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Bangkok, 3 October 2014

Dear Readers,

After having several days-off in Thailand or in their home countries/territory, my fellow ROCB A/P colleagues have come back to work refreshed and are now fully operational. As a matter of fact, email messages chased them 24/7 no matter where they went or what they were doing. The ROCB A/P itself does not take days-off and it has remained active during the summer time. In fact, the ROCB A/P has attended several international conferences representing the WCO and has also delivered regional and national capacity building and technical assistance in cooperation with our development partners. In addition, the ROCB A/P has had a round of consultations with our development partners to reaffirm and seek ways forward towards strengthening existing close cooperation, with a view to create synergy in the respective activities being planned for the next 12 months or so.

This issue of ROCB A/P E-newsletter highlights some of the developments in the ROCB A/P's activities.

Foremost, the ROCB A/P has set its 2-year rolling Strategic Action Plan for 2014-2016 with a view to keeping its activities consistent with the Asia/Pacific Regional Strategic Plan 2014-2016, which was adopted at the most recent Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference held in Port Douglas, Australia. Based on this 2-year term guidance document, the ROCB A/P devised its Annual Work Plan for 2014/15 in close coordination and consultations with the Regional Vice-Chair and the Regional Steering Group members. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the ROCB A/P, the Annual Work Plan was subsequently approved by the Capacity Building Directorate of the WCO Secretariat. I am pleased to make public herewith the said Strategic Action Plan 2014-2016 and the Annual Work Plan 2014/15 as appended to the pertinent article in this E-newsletter. In the wake of the approval of the Annual Work Plan, the ROCB AP has started coordinating specific dates for those listed regional and national workshops, in cooperation with the Regional Training Centers, beneficiary administrations and the WCO Secretariat. Dates for some of these capacity building and technical assistance programs are well progressed and those arrangements are presented in this E-newsletter as well. I hope that this information will lead to better planning and the effective use of the resources at regional and national levels.



Another significant development made after the publication of the last ROCB A/P E-newsletter in July 2014 is the launching of new ROCB A/P website (<http://www.rocb-ap.org>). The website was activated on 28 September 2014, coinciding with the 10th birthday of the ROCB A/P, and it is now fully managed and maintained by the ROCB A/P itself. This website provides a snapshot on the Customs capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific region and assists communication with the regional Member and development partners in more timely and user-friendly manner. In tandem with the new ROCB A/P website, we are surely going to continue to publish E-newsletters in order to proactively disseminate pertinent information on our capacity building activities to the regional members and relevant stakeholders.

As I made it clear in my greeting letter circulated upon my assumption of the post of Head of the ROCB A/P in July, I am going to maintain close communication with the regional members and relevant stakeholders for concerted efforts in capacity building towards Customs reform and modernization. My fellow colleagues in the Office and I are keen to hear your candid opinions and suggestions regarding our activities, including our communication approaches, to ameliorate our endeavors as appropriate and thus better serve to you. For questions and comments, please feel free to write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this E-newsletter.

Yours sincerely,



Kazunari IGARASHI
Head of the ROCB A/P

WCO National Workshop on Advanced Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing for Thailand



29 September - 3 October 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

As one of the events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the ROCB A/P, the ROCB A/P in cooperation with the WCO Secretariat and Thai Customs organized a WCO National Workshop on Advanced Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing for Thailand at the Thai Customs Academy, Thai Customs Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand from 29 September to 3 October 2014 under the sponsorship of Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan) and the Thai Customs Department.

This Workshop is aimed at enhancing better understanding of Advanced Customs Valuation issues and Transfer Pricing. In total, 101 participants from the Thai Customs (82), the Revenue (11), and the Excise (8) Departments attended this Workshop. Three experts facilitated the Workshop; Mr. Ian Cremer, a senior technical officer from the Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate (Valuation) of the WCO, Ms. Kriti Velji, Principal Advisor (Transfer Pricing) from the New Zealand Inland Revenue Department, and Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, the CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Program Manager for South Asia, ROCB A/P,

(a WCO-accredited expert on Customs Valuation). Mr. Yutthana Yimagarund, Deputy Director-General of the Thai Customs Department, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, and the WCO expert delivered speeches at the opening ceremony.

A series of comprehensive lectures were given by the experts on a range of topics, such as recent key instruments from the WCO Valuation Compendium, practical aspects of Valuation control, Introduction to the WCO, Introduction to Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing, as well as their relationship. A series of case studies, group discussions, and presentations were conducted on the key topics, with interaction from the participants, during the Workshop. On the last day, a panel discussion on the complexity and the best practices for intersection of Customs Valuation and Transfer Pricing was conducted by panelists from the WCO, the ROCB A/P, the New Zealand expert, the senior legal advisor to the Ministry of Finance, and representatives from the University of Thailand Chamber of Commerce, the Thai Revenue Department, and Pricewaterhouse Coopers. The participants actively contributed to the workshop and were encouraged to share the benefits and knowledge acquired from the workshop with their colleagues.

The Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum

24-25 September 2014, Bangkok,
Thailand

The Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) took place from 24 to 25 September 2014. The forum was co-organized by Economic and Social Committee of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). It was attended by around 200 participants. At the invitation of organizing units, three delegates from ROCB A/P, including Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, Mr. S.K. Lee, Operation Manager of Customs Cooperation Fund Korea (CCF Korea) and Mr. Cheng Jing, Program Manager for Pacific Islands attended this event.

APTFF is the main regional platform to exchange information, experiences and

practices for trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific. It is also used to identify priority areas for regional cooperation and integration, and to learn about new tools and services which can increase the efficiency of cross-border transactions. Under the theme of “Trade Facilitation for Inclusive Development”, APTFF 2014 arranged a discussion session on the WTO trade facilitation agreement and implications for the region. It also conducted special discussion sessions of agricultural trade facilitation, small and medium enterprises (SME) trade facilitation, and inter-agency coordination for trade facilitation.



WCO National IPR Seminar for Indonesia

23 - 25 September 2014, Jakarta, Indonesia

The World Customs Organization (WCO), in cooperation with Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) and Indonesia Customs, organized the WCO National Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights at the Headquarters of Indonesia Customs, Jakarta, Indonesia, from 23 to 25 September 2014 under the sponsorship of the Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan).

A total of 36 participants from various offices of Indonesia Customs, including the Directorate General of Intellectual Property Right, Republic of Indonesia Attorney General, Legal Bureau of General Secretary of Finance Ministry, Central Jakarta State Court and Indonesian Anti-Counterfeit Association (IACA) attended the Seminar. The Seminar was led by five IPR experts, namely; Ms. Junko Yamamoto of the WCO (Mission Leader), Mr. Salvatore Recano, WCO accredited expert for IPR from Italy Customs, Mr. Shimao Yamakawa, Senior IPR Specialist from Japan Customs, Mr. Masashi Gohbara, IPR Specialist from Japan Customs, and Mr. James Kai Wah Wong, IPR Expert from the ROCB A/P.

The participants actively took part in the Seminar and raised questions to seek remedies to their issues. The participants



examined IPR production mechanisms used by other countries with a view to adopting best practices within their own country. Participants were very appreciative that they were provided the opportunity to examine the subject matter from different perspectives.

In the course of the Seminar, the experts delivered a set of presentations on various Information and Intelligence Sharing Systems. The presentation materials provided benchmarks for the set-up of an effective and efficient information and intelligence sharing system for Customs operations as well as IPR protection. The experts also shared the experience in working with stakeholders such as other government departments, industries and right holders.

Other stakeholders including representatives from the business sector and IACA, also attended culminating in some very fruitful discussions with Indonesia Customs. It is hoped that government-business collaboration is further strengthened through these discussions.

WCO National Workshop on Post Clearance Audit for Papua New Guinea Customs Service

22 - 26 September 2014, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Responding to a request from Papua New Guinea (PNG) Customs service, the ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO Secretariat conducted a National Workshop on Post Clearance Audit (PCA) from 22 to 26 September 2014 in Port Moresby, PNG. A total of 18 Customs auditors attended the workshop from all parts of PNG.

The workshop was organized as a follow-up from the WCO multi-year (2011-2013) PCA project for Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) members, which was coordinated by the WCO Secretariat and the ROCB A/P. A set of objectives including achievement of the projected targets, preparation of the OCO PCA

It is worth mentioning that the PNG national trainers, who were trained in the multi-year PCA project, exercised their ownership and took the leadership in introducing the contents of the OCO PCA Guidelines. A series of lectures were provided by subject matter experts from the WCO, the ROCB A/P and Japan Customs. The Participants actively contributed to the workshop and a number of issues were raised and discussed. The participants renewed their intention to utilize the Guidelines for their internal training and pledged themselves to share the knowledge acquired from the workshop with their colleagues.



Regional Seminar on nCEN and Utilization on CEN Database

16-18 September 2014, Seoul, Korea

At the invitation of the RILO A/P, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, Mr. James K W Wong, Mr. Cheng Jing, and Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkason, from ROCB A/P, attended the Regional Seminar on nCEN and utilization on CEN Database held on 16 to 17 September 2014. They also attended the International Origin Conference on 18 September in Seoul, Korea. Delegates representing 23 Customs member administrations in the A/P region, including experts from the RILO ECE, the RILO ESA, the RILO ME, the WCO, Mauritius Customs, and the RILO A/P attended the Seminar.

As a global enforcement database operated by the WCO, the CEN enables Customs officers to carry out analysis and produce intelligence products based on the seizure data fed by the WCO members. As a CEN derivative, the nCEN was developed as an alternate to the Customs central database.

A two day Seminar, organized by the RILO A/P under the sponsorship of the Korea Customs Service, was aimed at introducing the merits of the nCEN including the interoperability with CEN, its application and functionality, as well as the implementation process. In addition, the seminar participants were provided details on how the nCEN can bring additional features to daily operations by enhancing the intelligence exchange amongst regional members.

