



ROCB
Asia/Pacific

World Customs Organization

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Introduction

Message from the Head of ROCB A/P

Dear Readers,

The ROCB A/P is proud to present its Annual Report for 2024–2025.

The year 2024 marked the 20th Anniversary of the ROCB A/P. Our office has achieved remarkable accomplishments over the past two decades, thanks to the dedication of our predecessors. We celebrated this milestone together with all current and former staff members, and, of course, with our host administration – the Thai Customs Department – whose continuous support has been invaluable to our success. On behalf of all current staff, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all stakeholders for their contribution to the success of the ROCB, regional initiatives, and Members' progress.

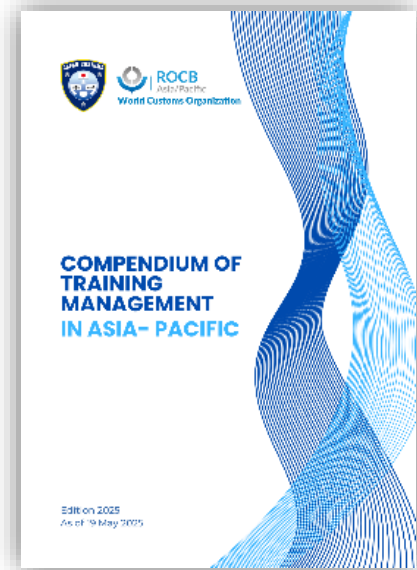


As the new Head of the ROCB since July 2024, I have participated in several key meetings, including the Regional Contact Point Meeting and the Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference. Through these engagements, I strongly felt the high expectations from Members in our Region for the ROCB's continued hard work and commitment. I am determined to make every effort to meet these expectations.

During the WCO fiscal year 2024–2025, one of the major accomplishments was the WCO Training Management Project and its outcome — the Compendium of Training Management in the Asia/Pacific Region. This WCO project was initiated by the ROCB A/P. Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman and I were in charge of the project as programme managers, and I handed over my part of responsibilities to Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu upon assuming my current position as Head of Office.

The ROCB conducted four workshops to facilitate information exchange on Members' training systems and to collect good practices within the Region. We sincerely appreciate all participants and Administrations for their valuable contributions and insights.

The Compendium is a substantial reference document. Since it exceeds 100 pages, we encourage readers to consult the index and explore topics of interest. Should you require additional information, the ROCB stands ready to serve as a catalyst — connecting Members and Administrations of good practices. After all, Regional cooperation often begins with a simple question to neighbouring Customs colleagues.



Over the past two decades, the ROCB has undertaken numerous initiatives, particularly in the area of needs analysis. In 2024–25, we launched a new initiative to make WCO Workshops more effective. To that end, the ROCB produced an instructional video on how to respond to the needs survey, aiming to attract greater attention and support from the WCO Secretariat and donors. From my perspective, the needs received this year were notably clearer and more detailed as a result.

The ROCB has also expanded its engagement with stakeholders, including attachés of partner Customs Administrations. These efforts are expected to minimize duplication and promote synergies.

Many of these initiatives align closely with the WCO's new Paradigm, which was announced in February 2025. The ROCB is pleased to see the Secretariat's strong

commitment to enhancing the effectiveness of its assistance — a direction fully consistent with our own policy. The new Paradigm was subsequently adopted by the WCO Council Sessions in June 2025 and launched immediately thereafter.

The ROCB A/P will continue to support Members according to their needs and looks forward to another productive and prosperous year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the characters '田島' followed by a stylized 'jun'.

Jun Tajima

Head, ROCB A/P

About the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations. The WCO is composed of 185 member governments. It is the only worldwide intergovernmental organization competent in Customs matters. The WCO has devoted a great deal of attention to improving the quality, relevance, and availability of its capacity building activities. A regional approach to performing effective and efficient capacity building activities, in close cooperation with regional members, is one of its priority initiatives to improve Customs abilities based on the needs of each region.

In this regard, ROCB A/P was established in Thailand in 2004 under an innovative idea of "Regionalization strategy" of the WCO to play an important role in supporting WCO Capacity Building activities, which expands the reach of the WCO Tools and instruments to Members in A/P Region.



(Photo at the Opening ceremony of the ROCB A/P. September 28, 2004)

Here are some of the important events since its inception: New Members of the WCO, new establishment of RTCs and officer's dispatchment to the ROCB.



According to the WCO's Report of the 50th Policy Commission in 2004, the merits of the Regionalization approach are:

1. more accurate diagnosis, planning, monitoring and evaluation of CB activities;
2. greater co-ordination among the WCO, recipients, and stakeholders;
3. more cost-effective use of experts; and
4. improved alignment between regional and global standards.

The values of the regionalisation have not changed over the years, and its importance is even greater at the time of the WCO's new Capacity Building Paradigm.

Our Mission

The mission of the ROCB A/P is to assist Member to be an efficient and effective Customs administration.

The ROCB A/P acts as a cornerstone of the regional approach for implementing the WCO's Capacity Building Strategy. In cooperation with seven WCO Regional Training Centers (RTCs) in the A/P region, it supports 35 Member administrations in Asia Pacific Region.



ROCB A/P's 20th Anniversary Milestones in Regional Capacity Building

On the occasion of our 20th Anniversary, ROCB A/P, with the support of Thai Customs, co-hosted an event to reflect our history and future, highlighting key milestones and the path forward. The celebration was held on November 20th, 2024, in Bangkok Thailand.

The celebration began with a video message from Mr. Ian Saunders, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO). He acknowledged the contribution of the ROCB on the modernization and development of Customs administrations in the Asia-Pacific region by supporting the WCO's capacity building activities and promoting the dissemination of WCO tools. Distinguished speakers, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, former Secretary General of WCO, Mr. Kin Kei Li, Head of Secretariat Office of the WCO Vice-Chairperson for the A/P Region,

underscored ROCB A/P's role as a key regional hub for coordinating capacity building activities.

As ROCB A/P embarks its next chapter, our core values of listening to Members needs remain unchanged. We continued committed to bridging A/P Members and the WCO, enhancing collecting Member feedback through good communication, reaffirming our dedication to advancing regional cooperation and capacity building.



Year in Focus: Training Management Project

Background

The Training Management Project, launched by the ROCB A/P in 2023 under the WCO's Capacity Building Strategy, sought to enhance the training capabilities of the 35 WCO Asia/Pacific (A/P) Member administrations to foster a new generation of Customs officers, promote knowledge-sharing, and ensure sustainable development. Originating from the 19th Meeting of Heads of WCO A/P Regional Training Centres (RTC Heads Meeting) in October 2021, which identified the need for improved training quality, the project commenced with a WCO A/P Regional Online Workshop on Training Management from 24th-26th May 2022. This workshop facilitated the exchange of RTC expertise, regional experiences, and the promotion of WCO tools like the Framework of Principles and Practices on Customs Professionalism (FPPCP).



ROCB A/P coordinated with the WCO Secretariat, seven A/P RTCs, and Member administrations, conducting comprehensive surveys to address training challenges across preparation, implementation, and follow-up stages. The project team, including attachés from Thai, Japan, and Korea Customs, managed data collection, analysis, and chart visualization, securing funding from the Customs Cooperation Fund of Japan (CCF/Japan). Key workshops (WS), including three Sub-Regional WS for ASEAN, the sub-continent in 2023/24 and for the Pacific in 2024/25, enabled best practice sharing among over 500 participants. The draft compendium was presented to the Regional WS for comments.



The project was showcased at forums like RHCA Meeting and the Capacity Building Committee (CBC), aligning with the WCO's regionalization strategy and the A/P motto "Together, we advance." The effort culminated in May 2025, publication of the "Compendium of Training Management in Asia-Pacific," as living document offering practical guidance for Members to enhance domestic training, support WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) implementation, and strengthen regional Customs development.



Objectives and Regional Impact

The project aimed to strengthen training capabilities across the 35 A/P Member administrations, ensuring the transfer of Customs expertise to future generations, fostering professionalism, and aligning training with international standards like the TFA and WCO tools. Initiated post the 2021 RTC Heads Meeting and validated by positive feedback from the 2022 workshop, it addressed diverse regional needs through tailored surveys.

Regionally, it enhanced collaboration via Sub-Regional Workshops, with the 2025 compendium—supported by CCF/Japan—serving as a dynamic resource for customizing training policies. This has improved operational efficiency, aligned Members with global standards, and bolstered the Customs community, promoting sustainable development, trade facilitation, and security through a "kaizen"-inspired continuous improvement approach.

Summary of ROCB A/P Activities

Organizing and participating in Workshops and Training Programs

Summaries of ROCB A/P's key workshops and training programs undertaken during the 2024/2025, from July 2024 to June 2025, are illustrated below.

ROCB A/P strengthen its engagement in WCO Operation DEMETER

2nd – 4th July 2024, Shanghai, China



The Pre-operational Workshop of Operation DEMETER X in the Asia and Pacific Region, funded by the Customs Cooperation Fund of China (CCF-China), was organized in Shanghai from July 2-4, 2024. At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, Ms. Zhengqing YE, a representative of ROCB A/P, attended this workshop.

Operation DEMETER was first launched in 2009 with 64 Customs administrations. The upcoming Operation Demeter X targeting illegal cross-border shipments of hazardous and other waste (regulated under the Basel Convention), and of ozone-depleting substances and

hydrofluorocarbons (ODS & HFCs, controlled under the Montreal Protocol) will take place from 15 July to 15 September 2024 with the participation of a record number of 110 Customs administrations. The three-day Workshop enabled participants to gauge targeting capacities and improve capability to identify high-risk consignments. It also highlighted that for a successful operation, collaboration should not be limited only among Customs administrations, but also nationally with agencies in charge of implementing regulations on the movement of the targeted products.

During the Workshop, ROCB A/P was invited to introduce its efforts to promote the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) in Asia Pacific region. Ms. YE outlined the previous ROCB's active engagement in promoting the GCI including conducting Regional Workshop on Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and CEN Applications, participating in the UNEP and WWF Workshops. She also emphasized the increasingly crucial roles of customs laboratories with specific focus on the identification of solid waste and CITES-listed species. She then underscored that setting up a regional pool of high-level experts in Green Customs is essential to promote the GCI.

Taking the opportunity of this event, ROCB A/P expressed a keen interest and commitment to engage in the WCO Operation DEMETER and further enhance the cooperative relationship with other organizations such as UNEP and UNODC.

ROCB A/P contributed to the 2024 WCO SIEs Scholarship Programme

31st July – 2nd August 2024, Seoul, Republic of Korea

To assist Small Island Economies (SIEs) integration into the global supply chain while strengthening their capacities for effective risk management, trade and trade facilitation, security, and revenue collection, was the focus of the 2024 WCO SIEs Scholarship Programme held at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea. This programme was funded by CCF-Korea.

Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, participated in this Scholarship Programme as an instructor representing ROCB A/P. His contributions focused on capacity-building activities and delivering WCO initiatives on Customs Valuation and Single Window.

The Scholarship Program supports 10 customs officials from SIEs, including the Pacific Islands, Americas and Caribbean, East and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa regions, who are mid-level managers or above. This programme provided them with a theoretical grounding in international trade and business practices so that they can address Customs matters more systematically, taking into account the measures set out in the WCO initiatives. This Scholarship is a 12-week certificate programme from July to October 2024 aimed at developing hands-on skills, sharing good practices, providing basic data analytics skills, and inspiring the implementation of international standards like WCO instruments.



Mr. Cho delivered several lectures on behalf of ROCB A/P, covering topics such as the overview of WCO and ROCB A/P, WCO Capacity Building Initiatives, WCO Regional Strategic Plan, WCO E-learning Platform, Customs Valuation instruments, and Single Window initiatives.

ROCB A/P renews support to combat Illegal Wildlife Trade

7th - 8th August 2024, Sri Racha, Thailand



The Workshop on the Detecting and Suppression of illegal wildlife trade at Laem Chabang Port was organized by the World Wild Fund by Nature (WWF) in Sri Racha, Thailand, from August 7th-8th, 2024. At the invitation of the WWF, Ms. Zhengqing YE, the representative of ROCB A/P, attended this workshop.

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) refers to the illegal trade of wildlife in the form of export, re-export, trans-shipment and import, in contravention of international law and national legislation of the country of origin and importing country. IWT is currently ranked as the 4th most profitable trade after drugs, arms and human trafficking, according to the WWF. Maritime shipping remains the dominant method used for illicit trafficking of wildlife due to cost effectiveness, being able to transport large volumes and heavy weight, and low risk of detection. With the focus on disrupting transport networks and platforms across the sea, discussions were organized into several thematic sessions. These included Global IWT situation in maritime sector, development of IMO Guidelines to combat IWT, Risk Profiling,

the importance of collaboration with private sectors and Crime Convergence and Methods of Smuggling.

During the Workshop, ROCB A/P was invited to join the discussion on current challenges and possible solutions related to IWT. Taking this opportunity, Ms. YE introduced WCO's instruments and tools, such as CEN Applications and Frontline Customs Officers' Guide to Key Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). She also emphasized the importance of engaging the private sector to strengthen efforts to dismantle criminal networks involved in wildlife crime.

The WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Training Management for the Pacific Islands

2nd – 6th September 2024, RTC Fiji in Suva



From 2nd – 6th September 2024, the WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Training Management was held at RTC Fiji sponsored by the Customs Cooperation Fund Japan (CCF/Japan). This workshop marked the third workshop of a two-year project, initiated by ROCB A/P in 2023. The workshop brought together participants from 9 Customs Administrations. The primary focus of the workshop was to enhance the training management capability of the Members in the Asia Pacific Region. It provided a valuable platform for

participants to discuss common challenges and exchange experience and insight. Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager, attended the workshop as facilitators.

During the workshop, the facilitators introduced WCO Tools related to Human Resource Development (HRD), including an introduction to training processes and training systems. They also shared the challenges gathered from the Members through the ROCB A/P survey in 2022 and the RTC Heads' Meeting in 2023 and highlighted successful practices sharing from Members. Then, the facilitators led the discussions on crucial aspects of training systems. These sessions provided a platform for the participants to actively contribute, sharing valuable insight, good practices in their respective Administrations. This collaborative approach fostered a rich exchange of knowledge, allowing the participants to learn from diverse perspectives and innovative practices across different Administrations in the region. The discussion included the topic of the Gender Equality and Diversity (GED). This session started with an overview of WCO Tools on GED, followed by a presentation on the initiative program of a member. Participants then engaged in the discussion on the role of the HR in promoting the GED in the workplace.

Participants engaged in two hands-on exercises. The first exercise involved designing a training course allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios. The second exercise focused on crisis management, challenging participants to respond effectively to unexpected challenges. These activities not only consolidated participants' understanding of the contents but also developed the problem-solving and adaptability on real-world situations.

The workshop concluded successfully, with participants gaining valuable knowledge and insights from the fellow Members in the region. This collaborative environment fostered a deep understanding of shared challenges and innovative solutions, enhancing the collective expertise of participants.

ROCB A/P attended 2024 WCO Technology Conference

12th – 14th November 2024, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



The 2024 WCO Technology Conference was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil over the period 12th – 14th November 2024. Under the theme “Digital Frontiers: Customs Embracing Innovation with Traditional and New Partners”, this event

brought together nearly 1,300 registered participants from 117 countries. This conference is targeted to exchange ideas, explore innovative approaches, and highlight best practices that Customs can harness by strategic engagement with new partners to better perform the core functions of facilitating legitimate trade, protecting the society and ensuring fair and efficient revenue collection.

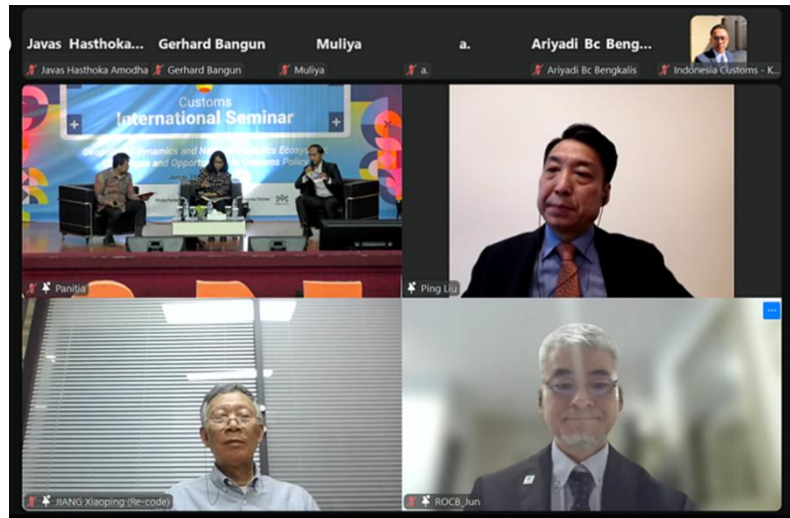
Ms. YE Zhengqing, the representatives from the ROCB A/P raised the question about the challenges of collaboration among Customs administrations, industry partners, and academia. during the Q&A session of the panel discussion “Innovative Horizons: R&D Success Stories Shaping Detection Technology and the Green and Digital Transitions”. With no doubt, this event provided a unique platform for customs officials and private sectors to share experiences and exchange best practices to address these challenges that most Customs Administrations were facing at the moment.

This 3-day event covered many topics such as technological advancements in the various modes of transport, detection technology advancements, digital solutions for global trade facilitation, the benefits offered by Single Window platforms, data exchange and AI applications within Customs. This global conference reflected on the key insights and discussions from all the stakeholders and has outlined a strategic vision for the future of Customs operations in the digital era.

ROCB A/P delivered a session at the International Seminar on Geopolitical Dynamics and National Logistics Ecosystem

15th November 2024, online

The Polytechnic of State Finance STAN (PKN STAN), in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Finance, hosted the international seminar “Geopolitical Dynamics and National Logistics Ecosystem: Challenges and Opportunities in Customs Policy”, and ROCB A/P delivered a session on international cooperation in Customs.



The seminar was attended by over 500 participants including the internal PKN STAN students. They have learnt the impact of geopolitical changes on global trade and customs policy. The seminar included panelists and online speakers' presentations and Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, introduced the WCO and discussed the WCO's role in international trade, as well as ROCB A/P's contributions for the WCO's strategic goals. By request, he touched upon the impact of geopolitical changes on Customs based on the Environmental Scan of the WCO, and the WCO's efforts toward resilience.

The panelists and speakers' presentation stimulated the discussion, with many questions from participants on how Customs can adapt to the complexity of global trade.

The WCO Regional Workshop on Training Management

19th - 21st November 2024, RTC Thailand, Bangkok



From November 19th to 21st, 2024, the WCO Regional Workshop on Training Management was hosted at RTC Thailand with the sponsorship of the Customs Cooperation Fund Japan (CCF/Japan). This WCO workshop, part of a two-year project initiated by ROCB A/P in 2023, provided participants with valuable insights into various aspects of training management and development in Customs administrations across the Asia-Pacific (A/P) region. The workshop focused on enhancing training systems, addressing challenges, and sharing best practices in line with WCO's capacity-building goals.

A total of 31 participants from 28 Customs administrations attended the workshop. The workshop aimed to enhance the training management capability of the Members in the A/P Region, providing a platform for participants to discuss common challenges and exchange experiences and insights. Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, Mr. Takashi Nakao, Director of International Technical Cooperation, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry Finance Japan, Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager of ROCB A/P, served as facilitators for the workshop.

Key topics of the workshop included strategy for knowledge sharing within Customs administrations. Facilitators also introduced the first draft of the Compendium on Training

Management in A/P region, a resource to help Member administrations improve their training management.

