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Special Topics



WCO Asia Pacific Regional Dialogue on Partnership for Customs Modernization

The WCO and ROCB A/P, in collaboration with Thai Customs Department, organized the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Dialogue on Partnership for Customs Modernization in Bangkok, Thailand from 31 May to 1 June 2012 under the sponsorship of Customs Cooperation Fund, Japan. This dialogue offered the valuable opportunities for the development partners and customs administrations in the region to explore as to how they can work together to enhance partnership for the regional development through customs modernization. A number of development partners active in the region, such as the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), US Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) as well as customs partners from the Asia Pacific, America and Europe, participated in the dialogue and shared their ideas and programs.

Prior to the dialogue, a three-day Customs-only preparatory workshop was also organized on 28-30 May 2012, attracting the attendance of 27 member administrations from the region. During the workshop, the participants shared their latest development in customs reforms and modernization as well as experiences in working with the development

partners. In the breakout session, they also actively exchanged their views on the sub-regional priority and challenges for capacity building.

This dialogue is part of the ongoing efforts of the WCO and ROCB A/P to engage development partners for customs modernization. During the two-day dialogue, both development partners and customs administrations of the Asia Pacific Region made a number of informative presentations and exchanged information on their programs, needs and priorities. They also frankly talked about their experiences and lessons learned from the existing cooperation and discussed how to enhance cooperation towards customs modernization. As a result of the forward looking discussion among participants, both customs administrations and development partners greatly improved their mutual understanding and agreed to work together to follow up this dialogue through national or inter-agency discussion to enhance cooperation.

The participants offered very positive comments on this regional dialogue and expressed their appreciation to the WCO and ROCB A/P for this initiative. On this basis, the participants also agreed to meet in future to review the progress.



WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Dialogue

between the Customs Administrations in the region
and the Development Partners on Partnership
for Customs Modernization

in cooperation with the Thai Customs and sponsorship under CCF/Japan
Bangkok, Thailand 28 May-1 June 2012

ROCB A/P' s New Initiative: Regional Framework for Effective Use of Regional Expertise

Under the 2010-2012 Regional Strategic Plan, ROCB A/P undertook to devise a “Framework to Pool, Utilize, Support and Increase Accredited Customs Experts (ACE) in the Region”, with a view to developing a strategic approach for effective use of regional expertise for the regional capacity building (CB) program. Subsequent to a series of consultations in various regional meetings, this Framework was finally adopted in the “14th WCO Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference” in May 2012 for implementation.

Under this Framework, a four-pronged strategy is adopted to “pool”, “utilize”, “support” and “increase” the regional experts for the sustainable development of CB program in the region.

Pool regional expertise

Regional experts are categorized into two groups, namely experts accredited by WCO and “candidates” having solid expertise on relevant Customs topics but not yet accredited. For effective pooling of the regional expertise, WCO maintains an “ACE Database” providing updated information on ACE while ROCB A/P is developing a “candidate list” to identify the potential officers from Member Administrations for the forthcoming accreditation workshops. Besides, RTCs are also recommended to nominate good trainers as candidates.

How to Pool



Utilize regional expert

In the context of technical support, these experts are expected to share their expertise with our Members and within their home administrations as well. At the invitation of WCO and ROCB A/P, WCO accredited experts would attend the WCO/ROCB A/P missions as facilitators to share their expertise and experiences. Candidates would supplement the needs of regional capacity building under certain conditions. Under coordination of ROCB A/P, they would also offer advice and guidance to our Members through various means of correspondence upon request. Besides, they may also conduct in-house training for their own administrations as and when required.

 *Support regional experts*

The WCO, ROCB A/P, RTC and Member Administrations also work in close collaboration to render support to the regional experts. In view of change in the strategic landscape of customs operating environment, WCO would regularly revise its policy, tools / instruments with the ACE Database timely updated. ROCB A/P would serve as a regional hub to coordinate utilization of regional expertise and share customs good practices with Members through various platforms. While RTCs continue to enhance their functions as the “Centre of Excellence”, Members are also expected to provide all necessary support to the regional experts from their administrations.

