The Thai Customs Department hosts the ROCB A/P 10th Anniversary Ceremony
The ROCB A/P’s 10th Anniversary Ceremony was carried out on 7 November 2014 at Sukhothai Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. The Thai Customs Department, the host administration of the ROCB A/P since its inception in September 2014, generously hosted this remarkable ceremony, which was attended by a number of distinguished guests including Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, Dato’ Sri Khazali bin Ahmad, Regional Vice-Chair and Director General of Royal Malaysian Customs Department, and former ROCB A/P staff members, including 2 former Heads of the ROCB A/P, Mr. Takashi Matsumoto and Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka.

The Ceremony was preceded with a conversation-style introduction by masters of ceremony from the Thai Customs Department. At the ceremony, there were four speeches were delivered, namely by the Host Administration, the WCO, the Regional Vice-Chair and the ROCB A/P.
Dr. Somchai Sujjapongse, Director General of the Thai Customs Department, delivered his congratulatory remarks and reaffirmed his administration’s continued unsparing support for the ROCB A/P, which is the A/P region’s focal point for WCO capacity building activities. He said, “At this moment of celebration, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone whose dedication and efforts have contributed to the growth, development and achievement of the ROCB A/P. On behalf of the Thai Customs Department, I am pleased to ensure a continuous and stronger relationships and friendships between the Thai Customs Department and ROCB A/P for mutual benefits of our Customs community of our Asia Pacific Region as a whole.”

Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General and one of the twin fathers of the ROCB framework, spoke historical backgrounds of establishing the ROCB in Bangkok, the world’s first of this kind, and the WCO’s continued efforts in contending with ever changing global pictures surrounding international trade and Customs administrations.

Dato’ Sri Khazali bin Ahmad, the A/P Regional Vice-Chair, delivered his determination to take his leadership to foster further enhanced cooperation and coordination among the Customs administrations in the A/P region, including the collaboration with the ROCB A/P during this tenure in the office.
Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P made a speech and thanked all stakeholders for their unsparing support for the Office’s activities. In his speech, Mr. Igarashi introduced all of the officials who served at the ROCB A/P as permanent staff and ad hoc supporters and complimented their great dedication and accomplishment. In concluding the speech, he pledged

Following the speeches, as a commemorative activity, all guests were invited to join tree planting ceremony, which symbolizes the region’s cooperation for, and commitment to the rooting and blooming of the world’s first ROCB in the center of the Asia/Pacific region. Guests poured soil and watered to the twin trees, the icons of close relationship between the WCO and Asia/pacific region, as well as twin fathers of the ROCB A/P. These trees were named “the ROCB Trees.”
WCO Secretary General and Director General of the Thai Customs Department

Directors General and Head of the ROCB A/P

[Below] Heads of the WCO A/P Regional Training Centers and Head of the ROCB A/P
Thai Customs Executives and former Heads of the ROCB A/P

Customs Counselors and Attachés

Development Partners
Development Partners

WCO, RILO A/P and delegates to the RTC Heads meeting

Former ROCB A/P staff
The Ceremony was then proceeded with a gala dinner hosted by Dr. Somchai, Director General of the Thai Customs Department. To finish gorgeous dinner, to be surprised, the host kindly prepared a birthday cake, which was cut by Head of the ROCB A/P and shared among the guests.
Reunion of the former and current ROCB A/P staff attending the Ceremony

Three ROCB A/P Heads and Representatives of the WCO Secretariat and the regional Vice-Chair’s Office

A group photo with Dr. Somchai and Thai Customs colleagues after sending off the guests
The “ROCB Trees” were planted in the premises of the Thai Customs Department on 10 November 2014 jointly by the Thai Customs Executives, represented by Mr. Paisarn Chuenjit, Deputy Director-General, and the ROCB A/P staff members.

Visitors to the ROCB A/P will be cordially invited to give some water to the “ROCB Trees” as a symbolic action of collaboration in the region’s capacity building activities.
Special Appreciation to the gracious host administration!

The ROCB A/P staff members express sincere appreciation to the guests who attended the Ceremony and, most importantly, express our profound appreciation to Dr. Somchai and all of the Thai Customs members who contributed a great deal to making the Ceremony a big success.

Special Thanks to the Thai Customs Department for this excellent Ceremony!!