The workshop also focused on strategic areas on training such as identification of needs, designating and training of trainers, evaluation of training, and also it covered partnership with external partners, gender equality and diversity and utilization of the WCO Tools and Workshops in Customs administrations. Presentations from participants provided practical examples and key solutions to these challenges. Participants were provided a chance to an observation tour to the RTC Thailand (Thai Customs Academy).

The workshop concluded successfully, with participants gaining valuable knowledge and insights from the region. We strongly believe that this collaborative approach fostered a deep understanding of shared challenges and innovative solutions and enhanced the collective expertise of the participants.

WCO and UN ESCAP Jointly Organize the 7th UNNEXT Masterclass: Electronic Single Windows and Data Analytics for Trade Compliance and Facilitation

25th –29th November, Cheonan, Korea



The 7th Masterclass workshop, jointly organized by the WCO, ROCB A/P, and UN ESCAP, took place in Cheonan, Korea, from November 25th to 29th, 2024. Supported by the

Korea Customs Service, the event received financial backing from the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea) and the UN Fund. The workshop was attended by 17 participants representing Customs administrations and relevant border agencies from 16 countries.

Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager of ROCB A/P, facilitated the workshop and presented ROCB A/P's capacity building activities and policies. The workshop featured hands-on training sessions and thematic discussions on topics such as: "Data Analytics Algorithms and Use-cases", "The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)", "Legal Frameworks and Technical Standards for Electronic Single Window", and "Leveraging innovative technologies for cross-border paperless trade".

Participants actively engaged in exercises involving algorithms (such as AI HS and DATE) and Large Language Models (LLM). Additionally, they took part in group discussions to develop a master plan for establishing single windows and arranging electronic data exchange under various scenarios.

The program also included a study visit to Incheon Airport Customs, where participants visited the Express Cargo Clearance Center, the Advanced Passenger Information System Center, and the WCO Regional Dog Training Center (RDTC) in Korea.

WCO RDTC Canine, Enforcement and Detection Capacity Building Workshop

26th - 29th November 2024, RDTC Hong Kong, China

From November 26th - 29th 2024, WCO RDTC Canine, Enforcement and Detection Capacity Building Workshop was hosted in Hong Kong, China. With a generous invitation from Hong Kong Customs, Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, participated in the workshop.



Organized in collaboration with Hong Kong Customs and the ROCB A/P, the workshop brought together 25 participants from 15 Customs Administrations. The goal was to strengthen canine-based law enforcement capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region by addressing emerging smuggling trends, sharing best practices, and promoting regional cooperation.

Several presentations were made by the participants and they asked many questions regarding their operations, as well as exchanged views on breeding, training methods and new IT equipment for K9 management among others.

Participants were also given an opportunity to explore facilities at Hong Kong Customs College (HKCC), the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB), Hong Kong WCO RDTC and Kwai Chung Customhouse (KCCH), where participants witnessed K9 team in action.

The workshop successfully enhanced the expertise of Customs Administrations in the region, promoting stronger partnerships and innovative solutions to tackle international smuggling challenges.

Regional Seminar on International Cooperation on Drug Trafficking

2nd - 4th December 2024, Bangkok, Thailand



The French Embassy in Thailand organized a regional seminar on the issue of illicit drug trafficking in Southeast Asia. At the invitation of the French Embassy, Ms. Zhengqing Ye, Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, the representatives of the ROCB A/P, participated in the event.

The seminar brought together key actors from both local and international agencies working to combat the growing drug trade in the region. Presenters and attendees included police, Customs, and justice officials from Southeast Asia, as well as French law enforcement representatives. Representatives from the embassies of Japan, South Korea, the USA, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as officials from the UNODC's Asia-Pacific regional office, were also present.

The seminar was held to fight increasing drug production and trafficking in the region, particularly the rise of synthetic drugs like methamphetamine. The seminar aimed to achieve three main objectives: 1) to review the current state of drug production and trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region, 2) to present the responses already in place to address this issue; and 3) to assess potential changes in the drug market due to geopolitical developments and discuss appropriate actions to address these challenges.

The seminar marked an important step in strengthening international cooperation to address the growing drug trafficking and organized crime in Southeast Asia.

ROCB A/P has shared its thoughts with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) A/P on this Seminar, as regular exchanges of information. ROCB A/P will continue to strengthen its cooperation with RILO, supporting their activities and collaborating to improve capacity building in the region. This ongoing partnership will play a key role in tackling the evolving challenges of drug trafficking and organized crime through enhanced regional coordination and intelligence-sharing.

ROCB A/P Participates in the Regional Workshop on Advancing Paperless Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development

10th -11th December 2024, Incheon, Korea



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea, and the Korea Customs Service co-organized the Regional Workshop on Advancing Paperless Trade Facilitation for Sustainable Development in Incheon, Korea, from 10th to 11th December 2024. The two-day event was attended by 63 delegates from UN Asia-Pacific member states and other international organizations.

During the opening session, remarks were delivered by the Director General of the Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea, the Director General of the International Affairs Bureau of the Korea Customs Service, and the Head of the East and North-East Asia Office of ESCAP.

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of the ROCB A/P, delivered the Capacity Building strategy to emphasize the office's commitment to improving the quality of WCO workshops by refining needs analysis, workshop arrangements, and communication with Asia/Pacific members. He

also spoke on WCO's Green Customs to support the discussion on sustainable developments with participants.

Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager at ROCB A/P, delivered an in-depth presentation on the legal framework for establishing national single window and shared the best practices based on Korea Customs' UNIPASS system. He also compared the WCO Single Window Compendium with relevant national laws and UN documents that received very positive feedback from participants.

The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for participated Asia-Pacific members and international organizations to discuss and review the status of paperless trade facilitation, taking best practices of participating countries especially Korea's example, and the way forward through capacity-building initiatives. As for the delegations from international organizations, UNESCAP, UNODC, UNCITRAL, ADB, GIZ, and ROCB A/P participated in this workshop.

ROCB invited to join APPU Postal Policy and Regulation Workshop in Vietnam

10th - 12th December 2024, Hanoi, Vietnam



The APPU Postal Policy and Regulation Workshop was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from December 10th to 12th 2024, with 29 participants from 16 countries in attendance. This event provided a platform for in-depth discussions on postal regulatory reforms, offering opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing across the Asia-Pacific region. Ms. Zhengqing YE, the representative of ROCB A/P, was invited to attend this workshop.

The workshop began with opening remarks delivered by Mr. Bui Hoang Phuong, the Deputy Minister of Information and Communications (MIC) of Vietnam and Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, the Secretary-General of APPU, setting a positive tone for the event. The APPU Consultancy Section presented the initial draft of its research report, offering an overview of regulatory trends across the region. There were two online presentations from La Poste France and Australia Post offering valuable insights related to key strategies for sustaining the Universal Service Obligation (USO) amidst changing market dynamics and enhancing the role of Designated Operators (DOs) in the e-commerce value chain.

During the 3-day Workshop, Ms. Zhengqing YE delivered a presentation on WCO initiatives and strategies to strengthen collaboration between postal operators and customs authorities. She introduced the relevant WCO instruments and tools for strengthening the existing cooperative relationship between Customs and postal operators at the national level so as to enhance each other's capabilities in facilitating postal items in a growing e-commerce environment whilst ensuring effective compliance with various regulatory requirements.

Taking the opportunity of this event, ROCB A/P expressed a continued interest in engaging the APPU activities for further enhancing the collaboration between Customs and Postal Operators.

Capacity Building Program on Cross-border Paperless Trade and Digital Trade Facilitation for BIMSTEC

21st - 23rd January 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



At the invitation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ROCB A/P and the WCO participated in the Capacity Building Program on Cross-border Paperless Trade and Digital Trade Facilitation for BIMSTEC. The participants from ROCB A/P were Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, along with Program Managers Mr. Jaemin Cho and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu.

The program, organized by ADB in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the BIMSTEC Secretariat, provided an excellent platform for BIMSTEC member countries to strengthen the digital trade landscape across the region by fostering knowledge exchange and enhancing understanding of digital trade measures.

WCO experts Mr. Juan Diego Chavarría (Role of National Single Window for Paperless Trade), Ms. Gordana Vidanović (Cross-border E-commerce), and Mr. Ammar Ahmed Mir (Pakistan Single Window) spoke online on their subjects-matter.

The three-day event covered key topics such as BIMSTEC's Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework 2030, Digital Trade Policies, WTO TFA, Cross-border Paperless Trade, National Single Window (NSW), and Cross-border E-commerce. A key takeaway was the critical importance of continuous capacity building, particularly in supporting SMEs, women traders, and the digitalization of customs processes.

ROCB A/P continues to strengthening its ties with partner organizations to better understand their activities to seek possible cooperations with them to support Member Administrations.

ROCB AP extends support to RTC Cambodia

5th February 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

ROCB A/P has extended its support to newly established WCO Regional Training Center in Cambodia (RTC Cambodia). A meeting came in response to the needs expressed by RTC Cambodia for assistance in enhancing their Regional Training Centre capabilities upon their attendance for their first ROCB / RTC Heads meeting in September 2024.



During the meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager of ROCB A/P met with RTC Cambodia officials representing Cambodia Customs National School to discuss training management strategies.

During the meeting, ROCB A/P introduced WCO Tool on Human Resource Management, highlighting training processes and course development strategy. The key highlight of the discussion was the insights from studies on Member Practices during the WCO Sub-Regional and Regional Workshops on Training Management conducted in 2024, covered several areas of training, including the training process, development of annual training plans, development of standardized course curricula, and school management systems. Those topics are being consolidated into the Compendium of Training Management in A/P Region as the outcome of these Workshops and additional research activities, and will be presented to the Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference in May 2025 in Hong Kong.

As a part of ROCB A/P's commitment to the Asia-Pacific Region, ROCB A/P continue to enhance WCO Member's capabilities. The assistance extended to RTC Cambodia is

expected to significantly strengthen Regional Training capabilities through knowledge sharing and collaborative development.

WCO Organizes Regional Workshop on Data Analytics in the Asia/Pacific Region

24th – 28th March 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



The WCO Regional Workshop on Data Analytics, coordinated by the Regional Office for Capacity Building in the Asia/Pacific region (ROCB A/P), hosted by the Thai Customs Department, was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 24th to 28th March 2025. The event was held at the Thai Customs Academy and funded by the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea).

The workshop brought together 19 participants from Customs administrations representing 18 countries across the Asia/Pacific region. From ROCB A/P, Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of Office, Mr. Mark Ho and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Managers, and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager, participated in the workshop. Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager, and Ms. Kanyawarat Sitthikunpanit, Program Coordinator, facilitated the event.

The workshop was structured into two main components: thematic sessions and hands-on sessions. The thematic sessions provided participants with insights into key topics

such as the “WCO BACUDA Project,” “BACUDA Algorithms” (including DATE, AI-HS, CTGAN, and Image Data Analysis), “Data Ethics,” Member Use-Cases from Thai Customs, Korea Customs, and Cambodia Customs, as well as the “WCO Capacity Building Framework on Data Analytics.”

In the hands-on sessions, participants engaged in interactive exercises on subjects including “Data Quality Management,” “AI-HS Algorithm Modeling,” “Lite DATE Algorithm Modeling,” and “Drafting a Strategy & Roadmap on Data Analytics.” These sessions encouraged active participation and practical application of the concepts discussed.

As part of the program, participants also took part in a study visit to the Bangkok Customs Office, which included an observation of the Bangkok Seaport and the Containers Inspection Area, offering a practical perspective on Thai Customs’ operations.

ROCB A/P attends Hong Kong Customs’ AML Capacity Building in Asia/Pacific

9th – 12th June 2025, Hong Kong, China



To support the growing demand for effective anti-money laundering (AML) measures in the Asia/Pacific region, the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) was invited to participate in the Regional Workshop on AML Frameworks: Tackling Traditional and Modern Challenges in the Digital Age, co-organized by Hong Kong Customs and the University of Hong Kong (HKU) from 9th to 12th June 2025.

The workshop provided a timely and dynamic platform for Customs officials and AML practitioners to deepen their understanding of both conventional and emerging money laundering threats. Over four days, participants from the WCO members, RILO A/P, academia, and private sectors engaged in expert-led discussions, practical case studies and interactive exchanges with speakers.

Speakers from the Department of Justice of HKSAR, OKLink, OSL, Nanyang Technological University, Hong Kong Customs, and Hong Kong Police Force provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of AML frameworks relevant to both traditional financial systems and rapidly evolving digital platforms.

A highlight of the workshop was the emphasis on the pivotal role Customs administrations play in combatting money laundering and enhancing international cooperation. As financial crimes grow in complexity, the Customs community is increasingly expected to go beyond traditional enforcement and embrace new tools, partnerships, and regulatory insights.

This workshop marks a significant step forward in the region's collective AML capability. ROCB A/P will continue to support the WCO's initiative on AML efforts.

ROCB A/P Supported the ASEAN Regional Workshop on Product-Based Classification

17th – 18th June 2025, via Video Conference



The ROCB A/P supported the successful organization of the Regional Workshop on Product-Based Classification, held virtually on 17th – 18th June 2025. The event was organized by the ASEAN Secretariat and brought together more than

500 officers from all ASEAN Member countries.

This workshop formed part of the Technical Sub-Working Group on Classification's (TSWGC) regional key initiatives under the Strategic Plan of Customs Development (SPCD) 01 on Customs Tariff Classification. It was designed to support the timely and uniform implementation of the WG (AHTN) 2022, and to raise awareness among customs officials on the new structure, modifications, and deletions under the updated nomenclature. The workshop particularly focused on technical assistance for the classification of selected product categories, namely textiles, metal, and machinery.

At the request of the ASEAN Secretariat, the ROCB A/P facilitated the coordination with the WCO Secretariat and introduced two Technical Officer as experts:

Ms. Sujin Yuk, Senior Technical Officer, Nomenclature, Tariff and Trade Affairs, WCO Secretariat, Mr. Toshihiko Yamate, Technical Officer, Nomenclature, Tariff and Trade Affairs, WCO Secretariat.

Both experts delivered highly informative sessions under the Classification of Machinery session, sharing practical insights, methodologies, and case studies related to tariff classification. Their contributions were highly appreciated by the participants and significantly enhanced the quality of discussions throughout the workshop.

The workshop also featured the participation of the Chair of TSWGC and other HS experts from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, fostering a platform for technical exchange and future cooperation in the field of customs classification.

Attending International and Regional Meeting

In 2024 and 2025, ROCB A/P actively participated in a series of international and regional meetings to strengthen customs cooperation and capacity building across the Asia-Pacific. Key engagements reinforced ties with the Oceania Customs Organization, emphasizing regional collaboration and WCO membership benefits. ROCB A/P facilitated discussions on innovative training methods and digital platforms to enhance customs modernization. Virtual consultations, such as the WCO Strategic Plan 2025-2028 and the Gender Equality and Diversity Working Group, saw ROCB A/P contributing to strategic planning and inclusivity initiatives. These efforts, alongside participation in the 45th WCO Enforcement Committee and 24th Integrity Sub-Committee in Brussels, underscore ROCB A/P's commitment to advancing customs capabilities through targeted workshops, strategic partnerships, and alignment with global standards.

Summaries of ROCB A/P's attendance in international and regional meeting during the 2024/2025, from July 2024 to June 2025, are illustrated below

The ROCB A/P strengthened its tie with the OCO in the 26th OCO Annual Conference

26th - 27th July 2024, Rarotonga, Cook Islands



With the invitation of the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Secretariat, Mr. Jun Tajima, the Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the 26th OCO Annual Conference in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

The Conference was attended by 20 Heads and Senior Customs Representatives, held under the theme “Strengthening Partnerships for Dynamic Solutions and a Future-ready Blue Pacific.”

The OCO is an important partner to the ROCB A/P. The latest two Members of the WCO are from OCO Members: Solomon Islands (2023) and Palau (2024). There are three RKC contracting parties of OCO Members which are non-WCO Members: Kiribati (2018), Cook Islands (2019) and Tuvalu (2019). This illustrates the successful efforts by the OCO that encourages its Members to align with international standards, which the ROCB A/P pursues.

The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister of Cook Islands, stressing the vital role of Customs to tackle with drugs trafficking by transnational organised criminals; it requires Customs in the Pacific to keep up with technology and regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies and partners.

During the Conference, Members discussed current and emerging issues, shared achievements and experiences, and chart the path forward for Customs modernization and regional cooperation. Jun made a presentation, on behalf of the WCO, about the overview of the WCO as well as its benefits to become a Member. He introduced that the majority of the WCO Members’ financial contribution to the WCO per day is less than staying a hotel of the Conference venue; with that contribution, Members enjoy opportunities to apply long-term scholarship and many more.

In introduction of the ROCB A/P with its new leadership, Jun explained that the ROCB A/P will have good communication with Members so that WCO Workshops are even more targeted and effective, thus they bring more benefit to Members’ modernisation efforts. The ROCB A/P iterated its intention to support OCO’s activities by inviting future WCO Sub-Regional Workshops held in RTC Fiji, based on the MoU between the WCO and the OCO, and it also expressed its gratitude to the host Administration of Cook Islands for its warm hospitality.

22nd Regional Training Centre Heads Meeting

24th - 26th September 2024, RTC India at Palasamudram, India



The 22nd Meeting of the Heads of WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Training Centres (RTCs) was held from 24th - 26th September 2024 at NACIN Palasamudram, India (RTC India). The event was organized by the Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), co-chaired by RTC India, bringing together the Heads of RTCs from across the Asia-Pacific region, the WCO Secretariat, the Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair's Office, and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P). The meeting adopted a hybrid format, enabling delegates from RTC China and the WCO Secretariat to participate online.

The meeting commenced with a welcoming address by Mr. Gaigongdin Panmei, Principal Director General of NACIN, followed by opening remarks from senior officials, including Mr. Alok Shukla, Member (Administration) of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), and Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P. Remarks were also delivered by Mr. Ebenezer Gebding Tafili, Deputy Director of the WCO Capacity Building Directorate, and Mr. Kin-Kei Li, Vice Chair of the WCO Asia-Pacific. The opening remarks highlighted the critical

role of RTCs in advancing customs modernization, promoting collaboration, and supporting regional capacity building.

During the meeting, RTC Heads shared updates on recent developments and discussed initiatives aimed at enhancing training effectiveness. Presentations were delivered by RTCs centering around the WCO theme 2024, "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose," reflecting the strategic focus of the region in leveraging partnerships to address emerging challenges. The meeting also explored topics such as the use of new training methods and evaluation techniques, digital learning platforms, and the integration of advanced technologies, into customs operations.

