentation on WCO's capacity building programs and the way to further strengthen the existing partnership with the ADB to assist the SASEC countries and efforts in reform and modernization.

The meeting was preceded by a learning event on the Customs Compliance Programs, in which Ms. Harumi Chikada, Regional Development Manager for Asia and the Pacific Capacity Building Directorate of the WCO Secretariat, made a presentation on the principles of the Authorized Economic Operators' program and other compliance-related programs.



ROCB A/P Joins Development Partners to Discuss Collaboration in Transport and Trade Facilitation Assistance for Greater Mekong Sub-Region



12-13 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the 2nd Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) Transport and Trade Facilitation (TTF) Development Partners Meeting held on 12 and 13 March 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was co-hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Australian Government. In attendance were representatives from Development Partners, including ADB, Australian Embassy, World Bank, ASEAN Secretariat, UNESCAP, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the United States and the European Union. Delegates exchanged information on the progress of the respective Development Partners' support for TTF development in the GMS as well as monitoring and evaluation tools

used for respective TTF support. Delegates also discussed a GMD TTF partnership Program for 2015-2016 looking at exploring areas of collaboration to ensure effective development support.

Strategic Discussion on Trade facilitation among the ASEAN Member States and Development Partners



19 March 2015, Jakarta, Indonesia

At the invitation of the ADB, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, along with Mr. Toshihiko Osawa, Technical Officer of the WCO, participated in the “ADB-ASEAN Workshop on Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Context of the ASEAN Economic Community”, held on 19 March 2015 in Jakarta. This meeting followed the WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Initiatives for Trade Facilitation held on 16-18 March 2015 also in Jakarta. Approximately 60 representatives from the relevant Ministries of the ASEAN Member States and Development Partners (i.e. ADB, ASEAN, Australia, the United States, Japan, WCO, UNESCAP, European Union, and World Bank) attended.

The overall objective of this Workshop was to maximize the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) implementation discussion among ASEAN Members States, including the sharing of information on their respective trade facilitation efforts both at national and regional contexts.

The Workshop focused on two topics, namely; (i) TFA implementation under the ASEAN Economic Community, and (ii) the roles of the Development Partners in supporting pertinent initiatives in ASEAN.

After discussion among the participants on the roles of the Development Partners and an exchange of experiences, it was summed up that: (a) implementation of TFA is a big challenge and requires political will as an imperative; (b) a need for national strategy on trade facilitation, including the assistance for business, especially small and medium-sized enterprises; (c) a need for an effective monitoring mechanism; and (d) a need for capacity building on human resources, through train-the-trainers to transfer knowledge.





31 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation by the UNESCAP, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi and Ms. Alpha Wong of the ROCP A/P participated and contributed to the Capacity Building Workshop on Cross-Border Paperless Trade Facilitation: Challenges and Issues for Enabling Environment, which was held on 31 March 2015 at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand. Some 45 government representatives, including some Customs officials, from 24 Member States of the UNESCAP participated in this Workshop.

This Workshop was organized to precede the First Meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation, which was convened on 1 and 2 April 2015. The workshop's purpose was to facilitate the discussion at the Steering Group Meeting by providing snapshots on the key principles for enabling cross-border paperless trade from the perspectives of legal, technical and implementation thereof. The participants discussed pertinent challenges and

the possible way forward at the respective breakout group discussion sessions. Mr. Igarashi participated in the panel discussion at the plenary session on the actions for enabling cross-border paperless trade, along with the chairs of the respective breakout groups. Mr. Igarashi introduced the WCO tools and programs for trade facilitation, such as WCO Single Window Guidelines and WCO Data Model. He also provided a briefing on the continued collaboration with relevant Development Partners, including UNESCAP, towards assistance for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

ROCB A/P Head Visits RTC Hong Kong, China



4 March 2015, Hong Kong, China

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, paid a courtesy visit to the Regional Training Center (RTC) in Hong Kong, China on 4 March 2015 and saw Mr. C K Fan, Head of the RTC Hong Kong China, and his colleagues and exchanged candid views on the way to make regional training programs more effective and result-oriented. In the course of the exchange, Mr. Igarashi expressed his appreciation to the RTC Hong Kong China's contribution to the regional training activities, including their generous hosting of the recent WCO Regional Workshop on Intelligence Management conducted in February 2015, and wished to further strengthen collaboration with the RTC Hong Kong, China.

