



WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

Issue No.43: January 2014



10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
ROCB A/P E-Newsletter

# HAPPY

# 2014



FROM **ROCB** A/P STAFF

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

Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, Mr. LEE Seung-Kyoo, Mr. CHENG Jing,  
Mr. WONG Kai-wah, James, Ms. Yotsawadee TRAKONSUP,  
Ms. Ben CHAMKROM, Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON,  
Mr. Dale FURSE, Mr. David HAIGH

WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P)  
Address: Thai Customs Department, Sunthornkosa Rd.,  
Khlong Toey, Bangkok 10110 Thailand  
Telephone: (66)-2-667-6777  
Facsimile: (66)-2-667-6814  
<http://rocb.wcoasiapacific.org>  
CHENG Jing (Mr): [chengjing@rocbap.org](mailto:chengjing@rocbap.org)  
Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON (Ms): [pariyabhat@rocbap.org](mailto:pariyabhat@rocbap.org)



## Message from WCO Secretary General

It gives me enormous pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the World Customs Organization's Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) in the Asia/Pacific Region on this, its tenth anniversary. In reaching this impressive milestone, it is important to recall the origins of the ROCB; its *raison d'être* and the impact it has had on Customs reform and modernization in Asia/Pacific.



The notion of regionalization is embedded in the WCO's capacity building strategy, which was adopted in 2003, and the ROCBs are the mechanism to achieve this. The ROCBs are responsible for identifying accurate capacity building needs and possible solutions; enhancing the coordination of capacity building activities with regional members and the WCO Secretariat; monitoring projects; improving networking with donor agencies and relevant organizations; using resources cost-effectively; and coordinating the use and implementation of WCO instruments, tools, and practices in the region.

The Asia/Pacific ROCB, established in 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand, was the first WCO ROCB. It began life in a small office armed with just an idea, a modest budget, one seconded Customs official and the marked absence of a guidance manual. Since then, it has grown to become a crucial element in the WCO's capacity building strategy.

There is no doubt that the ROCB Asia/Pacific has achieved its objectives and has set the gold

standard which others seek to follow. Its influence extends throughout the Asia/Pacific region and embodies the spirit of regionalization that the WCO has long championed.

I am eternally grateful to the Thai Customs administration for their unfailing generosity and persistence in hosting and supporting the ROCB since its inception. I also greatly appreciate the contribution of resources- financial and human, by WCO Members in the region.

In closing, I would like to thank all current and former staff of the ROCB in Bangkok for your hard work and dedication to the Customs cause. Customs administrations in the Asia/Pacific region will continue to reap the benefits of this unique ROCB in the decades ahead.

Kunio Mikuriya

WCO Secretary General



Australian Government  
Australian Customs and  
Border Protection Service

E-Newsletter January 2014

## Message from WCO A/P Regional Vice-Chair

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, on behalf of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific Region, in its role as the Vice-Chair, would like to congratulate the Asia/Pacific Regional Office of Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) on its upcoming 10th year of operation, in 2014.

Since its beginning in 2004, as the first WCO ROCB, the Office is now recognized as the standard for which all other ROCB's are measured against, and this in part has only transpired with the effort and energy of the staff that have worked with and within the ROCB A/P.

Supporting the ROCB A/P in undertaking its vital work has been Thailand Customs as the host administration. As the Vice-Chair we recognize that Thailand's ongoing support of the ROCB A/P has been an essential component for the success of the ROCB A/P over the last 10 years.

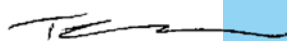
It is important to recognize that the operation of the ROCB A/P Office depends upon the support of our regional members, and it is pleasing to see that our region has always been willing to support the growth of the ROCB A/P. Through the use of regional experts and the collaborative approach with the Regional Training Centres (RTCs), our Region is now firmly positioned as a leading region for the WCO. This coordinated approach between the members, RTCs and the ROCB A/P will ensure that the Asia/Pacific Region will continue to meet the challenges ahead.

