



ROCB E-Newsletter No. 93

Asia/Pacific

World Customs Organization



In this issue:

Farewell message from Ms. Grace Ye

Farewell message from Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu

Foreword

Dear Readers,

Greetings from the ROCB.

It is my pleasure to present the latest edition of the ROCB A/P E-Newsletter, highlighting some of our recent activities and developments across the Asia/Pacific Region.

Over the past few months, ROCB A/P conducted two important field missions: to the Nepal Department of Customs in April and to Timor-Leste Customs Authority in June. These visits provided valuable opportunities to reconfirm each Administration's capacity-building needs and priorities that were expressed to the WCO, while discussing in greater detail the specific areas where assistance is required, the desired timing of support, and the rationale behind these requests. In addition to meetings with senior management and the Directors, we also visited operational sites to better understand the realities on the ground.

In Nepal, we learned about the Customs Administration's ongoing efforts to develop a new strategic plan under the new government. We also exchanged views with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which is supporting this process, to better understand the direction of the reforms and identify how WCO assistance can complement other development partners' initiatives.



In Timor-Leste, we followed up on the discussions held during last year's bilateral meeting with the Commissioner at ASEAN-WCO Consultation Meeting. We had in-depth discussions on the progress made since then, the ongoing WCO Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Workshop at that time, and the future direction of AEO implementation by Timor-Leste and the WCO's support for these efforts. The outcomes and recommendations from these discussions have been shared with the WCO Secretariat to facilitate future engagement.



Much of ROCB A/P's needs assessment work relies on surveys, interviews, and regular communication with Members. However, these recent visits once again reminded us that there is no substitute for observing operations firsthand and engaging directly with officers in their working environment. While our travel opportunities remain constrained by budgetary limitations, we remain committed to continuing such field missions whenever possible, as they enable us to better understand Members' circumstances and provide more relevant and effective support.

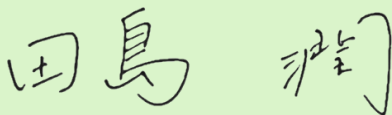
I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to both Nepal Customs and Timor-Leste Customs for their warm hospitality and generous cooperation during our visits. Although our stays were brief, the openness and commitment demonstrated by both administrations made the missions highly productive and meaningful.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to two valued colleagues who recently concluded their service with ROCB A/P. Ms. Zhengqing YE (Grace), who departed in April, made outstanding contributions to the Office over the past five years through her professionalism, dedication, and unwavering commitment to supporting Customs Administrations across the Region. I would also like to thank Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, who completed her assignment in June after two years of remarkable service; her hard work, innovative approach, and tangible achievements have significantly strengthened the activities and outcomes of ROCB A/P. I sincerely thank both Grace and Asuka for their invaluable contributions and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our e-Newsletter and find it both informative and useful.

Together, we advance.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized Japanese characters '田島 純' (Tajima Jun).

Jun TAJIMA

Head of WCO ROCB A/P

Contents

Workshops and Meetings

ROCB A/P Visits ADB Nepal Resident Mission in Kathmandu	1
ROCB A/P Supports WCO National Workshop on Time Release Study in Nepal	3
ROCB A/P discussed with Nepal Customs on its capacity building needs and priorities	4
ROCB A/P Engages in WCO National Workshop on Single Window for Thai Customs Department	5
Lao Customs Delegation Visits ROCB A/P to Strengthen Capacity Building Cooperation	7
Japan Customs Delegation Visits the ROCB A/P	8
ROCB A/P Attends 27 th WCO A/P RHCA Conference	9
ROCB A/P Discusses with Members at 27 th WCO RHCA Conference	11
Regional Development Manager of Asia-Pacific Region, WCO Secretariat Visits Thai Customs Department	12
Regional Development Manager of Asia-Pacific Region, WCO Secretariat Visits the ROCB A/P	13
ROCB A/P engages in private sector dialogue	14
ASEAN Directors-General and World Customs Organization Meet in Phnom Penh to Advance Regional Integration and Cooperation	15
ROCB A/P Strengthens Regional Synergy Through High-Level Dialogues at ASEAN Customs Directors General Meeting	17
ROCB A/P Attends the Paperless Trade Week 2026 Organized by UNESCAP	18
Introductory Meeting with WCO NASS Unit to Strengthen Collaboration	19
WCO Supports Timor-Leste's AEO Development Through Targeted Workshop and Field Engagement	20

WCO Council Highlights Growing Focus on Enforcement, Technology and Regional Cooperation 22

ROCB Engages with Members to Better Understand Regional Capacity-Building Needs 23

ROCB A/P joins New Zealand Customs Asia Liaison Officer Network Meeting 24

Staff Update

Farewell Message from Ms. Grace Ye 26

Farewell Message from Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu 28

Workshops and Meetings

ROCB A/P Visits ADB Nepal Resident Mission in Kathmandu

2nd April 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal



Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager for South Asia, visited the Asian Development Bank, Nepal Resident Mission in Kathmandu on 2nd April 2026.