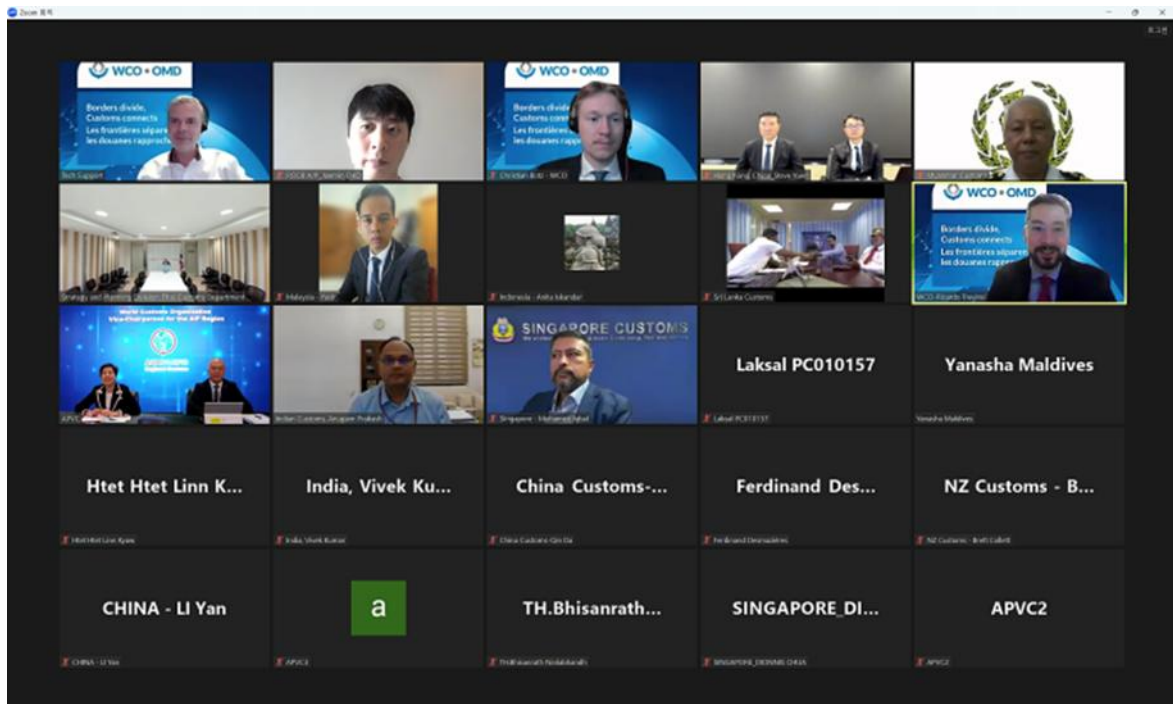
During the breakout discussions, delegates exchanged views and good practices on their respective training management systems at RTCs, focusing on topics such as innovative training methods, evaluation techniques, and strategies to enhance overall training effectiveness.

The meeting concluded with a wrap-up session led by Ms. Aarti Saxena, Additional Director General of NACIN, who summarized the discussions and highlighted the key takeaways. The next RTC Heads Meeting is tentatively scheduled to be hosted by RTC Indonesia, with further details to be confirmed in the coming months.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Jun Tajima expressed his gratitude to all delegates for their contributions and active participation. He highlighted the enriching discussions on engaging new partners, innovative training methods, and evaluation techniques, noting that the ideas exchanged would contribute to regional training strategies. Mr. Tajima expressed optimism that the insights gained would be implemented across the region, enhancing overall capacity. He thanked RTC India and the organizing team for their support and concluded by encouraging continued collaboration to strengthen the Asia-Pacific customs community.

ROCB AP Participates in Virtual Consultation on the WCO Strategic Plan 2025-2028 for the Asia-Pacific Region

4th October 2024, Online



A virtual consultation on the WCO Strategic Plan 2025-2028 for the Asia-Pacific region was held on 4th October 2024, organized by the WCO Secretariat. Mr. Jun Tajima, Head, Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager, participated in this meeting. The meeting was attended by delegations from WCO member administrations in the Asia-Pacific region, the Deputy Secretary General of the WCO Secretariat, and the WCO Vice-Chair for the Asia-Pacific region.

The WCO Secretariat convened this meeting to introduce the concept note for the WCO Strategic Plan 2025-2028, outlining the proposed approach, the next Mission and Vision of the WCO, the structure and overarching content of the Strategic Plan, focus areas, and the way forward regarding Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the WCO Secretariat's efforts and actively contributed insights and feedback on the WCO Secretariat's initial thought and concept of the Strategic Plan. The WCO Secretariat will take these comments into account for the future development of the plan.

ROCB AP Participates in Regional Private Sector Group (RPSG) Asia-Pacific Meeting

21st October 2024, Hong Kong, China



On October 21st, 2024, the RPSG-AP meeting was held at the Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel, bringing together Customs and industry representatives from the WCO Asia/Pacific Region. The session, chaired by Mr. Kit Hickey of Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd. and co-chaired by Ms. Wendy Stanton of IKEA Australia, featured discussions focused on enhancing trade facilitation and compliance through Customs-Industry cooperation.

Mr. Jun Tajima, head of the ROCB A/P, introduced the WCO and ROCB A/P outlines, underscoring the need for Customs administrations to adopt a forward-thinking approach, developing solutions collectively with the customs community, including businesses and other stakeholders.

A key highlight was the introduction of the Valid AP initiative by Mr. Kin Kei Li, the Head of the Asia/Pacific Vice Chair Office and Assistant Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department, designed to streamline document verification using blockchain technology. Participants from the private sector congratulated the initiative, pointing out the time consumed for the verification of certificate of origin at times. Participants also discussed supply chain resilience, with Ms. Kimberlee Clydesdale from the Australian Border Force stressing the importance of data sharing between Customs and industry. Other topics

included AEO benefits, transshipment processes in Hong Kong, and New Zealand's trade good practices.

The meeting concluded with a focus on the role of Customs-Industry collaboration in fostering trust and efficiency in international trade, setting the stage for future cooperative efforts.

ROCB A/P joined the 34th session of the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meeting

22nd – 25th October 2024, Hong Kong, China



The Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department, in its capacity as the Vice-Chair for the WCO Asia/Pacific Region, held the 34th RCP meeting in Hong Kong, China, from October 22nd to 25th, 2024. The four-day meeting was attended by 70 representatives from Asia/Pacific region.

The ROCB A/P, as the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building, delivered the presentations on Updates of ROCB and Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) Focus Area 3–Capacity Building.

Mr. Jun Tajima, as the head of the ROCB A/P, highlighted ROCB A/P's intention of focusing more on the quality of WCO workshops by improving the needs analysis, WS arrangement and communication with AP members. Mr. Tajima also pointed out that the ROCB A/P planned to involve, on a pilot basis, in WCO national WSs with more effective needs analysis and evaluation from the next FY.

Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager updated the Training management Project and Ms. Zhengqing Ye and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Managers shared implementation status of Focus Area 3 with all the members at the meeting. The Meeting also reviewed and discussed issues on the Region's administrative decision and noted presentations such as "Data Strategy and Big Data Application", and "Relationship Between Transnational Organized Crimes and Money Laundering Activities".

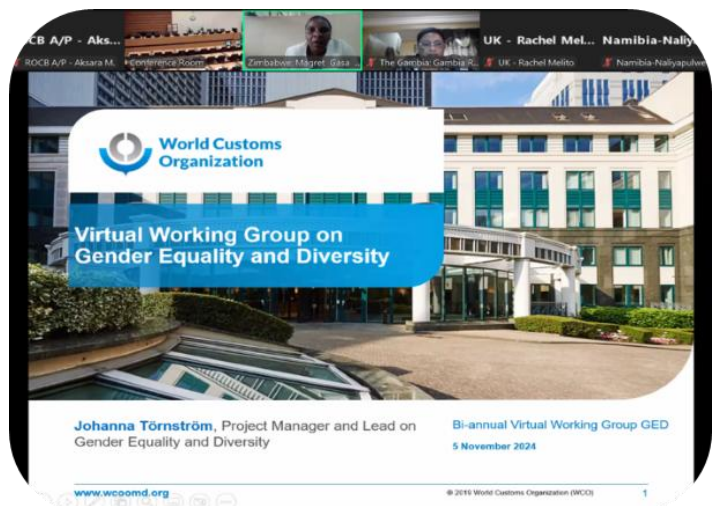
This conference provided AP members and regional entities with an important platform to discuss and review regional Customs policies, put forward proposals and keep updated of the latest Customs initiatives. These exchanges will promote regional cooperation in response to rapidly changing global challenges. Moreover, with the view of promoting regional development, the Vice-chair shared its innovative concept of establishing a certification platform by using blockchain.

The Virtual Working Group on Gender Equality and Diversity

5th November 2024, Online Meeting

The Virtual Working Group on Gender Equality and Diversity (GED) met on November 5th, 2024. Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager of ROCB A/P attended.

During the meeting, a presentation on the updates of the WCO was made in promoting Gender Equality and Diversity (GED). Key highlights included updates on the Network for GED conference, held in October 2023. This event featured panels on enhancing gender equality and inclusion through the prevention of harassment, gender-based violence,



discrimination, and promoting gender-responsive and inclusive policies and procedures in trade facilitation.

Followed by the progress of the development of the Compendium for GED in Customs, Edition III, the development of the pool of recognized GED experts were also shared. Currently, there are 7 fully recognized GED experts. The updates of the Virtual Working Group folder on the CLiKC! platform was presented. This folder serves as a vital resource hub for GED-related materials. An overview of the recent GED capacity-building activities was provided. This includes the GEOAT introductory session. Additionally, country experiences from Namibia and the UK were shared, detailing how they conducted assessments and developed action plans to further GED initiatives.

ROCB A/P reported its activities to the Capacity Building Directorate of the WCO

7th November 2024, Bangkok

The ROCB held an online meeting with the Capacity Building Directorate of the WCO on November 7th, 2024, to make the first quarterly report of the ROCB A/P in 2024/25, based on the ROCB Annual Workplan. The meeting was attended by Mr. Ebenezer TAFILI, the Deputy Director, Mr. Tetsuo Mizunuma, the Regional Development Manager, Mr. Dashgin ALIYEV, Technical Office of the Capacity Building Directorate; and by Jun Tajima, the Head of the ROCB, Ms. Grace Ye, Mr. Louis Chan Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Managers from the ROCB A/P.

Mr. Jun delivered the presentations of the background of the report, activities of the



Office, and future plan of ROCB A/P, highlighting the ROCB A/P's intention of focusing more on the quality of WCO workshops by improving the needs analysis, WS arrangement and communication with AP members. Mr. Tajima also pointed out that the ROCB A/P planned to involve, on a pilot basis, in WCO national WSs with

more effective needs analysis and evaluation.

Mr. Tafili appreciated the opportunity of the meeting to facilitate mutual understanding of the activities by both the WCO and the ROCB A/P. He also showed his appreciation especially on its alignment of ROCB's activities with the WCO Strategic Plan. Mr. Tafili said he was impressed with the ROCB A/P's enhanced needs assessment and follow-up actions after WCO Workshops, both of which are very important for the beneficiaries to make impact through Capacity Building activities of the WCO. Mr. Tafili showed his expectations to the ROCB A/P on further supporting WCO activities in the near future.

This meeting provided the managers of the WCO Capacity Building Directorate with the understanding of ROCB A/P, and also staffs of ROCB A/P with the expectation of the WCO toward regional entities. Both sides agreed that this exchange of information should be held again on another occasion of periodical reporting.

ROCB A/P delivers a session for the 7th Joint Customs Middle Management Program

11th November 2024, Online Meeting



The ROCB A/P was invited virtually at the 7th Joint Customs Middle Management Programme (JCMMP) hosted by Singapore Customs, and Mr. Jun Tajima and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu contributed the program. The 7th JCMMP serves as a platform for enhancing intra-

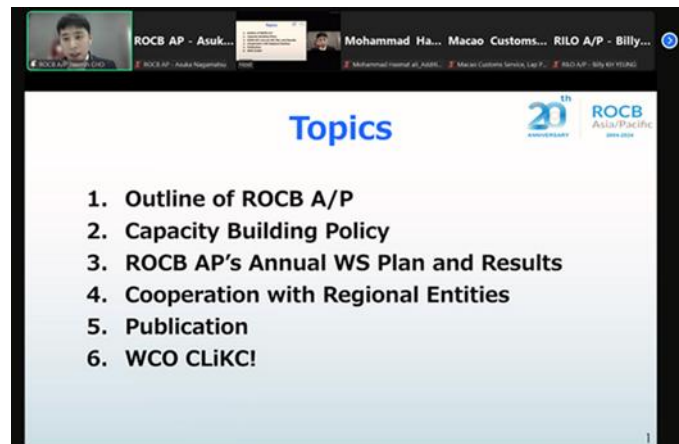
ASEAN cooperation as well as a dialogue with partners such as Australia and Japan, sharing best practices among Customs administrations.

During the program, Ms. Nagamatsu delivered a presentation on the WCO 2024 Theme – "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose". In the presentation, she introduced WCO's role and ROCB A/P's strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening Customs capacities and fostering international partnerships. The session also highlighted the importance of collaboration in Customs reform and modernization and further improving capacity building and knowledge sharing in the region by introducing the ongoing ROCB A/P's initiative "WCO Training Management Project" and stressing the important role of middle-management. The ROCB A/P encouraged exchanges of ideas among participants and that led to active questions and answers.

The 35th National Contact Points (NCP) Meeting

18th – 19th November 2024, Hong Kong, China

At the invitation of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P), Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager of ROCB A/P, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager of ROCB A/P on behalf of ROCB AP, participated online in the 35th National Contact Points (NCP) Meeting of RILO A/P, held in Hong Kong, China, from 18th – 19th November 2024.



During the meeting, Mr. Jaemin Cho delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the work of ROCB A/P and providing updates on regional capacity-building activities, including the WCO CliKC! platform. He also introduced blended learning methods and shared examples of how this methodology can be applied in upcoming workshop activities to enhance capacity-building efforts in the field of investigation.

This year's NCP meeting featured presentations and updates by WCO Members and RILOs on recent enforcement activities, operational projects, and proposals for improving

coordination, particularly regarding CEN issues such as data management, utilization, and best practices. Representatives from other international organizations, including INTERPOL and UNODC, also joined the meeting to discuss cooperation and explore new initiatives.

ROCB A/P attended Operation DEMETER Debriefing and Interim Evaluation Meeting

19th November 2024, Xiamen, China

"大地女神"国际联合行动总结会

Operation DEMETER Debriefing and Interim Evaluation Meeting

2024年11月19-21日 中国·厦门 November 19-21, 2024 Xiamen China



The Operation DEMETER Debriefing and Interim Evaluation Meeting, organized by the WCO in cooperation with China Customs, was hosted in Xiamen from 19th - 21st November 2024. This event saw the attendance of the WCO Deputy Secretary General Ricardo Treviño Chapa, Vice Minister of China Customs Wang Lingjun, officials from the European Anti-Fraud Office and the BRS Secretariat, and representatives from partner international organizations. At the invitation of the WCO Secretariat, Ms. Zhengqing YE, the representatives of the ROCB A/P, participated in this event.

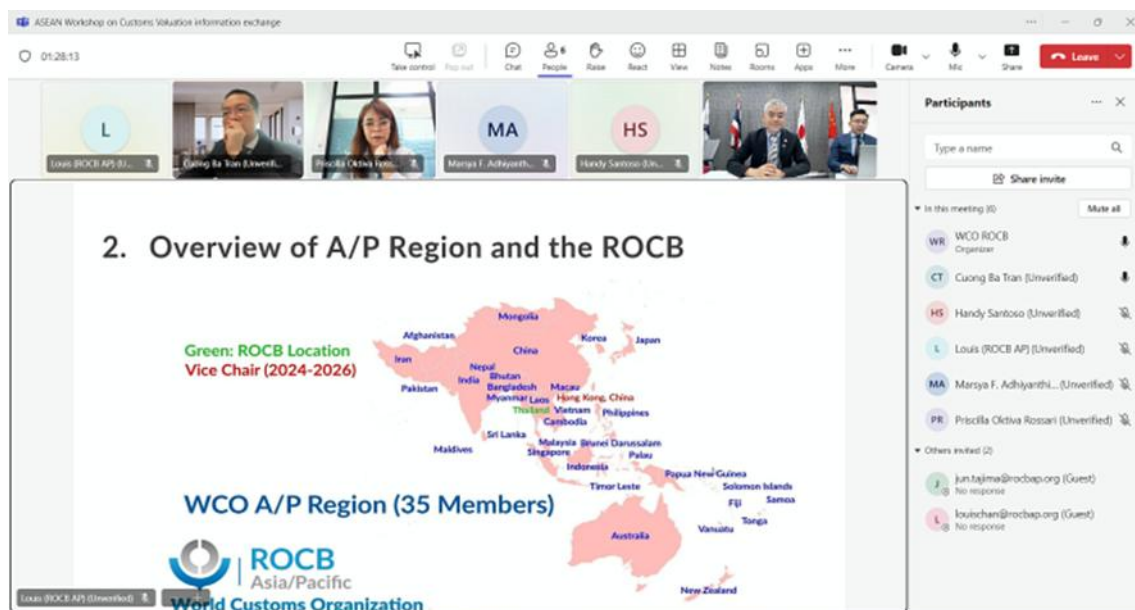
The WCO Operation DEMETER, which was first launched in 2009, has demonstrated Customs' commitment to protecting the health of both people and the planet, by enforcing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which regulate cross-border movements of

environmentally sensitive commodities. With the participation of a record number of 110 Customs administrations, the Operation Demeter X targeting illicit trafficking of waste, ozone depleting substances (ODS) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) was successfully conducted from 15th July to 15th September this year. In the course of Operation DEMETER X, 450 seizures related to the targeted commodities were reported by 47 Customs administrations via CENcomm, the WCO's secure and encrypted communication tool.

Taking the opportunity of this event, our office had a chance to exchange ideas with the WCO Secretariat and participating members regarding the specific capacity building needs of Green Customs Initiative (GCI). The ROCB A/P will continue making more efforts to promote GCI in Asia Pacific region and supporting members in preventing the illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities and substances.

ROCB A/P Engages in a Productive Online Meeting with ASEAN Secretariat

22nd January 2025, Online Meeting



At the invitation of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), ROCB A/P participated in an online meeting on 22nd January 2025. The primary objective of the meeting was to strengthen collaboration between the two organizations and align efforts to enhance customs capacity-building and trade facilitation across ASEAN members.

The ASEC delegation was led by Mr. Cuong Ba Tran, Head of the Trade Facilitation Division, while representing ROCB A/P were Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P and Mr. Louis Chan, Program Manager.

Opening the session, Mr. Tajima highlighted ROCB A/P's mission to support AMS through the implementation of WCO conventions, capacity-building initiatives, and promotion of international customs standards. He emphasized the importance of reducing duplication in technical assistance and ensuring alignment with ASEAN's strategic priorities.

In response, Mr. Cuong Ba Tran shared ASEC's capacity-building framework, which focuses on engaging dialogue partners—including Australia, Japan, China, and Korea—to provide targeted technical assistance. He also elaborated on the development of the new Strategic Plans of Customs Development for 2026-30 which would incorporate emerging issues, including circular economy, green customs, digitalization, e-commerce, and combating illicit trade. ASEC also presented the Joint Customs Control (JCC) mechanism as a successful initiative for addressing drug trafficking and illicit trade in the region.

Mr. Louis Chan provided an overview of ROCB A/P's recent capacity-building activities and ongoing WCO initiatives. He discussed workshops conducted on risk management, intellectual property rights (IPR), and smart customs, as well as new initiatives such as the WCO's Smart Customs project and the ICCWC's efforts to combat wildlife crime. These efforts underscore the importance of sustainability and digital transformation in customs operations.

The meeting concluded with productive discussions on the need for closer coordination to streamline technical assistance and avoid redundancies, and leveraging country coordinators for better alignment of requests with WCO activities. Both parties identified e-commerce fraud, trade facilitation in the digital age, and combating illicit trade as priority areas for enhanced collaboration, with ASEC expressing interest in inviting WCO experts to ASEAN Customs Coordination Working Group (CCWG) meetings for technical discussions. The meeting also explored potential support mechanisms for Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN, focusing on strengthening its customs administration and trade facilitation capabilities.

ROCB A/P Attends the 43rd Session of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin

5th – 7th February 2025, Brussels, Belgium

The 43rd Session of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO) took place in Brussels, Belgium, from February 5th to 7th, 2025. Established in 1995 under Article 4.2 of the WTO Agreement on Rules of Origin, the TCRO holds at least one meeting per year, typically at the WCO headquarters. TCRO focuses on conducting technical reviews to harmonize rules of origin, providing technical advice to member countries, and enhancing clarity in the interpretation and application of regulations.

Mr. Jaemin Cho and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Managers at ROCB A/P, attended as an observer to help establish a foundation for capacity-building activities on rules of origin in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting served as a valuable platform for customs officials and international organizations to discuss key challenges and share best practices in addressing both preferential and non-preferential rules of origin, which remain a critical issue for many Customs Administrations.