The future will continue to see many

obstacles faced by the members of our Region with border security requirements of today's international environment emerging as one of the biggest challenge to face Customs administrations. A high priority for the Region will be the continuation of work towards Coordinated Border Management, an integral part of the WCO's vision for Customs in the 21st Century. In order to manage increasing trade and travel flows across the region we will need to look at a more coordinated approach by all of our border control agencies, both domestically and internationally and the ROCB A/P will play a crucial role in this process.

We are confident that the ROCB A/P will continue to meet the challenges posed and we look forward to continuing our close cooperative working relationship over the next ten years and beyond.

Yours sincerely



Teresa Conolan  
WCO A/P Vice-Chair Secretariat  
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service  
14 November 2013

## Message from Thai Customs (Host Administration)

On behalf of Thai Customs, it is my pleasure to congratulate the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) on the celebration of its 10th anniversary.

Today, Customs Administrations are facing with many challenges and ROCB A/P definitely plays a vital role to contribute to the regional development of the capacity building. The ROCB A/P has not only done the wonderful job in promoting WCO Conventions, instruments and tools but also enhanced great cooperation with members and development partners. Since its establishment in 2004, ROCB A/P has successfully expanded its role until led to the development of the WCO Capacity Building Strategy. There is no doubt why ROCB A/P is recognized by WCO as one of the best capacity building offices.

On this special occasion, the Thai Customs Department, as the A/P members and the Host Administration of ROCB A/P, would like to express our sincere appreciation for continuous cooperation and joint support towards our organization in terms of capacity building e.g. workshops, trainings, knowledge management etc. Accordingly, to ensure that this role of the Host Administration continues, Thai Customs commits to continuously provide resources and supports in order to create a positive work environment for all staffs while working in Thailand.

In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P, and all staffs for a joyous anniversary celebration and for continued



**Rakop Srisupaat**  
Director-General of Thai Customs

success in the years ahead.

**Rakop Srisupaat**  
Director-General of Thai Customs

## Message from First Head of ROCB A/P

It is my honor and privilege to extend my warmest congratulations on the tenth anniversary of the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), and to acknowledge its splendid achievements over the last ten years.

The Heads of Customs Meeting of the Asia Pacific Region (AP), held in April 2004, agreed to the establishment of the ROCB A/P in Bangkok, a decision which was endorsed by the WCO Council in June 2004. Thanks to the immense efforts of the Thai Customs Department, AP Members celebrated the inauguration of the ROCB A/P on 28 September 2004. As the first Head of the ROCB A/P, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the dedication shown by the Working Group established in Thai Customs headed by Ms. Rashaneewan Rawirath, the Director for Customs Academy, to ensure that the ROCB A/P was granted official approval by the Thai government.

The ROCB A/P represented a totally new direction for the WCO. No manuals, guidelines or best practices existed to guide us on our way. I can only compare the situation to that of a sailor's, sailing in the middle of a dark sea, looking for a lighthouse to serve as a beacon. It was at that moment, our office was small, myself and one assistant, but nevertheless, our ambitions were great. We were driven by a common goal: to assist and enhance the capacity of Customs administrations in the AP region. I quickly came to realize that it would be dependent on raising the profile and improving the visibility of the ROCB A/P to achieve the goal. I decided on one guiding principle: never to say "No" or "cannot" to any capacity building requests. Guided by this principle, and bolstered by our common goal, I initiated several projects including the publication of an e-newsletter on a regular basis to provide updates on ROCB activities to the AP Members and other stakeholders. In this regard, I am pleased to see that this newsletter, which originated from such humble beginnings,

is now celebrating its forty-third edition, at the same time as the ten-year anniversary of the ROCB A/P.

