



# ROCB e-Newsletter

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

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Welcome!  
New Expert from Korea Customs



The Korea Customs dispatched another technical attaché, Mr. Lee Sang Hyup, to the ROCB on April 26th. It is his second time to be seconded at ROCB, and this time he will be working as CCF-Korea Fund Operating Manager. ROCB is really happy to have him back and believe that the Members will be happy to benefit from his experience.

Before joining ROCB, Mr Sang Hyup he was in working in the Korea Customs Border Control Training Center in charge of Capacity Building programs and planning for internal training. He is an accredited WCO Customs and Technical and Operational Adviser and involved in a

## WCO Regional Workshop on Training and HRM, Thailand

number of capacity building activities that took place in the Asia Pacific region and other parts of the world. Mr Sang Hyup also worked for the ROCB during 2007-2008 organizing and delivering many CB programs for the members.

With his seasoned experience and expertise as well as his forward looking character, he will surely bring significant benefits to Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific Region. Mr. Lee said “I feel privileged to work with the ROCB for two terms serving the Asia Pacific region. I am honored to work with the most competent Customs officers from the members and I am also happy to return to Thailand to enjoy the hospitality and delicacies of local food.”

We are looking forward to working with him for further upgrade regional capacity building activities to support our members’ efforts.

Welcome Mr. SangHyup!

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In cooperation with Royal Thai Customs Department and ROCB A/P, the WCO Regional Workshop on Training and Human Resource Management (HRM) was held from 28<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April in Bangkok, Thailand. This workshop was attended by approximately 45 participants including a WCO expert and the representatives of WCO Regional Training Centers (RTCs).

This workshop consisted of two main categories, Training and HRM. As for training sessions, all participants had an opportunity to discuss how customs training should be, such as training structure, training management, and the use of different training methodologies. Many participants showed great interest in the WCO e-learning program. As for HRM session, all participants shared their experience on their HRM system including employment and career path, promotion/transfer of officials and performance management.

In this workshop, participants also adopted the “Good Practice Compendium on Customs Training” which was developed by the cooperative work done by 6 RTCs in the A/P region and ROCB. A well-established training and HRM system is considered a key factor for successful customs modernization and WCO, ROCB and RTCs will provide continued support to the interested customs administrations in the future

## OCO Annual Conference

From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May, the 13th OCO Annual Conference was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P participated in this Conference representing ROCB A/P. WCO Secretary General Mr. Kunio Mikuriya also attended an opening session of the Conference.



OCO Annual Conference

In total, 65 participants from 20 OCO members and observers from international, regional organizations, development agencies and academic institutions attended the conference. East Timor initially attended as an observer, but became a 24<sup>th</sup> OCO Member during the Conference.

The Minister for Education of Papua New Guinea H.E. James Marape opened the meeting by underscoring the importance of Customs for the development of each economy and highlighted "Knowledge, a catalyst for Customs excellence" as the chosen theme of this year's OCO Conference, the same theme launched by the WCO for 2011.

The Secretary General of the WCO, in his opening remarks, explained the WCO's 7 priorities, namely, Security, Trade Facilitation, Border Management, Revenue, Customs 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Capacity Building and Knowledge. He also expressed his support for a regional approach in developing a pool of experts in the OCO.

Mr. Katsu made a presentation on "Post Clearance Audit (PCA) and its development in the Pacific Region" highlighting the recent activities with regard to PCA in the A/P region and the possible way forward in implementing PCA in the OCO Countries.

The Conference was chaired by Commissioner of PNG Customs, Mr. Gary Juffa. At the end of the Conference, it was decided that the 14<sup>th</sup> OCO Annual Conference will be hosted by America Samoa in 2012.

### Workshop on Valuation and PCA for Bhutan and Thai Customs

With the request from Bhutan Customs Administration, the workshop on Valuation and Post Clearance Audit (PCA) was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May in Thai Customs Department in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition to 10 Bhutan Customs officials, 10 Thai Customs officials from Valuation and PCA section attended the workshop.