During the three-day session, discussions covered a range of important topics, including the interconnectivity framework for certificates of origin, Product-Specific Rules, and issues related to Origin Irregularities. Other key agenda items included initiatives on origin and green customs, origin issues in Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, Amendments to Revised Kyoto Convention Annex K, and WCO-led capacity building activities on rules of

origin. Representatives from the World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) also participated, providing valuable insights into the latest trends in rules of origin.

The Global Meeting of the Regional Entities established by the WCO Members and the Council Vice-Chairs' Offices

24th – 25th February 2025, Brussels, Belgium



ROCB A/P participated in the Global Meeting of the Regional Entities established by the WCO Members and the Council Vice-Chairs' Offices, held at WCO headquarter in Brussels from 24th – 25th February 2025. The meeting brought together delegates from Regional Entities around the world, with both attended in person and online. Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P and his colleagues from ROCB A/P attended the meeting.

In the Regional Entity experience sharing, Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, introduced the development of the Compendium on Training Management in the Asia-Pacific Region, emphasizing how the compendium can contribute to Members.

Also, during the meeting, WCO provided updates its regional entities and discussed ways to enhance member assistance.

WCO highlighted the latest advancements in the WCO CLiKC!, including three new courses and updates to five existing ones, with plans for two additional e-learning modules in 2025. We learned that in our Asia Pacific Region, Data Analytics Beginner Course and Post-Clearance Audit were the most completed courses in 2024. The meeting also included an evaluation summary of the tenant solution pilot, which dedicated area on CLiKC! exclusively for a particular Member administration. Additionally, WCO provided updated on the progress of WCO VR training project focusing on Air Cargo Clearance.

WCO introduced a new tool 'Good Practices and Challenges of the WCO Regional Customs Laboratories', which was developed in response to Members' request for a comprehensive assessment/diagnostic instrument to evaluate regional entities. the Tariff and Trade Directorate, in cooperation with the Regional Customs Laboratories, drafted the Self-assessment tool for Reginal Customs Laboratories (RCL) to assist RCLs to assess compliance on what is expected to deliver as a regional entity.

The new WCO capacity-building paradigm was presented at the meeting. WCO outlined its overall strategic direction and focus that align with the WCO Theme for 2025, "Customs delivering on its commitment to efficiency, security and prosperity".

In the breakout session, delegates were invited to discuss over the topics on increasing the ability of regional entities to be a force multiplier for capacity building. ROCB A/P collected valuable feedback regarding our work. These insights will be applied to our works to better serve WCO Members in the AP region. Ms. Grace Ye and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Managers of the ROCB A/P, used this opportunity to demonstrate how ROCB A/P can contribute to WCO's new paradigm and discussed our collaborative efforts with other stakeholders in the AP region.

ROCB A/P attended the 16th session of the Capacity Building Committee

26th – 28th February 2025, Brussels, Belgium

The 16th session of the Capacity Building Committee was held in Brussels from 26th – 28th February 2025, bringing delegates from around the world both in person and virtually.

This year the meeting was held under the theme of ‘Reimagining the WCO Capacity-Building Paradigm – Thriving with Strategic Purpose and Resource Optimization’. Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P and his ROCB A/P colleagues attended the meeting.

ROCB A/P reported to the Committee on the progress of the Compendium on Training Management in Asia-Pacific Region. ROCB A/P successfully conducted 3 Sub-Regional Workshops and 1 Regional Workshop throughout the A/P region in 2024, compiling good practices and challenges from AP Members. During the report, the ROCB A/P highlighted how the ROCB can contribute to as a bridge between the WCO and Members: making a Compendium that connects the WCO Tools that could be too advanced to apply, with neighbouring Members’ practices which can be more achievable. This compendium was highly regarded by Members attended the CBC; it will be present to the Head of Customs Administration Conference of A/P Region in May 2025.

The Committee were presented the new capacity building paradigm and it align with the WCO Theme for 2025, “Customs delivering on its commitment to efficiency, security and prosperity” and were provided information on the outcomes of the self-assessment phase of the 1st cycle of the Performance Measurement Mechanism (PMM) and the WCO Expert Management and Accreditation policy. During the Secretariat’s presentation on the Implementing the WCO Distance Learning Strategy, Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager, made an intervention on the ROCB A/P’s active role in encouraging Members in leveraging e-learning platform, and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager, commented on Virtual Reality Training (VRT), and the updates on the WCO Data strategic initiatives including the BACUDA Project, and the Smart Customs Project about ROCB A/P’s active involvement.

Another key topic was the new WCO Regionalization approach with a view to the roles and responsibilities of the regional entities in the new WCO capacity-building paradigm. During the meeting, ROCB A/P demonstrated our support to the WCO through various approaches, including organized the workshops, and actively participating in the meeting to remain updates with the WCO initiatives and updates the Members.

In the Gender Equality and Diversity sessions, Ms. Grace Ye, Program Manager, ROCB A/P highlighted its role in promoting these initiatives. As Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, serves as a regional focal point for the GED, we regularly

attend the Virtual Working Group and the Global Conferences to stay updates on the policy development.

As WCO adopting its modernization and capacity building initiatives, ROCB A/P continues to leverage our regional expertise and active involvement to support WCO in achieving the strategic goals and provide support to Members in the Asia Pacific Region.

Strengthening Anti-Corruption Efforts in the Asia Pacific: Key Takeaways from the 24th WCO Integrity Sub-Committee (ISC) Session

3rd - 4th March, 2025, Brussels, Belgium

The 24th session of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Integrity Sub-Committee (ISC), held from March 3rd to 4th, 2025, offered an invaluable platform to strengthen the fight against corruption within Customs administrations worldwide. The ROCB A/P is committed to supporting its regional members in enhancing their capacity to combat corruption and promote integrity in Customs operations. This meeting provided critical insights and practical approaches to achieve those goals.



The session was officially opened by WCO Deputy Secretary General Ricardo Treviño, who emphasized the fundamental role that integrity plays in the efficiency and reputation of Customs operations globally.

A key highlight of the session was the keynote by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which discussed the challenges and opportunities in managing corruption risks while improving fiscal transparency and accountability. The session also presented an overview of the progress made under the ISC Work Programme for 2022-2025, with a focus on the development of tools and guidelines to help WCO Members build stronger integrity frameworks. A central focus was the increased application of tools designed to measure integrity and assess the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. Several WCO members shared their experiences and perspectives on the broader impact of the WCO Anti-Corruption

and Integrity Promotion (A-CIP) Programme, emphasizing how it has played a crucial role in fostering a culture of integrity within Customs administrations. During the session, an important discussion focused on the application of rewards and sanctions systems to combat corruption. Customs authorities and the private sector shared valuable perspectives on how transparent and fair reward systems can motivate ethical behavior among Customs officers.

Innovative approaches to breaking the links between crime and corruption were also explored, with a focus on how Customs administrations can use emerging technologies and modern strategies to reduce corruption in trade and transport sectors. This is particularly timely for the Asia Pacific region, where digital transformation is underway and presents an opportunity to embed anti-corruption practices into new technological frameworks.

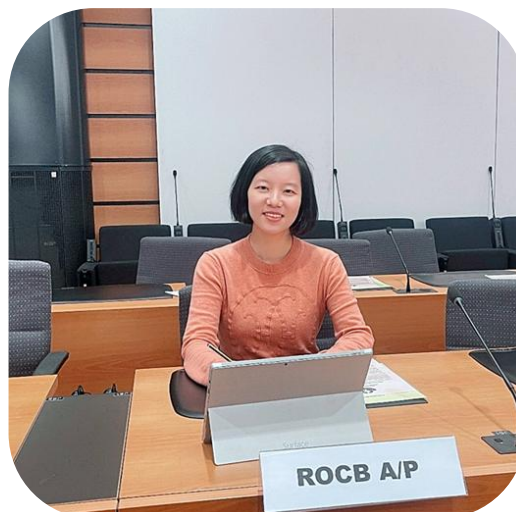
The session also included two panel discussions. The first, on Data Governance to Mitigate Corruption Risks in Automation, discussed how better data management and automation technologies could reduce the risk of corruption in increasingly digital Customs operations. The second panel, Engaging Staff Unions to Build Cultures of Integrity in Customs, highlighted the importance of collaboration between Customs authorities and staff unions in promoting accountability and trust.

The outcomes of the 24th ISC session will continue to support Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific region as they work to combat corruption, promote transparency, and build more effective Customs systems. By sharing best practices, fostering collaboration, and leveraging the WCO's expertise, we can empower our region to build more transparent, efficient, and ethical Customs systems.

Enhancing Global Customs Enforcement: Insights from the 45th WCO Enforcement Committee Session

24th – 28th March 2025, Brussels, Belgium

The 45th session of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Enforcement Committee (EC), held from March 24th to 28th, 2025, brought together Customs administrations, WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs), and key enforcement stakeholders to discuss critical compliance and enforcement challenges. ROCB A/P remains dedicated



to supporting its regional members in enhancing their enforcement capabilities through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives. This session provided valuable insights into emerging threats and strategies to strengthen enforcement efforts.

A major thematic focus of this year's session was "Customs Canine Units: Delivering Enforcement in an Era of Technological Change." Delegates were treated to a live demonstration by the Belgian Customs Canine Unit, showcasing the effectiveness of canine teams in detecting illicit goods concealed in luggage or carried by passengers. Additionally, discussions covered the proposed Accreditation Standard for WCO Regional Dog Training Centres (RDTCs), which aims to integrate expert evaluations into the accreditation process. The final endorsement of this standard is expected from the WCO Council in 2026. Our office will actively follow up on this initiative and ensure that the latest developments are shared with Asia-Pacific members and will facilitate their preparation and alignment with the new standard.

Throughout the five-day meeting, delegates engaged in six panel discussions, covering the following enforcement priorities: Challenges and prospects for Customs canine units; Operational insights into combating environmental crime; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) threats in the 21st century; Risks posed by illicit trade across e-commerce platforms; Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the risk management domain and Challenges and best practices for tackling trade-based money laundering.

A key outcome of the session was the endorsement of six new enforcement tools designed to enhance Customs' ability to combat illicit trade. These include WCO Standards

for Dog Training Centres, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for controlling shipments under the Montreal Protocol, Updated WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium, Guidelines on Customs Responses to Industry Referrals, Customs Targeting Centre (CTC) Guidelines and "Fraud Detected through Post-Clearance Audit (PCA) and its Techniques" tool.

In addition to enforcement strategies, the session highlighted the role of technology in combating illicit trade. Discussions covered the deployment of the WCO GEOPORTAL tool for monitoring drug trafficking via general aviation, improvements to the CENcomm tool, and ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of data within the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN). Delegates also reviewed progress on the forthcoming Illicit Trade Report 2024.

The outcomes of the 45th EC session will continue to support Customs administrations in the Asia-Pacific region in strengthening their enforcement capabilities. By leveraging WCO expertise, enhancing regional cooperation, and adopting advanced technologies, ROCB A/P remains committed to equipping Member administrations with the necessary tools to combat illicit trade and transnational crime effectively.

Strengthening Customs Integrity through WCO's Training Kits

9th April 2025

On 9th April 2025, ROCB A/P attended a virtual WCO meeting introducing the newly developed Integrity Training Kits on Internal Affairs and Culture of Integrity. This initiative underscores the WCO's ongoing commitment to promoting integrity, professionalism, and operational excellence within Customs administrations worldwide. As a regional office for capacity building, the ROCB A/P will collaborate with Regional Training Centers (RTCs) to promote these training kits across its member administrations.

Customs are critical to trade facilitation and border security, but their effectiveness depends on a strong culture of integrity. To support this, the WCO has developed two comprehensive Training Kits on CLiKC! Platform: Internal Affairs and Culture of Integrity, which are designed to equip Customs officials with the knowledge and tools to combat corruption, enhance transparency, and build resilient institutional cultures.

Internal Affairs Training Kit covers 15 topics including corruption prevention, investigations and disciplinary processes. Culture of Integrity Training Kit focuses on 8 topics

such as ethical leadership, diversity and communication. Both kits can be delivered using different delivery modes: e-learning, virtual workshop, distance learning event or in-person. By leveraging these resources, Customs administrations can build more robust, ethical, and efficient operational frameworks. In the future, the WCO is planning to organize regional workshops to demonstrate kit usage and develop additional modules based on Member feedback.

The WCO's Training Kits are not just a tool. They are the foundation for a new era of trusted Customs administrations. By integrating these tools, Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific region can fortify their integrity frameworks and align with global standards.

ROCB A/P highlights strategic role in advancing regional capacity building at the 26th WCO A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference

19th – 22nd May 2025 Hong Kong, China



The 26th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific (A/P) Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference, hosted by Hong Kong Customs in its capacity as the WCO Vice-Chair for the A/P Region (APVC), successfully concluded on May 22nd, 2025. Over the course of four days, the Conference brought together senior Customs officials from across

the region to advance strategic collaboration, capacity building, and innovation in Customs operations.

During the main sessions on May 19th, ROCB A/P delivered its annual report and Implementation Status of Regional Strategic Plan 2024-2026 Focus Area 3 Capacity Building, which provided updates on the office's core activities, including support for WCO workshops, technical assistance, and the annual needs survey. ROCB A/P emphasized the alignment of its efforts with the proposed WCO capacity building paradigm, which promotes more Member-driven, needs-based, and outcome-oriented approaches to Customs development.

On May 20th, ROCB A/P led a dedicated session on the WCO Training Management Project, offering Member administrations a detailed overview of the project's objectives, tools, and implementation strategies. Mongolia and Sri Lanka Customs made their contributions by presenting their achievements after Project's Workshop in India, in May 2024, highlighting the importance of proper planning of domestic training and continued information exchange among neighboring Members. The presentations underscored ROCB A/P's commitment to assisting Members in enhancing training governance and modernizing HR development frameworks under the new paradigm.

ROCB A/P further reinforced its role through high-level bilateral meetings. In a meeting with WCO Secretary General Mr. Ian Saunders, the Secretary General introduced the background and strategic vision of the new capacity building paradigm and acknowledged ROCB A/P's proactive efforts in its implementation. ROCB A/P reaffirmed its continued support for helping Members understand and operationalize the paradigm once it is endorsed at Council Session next month.

Additional bilateral meetings were held with the Maldives Customs Service and the Royal Malaysian Customs Department. During these engagements, ROCB A/P presented the core concepts of the new paradigm, explained how future capacity building activities would be structured, and expressed its readiness to support Members in developing customized plans tailored to their national priorities and development goals.

With 20 years of experience, ROCB A/P is uniquely positioned to assist Members in translating the WCO's global vision into concrete, locally adapted outcomes. Through responsive and collaborative efforts, ROCB A/P remains committed to strengthening the effectiveness, innovation, and resilience of Customs administrations across the Asia/Pacific region.



Strengthening Customs Cooperation in the Pacific: ROCB Participates in OCO Annual Conference in Guam

22nd – 23rd May 2025, Guam



The Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Annual Conference, graciously hosted by the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency and the Oceania Customs Organization, was held with participation from Customs administrations across the Pacific region, partner agencies, and international institutions. The event provided a dynamic platform to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance technical capabilities, and discuss shared goals in customs modernization.

The Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) was honoured to attend as a partner agency, engaging with World Customs Organization (WCO) Members and non-Members in an open and collaborative spirit. The Conference facilitated constructive dialogue around shared challenges and solutions in Customs, such as technology adoption and institutional strengthening.

On Day 2 of the Informal Customs Heads and Partners Conference, there was a panel discussion on “Building Capacity and Empowering Customs Administrations through Training and Technology,” moderated by Professor David Widdowson of the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies (CCES). The ROCB contributed to this session as one of the panelists, sharing insights into the activities of WCO’s Capacity Building and the role and direction of the ROCB. It also attracted non-Members of the WCO to enroll in order to receive its support.

In addition to formal sessions, the conference allowed for a range of informal discussions and bilateral meetings, where ROCB connected with Customs leaders and stakeholders to better understand the specific assistance needs of Pacific Island. ROCB also engaged in productive discussion with the OCO Secretariat, exploring better collaboration.

Another significant meeting took place with representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). This dialogue focused on more concrete cooperation to support the Pacific’s Customs modernization efforts, particularly through technical assistance on Regional collective needs. The ROCB provided feedback to the ADB on its idea, and both sides committed to continued dialogue to move it forward.

The ROCB extends its sincere appreciation to the OCO, Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, and all other participants for contributing to the discussions. The ROCB remains dedicated to continuing its work with partners across the Pacific through capacity-building activities.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration at the 14th ASEAN-WCO Consultation Meeting in Brunei Darussalam

3rd –5th June 2025, Brunei Darussalam

The 14th ASEAN-World Customs Organization (WCO) Consultation Meeting was successfully held during the 34th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General (DG) of Customs, hosted in the serene and welcoming environment of Brunei Darussalam. The



Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei, serving as this year's host, offered warm hospitality to Jun Tajima, Head of the ROCB A/P who participated in-person, and showed excellent organization, helping to create an atmosphere for cooperation, productive dialogue and future planning.

The ASEAN-WCO Consultation Meeting serves as a critical platform for direct engagement among the WCO Secretariat, the ROCB A/P and the Customs Administrations of ASEAN Members. It is an opportunity to exchange updates, align Regional and Global Customs priorities. This year, Timor Leste participated as an observer for the Meeting.

The Consultation was conducted in a manner that mutually exchanged updates on the latest policy priorities and strategic initiatives. Mr. Ian Sanders, Secretary General of the WCO explained the Strategic Plan to be discussed in the Council Session later this month and encouraged ASEAN to disseminate its good practices to other Regions through the WCO. It also provided the ROCB A/P with an invaluable opportunity to hear the collective voice of ASEAN. The WCO Secretariat and the ROCB A/P welcomed their comments of the region's priorities.

On the sidelines, Mr. Tajima had a meeting with the Chair of the DG Meeting, Controller Azizil of Brunei Customs. Discussions focused on the importance of human resource development. Another significant exchange took place with the Commissioner of Timor-Leste Customs Authority, as the country prepares to join ASEAN. The dialogue centred on identifying capacity development needs and exploring how the WCO can best support Timor-Leste's efforts.

Meetings also included valuable engagement with the private sector, offering insights on the impact of Customs modernization of ASEAN for business operations. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of transparency, efficiency, and stronger public-private partnerships.

The outcomes of the consultation reaffirm the strong partnership between ASEAN, the WCO and the ROCB A/P with a shared commitment to continue modernizing Customs, and supporting their regional integration.

The ROCB A/P extends its sincere appreciation to the Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei Darussalam for their warm hospitality and excellent organization. Their efforts contributed greatly to the success of this important event.

ROCB A/P Attended the Paperless Trade Week 2025 Organized by UNESCAP

9th – 13th June 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



At the invitation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Program Managers Mr. Jaemin Cho, Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, and Mr. Mark Ho, participated in the Paperless Trade Week 2025, held from 9th to 13th June 2025 in

Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P also participated part of its side-events. The Paperless Trade Week included the 4th Session of the Standing Committee and Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA).

During the week, 22 side-events were held, focusing on topics such as digital trade, Single Window systems, and emerging technologies in the context of paperless trade. The sessions of the Standing Committee and Council were attended by delegates from CPTA member countries and various international organizations.

During the Standing Committee session, Mr. Jaemin Cho emphasized the importance of partnerships between Customs and other relevant agencies. He also highlighted the collaborative workshop jointly organized by ROCB A/P and UNESCAP, which took place in November 2024 in Cheonan, Republic of Korea. This event, the 7th UNNExT Masterclass Workshop for officials from Customs and relevant border agencies, focused on facilitating cross-border paperless trade and using data analytics to update and share essential information. It was co-organized with UNESCAP, ROCB A/P, and the Korea Customs Service, with financial support from the WCO Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF-Korea). For more details, please see this article.