The establishment of Regional Training Centers (RTC) and ROCB A/P

meeting, and cooperation with donors such as the Asian Development Bank are further examples of initiatives launched in 2004. These activities were expanded at a global level by the efforts of the WCO Secretariat. Supported by AP Members and the WCO Secretariat, the capacity of the ROCB A/P was expanded and its activities and programs were greatly enhanced. China, Japan and Korea Customs as well as Thai Customs, host administration of the ROCB A/P, seconded their officials to the ROCB A/P during my tenure, testament both to their commitment and faith in the ROCB A/P.

Currently, under the leadership of Mr. Kosaka, the activities of the ROCB A/P have achieved recognition from all stakeholders. With the advent of globalization, the Customs environment has changed rapidly and dramatically. Adapting to this ever-changing Customs environment can prove challenging, and I sincerely hope that the ROCB A/P can maintain its place at the center of the capacity building field in order to deal with requests from AP Members and to ensure that their capacity building needs are being met. Once again I would like to offer my utmost congratulations on the Tenth Anniversary of the ROCB A/P, and my best wishes for the future.



Takashi Matsumoto

(Former Head of the ROCB Asia Pacific)  
External Relations Coordinator  
Office of the Secretary General

## Message from Current Head of ROCB A/P

Dear colleagues and friends of the Asia Pacific Region,

A Happy New Year to you all from Bangkok, Thailand! In celebrating the beginning of 2014, all staff of ROCB A/P wishes the New Year turns out to be the happiest and the best for all of you!

2014 is indeed a memorial year for ROCB A/P. ROCB A/P was born in September 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand as a very first ROCB in the world and, as you realized, we celebrate our “10th Birthday” this year. With the strong assistance and support extended by our host administration “Thai Customs”, then Vice-Chairs of the A/P region, 7 Regional Training Centers (RTCs), the WCO Secretariat and, of course more importantly, A/P regional members, ROCB A/P has gradually and successfully expanded its work and scope of assistance since 2004. It is now the world’s biggest ROCB with 8 full-time staff from 5 regional members namely, China, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Korea and Thailand. We are proud to be considered one of the successful models of the WCO’s regional capacity building policy. There is no doubt that this significant achievement was made through not only the great efforts made by the ROCB



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

A/P staff but also the collaborative forward-looking work among the relevant parties involved in the A/P regional capacity building activities. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for all parties involved in those activities through many different ways/forms including: seconding staff to ROCB A/P; participating in regional events as experts; funding, hosting and organizing regional activities; and providing logistic support and etc.

To celebrate our 10th Birthday, ROCB A/P, together with our host administration “Royal Thai Customs”, is planning a series of activities throughout 2014. As part of its activity and to celebrate the beginning of our 10th Anniversary year, we are glad to send this “10th Anniversary Issue of ROCB A/P e-newsletter” to readers.



Happy 2014! (from ROCB A/P Staff)



## Message from Current Head of ROCB A/P



iii) Implementation of coordinated joint project/program with Development Partners

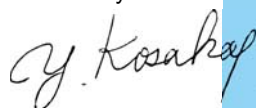
iv) Mobilization of regional resources for regional capacity building

v) Implementation of result-oriented multi-year project

vi) Hand-in-Hand efforts with regional members for the improved effectiveness

The Regional Heads of Customs Administrations (RHCA) Conference to be held in Australia in April is expected to adopt a new Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) for 2014-2016. The ROCB A/P will implement capacity building projects fully taken into account the new direction to be given by our regional Heads. In this regard, all staff of ROCB A/P committed ourselves to continuing our best efforts and look forward to working with all of you for the betterment of A/P region through Customs capacity building.

Sincerely



Yoshihiro Kosaka

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

ROCB A/P has grown in the last 10 years but is still continuing to evolve through initiatives including:

i) Systematic and effective needs collection and analysis

ii) Preparation of tailor-made programs responding to members' needs/priorities





## Message from Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority

On behalf of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA), I wish to congratulate the Regional Office of Capacity Building Asia Pacific (ROCB A/P) on its 10th anniversary.

