



# ROCB e-Newsletter

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

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#### National workshop on AEO and RKC in Fiji

At the request of Fiji Revenue and Customs Administration, Mr. Sang-Hyup Lee, technical attaché from the WCO ROCB AP and an expert from Korea Customs, facilitated the National workshop on AEO held at the Fiji Customs training Center, Suva Fiji, on August 9-11. It was the first mission funded by CCF/Korea.

The workshop was opened by Ms. Arieta Dimuri, General Manager Corporate Services of Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA). More than 30 participants from Fiji Customs attended the workshop. The agenda were mainly on introduction of WCO SAFE Framework and Korea Customs good practices and Fiji Customs business partnership programs and the way forward toward the AEO implementation.

Taking this opportunity, Mr. Sang-Hyup Lee, also delivered the technical assistance on RKC to FRCA on August 12-13. The workshop was attended by 12 Customs staffs comprised of legal expert, reform team and high level national managers responsible for the re-writing of Fiji Customs law. This combined assistance by Mr. Lee and by CCF/Korea was greatly appreciated by FRCA.

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### WCO regional workshop on AEO

The WCO regional workshop on AEO was held on September 19-23, at the Korea Customs Border Control Training Center (CBCTC). This workshop was facilitated by a technical officer from the WCO and Mr. Lee Sang-Hyup, technical attaché from ROCB and other AEO experts from Korea, Japan, Singapore and China. This workshop was the first Asia Pacific regional workshop funded by CCF Korea. 31 participants from 23 members of the WCO AP region and Hungary and Czech Republic attended the workshop as observers.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Park, Cheul-Gu, President of the CBCTC. The workshop was facilitated by a technical officer from the WCO introducing WCO SAFE Framework of standards, WCO instruments relating to AEO, Current updates of SAFE, AEO requirements, and on how to convince private sectors. Moreover, AEO best practice presentations of Korea by AEO Customs Brokers, AEO association and AEO importers and exporters were delivered in the workshop.

During the workshop, participants had shown great interest in Korea's AEO associations, for example, how it is funded and the exact roles of the association and legal background. The main function of the AEO association was explained and the forum was followed by the site visit to see the operations of AEO Hynix Semiconductor Company.

### WCO Train-the-trainer workshop on PCA for OCO members

The WCO Train the Trainer workshop on PCA for OCO members was held on September 19-23, 2011 at Training Center of Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA). 5 participants from 5 WCO Members from Pacific Region namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu and 4 observers from FRCA attended the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB, Senior Auditor from Japan Customs, and Law Enforcement and Security Advisor from OCO Secretariat.

The CEO of FRCA and OCO Secretariat attended Opening Ceremony and expressed their appreciations for organizing the workshop and emphasized the importance of PCA as one of modern techniques which contributing to trade facilitation in this region.

During the workshop, the participants took their initiatives to explain some of the main points of PCA and deepened their technical knowledge and skills on PCA as trainers. Furthermore, they discussed how to develop PCA Guidelines and Training Program for OCO Members.

In closing, participant from PNG made remarks as a representative of the participants and expressed his commitment as a team leader to develop the PCA Guidelines and Training Program for OCO Members in cooperation with the participants.

### WCO Regional Workshop for Combating Counterfeiting And Piracy

WCO Regional Workshop for Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy was held in Incheon , Korea from September 26 to 30. This workshop was facilitated by two experts from the WCO, Mr. Lee SangHyup and Mr. Kelvin WONG from ROCB AP and the IPR experts from Japan and Hong Kong China. A total of 48 participants from 26 Member Administrations attended the workshop.

During the workshop, participants attained knowledge and skills on IPR trend analysis and the WCO IPR tools, capacity building of ROCB A/P, technical knowledge and support on identification of fake goods (with private sector representatives), and operational knowledge on risk assessment and target techniques. Participants also shared their national good practices, This workshop was a successful example for pooling and utilizing the regional experts available in the A/P region for the delivery of regional capacity building activities. All the speakers and participants expressed

their deep appreciation to the CCF/Japan, ROCB and Korea Customs in arranging this workshop.

Workshop on Strategic Action Planning in Laos Customs with the Support from Regional Experts

At the request of Lao Customs Department (LCD) and sponsored by CCF/JAPAN, the WCO Strategic Action Plan Development Workshop was conducted in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 2 to 9 September 2011. Senior Managers with the major divisions of LCD participated, and Ms Yoko Odashima from Japan Customs and Mr. Zhang Shujie from ROCB AP, both of whom are WCO Customs Modernization Advisors, attended as facilitators. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB joined the facilitator team for sessions in the first days. It is the first time to wholly rely on regional expertise to conduct such an important mission.



The workshop is a follow-up capacity building activity under the framework of WCO Columbus Program Phase II, as the SAFE FOS Diagnosis as Phase I was conducted in March 2009. Since the diagnosis mission was completed, LCD, under the strong leadership of Mr. Santiphab Phomvihane, Director General of LCD has witnessed remarkable progress in Customs modernization like amending Customs Law for preparing for accession to the WTO, launching pilot project to implement ASYCUDA system, centralizing Customs administration throughout the country and etc. This workshop is aimed to help LCD further clarify, shape the future directions of LCD in the coming years.

