



The Consultation Meeting with the WCO Secretariat Officials,
14-15 July 2014 in Brussels

In This Issue:

*Welcome Mr. Igarashi,
the New Head of the ROCB A/P*





3



14

01.04.2014 18:53



19

30



34

CONTENTS

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SPECIAL TOPICS

03 Staff Replacement

- Welcome the New Head of the ROCB A/P, Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI
- Farewell Message of Former Head of the ROCB A/P, Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA
- Farewell Message to Mr. David Haigh

08 Regional Seminar on Anti-Cyber Crime Techniques in Korea

10 Contribution from Malaysia: TRS Exit Conference

12 Developments of Regional Members: Cambodia's Accession to the RKC

WORKSHOPS/ MEETINGS

14 ROCB A/P Contributed to the 5th WCO Capacity Building Committee in Belgium

16 The WCO/ICAO Joint Conference on Air Cargo Security Conference in Bahrain

17 ROCB A/P Contribution to the Regional Steering Group (RSG) meeting and WCO Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference (RHCA) in Australia

18 2014 WCO IT Conference and WCO Regional Workshop on Leadership in Single Window and WCO Data Model in Australia

19 WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Risk-Based Passenger Selectivity in Korea

20 WCO Sub-Regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on HS for Fiji

21 WCO National IPR Seminar for Thailand

22 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Directors General in Vietnam

DONOR ENGAGEMENT

23 ROCB A/P Contribution to the ADB Exit Conference on Customs Time Release Study for Malaysia

24 ROCB A/P Contribution to the IFCBA Conference in Korea

25 ROCB A/P Contribution to Workshop on Effective Practices in Transnational Cooperation in the Border Enforcement of Intellectual property Rights in Bangkok

26 ROCB A/P Contribution to the SASEC Second Meeting of the Customs Subgroup in Nepal

27 WCO/ADB National Workshop on Transportation and Trade Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) for Nepal

28 The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Transport and Trade Facilitation (TTF) Development Partners' Meeting in Philippines

29 WCO/ADB National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) for Myanmar

30 ADB/WCO National Workshop on RKC Implementation for Bhutan

OTHER ISSUES

31 Farewell Party to Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Former Head of ROCB A/P

32 The Courtesy Visit to the Top Seniors of the Thai Customs Department

33 ROCB A/P Attending the 140th Anniversary of Thai Customs

34 Consultation Meeting with the WCO Secretariat Officials

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI
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Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, Mr. LEE Seung-Kyoo, Mr. CHENG Jing,
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Welcome the New Head of the ROCB A/P

Dear readers,

It is my great pleasure and honor to extend my greetings from Bangkok for the first time as the new Head of the ROCB A/P for the next 5 years succeeding Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka. Indeed, I have quite big shoes to fill.

By way of introduction, I would like to touch upon some of my background and work experiences. I have worked for Customs for more than 30 years and have vast operational work experiences and involvement in international affairs, including 6-year long service at the Enforcement/Compliance Sub-Directorate of the WCO Secretariat. During my tenure in the Secretariat, I took the leading role for organizing meetings of the Enforcement Committee and Commercial Fraud Working Group. I also devised a series of technical guidelines and Recommendations on such enforcement subjects as commercial fraud, money laundering, tobacco smuggling, etc. based on the Members' best practices and delivered a range of training programs to disseminate these guidelines. Even after I have come back to Tokyo in July 2009, I continued to involve in a number of international consultations and took a lead in concerted actions in the enforcement domain. Through these work experiences and involvement, I have established and enjoyed close international collaboration networks with the WCO Secretariat officials and foreign Customs colleagues in various part of the world. I believe that these unique possessions of mine will be the great asset for my work in the ROCB A/P.

As you are aware, the ROCB A/P was established in



2004 and we are going to celebrate its 10th anniversary in November this year. Thanks to great leadership of previous two Heads of the ROCB A/P and dedicated work of its staff members, as well as generous hospitality and comfortable work facilities provided by Thai Customs Department, the ROCB A/P has garnered very high reputation in the Customs community. I am also fully aware of the invaluable contributions from donor administrations and development partners which assisted ROCB's activities a lot. ROCB A/P is the region's asset and it exists to serve for the Members in this region. I will always bear this constitutional principle of the ROCB A/P in mind and I am going to make utmost effort in order to live up to the Members' expectations.

Seizing this opportune occasion, I would like to re-affirm my pledge and commitment, which I explicitly delivered at the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference held in Port Douglas, Australia, where my assumption of the post was decided.

Welcome the New Head of the ROCB A/P

Among other things, first of all, I am going to assure the continuation of the current management discipline and practices of the ROCB A/P, which all of the Members appreciate and being benefited from. Reputation on the quality of the ROCB A/P's work is quite high and well recognized in various part of the world. I will be the champion of the current practices and make utmost effort to further enhance the ROCB's activities to cope with ever-changing Customs working environment in this region.

Secondly, I am going to maintain and, endeavor to further strengthen communication and collaboration with the Members and stakeholders. The ROCB belongs to the region; therefore, communication with the Members in this region is a very important key to make the ROCB's activities relevant to the Members' needs and interests. I am also going to take good care of the existing close communication channels and framework for concerted efforts with the WCO Secretariat, Regional Vice Chair and Regional Training Centers as well as development partners and other stakeholders, including the host administration.

Thirdly, I am going to bear in mind always how best the capacity building programs should be delivered to create tangible results, while respecting the Members' on-going good practices. In this regard, I am going to take a lead to make good coordination and best use of the region's pooled resources and their expertise.

I am aware that the ROCB A/P cannot fulfill its mandate alone. I therefore look forward to continued collaboration with the WCO Secretariat, Regional Vice Chair, Regional Training Centers and, of course, Members in this region as well as development partners and other

stakeholders in various domains. At the same time, I would like to seek your continued support and guidance with a view to making the ROCB A/P's work relevant and value-adding to the regional Members' needs and interests.

Kind regards,



Kazunari Igarashi
Head of the ROCB A/P



Farewell Message from the Former Head of the ROCB A/P

Dear Friends and Colleagues in the WCO and Asia Pacific Region

Now, it is my turn to write this farewell message to you after 5 years at ROCB A/P. On the first day of ROCB A/P and “land of smile” in July 2009, I enjoyed warm welcome extended by the then ROCB A/P staff and Thai Customs. Time really flies. Looking back the 5 years I spent in ROCB A/P, I feel now how lucky I am to take this challenging but enjoyable work with my wonderful colleagues and friends in the WCO and A/P region. I am returning to Japan Customs with great memories that I accumulated with all of you and with more than 100 departure stamps of the Bangkok Airport.