Fiji is one of the countries that has greatly benefitted from your capacity building programs over the decade.

Because of our geographical location, we are vulnerable to transnational crimes and the ever sophisticated web of crime.

One of our greatest challenges as a developing nation is capacity building, in all aspects – human capital, infrastructure and technology, and having an enabling legislative framework that is modern and conducive to the environment we operate in.

In this regard, we are forever grateful to the opportunities that come our way to develop and invest in our human resources. We have seen and acknowledge with appreciation the work that the ROCB A/P has been and continues to do for its Members in this important area.

As for Fiji Customs, like other Administrations, we commend the ROCB A/P in playing a key role to co-ordinate, facilitate and ensure the effective delivery of training programs. For Fiji, such training programs are aligned to our Vision of becoming the premier revenue collection and border management agency in the Oceania region. Our officers have been able to attend courses, seminars and workshops that are aimed at enhancing skills and work performance, as well as improved productivity. Of course, officers have been exposed to all the different facets of customs work, be it border management, trade facilitation, auditing, investigation, compliance and enforcement, rules of origin, and integrity, to name a few. Through such programs, I can confidently say that our officers are



**Mr. Jitoko Tikolevu**

Chief Executive Officer

able to impart their learning to our colleagues within the Oceania region through being part of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) organised Missions to its Member countries. We have hosted officers from a number of smaller administrations in the region as part of our twinning programs.

I also note that the ROCB A/P has been very supportive of Fiji Customs' journey to host a World Customs Organisation Regional Training Centre since 2012. This obviously will open up a lot of opportunities for the Fiji Customs and the members of the OCO to ensure that officers are exposed to better learning programs and methodologies. The Regional Training Centre accreditation process again proves to be the outcome of the continued support from regional partners including the ROCB A/P.

Your assistance has made our country safer for our citizens because we have well trained customs officers.

You have done well in these 10 years ROCB A/P. Congratulations and thank you. And I am confident that, the FRCA and the ROCB A/P will continue to improve and enhance our partnerships in the coming decades.

## Message from Hong Kong Customs

I congratulate the Asia Pacific World Customs Organization Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) on the 10th anniversary of its establishment.

Since inception in 2004, ROCB A/P has dedicated itself towards uplifting the technical competence and professional knowledge of different member administrations through the provision of structured training activities. This serves not only to guard against the serious threat posed by increasing sophistication of criminal syndicates, but also in developing a sense of affinity and spirit of cooperation.

Hong Kong Customs is pleased to have been involved by sending delegates to participate in various thematic seminars, organizing workshops through our accredited training school on topics such as risk management, computer forensics and anti-drug strategy, as well as seconding an officer to work in ROCB A/P as programme manager since 2011.

Looking ahead, I am confident that ROCB A/P will continue to build on the success that it has achieved over the years and hold on



Mr Clement Cheung,  
Commissioner of Customs and Excise,  
Hong Kong Customs

to the tradition of striving for excellence in meeting emerging regional needs.

Mr Clement Cheung,  
Commissioner of Customs and Excise,  
Hong Kong Customs



सत्यमेव जयते  
Praveen Mahajan  
Special Secretary  
&  
Chairperson

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE/DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
CENTRAL BOARD OF EXCISE & CUSTOMS  
NORTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI-110 001  
Tel. No. +91-11-23092849, Fax No.: +91-11-23092890

## Message from India Customs

Dear WCO Asia/Pacific Members,

The Indian Customs administration appreciates the increasing number of Capacity Building activities being undertaken by the ROCB/AP. The capabilities of Customs administrations need to be enhanced extensively as they face new challenges and need to harness new opportunities in a rapidly changing landscape.

