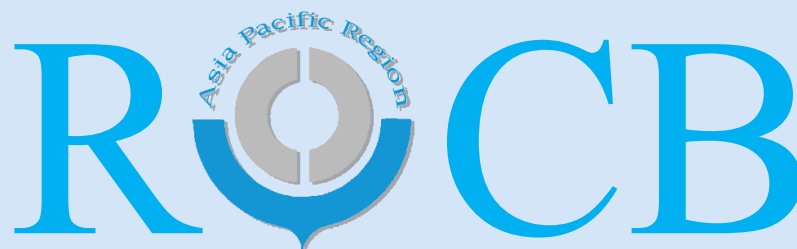


E-newsletter

Issue No.49:

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WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building



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Arrival of New Secondment of KCS

A Member's Effort- A Contribution from Maldives Customs

More Collaboration with Development Partners

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ROCB A/P:
Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI,
Head, WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Officer for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P)
Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, Mr. CHO Kangsik, Mr. CHENG Jing, Ms. WONG Siu-Yin, Alpha, Ms. Yotsawadee TRAKONSUP, Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON, Ms. Manita SREETA, Ms. Supatcha SUPAPANT

Regular Supporters: Mr. Dale FURSE, Mr. Brian LAMB

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

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

Foreword



Bangkok, July 2015

Dear Readers,

I now truly believe much more than ever before that the time flies. It was exactly 12 months ago when I came to Bangkok to fill the big shoes of my predecessor as Head of the ROCB A/P. On my very first day at the Office, I joined Thai Customs colleagues to celebrate their 140th Anniversary Ceremony on 4 July 2014. I remember it as if it was just yesterday. I have just joined them for the second time to celebrate another commemoration event with my fellow colleagues here at the Thai Customs Department Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. I see the passing of time by looking at the healthy growth of so-called “ROCB trees”, which were planted as a symbol of the region’s cooperation for, and commitment to the rooting and blooming of the world’s first ROCB in the center of the A/P region, on the occasion of the ROCB A/P 10th Anniversary Ceremony held in November 2014 with generous patronage of the Thai Customs Department. Of course, it is not only the time which grew the ROCB tree taller and bigger, but it required good care and watering as provided by staff members of our gracious host administration on a daily basis. In this regard, I cannot help thanking all of the colleagues and friends for their support and collaboration with the ROCB A/P over the last 12 month.

This issue of the ROCB A/P E-Newsletter covers our activities undertaken during the quarter period from April 2015 through June 2015. This quarter was extremely busy. Along with the launching a set of regional capacity building programs funded by CCF/China, which are very much welcome and appreciated by the WCO Members, the ROCB A/P organized 6 Regional Workshops in this 3-month period out of 13 Regional Workshops organized in the last 12 months period. Topics of these regional workshops are relevant to the needs of the day and quite timely ones. Coordinated Border Management, which is the theme of the WCO for 2015, is not necessarily being highlighted in this year alone.

Instead, the WCO and the ROCB A/P have attached a great deal of importance to deepening collaboration with development partners for many years. Looking back at these very busy days in the last 3 months, I am so

Foreword

grateful for dedication and hard work of all ROCB staff members, support by the WCO Secretariat and RTCs as well as our development partners, contribution by knowledgeable resource persons, and most importantly, active participation of the Member administrations to those regional training sessions. I sincerely hope that these capacity building programs may bear some fruits in various forms in the very near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you our new colleagues, Mr. Kangsik Cho, who has just been seconded to the ROCB A/P for a 2-year term starting June 2015 as CCF/Korea Operation Manager and Program Manager of East, Central and West Asia sub-region. Given his vast and rich experience in Customs work at both management and operational fields in Korea Customs Service (KCS), I am pretty sure that his dedication will make the ROCB A/P's function much stronger. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to Korea Customs Service for this human resource contribution.

As we have completed 2014/2015, colleagues of the ROCB A/P have commenced editing our Annual Report. In parallel with it, I am now drawing the ROCB A/P's Annual Plan for 2015/2016 in cooperation with Regional Vice-Chair, as set forth in our Terms of Reference, based on the Members' inputs and replies to the annual needs survey, which was conducted jointly with Japan Customs at the beginning of year 2015. Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend my gratitude to Japan Customs and those Members who have contribute to the survey for their support and collaboration. Please rest assured that we will duly take into account these diversified capacity building needs to devise the Annual Plan for 2015/2016 so that the ROCB A/P may better serve to the Members' needs and interest in Customs reform and modernization. ROCB A/P looks forward to continuing good cooperation and insightful guidance of the WCO Secretariat, Regional Vice-Chair and regional Directors General as well as other stakeholders for the next 12 months.