The 4th Session of the Standing Committee and Council of CPTA reviewed progress in digitalizing key trade documents (e.g., certificate of origin, phytosanitary certificate, invoice), discussed mutual recognition models, and encouraged the implementation of pilot projects.

WCO Council 2025: Together we advance, through a New Capacity Building Paradigm

26th - 28th June 2025, Brussels, Belgium

The World Customs Organization held Council Sessions, the governing body of the organization. The Heads of Customs administrations gathered in Brussels for its annual meeting. Jun Tajima, the Head of ROCB A/P participated as an observer.



The Keynote address was made by the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. She pointed out geopolitical tensions and threats to multilateralism but showed a beacon of light that both Organizations can show that border procedures are not an additional barrier to trade, but a bridge to secure predictable trade.

Mr. Ian Sanders, the Secretary General of the WCO responded in stressing the importance of coordinated efforts in trade facilitation, security, and combating illicit trade. Customs remains committed to transparency, efficiency, and supporting a safe, prosperous global trade environment.

During the Council, the Capacity Building New Paradigm, which was proposed by the Secretary General, was adopted with overwhelming support by Members. It mentions WCO's unwavering commitment to Member centricity while it centres around the strategic alignment of the WCO Strategic Plan, evidence-based assistance, more use of WCO accredited experts and so on.

As the closest partner to Member Administration, the ROCB A/P communicated with the Secretariat officials with a series of meetings on the sideline of the Sessions, to understand the idea and the procedures that come into effect after July 2025.

The New Paradigm also provides for the engagement framework, and it discusses the role of the Regional Entities, and ROCB among others. It recognizes that the ROCBs have a pivotal role in the implementation of the CB Paradigm and the WCO will develop a practical Reference Document on the ROCBs in coming years. The ROCB A/P is committed to engage, or even to lead the discussion by showing the best examples of the ROCBs.

The ROCB A/P keeps close communications with the Secretariat and Members so that the New Paradigm will turn the WCO's assistance in a better way, and this transition period would not affect the delivery of Capacity Building activities in the Region.

Strengthening Regional Cooperation

In 2024 and 2025, the ROCB A/P significantly strengthened regional cooperation through strategic engagements with key partners. Meetings with the New Zealand Customs Service and Korea Customs Service in Bangkok focused on enhancing capacity-building initiatives, particularly in drug enforcement and risk management, reinforcing collaborative workshops and knowledge-sharing. A courtesy visit from Chung-Ang University fostered academic ties, promoting WCO initiatives in trade and logistics. ROCB A/P's visits to UNESCAP and JICA in Thailand advanced partnerships in paperless trade and customs efficiency projects like the Mekong Connectivity initiative. Engagements with U.S. CBP, Dutch, French, Canadian, and Japanese customs officials emphasized risk management, enforcement, and modernization. A visit to the Royal Malaysia Customs Department and AKMAL Melaka enriched the WCO Training Management Project, and a meeting with the EU's ECHO explored humanitarian customs procedures. These efforts highlight ROCB A/P's pivotal role in fostering regional collaboration, aligning with WCO standards, and enhancing customs capabilities across the Asia-Pacific.

Summaries of ROCB A/P's activities in strengthening regional cooperation during the 2024/2025, from July 2024 to June 2025, are illustrated below.

Enhanced Cooperation with New Zealand Customs Service

9th July 2024, Bangkok Thailand

Mr. Jun Tajima, the Head of ROCB A/P and his team met with Mr. Joe Cannon, the Director of International Relations of New Zealand Customs Service and Mr. David Radovanovich, Customs attaché from New Zealand Embassy in Thailand on July 9th, 2024. This visit aimed at enhancing collaboration between ROCB A/P and New Zealand Customs Service on Customs Capacity Building.



Mr. Tajima welcomed the representatives of New Zealand Customs and delivered a brief introduction on ROCB A/P. He highlighted ROCB's role in the Region which is to

implement the Regional Strategic Plan and explained its priorities including enhancing Annual Needs Survey and Follow-up Action Survey for more effective WCO workshops. Moreover, Mr. Tajima appreciated New Zealand Customs for its continued support for the office and emphasized the importance of the cooperation between ROCB A/P and New Zealand Customs. Ms. Zhengqing YE, ROCB A/P's program manager and the regional manager for the Pacific appreciated New Zealand Customs attachés for the active participation in the WCO capacity building activities and welcomed more knowledge sharing from New Zealand Customs in the WCO workshops.

During this courtesy visit, Mr. Joe Cannon expressed his appreciation for long standing close collaborative relationship between ROCB A/P and New Zealand Customs. Moreover, he pointed out that New Zealand Customs would commit to further engage in the regional capacity building activities. Mr. Tajima reaffirmed that ROCB A/P, as the leading Capacity Building office would enhance the cooperation with New Zealand Customs.

Both parties found this visit a wonderful opportunity to exchange views and agreed to continue to explore future cooperation in Capacity Building areas.

Korea Customs Service Visits ROCB A/P in Bangkok to Discuss Capacity Building Activities on Drug Enforcement

11th July 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

To foster understanding on capacity building activities focused on drug enforcement, the four officials from the International Investigation Division of Korea Customs Service paid a visit to the ROCB A/P. During today's meeting, the Korea Customs Service explained their accomplishments and discussed with the ROCB A/P about their plan for organizing a capacity-building workshop in Korea.



Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager, warmly welcomed the visiting officials, including Mr. Si Tae Kim, Deputy Director and Mr. Ji Young Kim

of the Investigation Division. Mr. Tajima expressed his gratitude for the visit and highlighted the importance of Korea Customs Service's support in hosting these crucial capacity building activities.

Throughout the meeting, both parties explored various aspects of holding workshops for Asia-Pacific members and establishing regular capacity building activities in the field of drug enforcement. The KCS officials underscored the significance of this visit as a valuable opportunity to discuss and enhance potential cooperation with ROCB A/P in capacity building on drug enforcement.

Exploring WCO's key initiatives: Chung-Ang University Visits ROCB A/P in Bangkok

19th July 2024, Bangkok, Thailand



To foster understanding of capacity building activities of WCO, fifteen members, including professors and students from Chung-Ang University's College of Business and Economics, visited ROCB A/P. ROCB A/P welcomed the study visit of the faculty and graduate students majoring in Trade and Logistics. The objective of this program was to introduce the WCO's initiatives to the academic community and provide insights into the necessity and effectiveness of capacity building.

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of the ROCB A/P, along with Program Managers extended a warm welcome to the faculty and students. Mr. Tajima conveyed his appreciation for the visit and

emphasized the significance of strengthening collaboration between the academic community and the WCO.

Throughout the meeting, Mr. Tajima introduced the colleagues of ROCB A/P, providing an overview of the WCO, and highlighted the essential roles of WCO member administrations. The lecture commenced with Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager, delivering insights on international affairs, with a focus on ROCB AP's main roles, key achievements, and WCO's Key initiatives related to international trade including WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and Single Window Environment.

The faculty and students expressed their appreciation to ROCB A/P for preparing the study visit, recognizing it as a valuable opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of WCO and to acquire in-depth knowledge about the activities of ROCB A/P, a key international organization in the field of international cooperation.

ROCB A/P visited UNESCAP office in Thailand

18th September 2024, UNESCAP, Thailand

On 18th September 2024, team of ROCB A/P visited UNESCAP office in Thailand for a courtesy call on Dr. Yann Duval, Chief of Trade Policy and Facilitation, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of the United Nations ESCAP and his team.

The ROCB A/P team was consisted of Head of the ROCB A/P, Mr. Jun Tajima, Programme Managers Mr. Jaemin CHO, Ms. Zhengqing Ye, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu. Mr. Tajima expressed his appreciations to the long-standing cooperation between UNESCAP and the ROCB A/P, especially the Master Class Workshops that are jointly organized by the WCO, ROCB A/P, and UNESCAP with financial backing from the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea) and UN fund.

Mr. Tajima, then, explained the outline of the ROCB A/P, aiming at having staff of UNESCAP deepen their understanding of its activities, seek further collaboration and avoid duplication of effort.

During the meeting, UNESCAP stressed its focus is on paperless trade with its activities around the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and

the Pacific (CPTA). It also introduced the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation that provides an excellent overview of the trade facilitation measures.

Both offices found this visit a wonderful opportunity to exchange views and agreed to continue to explore future cooperation in Capacity Building areas.

JICA Consultant Team's Visit to ROCB A/P

28th October 2024, Bangkok, Thailand



A team of consultants from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) paid a courtesy visit to ROCB A/P on 28th October 2024.

During the visit, Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of the ROCB A/P, extended a warm welcome to the JICA consultant team. The visit served to reaffirm the strong partnership between ROCB A/P and JICA, emphasizing their shared commitment to enhancing customs

efficiency and coordination through capacity building activities.

The discussions during the visit center around JICA's ongoing project, namely, "The Project for Strengthening Customs Efficiency for Enhancing Mekong Connectivity," which commenced in August 2024. The goal of the project aims to improve customs coordination and trade facilitation across Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos through capacity building activities. The JICA team provided an overview of the project's detailed planning phase, which includes baseline surveys and reviews of existing frameworks, leading up to a comprehensive implementation phase set to begin in March 2025. Key outputs of the project include enhanced trade facilitation capacity, improved Authorized Economic Operator program, and strengthened human resource development capacity in customs administration.

Mr. Tajima shared insights into ROCB A/P's role in serving the Asia-Pacific region through implementing WCO conventions, fostering partnerships, and advancing capacity-

building. He outlined the 2024-26 regional strategic plan, emphasizing trade facilitation, compliance, capacity building, and resilience, with objectives for resource deployment and support for small island economies. He highlighted the Training Management Project aimed at enhancing human resource development in customs training management, with sub-regional workshops for ASEAN, South, East, and West Asia, and the Master Trainer Program for the Pacific Islands demonstrating ROCB A/P's commitment to enhance training management system in the region. Mr. Tajima also emphasized the value of accredited experts and explored collaboration opportunities for local capacity building. Additionally, he introduced the CLIKC! platform, a WCO e-learning tool that strengthens customs capabilities in areas like the Time Release Study, which ROCB A/P actively promotes for regional development. During the meeting, Mr. Louis Chan, Program Manager of ROCB A/P, also highlighted capacity building activities conducted in the previous fiscal year for Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia, tailored to each country's assessed technical assistance needs.

The visit resulted in productive discussions, emphasizing the importance of close cooperation between JICA and ROCB A/P in advancing customs efficiency through capacity building. Both parties expressed their readiness to maintain open communication and work together towards achieving the project's goals.

Japan Tobacco International provided an insight on tobacco smuggling to ROCB A/P

11th November 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Japan Tobacco International (JTI), represented by Mr. Masayuki Yuguchi, Japan Affairs Director for the Asia Pacific region, and Ms. Sayako Takahashi, Japan Affairs Manager for Asia Pacific, paid a visit to ROCB A/P.

During the meeting, they provided an overview of their business operations in the Asia region, focusing on their role in the tobacco industry and the challenges they face, particularly in relation to illicit trade on tobacco. One of the key points raised by them was the



growing issue of illegal tobacco trafficking, which has significant implications for both the national revenue and public health.

To better understand and combat illicit tobacco trade, JTI introduced their use of the Empty Pack Survey, a periodical and established survey conducted to assess the flow of illegal tobacco products. JTI shared a video explaining the survey methodology, highlighting how it is used to gather data on the types and distribution of counterfeit tobacco products. They also presented findings from their recent survey in Thailand, which provided valuable insights into the patterns of illegal tobacco trade in the country.

Throughout the visit, the Head of ROCB A/P, Mr. Jun Tajima and a Program Manager, Ms. Nagamatsu took notes on JTI's findings and methodology. ROCB A/P explained the role of Customs and how they tackle illicit trade on tobacco, especially recent activities in the region. JTI expressed its interest in working with the ROCB A/P in future to address concerns related to illicit tobacco trade in the Asia-Pacific region.

Korea Customs Service Young Officials Visit ROCB A/P in Bangkok

3rd December 2024, Bangkok, Thailand



As part of the Korea Customs Service's Global Future Talent Program, aimed at fostering the next generation of experts in international cooperation, the ROCB A/P hosted a study visit by nine officials from Korea Customs. This program seeks to provide young internal officials with valuable insights into international cooperation.

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, along with Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager, extended a warm welcome to the officials, who were accompanied by Mr. Shin-young Kim, Deputy Director, and Mr. In-sung Choi, Program Coordinator of the Global Future Talent Program. Mr. Tajima expressed his gratitude for the visit and highlighted the importance of Korea Customs Service's support in cultivating the next generation of professionals.

During the meeting, Mr. Jaemin Cho introduced ROCB A/P, provided an overview of the WCO, and outlined the key roles of WCO in international affairs. He also shared insights into the primary roles, responsibilities, and notable achievements of the ROCB A/P.

The visiting officials expressed their appreciation for the opportunity, describing the visit as an invaluable chance to gain a deeper understanding of the WCO and to learn more about the activities of the ROCB A/P, a leading international organization in the field of the Capacity Building.

CBP Delegation's Visit to ROCB A/P

4th December 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Delegation from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including representatives from the Global Targeting Advisory Division (GTAD) and the Container Security Initiative (CSI), paid a courtesy visit to ROCB A/P in Bangkok on 4th December 2024.

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, warmly welcomed the delegation led by Director David Dodson, reaffirming the



longstanding partnership between US CBP and ROCB. The meeting focused on enhancing risk management and targeting capacity building across the Asia Pacific region.

During the visit, both parties engaged in productive discussions about potential collaboration opportunities. Mr. Tajima provided an overview of ROCB A/P's mission and activities, highlighting the organization's role in implementing WCO standards and tools, fostering partnerships, and advancing capacity building across Asia Pacific members.

The CBP delegation shared their capacity building efforts in Asia Pacific Region, such as conducting International Border Interdiction Trainings (IBIT) and Trade Risk Management (TRM) workshops. The TRM workshop, which utilizes standard spreadsheets to teach targeting and risk analysis concepts, was emphasized as an accessible tool for customs administrations with limited capabilities.

The meeting concluded with mutual appreciation for the opportunity and with further discussion on the collaboration in future engagements.

Both ROCB A/P and CBP look forward to working together to enhance customs operations, targeting, and risk management within the Asia Pacific region.

New Customs Attaché from New Zealand Customs Service visited ROCB A/P

16th December 2024, Bangkok Thailand

Mr. Jun Tajima, the Head of ROCB A/P and his team met with Mr. Tim Williams, the new Customs attaché from New Zealand Embassy in Thailand accompanied by the former attaché Mr. David Radovanovich on December 16th, 2024. This visit aimed at introducing the new Customs attaché for further enhancing collaboration between the ROCB A/P and the New Zealand Customs Service on Customs Capacity Building.

Mr. Tajima welcomed the attachés of New Zealand Customs Service and showed his appreciation to the New Zealand Customs and its attaché for its consistent support for the office. Mr. Tajima delivered a brief overview of the ROCB A/P highlighting the ROCB's main function for the WCO capacity building activities, introduced the office's 20th anniversary celebration in November this year, and expressed his keen interest in the information exchange on capacity building activities. Mr. Williams, whose expertise is on risk management and targeting, mentioned that the New Zealand Customs had attached great importance in

that area and both parties discussed recent visit of the RILO A/P to New Zealand Customs Service, which showcased the sound cooperative relationship between the New Zealand Customs Service and the WCO regional entities.

During this courtesy visit, Mr. David Radovanovich, the outgoing Customs attaché, expressed his appreciation for long standing close collaborative relationship between ROCB A/P and New Zealand Customs Service, and emphasized that with the new appointment of the Customs attaché, the New Zealand Customs Service would continue to collaborate with the WCO and the ROCB.



Visit and meeting with Japan Customs executives

15th January 2025, Tokyo, Japan

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Program Manager, visited Mr. Yasuo Takamura, Director-General of Japan Customs, on the sidelines of a meeting in Japan.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Tajima showed his appreciation to Japan Customs for its contributions to the WCO and the ROCB A/P for both financial means and human resources. During the meeting, Mr. Tajima gave an overview of the ROCB A/P and its activities including

the Training Management Project of the WCO, thanking him for its support to the Project as well. He also showed the draft Compendium on Training Management as its outcome.

Mr. Takamura recognised ROCB A/P's long-standing contribution in the Asia Pacific Region and encouraged it to continue being a valuable resource for both Members and the WCO.



Visit and meeting with RILO Asia-Pacific

15th January 2025, Tokyo, Japan



Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Program Manager, visited RILO A/P in Tokyo, Japan on the sidelines of a series of meetings in Japan. Mr. Toshihiko Osawa and Ms. Yuko Watanabe kindly welcomed the ROCB A/P.

During the meeting, Mr. Tajima shared recent capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific Region including the annual needs survey that Japan Customs and ROCB A/P is jointly conducting, which is tasked by the Regional Strategic Plan of the WCO A/P Region. Mr. Tajima requested RILO A/P for future

information exchange on Members regarding intelligence in order for the WCO to provide more targeted assistances with Members Administrations. They discussed future capacity building activities in the A/P region by both organisations including the new initiatives of the WCO and RILO A/P “Data/Intelligence Professionals Programme”. Both parties confirmed to continue strengthening collaboration in the Region especially on capacity building activities such as the ways to improve support for Customs Administrations in the region.

Customs Attaché of the Netherlands Visits ROCB A/P

30th January 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



Ms. Guusta Visser, Customs Attaché at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Singapore, paid a courtesy visit to ROCB A/P on 30th January 2025.

During the visit, Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, along with his colleagues, Mr. Louis Chan and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, extended a warm welcome to Ms. Visser

and reaffirmed the strong cooperation between ROCB A/P and Dutch Customs in capacity-building efforts and advancing Customs modernization across the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Tajima provided an overview of ROCB A/P, emphasizing its role in supporting Asia-Pacific Members through capacity-building activities, especially the Annual Needs Survey, which is currently circulated to Members in A/P Region to identify Members' capacity-building needs. He also gave a brief summary of recent WCO's capacity-building activities, including regional and national workshops on risk management, trade facilitation, and enforcement techniques, stressing the importance of such information exchange to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize impact.

Ms. Visser, who oversees customs collaboration in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam, emphasized the Netherlands' commitment to fostering Customs modernization and enforcement cooperation across the region. She highlighted ongoing

Netherlands' bilateral collaborative initiatives, including AI-driven risk targeting, product passport development, and canine detection techniques.

The discussions focused on identifying opportunities for Netherlands' bilateral collaborative initiatives and the need for enhancing coordination among Customs stakeholders to strengthen regional engagement and ensure the effective implementation of Customs modernization initiatives.

The visit concluded with a shared commitment to further strengthening cooperation between ROCB A/P and Dutch Customs. Both organizations expressed their willingness to the efficiency in the region through capacity building

New Director from Korea Customs Service Visits ROCB A/P

11th February 2025, Bangkok Thailand



ROCB A/P welcomed a delegation from the Korea Customs Service (KCS) led by Mr. Moon Ki Choi, the newly appointed Director of the International Investigation Division. Accompanied by Customs Attaché Ms. Hyojin Lee, Deputy Director Mr. Jun Hyung Kim, and Investigator Mr. Seung Jae Choi, the delegation met with Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager, to discuss avenues for enhancing collaboration on customs capacity building.

Mr. Tajima extended a warm welcome to the KCS delegation and expressed appreciation for Korea Customs Service's ongoing support, particularly in facilitating the WCO Drug Enforcement Experts Workshop. Mr. Moon Ki Choi reaffirmed KCS's commitment to initiatives in the area of Customs enforcement and emphasized the importance of cooperation between KCS, ROCB A/P, and RILO A/P. He noted that this collaboration could serve as a model for best practices in drug enforcement, helping Asia-Pacific members improve detection capabilities and update enforcement strategies.