 *Increase the pool of regional experts*

To ensure the regional experts are fostered corresponding to Members’ needs, ROCB A/P would continue to conduct the yearly CB Need Survey and examine the contemporary demand for different regional expertise. We will also work closely with WCO to arrange the relevant accreditation workshops timely. Member Administrations are encouraged to nominate competent officials to attend these workshops.

How to “Increase”^{FP}



Driven by the Members’ needs, ROCB A/P is committed to enhancing our CB program. With the support from RTCs and Members, ROCB A/P, in collaboration with WCO, is looking forward to the ever-bettering CB development in our region.

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

***The Asia-Pacific Regional Vice-Chair in collaboration with the ROCB A/P
for the Capacity Building Development in the Region***

On 28 September 2004, A/P Members celebrated the formal opening of ROCB A/P in Bangkok, Thailand. At the same time, a warm relationship and a close cooperation between ROCB A/P and Thai Customs originated. ROCB A/P, in collaboration with the



Thai Customs, had actively operated as a key player for the capacity building activities in the A/P region since then. As Thailand took up the role of the WCO Vice-Chair for A/P region in July 2010, the relationship between the two Organizations has been enhanced considerably, acting as a vital part to the development of the capacity building in the region. Clearly, capacity building is a key in sustaining development of

Customs administrations worldwide, yet a number of A/P Members obviously are in need of assistance. While the Vice-Chair A/P led the region to implement the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2010-2012, ROCB A/P, which was the coordinator for Capacity Building focus area along with Japan, wholeheartedly shared their expertise and assisted in fulfilling the objectives of the plan. Capacity Building reports and plans initiated by ROCB A/P are guidance for the A/P region, allowing good customs practices to be shared among the Members. Members received support from ROCB A/P, for instance, establishment of the Regional Training Center in Fiji. ROCB A/P also actively participated in the events hosted by the Vice-Chair A/P including the 20th and 21st Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meetings, Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meetings, Regional Consultation Sessions, 14th Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference. Inputs, comments given by ROCB A/P were truly valuable to the outcomes of the Meetings.

The Vice-Chair A/P also participated in capacity building seminars/workshops held by WCO and ROCB A/P. The Vice-Chair A/P reported the movement and updates of the A/P region. Important events attended by the Vice-Chair included, for instance, the 9th WCO A/P Regional Heads of RTC Meetings held in Shanghai China, the WCO A/P Regional Dialogue between the Customs Administrations in the region and the Development Partners on Partnerships for Customs Modernization held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Working closely together, Vice-Chair A/P Thai Customs sincerely appreciated the contributions and kind supports given by ROCB A/P. Though the tenure of Thai Customs as Vice-Chair A/P ended in June 2012, Thai Customs wishes for the continuation of this close relationship and every success for ROCB A/P.

Thai Customs Department
Ex-Vice-Chair of the WCO Asia Pacific Region

Contribution of WCO Accredited Experts and Commitment of WCO Members in Capacity Building

Ms. Kameswari Subramanian
Central Board of Customs and Excise
India



Readers of this Newsletter will be aware under the WCO CCF program a variety of technical assistance and capacity building program are carried out in WCO Member administrations through its Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCB). The WCO has been accrediting experts from various administrations to help assist in implementing their capacity building program. Equally national administrations have been proactively and positively in contributing to the WCO's capacity building activities by making available the expertise of their officers accredited by the WCO to participate in these programs. As a WCO accredited expert in Customs Procedures and Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), I was aware that I could be called upon to participate in training and workshops in this area of expertise.

Since increasing the number of contracting party to the RKC is one of the priority areas specified in the Asia Pacific Regional Strategic Plan 2010-2012, Asia Pacific ROCB (ROCB A/P) has been promoting accession by utilizing the regional experts. The WCO through ROCB A/P requested my administration, the Central Board of Excise & Customs, India, for my participation as a resource person in two workshops in Nepal and Cambodia to assist the administrations in their accession to the RKC.