During the Seminar, Mr. Wong made a presentation on the ROCB A/P and its capacity building activities. The close cooperation between the WCO Secretariat, the RILO A/P and the ROCB A/P was raised to accommodate members' needs in the preparation of the Regional nCEN roll-out plan. The ROCB A/P will further enhance close cooperation with the RILO A/P and the regional members to promote the utilization of the WCO CEN database and nCEN application as appropriate.



ROCB A/P contributes to the ICAO Air Cargo Development Forum to further raise profile of WCO-ICAO collaboration

2-5 September 2014, Henan, China

More than 330 delegates from international organizations, airport authorities, and air cargo industry gathered in Zhengzhou, Henan Province of the P.R. of China for the ICAO Air Cargo Development Forum, held from 2-5 September 2014. The Forum was organized with a view to addressing key issues related to the air cargo industry, and provided better understanding of the issues and challenges faced by the sustainable development of air cargo logistics. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the Forum as a resource speaker.

The Forum was opened with a series of remarks by representatives of key stakeholders, including Mayor of the city of Zhengzhou, Director General of the Airports Council International (ACI World), President of the ICAO Council, among others. This panel discussion-style Forum covered broad topics related to the international air cargo transport business.

Mr. Igarashi joined a panel discussion on “Enhancement of Air Cargo Security and Facilitation” and spoke about a range of works being undertaken by the WCO in cooperation

with other partner international and regional organizations including industry through such platforms as ICAO-WCO Joint Conferences, Technical Experts Group on Air Cargo Security. Throughout the Forum, a number of speakers and participants underlined the need for further strengthening collaboration between the ICAO and the WCO towards harmonization and standardization of the regulatory requirements while paying due attention to contributing to liberalization of the aviation logistics. At the same time, the participants to the Forum reaffirmed the value of, and significant progress of the proactive actions made jointly by the WCO and the ICAO as well as by the industry on air cargo security and facilitation. It was also agreed for further collective actions and efforts to be pursued among all parties concerned with a view to best contending with challenges associated with international aviation supply chain.

For more information about this event, including presentation slides and other useful materials, please visit

<http://www.icao.int/Meetings/AirCargoDevelopmentForum-2014/Pages/default.aspx>

UNODC – WCO Global Container Control Program (CCP) "Kick – off" Meeting for South East Asian countries



20 - 21 August 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

UNODC – WCO Global Container Control Program (CCP) 'Kick – off' Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 to 21 August 2014. This meeting aimed at expanding CCP to 5 countries in South East Asia region, namely, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines and Vietnam. Approximately 90 delegates representing Customs, police and port authorities attended this event. The ROCB A/P attended this meeting as an observer. In the context of the Meeting, the ROCB A/P staff members contacted the participants and organizers and exchanged ideas on how best the ROCB A/P activities could create synergies with the training programs under the CCP programs.

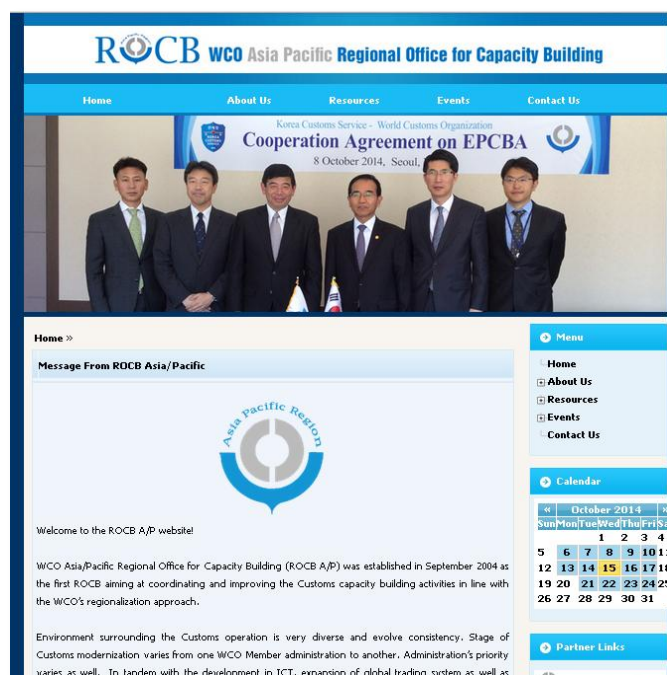
10th Anniversary of the establishment of the ROCB A/P

28 September 2014, Bangkok, Thailand



The ROCB A/P was officially opened on 28 September 2004 and the ROCBA/P marks its 10th anniversary this year. In this regard, Thai Customs Department, the ROCB A/P's gracious host administration, will generously organize the 10th Anniversary Ceremony on 7th November 2014 on the occasion of the RTC Heads Meeting. A number of guests, including the Secretary General of the WCO Secretariat as well as representatives of our donor administrations and the development partners, are cordially invited to denote a milestone recording of the ROCB A/P's contributions to the capacity building in Asia/Pacific region and champion the continuous good collaboration between the ROCB A/P and the RTCs. Delegates to the RTC Heads Meeting will also be cordially invited to the Ceremony.