To conclude, as usual, I would like to call for the Readers' candid feedback and inputs to this volume of E-Newsletter as well as the critical suggestions to the activities undertaken by the ROCB A/P over the last 3 months, and even those done prior to this featured period, with a view to ensuring the quality of our work.

Yours sincerely,



Kazunari Igarashi
Head of the ROCB A/P

ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

The First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Bhutan Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-Year Assistance for SASEC Countries (*)



22 June 2015, Paro, Bhutan

The ROCB A/P and the ADB, with support from the WCO Secretariat and Maldives Customs Service, conducted the First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Bhutan Customs under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) from 22 to 26 June 2015 in Paro, Bhutan. Three Project Core Members (PCMs) of this Multi-year Project and 3 supporting officers from Bhutan Customs met the experts and joined the work.

This Multi-year Project is designed to support SASEC Countries' efforts to realize the proper management of Customs Valuation control, ideally through Post Clearance Audit (PCA). The Multi-year project also aims to ensure effective trade facilitation and proper collection of national revenue, thus the Project consists of Sub-regional Workshops and a series of national expert missions to support implementing the respective tailor-made Action Plans. Each participating SASEC country is supposed to set its own target for the Multi-year Project, outlined in an Action Plan, and Bhutan Customs has set its target as "to make a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of Customs Valuation control".

During the 5-day mission, the participants and experts from Maldives Customs Service and the ROCB A/P; updated the SOP and discussed how to prepare the final activity under this Project, which was provisionally scheduled in May 2016. Before completing this Multi-year Project for Bhutan, PCMs are expected to organize briefing sessions on the newly created SOP for providing a uniform guide to implement proper Customs Valuation control in line with international standards.

(*) Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka

ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

WCO Workshop of Development of Revenue Package/ TTA Diagnostic Expert Pool



1 June 2015, Shanghai, China

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P conducted a WCO Regional Workshop for Development of Revenue Package/ TTA Diagnostic Expert Tool from 1 to 5 June 2015 in Shanghai, China, with the financial support of the China Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/China). A total of 20 Customs officers from 12 Member administrations participated in this Workshop.

The objective of this event is to establish a pool of expert-facilitators capable of conducting diagnostic missions on behalf of the WCO, to assist Members in using the new diagnostic tool developed under the Revenue Package program covering the topics of classification, valuation and origin. During the Workshop, the participants demonstrated their competencies as expert facilitators on the revenue package and were evaluated by three experts from the WCO's Capacity Building Directorate and Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate.

This Workshop also provided an excellent opportunity for participants to improve their experience and update their knowledge of the WCO instruments and tools for the benefit of their Customs administrations. The participants thanked the WCO for organizing this valuable workshop in the A/P region and CCF/China for its sponsorship.

ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the Use of PNR



26 May 2015, Kashiwa, Japan

WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and Regional Training Centre in Japan (Japan Customs Training Institute (CTI)) in Kashiwa) conducted the Regional Workshop on the use of PNR from 26 – 29 May 2015, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 38 delegates including resource speakers from the WCO Secretariat, RILO A/P and the US Customs and Border Protection (USCBP), participated in this important regional Customs capacity building program. Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended this Workshop as the facilitator.

During the Opening Session, Mr. Miroru JITSUHARA, Managing Director of CTI, Japan, Mr. François REMUE, Technical Attaché of the WCO Secretariat and Mr. IGARASHI delivered their opening remarks. The speakers stressed the significance on the use of advance passenger information for Customs risk assessment in order to contend with both increasing volume of air passengers and continued illicit trafficking in contraband with limited Customs



ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the Use of PNR



resources. At the same time, speakers encouraged participants to establish personal networks and friendships for future information and experience sharing.

The Workshop was designed to showcase some good practices on a set of recommended practices enumerated in the WCO on the Use of API and PNR for Efficient and Effective Customs Control (June 2012). After hearing a series of challenges in contending with increasing passenger volume and related Customs offences, Mr. REMUE provided participants with an overview of the international instruments available and the benefits to using PNR. Participants, whose administrations are using PNR including Mr. Jerry KAPLAN, the USCBP, shared their experiences in risk assessment and targeting. A practical example of coordination with other border agencies was also discussed. In the course of the Workshop, participants had a one-day field visit to the Haneda Airport Branch of Tokyo Customs. With unsparing support from the Haneda Airport Branch, delegates observed passenger selectivity and control practices including a demonstration of equipment that is used to analyse suspicious objects detected through Customs inspection at the airport. The Workshop was a huge success thanks to the active participation and interaction amongst the delegates.