The first "WCO National Workshop on the RKC" was held in Nepal on 8-10 March 2011 in Kathmandu. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P, and I. The next Workshop was held in Cambodia at Phnom Penh on 13-17 February, 2012 during which I was assisted by the very capable officers from ROCB A/P, Mr. Sang-Hyup Lee and Mr. Jae-Kwan Choi.

Both Nepal and Cambodia have been working extensively on the modernization of their Customs administrations and had indicated a strong interest in acceding to the RKC. Both administrations had made great strides in revising their legislation as well as in the use of information technology in their Customs processes and procedures. Hence the workshops were opportunely timed to facilitate the detailed examination of the national legislation and the provisions of the RKC and also discuss the issues that would have to be considered for their accession to the Convention.

The WCO and ROCB A/P's approach to encouraging accessions has been very proactive and the administrations are provided with a preparatory list of documents and questionnaires with comparison tables to enable the administrations to make the preliminary preparations for the Workshop. These assist the administrations to analyze and examine their national legislation with the RKC, make a comparison between national legislation and RKC provisions with the help of WCO experts and finally develop a draft roadmap for the RKC accession by the administrations. These processes also improve the understanding of the WCO experts of the situation in the Member administration for the accession to the RKC and help to provide necessary clarifications to the questions of Member administration's officials regarding the RKC, its benefits as well as the process of accession.

Both the administrations set up a RKC Working Group who were able to analyze their national legislations vis-à-vis the provisions of the General and Specific Annexes of the RKC. They also made available their senior managers for the workshops. The working teams in both administrations were focused and could present a detailed analysis of the compliance level of their legislation to the RKC. For our part, the experts not only studied the clearance processes and documentation requirements first hand but also got an opportunity to examine the national legislation and the required changes to their existing legislation and procedures to comply with the requirements of the RKC. The final outcome of the Workshops was to draw up a road map with WCO expert's support, for their accession to the RKC for the DG. The encouragement from management level was evident by the time taken by the Secretary Revenue and the DG of Customs in Nepal and the Director General of GDCE, Cambodia, who allocated substantial time to discuss the outcomes with the WCO team of experts and explore means of early accession by their administration.

The dedicated and detailed work done by the administrations for which the workshops were conducted was the key to success achieved. The progressive agenda of the ROCB A/P and WCO in Capacity Building and the support of administrations in releasing their experts to provide the technical assistance for such workshops will go a long way towards enhancing capacity in the Member administrations of the region in this very important strategic goal of the WCO.

I cannot conclude this brief sharing of my experience as an accredited expert without mentioning the fact that not only did the Nepal and Cambodia Customs colleagues exhibit a high level of professionalism and dedication to the work but also extended their warm hospitality to us explaining the nuances of their culture and heritage. We left both the countries with the sense of having gained new friends and enriched by our interaction with the people and culture which is always warm and welcoming, a thought which will always remain in my mind and I am sure in the minds of my fellow experts.



Welcome to ROCB A/P New Staff



Mr. CHENG Jing, new WCO Technical Attaché seconded from China Customs, formally joined ROCB A/P on 27th, June 2012.

Prior to his post in ROCB A/P, he was in charge of International Capacity Building programs at Shanghai Customs College (SCC), WCO Regional Training Center China. He was also responsible for establishing and maintaining the partnership between SCC and overseas customs research institutes to support the strong growth of academic research and domestic training courses of SCC. Mr. CHENG has rich experience in the area of training project planning and management, which laid down foundations for his upcoming ROCB A/P missions.

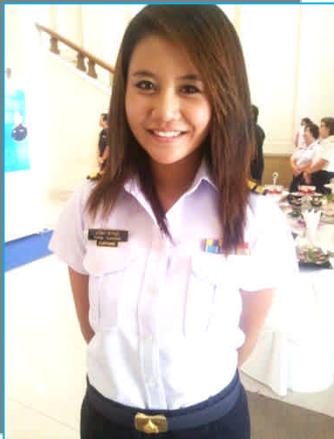
"I am honored to be nominated by China Customs as technical attaché at ROCB A/P and have the most competent customs officers as my new colleagues. It encourages me to review capacity building related issues to an in-depth degree and to contribute my best efforts to the work of ROCB A/P through my knowledge and expertise. Meanwhile, it is also a great pleasure for me to start a new life in Bangkok, Thailand and appreciate the exotic and inclusive culture in the land."