After an introductory presentation on the RTC Hong Kong, China, Mr. Igarashi was escorted to a tour of the Customs exhibition hall and a range of training facilities, including vessel search module, mock court, house search simulator, and video interview training room. Mr. Fan and Mr. Igarashi discussed the possibility to use these practical training modules for the future regional training programs.

In the wake of the RTC Heads Meeting held in November 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, the RTC Hong Kong, China has kindly provided more detailed information in writing about these special and unique training facilities to share among the regional Member Customs administrations for the reference and later with the other WCO regions as well. The compilation of these written contributions will be published in due course.

ROCB A/P publishes a Good Practice Paper on Coaching and Mentorship

No. 12

ROCB A/P

Good Customs Practice Report on Coaching/Mentorship Program



National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (RTC India)
and
Customs Training Institute (RTC Japan)

March 2015

Given that the sustainable institutional development for Customs administrations relies on the continued strength of human resources, the WCO has discussed Customs Professionalism over the last a couple of years and adopted the WCO Framework on Customs Professionalism at the recent WCO Capacity Building Committee. In parallel with such an initiative, the WCO has launched the Virtual Customs Orientation Academy (VCOA) on a pilot basis to provide supplementary learning opportunities for those selected induction trainees with on-line dialogue with qualified trainers in pertinent Customs work.

Subsequently, at the 12th Meeting of the Heads of the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Training Centers (RTCs), held in November 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, it was suggested and agreed to compile a Good Customs Practice Report on coaching and mentorship with a view to share some of the information practices taken by the RTCs for continued human resource development. The importance of transferring knowledge and expertise of the experienced Customs officials to the next generation cannot be underestimated. Their ways of thinking and insightful observation have sustained good performance for Customs administrations. It is indeed an invaluable asset for the administrations but, at the same time, it is quite difficult to codify for descending down. The value of coaching and mentorship amongst Customs officials at work places, cannot be under estimated as a tool, for sustainable and continued improvement of the Profession.

The ROCB A/P would like to express its profound appreciation to the RTCs of India and Japan for sharing their experiences and lessons learnt in this important human resource development initiative. It is hoped that this Good Customs Practice Report provides the regional Customs administrations with some value in this important and proved good practice.

Should readers are interested in obtaining a copy of this Paper, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

New Zealand Customs Attaché waters the ROCB Trees

16 January 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Brian Lamb, Bangkok-based New Zealand Customs Attaché, visited the ROCB A/P on 16 January 2016 for New Year's greetings and to discuss New Zealand Customs Service's possible contributions to the regional capacity building activities in 2015 with Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P. Mr. Igarashi welcomed and appreciated New Zealand Customs Service's kind consideration and candid exchange in this regard as the current Regional Strategic Plan (RSP 2014-2016) encourages the developed countries contribute to the regional capacity building activities. Mr. Igarashi discussed with Mr. Lamb the WCO regional capacity building events schedule for the latter half of 2014/2015, including the forthcoming Regional Workshop on Intelligence Management to be held in February 2015 in Hong Kong China.

After very productive talks, Mr. Lamb was cordially invited to water the ROCB Trees, which were planted and watered by the ceremony guests, including other Bangkok-based Customs Attachés, on the occasion of the ROCB A/P's 10th anniversary ceremony in November 2014 as symbols of the A/P region's support and commitment to the capacity building activities under the auspices of the WCO. Mr. Lamb was originally invited to join the ceremony but he was not able to attend.



20 January 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Lin Hongliang, Director of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), and Mr. Anucha Soonglertsongpha, Course Director of the APPU, visited the ROCB A/P for the New Year's greeting and renewal of collaboration with Customs in the Asia/Pacific region. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P and other colleagues gave them a warm welcome. On this occasion, Mr. Igarashi gave a brief on the progress of the work undertaken by the WCO and its partner organization, including draft text on the Pre-loading Advance Cargo Information, which is to be incorporated in the SAFE FoS 2015, as the postal operator would be required to submit pertinent data for security screening purpose. He also explained the WCO-ICAO Joint Training Module and draft program for the forth-coming Regional Workshop on Air Cargo Security and Facilitation to be held in the end of April 2015, in which the APPU will be invited to take part as an observer.

