Welcome New Deputy Head of the ROCB

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Welcome New Deputy Head of the ROCB, Mr. Shigeaki Katsu

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DONORS / PARTNERS
- WIPO IPR Workshop on Goods Destruction, Cambodia (12-14 July 2010)
- UNEP Green Customs Workshop, Vietnam (23-25 August 2010)
- International Seminar on ASEAN Connectivity, Bangkok (10 September 2010)

Future ROCB Capacity Building Activities

The new Deputy Head of the ROCB, Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, seconded from Japan Customs joined ROCB AP in July as a successor of Ms. Yoko Odashima. Prior to his new position, he was in charge of Valuation and PCA in Japan Customs and also involved in a number of capacity building activities that took place in the Asia Pacific region and other parts of the world. He has also worked for the Valuation Sub-directorate of the WCO Secretariat as a technical attaché between 2004 and 2007. With his broad experience and expertise as well as his forward looking character, we are sure that he can bring significant benefits to Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific Region.

Mr Katsu said that “I am so honored to have an opportunity to work for the member’s of the Asia Pacific region, and I am also delighted to be stationed in Bangkok, Thailand which is one of the most exciting places in the region with competent staff in the ROCB”.

We are looking forward to working with him for further enhancing regional capacity building activities to support our members’ efforts. Welcome Mr. Katsu!
The WCO Regional Workshop on IPR: Development of Risk Assessment and Information Exchange was held at the Shanghai Customs College (SCC), WCO Regional Training Center in China from 31 August to 3 September with financial support of the CCF/Japan. A total of 41 participants from 30 Customs administrations attended. Around 15 representatives of various right holders joined the dialogue sessions too. Two WCO experts and two ROCB experts joined this workshop and facilitated discussion/information exchange throughout the program. In addition, a representative from RILO participated in this workshop and contributed to the discussion. The wide participation by member administrations confirms the critical importance of IPR in today’s Customs work.

The four day event integrates theoretical and practical components encompassing presentation, workshop, case study, field study and more interactive sessions. The participants were exposed to the global statistics and analysis of regional seizure trends on counterfeiting and piracy. The Customs administrations of China, Japan and Korea in particular made a great contribution for the success of this workshop. In addition, a number of Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific Region agreed to share their experience and made presentations on relevant aspects of IPR enforcement and protection such as risk management, e-recording system, IPR diagnosis and action plans and cooperation with other Government agencies and stakeholders. A field study was kindly arranged by China Customs to Yangshan Customs House, where concrete actions on IPR enforcement by Shanghai Regional Customs were introduced.

To strengthen information and experience exchange between Customs and right holders, the third day of the workshop was dedicated to a dialogue session with the private sector. Six representatives of right holders and their associations presented at the workshop to share their perspective on effective IPR enforcement and protection. Identifying genuine/fake goods was also conducted throughout the day and participants of both Customs and right holders appreciated such face-to-face communication. The workshop contributed a lot in particular for those Customs administrations who want to further enhance Customs enforcement on IPR. The WCO placed great emphasis on “Customs-Business Partnership” this year. It is re-emphasized that Customs and right holders should work together to build up close partnership on effective targeting and enforcement of IPR.

The WCO Regional Workshop on Risk Management was held at CBCTC (Customs Border Control Training Center), WCO Regional Training Center (RTC), Korea from 7 – 10 September. It was the very first WCO Regional Workshop held in the RTC, Korea which celebrated its official opening on 8 September 2010. There were approximately 30 participants from 23 regional Customs administrations and as well as RILO AP. The Workshop was facilitated by three experts from the WCO. The ROCB was represented by Mr. Kosaka, Head of the ROCB and Mr. Katsu, Deputy Head of the ROCB.
Participants improved their understanding on the Customs risk management approach, including the risk management architecture, multi-layered risk management approach, intelligence driven risk management, and risk assessment, profiling and targeting. All participants actively participated in the discussion and the syndicate group work throughout the workshop and shared their valuable experiences on Risk Management implementation which greatly helped others in this regard.

Risk Management is one of the key priorities for many customs administrations of the region and the ROCB will be working with the WCO Secretariat to provide continued support to our members in the Asia Pacific Region.

On September 8th, Korea Customs committed itself officially to Capacity Building of the WCO through opening of its training center to the global Customs community as a WCO Regional Training Center: CBCTC (Korea Customs Border Control Training Center) celebrated its opening with the attendance of Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the WCO, Mr. Young-Sun Yoon, Commissioner of Korea Customs Service, Mr. Xiao Jianguo, President of Shanghai Customs College, Mr. Takeshi Yamamuro, Managing Director of CTI, Mr. Jae-Ho Park, acting President of CBCTC and Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P. There were also 31 participants from 23 countries to the WCO Regional Workshop on Risk Management joining the event to celebrate the commemorative occasion.

