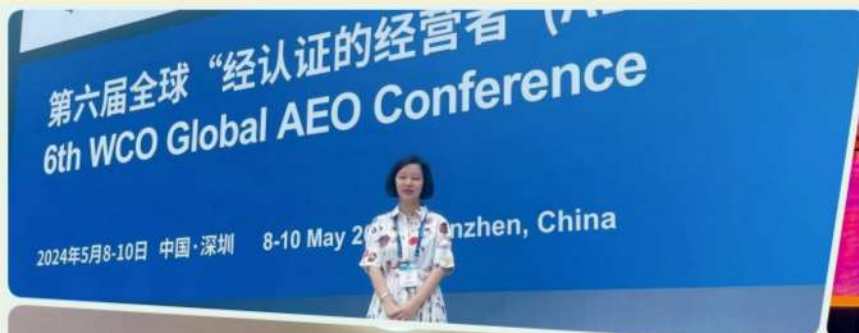




ROCB E-Newsletter No.85

Asia/Pacific

World Customs Organization



In this issue:

Farewell Message from former Head Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto



Dear Members, Together, we advance!



Hello readers. My name is Jun TAJIMA, the Head of the ROCB A/P since 1st of July this year, following the decision made at the Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) Conference held in April 2024, in Sydney, Australia.

The ROCB A/P was established in 2004, and it has been committed to supporting A/P Members in modernisation efforts through organising WCO Workshops, raising the standard of Training Management across the region, i.e. by supporting members to establish RTCs, organising the RTC Heads Meeting. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Thai Customs Department for their exceptional hospitality and commitment by hosting the ROCB A/P, as well as to China, Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong, China for their contribution for the capable attaches.

The Regional Strategic Plan of the Asia-Pacific region 2024-26, adopted at the RHCA

Conference, tasked the ROCB to implement Specific Actions in its Work Plan, in close cooperation with the Vice-Chair and Members. These Specific Actions make capacity building activities in the Region more focused and results-oriented, and ensure effective use of limited resources. The action includes further improvement of the quality of capacity building activities by reflecting Members' needs and priorities, and that is the focus of the new Leadership of the ROCB A/P.

In FY 2023-2024, WCO successfully conducted over 50 capacity-building activities in the region, including Regional, Sub-Regional, and National Workshops. The ROCB A/P has supported number of these activities, where there are comparatively rich resources than other Regions of the WCO with funding from China, India, Japan and Korea. The ROCB A/P's efforts are to make WCO Workshops to be more suitable for their needs for Members.

For more effective delivery, I think the communication is the key. The ROCB A/P strives to improve toward the better quality of capacity building activities by learning about the actual situation of A/P Members and also about the activities of developing partners through better communications, so that the WCO's activities are even more targeted, no duplications rather with synergy, and even more relevant to the current needs of each Member. It is not a fancy action per se, but very important for beneficiaries and donors in the era of scarce financial and human resources.

The ROCB A/P will celebrate its 20th year of our foundation this year. All the staffs of the ROCB A/P will be side-by-side of Members in achieving each administrative goal. For that purpose, we humbly ask Members' cooperation and collaboration to achieve it. With our new leadership, we will work together, building on our great work from the past towards a better future.

Together, we advance!