Ms. Pariyabhat (Ae) ARIYAPONGKOSON, Customs Technical Officer Practitioner Level from Thai Customs has joined ROCB A/P since 19 June 2012. With work experience in Planning and Evaluation Division, Planning and International Affairs Bureau and WCO A/P Vice-Chair Office, Ms. Pariyabhat is really honored to share her knowledge with the best efforts to make a great and positive contribution to benefit A/P members. With the strong drive for work, Ms. Pariyabhat is eager to be able to fill in wherever help is needed. We would like to extend our warm welcome to Ms. Pariyabhat for joining the family of ROCB A/P. We also look forward to her engaging with new responsibilities at several upcoming capacity building activities.



"Joining ROCB A/P will be my great experience to improve myself, overcoming weaknesses and improving strengths. With this opportunity, I would like to contribute to capacity building activities for A/P regional members in cooperation with WCO secretariat, Regional Training Centers and other relevant organizations. I look forward to working with you!"

Farewell to Mav (Ms. Pavida Tarapoom)



"Almost 4 years with international working environment at ROCB A/P, I've learned not only customs related knowledge but also professional work from colleagues in ROCB. I could say that it's a very memorable experience and a good chance for me. I believe that this valuable experience which I've learned here would benefit me in my future. More importantly, the most valuable thing which I've got is friendship from colleagues and ROCB A/P member countries. I hope that this friendship will be with us forever and really hope to get a chance to join any ROCB A/P activities in future".

Workshops/Meetings

WCO Global AEO Conference and AEO Training and Capacity Building Program for Latin American and Caribbean Countries

Seoul-Korea

The WCO Global AEO Conference was held in Seoul, Korea on 17- 19 April 2012. It was attended by the Secretariat General of the WCO and about 800 senior public officials, business leaders and professors all over the world. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P and his colleague, Mr. Lee Sang-Hyup, also attended the conference.

The conference agenda focused on sharing of national experiences about AEO implementation and seeking for a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) through which the national AEO systems can be mutually recognized. During the conference, several working-level technical meetings were arranged for Customs officials and business people to discuss in details about the technical aspects of AEO. Mr. Kosaka and Mr. Lee made contributions to the conference by making presentations on Customs-business partnership and Revised Kyoto Convention respectively. In conclusion, the conference took note that AEO should be promoted as an effective tool balancing the global supply chain security and trade facilitation.



After the conference, IDB and Korea Customs organized the AEO training and capacity building program for nineteen Latin American and Caribbean countries. It was a forum to introduce and share Korea Customs experience on AEO and MRA. Mr. Lee from ROCB A/P also acted as a facilitator to introduce the WCO and its trade facilitation tools.

ADB/WCO National Workshop on Time Release Study

Vientiane, Lao PDR

The ADB/WCO National Workshop on Time Release Study (TRS) was conducted in Vientiane, LAO PDR on 27 April 2012. This workshop was attended by the officials from Lao Customs, representatives from other government agencies and business partners in private sector, as well as the private consultants employed by Lao Customs for the TRS implementation. On 26 April 2012, the resource persons of the workshop, Mr. Kelvin WONG from ROCB A/P and the expert from ADB also paid a visit to the Thanaleng Border Station (the Friendship Bridge) to observe the customs operations there.

The workshop was opened by the Deputy Director General of Lao Customs. The ADB expert delivered a presentation on the WCO TRS Guidelines and revisited the ASEAN model questionnaire with specific reference to the operations of Lao Customs. Mr. Kelvin WONG introduced the application of WCO TRS Software through the online demonstration and practical exercises. Lao Customs also shared its plan for the forthcoming TRS and expressed great appreciation for the ongoing support from ADB and WCO.