It should be stressed that the real success rests with the effective application of those internationally recognized good practices, including the use of API and PNR. These practices would supplement frontline officials' control skills and competence in making a better Customs border control operation.

ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

Joint WCO-UPU Customs-Post Workshop



19 May 2015, Guangzhou, China

The World Customs Organization (WCO), in cooperation with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the ROCB A/P, organized the WCO-UPU Customs-Post Workshop—"Fostering greater cooperation between Customs and Posts and promoting the development of cross-border e-commerce" for the A/P region in Guangzhou, China, from 19 to 22 May 2015, under the sponsorship of CCF/China. Around 120 delegates representing Customs and Posts as well as private sectors participated in this workshop. Representatives from the WCO, the UPU, Swiss Post, US Customs and Border Protection (US CBP), United States Postal Service (USPS), Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Belgium Post, Deutsche Post (Germany) and Russian Post joined the workshop as speakers. Mr. Jing Cheng, CCF/China Operation Manager of the ROCB A/P and Ms. Manita Sreeta, Project Coordinator of the ROCB A/P joined this Workshop.

The primary objective of this Workshop was to improve participants' knowledge of the relevant WCO and UPU instruments and tools. Participants explored the possible ways to promote advance electronic exchange of information (pre-loading/pre-arrival) between Posts and Customs by using the UPU's Customs Declaration System and/or any other solutions based on the WCO/UPU Customs Post EDI Messaging Standards. This Workshop provided an opportunity for relevant parties to discuss the issues of mutual interest at various levels, including how to enhance the capabilities of both Customs and postal operators in facilitating cross-border movement of postal items under the advancing e-commerce environment through improving cooperative relationships between Customs and Postal Operators. During the workshop, participants visited the Guangzhou Airmail Centre to observe practical aspects of the Customs clearance process on postal items.

ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

The First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Maldives Customs Service under the WCO-ADB Multi-Year Assistance for SASEC Countries

18 May 2015, Male, Maldives

The ROCB A/P and the ADB with support from the WCO Secretariat and Sri Lanka Customs conducted the First National Expert Mission on Customs Valuation for Maldives Customs Service under the WCO-ADB Multi-year Assistance for the SASEC Countries (Multi-year Project) from 18 to 22 May 2015 in Male, Maldives. Three Project Core Members (PCMs) of this Multi-year Project and 9 supporting officers from Maldives Customs Service attended the activity.

This Multi-year Project was designed to support SASEC Countries' efforts to realize the proper management of Customs Valuation control ideally through Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for ensuring both effective trade facilitation and proper collection of national revenue. Each participating country sets its target of the Multi-year Project in its Action Plan. The Maldives Customs Service set its target as "Development of the training kit for sustainable capacity building on improving Customs Valuation control ideally through PCA and Risk Management".

During the 5-day activity, in order to achieve the target, the participants; (i) updated a set of training materials, (ii) conducted a rehearsal of training sessions by using their created training materials and (iii) discussed how to prepare for the next final activity under this project. The Final activity for Maldives Customs Service under this Multi-year Project is provisionally agreed to be organized in January 2016, in which PCMs are expected to deliver lectures on Customs Valuation control for their colleagues by using the created training materials under this Multi-year Project.



ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

WCO-ICAO Joint Workshop on Air Cargo Security and Facilitation



ICAO/WCO Regional Workshop on Air Cargo Security and Facilitation
ICAO Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand, 28-30 April 2015



28 April 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

The WCO, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) held a joint workshop on Air Cargo Security and Facilitation at the ICAO Regional Office in Bangkok on 28-30 April 2015, with the financial support of CCF Japan.

The Workshop brought together a total of 60 participants from Customs and Aviation Security authorities from 28 States, as well as representatives from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU).

During the workshop, the participants were provided an overview of the international air cargo security supply chain and its governing rules and standards. They also shared their respective national practices and discussed how ICAO and WCO Members could work together to implement the various security and facilitation measures.

Participants of the workshop welcomed this opportunity to enhance cooperation between the Customs and its stakeholders to achieve mutual objectives on the air cargo security and facilitation. Based on feedback from the participants, ICAO and the WCO will further develop the program to expand future workshops in other regions.

ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

Customs and Business Representatives Discuss Way Forward Towards Joint Efforts in Contending with Illicit Trade in Counterfeit Goods



WCO REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR ASIA / PACIFIC REGION COMBATING COUNTERFEITING AND PIRACY

**UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF CCF JAPAN
IN COOPERATION WITH THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT
20 - 22 APRIL 2015**

BERJAYA HOTEL TIMES SQUARE



22 April 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

WCO Regional Workshop on Countering Counterfeiting and Piracy was conducted on 20 – 22 April 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan, and in cooperation with the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD). A total of 69 persons representing WCO Members, Malaysian competent authorities and various industries took part in this regional Customs training program.

At the Opening Ceremony of the Regional Workshop, Dato' Sri Khazali bin Haji Ahmad, Director General of the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) and A/P Regional Vice Chair, delivered remarks and highlighted the implication of counterfeit goods to the health and safety of the general public, ramifications of transnational organized crime and terrorism, WCO Member Customs' determination to contend with illicit trade in IPR infringing goods, and the value of Customs and business collaboration to counter the continued challenges in this regard.

ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

Customs and Business Representatives Discuss Way Forward Towards Joint Efforts in Contending with Illicit Trade in Counterfeit Goods



Both Customs and business representatives actively participated in the programs facilitated by Ms. Junko YAMAMOTO of the WCO Secretariat and Mr. Ugyen TSHERING of Bhutan Customs. Participants shared their enforcement mechanisms and experiences in collaborating with intellectual property rights holders at national and international levels, and discussed possible way forwards towards continued collaborative efforts among public and private sectors to tackle illicit trafficking in counterfeit goods. Participants reaffirmed the importance of collaboration between public and private sectors, and share the view that candid dialogues among those stakeholders is encouraged at both national and international levels, including provision of training for Customs' frontline officers.

ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

WCO/ UNEP Joint Regional Risk Management Workshop on Environmental Issues

6 April 2015, Malacca, Malaysia

ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD), organized the Joint Regional Risk Management Workshop on Environmental Issues from 6 to 10 April 2015 in the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (a.k.a. AKMAL, WCO A/P Regional Training Center, Malaysia) with the sponsorship by the CCF-Korea. This workshop brought together a total of 40 participants from the WCO Members in the A/P region and resource persons from some international institutes, including the WCO, UNEP, CITES, TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, RILO A/P and ROCB A/P. Mr. Jing CHENG, Program Manager, and Ms. Manita Sreeta, Program Coordinator of the ROCB A/P attended the Workshop as facilitators.

The Workshop proved to be an appropriate and timely platform for Customs and environmental agencies to explore how to combat the environmental crime through in-depth use of the risk targeting skills. The Workshop provided the participants with an overview of a range of international conventions on conservation of nature, such as the Montreal Protocol, Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Conventions, Cartagena Protocol etc. Participants also deliberated on the issues that were important to effective border enforcement, such as global and regional trends on illicit trade, information and intelligence sharing among border agencies and risk profiling and targeting skills etc.

The Workshop turned out to be very fruitful with active contributions by the participants. With the guidance of the resource speakers from the UNEP and enterprises, participants conducted group exercises on how to identify the suspicious shipments for control. They also paid a field visit to Malacca Customhouse with the kind arrangement of the AKMAL.



ROCB A/P's Workshops and Meetings

Socialization and Workshop on Time Release Study for Indonesia Customs and Excise



31 March 2015, Semarang, Indonesia

Responding to a strong request from General Directorate of Customs and Excise of Republic of Indonesia (Indonesia Customs), the ROCB A/P dispatched Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Program Manager for South Asia and WCO accredited expert on Time Release Study (TRS), to support the Socialization and Workshop on TRS held from 31 March to 2 April 2015 in Semarang, Indonesia. The aim of the Socialization and Workshop was to assist facilitate their TRS, which is scheduled this year.

On the first day, a total of 39 Customs officers and 40 participants from other related government authorities and private sectors attended the Socialization Program heard a series of presentations on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the overview of the WCO TRS, and Indonesia's TRS experience, etc. The participants acknowledged the importance of conducting TRS for furthering trade facilitation. On the second and third day, the aforementioned 39 participants from Indonesia Customs learned more practical and detailed matters on TRS such as "how to design TRS", and "how to create a TRS questionnaire by using the WCO internet-based TRS software", etc. As an outcome of this Socialization and Workshop, the participants developed a draft of implementation work plan for their planned TRS in 2015 and made a good step forward for the success.



ROCB A/P's Contributions

ROCB A/P Briefs Freight Forwards on the WCO Strategic Initiative for Trade Facilitation



24 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) of the Region Asia/Pacific (RAP), Ms. Alpha Wong participated and contributed to the 9th RAP Field Meeting, which was held on 24 June 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. Ms. Supatcha Supapant, an internship student from the Thammasat University also joined as an observer.