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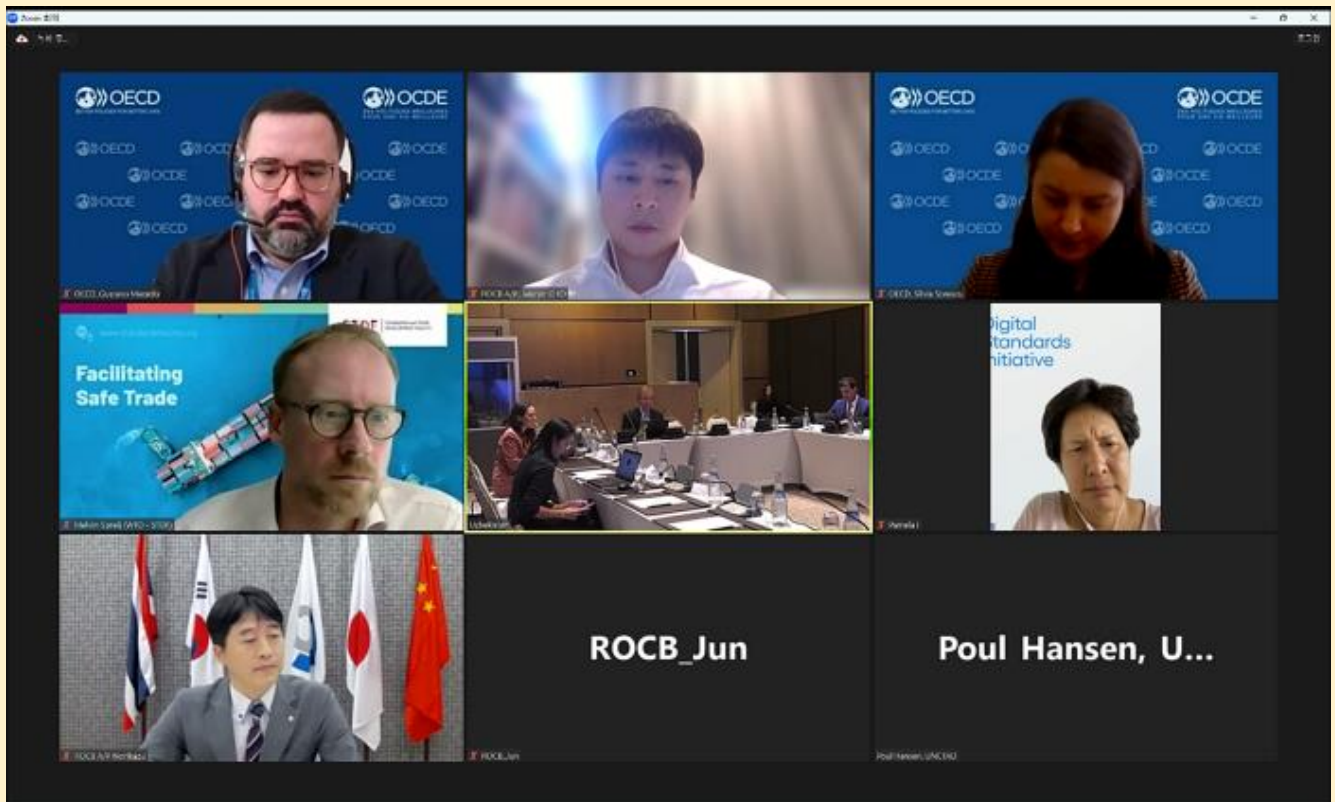
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Workshops and Meetings

ROCB A/P promoted relationship with UN ESCAP and international organizations on the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum

4th April, 2024, Samarkand, Uzbekistan (Joined online)



At the invitation of UN ESCAP, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P, Mr. Jaemin Cho, the Program Manager & Operation Manager of CCF-Korea, and Mr. Jun Tajima, the Program Manager & Operation Manager of CCF-Japan joined the Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) meeting by UN ESCAP on 4th April 2024 in a hybrid form.

Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto was invited as a speaker on the following topic, "Update on each organization's trade facilitation initiatives and related action plans." Mr. Kuramoto introduced the function of ROCB A/P, the 2023/24 Workshop Plan, and collaboration activities with various other international organizations. Additionally, he underscored the importance of cooperation for future projects related to trade facilitation in the Customs area, aiming towards a common goal.

Mr. Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, UN ESCAP delivered remarks at the opening session, conveying the imperative necessity of sharing information among related organizations regarding what each organization is doing in relation to the trade facilitation area. Followed by other international organizations and development partners who shared cross-border related activities and initiatives information.

The ROC-TF is a cooperation mechanism among the United Nations and other international organizations involved in trade facilitation activities in the Asia-Pacific region. The mechanism's overarching goal is to facilitate the exchange of information, identify synergies, and promote collaboration for the effective implementation of trade facilitation initiatives.

ROCB A/P participates the 25th WCO Asia/Pacific Heads of Customs Administrations Conference

14th -18th April 2024, Sydney, Australia



The WCO A/P 25th Regional Heads of Customs Administrative Conference (RHCA) was held in Sydney, Australia from 14th to 18th April 2024 hosted by the Australia Border Force as the Asia/Pacific Regional Vice Chair. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P, together

with Mr. Jun Tajima, Ms. Zhengqing Ye and Mr. Jaemin Cho, the Program Managers of the ROCB A/P, attended this conference.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Michael Outram, the Vice-Chair of Asia/Pacific warmly welcomed participants in person in Sydney and welcomed Palau as the region's newest WCO Member. Mr. Ian Sanders, the WCO Secretary General appreciated the leading role that Australia Border Force had been playing as the Vice-Chair of Asia/Pacific for the last 2 years. Moreover, he highlighted the WCO's recent key activities, including updates on the progress made in the implementation of the Organization's Strategic Plan 2022/2025. During the meeting, the WCO Secretary General Sanders explained details related to the advancements in the development of the WCO's modernization plan.

Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P, updated the capacity building activities in the Asia/Pacific region including workshop achievement in this FY, Annual work plan for the next FY, cooperation with regional entities and its publication. Mr. Jaemin Cho made a report on the implementation of the Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building) of the Asia/Pacific Regional Strategic Plan 2022-2024. Additionally, RHCA confirmed Mr. Jun Tajima as the next ROCB A/P Head. During the 4-day event, the ROCB A/P had valuable opportunities to discuss customs capacity building in AP region with the Heads of AP Members . Our office received a lot of positive feedback which offered greater insight into future improvements for ROCB A/P to guarantee the long term sustainable delivery of capacity Building for Members.

The Heads of Regional Customs Laboratory in Asia/Pacific gathered to discuss about further cooperation for the Asia Pacific region

23rd - 25th April 2024, Jinju, Korea

The 3rd Meeting of the Heads of Asia/Pacific WCO Regional Customs Laboratories (RCLs) took place at the Korea Central Customs Laboratory in Jinju, Korea (RCL Korea) from April 23rd to April 25th 2024. The event was organized by the Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P). Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head, Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager, and Ms. Zhengqing (Grace) Ye, Program Manager, participated in person as organizers.

The heads and delegations of the 5 RCLs in the Asia Pacific region (RCL China, RCL India, RCL Indonesia, RCL Japan, and RCL Korea), representatives from the WCO Secretariat, and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P) attended the meeting.

Additionally, members of the EU-WCO HS-African program from Algeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda participated as observers.

Ms. Grace Ye and Mr. Jaemin Cho served as Co-Chairs for the meeting, with Mr. Kuramoto providing the ROCB A/P report on capacity building activities conducted in 2023-24. The WCO Secretariat and RILO A/P also presented their recent activities and updates. Subsequently, each RCL outlined their recent initiatives to enhance professionalism in Customs Analysis and engaged in discussions on chemical analysis methodologies and activities.

During the meeting, RCL India, Japan, and Korea shared their experiences from the WCO Professionals Program 2023/24. ROCB A/P led discussions on capacity building initiatives in Customs Laboratory matters, while WCO Tariff and Trade Affairs shared information on HS amendments and related committee results. RILO A/P shared insights into recent global trends in illegal drugs.

The Heads of RCLs exchanged views on enhancing cooperation among RCLs, with delegates discussing closer cooperation and expanding the scope of information sharing beyond the Asia Pacific region. On the last day, delegations visited the Busan Main Customs Laboratory to learn about its operations and exchanged professional insights.



The CCP Senior Programme Coordinator on PCCP of WCO Visits ROCB A/P

25th April 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Gilles Thomas, the Passenger and Cargo Control Programme (PCCP) Senior Programme Coordinator from the WCO, visited the ROCB A/P on 25th April 2024. He was warmly welcomed by ROCB A/P staff members. This visit highlights the ongoing commitment of the WCO and ROCB A/P to enhance Customs enforcement and compliance throughout the Asia Pacific region.



Mr. Louis Chan, Program Manager of ROCB A/P, provided a comprehensive report on the capacity-building activities conducted in the region, cooperation with regional entities, and relevant publications.

Mr. Thomas presented an overview of the PCCP, which he manages. It was recently created by merging renowned Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) and Container Control Programme (CCP) that are cooperative efforts by the WCO and UNODC with 86 countries participating in this single initiative. He emphasized that the PCCP's core mission is to bolster the security of passenger and trade supply chains, thereby protecting public health, economic stability, and environmental conditions from threats such as illicit trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism. He also highlighted that the achievements and impact of the PCCP in 2023 were significantly enhanced by substantial financial contributions from various donors.

This visit by Mr. Gilles Thomas not only reaffirmed the strong partnership between the WCO and ROCB A/P but also set the stage for future cooperative efforts aimed at enhancing Customs operations across the region.

UNEP and ROCB A/P discuss about possible future cooperation in AP region

3rd May 2024 Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P received the courtesy visit by Mr. Mitsugu Saito, Program Manager from Asia and the Pacific Office of United Nation Environment Programme or UNEP in Bangkok Thailand on 3rd May 2024.