The visit took place with the objective of enhancing understanding of ADB's ongoing assistance to Customs administrations in the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) region.

The ROCB A/P was welcomed by Mr. Manbar Singh Khadka, Co-Program Team Leader of the SASEC Customs and Logistics Reforms Program, together with Consultants Mr. Mandesh Maharjan and Mr. Lal Bahadur Khatari.

The visit commenced with an introduction of the WCO and ROCB A/P, followed by an exchange of views on supports provided to the Department of Customs of Nepal. Key

achievements highlighted Nepal's Customs Reform and Modernization (CRM) Plan (2021–2026) and next phases of CRM Plan 2026-2031.

ADB also shared progress under ongoing initiatives, including the introduction of e-payment systems linked to ASYCUDA World for the Department of Customs of Nepal, the development of an online valuation database system, and a risk-based approach for transaction-based Post Clearance Audit (PCA) to enhance efficiency in customs clearance. These initiatives aim to reduce paper-based procedures and align practices with international standards that enhance transparency.

Discussions briefly covered regional initiatives under the SASEC framework, including efforts to advance paperless trade, Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (R-ECTS) and other reform areas to facilitate transit and improve connectivity. Also, a discussion on the Nepal National Single Window (NNSW) and improvement.

Both sides expressed their willingness to strengthen future cooperation and information sharing on capacity-building initiatives to further support Customs modernization and trade facilitation in the South Asia region.



ROCB A/P Supports WCO National Workshop on Time Release Study in Nepal

3rd April 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal



ROCB A/P supported the implementation of a WCO National Workshop on Time Release Study (TRS), held on 3rd April 2026 in Kathmandu, Nepal with funding support from the CCF/Korea. The workshop brought together participants from the Department of Customs of Nepal, the Ministry of Finance, other government agencies (OGAs), and the private sector in Nepal.

The workshop served as a preparatory step for the TRS to be conducted at border Customs such as Birgunj Customs and Nepalgunj Customs, while strengthening national capacity for its third implementation of TRS in Nepal.

From ROCB A/P, Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager, provided an overview of the WCO, its Customs Modernization initiatives, the WTO TFA and Mercator Programme, and related TRS initiatives. Ms. Imelda Malik, WCO Accredited Expert on TRS, delivered detailed sessions on the key elements of TRS, Member experiences, and its methodology, offering comprehensive insights applicable to both new and experienced practitioners.

Finally, Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing that a clear sense of purpose and strong partnerships among the border agencies are essential

for the effective implementation of TRS, and expressed his hope for the successful completion of Nepal's TRS.

Building on this knowledge, participants proceeded with data collection and recording which experts provided valuable insights. The experts will follow-up, even after this Workshop, on data analysis and finalization of findings and recommendations, to support Nepal's third TRS implementation.

ROCB A/P discussed with Nepal Customs on its capacity building needs and priorities

7th April 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal

ROCB A/P held a meeting with Mr. Gyanendra Raj Dhakal, Director of the Customs Reform and International Relations Section at the Department of Customs Nepal, on 7th April 2026 in Kathmandu, Nepal.



The meeting was attended by Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager in charge of South Asia Region.

The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between ROCB A/P and Nepal Customs in advancing Customs modernization and capacity-building efforts.

During the discussion, Mr. Tajima explained the role of the ROCB A/P in the process of formulating and implementing Capacity Building activities of the WCO, including how their needs are identified, prioritized, and translated into a plan in coordination with the WCO Secretariat, as well as new procedures under the New Capacity Building paradigm. Mr. Dhakal then elaborated further details on their several Capacity Building needs that have been submitted by Nepal Customs to the WCO Secretariat. The exchange allowed both sides to deepen their understanding of priorities and explore potential avenues for future WCO support.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of close communication and partnership between ROCB A/P and Nepal Customs in ensuring that identified needs are effectively addressed through well-coordinated Capacity Building interventions.

ROCB A/P Engages in WCO National Workshop on Single Window for Thai Customs Department

20th – 24th April 2026, Bangkok, Thailand



The World Customs Organization (WCO) National Workshop on Single Window successfully concluded at the Thai Customs Department in Bangkok.