The ROCB A/P's website has been generously administered and maintained by the Regional Vice Chair's office. The Regional Vice Chair is rotated every 2 years, thereby reducing the administrative burden associated with the website management. By using the website for enhanced communication amongst regional members and development partners, the ROCB A/P consulted with the incumbent Regional Vice Chair on the possibility of self-management of the ROCB A/P's website. This proposal was accepted by the Regional Vice Chair. The new ROCB A/P website was launched on 28 September 2014 coinciding with the ROCB A/P's 10th birthday. This website (URL <http://www.rocba-p.org>) is open to the general public. Readers are cordially invited to visit our new website and as appropriate forward us your comments and suggestions.



<http://www.rocba-p.org>

Creation of New ROCB A/P Website

ROCB A/P Annual Work Plan for 2014/2015

The environment surrounding Customs operations is very diverse and evolves consistently. In tandem with the development in IT, expansion of global trading systems as well as continued changes in business practices for international transactions of the goods, Customs administrations in the Asia/Pacific region are working hard through reform and modernization to provide due dividends to nations. The importance of capacity building is duly recognized as important to meeting these challenges. In fact, organizational reform and modernization is not accomplished by the introduction of state-of-the-art technology, but in fact, heavily relies on highly skilled and knowledgeable Customs officers. The stage of modernization varies from one Member administration to another. Administration's priorities vary as well. As well, available resources and time for capacity building is limited.

With the intent of assuring effective use of limited resources and making the region's capacity building more focused and result-oriented, the ROCB A/P has developed its Strategic Action Plan in partnership with the WCO Secretariat and the Vice Chair. Furthermore, in line with the formalities set out in the Terms of Reference adopted by the RHCA Conference in May 2014, the ROCB A/P, under the leadership of the new Head of the ROCB A/P, developed its Annual Work Plan for 2014/2015 in close consultation with the Regional Vice Chair, and the Annual Work Plan. The Annual Plan was approved by the Capacity Building Directorate of the WCO Secretariat in mid-August. The approved Strategic Action Plan 2014-2016, and Annual Work Plan for 2014/2015 are appended to this article.

In order to ensure the close linkage between the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2014-2016, as adopted at the 15th RHCA Conference, most of the specific actions to be pursued by the ROCB A/P refer to, or are directly cited from the said RSP. These specific actions are categorized based on 4 pillars of the ROCB A/P's activities, namely: (i) To support the implementation of the WCO Conventions, instruments and tools; (ii) To further enhance collaboration with development partners; (iii) To improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities; and (iv) To enhance communication and information sharing among members.

The above activities cannot be pursued by the ROCB A/P alone and, in fact, it requires the region's commitment and cooperation with great leadership of the Regional Vice Chair and the support from the Regional Training Centers, as well as the region's experts in various domains. In this regard, the ROCB A/P would like to call for continued commitment and support of these stakeholders. At the same time, the ROCB A/P expresses its sincere appreciation to the donor administrations and development partners for generous funding for these capacity building activities coordinated by the ROCB A/P.

Annual Work Plan for ROCB A/P (Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building) (2014/2015)

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

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Work Plan for 2014/2015	Timeframe
a) Work with the WCO Secretariat to assist all requesting developing members to have undertaken Diagnostic Phase II	➤ Upon request, assist requesting developing Members to undertake Customs reform and modernization based on the diagnostic recommendations	June 2015
b) Upon request, assist member's efforts: (1) to develop AEO (Authorized Economic Operators) program; (2) to increase AEO MRA (Mutual Recognition Arrangement), and; (3) to share experiences on the implementation of SAFE FOS including TRP (Trade Recovery Program) program.	➤ Organize a regional workshop on AEO in India (TBC) to assist Member for the implementation of action planning, in conjunction with the WTO TFA requirements, which will be complemented by a series of national workshops for Mongolia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Sri Lanka to assist them to introduce AEO programs.	June 2015
c) Upon request, assist Non-contracting member's effort to accede to the RKC	➤ Conduct national workshops for Tonga, Maldives and Iran to enhance their understanding on the RKC and develop implementation plan and, where applicable, roadmap for its accession.	June 2015
d) Upon request, assist member's effort on the (1) smooth implementation of HS 2012 (for CPs) (2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs)	➤ Conduct national workshops for Tonga and Vanuatu ➤ Upon request, provide assistance to interested Members for smooth implementation of HS 2012 and/or adopt HS 2012.	June 2015

e) Upon request, assist member's effort in introducing Advance Ruling system for tariff classification decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct national workshops for Tonga and Vanuatu ➤ Upon request, provide assistance for introduction of advance ruling system 	June 2015
f) Upon request, assist member's effort to undertake TRS in accordance with the WCO TRS guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Send experts to India and, if any, other interested Members to organize national workshops to assist them to undertake TRS based on the WCO guidelines. 	June 2015
g) Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing WCO Data Model Ver. 3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on Single Window in Korea to deepen understanding on the Single Window and its implementation, in conjunction with the WTO TFA requirements ➤ Aiming at complementing the regional work, conduct a national workshop in Bhutan and Maldives to assist them to implement Single Window 	June 2015
h) Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the implementation of the Resolution on the Customs Role on the Natural Disaster Relief (2011). 	June 2015
i) Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on risk management in Hong Kong China to support Members to apply intelligence-led risk management, supported by national intelligence database (including nCEN), national targeting center etc. <i>(See also 1 – (n))</i> ➤ Aiming at complementing the above-mentioned regional workshop, 	June 2015
j) Upon request, assist member's effort in developing national risk management database (e.g. nCEN),		