Mr. Kuramoto warmly welcomed the ROCB A/P and provided an overview of the ROCB A/P and its role on the capacity-building activities conducted in Asia Pacific region in the Customs domain.



The representative of UNEP in the Bangkok Office shared UNEP's latest work that members of UNEP have been undertaking to establish a new treaty on waste plastics as supplemental tool to the Basel convention which is the key international framework. Both sides also exchanged views on the possibility of cooperation to enforce on illegal trade on mercury products under the Minamata Convention and also mainly capacity building for Customs administration in Asia Pacific region.

Both sides confirmed their intention to continually exchange views and to find a possible cooperation opportunities in the AP region in the future.

ROCB A/P Participates in the 40th ASEAN CCC Meeting

8th May 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P, along with Mr. Jaemin Cho and Mr. Louis Chan, the Program Managers, actively participated in the ASEAN CCC ROCB A/P Consultation at the 40th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Customs on the 8th May 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the meeting, Mr. Kuramoto delivered opening remarks and a comprehensive presentation on the ROCB A/P's capacity-building initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. He also



addressed participants' queries regarding e-commerce, green customs, and the WCO FTA. The ROCB A/P's capacity-building endeavors were well received by ASEAN participants and the secretariat.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Kuramoto expressed gratitude to the ASEAN Secretariat for the invitation and encouraged all ASEAN members to submit their technical assistance needs in the

Annual Needs Survey of ROCB A/P. He also called for future collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and increased engagement in initiatives such as the Customs Capacity Building Working Group (CCBWG).

Confirm good relationship between Japan Customs and ROCB A/P

8th May 2024, Bangkok Thailand

Ms. Sahoko Shiga, Counsellor for International Cooperation Division, Japan Customs paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P accompanied by her colleagues on 8th May 2024.



Mr. Kuramoto welcomed Ms. Shiga and Japan Customs' delegations to visit the ROCB A/P. At the same time, he expressed his highest appreciation to Ms. Shiga and Japan Customs for its long-standing support to the ROCB A/P since it's established in 2004.

Ms. Shiga expressed her appreciation for its contribution in delivering capacity building activities to Asia Pacific members and her commitment to continue support of the ROCB A/P and its members.

Taking this opportunity, Mr. Kuramoto introduced the ROCB A/P outline as well as the major functions and activities, especially on how to organize workshop activity in the Asia Pacific

region followed by the introduction of his ROCB A/P colleagues . In addition to that, Mr. Kuramoto expressed that he looked forward to the continued close relationship with Japan Customs as a co-coordinator of Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building) outlined in the Regional Strategic Plan for Asia Pacific.

ROCB A/P invited to join the 6th WCO Global AEO Conference

8th - 10th May 2024, Shenzhen, China

The 6th WCO Global AEO Conference was hosted in Shenzhen, China on May 8th, 2024. This event gathered over 1,200 attendees from 108 countries with the theme “Harnessing the Power of AEO Programmes for Inclusive and Sustainable Global Trade”. As the representatives of the

ROCB A/P, Ms. Zhengqing YE, the Program Manager and Operation Manager of the CCF-China joined the events.



The Conference started with the addresses by the WCO Secretary General, Mr. Ian Saunders, the Vice Minister of the General Administration of China Customs (GACC), Mr. Wang Lingjun, and the Mayor of Shenzhen City, Mr. Qin Weizhon. Mr. Sanders stressed the importance of amplifying the benefits of AEO programmes across the full spectrum of global trade participants and underscored that the strength of the programmes is magnified when there is engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders. Mr. Wang highlighted China’s leadership role in AEO implementation and reiterated the willingness of China to further support other Customs administrations in adopting and implementing AEO programmes.

The 3-day conference covered a wide range of topics such as leveraging data analytics and emerging technologies for better risk management and trade facilitation, empowering women through AEO programmes, the role of AEO programme in supporting e-commerce and cross-border trade in the digital age, expanding the AEO programme to Free Zones, and assessing the impact of the AEO Programme.