Workshop on Valuation and PCA for Bhutan and Thai Customs

Ms. Konsiri Pinnarat, Deputy Director General opened the workshop and Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka Head of ROCB A/P made opening remarks. The program was facilitated by Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P and a field trip to Laemchabang Port, one of the biggest container ports in Asia Pacific region was organized by Thai Customs.

Both Bhutan Customs and Thai Customs participants appreciated the workshop and not only deepened the understanding on the subject matter but also enhanced the professional relationship among two administrations and ROCB A/P.

### WCO Regional Workshop on IPR Train-the-Trainer, Hong Kong

The WCO Regional Workshop to Provide Specialist Training for Experts on IPR was held in Hong Kong Customs and Excise Training School (HKCTS), Hong Kong

China from May 23 to 27, 2011 with 25 participants from 22 member administrations.

The workshop helps participants to deepen their understanding of the WCO's policy for combating counterfeiting and piracy, while increasing their general knowledge of this constantly evolving phenomenon.

In this regard, good practices were also shared by HK Customs, Japan Customs and Korea Customs on their respective legal framework and approach towards combating counterfeiting and piracy.

#### WCO Regional Workshop on the 2012 Amendments to the HS, Japan

WCO Regional Workshop on the 2012 Amendments to the Harmonized System (HS) was held in Kobe, Japan from 30 May to 3 June 2011 with 30 participants from 24 customs administrations from the region. The workshop was facilitated by the 2 WCO experts and 2 Japanese experts.



WCO Regional Workshop on the 2012 Amendments to the HS, Japan

At the workshop, participants learned a lot on HS Convention and its amendment procedures as well as the details of the 2012 amendments made to the Convention which includes, but is not limited to, the amendments on social and environment issues. A representative from United Nations Environmental Program

(UNEP) also joined this workshop to share their concerns and interests. The WCO and Japanese experts introduced the best practices of the organizational structure on the uniform application/interpretation of HS.

During this workshop, all participants were requested to share their respective situations on the preparation of HS2012 amendments towards January 2012 and the difficulties/problems they identified and the way forward. The result of this reporting session was very encouraging to know those participants have been taking leading role to prepare for the timely implementation of the HS.

At the end of the workshop, participants were strongly recommended to report the result of this workshop back to their administrations and take action to disseminate information to better prepare for the smooth and timely implementation of HS 2012 amendments.

#### WCO Regional Workshop on HS expert accreditation, China

The WCO Accreditation Workshop for Expert Trainers on HS was held in Shanghai Customs College, Shanghai, China from June 13 to 17, 2011. The workshop was attended by 9 delegates from 7 member administrations.

WCO has been implementing two-step approach for the accreditation of expert and this workshop is a first step of that entire accreditation process. During the workshop, all participants actively participated in the sessions and demonstrated their training skills, HS technical expertise and their international experiences. They also learned useful knowledge and techniques from WCO experts that would also benefit their future role as WCO accredited expert trainers as well as his/her administrations.

As a result of this workshop, WCO successfully identified several participants for further accreditation procedures. As a next step, those

participants will be requested to join one of the actual WCO missions to demonstrate their capability in the field before final accreditation while we have strong confidence of their success. We are looking forward to working with them for the benefits of regional members.

### UNESCAP Regional Meeting on Cooperation for Facilitation of International Road Transport

Organized by UNESCAP, hosted by China Ministry of Transportation, the Regional Meeting on Cooperation for Facilitation of International Road Transport was held in Beijing, China from May 30 to June 1. Around 40 participants, mainly governmental officials in charge of transportation and trade facilitation policy with UNESCAP member countries attended the meeting.

Mr. ZHANG Shujie, on behalf of ROCB, was invited to present on the relevant WCO instruments and tools on trade and transportation facilitation, mainly, the Revised Kyoto Convention, Istanbul Convention, SAFE FoS and AEO, time release study (TRS). He highlighted that such WCO instruments and tools are not only integral to Customs community, also are useful for the wider trade and transportation community.