k) Upon request, assist member's effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool	<p>organize a national workshops for Vietnam and, if any, other interested Members to support their effort in introducing and using relevant risk management tools, including nCEN</p> <p>➤ Conduct a national workshop on organizational management for Fiji, focusing on enhanced use of IT infrastructure for effective knowledge management, development of IT strategy in relation to organizational development</p>	
l) Upon request, assist member's effort to enhance cooperation under GNC	<p>➤ Upon request, provide assistance to improve understanding on GNC and contribute to the WCO work on the development of GNC action plan.</p>	June 2015
m) Upon request, assist member's effort to promote cooperation and coordination for CBM	<p>➤ Upon request, provide assistance for the implementation of CBM</p> <p>➤ Encourage Members to share their experiences in CBM using the ROCB A/P's communication tools, such as ROCB A/P web or ROCB A/P e-newsletters</p>	June 2015
n) Work with Vice Chair and members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues and increase the application of sustainable anti-drug initiatives (e.g. WCO Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP))	<p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on IPR (TBD) focusing on enhancement of Customs-right holders cooperation, increase of the use of the IPM and development of national action plans thereof.</p> <p>➤ Organize a sub-regional workshop for an IPR enforcement operation (TBD)</p> <p>➤ Conduct an IPR diagnostics national workshops for Vanuatu., Indonesia, and Bangladesh</p> <p>➤ Organize a regional workshop on risk management in Hong Kong China to support Members to apply intelligence-led risk management, supported by national intelligence database (including nCEN), national targeting center, etc. (See also 1 – (i) and (j))</p>	June 2015

o) Undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region(e.g. SAFE FoS, RM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on air cargo security in Thailand to promote trade security and facilitation in the region ➤ Organize a regional workshop on trade facilitation (TBD) focusing enhanced understanding of the WTO TFA requirements, development of implementation action plan, and enhancement of business partnership through to-be-developed guidelines 	June 2015
p) Work with RILO AP and members 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on risk management in Malaysia (TBC) to enhance risk assessment particularly focusing on environmentally hazardous items ➤ Organize a sub-regional workshop regarding the train-the-trainers in India for valuation and valuation control via Post Clearance Audit ➤ Conduct a national workshops for Lao PDR and PNG to assist implementation of PCA based on the PCA Guidelines ➤ Cooperate with RILO A/P and regional experts on anti-drug activities with a view to strengthening Members' drug enforcement capacity 	June 2015
q) Develop and undertake leadership and management training programs to foster high ethical standards	➤ Cooperate with interested Member(s) to organize a regional workshop on integrity issues (<i>See also 3-(c)</i>)	June 2015
r) Work with interested members to share good practices on measures improving integrity	➤ Upon request, provide assistance on integrity issues and share Members on-going efforts and accomplishments on improving integrity	

2. Further develop partnerships with development partners

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Work Plan for 2014/2015	Timeframe
a) Enhance cooperation, coordination and mutual understanding between development partners and ROCB A/P	➤ Continue strategic dialogues and cooperation with development partners through participation in the meetings and seminars organized by them	June 2015
b) Work with interested members to organize national meeting with development partners to follow up regional workshop on resource mobilization	➤ Upon request of interested Members, organize national meetings with development partners to follow up regional workshop on resource mobilization held in Malaysia in May 2014	June 2015
c) Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners	➤ Work with WB, ADB, UNEP and other interested development partners to conduct joint projects for reform and modernization of Member administrations and send experts for the joint projects on such areas as Customs valuation and PCA ➤ Participate in sub-regional meetings organized by these development partners to monitor and assist Members' efforts in reform and modernization	June 2015

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

Specific Actions of ROCB	Work Plan for 2014/2015	Timeframe
a) Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize an accreditation workshop on AEO in Malaysia (TBC) and utilize the region's accredited experts on various occasions of regional/national workshops on their respective expertise. ➤ Discuss and cooperate with Regional Training Centers to keep update the knowledge and skills of these accredited experts and candidates ➤ Conduct a train-the-trainers national workshop for Malaysia to build a pool of trainers on rules of origin 	June 2015
b) Upon request, assist members to promote the WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with RTCs and accredited experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Take every possible opportunity to promote the WCO e-learning programs and CLiKC! platform in cooperation with the RTCs and accredited experts to support Members' continuous self-efforts for training of their personnel 	June 2015
c) Work with developed members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize a regional workshop on chemical analysis in Japan for the implementation of the Regional Customs Laboratory Initiative ➤ Conduct a national workshop on chemical analysis for Cambodia as a pilot project to establish a small-scale laboratory under the Regional Customs Laboratory Initiative ➤ Cooperate with interested Member(s) to organize a regional workshop on integrity issues (<i>See also 1-(q) and (r)</i>) ➤ Identify areas of existing expertise and their possible inputs from the developed Members and seek further contribution from them for the regional capacity building activities at an early stage of planning. 	June 2015

d) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with the Regional Training Coordinator to further review capacity building needs survey aiming at properly collecting Members' most current needs and reform/modernization priorities ➤ Work with the WCO Secretariat, Member and development partners to plan, deliver and review capacity building activities paying due attention to the Members' needs and priorities. 	June 2015
e) Work with members to ensure their input to ROCB A/P annual plans by responding to the regional needs survey		
f) Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due attention to the needs and priorities identified		
g) Work with the WCO Secretariat and members to evaluate the regional capacity building program		
h) Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back into planning for regional capacity building activities		
i) Work with the WCO Secretariat and Regional Training Centers to enhance members' national capacity on training management and delivery,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Convene Heads of RTC meeting to further strengthen their network and devise regional strategy for the pooling and better use of the regional experts in capacity building activities 	June 2015
j) Further strengthen cooperation among 7 Regional Training Centers and ROCB paying due attention to establishing/supporting regional experts for more sustainable capacity building delivery in the region.		

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Work Plan for 2014/2015	Timeframe
a) Work with Members, Vice chair and RILO AP to share experiences on capacity building activities with members on regular basis via regional communication tools (e.g. WCO AP Website and Newsletter, ROCB AP Website and Newsletters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Issue ROCB A/P e-newsletters every 3 months and include more information on Members' experiences in reform and modernization ➤ Create a new ROCB website and upload pertinent information more frequently to inform the regional Members of the ROCB A/P's activities in a timely manner. 	June 2015
b) Work with members, Vice chair and RTC to share good practices with other members via regional communication tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist Members, Vice Chair and the RTCs to share good practices by issuing a series of regional good practice reports on selected topics 	June 2015
c) Work with WCO to utilize CLiKC! platform or with Vice Chair to utilize WCO AP website "Forum" for virtual discussion for exchange of ideas on a number of capacity building related topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with the WCO Secretariat and experts to promote CLiKC! platform to reinvigorate virtual discussion on the topics of the Members' interest 	June 2015

Exchange of views on capacity building under the Customs Anti-Drug Strategy (CADS)

1 September 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. David Fong, Assistant Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs, accompanied by Mr. Jimmy TAM, Head of the Office of Supply Chain Security Management, met Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P on the occasion of his visit to the Thai Customs Department.

Mr. Fong explained his Administration's intention to enhance regional capabilities in fighting against drug trafficking activities by implementing a sustainable Customs Anti-Drug Strategy (CADS), which was discussed and largely supported by the regional Heads of Customs Administrations at the 15th WCO A/P Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference held from 29 April to 2 May 2014 in Port Douglas, Australia. Mr. Fong and Mr. Igarashi also exchanged views on the possible ways forward in particular capacity building aspects under the CADS.

The ROCB A/P would be looking forward to further cooperating with Hong Kong Customs to enhance the capabilities of Customs Administrations in the region.

Taking the opportunity, Mr. Igarashi also expressed his sincere appreciation to Hong Kong Customs for their invaluable contributions to the ROCB A/P's activities, including the secondment of a Program Manager to the Office. Mr. FONG kindly re-affirmed that his Administration was determined to provide continual support to ROCB A/P.

The meeting was beneficial with both parties reaching a consensus that they should continue to coordinate capacity building activities under the leadership of the Regional Vice Chair and enhance regional members' competence in meeting Customs challenges ahead, including drug trafficking and other transnational crimes.



22 August 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Norbert Steilen, WCO Technical Officer and CCP Program Coordinator visited the ROCB A/P office. His visit was warmly welcomed by the ROCB A/P staff members.

Mr. Steilen was in Bangkok primarily to attend the WCO/UNODC CCP South and East Region Kick off meeting. Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, Head of the ROCB A/P, congratulated him on the huge success of the meeting, which attracted some 80 participants from the region, including Customs representatives from Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia, as a well as Bangkok-based Customs and Police Attachés. The meeting provided the opportunity to introduce the CCP program to the five countries who will adapt the concept in their respective ports in the near future.

Mr. Steilen and Mr. Igarashi also exchanged ideas on the way to create synergies for the regional capacity building activities by applying some of the CCP training philosophies and relevant good practices accrued from the lessons learned under the CCP scheme.



The Deputy Head of the RILO A/P visits the ROCB A/P



19 August 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Seong-hyeon Ryu, the Deputy Head of the RILO A/P, and Mr. Joon-sung Lee visited the ROCB A/P on 19 August 2014 and discussed future collaboration in the capacity building domain in our region.

Mr. Ryu expressed many thanks to the ROCB A/P for seeking the RILO A/P's comments on the ROCB A/P's Annual Work Plan with a view to exploring possible synergies with the work undertaken by the RILO A/P.

The RILO A/P will also look to exchange their Annual Work Plan for next year to evade duplication of capacity building activities in our region.