During the visit, Lao Customs introduced about the customs operations at Thanaleng. It was also observed that the pilot run of ASYCUDA World has also been launched at this control point. Through the active discussion, the experts attained good understanding about the clearance procedures of Lao Customs in the context of TRS. The relevant knowledge and experience attained were also employed by the experts to explain the TRS implementation during the workshop.

Regional Seminar on the Role of Customs in

Natural Disaster Relief

Bangkok, Thailand

WCO and ROCB A/P, in collaboration with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), held the Regional Seminar on the Role of

Customs in Natural Disaster Relief in Bangkok Thailand on 8-10 May 2012. 96 participants from Customs and National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs) attended the seminar. Mr. Lee Sang-Hyup and Ms. Ben Chamkrom from ROCB A/P acted as facilitators for this event.

During the seminar, participants discussed about the Customs challenges in responding to natural disasters as well as the international framework and humanitarian system required to be set up for this purpose. Other related issues, including national legislation, procedures and emergency plans for natural disaster relief and coordinated border management to this end were also deliberated in the seminar. Seven panel sessions on the related technical issues were also scheduled. Mr. Lee from ROCB A/P acted as the chairperson for the panel session on Customs and National Emergency Plans.

Upon conclusion of the seminar, it was noted that sophisticated emergency planning supported with the enabling legislation and enhanced communication among participating administrations and institutions were vital for lining up the natural disaster relief. As regards the logistics, it was also recognized that more customs facilitation was required to speed up the clearance for the medical items, vehicles and telecommunication equipment for natural disaster relief.



14th A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference

Koh Samui, Thailand

The 14th Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference (RHCAC) was held in Koh Samui, Thailand on 9-11 May 2012. Prior to this meeting, the Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meeting was also held at the same place on 8 May 2012. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P, attended both meetings.

In the RHCAC, Mr. Kosaka



delivered a presentation outlining the progress on customs reform and modernization in AP Region in 2010-2012 and the strategy for regional capacity building in 2012-2014. It was noted by the meeting that ROCB A/P had made a good progress on implementation of the Focus Area 3, Capacity Building under the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2010-2012.

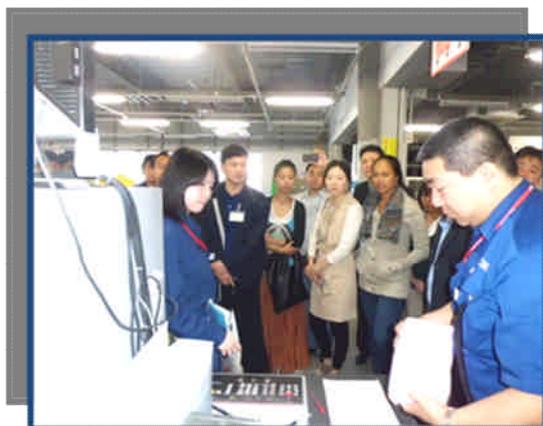
Besides, Mr. Kosaka briefed the meeting on the “ROCB A/P’s draft framework to pool, support, utilize and increase accredited experts in the region” under the RSP 2010-2012. Many DGs expressed strong support for the draft framework. As a result, it was anonymously adopted in the meeting.

Taking the opportunity, Mr. Kosaka also introduced to the meeting the donor conference for customs reform and modernization to be held by the end of May. He requested all DGs to instruct their participants to be well-prepared for this important event. Many DGs agreed to work together for the success of this event.

During the RSG meeting, Mr. Kosaka had a number of bilateral discussions with regional members including those seconded their capable staff to ROCB A/P on a voluntary basis. He expressed his appreciation for the contribution made by the staff seconded from their Administrations to ROCB A/P. The DGs also kindly responded that they would continue to render support to ROCB A/P and its capacity building activities.

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop: Train-the trainer on IPR

Kashiwa, Japan



The WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop: Train the trainer on IPR was held at the Customs Training Institute of Japan (CTI) on 21-25 May 2012. 34 participants from 27 member and counterpart administrations in the Asia Pacific Region attended the workshop. Together with the experts from WCO and Japan Customs, Mr. Kelvin WONG from ROCB A/P facilitated the workshop.