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of the ROCB A/P, delivered opening remarks at the workshop. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of the Single Window environment in enhancing trade facilitation, reducing time and cost for traders, and strengthening coordination among cross-border regulatory agencies. He also expressed his appreciation to Thai Customs for their strong commitment to digital transformation and modernization.

As the Programme Manager for Southeast Asia, Mr. Mark Ho arranged a pre-workshop online preparatory meeting prior to the workshop. The meeting provided a valuable platform

for Thai Customs and the invited experts to discuss the workshop agenda, expected outcomes, and specific areas of focus in depth.

Throughout the workshop, participants engaged actively in presentations, interactive discussions, and practical exercises covering key topics related to the establishment and enhancement of a national Single Window system in line with international standards and best practices.

At the closing session, Mr. Deokjoong Kim, CCF/Korea Operations Manager, delivered closing remarks. He commended the active participation of Thai Customs officials and expressed his hope that the workshop would lead to tangible outcomes and concrete follow-up actions that contribute to the successful implementation of Single Window in Thailand.



Lao Customs Delegation Visits ROCB A/P to Strengthen Capacity Building Cooperation

7th May 2026, Bangkok, Thailand



On Thursday, 7th May 2026, the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), welcomed a delegation from Lao Customs (Lao PDR) for a visit and discussion.

The programme began with arrival and opening remarks, followed by an in-depth Technical Discussion Session. ROCB A/P and the Lao Customs delegation engaged in productive exchanges on several key areas, including the Capacity Building New Paradigm, Lao Customs' specific capacity building needs, and strategies for the development of their own experts.

Discussions covered the "New Paradigm" approach in capacity building and the planning and coordination of upcoming activities, Mission Terms of Reference (TORs) for Post Clearance Audit (PCA) and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programs and support for the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) for the fiscal year 2026/27.

Discussion on Sustainability and Training of Trainers (ToT) were also held, with Lao Customs seeking advice on identifying and developing high-potential national officers into trainers, as well as best practices for establishing an internal knowledge hub to promote long-

term self-reliance. ROCB A/P provided Lao Customs with the examples taken from the Compendium of Training Management in Asia Pacific, which was an initiative of the ROCB A/P, as well as WCO Tools for their reference.

The visit provided a valuable platform to align future capacity building initiatives with Lao Customs' priorities and to enhance regional cooperation under the WCO framework.

Japan Customs Delegation Visits the ROCB A/P

11th May 2026, Bangkok, Thailand



Mr. Shoichi Sudo, Director for International Technical Cooperation, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan (Japan Customs), paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Jun Tajima, the Head of the ROCB A/P, together with his colleague Mr. Kohei Kiyota, Unit chief, on 11th May 2026.

During the meeting, ROCB A/P provided an overview of its current capacity building support activities, such as new implementation procedures for the WCO Members in the Asia/Pacific region. Productive exchanges were also held on the WCO capacity building cycle,

regional training needs and sustainable human resource development initiatives such as WCO/JICA Master Trainer Programme.

The discussion reaffirmed the strong cooperative relationship between ROCB A/P and Japan Customs, as well as their shared commitment to supporting capacity building efforts across the Asia/Pacific region under the WCO framework. ROCB A/P looks forward to continuing its close collaboration with Japan Customs in the future.

ROCB A/P Attends 27th WCO A/P RHCA Conference

17th - 20th May 2026, Hong Kong, China



The 27th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific (A/P) Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference was held in Hong Kong, China, from 17th to 20th May 2026, hosted by the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department as the Asia/Pacific Regional Vice-Chair.

Mr. Jun Tajima, the Head of the ROCB A/P, together with Mr. Deokjoong Kim and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Managers of the ROCB A/P, attended the conference.

At the opening ceremony, the Asia/Pacific Regional Vice-Chair warmly welcomed participants to Hong Kong, China, and highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and partnerships among Customs administrations in addressing emerging global challenges.

Mr. Ian Saunders, the WCO Secretary General, shared updates on the WCO's recent initiatives and emphasized the Organization's ongoing efforts toward modernization, sustainable development, and digital transformation. During the meeting, the WCO Secretary General also provided updates on strategic priorities and recent developments within the WCO.

Mr. Jun Tajima and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu introduced the new initiatives of the ROCB A/P for planning, implementation and evaluation of capacity building activities in the Asia/Pacific region. They also highlighted other outcomes of their annual activities of the ROCB A/P including RTC Heads Meeting, revision of the Compendium of Training Management in A/P Region, staff report on Single Window, updates on RTC brochure among others.