During the 8-day sessions, Diagnosis Recommendations were reviewed. Current achievement and challenges in LCD were updated. International Customs standards and best practices were briefed. Interactive and intensive discussions were conducted to develop the Strategic Action Planning.



Overall, the expert and participants felt the workshop was very successful and meaningful. With the ownership of LCD and active contributions of all the participants, a draft action plan was initially formulated and submitted to DG of LCD. In the plan, 10 major strategies have been identified and prioritized, follow-up actions like donor meetings are put forward. As Mr. Santiphab Phomvihane stressed, “the plan and the process of developing is really helpful senior managers in LCD to reach consensus on the vision, future directions LCD should embark for the coming years. We expect that LCD will be substantially modernized physically, intellectually up to 2015”. He appreciated the effective support of the WCO and ROCB.

As tasked by the leaders of Customs in our region, ROCB is drafting “Asia Pacific regional Framework for Effective Use of Regional Expertise”, which provides an outline on how to identify, use regional experts to meet rising demand on capacity building. This mission to Lao PDR definitely demonstrates that how regional expertise can play an important role in benefiting our members.



### *Farewell to Mr. Kim Tae Young*

Time flies! One year has passed since Mr. Kim Tae Young, Technical Attaché seconded by Korea Customs Service was with Customs Administrations of Asia-Pacific Region.

One year was too short for him to share his experience and expertise with our members. But it was a very meaningful and memorable time not only for our staff but also for our members. It is believed that with his dedication and passion he has contributed significantly to capacity building for Asia-Pacific Region.

He is not only a great colleague, but a close friend to us. It is hoped that he can keep the moments with ROCB staff and our members in mind after he goes back to his home administration.



## Welcome! New Expert from Hong Kong Customs

With our enormous appreciation, we are pleased to introduce Mr. Kelvin WONG, the first expert from Hong Kong Customs (HKC), who has joined the ROCB AP since 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

Equipped with years of work experiences in HKC, Mr. WONG is a talented officer with well-developed expertise in the fields of investigation and prosecution, passenger and cargo clearance, as well as customs legislation, policies and procedures. As the first HKC staff seconded to the ROCB AP, Mr. WONG expressed, "I am really honored to be selected by HKC to take up this new secondment post. I also feel privileged to have the opportunities to work with my professional and competent colleagues in the ROCB AP and WCO Secretariat. Even though I have just taken up the new job for a short period of time, I believe that working in the ROCB AP would be one of the most memorable experiences in my life and mark a new page for my career development. I will contribute my best work efforts during my term of service. I also look forward to working closely with our AP Members in the upcoming capacity building activities."

With Mr. WONG's professionalism and strong drive for work, we trust we would see his valuable contributions in the near future. We would also like, once again, express our gratitude to HKC for its continuous support to the ROCB AP.



*New Post for Our Work Partner, Mr. Dave Haigh*

As our close work partner rendering regular support and assistance to the ROCB AP, Mr. Dave Haigh from New Zealand Customs Service took up a new post of Counsellor (Customs) based in Bangkok for his Administration in May 2011.

In his more-than-30-year Customs career, Dave has served as the New Zealand's Counsellor (Customs) in Brussels and recently the Manager of the Multilateral and Regional Cooperation Team in New Zealand where he led New Zealand Customs' engagement with the WCO and APEC and the delivery of capacity building assistance to the Pacific.

In his latest post, Dave continues to make contributions to our regional customs business in trade security and facilitation, in particular, supporting interaction with the WCO Regional Vice Chairs office and the ROCB AP. The ROCB AP and Members wish Dave every success in his new post.



Taking this opportunity, we would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Mark O'Toole, a predecessor of Mr. Dave Haigh for his great contributions and continued assistance extended to ROCB A/P during his tenure from 2007 to 2010. Thank you Mark

## The 137<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thai Customs

### Thai Customs' Vision

**“World-class Customs for national competitiveness and social protection”**

On morning of 4 July 2011, Thai Customs celebrated its 137 years of serving the country and contributing for the whole Customs community.

Tax and duty collection in Thailand dates back hundreds of years ago during the Sukhothai Period, continuing into the Ayudhaya Period and early Rattanakosin Period. However, the new era of Thai Customs commenced in B.E. 2417 after Thailand entering into the “Bawn-Ring Agreement” in the reign of King Rama IV. The “Customs House” was established to collect taxes and duties.

In the reign of King Rama V, the “Hoe Ratsadakorn Pipat” was founded to handle all kinds of tax collection and has become the foundation of the present Customs Department. Since then, Customs business has expanded rapidly. The new Customs office was built in B.E. 2497 to replace the “Customs House”; and it was known as the *Customs Department*.

To mark the anniversary, Mr. Prasong Poontaneat, Director-General of Thai Customs, led the Customs officials to perform the religious ceremony at the Thai Customs Headquarters in Bangkok. The ceremony which is held annually, aims to encourage good spirit within the administration.