This event served as a valuable platform for all the members to exchange insights and deepen the expertise in the field of AEO programmes. During this event, the ROCB A/P had the

chance to discuss with its counterparts and to underscored capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing expertise in the field of AEO programmes throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Training Management at NACIN Palasamudram in India

6th-10th May 2024, Palasamudram, India



The WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Training Management took place at NACIN Palasamudram in India from 6th- 10th May 2024, under the sponsorship of the Customs Cooperation Fund Japan (CCF/Japan). This Workshop marked the second workshop of a two-year Project, initiated by the ROCB A/P in 2023. Participants from 8 Customs Administrations attended in person, while other Administrations joined online. The comprehensive five-day Workshop focused on enhancing the training management capability of A/P Members through interactive sessions, tools, and experience sharing. It provided a platform for these Members to share their experiences, good practices, and common challenges encountered in their Administrations. Mr. Jun Tajima, Program Manager, and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, Assistant Program Manager, attended the workshop as facilitators.

During the workshop, participants were provided with information on WCO tools related to Human Resource Management and Development (HRMD), covering the introduction to training process and training systems. Subsequently, they shared the information on Human Resource Management practices and challenges facing within their respective Administrations. The discussion sessions were facilitated by Mr. Jun Tajima and Ms. Aksara Mackhawiman, who led discussion on various topics in training management including the objectives of training, the identification of needs, annual training plan, training development, facilities, the trainer, the training material, and evaluation. The discussion started with an explanation of the challenges gathered from the Members through the ROCB A/P survey in 2022 and the RTC Heads' Meeting in 2023, along with the relevant WCO tools. Participants actively exchanged experiences best practices, and challenges in their Administration. Participants contributed by posing the useful questions and collaboratively sharing their insights and successful stories to overcome those challenges. This enriched other's learning and provided inspiration. Moreover, the workshop also included the tour to immersive training facilities of NACIN. In this facility, participants had an opportunity to explore cutting-edge technologies and innovative practices, which offered valuable information to enhance the learning environment for the training in their Administration.

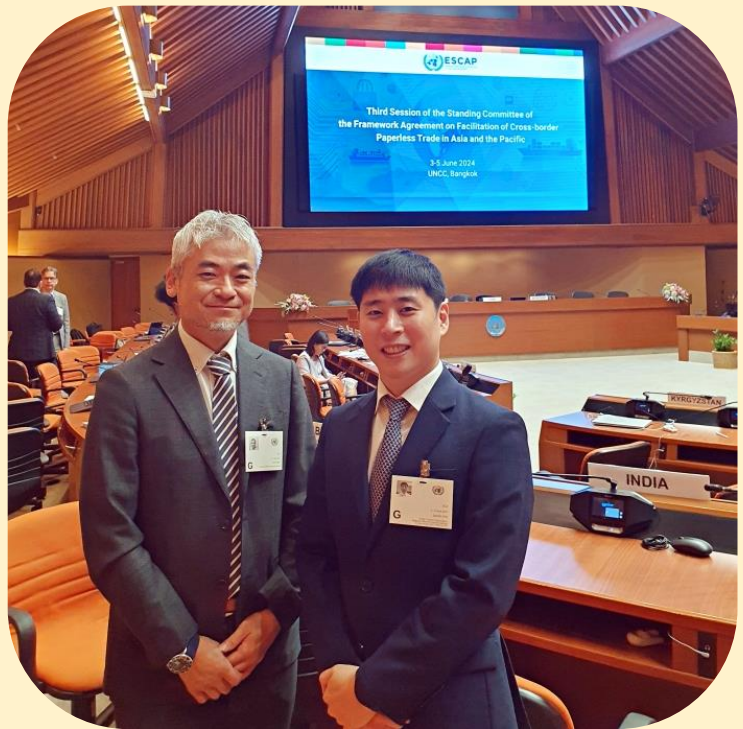
At the conclusion of the workshop, participants acquired vital knowledge and information from each other. ROCB A/P encouraged the participants to utilize the knowledge, information gained from the workshop to drive positive change within their Administration and fostering continuous improvement in training management.



ROCB A/P collaborates with UNESCAP in Cross-Border Paperless Trade facilitation

3rd-5th June 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

At the invitation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Mr. Jun Tajima and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Managers, attended the 3rd session of the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) facilitated by UNESCAP from 3rd-5th June 2024 on behalf of the ROCB A/P as an observer. This Standing Committee session was attended by delegates from CPTA member countries and other related international organizations.