RTCs are very important partners for the ROCB in implementing capacity building programs in our region and RTC Korea is a 6th RTC in our region following RTC China, RTC Hong Kong China, RTC India, RTC Japan and RTC Malaysia. The ROCB has been enjoying strong cooperation and support from all RTCs for the capacity building activities and it is expected that such existing cooperation will be further enhanced with the participation and contribution of the CBCTC.

During the last Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference in Korea in April this year, DGs and Commissioners of the Asia Pacific Region agreed on the new Regional Strategic Plan for 2010-2012. The ROCB is looking forward to working with CBCTC, all other RTCs and of course with all Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific Region to achieve its objective.

CBCTC has an excellent training facility both for domestic and international training, have expertise in organizing international programs and now it is officially opened for WCO capacity building activities. Mr. Kosaka, Head of ROCB AP, expressed his high expectation to work together with CBCTC to further improve Customs effectiveness and efficiency in the Asia Pacific Region. Welcome! Korea Customs CBCTC!
During 12 to 14 July 2010, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, the Government of Cambodia and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), organized a Regional Workshop on the Disposal of Goods. The workshop was held in Cambodia. Around 30 Officials from seven ASEAN members, namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam attended the workshop. Resource persons for the workshop were from WIPO, USPTO, IPR Business Partnership and the private sector. In addition, Mr. Zhang Shujie from the ROCB joined the workshop.

The theme of the workshop was to discuss how to dispose of infringing goods. The ROCB presented the WCO IPR strategy and major tools, including the WCO Model IPR legislation. In addition, relevant capacity building activities such as IPR diagnosis, regional seminars and action plan development were introduced. Participants appreciated the remarkable efforts on IPR enforcement by the WCO and the ROCB.

The Vietnam Green Customs Workshop, organized by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) and General Department of Vietnam Customs (GDVC) was conducted in Hanoi, Vietnam between 23 -25 August 2010. Mr. Zhang Shujie attended the workshop on behalf of the ROCB. Around 80 officials from relevant ministries and government agencies, and representatives with NGOs like TRAFFIC attended the workshop. Resource persons from the UNEP, Basel Convention Regional Center in Indonesia, Interpol and the ROCB were invited to contribute.

The workshop is the follow-up action of the WCO Regional Workshop on Green Customs held in Bangkok in September 2008. The Government of Vietnam shows strong commitment on promoting Green Customs Initiative (GCI) and combating environmental crimes. The aim of the workshop was to help Customs officers and other enforcement agencies officials to be familiar with GCI as a whole and concerned Multi-lateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and to strengthen enforcement capacity and effectiveness.

Mr. Zhang Shujie made a presentation on the WCO's instruments and tools on combating environment offences and regional capacity building activities relating to the environment by the ROCB. It is widely recognized by the participants that capacity building on GCI, especially among front-line enforcement officers is critical.

An International Seminar on ASEAN Connectivity, organized by the Korean Embassy in Thailand and Chula Global Network, was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 10 September, 2010. Mr Zhang Shujie represented the ROCB and attended the event. Officials from relevant Thai government ministries and agencies, delegates of the Korean Embassy, representatives of academia and the private sector (totaling around 30 participants) attended the one-day event. Resource persons from the ADB, ASEAN Secretariat, ESCAP and Chulalongkorn University were invited.

The seminar focused both on hard infrastructure development in the ASEAN and Asia Pacific regions, physical connectivity and soft infrastructure. Mr. Zhang Shujie presented “Harmonization of Customs procedures by Standard setting and capacity building: WCO Approach.” The WCO key tools such as RKC, SAFE FoS and WCO Data Model were introduced and the role of the ROCB and relevant capacity building activities were also presented. The participating organizations welcomed the ROCB's efforts in building a
modern Customs and look forward to future partnership.

Future ROCB Capacity Building

- SAFE Diagnostic mission, Brunei Darussalam (11th – 22nd October 2010)
- Action planning, Macao (8th – 12th November 2010)
- SAFE Diagnostic mission, Samoa (29th November – 10th December 2010)
- Heads of Regional Training Center Meeting, Korea (6th – 7th December 2010)
- Regional workshop on Customs Management, Malaysia (17th – 28th January 2011)