This workshop aimed to enhance the participants’ knowledge on the legal aspects of IPR enforcement and to prepare them for the forthcoming WCO IPR Accreditation Workshop. To this end, the experts introduced to the participants the WCO IPR tools and

instruments, including the WCO Model Legislation for implementation of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and the WCO IPM Model. They also delivered presentations on the IPR legal mechanisms and procedures in benchmark with the legal framework of European Union. Besides, the representatives from India, Macao China and Vietnam were also invited to present their national good practices on the legal framework of IPR enforcement. In the session of “training and coaching”, experts from CTI shared its good practices on custom training. With the kind arrangement of Japan Customs, participants had also visited the IPR Centre of Tokyo Customs and the postal clearance office.

Upon the completion of this workshop, participants expressed that the workshop was very useful and well-structured. They also appreciated very much the sponsorship of CCF Japan to bring forth this workshop.

ASEAN DG Meeting and ASEAN-WCO Consultation

Manila, Philippines

ASEAN DG meeting was held in Manila, the Philippines on 5-8 June 2012. The WCO was invited to participate in the session on “ASEAN-WCO Consultation” held on 8 Jun 2012. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P, together with the Secretary General of the WCO, participated in this session.

Mr.Kosaka contributed to this session by introducing the WCO and ROCB A/P’s capacity building activities in 2010-12 and outline of its strategic direction for 2012-14. He also highlighted that the activities in the past two years were timely organized to meet the needs and interests indicated by the ASEAN DGs. Many DGs expressed their appreciation to the contributions of WCO and ROCB A/P. In response to the participating administrations’ interest on RM and ASEAN Data Model, WCO and ROCB A/P undertook to give due consideration for rendering continued support.



ESCAP-ECO Joint Trade Facilitation Forum on Paperless Trade and Single Window

Islamic Republic of Iran

‘ESCAP - Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)’ Joint Trade Facilitation Forum on Paperless Trade and Single Window was held in Kish Island, Islamic Republic of Iran on 24-25 May 2012. It attracted the attendance of more than 100 representatives from various government agencies from IRAN and other ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) countries. Mr. Lee Sang Hyup represented ROCB A/P to attend the forum.

In this forum, discussions covered the prerequisites for cross border trading as well as the enabling instruments and other technical issue for paperless trade. It also touched upon the assessment for readiness of ECO countries. Besides, some presentations were delivered on the subjects of “cross-border trade data exchange programs of Asia Pacific” and “UN’s regional expert network for building capacity and sharing knowledge”. At the invitation of organizers, Mr. Lee also introduced the ‘WCO Instruments on Trade Facilitation’.

The WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Rule of Origin

Shanghai, China



In collaboration with Shanghai Customs College, WCO and ROCB A/P held the Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Rule of Origin (ROO) in Shanghai, China on 11 – 15 Jun 2012. This workshop was facilitated by the experts from WCO, China Customs and Japan Custom as well as the representatives from ROCB A/P, Ms Ben Chamkrom and Ms

Pavida Tarapoom, the Technical officers from Thai Customs. 27 participants from 20 Customs Administrations attended the workshop.

During the workshop, the participants were introduced about the WCO initiatives on ROO and the relevant provisions of Revised Kyoto Convention and WTO Agreement. Besides, the experts delivered several presentations on the topics of “ROO under FTA”, “non-preferential ROO” and “origin irregularities and verification”. Taking this opportunity, participants also shared their national good practices and the challenges currently encountered by them. To strengthen their operational experience on ROO, China Custom kindly arranged the participants to pay a site visit to the Yangshan Port. Participants expressed great appreciation for the arrangements and found the workshop very practical and useful.

Through the active participation and discussion, participants enhanced their knowledge and understanding on the implementation of ROO programs. They are also expected to disseminate the knowledge gained through the workshop to their respective administrations so that its benefits can be enjoyed not only by the participants but also by the respective administrations.