In addition, Mr. Deokjoong Kim, together with Japan Customs as co-coordinator, provided an update on the Progress Report on Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building) under the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2024-2026. He highlighted the co-coordinators' efforts in publishing "Regional Efforts on Implementation of International Standards in the AP Region". Based on the Questionnaire responses from Member Administrations, this report underscores the significance of international standards and reflects the current regional implementation status.

During the conference, discussions were also held on the endorsement of the Regional Strategic Plan 2026-2028, campaign nominations for regional representative positions and the next host of RILO A/P for 2028-2031.

ROCB A/P will continue to maintain close communication with the Asia/Pacific Regional Vice-Chair and Members, strengthening partnerships, and explore further collaboration in the region.

ROCB A/P Discusses with Members at 27th WCO RHCA Conference

17th – 20th May 2026, Hong Kong, China



The 27th WCO Asia/Pacific RHCA Conference was held in Hong Kong, China from 17th to 20th May 2026.

During the Conference, ROCB A/P held a series of discussions and exchanges of views with Customs administrations from across the Asia/Pacific Region. The meetings were attended by Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu and Mr. Deokjoong Kim, Program Managers.

Throughout the Meeting, ROCB A/P exchanged views with many Members, and discussed the future direction of WCO Capacity Building activities in the Asia/Pacific Region. Members shared their updates on their ongoing reform initiatives, operational challenges, and areas where capacity building support may be beneficial.

This two-way communication will assist ROCB A/P in facilitating and delivering effective WCO Capacity Building activities, supporting the strengthening of Customs capacity and the sustainable development of Customs administrations throughout the entire Asia/Pacific Region.

Regional Development Manager of Asia-Pacific Region, WCO Secretariat Visits Thai Customs Department

28th -29th May 2026, Bangkok, Thailand



Mr. Yuichiro OKUMURA, Regional Development Manager of Asia-Pacific region, WCO Secretariat, undertook a visit to ROCB A/P and Thai Customs Department on 28th - 29th May 2026.

During the two-day visit, Mr. OKUMURA had a study visit at Passenger Control of Suvarnabhumi Airport to gain insights into the current operational challenges. He then paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Phantong Loykulnanta, Director-General of Thai Customs Department and Mrs. Sunsupa Klaisuban, Director of Strategy and Planning Division. The discussion sessions were fruitful, portraying the solid partnership between the WCO, Thai Customs Department, and ROCB A/P. Lastly, a facility tour of Regional Training Center Thailand was made possible by kind coordination from Director of Customs Academy, Ms. Ratha Kaewkullawej and her team, as well as facilitated a session of constructive dialogue among the parties, reaffirming the commitment to supporting Asia-Pacific capacity building initiatives under the WCO guidance.

WCO appreciates Thai Customs Department as the generous host of the ROCB A/P and look forward to further cooperation on hosting WCO workshops in RTC Thailand.

Regional Development Manager of Asia-Pacific Region, WCO Secretariat Visits ROCB A/P

29th May 2026, Bangkok, Thailand



Mr. Yuichiro OKUMURA, Regional Development Manager of Asia-Pacific region, WCO Secretariat, paid a visit to Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P on 29th May 2026.

During the meeting, ROCB A/P provided an overview of its operation and current capacity building support activities and initiatives, such as new procedures for workshops and Need Survey for the WCO Members in the Asia/Pacific region. ROCB A/P's Initiatives, for instance, Member Profiles and a regional report 'Regional Efforts on Implementation of International Standards in Asia Pacific Region' were presented; they were highly appreciated by the RDM.

The discussion underscored the strong partnership between ROCB A/P and the WCO, reinforcing their joint commitment to advancing regional capacity-building efforts within the WCO framework. ROCB A/P welcomes the opportunity to further its close collaboration with WCO in the future.

ROCB A/P engages in private sector dialogue

2nd June 2026, Phnom Penh



The ROCB A/P had a discussion with the US-ASEAN Business Council and EU-ASEAN Business Council on the sidelines of the 35th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs at Raffles Hotel Le Royal in Phnom Penh.

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of the ROCB A/P, received a request for a bilateral meeting from the US-ASEAN Business Council as part of its longstanding engagement with the WCO and ASEAN Customs authorities. This initiative reflects the ROCB A/P's ongoing efforts to foster meaningful dialogue with the private sector on key issues. Through this meeting, both parties aim to support ASEAN's strategic goals and policy priorities in Customs, by incorporating Capacity Building activities with private sector perspectives, where appropriate. ROCB A/P

also encouraged private sector's continued regulatory alignment and ASEAN economic integration.