The success of Customs Administrations in being effective and efficient in their working is dependent on people, processes and technology. Capacity Building activities enhance knowledge, skills, and capability of personnel and prepares them for change. Therefore, the emphasis on development of region-specific and country specific responses is vital. ROCB A/P recognizes this and conducts and organizes a variety of capacity building activities and training to suit the needs of the Members. Such activities enhance the capacity of customs administration which helps in promoting and facilitating international trade, while ensuring the security of trade supply chain. The Indian Customs administration is

proud to partner with WCO and ROCB/AP in these initiatives.

I take this opportunity to express my whole-hearted appreciation of the contribution

of ROCB/AP to the Capacity Building

initiatives and congratulate them on their 10th anniversary. I convey our best wishes to ROCB A/P and its team of excellent officers, led by Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, in all future endeavours and look forward to our constructive engagement with them in the years to come.



Praveen Mahajan  
Chairperson, Central Board of Excise  
and Customs

*Praveen Mahajan*  
Praveen Mahajan

Chairperson, Central Board of Excise and  
Customs



## Message from I. R. Iran Customs Administration (IRICA)



Massoud Karbasian  
IRICA President

Dear distinguished colleagues,

As you are well aware, Capacity Building is increase of knowledge, skills, outputs and capabilities of any organization. Considering the importance of capacity building in customs field and concerning the ever increasing challenges in international supply chain, customs organizations must enhance their vigilance, efforts and co-operation to perform well and to serve communities better than now and then.

Powerful leadership is one of the issues that guarantees success in capacity building. Capacity building is like a team sport that requires board and staff leadership. Now composing its organizational and national level, there is such a team with a good level of commitment and motivation in Iran Customs and we believe there is such a commitment in the Asia Pacific Region as well.

A very important factor which is a necessity in customs field is a regional supporter and leader for capacity building in customs. This is a must for all

regions due to nature of customs agencies that are dealing with trans-border concerns and needfulness of collective efforts. So this is a good opportunity to remind to us and our colleagues in customs community, especially 33 WCO members in the region, the importance of the Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) which is a flagship office among its peers.

In the end, on behalf of the I. R. Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) I present my warmest congratulations to the ROCB A/P, its staff, our colleagues in the region, and the Secretary General of WCO for the occasion of 10th anniversary of ROCB A/P, and wish you all the best for the New Year.

Warmest regards,

Massoud Karbasian  
President, IRICA

## Message from Japan Customs



**Yutaka Miyauchi**  
Director-General, Customs and Tariff Bureau,  
Ministry of Finance, Japan

I congratulate the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) on its 10th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 2004, ROCB A/P has been contributing significantly to capacity building activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Thanks to the strong initiative shown by ROCB A/P, the quality and quantity of capacity building activities in the region has been significantly improved, and this naturally evokes the respect and admiration of the member Customs administrations of the WCO.

It is a great honor that Japan Customs has been supporting a large number of capacity building activities through CCF/Japan. In addition, Japan

Customs has dispatched our eminent officers to ROCB A/P, as well as to various regional events, to share our knowledge and expertise. It is my belief that our contributions have attracted high commendations from the regional members. This could not have been possible without the devotion of the ROCB A/P staff and their great coordination with the WCO Secretariat, regional members, RTCs, and other development partners. I would also like to express my appreciation to Thai Customs, which has been supporting the activities of ROCB A/P as the host administration since its establishment.

In the current ever-changing economic and social environments, modernizing Customs administrations through improving the capacity of officers is key to discharging the roles and responsibilities of Customs. In other words, effective and comprehensive capacity building is vital for Customs in the new era. I am fully convinced that ROCB A/P will continue to be a splendid conductor of capacity building activities in our region.

I take this opportunity to renew our strong and continuous support for ROCB A/P. Finally, I wish ROCB A/P all the best, and for a bright and successful future in the years ahead.

Yutaka Miyauchi  
Director-General,  
Customs and Tariff Bureau,  
Ministry of Finance, Japan

## Message from Macao Customs

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the ROCB A/P, I have much pleasure, on behalf of myself and my colleagues in Macao Customs, to convey to you our warmest felicitations and good wishes.