In the last 5 years, I witnessed, from the nearest place, the growth of ROCB A/P and regional capacity building. ROCB A/P now has 8 full-time staff from 5 countries namely China, Hong Kong China, Japan, Korea and Thailand and is supported by Australian and NZ customs attaches based in Bangkok and 7 A/P Regional Training Centers (RTC). The work of ROCB A/P has also expanded a lot, including (a) enhanced strategic collaboration with development partners and (b) pool and utilization of regional expertise. Many of those good practices initiated in the A/P region are now expanding to the other WCO regions. I am extremely happy to be part of this achievement made through the extensive efforts of the hard-working ROCB A/P staff supported by the WCO Secretariat, Vice Chair, RTCs, Thai Customs and regional members.

In addition to the role as Head of ROCB A/P, this was an extremely useful opportunity for me to utilize my



personal knowledge/experience as WCO accredited experts on RKC and Customs Modernization and try to contribute directly for the benefit of regional members. I worked with a number of countries in the A/P region and met many professional and enthusiastic customs officials. I believe that RKC will guide us to the better economic integration and development of the A/P region through simplified and harmonized customs procedures. “Borders divide, Customs connect” the word often referred to by Secretary General of the WCO clearly indicated the important role we can play for that purpose.

During the 5 years, I met a large number of Customs and non-Customs officials in and out of the A/P region and worked/discussed/brainstormed together to assist our members. The network I could establish was huge and I am sure that it would be an extremely useful asset for ROCB A/P and for me personally even after my return to the home administration. Taking this opportunity, please allow me to express my sincere

Farewell Message from the Former Head of the ROCB A/P

appreciation to Thai Customs Department for continuous support and friendship extended to ROCB A/P and myself. My life in Bangkok was busy but was truly enjoyable with your kindness. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Japan Customs who allowed me to work at ROCB A/P and strongly supported our office as well as regional capacity building. I cannot conclude this message without expressing my special thanks to my fellow colleagues in the WCO Secretariat, Vice Chairs, 7 RTCs, Development Partners and, of course, our regional members. Without your support and contribution, ROCB A/P was not able to achieve anything to this extent.

Before I conclude my message, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my fellow ROCB A/P colleagues I worked with. We come from different countries with different background/experience/way of business, and worked at ROCB A/P in the second language for all of us. Even so, we all devoted ourselves for one common goal, i.e. contributing to regional capacity building. You were all professional, knowledgeable, experienced, forward looking, kind, cheerful, hard-working, considerate, friendly, etc to name a few and, in a word, great colleagues to work with! I really learned a lot from all of you. All Thai staff, Khun Ae, Ben, Or, Kik, May and Numtan, I cannot find a word to express my appreciation to all of you but please allow me to simply say "thank you" from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and support.

ence on Customs matters and I am sure that he will be a great captain of new ROCB A/P. Finally, I do not want to say "SAYONARA (Good-bye)" but let us keep in touch and "See you again!"

With warmest regards,



Yoshihiro KOSAKA
Ex Head of the ROCB A/P

New Contact in Japan

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There may be a number of challenges in front of us but I have no doubt that ROCB A/P will continue to be a champion of the customs capacity building in the A/P region under the strong leadership of new Head, Mr. IGARASHI. He has an outstanding knowledge/experi-

Farewell Message from New Zealand Attache in Bangkok, Mr. David Haigh

One of the success stories for Customs is the work of the Asia Pacific ROCB and it has been my pleasure to work with them over the last three years. Yoshi Kosaka, and his excellent and friendly staff, are extremely active and play a significant and ever expanding role in developing Customs administrations in the region. I have been particularly pleased to note more recently their readiness to engage more closely with Customs administrations in the Pacific – an area of particular importance to New Zealand Customs. The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement will generate even more requirements for capacity building and I am sure the Asia Pacific ROCB is well up to the task. I wish them all the best.

PS. The standard of the English in ROCB reports is very high – just in case you thought English was easy; here/hair/hear are some tricky examples!

- The bandage was wound around the wound.
- The farm was used to produce produce.

- We must polish the Polish furniture
- The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert
- Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present
- When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes
- The insurance was invalid for the invalid
- There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row
- The wind was too strong to wind the sail
- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests

English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France . Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. Quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.



Regional Seminar on Anti-Cyber Crime Techniques in Korea

13 – 15 May 2014, Cheonan, Korea

Cyber-crime

Nowadays, Customs officers, in particular, Customs investigators have to face not only traditional investigation but also cyber-crime investigation. There is an increasing trend for criminals to commit Customs offences by making use of digital equipment. Dangerous drugs traffickers may communicate with each other via mobile equipments. Counterfeit medicines are sold on the internet. Illegal proceeds are transferred through internet banking. Thousands of transactions of illicit trade are completed through the internet and digital communication tools.

Then three main issues will arise. First, how do we conduct cyber-crime investigation and track and trace suspects in the cyber-world? Second, how should we manage digital crime scenes? Third, how would digital evidence be processed and analyzed to make it admissible in the trial?

To coordinate the capacity building development in relation to cyber-crime in Asia Pacific region, World Customs Organization Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) sent a representative to attend the Regional Seminar on Anti-Cyber Crime Techniques on 13-15 May 2014 in Cheonan, Korea. The Seminar was organized by Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P) in collaboration with Hong Kong Customs and Korea Customs Service. The Seminar aimed at providing the participants with concepts on cyber-crime and enriching their skills in handling the increasing volume of forensic-related investigations. The Seminar covered essential topics of network investigation, crime scene management and computer forensic analysis.



Regional Seminar on Anti-Cyber Crime Techniques in Korea

47 participants from 24 Customs administrations attended the Seminar and the programs were completed successfully. Thanks to Hong Kong Customs, Korea Customs Service and speakers from other Customs Administrations, participants deepened basic and practical anti-cyber-crime techniques. In addition, the Seminar did provide practical guidance for Internet/Network Investigation, Crime Scene Management and Digital Forensics.

ROCB A/P has taken note of the success of the Seminar and is trying to provide a platform for the development of capacity building in relation to cyber-crime. On top of the Good Practice Report on Computer Forensics (uploaded onto WCO CLIC <http://c-likc.wcoomd.org/>) written by Hong Kong Customs and Malaysia Customs, we are trying to coordinate good practice reports on Cyber-crime Investigation and Crime Scene Management.