SAFE FoS in the A/P region.

Please also see the other articles on "ROCB A/P Visits the Asia-Pacific Postal Union to Discuss Future Collaboration (28 October 2014)" and "Promoting Customs-Post Collaboration in Postal Supply Chain Security (22 October 2014)" under the "Workshops/Meetings."



Mr. Lin and Mr. Igarashi shared the view that Customs and Postal operators needed to deepen mutual understanding on the respective important roles in securing air cargo supply chain and the need for mutual assistance in capacity building to support full implementation of the standards set forth in the

A Pleasant Surprise Visit by a Japan GRIPS Alumnus

11 February 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

On 11 February 2015, the ROCB A/P welcomed a surprised but pleasant visit by Mr. Rajan Datt of India, an alumnus of the WCO-Japan Scholarship Program 2011/2012. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P warmly welcomed him. Mr. Datt recalled his enjoyable time and excellent learning experience at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo under the kind guidance of Professor Toru Nagase and Professor Koji Yamashita. After completing his Public Finance program at the GRIPS, he returned to India and undertook senior posts in India Customs. He is now Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Culture.

For further information about the Japan-WCO Human Resource Development Program (Scholarship Program), funded by Japan Customs, please visit the WCO website at <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/capacity-building/activities-and-programmes/scholarship-programme.aspx>



Delegation from the Hong Kong Customs Visits ROCB A/P

5 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Jimmy Tam, Head of Office of Supply Chain Security Management of the Hong Kong Customs (HKG), accompanied by two HKG officials, visited the ROCB A/P on 25 March 2015. Mr. Tam and two officials were warmly welcomed by Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and ROCB A/P Staff. Mr. Igarashi expressed his appreciation to the HKG for their continued strong support for ROCB A/P's activities, especially their continued secondment of the capable HKG officer to the ROCB A/P. Mr. Tam stated the HKG is more than happy to cooperate with the ROCB A/P for the benefit of the Asia/Pacific region. HKG considers the official secondment to the ROCB A/P is also beneficial for HKG, through ex-ROCB A/P officials sharing their valuable international experiences with HKG when returning to the homeland.



Delegation from the Maldives Customs Visits ROCB A/P

25 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Abdulla WAHEED, Chief Superintendent of the Maldives Customs Service (MCS) accompanied by nine MCS officials, visited the ROCB A/P on 25 March 2015 on the occasion of their study visit to the Thai Customs Department.

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P and other colleagues gave them a warm welcome. Mr. IGARASHI expressed his appreciation to the contribution made by Mr. Ahmed Zuhoor, ex-Commissioner General of MCS (currently Health Minister), to the WCO Regional Workshop on Strategic Initiative for Trade Facilitation - Mercator Programme held on 16-18 March 2015 in Jakarta Indonesia. Mr. IGARASHI asked Mr. WAHEED for a short report on MCS's good practice on reducing Customs clearance time under the leadership of Mr. Zuhoor, which was introduced by him in the Workshop. Mr. WAHEED acknowledged this request and promised to convey it to the person in charge.

Mr. WAHEED and Mr. IGARASHI also exchanged views on further collaboration for the modernization program of MCS, especially on the ongoing WCO-ADB Multi-year Project on Customs Valuation Control.



Contribution on a success example in the regional capacity building activities from Papua New Guinea Customs Service

“My administration’s experience in reform and modernization on PCA”



Author: Mr. John B Sam

Assistant Commissioner

Commercial, Trade & Compliance

Papua New Guinea Customs Service

Papua New Guinea (PNG) became a Member of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 2002 and in keeping with its commitments as a Member PNG Customs Service (PNGCS) strives to achieve international standards and best practices. PNGCS as a merged entity with the PNG Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) began its modernization program in 2004, using the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) as a basis. The Compliance and Post Clearance Audit (PCA) program is a key area of the modernization program as PNG moves from the traditional transaction base customs control to the new account base control.