Additionally, Mr. Tajima hosted a bilateral meeting with the EU-ASEAN Business Council to highlight the ROCB A/P's current initiatives. Representatives from the EU-ASEAN Business Council raised questions regarding how the WCO addresses private sector concerns. In response, Mr. Tajima introduced existing WCO tools and instruments and exchanged information on the current status of ASEAN Members.

Both meetings helped foster an atmosphere of cooperation, paving the way for productive dialogue and future collaboration on WCO Capacity Building activities.

ASEAN Directors-General and World Customs Organization Meet in Phnom Penh to Advance Regional Integration and Cooperation

2nd June 2026, Phnom Penh



Senior customs officials from across Southeast Asia convened alongside international counterparts for the 15th ASEAN–World Customs Organization (WCO) Consultation. Held during the 35th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs chaired by Dr. Kun Nhem, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, Director-General of the General Department of

Customs and Excise of Cambodia, the session focused on modernisation, regional integration and capacity building.

The high-level dialogue, co-chaired by Thai Customs Department, on behalf of the ASEAN Members, and the WCO, serves as a critical platform for aligning regional trade facilitation with global customs standards.

A central pillar of this year's consultation was a briefing by the Secretary-General of the WCO. As global supply chains become increasingly digitised, the discussion highlighted ASEAN's success in its efforts on cross-border trade to be more secure through the Regional Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) of national AEO programmes and more efficient with ASEAN Single Window.

In response, the ASEAN Secretariat provided updates on the region's recent customs initiatives, emphasising milestones in cross-border data exchange and streamlined clearance processes aimed at boosting the ASEAN integration.

Strengthening Regional Capabilities

Beyond policy alignment, the consultation addressed practical implementation. Mr. Jun Tajima, the Head of ROCB briefed the delegates on ongoing and future capacity building programmes specifically tailored for ASEAN Members and highlighted the use of Accredited Experts. Mr. Tajima stressed the WCO's New Capacity Building Paradigm which aims at outcome-based activities, designed to support Customs administrations to effectively implement their policy priorities.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment from both the ASEAN Chair and the WCO Secretary-General to deepen cooperation, ensuring the Region remains resilient against challenges.

ROCB A/P Strengthens Regional Synergy Through High-Level Dialogues at ASEAN Customs Directors General Meeting

2nd June 2026, Phnom Penh



On the margins of the 15th WCO ASEAN Directors-General Consultation Meeting hosted in Cambodia, the ROCB A/P actively leveraged the gathering to conduct a series of strategic bilateral meetings and discussions with key beneficiaries and major development partners.

Recognising the significance of the ASEAN platform for driving modernisation across the Region, Mr. Jun Tajima, the Head of the ROCB A/P engaged deeply with various Member administrations. These high-level exchanges of information aimed to identify gaps between the real situation of the beneficiaries and the international standards, as well as avoid duplications of Regional efforts with those partners.

In depth discussions were held with Timor-Leste, new Member Administration of ASEAN community, and so-called Least Developing Countries focused around how to pave cooperation paths to fit their international obligations.

To ensure optimal utilization of technical resources across the Asia/Pacific region, the ROCB A/P held robust dialogues with crucial development partners, including the Australian Border Force (ABF) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The consultation underscored a mutual intent to innovate the delivery of capacity building under limited resources.

Through these comprehensive interactions on the margins of the ASEAN meeting, the ROCB A/P continues to play its role as an advisory body to the WCO Secretariat, ensuring that Regional growth remains effective to the challenges of individual Member Administration.

ROCB A/P Attends the Paperless Trade Week 2026 Organized by UNESCAP

8th - 12th June 2026, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Program Managers Mr. Deokjoong Kim and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu participated in the 12th Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) and Paperless Trade Week 2026, held from 8th to 12th June 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Paperless Trade Week featured the 5th Session of the Paperless Trade Council under the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA). During the session, the Council highlighted key advancements in regional trade facilitation, including the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced analytics in customs risk management, the modernization and expansion of Single Window, and the continuous alignment of national legal frameworks with international standards.

During the event, Mr. Deokjoong Kim held bilateral talks with UNESCAP officials to strengthen institutional ties. They discussed concrete ways to enhance their partnership, building on the success of the 8th UNNExT Masterclass on Electronic Single Windows and



Data Analytics co-organized last November. That masterclass had been jointly organized with UNESCAP, ROCB A/P, and the Korea Customs Service, with financial support from the WCO Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF-Korea). Looking forward, both agencies agreed to expand future collaboration to further facilitate cross-border paperless trade for Customs administrations across the Asia-Pacific region.