During the sessions, Mr. Jaemin Cho highlighted the importance of the partnership between Customs and other related agencies and collaboration workshop organized by the ROCB A/P and UNESCAP which took place from February 29th to March 8th, 2024, in Seoul, Korea. This collaboration event, known as the 6th UNNExT Masterclass Workshop for Customs and relevant border agencies' officials, focused on facilitating cross-border paperless trade and data analytics for updating and learning necessary information together in cooperation with ROCB A/P and the Korea Customs Services, with financial support from the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea). For more details, please see this article.

The 3rd session of the Standing Committee of CPTA evaluated the implementation status of the tasks prioritized at the 2nd session of the Standing Committee and discussed strategies and practical measures to accelerate the implementation of CPTA and strengthen partnerships among member countries and development partners.

ROCB A/P's Active Participation in the 13th ASEAN – World Customs Organization (WCO) Consultation

5th June 2024, Phu Quoc, Vietnam



Upon the invitation of the ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P accompanied the Secretary General of the WCO, to actively participate in the 13th ASEAN – World Customs Organization (WCO) Consultation at the 33rd Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs held on 5th June 2024 in Phu Quoc, Vietnam, Co-chaired by ASEAN representatives from Thai Customs and Vietnam Customs.

During the consultation, Mr. Kuramoto briefed on capacity building activities for ASEAN members. Firstly, he shared workshop achievements in this FY especially focused on ASEAN members, namely Regional, Sub-regional and National workshops which WCO provided. Then, he shared the WCO Human Resource Development Programme and its participation by ASEAN members in the last 3 years. He encouraged the continued interest and the sending of applications to these programmes. He also reported the results of the supplemental needs survey for technical assistance for ASEAN which conducted by the ROCB A/P. The number of Accredited Customs Experts (ACE) in ASEAN members was shared with ASEAN DGs while he emphasized the importance of collaboration between regional expertise and wider modernization trends and

asked DG's to send their experts to WCO workshop when WCO requested. Finally, Mr Kuramoto informed that the ROCB A/P will mark 20th anniversary in September 2024 since established in Bangkok Thailand. He expressed his appreciation for ASEAN members for long-standing support of ROCB A/P and requested continued engagement for future activity as well.

In the opening session, Secretary General Iran Saunders expressed his warm gratitude to the ASEAN members for their continued support to the WCO and acknowledged the history of robust engagement between the two organizations. He appreciated the active participation of ASEAN members in the WCO's work, noting that sharing their real-world experience helps direct the organization's activities.

RTC Indonesia's Deputy Director Reaffirmed Strengthened Cooperation with ROCB A/P

5th June 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Deputy Director of the RTC Indonesia, Dr. Yudhi Dharma Naully, paid a courtesy visit to the ROCB A/P during his attendance to an event jointly organised by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), as a part of the Paperless Trade Week 2024, led by ESCAP.



ROCB A/P team of Programme Managers and Coordinators warmly welcomed Dr. Yudhi, and expressed appreciation to the RTC Indonesia for its long-standing support to the WCO Capacity Building Activities in the A/P Region.

Dr. Yudhi explained the recent activities and the future contributions of the RTC Indonesia to the A/P Region and beyond. In return, Mr. Jun Tajima, Programme Manager of the ROCB A/P, explained the role and future activities of the ROCB A/P. Both sides also exchanged views on the strengthening of information exchange on the Capacity Building activities in the Region for the benefit of Customs Administrations of the Asia Pacific.

Deputy Commissioner of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) reaffirmed to have strengthened communication with ROCB A/P

7th June 2024, Bangkok, Thailand



Deputy Commissioner of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Mr. Sanjeet Kumar, paid a courtesy visit to the ROCB A/P during his attendance to the Paperless Trade Week, an event of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) that aims to foster implementation of the UN treaty and Framework Agreement on Facilitation

of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA).

ROCB A/P team of Programme Managers and Coordinators warmly welcomed Mr. Sanjeet, and expressed appreciation to the CBIC for its long-standing support to the WCO Capacity Building Activities in the A/P Region, especially the contributions to the CCF/India among others.

Mr. Jun Tajima, Program Manager introduced the outline of ROCB A/P as well as the major functions and activities especially the needs survey in Asia Pacific Region and expressed his wish to have closer cooperation with CBIC. Mr. Sanjeet showed his interest in some of the WCO human resource development programmes and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager joined in to explain more about them. Both sides reaffirmed to have strengthened communications.