In this regard, Mr. Ryu introduced their future work plan for the rest of 2014, including; the WCO RILO A/P Regional Seminar on CEN and Utilization on CEN Database (16-18 September in Korea); Expert mission (national workshop) for Fiji on the use of CEN and data analysis (21-23 October); and the NCP meeting (11-13 November in Colombo, Sri Lanka) for the reference of the ROCB A/P staff members.

The meeting concluded with both the ROCB A/P and the RILO A/P re-affirming continuation of the existing close collaboration for the sake of the regional interests.

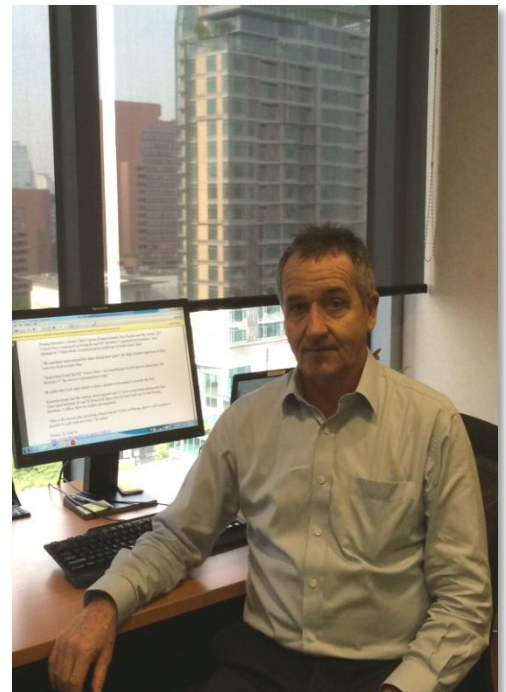
Welcome Mr. Brian Lamb from New Zealand Customs Service

**Mr. Brian Lamb, Counsellor Customs
Southeast Asia, Bangkok**

Mr. Brian Lamb has 41 years Customs experience with the New Zealand Customs Service and has worked in a variety of operational work areas, primarily in the investigative and tactical response fields.

In recent years he has been the Operations Manager, Investigations and Response. In this role he held overall responsibility for the investigation of offences under the Customs and Excise Act and the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Of particular note is that he has previously undertaken the role of New Zealand Customs Liaison Officer Southeast Asia. In this role he was responsible for the promotion of New Zealand's focus on security and risks associated to the flow of people, goods and craft. During his time in Bangkok he held the position of Chairman of the Foreign Anti Narcotic Community.



Welcome Ms. Manita Sreeta, Our new staff



Hello colleagues,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to everyone.

I am Manita Sreeta. My nickname is Pleng. I graduated from Thammasat University, a law school in Bangkok, Thailand in the year 2012 and decided to change my career path to be a Customs officer. I have been with Thai Customs for a year now and have been given an opportunity to work at the Customs Academy. Communicating with people and organizing internal workshops have been some of the experiences I have gained. Thanks to Ms. Ben Chamkrom, my predecessor, for introducing me to a new valuable world. It is a great opportunity for me to be a part of ROCB A/P where I can start my international career path. I am sure my knowledge and experiences I have gained will be useful to this work. I look forward to the challenges ahead and rest assured I will try my best.

Time really flies. Looking back after almost 3 years of working in the international environment with ROCB A/P, I feel how lucky I have been. I've learned a lot from this challenging job. I've had an enjoyable experience in both work and life with my wonderful colleagues in ROCB A/P office and friends in A/P. We started as colleagues, then became friends and then became family. I've gained not only customs-professional-related knowledge but also great experiences and memories. I believe that these valuable experiences and memories I've obtained from ROCB A/P would benefit me both in my professional career and personal life. Moreover, the most valuable thing which I've got is friendship from colleagues and friends whom I have met and exchanged correspondence, in customs and non-customs areas, from AP Region and all over the world. I hope that our friendship will last forever.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to my administration, the Thai Customs Department who granted this valuable opportunity to join ROCB A/P to me. Also, I would like to extend my gratitude to Japan Customs for their supports and great contributions. Last but not least, I would like to express my special thanks to my colleagues in the WCO Secretariat, Vice Chairs, RTCs, our regional members and of course my colleagues, friends, brothers, sisters and family in ROCB A/P.