The WCO Diagnostic Mission  
"Enriching an Unforgettable Experience"

By Abdull Wahid Sulong of the Royal Malaysian Customs (RMC)



*From the Team to the Chairman of the NBR, the Honorable Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed and the Member (Customs) of the NBR, the Honorable Mr. Md. Shah Alam Khan: The Final Report, the way forward, for NBR to encompass the recommendations contained within the report into their existing capacity building and modernisation plans*

Invited by the WCO and approved by the RMC and the Malaysian Treasury, I was honored to be one of the WCO Accredited Diagnosticians to conduct the Columbus Program Phase I, to the Customs Wing of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) of Bangladesh, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The mission comprised 3 WCO Accredited Diagnosticians, Mr. Brian Collins of HM Revenue & Customs, United Kingdom, Mr. Abdull Wahid Sulong of the RMC and Mr. Takashi Nakao of the WCO Secretariat

The experts never met officially prior to the mission, however, the team worked very closely for about a month prior to the actual mission via e-mails, as pre-mission preparation is crucial to ensure the success of the mission. Upon arrival at Dhaka on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 (Saturday), the 3 experts had a meeting to plan the diagnostic approach based on the schedule agreed by the team and the host as well as to capitalize on individual expertise and experience; I was capitalizing on my academic qualification, international cooperation,

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Mr. Abdull Wahid Sulong is a Senior Assistant Director of Customs currently attached to the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL); he is an accredited WCO Diagnostician.

training and human capital development experience, as well as my previous experience as one of the ASEAN TNA/TNI Experts in the ASEAN-European Union Program for Regional Integration Support phase II (APRIS II) project.

The first official meeting was held at the NBR headquarters (Dhaka), on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011, as the weekdays are from Sunday to Thursday; the team met the Chairman of the NBR and a few of the Members of the NBR. The typical day of the mission, including weekend and public holiday, comprised series of meetings with the management, the employees and stakeholders; at night the team members individually drafted the report and sent the draft via e-mail to the Team Leader, Mr. Collins, for compilation and at the same time circulating the compiled draft report to the team members for comment or additional input.

The cooperation and the logistic support accorded by the NBR to the team had able the team to visit the major entry points and operation areas (Customs houses), such as Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport / Customs House (Dhaka), Kamalpur Inland Clearance Depot (Dhaka), Customs Bonds (Dhaka), Customs Tribunal (Dhaka), Customs House / Seaport (Chittagong),

Customs Training Academy (Chittagong), Customs House / Land Border (Benapole, Jessore), and to meet the stakeholders including the Chittagong Port Authority and representatives of the Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Forwarding / Manufacturers / Exporters and Chamber of Commerce. The vast experience of the team focused the diagnostic on the seven areas, which are Strategic Management, Resources and Human Resource Management, Legislation, Procedures, Information Technology and Communication, External Communication and Governance.

The team delivered the emerging findings and recommendations to the top level management of customs on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and the final document was officially presented to the Chairman of the NBR in the late afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011, as 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011 was the New Year for the Bangladeshi (a public holiday).

My heartfelt appreciation to the symbiotic efforts by the WCO secretariat, the ROCB-AP, the CCF/Japan, the NBR of Bangladesh, the stakeholders, the members of the Diagnostic Team, the RMC and AKMAL for the success of the mission. The news by the Financial Express published in the internet<sup>2</sup>, nicely described the mission:

*“ ... The Columbus programme is the largest and most comprehensive customs capacity building initiative. The aim of the programme is the total implementation of the SAFE framework of standards, and other WCO conventions and instruments.*

*Bangladesh signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** in July 2010 during the visit of the WCO Secretary General to implement SAFE (secured trade) framework of standards.*

*Following the LoI, the WCO sent the expert team to conduct a need assessment survey through holding discussions with public and private sectors and analysing gaps and roadblocks on full implementation of the WCO standards and best practices, said the customs official...”*

The mission was one of the best missions I have ever participated and I am glad to be given such invaluable experience and be able to share my expertise with other customs fraternity.

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### Future ROCB Capacity Building

- AEO Workshop in Fiji (9-11 August 2011)
- WCO Regional Workshop on IPR Border Enforcement in Korea (26-30 September 2011)

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<sup>2</sup>The Financial Express: *WCO diagnostic mission to review Bangladesh Customs*, [http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news\\_id=131609](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news_id=131609); dated 2011-04-06