In tandem with the advancement in information technology, technology-related crimes have also increased sharply in recent years. To gear up the Customs Administrations against the challenge of technology-related crimes, it may be time for relevant authorities to review whether resources should be re-allocated to set up cyber-crime investigation office and to invest on the equipment for cyber-crime investigation.

enhance regional members' capability to fight cyber-crime in cooperation with competent administrations.



If members have suggestions or comments on capacity building activities concerning cyber-crime investigation for Asia Pacific region, they may contact Mr James K W Wong (email address: jameskw-wong@rocbap.org), Program Manager for South East Asia of the ROCB A/P. We will try our utmost effort to

TRS Exit Conference 2014

29 April 2014, Putrajaya, Malaysia

Prepared and contributed by Dr. Mohd Afandi Md Amin and Dr. Hosni Hussien Md Saat

The Malaysia Time Release Study (TRS) Exit Conference was held at Pullman Putrajaya Lakeside Hotel, Malaysia on 29th April 2014. Among the Royal Malaysia Customs Department (RMCD)'s participants was Penang State Director of Customs, Customs Academy Director, and some HQ Deputy Directors of Customs with State's of Customs Division and State TRS Team leaders has attended the conference.

The conference is supported by Asia Development Bank (ADB), Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and participated by about 130 delegates from the trade community, other government agencies (OGAs), industries, universities and public research organizations.



Dato' Hj. Zainul Abidin bin Taib is delivering his keynote address. He is accompanied by the Penang State Director of Customs, Dato' Hj. Zulkifli Yahaya and Mr. Sunichi Hinata from ADB

In his opening address, Deputy Director General of Customs (Customs and GST) Dato' Hj. Zainul Abidin bin Taib, on behalf of the Director General highly commended that the RMCD has taken much effort and

initiatives to fulfill the calls from the World Customs Organization (WCO)'s requirements, as well as the World Trade Organization (WTO) pertaining to the implementation of trade facilitation tools and initiatives.

He added that, Malaysia TRS has been undertaken in 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2012. However, the study has been done through various questionnaire designs respectively. The TRS

2012 is using a comprehensive and consolidated questionnaire based on the WCO TRS Guideline Version 2.0. under the ASIA Cargo Highway Initiative (ACHI).

The RMCD hope that this conference provides a platform to share knowledge and findings of the TRS Malaysia with stakeholders and trade communities pertaining to the cargo clearance processes. From these findings, many suggestions were recorded that will acknowledge parties concerned, the bottlenecks of the cargo clearance process, as well as to take some suitable efforts for improving the procedures related with.

During the conference, five presenters have presented their paper of various issues and challenges on TRS. The CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Program Manager for South Asia, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi has covered the WCO and Asia Pacific region for trade facilitation. It was followed by Mr. Sunichi Hinata, Regional Cooperation Specialists from ADB that discussed the ADB's support to trade facilitation and and TRS in South East Asia. Moreover, the Japan

TRS Exit Conference 2014

Customs has shared their TRS experience via Mr. Noburu Kurita, JICA expert to RMCD.



The presenters with Penang State Director of Customs, Dato' Hj. Zulkifli Yahaya, Deputy Director of Corporate and Planning Division, Pn. Azimah Hamid together with ADB, CCF and JICA Expert

Two senior customs officials from RMCD have presented and disseminated the TRS Report 2012 and TRS 2014 Roadmap. Dr. Mohd Afandi Md Amin has presented TRS 2011 and 2012 reports and its findings, while Dr. Hosni Hussen Md Saat presented the proposed methodology and term of reference for the TRS 2014.

The conference has received many feedbacks from participants pertaining to the TRS such as the ways to improve the study, Japan TRS experience comparison to Malaysia, the actual cross border efficiency measures, and many related issues on TRS implementation and Customs procedures for importation of goods.

The participants, particularly from trade communities, customs brokers, traders, logistic operators, researchers and freight forwarders have expressed their gratitude to RMCD and ADB together with their

strategic partners for holding the conference successfully by unlocking the Pandora box of Customs' processes and procedures to the public.



A Journey of Cambodia to RKC

28 June 2014, Brussels, Belgium

In the Strategy and Work Programs on Reform and Modernization of Cambodia Customs (2009-2013), under Strategic Objective 3, Cambodia Customs has set an important plan to modernize customs system, procedures and technique in order to maximize trade facilitation by becoming a contracting party to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC).



After more than two years of hard works and well-planned preparations, Cambodia finally became 94th member of the RKC when Dr. Pen Siman, Delegate of the Royal Government in Charge of the General Department of Customs and Excise deposited the Instrument of Accession with the Secretary General of the WCO during the 123rd/124th Sessions of the Customs Co-operation Council on 28th June 2014.

Cambodia acceded to the convention through article 3, which means the acceptance of the body and the general annex. Furthermore, Cambodia decided to accept, without reservations, Chapter 2 of Specific Annex A, Chapter 1 of Specific Annex B and Chapter 1 of Specific Annex C under Appendix III. In accordance with the provision of the RKC, the said Convention will

come into force for Cambodia 3 months after the deposit of the Instrument of Accession.

Becoming contracting party of RKC requires a number of important tasks to fulfill such as the assessment of national legislation, identification of the legislation and regulations needing to be amended and developed, and establishment of management and expert team for the preparation. The main process are summarized in the below table.

Date	Process
January 2012	Step 1: Establish a project team
February 2012	Step 2: Conduct gap analysis (with support of the WCO and ROCB A/P)
2012	Step 3: adopt new regulations on Advanced Ruling, Authorized Economic Operator... - Translation into national language
2013	Step 4: - Ministry of Economy and Finance requested PM for approval in principle, 24 December 2013 - Prime Minister approval, 29 December 2013 - Review and decision on specific annexes and/or chapters to be accepted
January-June 2014	Step 5: Preparation of the accession documents and approval process: • Discussion at the Council of Ministers by Legal Committee • Council of Ministers' approval, 18 April 2014 • Parliament adoption, 20 May 2014 • Senate approval, 29 May 2014 • His Majesty the King promulgation, 14 June 2014 • Instrument of Accession signed, 24 June 2014
28 June 2014	Step 6: Deposit the Instrument of Accession with the Secretary General of the WCO

A Journey of Cambodia to RKC



As shown in the table, administrative endorsement and legal approval process is recognized the most challenging step as it needs to go through several rigorous discussions and reviews by relevant Committees of the Council of Ministers, National Assembly and the Senate respectively before passing to their plenary sessions for formal approval. According to the timetable above, Cambodia spent more than 1 year to go through the administrative endorsement and legal approvals.