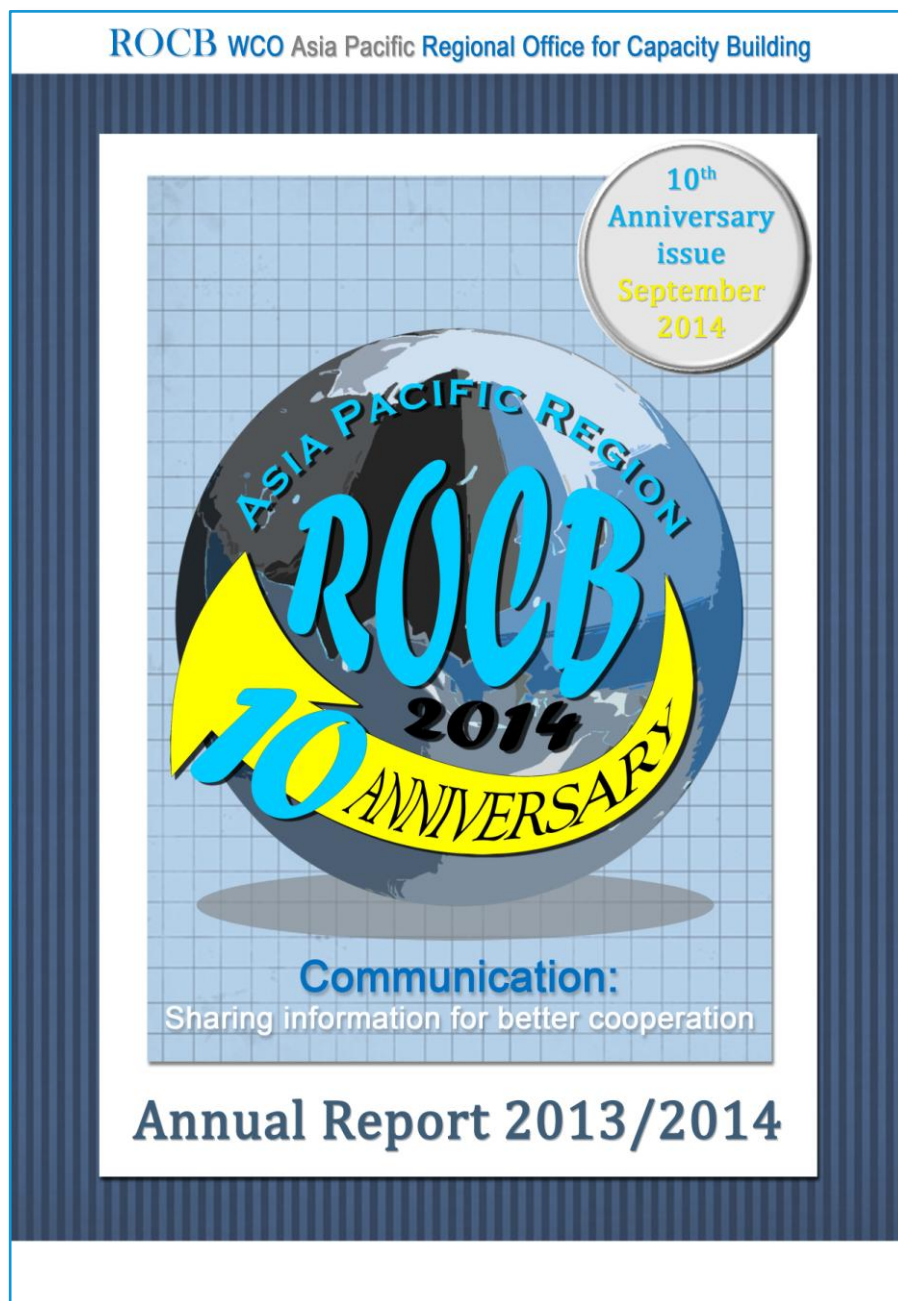
Farewell Message from Ms. Ben Chamkrom

October 2014 – Onwards (Indicative)

Event Name	Timing	Venue
➤ ADB National Workshop on Customs Valuation and Post Clearance Audit	21 - 24 October 2014	Maldives
➤ RTC Heads Meeting	6-7 November 2014	Bangkok, Thailand
➤ ROCB 10th Anniversary Ceremony	7 November 2014	Bangkok, Thailand
➤ WCO Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Accreditation Workshop	10-14 November 2014	Malacca, Malaysia
➤ RILO National Contact Points Meeting	11-13 November 2014	Colombo, Sri Lanka
➤ WCO Regional Seminar on Capacity Building on Chemical Analysis	12-14 November 2014	Kashiwa, Japan
➤ Regional Contact Points Meeting	17-20 November 2014	Malaysia
➤ WCO National Workshop on Risk Management (RM) for Viet Nam	24-28 November 2014	Viet Nam
➤ WCO National Workshop on Time Release Study (TRS) for India	17-21 December 2014	India
➤ WCO Regional Workshop on AEO Implementation	5-9 January 2015	Faridabad, India
➤ WCO National Workshop on Rules of Origin	12-16 January 2015	Malaysia
➤ WCO Regional Workshop on Single Window	12-21 January 2015	Cheonan, Korea
➤ WCO Regional Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights Accreditation	19-23 January 2015	Kashiwa, Japan
➤ Regional Integrity Workshop	5 February 2015	Melbourne, Australia
➤ Regional Heads of Customs Administrative Conference	6 February 2015	Melbourne, Australia
➤ WCO Regional Workshop on RM	9-13 February 2015	Hong Kong, China
➤ WCO Regional Workshop on RM for Environment	6-10 April 2015	Malacca, Malaysia
➤ WCO Sub-regional Valuation Train the Trainer for West Asia Countries	13-17 April 2015	Faridabad, India

NB: Official invitations will be circulated in due course.

ROCB A/P's Annual Report 2013/2014 Published!



The ROCB A/P's Annual Report 2013/2014 has been just published. Readers who wish to receive the electronic file of the Annual Report, please write to us at rocb@rocbap.org.