This is an annual meeting for the FIATA RAP members to discuss on matters relating to airfreight industry. Representatives from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the TRAFFIC and the Thailand Ministry of Transport were also invited to speak on the UNIDO Green Silk Road Project, illegal wildlife trade, and infrastructure development in Thailand respectively.

ROCB A/P's Contributions

ROCB A/P Briefs Freight Forwards on the WCO Strategic Initiative for Trade Facilitation



As a representative of the WCO and the ROCB A/P, Ms. Wong made a presentation of the WCO strategic initiative for trade facilitation and explained the role of the ROCB A/P in pushing forward the WCO Mercator Programme with a view to supporting the WCO members in the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). She cited the activities conducted by the WCO and the ROCB A/P, such as developing the TFA Implementation Guidance, carrying out survey on the establishment of National Committee on Trade Facilitation, and organizing regional workshops. Besides the commitment of Customs, she emphasized the pivotal role of freight forwarders in supply chain security and enhanced collaboration with Customs for implementing trade facilitation measures, in particular the use of advance cargo information and Joint AEO/Regulated Agent Pilot. Mr. Francesco S. Parisi, the President of the FIATA, echoed her speech and underlined the sustainable partnership between the FIATA and the WCO in facilitating trade.

ROCB A/P's Contributions

ROCB A/P Renews Its Collaboration with Oceania Customs Organisation



22 June 2015, Koror, Palau

At the invitation of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 17th OCO Annual Conference held on 22-24 June 2015 at the Ngarachemayong Cultural Center in Koror, Palau, as an observer. The Meeting was attended by some 35 delegates from the OCO Member administrations, donors, international organizations and business associations. His Honorable President of the Republic of Palau, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., attended the opening ceremony and delivered his keynote speech on the theme of the Conference, i.e. "Coordinated Border Management – An inclusive approach for connecting stakeholders." In the course of 2 and a half day-long sessions, delegates discussed and adopted a series of important management documents, including OCO 3-year Strategic Plan, Revised OCO Organizational Structure, 2015 OCO Work Plan, and 2015-2016 OCO Budget Plan. With regard to the management of the OCO Secretariat, the Conference assigned Mr. Seve Paeinu (Tuvalu) as new Head of the OCO by acclamation for a 3-year term starting from July 2015.

ROCB A/P's Contributions

ROCB A/P Renews Its Collaboration with Oceania Customs Organisation



The Conference recognized outstanding efforts of outgoing Head of the OCO, Mr. Allwyn Netto, during his tenure. Before concluding the Conference, representatives of Fiji and Vanuatu signed MOU on Mutual Assistance Cooperation regarding Proper Application of Customs Laws and investigate Customs offences.

In the margin of the Conference, Mr. Igarashi had a series of friendly exchange of views on how to strengthen existing cooperation, especially Customs capacity building, with the executives of the OCO Secretariat, including Mr. Paeniu, new Head of the OCO, and the WCO Member administrations in the pacific region with a view to create win-win collaboration.

ROCB A/P's Contributions

ROCB A/P Briefs Its Capacity Building Activities to ASEAN DGs



20 May 2015, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

At the invitation of the ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, attended the 24th ASEAN Customs DGs Meeting, which was held on 20-22 May 2015 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, as a representative of the WCO. At the WCO-ASEAN DGs Consultation Session, Mr. Igarashi made a presentation of the summary of CB activities undertaken by the ROCB A/P and the participation of ASEAN Customs administrations thereto. Referring to some updates of the works accomplished by the WCO after the recent A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference held in February 2015 in Melbourne, Australia, he also explained the ideas for the or CB Program Plan for 2015/2016 and encouraged them to further make use of the WCO capacity building activities for their on-going reform and modernization.



ROCB A/P's Contributions

ROCB A/P Promotes WCO Tools for Combating Transnational Counterfeiting



19 May 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Ms. Alpha Wong of the ROCB A/P participated and contributed to the ASEAN-USPTO Workshop on Effective Practices in Transnational Cooperation in the Border Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), which was held on 19-21 May 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. A total of 42 persons representing Customs administrations from the ASEAN Members and other Asian countries, as well as the private sector, participated in this Workshop. Representatives from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (US CBP), the INTERPOL, the ROCB A/P, the UNODC and various industries joined the Workshop as speakers.