Cambodia's accession to and the implementation of RKC will benefit all players from business, customs and country as whole in term of improving trade competitiveness, increase revenue collection, reducing the transaction cost, improving business climate, attracting foreign direct investment, promoting trade and sustainable economic development.

The accession to RKC is an important historical event for the country, especially for the business community because this convention is the only compact documents of customs procedures, international standards and best practices of over 500 standards. The provisions of this convention will be a foundation for reform

and modernization of Cambodia customs. The accession to the Convention also sends a positive message to the world business community about the government commitment for improving trade facilitation and customs reform and modernization. Moreover, it reflects that government service for the international trade, business transaction, investment climate in Cambodia is being carried out on the rule-based environment and using international standards.

In accordance with the World Bank's Report, Cambodia LPI ranking has risen spectacularly by 46 places, to 83 in 2014 out of 160 countries, from 129th in 2010. This improvement can be linked to the time to clear customs which felt from 5.9 days in 2010 to only 1.4 day in 2014. The GDP growth was maintained at average of 7% in the same period. The volume of international trade has increased from USD10 billions in 2010 to about USD20 billions in 2013, which resulted in more revenue collection by customs. The World Bank also reported that the poverty rate in Cambodia felt from 45% in 2007 to about 20% in 2011.

It is expected that further improvement of investment climate and trade facilitation which contribute to sustainable economic development will be repeated after Cambodia accession to the RKC.

ROCB A/P contributed to the 5th Capacity Building Committee in Belgium

31 March – 2 April 2014, Brussels, Belgium

The 5th session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee (CBC) was held in Brussels from 31 March to 2 April 2014. Around 240 registered high-level participants from WCO Member administrations and stakeholder organizations attended this grand meeting. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of the ROCB A/P, together with other ROCB A/P staff attended this important meeting.

WCO Secretary General opened the session and summarized the broad range of work delivered since last year's meeting. He noted that it was a critical moment for all Customs administrations to consider their strategies following the recent adoption of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and reassured members that the WCO was well positioned to assist



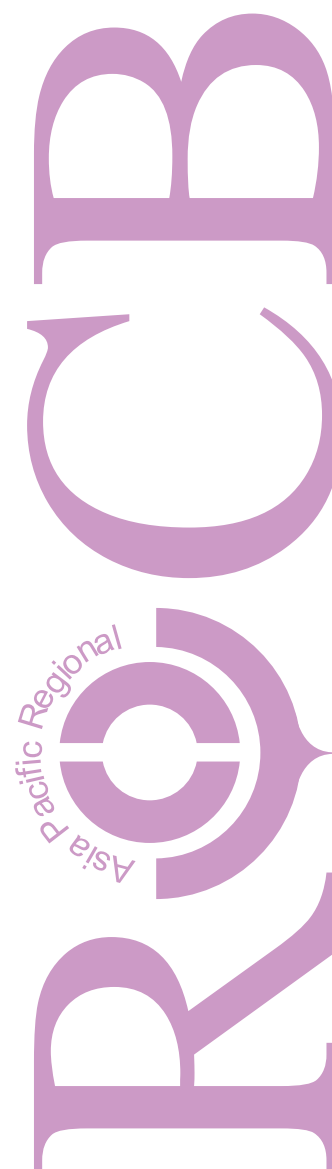
ROCB A/P contributed to the 5th Capacity Building Committee in Belgium

Members in the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, as well as providing continuous support for Customs reform and modernization programmes. Director for Capacity Building briefed the Committee on the WCO Capacity Building Progress Report since the last session of the CBC in February 2013.

In the following two day meeting, the Committee welcomed and/or endorsed several documents/initiatives, including the EU Customs Competency Framework; the WCO Framework of Principles and Practices on Customs Professionalism; the WCO People Development Interactive Map on the CLiKC! Platform; the new WCO Gender Equality Organizational Assessment Tool; the update of the Chapter on Donor Engagement of the WCO Capacity Building Development Compendium; the envisaged development of a WCO People Development/Training Diagnostic Tool, etc.

On the panel discussion on Donor Engagement, Mr. Kosaka delivered a presentation on Donor Engagement efforts in A/P region. He pointed out that collaboration with donors or development partners has been one of the top priorities for the A/P region. The ROCB A/P facilitated the organization of regional donor conference in 2012 and has been assisting customs administrations in the A/P region to organize a national donor conference, which are very important to the countries in need. The ROCB A/P further organized a resource mobilization workshop in February 2014 to further enhance national capacity of customs administrations to consult with prospective development partners. Mr. Kosaka's presentation was well received by the global customs community.

In the margins of the meeting, all ROCB A/P staff were given an opportunity to meet the Secretary General. The Secretary General recognized and commended the ROCB A/P's efforts in the delivery of a wide range of high-quality capacity building activities to the members. He also encouraged all ROCB staff to make more contribution to the regional development in various domains.



The WCO/ICAO Joint Conference on Air Cargo Security in Bahrain

15-18 April 2014, Manama, Bahrain

The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) jointly organized a conference on air cargo security and facilitation in Manama, Bahrain on 15-18 April 2014. This Conference was hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain and was attended by over 300 participants from 42 countries, 50 international and regional organizations and industry stakeholders. At the invitation of the WCO, Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in this Conference.

The Joint Conference acknowledged that a secured and efficient air cargo supply chain is essential for international trade and world economic development. In discussing the various challenges faced by the cargo industry today, the ICAO and the WCO reiterated the importance of cooperative approach for the establishment of a robust, sustainable and secure supply chain at global, regional and national levels.

During the conference, Mr. Kosaka had a series of bilateral discussions with the WCO and ICAO's executives and officers-in-charge on the arrangement of relevant capacity building programs. The idea of a joint pilot workshop in Bangkok was very well received by the Secretary Generals of both the WCO and the ICAO and other executives of two organizations. Following the discussions, the ROCB A/P has been tasked to work closely with the WCO and the ICAO to design and organize this project in the near future. Preparatory work is now well underway.