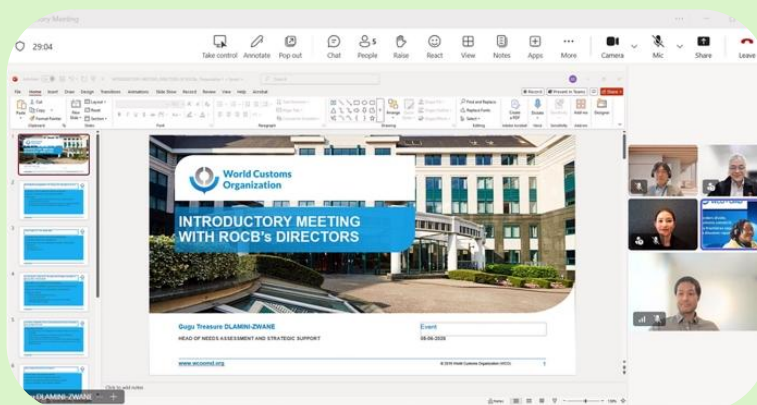
In conjunction with the plenary session, a series of technical side events explored practical pathways for digital trade. These sessions focused on deploying emerging technologies such as AI and blockchain, advancing regional Single Window connectivity, and utilizing digital systems to drive supply chain traceability and sustainable, climate-smart trade.

Overall, the event underscored the pivotal role of digital innovation and regional cooperation in shaping the future of paperless and resilient trade in the Asia-Pacific.

Introductory Meeting with WCO NASS Unit to Strengthen Collaboration

11th June 2026, Online Meeting

ROCB A/P participated in an online introductory meeting with the WCO NASS (Needs Assessment and Strategic Support) Unit and Regional Development Manager Team for Asia-Pacific region to exchange views on the New Capacity Building (CB) Paradigm and explore ways to strengthen collaboration among the WCO Secretariat, ROCBs, and RTCs.



The meeting was attended by Ms. Gugu Treasure DLAMINI-ZWANE, Head of the WCO NASS Unit, together with her team.

From ROCB A/P, Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager, participated in the discussion.

Ms. Zwane highly acknowledged the work of the ROCB A/P, especially on the accumulation of information on Member Customs Administrations into Member Profile. Attendees shared ongoing initiatives and discussed the importance of effective

communication, information sharing, and follow-up mechanisms to support more effective and harmonized ways to implement capacity building activities.

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding to continue close communication and collaboration in support of more effective and coordinated capacity building activities across the regions.

WCO Supports Timor-Leste's AEO Development Through Targeted Workshop and Field Engagement

22nd June 2026, Dili, Timor Leste



The WCO successfully delivered a targeted Workshop to Timor-Leste Customs Authority (TLCA) in the week of 22nd June 2026, responding to the Administration's urgent need for support in establishing an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programme. The Head of ROCB A/P, Jun Tajima, attended the opening ceremony of the Workshop.

The Workshop was organised in response to Timor-Leste Customs Authority's immediate interest in establishing a roadmap for AEO implementation and preparing for future participation in regional initiatives, including the ASEAN AEO Mutual Recognition

Arrangement (AAMRA). The Workshop was delivered through Accredited Experts of the WCO from Directorate General of Customs and Excise, Indonesia, and the Australian Border Force.

The Workshop brought together Customs officials to discuss the core principles of the AEO concept, implementation requirements, and practical steps for developing a trusted trader programme aligned with SAFE Framework of Standards. Supported by the experts, participants explored approaches for designing an AEO work plan, developing an implementation roadmap, and strengthening institutional capacity for future AEO programme management.

In addition to the workshop, the ROCB A/P had an opportunity to discuss with the Commissioner of TLCA on its agenda for AEO establishment and future work for the AAMRA and the WCO / ROCB A/P's support on them. Also, both parties extended their exchange of information on the future possible activities by the WCO for Timor Leste.

Timor-Leste Customs Authority kindly facilitated a half-day field visit to operational Customs sites for the ROCB A/P. This valuable opportunity enabled the ROCB team and experts to gain insights into current operational practices and local situations. It served as an important opportunity to identify future capacity building needs and understand the practical challenges faced by frontline officers. Such observations will help ensure that future WCO support is tailored to Timor Leste's specific circumstances and development priorities.