The 143rd / 144th Sessions of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Council

27th-29th June 2024, Brussels, WCO

The 143rd / 144th Council Sessions of the World Customs Organization (WCO) were held at WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium from 27th to 29th June 2024. Directors General of Customs representing the WCO Members participated. Mr. Jun Tajima, Programme Manager of ROCB A/P, attended as an observer.



This Council started the sessions with remarks from the Chairperson of the WCO Council, Mr. Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner of the South African Revenue Service (SARS), and Secretary General of the WCO, Mr. Ian Sanders.

The Council examined the work carried out by the WCO Working Bodies throughout the year. The discussions covered its deliberations on Capacity Building, and other technical issues such as Nomenclature and Classification, Compliance, and Trade Facilitation. Attention was particularly paid to the progress in technology and innovation, Green Customs as well as in governance and accountability, being the three focus areas defined by the Strategic Plan.

The Council also took note of recent developments related to the Exploratory Study on a Possible Strategic Review of the HS¹, with a panel discussion.



¹ The Exploratory Study on a Possible Strategic Review of the HS sets out thirty-five findings, including positive recommendations on 15 proposals and referrals for a further 6 proposals, representing changes beyond the existing HS system, for high-level policy consideration.

[Regional interest]

The Council endorsed a Resolution on Strengthening Customs-Industry Resilience. This Resolution was drafted and initiated by the then-Vice Chair of Asia Pacific Region, Australian Border Force, recognizing the importance of co-designing solutions with industry, sharing knowledge, and preparing for potential threats. It invites WCO Members to take a series of actions to this aim, including evaluating and monitoring the efficacy of resilience measures on an ongoing basis and enhancing the use of paperless trade through digitalization.

Also, the Council delegates witnessed the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on the formalization of the establishment of the Regional Training Centres (RTC) in Cambodia, and in India.

Staff Update

Farewell Message from former Head, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto



Time flies so first. My 5-year term as the Head of ROCB A/P ended at the end of June 2024 and I returned to the Japan Customs as my home administration. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all of my friends.

First of all, I surely am such a lucky person because of opportunity to work very closely with all Asia Pacific members. Because of this, my five years in the ROCB A/P have been an invaluable and unforgettable time in my Customs career.

Looking back five years ago in brief, just several months after I arrived in ROCB A/P in 2019, the world has changed dramatically with COVID-19 being declared in early 2020. As you know, ROCB A/P could no longer operate as we had before, being unable to travel and conduct face-to-face workshops for almost two years.

Needless to say, my priorities also changed quickly and significantly, to protect the livelihood of ROCB A/P staff and then to ensure ROCB A/P's functions continued and adapted

to the new environment. My agenda for my five years were “To Survive”, “To be Resilient” and “To Adapt to the new world” which was totally different from the agenda I had initially imagined.

Nevertheless, with the great understanding and support of Asia Pacific members, the ROCB A/P has been able to continue to provide our service to Asia Pacific members to this day. Of course, it was a privilege to work for resilience with Asia Pacific members together as a team.

Dear Asia Pacific members, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all my friends in the Asia Pacific members for strong engagement and active participation in ROCB A/P’s activity. I have had countless opportunities to meet many officials over the past five years and I have made many friends with wonderful relationships. It has been my privilege to feel true regional cooperation.

In addition, I would like to thank all Regional Entities, RTC, RCL and RDTC for their cooperation in ROCB A/P’s capacity building activities and thank you for RILO A/P for working together with us as the same regional supporting body in the Asia Pacific region as an important partner.

My special thanks go to Thai Customs as the host administration of the ROCB A/P. The ROCB A/P and I have received uncountable instances of warm assistance from Thai Customs during my five years in Thailand. Thanks to Thai Customs, I fully enjoyed working in the ROCB A/P in such a wonderful and lovely place, Bangkok, Thailand as my second home.

My special thanks also go to Japan Customs. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for giving me the wonderful opportunity to work for ROCB A/P and Asia Pacific members. I appreciated for generous support for me over the past five years.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all my colleagues in ROCB A/P who have worked with me over the past five years. The time I spent working with you all will be an unforgettable backdrop in my life. Best wishes for Mr. Jun Tajima as new Head of the ROCB A/P with excellent colleagues in the ROCB A/P.

Once again, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all of you from the bottom of my heart for such a brilliant and lovely time. I will miss all of you a lot, but hopefully our paths will cross again either in Japan, Brussels or elsewhere in Asia Pacific. As Customs family, I sincerely hope see you again very soon

With love,

Nori

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