It was the third time that the ASEAN Secretariat and the USPTO Global Intellectual Property Academy in cooperation with the US CBP and the Homeland Security Investigations/Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Department of Homeland Security, with support from the United States Department of State, organized this Workshop.

The main objective was providing an opportunity for different IPR stakeholders to share their knowledge and experience in IPR protection with a view to strengthening their connectivity and cooperation in combating transnational piracy and counterfeiting activities. The participants exchanged their views on the challenges in IPR protection and shared their latest strategies to tackle the problems.

On behalf of the WCO and the ROCB A/P, Ms. Wong made a presentation to introduce the WCO's approach in IPR protection and the functions of the ROCB A/P in coordinating IPR-related enforcement capacity building activities. She remarked the vital role of the WCO in supporting Members to strengthen their cooperation at multiple levels with the application of WCO tools and instruments. The mobile version of Interface Public Member (IPM) was highlighted and Customs administrations were encouraged to extend the access of IPM to frontline officers in order to enhance their capacity in identifying suspicious counterfeited goods on the spot.

ROCB A/P's Contributions

ROCB A/P Joins “Conference on Illegal Wildlife and Timber Trafficking” to Discuss How to Further Strengthen Cooperation in Combating Illegal Wildlife and Timber Trafficking within ASEAN



7 April 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

At the request of the WCO Secretariat, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, Program Manager for South Asia of the ROCB A/P, participated in the Conference on Illegal Wildlife and Timber Trafficking held on 7 April 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Conference was co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Royal Thai Police, and attended by the representatives of the ASEAN countries and other related organizations such as ASEANPOL, Freeland Foundation, etc.

Delegates exchanged their opinions and information on illegal wildlife and timber trafficking especially on: (i) Harmonization of the legal framework in the ASEAN countries, and (ii) Information sharing among competent authorities of the ASEAN member countries. Mr. Miyoshi joined the panel discussion on the information sharing as a panelist and introduced the WCO's information exchange platform named CENcomm for their reference.



Guest Visits

Ex-Head of the ROCB A/P Pays Courtesy Visit

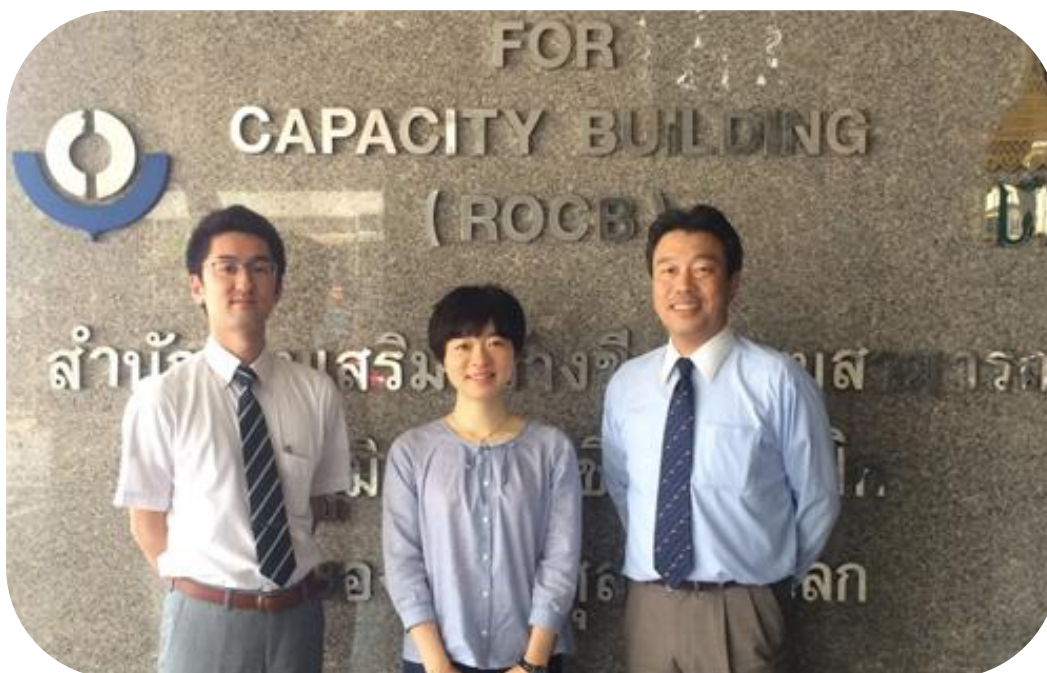


27 April 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

On 27 April 2015, Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, ex-Head of the ROCB A/P and current Director for Technical Cooperation at Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance, paid a courtesy visit to the ROCB A/P on the occasion of his visit to the Thai Customs Department. His visit to Bangkok was the second one following the opportunity to attend the ROCB A/P's 10th Anniversary Ceremony, which was celebrated in November 2014. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P and his colleagues warmly welcomed him and spent a pleasant time to renew their friendship and professional collaboration. Taking this opportunity, Mr. Kosaka watered the so-called "ROCB Trees," which were planted in commemoration of the Office's 10th Anniversary.