The mission was conducted in a warm and constructive atmosphere, reflecting the strong commitment of TLCA to modernisation. The active participation of Customs officials and the openness shown during discussions and site visits contributed significantly to the success of the AEO Workshop and future activities.

The ROCB A/P remains committed to supporting Timor-Leste's Customs modernisation efforts and looks forward to continued cooperation in advancing secure trade, trade facilitation, and Regional integration through the development of its AEO programme.

WCO Council Highlights Growing Focus on Enforcement, Technology and Regional Cooperation

25th – 27th June 2026, Brussels, Belgium

The 147th/148th Sessions of the WCO Council highlighted a strong emphasis on protecting society, strengthening enforcement activities, and harnessing technology to address emerging Customs challenges.



In his special address, WCO Secretary General Ian Saunders underscored the increasingly complex environment facing Customs administrations worldwide. Rising trade volumes, sophisticated criminal networks, and evolving supply chain risks require Customs authorities to balance trade facilitation with security, revenue collection, and law enforcement. Reflecting the WCO's 2026 theme, "Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security and Prosperity," discussions focused on the role of Customs in protecting society from threats such as drug trafficking, intellectual property violations, money laundering, sanctions evasion, and other forms of transnational organized crime.

The Council also welcomed keynote contributions from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and INTERPOL. Both organizations emphasized the growing threat posed by synthetic drugs and the importance of closer cooperation among Customs, law enforcement agencies, and international partners. Recent joint operations demonstrated the value of intelligence sharing, coordinated enforcement actions, and advanced risk-management approaches.

A recurring theme throughout the Council was the increasing importance of technology. Many Members highlighted the use of latest technology as important tools for enhancing operational effectiveness and responding to challenges associated with e-commerce and rapidly changing trade patterns.

The Council also reviewed progress under the WCO Strategic Plan. Members expressed satisfaction with implementation efforts, while emphasizing the continued importance of capacity building, particularly for developing Members.

From a regional perspective, discussions in the Asia/Pacific region addressed governance matters and future cooperation. The ROCB Asia/Pacific actively contributed to these discussions and continued engagement with Members and partners to support regional priorities and strengthen collaboration across the Customs community.

The ROCB A/P keeps close communications with the Secretariat and Members so that the Capacity Building activities of the WCO in the Region continue to be effective.

ROCB Engages with Members to Better Understand Regional Capacity-Building Needs

25th – 27th June 2026, Brussels, Belgium

On the margins of the 147th/148th Sessions of the WCO Council, the Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) actively engaged with Member administrations to better understand their priorities and identify areas for future activities.



The Head of ROCB A/P, Jun Tajima, held a series of constructive discussions with Customs administrations from across the region, including the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Timor-Leste Customs Authority, and Maldives Customs Service. These exchanges provided valuable opportunities to discuss current challenges, modernization efforts, and capacity-building requirements.

During the meeting with IRICA, discussions focused on the administration's ongoing digitalization initiatives and its interest in strengthening areas. IRICA also expressed interest in participating in future Regional activities and training opportunities. The ROCB A/P expressed its appreciations to IRICA's contributions to the region, by active participation to the Heads meeting of the Regional Training Centre in A/P Region in 2025, and also explained its role in the Region, making the WCO Workshops more effective to achieve IRICA's policy goals. The meeting was held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, allowing both sides to exchange views on their current priorities and future areas of cooperation.

ROCB A/P also met with the Commissioner of Timor-Leste Customs Authority and facilitated exchanges with the WCO Secretariat and partner Members. Discussions highlighted the importance of continued support for institutional development and human resource capacity, including the possible use of CLiKC! platform for future new recruits, as Timor-Leste advances its Customs modernization agenda.

In discussions with Maldives Customs Service, attention was given to their detailed needs and priorities. Both sides exchanged views on opportunities for cooperation, including the possible visit during the planned SASEC Customs knowledge-sharing.

These meetings reflect ROCB's commitment to maintaining close dialogue with Member administrations and ensuring that Regional capacity-building activities respond effectively to Members' evolving needs. By listening directly to Customs leaders, ROCB A/P can better support the Members' priorities and contribute to stronger, more resilient Customs Administrations across the Asia/Pacific region.

As the region continues to navigate rapid technological change, growing trade volumes, and increasingly complex border risks, such engagement remains essential for shaping practical and impactful capacity building initiatives.