WCO NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON VALUATION AND POST CLEARANCE AUDIT

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

WCO National Workshop on Valuation and Post Clearance Audit (PCA) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 11 – 15 Jun 2012. 31 officials from Sri Lanka Customs participated in the workshop. Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P, as well as the experts from WCO, Japan Customs and Sri Lanka Customs facilitated the workshop.

During the workshop, participants were introduced the WCO tools on Valuation and PCA, including the Revenue Package, Technical Committee on Customs Valuation (TCCV) Guidelines, Practical Guidelines for Valuation Control and PCA Guidelines. With reference to the national legislation of Sri Lanka, the relevant provisions of the WTO Valuation Agreement, which explain how to use the transaction value method and alternative methods under the Agreement to calculate the customs value, were also deliberated. Besides, the expert from Japan Customs delivered several presentations on his national practices of valuation advance ruling, valuation control and PCA. The representatives of Sri Lanka Customs also shared the valuation and PCA case studies and touched upon the current situation and challenges of PCA in Sri Lanka.

Through the above activities, the participants enhanced their knowledge on Customs control issues, PCA information analysis and the relevant practical applications. Their active participation brought forth the positives outcomes for the workshop.

JOINT WORKSHOP ON CUSTOMS VALUATION AND POST CLEARANCE AUDIT FOR BHUTAN CUSTOMS AND THAI CUSTOMS

Bangkok, Thailand

Following the success in last year, ROCB A/P and Thai Customs co-hosted the second “Joint Workshop on Customs Valuation and Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for Bhutan Customs and Thai Customs” in Bangkok, Thailand on 18- 22 June 2012. 15 Bhutan Customs officials and 10 Thai Customs officials attended the workshop. Deputy Head of ROCB A/P, Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, who is a WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation and PCA, acted as the main facilitator. Mr. Kelvin Wong, WCO Technical Attaché from ROCB A/P, also introduced the WCO Risk Management Tools in the workshop.

During the five-day program, the participants enhanced their technical knowledge and understanding on Customs Valuation and PCA through a number of informative presentations and case studies. In the visit to the Laemchabang port, they also observed the sophisticated customs operations in this major container terminal in Thailand. Through their active participation, this workshop yielded very excellent learning outcomes and reinforced the cooperation among ROCB A/P, Bhutan Customs and Thai Customs.

Keeping in view the needs from Members, ROCB A/P would continue rendering effective technical and management support to our Members and strive for betterment of capacity building in AP region.



119th/120th WCO Council Sessions

Brussels, Belgium

The 119th/120th Sessions of the WCO Council was held at Brussels, Belgium on 28-30 June 2012, attracting the attendance of more than 400 delegates. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P, also participated in the sessions.

At the agenda on capacity building, report was made on the outcomes of the last Capacity Building Committee and Integrity Sub-Committee, highlighting the issues regarding 3P concept (People, Political Will and Partnership), progress of the Columbus program Phase 3 pilot, new chapter on performance measurement in the CB Development Compendium, Leadership and Management Development Program, Project Map Database and “Orientation Package” for decision makers. Besides, it also touched upon the 3 regional donor dialogues held before the sessions. Taking this opportunity, Mr. Kosaka made a short intervention to introduce the success of AP regional donor dialogue held in May in close cooperation among WCO, ROCB A/P and Thai Customs. He also highlighted the important role which ROCB can play to further enhancing cooperation between customs administrations and development partners.

It is worth to note that the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for RTC Fiji was held during the Council sessions. ROCB A/P is looking forward to working with RTC Fiji for improving customs efficiency and effectiveness in the pacific islands.



Future Activities of ROCB A/P

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activities</i>
23-27 Jul 2012	WCO Regional Workshop on Countering Drug Smuggling by Air Passengers in Japan
20-24 Aug 2012	WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on PCA for the OCO Members in Fiji
11-14 Sep 2012	WCO Regional Workshop on the Development of IPR Enforcement Regime in Japan
15-19 Oct 2012	WCO Regional Accreditation Workshop for Expert Trainers on Rules of Origin (Venue TBC)