ROCB A/P contribution to the Regional Steering Group (RSG) meeting and WCO Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference in Australia

29 April – 2 May 2014, Port Douglas, Australia

The WCO Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference was held in Port Douglas, Australia from 29 April to 2 May 2014. Prior to the RHCA, the Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meeting was held on 28th April 2014. The RHCA Conference was hosted by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and was attended by delegates from 24 countries and the WCO regional Structures in the A/P region. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P attended the meeting.

The Conference endorsed several issues of key importance to the region, including the Regional Strategic Plan 2014-2016, the Terms of Reference for the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB), the Regional Customs Laboratory initiative, and the WCO regional representatives for the coming financial year. In this meeting, Mr. Kazunari Igarashi was elected as the new Head of the ROCB A/P for a five-year term. Regional Heads of Customs administrations discussed a wide range of topics, including Capacity Building (CB) activities; enforcement activities;

engagement with trade; integrity; governance; the election process for WCO officials; and emerging issues, particularly the challenge of e-commerce. The Conference also heard activity reports from the RILO and the ROCB A/P. The Region further agreed on the necessity of an annual decision-making mechanism, the details of which will be finalized following further reflection on the matter.

During the meeting, Mr. Kosaka made a presentation which outlined the ROCB A/P. It provided a report on the role and recent key areas of activity and operation of ROCB A/P, including the ROCB A/P today, the regional CB strategy, and some food-for-thought for further improvement of regional CB. He also expressed his appreciation to regional members who contributed to the regional CB activities, and their continued support during his 5-year tenure as the Head of the ROCB A/P. The meeting thanked him and the ROCB A/P for their valuable contribution for the region with a round of applause.



2014 WCO IT Conference and WCO Regional Workshop on Leadership in Single Window and WCO Data Model in Australia

5 - 9 May 2014, Brisbane, Australia



The WCO Regional Workshop on Leadership in Single Window and WCO Data Model was held from 5 to 9 May 2014 in Brisbane, Australia under the sponsorship of the Customs Cooperation Fund, Japan (CCF/Japan) and in collaboration with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS). It was attended by 36 participants from 24 Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific region and 3 additional participants from the United States and Namibia. Mr. Satya Prasad Sahu, Senior Technical Officer from WCO, together with the experts from the World Bank, Korea Customs Service, Royal Oman Police, and Netherlands Customs, facilitated the Workshop. Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operation Manager and Project Manager of ROCB A/P for South Asia and Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkoson representing the ROCB A/P also attended the Workshop as facilitators.

The Workshop was aimed at senior executives in Customs administrations and was a combined with the WCO IT Conference & Exhibition 2014. Two days were focused on theoretical presentations and practical

case stories, as well as exercises where participants were involved in identifying and dealing with the strategic issues in building a Single Window Environment. Participants were also exposed to key management aspects of Single Window functional assessment, Business Process Development, Data Harmonization using the WCO Data Model and Dematerialization.

Prior to the two-day lecture sessions, participants were invited to attend the three-day WCO IT Conference & Exhibition and to interact with the exhibitors in order to help them contribute to the final session of the Workshop with regard to “Developing a list of features for a National Single Window”. The participants actively exchanged their views on presentations delivered and case stories provided from the experts both during the Workshop and in the breakout sessions. As a result of very fruitful discussions among participants and experts, the participants greatly improved their understanding of the goals and strategic priorities to be clarified in developing a Single Window solution from a Customs and Border Management perspective. The participants expressed their appreciation to the WCO and the ROCB A/P for organizing the Workshop.



WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Risk-Based Passenger Selectivity in Korea

9 - 13 June 2014, Cheonan, Korea

The ROCB A/P in cooperation with the WCO and Korea Customs Service (KCS) organized the WCO Regional Workshop on Risk-based Passenger Selectivity from 9 to 13 June 2014 at the WCO Regional Training Centre in Cheonan, Korea under the sponsorship of the Customs Cooperation Fund, Japan (CCF Japan). A total of 33 representatives from 28 Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific Region participated in this workshop.

This 5-day workshop covered the main elements of operational risk management and then focused on risk-based passenger selectivity by examining several elements of risk assessment, profiling and targeting, including information and intelligence.

Some elements of risk management at the organizational level were also covered throughout the workshop with several syndicate group tasks, practical exercises, case studies and country presentations.

The spotlight was put on passenger selectivity. Each session was followed by lively discussions, questions and answers.

During the syndicate group tasks and country presentations, participants entered into in-depth discussions on how to identify high-risk passengers by utilizing the methodology explained in the WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium. Case studies and practical exercises also contributed to deepening an understanding of the topics.

Participants had a study visit to the K-9 Center of KCS and Incheon International Airport which was chosen as the world's best airport in service quality for the ninth consecutive year on the last day of the workshop. Participants had a chance to observe the operation of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) system at Incheon Airport Customs.



WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Risk-based Passenger Selectivity
9 - 13 June 2014 CBCTC, Korea Customs Service

WCO Sub-regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on HS for Pacific Islands in Fiji

9 - 13 June 2014, Suva, Fiji



The WCO Sub-Regional Train-the-Trainer Workshop on the Harmonized System (HS) was held at the Regional Training Center in Suva, Fiji, from 9 to 13 June 2014 under the sponsorship of the Japanese Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan). 15 participants from six Customs Administrations (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu) participated in this workshop. Ms. Ben Chamkrom, Program Coordinator of the ROCB A/P joined this workshop as a facilitator.

During the Workshop a wide range of HS-related matters were addressed and the 15 participants were thoroughly informed about the fundamental classification infrastructure and principles of the General Rules and practicalities of HS classification to ensure correct and uniform application. Following a range of

presentations on training techniques, participants had an opportunity to exercise their skills through dealing with classification-related questions. As a result, participants are now better prepared to conduct HS training in their home respective administrations.

Throughout the seminar, the participants were encouraged to continue in-house-training to improve their classification infrastructure, introduce advance ruling programs and to improve internal and external communication. Members who are not yet HS Contracting Parties were also invited to accede to this fundamental international instrument.

WCO National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Seminar for Thailand

24– 27 June 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

As one of the celebration events of the 10th Anniversary of ROCB A/P, the Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) in cooperation with the WCO and Thai Customs organized a WCO National Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights at the Thai Customs Academy, in Bangkok, Thailand from 24 to 27 June 2014 under the sponsorship of Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan).