Guest Visits

HS Experts Visit the ROCB A/P



2 April 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

On 2 April 2015, Mr. Nobuaki Osaki, Section Chief of Commodity Classification, Clearance Division of Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, and Mrs. Miyako Miyashita, Inspector of Appraiser Section, Clearance Department of Tokyo Customs, visited the ROCB A/P on the occasion of their mission to Thailand for a national workshop on commodity classification organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, warmly welcomed these HS classification experts and introduced them to other ROCB A/P colleagues. Mr. Igarashi wished their continued contribution to the capacity building programs in various forms and wished to benefit from their professional expertise on the HS Convention for the future activities to be undertaken by the ROCB A/P.

Contributions from ACEs

WCO National Workshop for Malaysia on Rules of Origin



WCO National Workshop for Malaysia on Rules of Origin

Reported by Mr. Yuichiro OKUMURA
Deputy Head
ROO (Rules of Origin) Center
Japan Customs

As a Japanese expert on Rules of Origin, I joined WCO National Workshop for Malaysia on Rules of Origin held at the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL, WCO Regional Training Center), Malaysia, from 12 to 16 January 2015.

The main objective of this workshop is to train prospective trainers with focus on the core fundamentals of Rules of Origin. During the Workshop, I was really impressed with their contribution to the success of the workshop and strong motivation to develop the origin administration in the Royal Malaysian Customs Department.



Contributions from ACEs

WCO National Workshops for Malaysia on Rules of Origin



The noteworthy output of the workshops was a better understanding on implementation of rules of origin, through sharing the knowledge and case studies as to origin certification, verification and the relevant procedures. This workshop also provided a valuable opportunity to share the WCO tools and international trends related to Rules of Origin as well as the aspects of practical application in Japan as one of the WCO members. In this regard, the program was balanced and beneficial for both policy makers and frontline officers from the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (and of course a great opportunity for myself!).



Special Topics

nCEN Implementation in Maldives



Contribution by
Mr. Ismail Hamdoon
Chief Superintendent
Head of Compliance and Risk
Management Division
Maldives Customs Service

Maldives Customs Service (MCS) has been utilizing the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN)'s online database since 2007, for collecting information on customs related offences, seizure information as well as to analyze regional trends on narcotics and psychotropic substances. Despite having a vast collection of local data on seizures and suspects for over a decade, it was rather cumbersome to do an analysis and identify systematic trends on narcotics and other customs related offences for the region due to the lack of a proper automated system.

Consequently, MCS had shown interest in nCEN application since 2012 and had completed the pre-assessment questionnaires sent from WCO in 2013 and 2014. After the initial step of the implementation process, WCO secretariat assessed the request and MCS was selected to proceed for the next phase of nCEN implementation and bilateral contracts were signed in 2015.

Even though MCS had been selected for implementation of nCEN in 2014, funds for procurement of the necessary hardware and training was secured only in January 2015. The hardware needed for nCEN was funded by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) whereas a comprehensive training workshop was conducted in Male' by WCO nCEN experts with the sponsorship of Euro Customs Co-operation Fund. The training was conducted for 16 MCS officers from 26 May 2015 to 4 June 2015 providing the participants with the necessary knowhow about the application.

The nCEN consists of three independent databases (a seizure database, a suspect database, and a company database), as well as a communication component. The core database of national seizures and offences comprises data required for analysis, including means of conveyance, routes and the possibility to view photos, for example depicting exceptional concealment methods. Two supplementary databases contain information on suspected persons and offending business entities, facilitating a structured investigation process (Source: WCO)

The nCEN application enables its users to effectively collect and store law enforcement information at national level, with the additional capability to exchange this information at regional and international levels. Hence, with the successful implementation of nCEN, MCS is now able to connect with all the regional customs and share data for enforcement purposes.

MCS has started working on Operation Pangea VIII right after the implementation of nCEN utilizing the full CEN Application Suite, WCO nCEN online database, nCEN national database and CENcomm for secure communication.