ROCB A/P was established in September 2004 as a very first ROCB in the world and, since then, the ROCB A/P has played a fundamental role in providing quality assistance to our regional members. I would like to highlight the significant achievement made by ROCB A/P in being widely recognized as a “best practice” of ROCB operation through the hard working ROCB A/P staff.

I wish the ROCB A/P continued success in its efforts and all the best for your future work.

Choi Lai Hang

Director-General of Macao Customs



Choi Lai Hang

Director-General of Macao Customs



## Message from Royal Malaysian Customs Department

On behalf of all the Royal Malaysian Customs Department and the WCO-RTC Malaysia staff, it gives me great pleasure in conveying my heartiest congratulation to the WCO-ROCB A/P.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the WCO-ROCB A/P for her tireless management and leadership in capacity building initiatives throughout the decade of excellence in enhancing customs effectiveness and efficiency in sustainable ways. The WCO-ROCB A/P has been the catalyst for progress and prosperity of customs administrations not only in the Asia Pacific region, but also leading other WCO-ROCBs in their capacity building initiatives with steadfast dedication and commitment.

Her achievements through the four established pillars of activities in accordance with her Strategic Plans are commendable. It has successfully inculcated members to implement the WCO conventions, Instruments and Tools; to work very closely with development partners; to carefully manage the capacity building activities; and to enhance the information sharing among members.

Feeling closely connected with her establishment as an advocate in regional approach to the WCO Capacity Building initiatives, the WCO-RTC Malaysia is proud to be a part of the successful team and ever willing to share our expertise and resources within our capacity to support the continuous success of



**Y. BHG. DATO' SRI KHAZALI BIN HAJI AHMAD**  
S.S.A.P., D.S.D.K., D.I.M.P., D.J.N.  
KETUA PENGARAH KASTAM  
MALAYSIA

the WCO-ROCB A/P

I am confident that the WCO-ROCB A/P will be able to continue playing her vital role in enhancing the capacity building of member administrations. I look forward to seeing WCO-ROCB A/P embark on her second decade with continuous dedication, and I wish the WCO-ROCB A/P every success in her efforts to support our common Endeavour.

Best wishes and good luck for many decades of success!

Yours truly

**Dato' Sri Khazali Haji Ahmad**  
Director General  
Royal Malaysian Customs Department

## Message from Mongolia Customs



O. GANBAT

Director General of Mongolia Customs

Dear ROCB A/P colleagues,

On behalf of Mongolian Customs and myself, I am greatly pleased to extend my warmest congratulations on the occasion of 10th anniversary of ROCB A/P and appreciation for ROCB A/P continuous support and capacity building efforts provided to the WCO member administrations throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Ten years may seem a short span of time but what the ROCB A/P has achieved for a decade displays the outstanding results and move forward despite the region is composed of most populated countries and small ones with different levels of economic development and trade.

The ROCB A/P has played an important role in the regional advancement of economic integration, simplification of customs procedures and trade facilitation allowing expedite flow of goods through the borders.

Mongolian Customs benefited extensively from ROCB A/P assistance in capacity building, regional training programs, workshops and best-practice sharing and implementation of the Strategic Plan developed with the assistance rendered by the ROCB A/P and Australian Customs.

It has been my pleasure to note that Mongolian Customs has taken an active role in regional customs cooperation and successfully hosted the 20th AP RILO meeting in 2008 and 19th AP Regional Contact Points meeting in 2009 which definitely contributed to customs dialogue, exchange of information and customs modernization in the region.

Taking this opportunity I would like to wish ROCB A/P colleagues all the best and every success in your endeavors and further attempts to make ROCB A/P as the best ROCB in the world.