Two IPR experts from the WCO and India Customs facilitated the Seminar, which was attended by 39 participants from 10 Thai Customs Bureaus. Also, representing the ROCB A/P, Mr. James Kai Wah Wong, Project Manager for South East Asia and Ms. Pariyabhat Ariyapongkoson, Program Coordinator attended the Seminar as facilitators. The Seminar was aimed at enhancing participants' awareness of the threat posed by counterfeit goods and knowledge and techniques in fighting against such threat. The application of TRIPS' Agreement and the WCO Interface Public-Members (IPM) were introduced.

During the seminar, 10 representatives of right holder-provided presentations on identification of genuine and counterfeit goods. In the presentations, information on the locations of where genuine goods are produced, the normal transportation routes and descriptions of the goods was shared. Practical exercises in relation to risk assessment and selection of suspicious cargoes were given to the participants respectively. Participants gave positive feedback and were able to apply what they had learned immediately. On the last day of the Seminar, the participants visited Thailand's Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) which is responsible for the registration of various intellectual property rights such as trademarks, and patents. The department is also involved in amendments of IPR laws, copyright recordation and coordination of law enforcement in fighting against counterfeit goods and promotion of awareness of IPR protection in Thailand. The WCO experts and the ROCB A/P facilitators exchanged practical ideas with the representative of DIP concerning trademark recordation process and the active role and function of DIP in IPR protection.



23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Directors General in Vietnam

2 - 3 June 2014, Dalat, Vietnam

On the occasion of the 23rd ASEAN Directors General of Customs meeting in Da Lat, Vietnam, a WCO/ASEAN Consultation session was held on 3 June and the Head of the ROCB A/P joined the WCO Secretary General for this important meeting.

In the run up to the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, the Directors General of ten ASEAN countries reviewed the progress made to date on enhanced economic integration within ASEAN. During this meeting, both the ASEAN and the WCO updated each other on new initiatives and progress made since last year's meeting. The WCO was particularly pleased to observe the great steps forward in national processes to ratify the Revised Kyoto Convention made by ASEAN members yet to accede to this instrument. Following the exchange of views on international customs development and the WCO-ASEAN collaboration, ROCB A/P made a presentation on the past and planned activities on ASEAN-related Capacity Building. At the end of the meeting, the Director Generals of ASEAN expressed their appreciation to the Head of the ROCB A/P and its staff for their dedicated work to support customs administrations in ASEAN.

Taking this opportunity, the WCO delegate met with members of the US-ASEAN Business Council to exchange views on the progress and expectations of the ASEAN Customs administrations. He stressed the importance of the role played by business in improving compliance and communication with Customs and also in advocating Customs' role to political leaders. The Business Council members thanked WCO for this

dialogue prior to their consultation session with the ASEAN Directors General.

All the participants expressed their gratitude to Vietnam Customs and its Director General, Mr. Tuc, for its warm hospitality and excellent organization of the event.



ROCB A/P contribution to the ADB Exit Conference on Customs Time Release Study (TRS) for Malaysia

29 April 2014, Putrajaya, Malaysia

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized the Exit Conference on Customs Time Release Study (TRS), in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 29 April 2014. The conference was attended by about 130 participants from the Customs Department, the private sectors, and other government authorities. At the organizers invitation, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operational Manager and Program Manager for South Asia joined the conference as a resource person.

The main objective of the Conference was the release by the Royal Malaysian Customs Department of the findings of their 2012 TRS, and an opportunity to hear feedback from all stakeholders, including the private sector and other government authorities. The plan for the next TRS was also released during the conference. In his presentation, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi introduced the outline of the WCO and the ROCB A/P, the WCO initiatives for the implementation of WTO ATF, and the WCO TRS instrument and TRS agenda in the Asia Pacific. His presentation was well received by all the participants.



ROCB A/P contribution to the IFCBA Global Conference in Korea

14 – 16 May 2014, Seoul, Korea

In response to the request from the WCO Headquarters, Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of the ROCB A/P, participated in the International Federation of Customs Brokers Association (IFCBA) global conference that was held in Seoul, Korea on 14-16 May 2014. Around 300 participants attended the conference.

Mr. Kosaka delivered an opening speech on behalf of the Secretary General of the WCO. He congratulated the IFCBA on their 25th anniversary and outlined the importance of business partnership in the modern customs environment. He also highlighted the role of customs brokers in the implementation of WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

During the conference, Mr. Kosaka was invited to outline the customs capacity building in the Asia Pacific region. A number of important points were covered, including WCO and A/P capacity building structure,



regional capacity building strategy, WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and some examples of customs business partnership on capacity building. The presentation attracted great interest of the participants.

Mr. Kosaka's contribution to the conference was very well received by the participants. The IFCBA expressed their special appreciation to the participation of the WCO and its intention to continue inviting WCO and ROCB A/P for the next conference.



ROCB A/P Contribution Workshop on Effective Practices in Transnational Cooperation in the Border Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Thailand

19 - 21 May 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

Upon the invitation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Mr. James Wong of WCO ROCP A/P attended, as a speaker and panelist, the Workshop on Effective Practices in Transnational Cooperation in the Border Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights held in Bangkok, Thailand from 19 to 21 May 2014.

The workshop was jointly organized by the USPTO and the ASEAN Secretariat. Thirty-eight participants from various parties including 9 Customs administrations of ASEAN countries, China and the United States of America, attended the workshop.

The workshop was very successful and participants shared and exchanged practical knowledge and experience in fighting transnational illicit trade in particular counterfeit goods. WCO tools, such as the Risk Management Compendium, Interface Public Members (IPM) and trade mark recordation, Customs Enforcement Network (CEN), and anti-counterfeiting operations, were introduced during the workshop. The WCO contribution to anti-counterfeiting activities was appreciated.



ROCB A/P Contribution to the SASEC Second Meeting of the Customs Subgroup in Nepal

21 - 24 May 2014, Kathmandu, Nepal

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in cooperation with Nepal Customs organized the South Asia Sub-regional Cooperation (SASEC) Second Meeting of the Customs Subgroup in Kathmandu, Nepal on 22-23 May 2014. At the organizers invitation, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi, CCF/Japan Operational Manager and Program Manager of the ROCB A/P for South Asia, joined the conference as a resource person.

The objectives of the Meeting were to: (i) discuss and agree on a Work Plan for 2014-2015 for the customs-related strategic thrusts of the SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework (TFSF); (ii) discuss and agree on national and regional capacity building programs for customs; and (iii) discuss and exchange views on a proposed study on electronic exchange of trade related documents between and among SASEC member countries.