The meeting concluded with both parties reaffirming their dedication to strengthening cooperation and advancing capacity-building efforts across the region

Customs Attaché of France Visits ROCB A/P

18th February 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



Mr. Patrick Mihoub, Customs Attaché at the Embassy of France in Bangkok, along with his colleagues, visited the ROCB A/P Office. Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, together with program managers, formally received the French delegation.

During the visit, Mr. Tajima and his team extended a warm welcome to Mr. Mihoub and his delegation, emphasizing the potential for enhanced collaboration between ROCB A/P and French Customs to promote capacity building and customs modernization throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Tajima presented an overview of ROCB A/P's mission, highlighting its role in supporting Asia-Pacific members through targeted capacity-building initiatives. He emphasized the importance of the Annual Needs Survey in identifying members' specific requirements. Mr. Tajima also summarized recent activities, including regional and sub-regional workshops focusing on integrity, trade facilitation, e-commerce, and HS classification. Additionally, he detailed ROCB A/P's engagement with various WCO projects, including the passenger and cargo control program, and environmental programs, stressing the need for strategic coordination to optimize resource utilization and prevent redundancy.

Mr. Mihoub, responsible for customs collaboration across Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore, articulated France's commitment to advancing customs modernization and fostering robust enforcement cooperation within the region. He outlined the broad scope of activities undertaken by the French Customs post in Bangkok, including technical cooperation, trade facilitation, support for French companies, law enforcement, and intelligence gathering. Mr. Mihoub highlighted French Customs' expertise in areas such as drug enforcement, tobacco trafficking, and intellectual property rights. Discussions focused on identifying opportunities for synergistic initiatives, including the possibility of French Customs providing expertise in various capacity-building activities. Specific areas of interest included supporting K9 units in Asia and collaborating on container targeting programs. Both parties acknowledged the importance of leveraging French Customs' extensive experience and knowledge in customs matters.

The visit concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthening cooperation between ROCB A/P and French Customs. Both parties expressed eagerness to explore collaborative ventures that bolster capacity-building efforts and improve customs efficiency across the Asia-Pacific region.

Visit and meeting with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

6th March 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, Mr. Mark Ho, Program Manager, and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager, visited the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) at the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok to discuss ongoing collaboration with the WCO and future collaboration opportunities.



The ROCB A/P representatives were warmly welcomed by Mr. Joshua Newby, Regional Director for the Asia-Pacific Region, along with Mr. Greg Fiddy, International Network Manager and Mr. Olivier St-Onge, Liaison Officer. During the meeting, Mr. Jun Tajima delivered a short presentation to introduce ROCB A/P, briefing the latest WCO initiatives and past workshops held in the region. Mr. Jun Tajima emphasized that ROCB A/P would place importance on partnerships and information exchange to avoid duplication.

Mr. Joshua Newby outlined CBSA's recent engagements with countries in Southeast Asia, noting some administrations' specific requests for support in establishing an intelligence unit, enhancing criminal investigation capabilities, improving customs valuation, and providing leadership training for executives. Mr. Joshua Newby also agreed to strengthen information exchange and collaboration with ROCB A/P on existing capacity building activities to avoid duplication and ensure targeted assistance to Member Administrations.

ROCB A/P visits to Royal Malaysia Customs Department and AKMAL Melaka

11th – 12th March 2025, Melaka, Malaysia



Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu, Program Manager of ROCB A/P and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager of ROCB A/P visited the Royal Malaysia Customs Department (RMCD) to their training center at AKMAL Melaka to discuss over various topics in Training Management, and the headquarters in Putrajaya to conduct interviews on the WCO Annual Needs Survey for the A/P region to know their situation and their needs in-depth, and also to gain insights that guide future Capacity Building Programme of the WCO.

During the visit to AKMAL, as a research mission of the WCO Training Management Project, ROCB A/P engaged in comprehensive discussion with the representatives from AKMAL Melaka, focusing on several key areas on training management. The discussion covered annual training plan development, designing training course, distant learning, trainer management, and budgeting process of training course. Following the discussions, AKMAL provided us with an observation of their training facilities and the induction training course conducted at that time. The visit successfully obtained valuable insights and good practices from RMCD. This additional information will significantly enhance the content in the Training Management Compendium in A/P region.

ROCB A/P took this opportunity to visit the RMCD headquarters in Putrajaya to conduct interviews regarding their response to the WCO Annual Needs Survey for the A/P region. The interviews enabled ROCB A/P to gain a deeper understanding of their situations and allowed us to seek clarification on specific needs they had expressed to convey to the WCO.

We extend our sincere appreciation to RMCD and look forward to continued collaboration in enhancing Training Management across the region.

EU Humanitarian Aid Regional Coordinator Visits to ROCB A/P

29th May 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

On 29th May 2025, Mr. Juan Alfonso Lozano Basanta, Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) paid a courtesy call on the Head of the ROCB A/P, Mr. Jun Tajima. He was welcomed along with Program Managers Mr. Jaemin Cho, Ms. Grace Ye, and Ms. Asuka Nagamatsu.



During the meeting, Mr. Alfonso provided an overview of ECHO's humanitarian framework, including its coordination role in disaster response and humanitarian access across the region. He also introduced initiatives such as the IMPACCT program that ECHO financially supports, which aims to streamline Customs procedures in emergency situations.

Both sides exchanged views on potential areas of cooperation and discussed the way of aligning ECHO's needs to the WCO's Capacity Building policies. The meeting concluded with a friendly atmosphere and agreement on continued dialogue.

Japan Customs AEO Experts Visit ROCB A/P

12th June 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



On 12th June 2025, Mr. Riki Tamaki, Director for AEO, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance Japan, Mr. Shinpei Sasaki and Ms. Asuka Niwa from the AEO Center, Japan Customs together with Mr. Kazushige Saito, JICA long-term expert, and Mr. Shuhei Namba, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, visited the ROCB A/P Office in Bangkok.

Mr. Jun Tajima, Head of ROCB A/P, warmly welcomed the delegation and provided an overview of ROCB A/P's mission and ongoing activities in supporting WCO Asia-Pacific members through targeted capacity-building efforts. The meeting included a lively discussion with many questions and exchanges of ideas.

This visit was arranged at the occasion of the AEO Workshop as a part of JICA Project held on 10th – 11th June at the Thai Customs Academy. Mr. Tamaki, Mr. Sasaki and Ms. Niwa participated in the workshop as expert lecturers from Japan Customs.

ROCB A/P will continue to foster collaboration among Member administrations, RTCs, and international partners to align with the WCO's new Capacity Building Paradigm and promote regional integration.

WCO Capacity Building Success Stories

Story of Sri Lanka Customs achievement

Sri Lanka Customs has achieved significant advancements in training management, drawing valuable insights from the Regional Office for Capacity Building Asia/Pacific (ROCB A/P) workshops on "Training Management" held in Palasamudram, India (May 2024), Bangkok, Thailand, and Brussels (February 2025).

Transitioning from an ad hoc training approach lacking needs assessments, curricula, manuals, annual plans, and structured trainers, the organization implemented a comprehensive seven-step process:

- identifying training needs through surveys, expert committees, and individual requests, resulting in 11 new subjects introduced in 2025 and 13 more identified;
- developing an annual training plan with six new programs in 2024 and 11 in 2025, regularly reviewed by HRD officers, line managers, and the Human Resources Committee;
- designing modules via a dedicated committee emphasizing professional skills, ethics, target audiences, transfer-based training, and partnerships with external bodies like the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission;
- conducting a tailored "Train the Trainer" program for 28 trainers from a pool of over 40, incorporating AI and educational technologies;
- creating training materials using aids, WCO resources, and the CLiKC! platform, which saw registrations rise from 60 in 2023 to 117 in 2024 and 25 in 2025;
- evaluating programs through Google Forms and paper feedback to measure impact and refine future efforts.

These initiatives have enhanced professionalism, reduced clearance times, boosted performance and revenue, and facilitated trade, with future plans including WCO-accredited trainers per subject, training manuals, progressive officer paths, and a dedicated Customs training academy.

Story of The Training Center of the Customs General Administration of Mongolia:

The Training Center of the Customs General Administration of Mongolia has demonstrated a remarkable success story in enhancing customs training management, inspired by best practices shared at the World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia-Pacific Region Training Management Seminar held in Palasamudram, India, from May 5th -10th, 2024.

Following the event, the center proactively secured a fiscal year budget of 198,317,000 MNT (approximately 58,328 USD) for 58 training programs targeting central, subordinate, and regional officials—the first time such forward budgeting was implemented. They approved a unified training platform during the 7th Professional Council meeting on December 13, 2024, and developed new specialized mid-level curricula, including one on Commodity Classification, Customs Valuation, and Tariffs scheduled for April 16th, 2025, based on collaborative research at the Ulaanbaatar Customs Office.

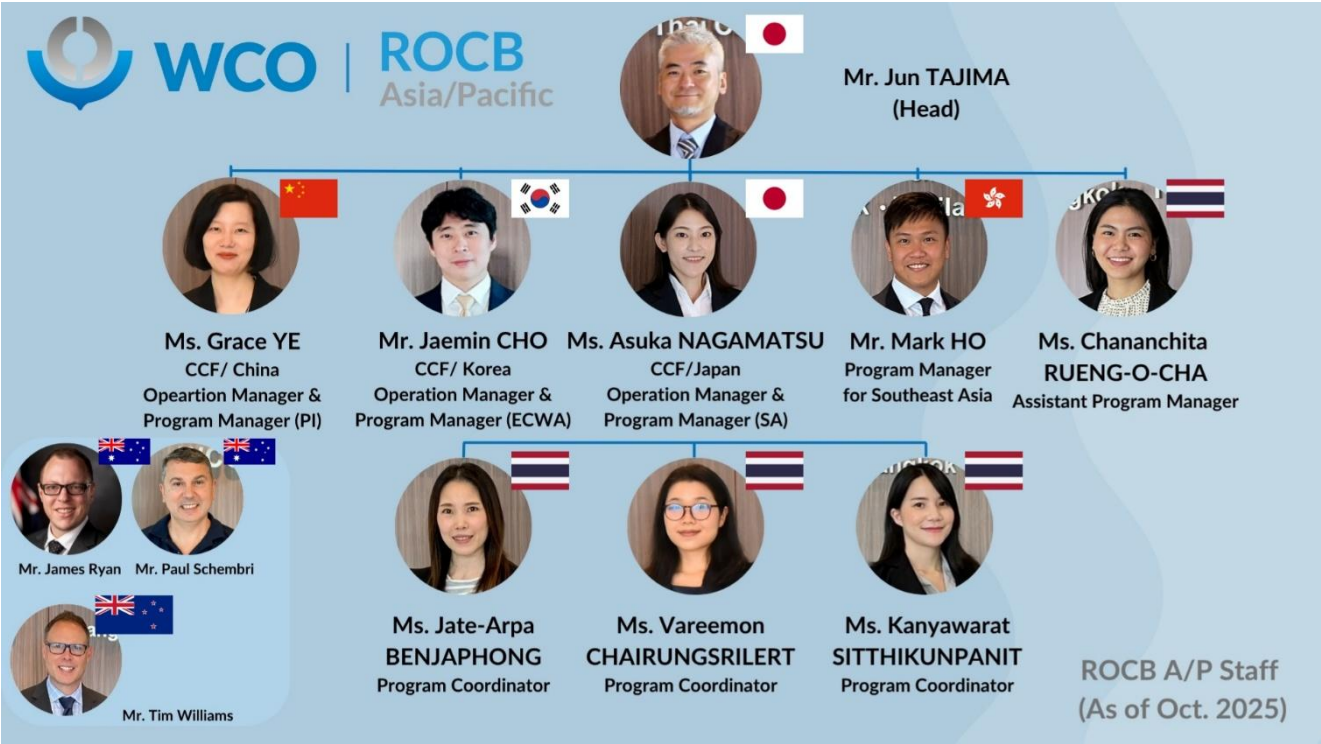
Plans are also in place for a program on Customs Violations, Inspection, and Clearance in March-April 2025. To expand capacity, a new Distance Learning Center is under development at the "Gorkhi Medlekhi Khad" facility in Nalaikh District, Ulaanbaatar, featuring 50 rooms for 100 guests, training halls, and more. The center translated and delivered the WCO's "Middle Management Development" program, with the first module ("Managing Yourself") conducted December 11th-12th, 2024, for 18 senior inspectors, and the second ("Managing Your Team") set for May 2025.

Additional achievements include appointing a temporary trainer (N. Anujin) with a full-time proposal submitted, collaborating with the Customs Veterans' Committee for 29 hours of expert lectures and an ongoing Harmonized System Classification manual, allocating 20 million MNT (~5,700 USD) for psychological counseling to address occupational burnout, and completing a gender equality survey using the WCO's 2023 tool, submitted August 15th, 2024.

This initiative highlights Mongolia Customs' commitment to modernization, skill-building, and inclusivity, serving as an exemplary model for regional administrations.



Inside ROCB: Our Team in Action



Staff

ROCB A/P has 9 full-time seconded staff members (as of October 2025). This includes one from China, one from Hong Kong China, two from Japan (including Head of the ROCB A/P), and one from Korea and four from Thailand. In addition, representatives from the Australian Border Force and New Zealand Customs Service based in Bangkok provide ad hoc support and assistance to the ROCB A/P's activities, especially for its communications and publications.

In order to provide more focused quality assistance to the A/P Members, the ROCB A/P has designed posts of Program Managers responsible for different sub-regions. Their roles and responsibilities as well as contact details are as follows:

Role and responsibilities

- To enhance contact with responsible countries;
- To encourage participation of responsible countries to the regional events;
- To take care of individual requests made by responsible countries;
- To collect Customs related information from responsible countries; and
- To liaise with officers responsible for the sub-region on various DPs.

During the year 2024/25, Mr. Louis Chan from Hong Kong completed his tenure seconded in the ROCB A/P and returned to their home administration. Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our gratefulness to him for his solid devotion and support to ROCB A/P's work during his tenure. Without all his continued support, ROCB A/P alone cannot fulfill the entrusted tasks and responsibilities

Contact points:

	A/P Members	Responsible officer / Title	Contact
	All	Mr. Jun TAJIMA Head	Email: jun.Tajima@rocbap.org Tel: +66 2 667 6017
East, Central and West Asia (ECWA)	Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong, China, Iran, Japan, Korea, Macao China, Mongolia, Pakistan	Mr. Jaemin CHO Program Manager	Email: jaemincho@rocbap.org Tel: +66 2 667 6542
Pacific Islands (PI)	Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu	Ms. Grace YE Program Manager	Email: graceye@rocbap.org Tel: +66 2 667 6539
South Asia (SA)	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka	Ms. Asuka NAGAMATSU Program Manager	Email: asuka.nagamatsu@rocbap.org Tel: +66 2 667 6018
Southeast Asia (SEA)	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Union of Myanmar, Vietnam	Mr. Mark HO Program Manager	Email: markho@rocbap.org Tel: +66 2 667 6552
		Ms. Chananchita RUENG-O-CHA Assistant Program Manager	Email: chananchita@rocbap.org
-	-	Ms. Jatearpa BENJAPHONG Program Coordinator	Email: jatearpa@rocbap.org Tel: +66 2 667 6777
-	-	Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRILERT Program Coordinator	Email: vareemon@rocbap.org Tel: +66 2 667 7026
-	-	Ms. Kanyawarat SITTHIKUNPANIT Program Coordinator	Email: kanyawarat@rocbap.org Tel: +66 2 667 5921

Looking Ahead

The ROCB A/P's work for the 2025/26 will be much focused on the development of the New Capacity Building Paradigm which was adopted by the Council in Jun 2025. The ROCB A/P is always side-by-side with Member Administrations for any support needed, particularly the new formalities required to make the WCO's assistance more effective.

It cannot be stressed more on the importance of collaboration and partnerships in capacity building, trade facilitation, and improving customs operations across the AP region in the era of uncertainty. Through the activities of the ROCB A/P, it hopes to strengthen regional cooperation and region's capability in tackling emerging issues now and the future.

Together, we advance!



Annex I

Strategic Action Plan 2024- 2026

For

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

1. Vision

Being a focal point of capacity building to achieve “the World’s Best Regional Customs effectively enhancing security and prosperity together”

2. Mission

To assist building the capacity of Member Customs Administrations to continuously strive for securing and facilitating trade

3. Strategic Action Plan

In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the ROCB A/P, the ROCB A/P obliges to develop a Strategic Action Plan which includes vision and goals covering a period of two to five years. In order to ensure the close linkage and alignment with the A/P Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) for 2024-2026, most of the specific actions under this Strategic Action Plan refer to or quotes the relevant milestone actions of the RSP, which are categorized into the following four pillars of the ROCB activities:

- (1) Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools
- (2) Further enhance collaboration with development partners
- (3) Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities
- (4) Enhance communication and information sharing among members

In line with the A/P RSP 2024-2026, this ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan also applies for 2-year term from July 2024 to June 2026.

ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan (2024-2026)

1. Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2024-2026	KPI	Target	Deliverables in the RSP
a) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing risk management tools like the WCO Risk Management Compendium	1.1.1 – 1 st milestone	Number of implementing Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
b) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing national risk management database (e.g. nCEN)	1.1.1 – 2 nd milestone	Number of Members	At least 27/35 Members	30 June 2026
c) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool	1.1.1 – 3 rd milestone	Number of Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
d) Upon request, assist Member's efforts to develop Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) program and sign up to SAFE FOS	1.1.2 – 1 st , 2 nd milestone	Number of Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
e) Upon request, assist Member's efforts in increasing AEO MRA among Members	1.1.2 – 3 rd milestone	Number of MRA	At least 28 MRA	30 June 2026
f) Upon request, assist Member's efforts in implementing trade recovery activities	1.1.2 – 4 th milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 20/35 Members	30 June 2026
g) Upon request, assist Member's effort to accede to and implement the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)	1.1.3 – 1 st milestone	Number of contracting Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
h) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)	1.1.3 – 2 nd milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 28/35 Members	30 June 2026

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2024-2026	KPI	Target	Deliverables in the RSP
i) Upon request, assist Member's effort for: (1) smooth implementation of HS 2022 (for CPs) (2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs)	1.1.3 – 3 rd milestone	(1) Number of implementing Members (2) Number of new contracting Members	(1) At least 27 Members (2) 6 new contracting parties	30 June 2026
j) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing Advance Ruling System for tariff classification decision, origin of goods and Customs Valuation	1.1.3 – 4 th milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 28/35 Members	30 June 2026
k) Upon request, assist Member's effort in undertaking Time Release Study (TRS) in accordance with the WCO TRS Guidelines	1.1.3 – 5 th milestone	Number of Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
l) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing self-certification for Rules of Origin (ROO)	1.1.3 – 6 th milestone	Number of Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
m) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing WCO Data Model	1.1.3 – 7 th milestone	Number of implementing Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
n) Upon request, assist Member in creating Special Economic Zones (SEZ) / Free Zones / Special Customs Zones (SCZ)	1.1.3 – 8 th milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 5 Members per year	30 June 2026
o) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	1.1.3 – 9 th milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 20/35 Members	30 June 2026
p) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Valuation Agreement	1.1.3 – 10 th milestone	Number of contracting Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
q) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing a Post Clearance Audit (PCA) scheme	1.1.3 – 11 th milestone	Number of Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
r) Upon Request, work with Vice Chair and Members to promote E-commerce tools and adoption of E-commerce FoS	1.1.3 – 12 th milestone	Number of Members	At least 20/35 Members	30 June 2026
s) Upon request, assist Member's effort in promoting cooperation and coordination for	1.2.1 – 1 st , 3 rd to 4 th milestones	Number of Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2024-2026	KPI	Target	Deliverables in the RSP
Coordinated Border Management (CBM)				
t) Upon request, assist Members' effort in implementing Single Window	1.2.1 – 2 nd milestones	Number of operating SW	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
u) Upon Request, work with Vice Chair and Members to enhance Customs-Customs, and if appropriate, Customs- to-Business interconnectivities in various aspects	1.2.2 – 1 st milestones	Number of experiences sharing	At least 11/35 Members	30 June 2026
v) Upon Request, work with RILO A/P to evaluate seizures data on CEN	2.1.1 – 1 st milestone	Publish evaluation report	Once a year	30 June 2026
w) Upon request, assist Members to increase seizure data inputs into CEN	2.1.1 – 2 nd milestone	Number of members who have participating in inputting CEN data	25/35 Members	30 June 2026
x) Upon request, assist Members to establish information exchange arrangement	2.1.1 – 3 rd milestone	Number of Members who have entered into info exchange arrangement	23/35 Members	30 June 2026
y) Upon request, assist Member's effort in utilizing Advance Passenger Information (API) / Passenger Name Record (PNR) for the risk assessment of travelers	2.1.1 – 4 th milestone	Number of Members who accepted WCO Recommendation concerning the use of API and PNR	At least 27/35 Members	30 June 2026
z) Upon request, assist Members to raise awareness of PFCWG	2.1.1 – 5 th milestone	Number of Cruise Ships activities in AP region	Once per year	30 June 2026
aa) Work with RILO A/P to identify Members' intelligence and enforcement needs	2.2.1 – 1 st milestone	Number of survey conducted	Once per year	30 June 2026
bb) Work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues	2.2.2 – 4 th milestone	Number of discussions in meetings in A/P region	At least once per year	30 June 2026
cc) Work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to promote activities to raise awareness on environment issue (e.g. hazardous waste and wildlife)	2.2.2 – 5 th milestone	Number of activities conducted in A/P region	At least twice per year	30 June 2026

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2024-2026	KPI	Target	Deliverables in the RSP
dd) Work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Member to enhance border security in order to tackle with terrorists' threats	2.2.2 – 3 rd , 6 th milestone	Number of activities conducted in A/P region	At least once per year	30 June 2026
ee) Upon Request, work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to promote the application of sustainable anti-drug initiatives (e.g. WCO Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP))	2.2.2 – 1 st - 2 nd milestone	Number of discussions in meetings conducted in A/P region	At least once per year	30 June 2026
ff) Upon Request, work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to promote the use of NII	2.2.3 – 1 st - 3 rd milestone	(1) Number of Members (2) publish evaluation report Number of Members sharing	(1) 25/35 Members (2) once per year At least 5 Members per year	30 June 2026
gg) Upon request, assist Members in promoting the information sharing on data analytic tools such as machine learning	3.1.2 – 4 th milestone	Number of sharing experience	At least 2 Members	30 June 2026
hh) Upon request, undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region (e.g. SAFE FoS, RM and WTO TFA)	3.2.2 – 1 st milestone	Number of CB activities undertaken	At least 3 times per year	30 June 2026
ii) Upon request, work with RILO A/P to undertake capacity building activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement in the region (e.g. IPR, Commercial Fraud, drugs and precursors, environmental crime and digital crime)	3.2.2 – 2 nd milestone	Number of CB activities undertaken	At least 3 times per year	30 June 2026
jj) Upon request, undertake leadership and management training programs	3.2.3 – 1 st milestone	Number of activities	At least once per year	30 June 2026
kk) Upon request, assist Member's effort in devising and implementing integrity action plan utilizing integrity development tools	3.2.3 – 2 nd milestones	Number of implementing Members	35/35 Members	30 June 2026
ll) Upon request, assist Members in implementing 'Smart Customs' solutions, technology and innovation to modernize Customs procedures, trade facilitation and border management	1.3.1 – 1 st milestone	Number of Participating Members	20/35 Members	30 June 2026

2. Further develop partnerships with development partners

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2024-2026	KPI	Target	Deliverable in the RSP
a) Work with Vice Chair to enhance cooperation, coordination and mutual understanding with the development partners	1.2.3 – 1 st milestone	Number of reports/exchanges of information	At least twice per year	30 June 2026
b) Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners	3.1.1 – 3 rd milestone	Number of activities	At least twice per year	30 June 2026

3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2024-2026	KPI	Target	Deliverable in the RSP
a) Encourage and provide Members with platform to exchange knowledge and training materials amongst national training centers	3.1.1 – 2 nd milestone	Number of exchanging knowledge and materials	At least twice per year	30 June 2026
b) Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework	3.1.2 – 1 st milestone	Number of experts utilized	Use of accredited experts for at least one half of the requested missions	30 June 2026
c) Upon request, assist Members to promote the WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and accredited experts	3.1.2 – 2 nd milestone	Number of implementing Members	At least 20/35 Members	30 June 2026
d) Work with developed Members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities	3.1.2 – 3 rd milestone	Number of contributions	Meet at least 75% of the ROCB requests	30 June 2026

e) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote full and effective participation of women in international fora and trainings	3.1.3 – 1 st and 2 nd milestone	(1) Number of women participations for workshops (2) Women participation for international fora	(1) At least 25% of the participations (2) At least 20% annual growth of female Head of delegation at international forums.	30 June 2026
f) Work with regional training coordinator to identify and review Members' capacity building needs and priorities through conducting a needs assessment via a survey and ongoing consultation	3.2.1 – 1 st milestone	Number of surveys conducted	At least once per year	30 June 2026
g) Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due attention to the needs and priorities identified	3.2.1 – 2 nd milestone	Number of CB activities	At least once per year	30 June 2026
h) Work with the WCO Secretariat and Members to evaluate the regional capacity building program	3.2.1 – 3 rd milestone	Results of participants' evaluation	At least average of 4 out of 5	30 June 2026
i) Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back into planning for regional capacity building activities	3.2.1 – 4 th milestone	Number of post action undertaken	At least once per year	30 June 2026
j) Work with Members to evaluate the impact of capacity building activities through follow-up surveys	3.2.1 – 5 th milestone	Number of tangible results realized by Members	At least 10 success stories	30 June 2026
k) Work with Vice Chair and Members to support Customs Administrations of SIEs to meet their development goals, capacity building needs and international obligations	3.3.1 – 1 st to 3 rd milestones	(1) Number of expert exchanges (2) Number of Members sharing their experiences (3) Workshops conducted	(1) At least once per year (2) At least 5 Members per year (3) At least twice per year	30 June 2026
l) Further strengthen cooperation among the Regional Entities (ex. RTCs) and ROCB A/P paying due attention to establishing /supporting regional experts for more sustainable capacity building delivery in the region	ROCB A/P specific action (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of activities	At least once per year	30 June 2026

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2024-2026	KPI	Target	Deliverable in the RSP
a) Work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to share experiences on capacity building activities on regular basis via regional communication tools (e.g. WCO A/P Website and Newsletter, ROCB A/P Website and E-Newsletters)	3.1.1 – 1 st milestone	Number of sharing experiences	At least twice per year	30 June 2026
b) Work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to raise awareness of the importance of high-level commitment in the pertinent strategic issues	3.4.1 – 1 st milestone	Number of high-level dialogues	At least once every 2 years	30 June 2026
c) Work with Vice Chair, Members and RTCs to share good practices and forward-thinking work via regional communication tools	ROCB A/P specific action (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of items shared	At least once per quarter	30 June 2026

Annex II

ROCB A/P Annual Work Plan (2025-2026)

1. Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
a) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing risk management tools like the WCO Risk Management Compendium <i>(RSP 1.1.1 – 1st milestone)</i>	➤ Master Trainer Programme on Risk Management WG3 (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd), (hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ Regional Workshop on Risk Management for AP region (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on Capacity Building Support on Risk Management Framework Development for Malaysia (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on Risk Management for Iran (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on RM for Timor-Leste (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd), (hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ Sub-Regional Workshop on Risk Management based on Risk Management Compendium for Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd), (hh) and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on Risk Management-based control for Pakistan (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd) and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on implementation of border agency cooperation for Tonga (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd), (hh), and 3-(k))	Number of implementing Members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
b) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing national risk management database (e.g. nCEN) (RSP 1.1.1 – 2nd milestone)	➤ Master Trainer Programme on Risk Management WG3 (See also 1-(a), (c), (dd), (hh) and 3-(k)) ➤ Regional Workshop on Risk Management for AP region (See also 1-(a), (c), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on Capacity Building Support on Risk Management Framework Development for Malaysia (See also 1-(a), (c), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop for nCEN implementation for Bangladesh (See also 1-(v), (w), (x), and (aa)) ➤ National Workshop on CEN for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(v), (w), (x), and (aa)) ➤ National workshop on enhancing Intelligence analytical skills for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(v), (w), (x), and (aa)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Lao People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(v), (w), (x), and (aa)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Indonesia (See also 1-(v), (w), (x), and (aa)) ➤ Sub-Regional workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills (See also 1-(v), (w), (x), and (aa)) ➤ National workshop on Risk Management for Iran (See also 1-(a), (c), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on RM for Timor-Leste (See also 1-(a), (c), (dd), (hh), and 3-(k))	Number of Members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	➤ Sub-Regional Workshop on Risk Management based on Risk Management Compendium for Fiji, Guinea, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu (See also 1-(a), (c), (dd), (hh) and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on Risk Management-based control for Pakistan (See also 1-(a), (c), (dd) and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on implementation of border agency cooperation for Tonga (See also 1-(b), (c), (dd), (hh) and 3-(k))	
c) Upon request, assist Member's effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool (RSP 1.1.1 – 3 rd milestone)	➤ Regional Workshop on Risk Management for AP region (See also 1-(a), (b), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on implementation of border agency cooperation for Tonga (See also 1-(a), (b), (dd), (hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on Capacity Building Support on Risk Management Framework Development for Malaysia (See also 1-(a), (b), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on Valuation for Fiji and Indonesia (See also 1-(p) and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on Risk Management-based control for Pakistan (See also 1-(a), (b), (dd) and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on Risk Management for Iran (See also 1-(a), (b), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on RM for Timor-Leste (See also 1-(a), (b), (dd), (hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ Sub-Regional Workshop on Risk Management based on Risk Management Compendium for Fiji, Guinea, Papua New Guinea,	Number of Members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu (See also 1-(a), (b), (dd), (hh) and 3-(k))	
d) Upon request, assist Member's efforts to develop Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) program and sign up to SAFE FOS (RSP 1.1.2 – 1 st -2 nd milestone)	➤ ASEAN Regional Workshop on TFA with focus on AEO (See also 1-(e), (h) and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on AEO for Lao People's Dem. Rep., Vanuatu, Timor-Leste, Philippines and Vietnam (See also 1-(e), (u),(hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on Single AEO Security governance with OGAs for Malaysia (See also 1-(e), (u) and (hh))	Number of Contracting Members Number of Members
e) Upon request, assist Member's efforts in increasing AEO MRA among Members (RSP 1.1.2 – 3 rd milestone)	➤ ASEAN Regional Workshop on TFA with focus on AEO (See also 1-(d), (h) and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on AEO for Lao People's Dem. Rep., Vanuatu, Timor-Leste, Philippines and Vietnam (See also 1-(d), (u),(hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on Single AEO Security governance with OGAs for Malaysia (See also 1-(d), (u) and (hh))	Number of AEO MRAs among Members
f) Upon request, assist Member's efforts in implementing trade recovery activities (RSP 1.1.2 – 4 th milestone)	➤ Upon request, consult with the WCO aiming at providing assistance in implementing and sharing experiences on trade recovery activities	Number of implementing Members
g) Upon request, assist Member's effort to accede to and implement the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) (RSP 1.1.3 – 1 st milestone)	➤ Upon request, consult with the WCO aiming at providing assistance in implementing RKC	Number of contracting Members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
h) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) (RSP 1.1.3 – 2 nd milestone)	➤ ASEAN Regional Workshop on TFA with focus on AEO (See also 1-(d), (e) and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on Single Window for Thailand (See also 1-(t) and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on Single Window for Philippines (See also 1-(t) and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on SW for Mongolia (See also 1-(t) and (hh))	(1) Number of implementing Members (2) Number of activities in the Region (3) Number of Members
i) Upon request, assist Member's effort for: (1) smooth implementation of HS 2022 (for CPs) (2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs) (RSP 1.1.3 – 3 rd milestone)	➤ Sub-regional Workshop for ASEAN member countries in enhancing knowledge on HS to utilize advance rulings (See also (hh)) ➤ Regional workshop on Accreditation for HS for All Countries ➤ National workshop on Revenue Package Diagnostic on HS and Valuation for Timor-Leste (See also 1-(hh), and 3-(k))	(1) Number of implementing Members (2) Number of activities
j) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing Advance Ruling System for tariff classification decision, origin of goods and Customs Valuation (RSP 1.1.3 – 4 th milestone)	➤ National workshop on TRS capacity building support for Maldives ➤ National workshop on rules of origin for Bhutan (See also 1-(l)) ➤ National workshop on simplification and harmonization of trade related regulations, standards and procedures in line with WTO TFA for Pakistan (See also 1-(hh)) ➤ National workshop on HS and Tariff experts to minimizing revenue leakage for Fiji (See also 1-(hh) and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on HS classification on commodity for Cambodia (See also 1-(j) and 1-(hh)) ➤ National workshop on Advance Rulings in HS for Vietnam (See also 1-(i) and (hh))	Number of implementing Members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	➤ National workshop on HS classification on commodity for Cambodia (See also 1-(i) and 1-(hh)) ➤ National workshop on Advanced ruling on Rules of origin for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(l) and (hh))	
k) Upon request, assist Member's effort in undertaking Time Release Study (TRS) in accordance with the WCO TRS Guidelines <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 5th milestone)</i>	➤ National workshop on Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties for Myanmar (See also 1-(hh)) ➤ National workshop on TRS for Maldives	Number of Members
l) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing self-certification for Rules of Origin (ROO) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 6th milestone)</i>	➤ National workshop on rules of origin for Bhutan (See also 1-(j))	Number of Members
m) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing WCO Data Model <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 7th milestone)</i>	➤ National workshop on WCO Data Model for Nepal (See also 1-(hh))	Number of implementing Members
n) Upon request, assist Member in creating Special Economic Zones (SEZ) / Free Zones / Special Customs Zones (SCZ) <i>(RSP 1.1.3 - 8th milestone)</i>	➤ Regional workshops on Free Zone (See also 1-(hh)) ➤ National workshop on Free Zone for Bangladesh (See also 1-(hh))	Number of implementing Members
o) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	➤ Upon request, consult with the WCO aiming at providing assistance in implementing the WCO Resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	Number of implementing Members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
(RSP 1.1.3 – 9 th milestone)		
p) Upon request, assist Member's effort in implementing the WTO Valuation Agreement (RSP 1.1.3 – 10 th milestone)	➤ National Workshop on Valuation for Fiji and Indonesia (See also 1-(c) and 3-(k))	Number of implementing Members
q) Upon request, assist Member's effort in introducing a Post Clearance Audit (PCA) scheme (RSP 1.1.3 – 11 th milestone)	➤ Master Trainer Programme on PCA for PI WG 3 (See also 1- (hh) and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on PCA for Nepal (See also 1-(hh)) ➤ National workshop to improve PCA program for Lao, People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(hh)) ➤ National workshop for advanced PCA Manual support for Malaysia (See also 1-(hh)) ➤ National workshop on effective Post Clearance Audit for Solomon Islands (See also 1-(hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on PCA for Myanmar and Philippines (See also 1- (hh)) ➤ National WS on PCA for Maldives (See also 1-(hh))	Number of Members
r) Upon request, work with Vice Chair and Members to promote E-commerce tools and adoption of E-commerce FoS (RSP 1.1.3 – 12 th milestone)	➤ Upon request, consult with the WCO aiming at promoting E-commerce tools and adoption of E-commerce FoS	Number of Activities
s) Upon request, assist Member's effort in promoting cooperation and	➤ National workshop on Coordinated Border Management for Nepal (See also 1-(hh))	(1)Number of Members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
coordination for Coordinated Border Management (CBM) (RSP 1.2.1 – 1st, 3rd to 4th milestones)	➤ National Workshop on Coordinated Border Management for Bangladesh (See also 1-(h) and (hh))	(2) Number of Activities (3) Number of cooperation events
t) Upon request, assist Members' effort in implementing Single Window (RSP 1.2.1 – 2nd milestone)	➤ National Workshop on Single Window for Thailand (See also 1-(h) and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on Single Window for Philippines (See also 1-(h) and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on SW for Mongolia (See also 1-(h) and (hh))	Number of operating SW
u) Upon request, work with Vice Chair and Members to enhance Customs-Customs, and if appropriate, Customs-to-Business interconnectivities in various aspects (RSP 1.2.2 – 1st milestone)	➤ National workshop on AEO for Lao People's Dem. Rep., Vanuatu, Timor-Leste, Philippines and Vietnam (See also 1-(d), (e),(hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on Single AEO Security governance with OGAs for Malaysia (See also 1-(d), (e) and (hh))	Experience sharing on the existing data exchange projects
v) Upon request, work with RILO A/P to evaluate seizures data on CEN (RSP 2.1.1 – 1st milestone)	➤ National Workshop for nCEN implementation for Bangladesh (See also 1-(b), (w), (x) and (aa)) ➤ National Workshop on CEN for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(b), (w), (x) and (aa)) ➤ National workshop on enhancing Intelligence analytical skills for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(b), (w), (x), and (aa))	Publish analysis reports or alerts

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Lao People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(b), (w), (x) and (aa)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Indonesia (See also 1-(b), (w), (x) and (aa)) ➤ Sub-Regional workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills (See also 1-(b), (w), (x) and (aa))	
w) Upon request, assist Members to increase seizure data inputs into CEN (RSP 2.1.1 – 2nd milestone)	➤ National Workshop for nCEN implementation for Bangladesh (See also 1-(b), (v), (x) and (aa)) ➤ National Workshop on CEN for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(b), (v), (x) and (aa)) ➤ National workshop on enhancing Intelligence analytical skills for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(b), (v), (x), and (aa)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Lao People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(b), (v), (x) and (aa)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Indonesia (See also 1-(b), (v), (x) and (aa)) ➤ Sub-Regional workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills (See also 1-(b), (v), (x) and (aa))	(1) Increase of inputs (2) Number of members who have participating in inputting CEN data

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
x) Upon request, assist Members to establish information exchange arrangement (RSP 2.1.1 - 3 rd milestone)	➤ National Workshop for nCEN implementation for Bangladesh (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (aa)) ➤ National Workshop on CEN for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (aa)) ➤ National workshop on enhancing Intelligence analytical skills for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(b), (v), (w), and (aa)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Lao People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (aa)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Indonesia (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (aa)) ➤ Sub-Regional workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (aa))	Members that have entered into information exchange arrangements with other enforcement agencies
y) Upon request, assist Member's effort in utilizing Advance Passenger Information (API) / Passenger Name Record (PNR) for the risk assessment of travellers (RSP 2.1.1 - 4 th milestone)	➤ National workshop on PCCP - Mongolia, Basic Theoretical Training (See also 1-(z), (dd) and (ee)) ➤ National workshop on PCCP - Bangladesh, X-Ray Image Analysis Training in Dhaka (See also 1-(z), (dd) and (ee)) ➤ National workshop on Passenger Control for Vanuatu (See also 1-(z), (dd),(ee), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on diagnostic mission of passengers' luggage for Mongolia (See also 1-(z), (dd) and (ee))	Members that have implemented / are implementing API and PNR for risk assessment of travellers
z) Upon request, assist Members to raise awareness of PFCWG (RSP 2.1.1 - 5 th milestone)	➤ National workshop on PCCP - Mongolia, Basic Theoretical Training (See also 1-(y), (dd) and (ee)) ➤ National workshop on PCCP - Bangladesh, X-Ray Image Analysis Training in Dhaka (See also 1-(y), (dd) and (ee)) ➤ National workshop on Passenger Control for Vanuatu (See also 1-	Members that have organised or participated in activities or discussions