The activities on the celebration day brought together Customs officers, reporters, private sectors, and up to the executives from the Ministry of Finance. The Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Finance, Mr. Areepong Bhoocha-Oom, came to congratulate Thai Customs on its anniversary. Joining him is the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Finance, Mrs. Saowanee Kamolbutr.

The main event took place at the main hall of the 120-Year Building in the Thai Customs Headquarters. A total of 584 scholarships were awarded to children of Customs officials and staffs; WCO certificates were awarded to private sectors whose their knowledge management is highly organized and is set as good practice. Moreover, Customs officials who had completed 25 years of service in Thai Customs were awarded cordons.

Besides the events at the Headquarters, Thai Customs has delivered approximately 16,200 kilograms of exhibit palm oil to the Royal Chitralada Agricultural Projects, the projects, initiated by His Majesty the King and operating on a non-profit basis, have been implementing a diverse range of agricultural activities for experimentation and demonstration purposes.

In the meantime, Thai Customs has over six thousand officials and staffs. Forty-six Customs houses are located all over Thailand. In relation to overseas Customs offices, there are three offices of Customs Counselor based in Brussels, Belgium; Hong Kong, PRC; and Guangzhou, PRC. These offices act as representative of Thai Customs overseas to communicate with and support the government and private sectors in the countries where these offices are based.

Since its founding, the role of the Thai Customs has gradually changed due to today's modern and global economy. Thai Customs' current role aims at global trade facilitation, control of the movement of goods and supply chain activity, and to ensure that traders and stakeholders' expectations are met.

*WCO Asia-Pacific Regional Office  
Thai Customs*





***Good Practice Report***  
**The ROCB AP No. 7 Regional Customs Good Practice Report  
on Non-intrusive Inspection Scanners**

With the invaluable contributions from the Australia Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and Hong Kong Customs (HKC), the No.7 ROCB AP Regional Customs Good Practice Report on “Non-intrusive Inspection (NII) Scanner for Better Security and Facilitation” was published in August 2011.

Since 2007, the ROCB AP has kick-started an ongoing initiative of “Regional Customs Good Practice Report / Compendium”. With the collaborative efforts of Members in AP Region, these reports not only provide great details for the sophisticated development on some of their specific customs modernization initiatives, but also present some of their successful cases for implementation of the WCO’s tools.

Following the success of the regional workshops on NII scanner held in Australia and Hong Kong in 2008 and 2009 respectively, ROCB AP noted that our Members showed strong interest in developing and enhancing their NII scanners so as to reinforce their capacity in application of modern procedures and practices laid down in the Revised Kyoto Convention. To provide Members with the required capacity building support, ROCB AP, working closely with ACBPS and HKC, produced a Regional Customs Good Practice Report on this subject. Serving as a comprehensive reference, this report is designed to cover the good practices on procurement, maintenance, training and operational systems. It also helps Members make sustainable development on their NII operation.

To ensure the greatest benefits yielded from these reports, ROCB AP has circulated our latest report to the WCO Secretariat, ROCBs and all AP Members. Making all these reports available for ready reference, ROCB AP has also uploaded them to the “Archive of Regional Co-operation” under the WCO CLIKC portal and the ROCB AP’s webpage exclusive for our Members.

### *Annual Report of ROCBAP (2010/11) issued*

In July 2011, ROCB AP published the 2010/11 Annual Report which summarized our achievements in capacity building (CB) in the Asia Pacific Region as result of the concerted efforts of our Members and ROCB AP. The Report has already been distributed to all Heads of Customs Administrations as well as RTCs of the AP region, WCO Secretariat and ROCBs in other regions.

The year of 2010/11 can be crystallized as “a year of enhanced member’s contribution”, which was highlighted with a new funding source from CCF Korea (apart from the existing CCF Japan) for the regional capacity building activities as well as the additional staff support from Korea and Hong Kong, China to ROCB AP. In addition, ROCB enjoyed participation/contribution of more regional experts to the regional activities.

In this fruitful year, ROCB AP, with the joint efforts from the our regional experts, facilitated the WCO Secretariat to conduct five missions to Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Iran, Macao China and Samoa to support their implementation of the SAFE FoS. To enhance partnership with donors, ROCB AP worked in close cooperation with donors by co-hosting regional workshops and conducted joint visits to some countries to identify the specific areas for future collaboration. In response to Members’ requests, ROCB AP also undertook to explore organization of national donor meetings in our region.

To provide ongoing technical and management support, ROCB AP organized 11 regional / sub-regional / national workshops on various topics of customs modernization in 2010/11. With the contributions from six RTCs and Members in our region, 2 new publications of Regional Customs Good Practice by ROCB AP on “Customs Training” and “Non-intrusive Inspection Scanners” have also been produced in this year.

Looking forward, the ROCB AP will provide ongoing support to Members for customs modernization so as to enhance social and economic well-being in our region.

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## Future ROCB Capacity Building

- National Workshop on Valuation in, Mongolia (October 24-28)
- Regional Workshop on Intelligence Management, Malaysia (November 14-18)
- National Workshop on AEO in Indonesia (November 23-25)
- Regional Workshop on AEO Expert Accreditation, Korea (December 5-9)

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