Yours faithfully,

O. GANBAT

Director General of Mongolia Customs

## Message from RTC China



**Mr. XIAO Jianguo**  
President of Shanghai Customs College (SCC)

At the special moment when ROCB A/P celebrates its 10th anniversary, I, on behalf of Shanghai Customs College (SCC), RTC (China) to extend our sincere congratulations for the remarkable achievements ROCB A/P has attained in the past decade. It is well recognized that ROCB A/P has grown to be a dynamic regional hub for effective and efficient Customs capacity building from its humble establishment in 2004 in Bangkok.

Interestingly, it has been 10 years for SCC to be established as a WCO RTC. In the past 10 years, under the guidance of China Customs and the rigorous coordination of ROCB A/P, SCC has taken due responsibility, hosting a wide range of seminars/workshops commis-

sioned by the WCO and ROCB A/P. Besides, SCC also hosted the 3rd and 9th RTC Head Meetings when our colleagues and friends deliberated on how to enhance training efforts.

The bonds between ROCB A/P and SCC has been drawn closer through our “people”. Instructed by General Administration of China Customs (GACC), SCC has selected and seconded our staff to work as technical attaches in ROCB A/P. From 2007 and 2012, Mr. ZHANG Shujie, joined ROCB A/P team and contributed his energy and expertise to a wide range of regional efforts. Back to SCC, he, as Deputy Director of Training & International Cooperation, could bring much what he gained in ROCB A/P to SCC development. Currently, Mr. Cheng Jing, another SCC selected officer, is carrying on the contribution and efforts.

Looking into the future, SCC aspires to establish itself as a leading RTC and a real Customs Center of Excellence in Asia Pacific and beyond. Along the journey, we will look forward to more strong support and coordination from ROCB A/P. We would work hand-in-hand with ROCB A/P and all the other six RTCs for better Customs and better community in Asia Pacific.

Mr. XIAO Jianguo  
President of Shanghai Customs College (SCC)  
Head of RTC China  
Management Committee Member of International Network of Customs University (INCUI)



## Message from RTC Hong Kong, China

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations to the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) for its 10th Anniversary.

We all understand that Customs in the 21st Century has been moving forward to cope with the ever-changing global environment. While the conventional role of Customs as a gate-keeper will remain the same, the responsibilities in relation to the movement of goods along the global supply chain have been broadened. Customs has to expedite and harmonize clearance procedures to enhance safety and security on the one hand, as well as maintain effective trade facilitation on the other.

To address our challenges ahead in the complicated environment, it is crucial and vital to enhance Customs capabilities through capacity building. To realize this end, ROCB A/P has been achieving the coordinating role amongst the seven Regional Training Centres (RTCs) and the Customs regional members for the betterment of capacity building since its establishment in 2004. Over the years, we value the steadfast commitment and excellence of ROCB A/P in support of the WCO Capacity Building strategy for enhanced professionalism and human resources development at regional level.



Mr. KOON Hon Chuen (Second left), Commandant of Customs and Excise Training School, Hong Kong Customs inspecting the trainees.

I on behalf of RTC Hong Kong would like to express our utmost appreciation to ROCB A/P for their hard work and dedication all along for enhancing the capabilities of the Customs administrations in the region.

I look forward to the continued good work and valuable collaboration on the capacity building activities with ROCB A/P and other regional members.

Happy 10th Anniversary!

KOON Hon Chuen  
Commandant  
Customs and Excise Training School  
Hong Kong Customs

## Message from RTC Japan



**Mr. Shigeo Urai,  
Managing Director, CTI**

It is our greatest pleasure to congratulate on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building for the Asia and the Pacific Region. We think that many things have been accomplished in a mere decade.

The Customs Training Institute (CTI) is a facility attached to Ministry of Finance, Japan. The CTI was established in 1953 and relocated from Tokyo to Kashiwa (the current location) in 1989. Then, it started conducting international training courses around 1996. Along with the expansion of such training courses, the CTI became one of the WCO RTCs in 2004.