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	(y), (dd),(ee), and 3-(k))	related to cruise ships
aa) Upon request, work with RILO A/P to identify Members' intelligence and enforcement needs (2.2.1 – 1st milestone)	➤ National Workshop for nCEN implementation for Bangladesh (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (x)) ➤ National Workshop on CEN for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (x)) ➤ National workshop on enhancing Intelligence analytical skills for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(b), (v), (w), and (x)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Lao People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (x)) ➤ National workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills for Indonesia (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (x)) ➤ Sub-Regional workshop to promote the use of CEN and improve information analytical skills (See also 1-(b), (v), (w) and (x)) ➤ National workshop on diagnostic mission of passengers' luggage for Mongolia (See also 1-(y), (dd) and (ee))	Number of surveys conducted
bb) Upon request, work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues (RSP 2.2.2 – 4 th milestone)	➤ National Workshop on IPR for India (See also 1-(ii)) ➤ National Workshop on IPR for Cambodia (See also 1-(ii)) ➤ National Workshop on IPR enforcement via e-commerce for Vietnam (See also 1-(ii))	Members that have organised or participated in IPR related operations or activities

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
cc) Upon request, work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to promote activities to raise awareness on environment issue (e.g. hazardous waste and wildlife) (RSP 2.2.2- 5 th milestone)	➤ Regional Illegal wildlife trade training ➤ Strengthen capacity to identify illicit specimens and illegal wildlife consignments for Vietnam ➤ National Workshop on CL for Vietnam ➤ National workshop to enhance the capacity to enforce CITES for Lao People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(ii))	Members that have organised or participated in environmental operations or activities
dd) Work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Member to enhance border security in order to tackle with terrorists' threats (RSP 2.2.2 - 3 rd , 6 th milestone)	➤ Master Trainer Programme on Risk Management WG3 (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), (hh), and 3(k)) ➤ Sub-Regional workshop based on identified threats and vulnerabilities ➤ Regional Workshop on Risk Management for AP region (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), and (hh)) ➤ Regional workshops on STCE ➤ National workshop on PCCP - Mongolia, Basic Theoretical Training (See also 1-(y), (z) and (ee)) ➤ National workshop on PCCP - Bangladesh, X-Ray Image Analysis Training in Dhaka (See also 1-(y), (z) and (ee)) ➤ National workshop on Capacity Building Support on Risk Management Framework Development for Malaysia (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on Risk Management for Iran (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), and (hh)) ➤ National Workshop on RM for Timor-Leste (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), (hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on diagnostic mission of passengers' luggage for Mongolia (See also 1-(y), (z) and (ee))	(1) Members that have organised or participated in activities related to trusted insiders and criminal infiltration (2) Members that have organised or participated in security operations or activities

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	➤ National workshop on Risk Management-based control for Pakistan (See also 1-(a), (b), (c) and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on implementation of border agency cooperation for Tonga (See also 1-(a), (b), (c),(hh), and 3-(k)) ➤ Sub-Regional Workshop on Risk Management based on Risk Management Compendium for Fiji, Guinea, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), (hh) and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on Passenger Control for Vanuatu (See also 1-(y), (z),(ee), and 3-(k))	
ee) Upon request, work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to promote the application of sustainable anti-drug initiatives (e.g. WCO Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP)) (RSP 2.2.2 – 1st - 2nd milestone)	➤ National workshop on PCCP - Mongolia, Basic Theoretical Training in Zamiin Uud (See also 1-(y), (z) and (dd)) ➤ National workshop on PCCP - Bangladesh, X-Ray Image Analysis Training in Dhaka (See also 1-(y), (z) and (dd)) ➤ National workshop on Passenger Control for Vanuatu (See also 1-(y), (z),(dd), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on diagnostic mission of passengers' luggage for Mongolia (See also 1-(y), (z) and (dd))	(1) Members that have organised or participated in anti-drugs operations or activities (2) Members that have published statistics / analysis reports or shared data on drugs
ff) Upon request, work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to promote the use of NII (RSP 2.2.3 1st – 3rd milestone)	➤ Upon request, consult with the WCO aiming at providing assistance in the use of NII	(1) Number of evaluation reports published (2) Members that have utilised technologies

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
		or share best practices within their administrations (3) Members that have promoted Green customs or share best practices within their administrations.
gg) Upon request, assist Members in promoting the information sharing on data analytic tools such as machine learning (RSP 3.1.2 – 4th milestone)	➤ Upon request, consult with the WCO aiming at providing assistance in promoting information sharing on data analytic tools such as machine learning ➤ 8th Masterclass workshop on Data Analytics and Electronic Single Window	Number of sharing experience

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
hh) Upon request, undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region (e.g. SAFE FoS, RM and WTO TFA) (RSP 3.2.2 – 1 st milestone)	➤ Master Trainer Programme on Risk Management WG3 (See also 1-(a), (b), (c) (dd), and 3-(k)) ➤ Sub-regional Workshop for ASEAN member countries in enhancing knowledge on HS to utilize advance rulings (See also 1-(i)) ➤ Regional Workshop on Risk Management for AP region (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), and (dd)) ➤ Regional Workshop On Customs Laboratory ➤ ASEAN Regional Workshop on TFA with focus on AEO (See also 1-(d), (e) and (hh)) ➤ Accreditation of WCO experts in the Asia-Pacific region in the area of Customs Laboratory ➤ Regional workshops on Free Zone (See also 1-(n)) ➤ National workshop on Capacity Building Support on Risk Management Framework Development for Malaysia (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), and (dd)) ➤ National workshop on Revenue Package Diagnostic on HS and Valuation for Timor-Leste (See also 1-(i), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on PCA for Nepal (See also 1-(q)) ➤ National workshop for advanced PCA Manual support for Malaysia (See also 1-(q)) ➤ National workshop on Single AEO Security governance with OGAs for Malaysia (See also 1-(d), (e) and (u)) ➤ National workshop on effective Pre-Arrival-Processing system for Bangladesh	Number of CB activities undertaken

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	➤ National workshop on simplification and harmonization of trade related regulations, standards and procedures in line with WTO TFA for Pakistan (See also 1-(i)) ➤ National workshop on Risk Management-based control for Pakistan (See also 1-(a), (b), (c) and (dd)) ➤ National workshop on effective Post Clearance Audit for Solomon Islands (See also 1-(q), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on HS and Tariff experts to minimizing revenue leakage for Fiji (See also 1-(i) and 3-(k)) ➤ National Workshop on Single Window for Philippines (See also 1-(h) and (t)) ➤ National workshop on implementation of border agency cooperation for Tonga (See also 1-(a), (b), (c) ,(dd), and 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on AEO for Lao People's Dem. Rep., Vanuatu, Timor-Leste, Philippines and Vietnam (See also 1-(d), (e),(u), and 3-(k)) ➤ National Workshop on Single Window for Thailand (See also 1-(h) and (t)) ➤ National Workshop on SW for Mongolia (See also 1-(h) and (t)) ➤ National workshop on Advance Rulings in HS for Vietnam (See also 1-(i) and (j)) ➤ National workshop to improve PCA program for Lao, People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(q)) ➤ National workshop on Advanced ruling on Rules of origin for Sri Lanka (See also 1-(j) and (l)) ➤ National workshop on Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties for Myanmar (See also 1-(k))	

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	➤ National workshop on WCO Data Model for Nepal (See also 1-(m)) ➤ National workshop on Free Zone for Bangladesh (See also 1-(n)) ➤ National workshop on PCA for Myanmar and Philippines (See also 1-(q)) ➤ National WS on PCA for Maldives (See also 1-(q)) ➤ National workshop on Coordinated Border Management for Nepal (See also 1-(s)) ➤ National Workshop on Coordinated Border Management for Bangladesh (See also 1-(s)) ➤ National workshop on HS classification on commodity for Cambodia (See also 1-(i) and 1-(j)) ➤ 8th Masterclass workshop on Data Analytics and Electronic Single Window	
ii) Upon request, work with RILO A/P to undertake capacity building activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement in the region (e.g. IPR, Commercial Fraud, drugs and precursors, environmental crime and digital crime) (RSP 3.2.2 - 2 nd milestone)	➤ National workshop on Trade-Based Money Laundering for Fiji (See also 3-(k)) ➤ Training for Small Arms and Light Weapons for Fiji (See also 3-(k)) ➤ National Workshop on IPR for India (See also 1-(bb)) ➤ National Workshop on IPR for Cambodia (See also 1-(bb)) ➤ National Workshop on IPR enforcement via e-commerce for Vietnam (See also 1-(bb)) ➤ National workshop to enhance the capacity to enforce CITES for Lao People's Dem. Rep. (See also 1-(cc))	Number of CB activities undertaken

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
jj) Upon request, undertake leadership and management training programs (RSP 3.2.3 – 1 st milestone)	➤ National workshop on Top Executive Leadership & Management Development for Malaysia	Number of activities
kk) Upon request, assist Member's effort in devising and implementing integrity action plan utilizing integrity development tools (RSP 3.2.3 – 2 nd milestones)	➤ National Workshop on Integrity for Bhutan ➤ Integrity support: Action Planning for Malaysia	Number of implementing Members
ll) Upon request, assist Members in implementing 'Smart Customs' solutions, technology and innovation to modernize Customs procedures, trade facilitation and border management (RSP 1.3.1 – 1 st milestones)	➤ Regional workshops on Smart Customs, or on technology and innovation ➤ Capacity Building National Trade Facilitation Champions for Malaysia ➤ National workshop on Mercator scoping for Vanuatu (See also 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on diagnostic mission of international postal items for Mongolia ➤ National workshop on adoption of procedures for the expedited release of goods for Sri Lanka and Tonga (See also 3-(k)) ➤ National workshop on release of goods before determination of Customs duties for Indonesia	Number of Participating Members

2. Further develop partnerships with development partners

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024 - 2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025 - 2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
a) Work with Vice Chair to enhance cooperation, coordination and mutual understanding with the development partners <i>(RSP 1.2.3 – 1st milestone)</i>	➤ Continue strategic dialogues and cooperation with development partners through meetings with them and participation in activities organized by them	Number of events inviting other International Organisation(s) to present their relevant experience.
b) Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners <i>(RSP 3.1.1 – 3rd milestone)</i>	➤ As appropriate, work with Vice Chair, continue to work with interested development partners to conduct joint projects for reform and modernization of Member administrations and send experts for the joint projects ➤ Participate in meetings organized by development partners to monitor and assist Members' efforts in reform and modernization	Number of activities

3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025 - 2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
a) Encourage and provide Members with platform to exchange knowledge and training materials amongst national training centers <i>(RSP 3.1.1 – 2nd milestone)</i>	➤ Organize 23 rd RTC Heads meeting ➤ Encourage AP members, especially those Administrations that host RTCs, to notify their intention to exchange knowledge at relevant fora, and to submit articles for ROCB AP E-Newsletter to share their best practice and experiences ➤ WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Training Management for the Pacific Islands	Number of exchanging knowledge and materials

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025 - 2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
b) Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework (RSP 3.1.2 - 1 st milestone)	➤ Explore more utilisation of Accredited Experts in A/P Region to Workshops, by attending and contributing to the WCO Virtual Working Group on Expert Deployment ➤ Encourage Members to update the Accredited Customs Expert portal, to facilitate experts' visibility to the WCO Secretariat. ➤ Organize Regional Accreditation Workshop	Number of experts utilized
c) Promote the better use of WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and accredited experts (RSP 3.1.2 - 2 nd milestone)	➤ Take every possible opportunity to promote the better use of WCO e-learning programs and CLiKC! Platform in cooperation with the RTCs and accredited experts on their blended methods in WSs, to support effective capacity development programs as well as Members' continuous self-efforts for training of their personnel	Number of implementing Members
d) Work with developed Members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities (RSP 3.1.2 - 3 rd milestone)	➤ Encourage developed Members to participate in capacity building activities as either experts or participants, and seek further contribution from them to the regional events.	Number of contributions
e) Work with Vice Chair and Members to promote full and effective participation of women in international fora and trainings (RSP 3.1.3 - 1 st and 2 nd milestone)	➤ Take every possible opportunity to promote full and effective participation of women in international fora and trainings	Number of women participations
f) Work with regional training coordinator to identify and review Members' capacity building needs and priorities through conducting a needs	➤ Conduct (supplemental) Annual Needs Survey to identify Members' needs and share the result with the WCO Secretariat, VC and Members ➤ Upon request from the WCO Secretariat, support Members in	Number of surveys conducted

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025 - 2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
assessment via a survey and ongoing consultation (RSP 3.2.1 - 1 st milestone)	formulating Members Support Roadmap ➤ Work with the WCO Secretariat, Members and development partners to plan, deliver and review capacity building activities paying due attention to the Members' needs and priorities ➤ Conduct Regional Workshop Follow-Up Action Surveys and share findings with the WCO Secretariat, RTCs and Members as appropriate ➤ Utilize the results of Follow-Up Action Surveys in planning future capacity building activities ➤ Conduct and analyze follow-up surveys to evaluate the impact of capacity building activities	
g) Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due attention to the needs and priorities identified (RSP 3.2.1 - 2 nd milestone)		Number of CB activities
h) Work with the WCO Secretariat and Members to evaluate the regional capacity building program (RSP 3.2.1 - 3 rd milestone)		Results of participants' evaluation
i) Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back into planning for regional capacity building activities (RSP 3.2.1 - 4 th milestone)		Post action
j) Work with Members to evaluate the impact of capacity building activities through follow-up surveys		Number of tangible results realized by Members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025 - 2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
(RSP 3.2.1 – 5 th milestone)		
k) Work with Vice Chair and Members to support Customs Administrations of SIEs to meet their development goals, capacity building needs and international obligations (RSP 3.3.1 – 1st to 2nd milestones)	➤ Master Trainer Programme on Risk Management WG3 (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ Master Trainer Programme on PCA for PI WG 3 (See also 1-(hh)) ➤ Sub-Regional Workshop on Risk Management based on Risk Management Compendium for Fiji, Guinea, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), (dd), (hh) and 3-(k)) ➤ National Workshop on Valuation for Fiji (See also 1-(c),(p)) ➤ National workshop on HS and Tariff experts to minimizing revenue leakage for Fiji (See also 1-(i), (hh)) ➤ National workshop on Trade-Based Money Laundering for Fiji (See also 1-(ii)) ➤ Training for Small Arms and Light Weapons for Fiji (See also 1-(ii)) ➤ National workshop on implementation of border agency cooperation for Tonga (See also 1-(a), (b), (c), (dd), and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on adoption of procedures for the expedited release of goods for Tonga (See also 1-(II)) ➤ National workshop on AEO for Vanuatu and Timor-Leste (See also 1-(d), (e), (u), and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on Passenger Control for Vanuatu (See also 1-(dd), (y), (z), (dd), and (ee)) ➤ National workshop on Mercator scoping for Vanuatu (See also 1-(II)) ➤ National Workshop on RM for Timor-Leste (See also 1-(a) (b), (c), (dd), and (hh))	(1) Number of expert exchanges (satisfaction level of recipient country) (2) Members sharing their experiences (satisfaction level of recipient country)

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2025 - 2026	RSP Key Performance Indicator
	➤ National workshop on Revenue Package Diagnostic on HS and Valuation for Timor-Leste (See also 1-(i), and (hh)) ➤ National workshop on effective Post Clearance Audit for Solomon Islands (See also 1-(hh), and (q))	

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P (Relevance to A/P RSP 2024-2026)	Annual Work Plan for 2024 - 2025	RSP Key Performance Indicator
a) Work with Members, Vice Chair and RILO A/P to share experiences on capacity building activities on regular basis via regional communication tools (e.g. WCO A/P Website and Newsletter, ROCB A/P Website and E-Newsletters) (RSP 3.1.1 – 1 st milestone)	➤ Issue ROCB A/P E-newsletters every 3 months and encourage Members' contributions to include information on Members' experiences in reform and modernization ➤ Maintain ROCB website and upload pertinent information in a timely manner to inform Members and stakeholders of the ROCB A/P's activities	Number of sharing experiences
b) Work with Vice Chair, RILO A/P and Members to raise awareness of the importance of high-level commitment in the pertinent strategic issues (RSP 3.4.1 – 1 st milestone)	➤ Continue to raise awareness of the importance of high-level commitment in the pertinent strategic issues through participation in the meetings and seminars ➤ Attend Regional Contact Point meeting (RCP) ➤ Attend Regional Heads of Customs Administrative Conference (RHCA) ➤ Attend ASEAN-WCO Consultation meeting ➤ Attend SASEC Meeting (P)	Number of high-level dialogues

Abbreviation

A-CIP	Anti-Corruption and Integrity Promotion
ABF	Australia Border Force
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEO	Authorized Economic Operators
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AHTN	ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
A/P	Asia Pacific
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asia Nations
ASEC	ASEAN Customs Transit System
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APVC	Asia-Pacific Vice Chair
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
BRS	The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
CBIC	Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear
CBP	Customs and Border Protection
CBSA	Canadian Border Services Agency
CCES	Centre for Customs and Excise Studies
CCF	Customs Cooperation Fund
CCWG	Customs Coordination Working Group
CEN	Customs Enforcement Network
CENcomm	Customs Enforcement Network Communication
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CPTA	Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific
CTC	Customs Targeting Centre
DDG	Deputy Director General
DG	Director General
Dos	Designated Operators
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EU	European Union
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FPPCP	Framework of Principles and Practices on Customs Professionalism
FTA	Free Trade Area
GCI	Green Customs Initiatives
GED	Gender Equality and Diversity
GTAD	Global Targeting Advisory Division
HFCS	Hydrofluorocarbons
HKCC	Hong Kong Customs College
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
HKU	University of Hong Kong
HZMB	Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge
HS	Harmonized System
IBIT	International Border Interdiction Trainings

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ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INTERPOL	The International Criminal Police Organization
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ISC	Integrity Sub Committee
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
JCC	Joint Customs Control
JCMMP	Joint Customs Middle Management Programme
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JTI	Japan Tobacco International
KCCH	Kwai Chung Customhouse
KCS	Korea Customs Service
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LLM	Large Language Models
MEAS	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MIC	Minister of Information and Communications
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MNT	Mongolian Tugrik
NACIN	National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics
NCP	National Contact Points
NSW	National Single Window
OCO	Oceania Customs Organization
ODS	Ozone-Depleting Substances
PCA	Post Clearance Audit
PKN STAN	Polytechnic of State Finance STAN
RCL	Regional Customs Laboratory
RCP	Regional Contact Points
RKC	Revised Kyoto Convention
RDTC	Regional Dog Training Center
RHCA	Regional Heads of Customs Administration
RILO AP	Asia Pacific Regional Intelligence Liaison Office
RMCD	Royal Malaysian Customs Department
ROCB	Regional Office for Capacity Building
ROCB A/P	Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building
RPSG AP	Regional Private Sector Group for Asia Pacific
RSP	Regional Strategic Plan
RTC	Regional Training Center
SIEs	Small Island Economies
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPCD	Strategic Plan of Customs Development
TCRO	Technical Committee on Rules of Origin
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TRM	Trade Risk Management
TSWGC	Technical Sub-Working Group on Classification
UN	United Nations
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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UNNEXT	United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USA	United States of America
USO	Universal Service Obligation
WCO	World Customs Organization
WG	Working Group
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wild Fund for Nature



ROCB
Asia/Pacific

World Customs Organization



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