At the request of the ADB, Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi presented the ROCB A/P's Capacity Building program for SASEC member countries and shared his advice on how to implement the programs in a collaborative manner. His presentation was well received by the meeting organizer and the participants.



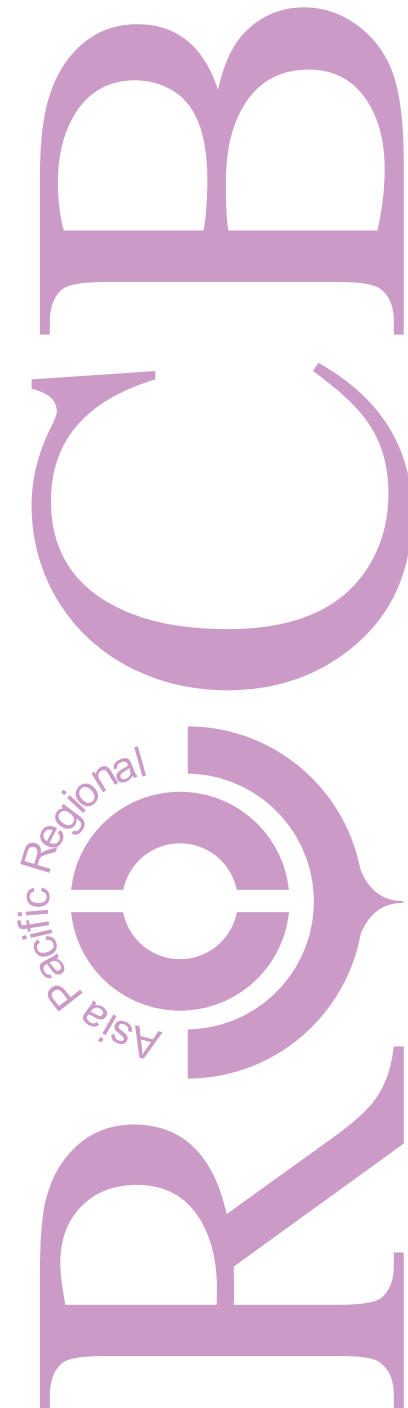
WCO/ADB National Workshop on Transportation and Trade Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) for Nepal

15 - 17 April 2014, Kathmandu, Nepal

The WCO, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) jointly organized a national workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) for Nepal from 15 to 17 April 2014. At the organizers invitation, Mr. Jing Cheng, Program Manager for Pacific Islands of the ROCB A/P joined this workshop as a resource person on behalf of the WCO.

The TTFMM program aims to strengthen the capability of the SASEC (South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation) members in examining their self trade barriers through the combined use of performance measurement instruments and tools, such as Business Process Analysis, TRS and Time Cost and Distance. The main objective of the national workshop was to assist the individual countries to develop a suitable strategy for better implementation of these tools, taking their actual geographical and trade situation into consideration.

During the workshop, Mr. Cheng introduced the WCO Time Release Study Guidelines, a useful tool to improve the overall border performance. The convening parties of the workshop thanked the WCO for the valuable contribution to this workshop.



ROCB A/P Contribution to the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Transport and Trade Facilitation (TTF) Development Partners' Meeting in Philippines

E-Newsletter July 2014

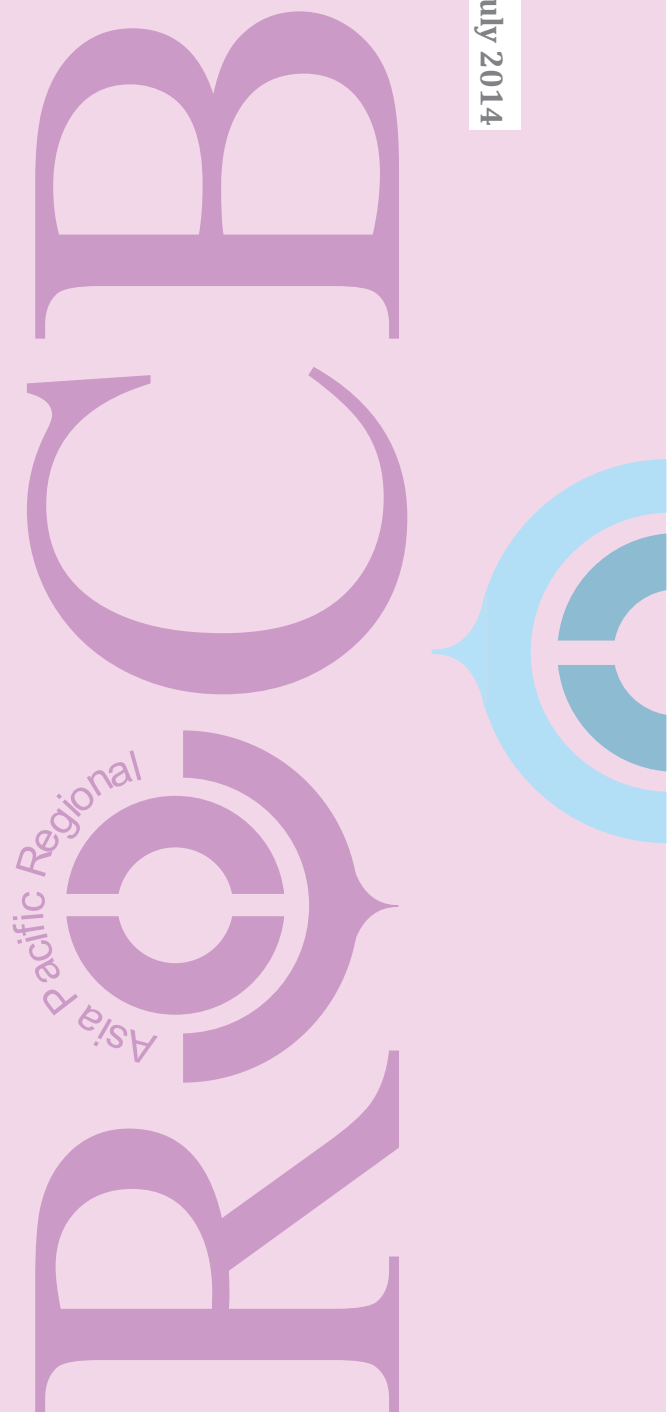
22 - 23 April 2014, Manila, Philippines

The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Transport and Trade Facilitation (TTF) Development Partners' Meeting was held in Manila, Philippines from 22 to 23 April 2014. The meeting gathered a total of 37 representatives from various international organizations, such as JICA, UNESCAP, WCO, etc. At the invitation of the Asia Development Bank (ADB), Mr. James K W Wong, Program Manager for South East Asia of the ROCB A/P, attended this meeting.