ROCB A/P joins New Zealand Customs Asia Liaison Officer Network Meeting

30th June 2026, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the New Zealand Customs Service, Mr. Jun Tajima, Head, Mr. Mark Ho and Mr. Deokjoong Kim, Program Managers and Ms. Chananchita Rueng-O-Cha, Assistant Program Manager from the ROCB A/P attended New Zealand Customs Asia Liaison Officer Network Meeting at New Zealand Embassy to share the overview, current work plan and capacity-building priorities of ROCB A/P to explore possibilities for New Zealand Customs Asia team to provide practical support and further contributions.

The meeting brought together New Zealand Customs liaison officers from Bangkok, Beijing, India, Jakarta, Japan, and ROCB A/P officers in a hybrid mode. At the meeting, focus topics were on Regional capacity-building activities and ROCB A/P's efforts, and extended to the products initiated by ROCB AP, for instance, Member Profiles and Training Management

Compendium. Discussion sessions among the teams were fruitful as both teams gained insights into the roles of the ROCB AP and other entities including the WCO and RTCs. Information regarding the capacity-building training opportunities and resources were exchanged and taken into consideration for further cooperation and support.

Staff Updates

Farewell message from Ms. Grace Ye



When I am drafting this farewell message, I realize that it truly marks the end of my tenure. I have spent five wonderful years in Thailand, and as I reflect, countless memories together with so many smiling faces come to mind. Time has truly flown.

I still remember the day I first arrived in Thailand during the pandemic. I felt both excited and nervous. Fortunately, I received tremendous kindness and support from my colleagues and the local Thai community, which helped me adapt and grow in this new environment.

During the pandemic, ROCB A/P conducted many online workshops. It was a challenging period for all of us, but the ROCB team remained committed and did our very best to continue delivering capacity building activities for our Members. These experiences were both meaningful and enriching.

I will never forget the first offline WCO AP Regional workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) organized in Indonesia. It was such an exciting moment to resume in-person capacity building activities and reconnect with colleagues from across the region. That experience remains very special to me.

I will also always cherish my time with the team. The many exchanges, knowledge-sharing moments, and continuous support made my years abroad truly inspiring. I had the privilege of working with a supportive Head who welcomed our ideas and feedback, wonderful Thai colleagues who shared with me the vibrant culture and life in Bangkok, and talented colleagues from different countries and regions. Despite our diverse backgrounds, we came together in Thailand with a shared purpose—to support our regional Members. It was a truly rewarding and meaningful experience.

I am truly proud to have been a member of ROCB A/P. I sincerely appreciate all the guidance, support, and kindness I have received over the years. Beyond professional growth, I have gained invaluable friendships.

To all my colleagues and friends, I extend my heartfelt thanks and best wishes. Please keep in touch! I will bring these precious memories back with me to China, where they will always be cherished.

I am sure our paths will cross again very soon.



Farewell Message from Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu



As my two-year secondment at the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) comes to an end, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has shared this unforgettable journey with me.

Serving as a Program Manager at ROCB A/P has been a truly rewarding and inspiring experience. Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of working with dedicated Customs professionals across the Asia/Pacific region, witnessing their dedication to capacity building and regional cooperation. The friendships I have made, the experiences I have shared, and the lessons I have learned will remain among the most valuable treasures of my career.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Thai Customs Department for its warm hospitality as the host administration, and to Japan Customs for providing me with this invaluable opportunity to serve the region through this secondment.

Above all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my colleagues at ROCB A/P. Thank you for always being there with your encouragement, thoughtful advice, and unwavering support. Your friendship, kindness, and willingness to share your knowledge made every challenge easier to overcome while also making my time at ROCB A/P not only professionally rewarding but also personally meaningful.

Although my assignment at ROCB A/P is coming to an end, I sincerely hope that the relationships we have built will continue well into the future. I look forward to crossing paths with many of you again in the near future.

Thank you once again for your friendship and support. It has been a great honor to serve the Asia/Pacific region as a Program Manager of ROCB A/P. I wish ROCB A/P and all Customs administrations across the region continued success, prosperity, good health, and happiness.



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

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

Address: 1, Thai Customs Department, G Floor of 120 Years Building,

Sunthornkosa Rd., Khlongtoey, Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Telephone: +66-2-667-6777

E-mail: rocb@rocbap.org

website: <http://www.rocb-ap.org>

Mr. Jun TAJIMA, Head, WCO ROCB A/P

Ms. Takeru YAMAZAKI

Mr. Deokjoong KIM (Ryan)

Mr. Mark HO

Ms. Chananchita RUENG-O-CHA

Ms. Jate-Arpa BENJAPHONG

Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRILERT

Regular Supporters: Mr. Tim WILLIAMS, Mr. James Ryan and Mr. Paul Schembri