The PNGCS modernization program was driven by: (1) PNG government's Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS) and Vision 2050, which outline the government's social and economic development strategies; (2) PNG's obligations to APEC Bogor Goals of free and open trade by 2020; and (3) need for increased activity in the extractive industries. In order for the PNGCS to achieve the government's development objectives and to increase foreign investment, it had to facilitate trade while maintaining efficient and effective border controls. With full support of the government in the PNGCS's modernization program, the government demerged the PNGCS from the

IRC in 2009 to be a standalone government entity. In October 2014, the government approved for the PNGCS to be a statutory authority to be effective by February 2015.

In 2004, when the modernization program began as an APEC Pathfinder Initiative, a Kyoto Project Management Team, which comprised of senior Customs experts and legal professionals, was established. This team was later changed to the Customs Modernization Management Team (CMMT). The CMMT approach was to modernize the PNGCS using the RKC as a basis. The first stage was to see if the PNG's current legislation was compliant with the RKC. The second stage was to seek assistance from the WCO by signing the letter of intent to implement the SAFE FoS, which resulted in a Diagnostic Mission to PNG in June 2007. The CMMT was headed by an Assistance Commissioner and had the full support of the Commissioner. Support also came for the Treasury and Finance departments who approved the modernization program to be funded under Customs annual recurrent budget.

The WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) assisted the CMMT to draw up the PNGCS Strategic Modernization Action Plan, which was endorsed by the PNGCS management in December 2009 and assisted arrangement of a meeting with various aid donors.





Reported by Ms. Rieko Shikimachi

WCO Accredited Expert on Risk Management

Senior Intelligence Analyst,

Customs Intelligence and Targeting Office, Moji Customs,

Government of Japan

WCO organized the National Workshop on Risk Management at the Headquarters of the General Department of Vietnam Customs (GDVC), Hanoi, Vietnam, from 24 to 28 November 2014.

The main objective of this workshop was to assist GDVC in strengthening the existing Risk Management practices by focusing on cargo/passenger selectivity, intelligence support and compliance management.

The Workshop was led by three Risk Management experts; Mr. Oguz Onal, Program Manager of Intelligence and Risk Management Compliance and Facilitation Directorate of the WCO (Mission Leader), Mr. Takahiro Takahashi, WCO accredited expert on Risk Management from Japan Customs, and me.

This was the first workshop for me to take part in as one of the facilitators after I was accredited. It was an honor for me to

share my knowledge of Risk Management, Intelligence Management and also best practices of Japan Customs. During the workshop, I also learned many things from participants. Moreover, directly receiving valuable comments from the participants motivated me to be a better professional expert. I believe that this experience has been very precious and will broaden my international horizons as a Customs officer.

A total of 50 officials of GDVC attended the Workshop. They actively participated in the Workshop and raised questions during the series of lectures in order to deepen their knowledge. Moreover, a series of group discussions helped participants to cultivate their better understandings through exchanging their views and opinions and also sharing their professional experience. As a result, they received many practical ideas to maximize the benefits of their newly-introduced Automated Clearance System and ICT Risk Assessment System, called V-NACCS and V-CIS, respectively.

I am going to keep in touch with them to learn together and I would appreciate it if I could have more opportunities to be involved in the capacity building activities for the region.



Farewell Message from Mr. James K W Wong

18 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Time flies. I have spent two years in Bangkok, Thailand working for the ROCB A/P. I have met many people and flown to many different places to attend capacity building events. I think these two years will be the most wonderful part of my life. I would like to thank all the people who worked with me, in particular colleagues of the ROCB A/P, the Thai Customs and the WCO, Regional Training Centres, Customs administrations and many more. I treasure every moment with them.

Now, I am sad to say that I have to go back Hong Kong Customs. However, all the happy moments will remain in my heart and I hope you all can do the same.

Finally, I hope every colleague can render assistance to Miss Alpha Wong, my successor for the post in the ROCB A/P. I wish you all good health and good luck.



Farewell Message from Mr. S. K. Lee

18 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Now I think it's about time I have to say good-bye to all of you. Good-bye is a good thing, if not it would be said bad-bye or sorrow-bye.