The process of implementing nCEN in Maldives

- Since 2007 MCS has been using the CEN database and there was a need for a similar local database for enforcement. MCS had promptly responded to the WCO's initiative to identify the countries who were interested in nCEN
- The initial step involved replying to WCO for expression of interest on the application
- MCS completed nCEN pre-assessment questionnaire in 2013 and 2014
- After the assessment of questionnaires, WCO informed the tentative dates for pre-deployment missions. Hence, the pre-deployment mission was carried out during the WCO CTS implementation process in 2014 and MCS was notified of its selection. The objective of the assessment was to identify the capability and capacity of the local IT department to deploy such an application



- Once funding was secured, WCO sent a contract together with the implementation guideline. The legal approval of the contract was a long process as approval had to be sought from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Attorney General's office in addition to MCS's legal department
- Tentative dates of hardware procurement and training was finalized when the signed contract was sent to WCO. As it was important to allocate a highly competent technical staff for the project, MCS selected a specific IT staff for the project who would adhere to the instructions of WCO in setting up the hardware and software
- As a hands-on training was conducted, participants were selected from the relevant sections so that the application can be utilized as soon as they completed the training
- The final step was providing the user access to the trained officers only, as the confidentiality of the information is of paramount importance
- MCS is now in the process of entering the current and past seizure information in addition to suspect data in order to work on analysis and trends of narcotics and psychotropic substances.



Staff Updates

Welcome Mr. Kangsik Cho



18 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

I am Kangsik Cho from Korea Customs Service and very glad to have a chance to introduce myself.

Thanks to the warm welcome of the Thai Customs staff and office colleagues.

I joined Korea Customs Service more than 20 years ago and have worked in a wide variety of Customs duties including cargo clearance & management, passenger clearance, post audit, law & administrative litigation and planning & budget.

I know that ROCB AP is currently playing a very important role in capacity building and functioning most efficiently.

In response to these efforts, I will use my experiences to support the activities of the ROCB AP and I will do my best to promote the ROCB AP's role within the framework of mutual cooperation.

Staff Updates

Welcome Ms. Supatcha Supapant, an Internship Student from BMIR Program



8 June 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

I am Supatcha Supapant. My nickname is Amp. I'm from the Combined Bachelor and Master of Political Science Program in Politics and International Relations (BMIR) Program, Thammasat University, Faculty of Political Science.

This summer 2015, I have a chance to take an internship at ROCB A/P from 8 June to 31 July 2015. I feel really thankful for this opportunity and valuable experience to be part of the ROCB A/P family, where I get to gain knowledge and meet people that will form one of a beautiful memory in my university life.

I would like to express my appreciation to Program Coordinators, Managers, Head of ROCB A/P, Thai Customs Department, WCO and ROCB A/P for the wonderful experience and knowledge that I will cherish.

From ROCB A/P:

Ms. Supatcha Supapant, nick-named Khun Amp, has been with the ROCB A/P since 8 June 2015 under the internship of the BMIR Program Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University in Thailand. Ms. Supapant has been assisting ROCB A/P staff members, including with public relations, such as Homepage management and compilation of the E-newsletter (i.e. this issue), as well as the Annual Report for 2014/2015. Through this internship experience, it is expected she will acquire some ideas on international work coordination practices and how to raise an organisation's corporate profile through public relations.

ROCB A/P recognizes support and contribution of Ms. Supapant for the compilation of this issue of the ROCB A/P E-Newsletter.

Future Activities

July 2015- Onwards (Indicative)

Event Name	Dates	Venue
➤ WCO National Workshop on IPR for Bangladesh	2-6 Aug 2015	tbc, Bangladesh
➤ WCO National Workshop on Advance Ruling of Classification for Bangladesh	16-20 Aug 2015	tbc, Bangladesh
➤ ADB-WCO National Workshop on Customs valuation and PCA for Nepal	19-21 Aug 2015	tbc, Nepal
➤ WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Customs Valuation for Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan	8-11 Sep 2015	Tehran, Iran
➤ 27 th RILO Contact Point Meeting	15-17 Sep 2015	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
➤ ADB-WCO National Workshop on Customs valuation and PCA for India	28 Sep – 1 Oct 2015	tbc, India
➤ ADB TRS Conference	6-8 Oct 2015	Tokyo, Japan
➤ ADB-WCO National Workshop on Customs valuation and PCA for Sri Lanka	26-30 Oct 2015	tbc, Sri Lanka
➤ 13th Heads of WCO A/P Regional Training Centers Meeting	3-5 Nov 2015	tbc, Malaysia

NB: Official invitations will be circulated in due course.