The meeting discussed the review, difficulties and the way forward for trade and transportation facilitation for countries in Asia, and in particular, ASEAN member countries. The representatives expressed their comments with a view to improving the ASEAN Economic Community.

In his presentation, Mr. Wong introduced the ROCB A/P's activities in the development of donor engagement. He illustrated briefly that WCO facilitated capacity building initiatives that would help the transportation and trade facilitation. He also talked about the WCO's efforts on the implementation of the WTO ATF and introduced some WCO tools and instruments useful in that regard.

The chairman thanked the ROCB A/P for the valuable input to the meeting.



WCO/ADB National Workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) for Myanmar

28 - 30 May 2014, Yangon, Myanmar

The ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized the WCO national workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) in Yangon Myanmar from 28 to 30 May 2014. It was attended by 27 mid-level customs officers of Myanmar Customs. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of the ROCB A/P attended this workshop as an expert.

In light of the Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014, the ROCB A/P makes every effort to accelerate Members' accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC). In April 2013, the WCO Sub-regional workshop on RKC for South East Asian Countries was held in RTC Malaysia, under the sponsorship of the Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan). As one of the follow-up activities, this national workshop was held to provide the targeted technical support to Myanmar Customs based on the gaps identified in the sub-regional workshop.

The tangible outcomes of this workshop include improved understanding of the RKC, particularly on its benefits. By conducting a gap analysis, they now have a clear roadmap to accede to the RKC in the near future. The experts agreed to render ongoing support to Myanmar Customs as appropriate.



ADB/WCO National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) Implementation for Bhutan

9 - 12 June 2014, Thimpu, Bhutan



Responding to the needs expressed by the Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC) of Bhutan, the WCO in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) delivered a 4-day national Workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) Implementation in Thimpu, Bhutan on 9-12 June 2014. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of the ROCB A/P, together with the experts from the WCO, the ADB and Japan Customs participated in this workshop.

This workshop is considered as timely assistance as Bhutan is now at the final stage of accession to the RKC. The workshop agenda was customized to meet emerging needs at this critical moment. Through the information exchange and the discussions among resource persons and participants, the DRC came up with the clear idea on how to implement these important provisions and developed an action plan for their smooth implementation.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for relevant stakeholders to communicate with the RKC expert team on the last day of the workshop. This session brought together about 25 stakeholders from the Bhutan Exporter Association (BEA), the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI), the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) and the Department of Trade (DOT). This delicate arrangement was very much appreciated by all the participants.

This workshop was part of the joint coordinated support of the ROCB A/P and the ADB for assisting the SASEC (South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation) countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The WCO, the ROCB A/P and the ADB will continue this collaborative approach for the provision of tangible assistance for the members.

Farewell Party to Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, former Head of the ROCB A/P

17 June 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

On 17th June 2014, Thai Customs Department hosted a farewell luncheon to Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, ex head of the ROCB A/P. The event took place at the Customs Club of Thai Customs Department. Approximately 50 Customs officers mainly from the Planning and International Affairs Bureau also joined as the organizing team of this event.

To mark this honor event, Ms. Chawewan Kongcharoenkitkul, Principal Advisor on Duty Collection Management and Development and Mr. Chuchai Udompote, Deputy Director-General of Thai Customs, took pictures with Mr. Kosaka together with all distinguished guests. Following this, some souvenirs were presented to Mr. Kosaka before having a pleasant meal together.

Mr. Kosaka expressed his high appreciation towards this special and warm occasion arranged by Thai Customs Department.



The Courtesy Visit to Top Seniors of the Thai Customs Department

Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, the new head of the ROCB A/P paid the Courtesy Visit to the top seniors of the Thai Customs Department.



The Courtesy Visit to Dr. Somchai Sujjaponse, the Director-General (above), the Principal Advisors and the Deputy Director-Generals (below) of the Thai Customs Department



ROCB A/P Attending the 140th Anniversary of Thai Customs

04 July 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

On 4th July 2014, Mr. Kazunari IGARASHI, Head of ROCB A/P and his staff attended the 140th Anniversary of the Thai Customs Department. The occasion marked 140 years of the Customs Department serving Thailand and its contribution to the whole Customs community.

This auspicious event, marked by Dr. Somchai Sujjapongse, Director-General of The Customs Department, was held at the Customs Headquarters in Bangkok. The list of guests attending the celebration included a select number of current and past customs officers, members of the media, private sector officials and executives from the Ministry of Finance.



Consultation Meeting with the WCO Secretariat Officials

14-15 July 2014, Brussels, Belgium



Mr. Kazunari Igarashi, the new Head of the ROCB A/P, visited the WCO Secretariat on 14-15 July 2014 and had a series of meetings with WCO officials, including Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the WCO and Mr. Eric Kieck, Director of Capacity Building Directorate. These meetings provided an opportunity to confirm ROCB A/P's activities are consistent with the WCO policy and strategy. The meetings also offered an opportunity to renew the existing cooperative relationship with the WCO Secretariat and the ROCB A/P.

The Secretary General commended the ROCB A/P's contribution to the regionalization policy of the WCO and the technical assistance activities, which are essential in the pursuit of Customs reform and modernization, especially for implementing WTO Trade Facilitation Agreements (TFA).

technical assistance to the regional members is more result-oriented and multi-dimensional. These visions were supported by the Secretary General.

In discussions with Mr. Kieck, Mr. Igarashi shared several ideas regarding technical assistance support, including the use of the region's experts and the designing of workshop programs. Mr. Kieck briefed on several issues which his Directorate is placing priorities, including fostering of leadership in Customs reform and modernization, application of performance measurement techniques for technical assistance activities and the need to strengthen the collaboration with development partners.

In addition to these afore-mentioned WCO officials, Mr. Igarashi met with senior officials of the SG's Office, including the fund manager of CCF/Japan, as well as officials of the 3 Directorates exchanging views on the future technical assistance activities and the respective programs for the future.

Future Activities

Event Name	Timing	Venue
Global Container Control Programme "Kick-off" Meeting	20 - 21 August 2014	Bangkok, Thailand
RILO Regional Seminar on National Customs Enforcement Network (nCEN) and Utilization on Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) Database	16 - 18 September 2014	Seoul, Korea

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