So I'd love to say good-bye to you or hear from you good-bye too.

But I suppose there would be several requirements if we can say good-bye to each other when we leave.

First, my working at the ROCB A/P and my staying in Thailand need to be happy or joyful. In this regard I can say that I have spent really the happiest and valuable time in Thailand in my life. It was my first time abroad but I had a lot of chance to travel many places in and out of Thailand such as Koh Samui, Chiang-mai and Angkor Wat. If I hadn't stationed in Thailand, I couldn't have this experience. I was also very happy because of so kind Thai people, amazing Thai culture and delicious Thai foods.

The second requirement is the successful completion of my mission. I can also say that I did more than I was expected, of course because of our colleagues' support.

I'm sure the CCF Korea has found an important role in A/P region for our member Customs administration's Capacity Building activities.

Last but not least requirement is the assurance of our meeting again. That means if we can't meet again, we can't call this parting a good-bye. One of ancient Korean poet said that we are anxious about going to leave when we meet each other vice

versa we believe we will meet again when we leave. Like Richard Bach said "Don't be dismayed by good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends."

So good-bye till we meet again.



Welcome Ms. Alpha Wong

18 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Thanks for giving this valuable opportunity to introduce myself via ROCB A/P communication channel. I am Alpha Wong from Hong Kong Customs. My secondment to the ROCB A/P has been started from 18 March 2015 and it will last for two years. On the first day I arrived Bangkok, I was so grateful to the warmest greetings from Thai Customs and ROCB A/P colleagues at the Suvarnabhumi Airport. It really gave me a wonderful feeling and a great start in a new environment.

I have joined Hong Kong Customs since 1997 and have worked in a wide scope of Customs duties including canine training, Customs crime prosecution, air passenger and cargo clearance as well as international cooperation affairs. In recent years, I have been responsible for handling the WCO issues and organizing regional workshops/meetings in Hong Kong. I hope my experience will be useful for achieving the goals of ROCB A/P.



Future Events

Future Events May 2015 – Onwards (Indicative)

Event Name	Timing	Venue
➢ ADB-WCO national Workshop on Customs Valuation and PCA for Maldives	18-22 may 2015	Male, Maldives
➢ WCO National Workshop on Intelligence Management for Fiji	18-22 May 2015	Suva, Fiji
➢ Sub-regional IPR Workshop for China, ASEAN and India (by US Patent Office)	19-21 May 2015	Bangkok, Thailand
➢ ASEAN DG Meeting	19-21 May 2015	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
➢ WCO-UPU Joint Regional Workshop	19-22 May 2015	Guangzhou, P.R. China
➢ WCO Regional Workshop on the Use of PNR	26-29 May 2015	Kashiwa, Japan
➢ WCO National Workshop on AEO for Mongolia	27-29 May 2015	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
➢ ADB-WCO National Workshop on Customs Valuation for India	27-31 July 2015	tbc, India
➢ National Workshop on PCA for Maldives	24-28 May 2015	Male, Maldives
➢ WCO Regional Revenue Package Experts Refreshing Workshop	1-5 June 2016	Shanghai, P.R. China
➢ WCO Council Sessions	11-13 June 2015	Brussels, Belgium
➢ ADB-WCO National Workshop on PCA for Bhutan	15-19 June 2015	tbc, Bhutan
➢ WCO National Workshop on AEO for Cambodia	15-19 June 2015	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
➢ OCO Annual Conference	22-24 June 2015	Koror, Palau
➢ WCO National Workshop on IPR for Bangladesh	2-6 August 2015	tbc, Bangladesh
➢ ADB-WCO National Workshop on Customs valuation and PCA for Nepal	19-21 August 2015	tbc, Nepal
➢ WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Customs Valuation for Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan	7-11 September 2015	Faridabad, India
➢ 27 th RILO Contact Point Meeting	15-17 September 2015	tbc, Indonesia
➢ ADB TRS Conference	6-8 October 2015	Tokyo, Japan
➢ 13th Heads of WCO A/P Regional Training Centers Meeting	3-5 November 2015	tbc, Malaysia

NB: Official invitations will be circulated in due course.