Since the inception of the ROCB A/P, the CTI has been enjoying collaborative work through hosting numerous regional workshops and Heads of A/P WCO RTCs Meetings, etc. Also, we can recall a number of initiatives launched by the ROCB A/P, including the promotion of the Centers of Excellence concept, the compilation and dissemination of Best

Practices, and most recently, the utilization of regional expertise. These provided another opportunity for cooperation and the CTI made a contribution by providing useful inputs and active support.

We sincerely hope that the ROCB A/P will continue playing a leading role in the field of capacity building. Finally, we would like to extend our special thanks to all the officials who are and have been engaged in the ROCB A/P for their dedicated work and look forward to forging even stronger partnership for the betterment of not only the A/P region, but also the international Customs communities.

**Mr. Shigeo Urai,  
Managing Director, CTI**

## Message from RTC Korea



Joo Si-kyoung

Director General Customs Border Control  
Training Center (Korea RTC) Korea Customs Service

continuous efforts to respond to requests AP Members and meet their needs of capacity building for customs modernization of the members. Once again, I would like to convey my sincere congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the ROCB A/P and wish you the best in the future.

Joo Si-kyoung



Director General  
Customs Border Control Training Center  
(Korea RTC)  
Korea Customs Service

I would like to offer my wholehearted congratulations on the 10th anniversary of opening of the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building. It is an honor to commend its remarkable achievements over the last ten years.

In the era of globalization, customs environment is rapidly changing. Adapting to such changes is a significant challenge. I would like to encourage the ROCB A/P to make



## Message from RTC Malaysia

On behalf of Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL), it is indeed an honour to be given this opportunity to say a few words in conjunction with the 10th Anniversary of ROCB A/P in the year 2014. First and foremost, let me extend my heartiest congratulations to all staff of ROCB A/P for their commitment and continuous support in providing capacity building assistance notably to regional training centers such as AKMAL.

Over the years, ROCB A/P has provided the necessary platform for AKMAL in its endeavour to achieve its vision to become a world class training center by the year 2015. At the same time, ROCB A/P has also assisted Malaysian Customs in enhancing her capacity building initiatives. For instance, AKMAL is now in the process of enhancing its position as the center of excellence for Strategic Management and Post Clearance Audit. The WCO Sub-Regional Workshop Towards The Accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) was held in AKMAL Melaka from 8th to 12th April 2013 and it was made possible with the assistance and funding from ROCB A/P. During the workshop, Malaysia shared her experiences with participants from other ASEAN countries who have not yet acceded to the RKC. The ROCB A/P also played an important role at the Regional Training Centers (RTCs) meeting held annually. The RTCs' meetings have a major role in implementing WCO's 'regionalization' policy and the betterment of capacity building and human resource development in the A/P region.

AKMAL once again congratulate ROCB A/P



MDM. DAYANG FATIMAH JOHARI,  
DIRECTOR OF ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS

on the 10th anniversary celebration and hope that we will continue to foster better cooperation in capacity building and human resource development especially for the A/P region.

MDM. DAYANG FATIMAH JOHARI, DIRECTOR OF ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS ACADEMY (AKMAL)

## Message from Minister (Customs) to Royal Thai Embassy Brussels



Supharumpai HANTWEEPANICH,  
Minister (Customs)  
Royal Thai Embassy Brussels BELGIUM

I take great pleasure in congratulating the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB), Asia Pacific Region (AP) with its tenth anniversary.

One of the key issues for Customs reform and modernization is to improve the potential and competency of man power in the national Customs administration. In order to provide enhanced and improved capacity building activities to Members, the World Customs Organization (WCO) initiated the ROCB that was established by regional initiatives and managed by the Members of each of the 6 WCO regions. Also, the ROCB was supported by WCO Secretariat on methodological and practical issues of establishment and functioning. For Asia Pacific region, the ROCB A/P was formally opened in September 2004, located at the headquarters of Thai Customs Department in Bangkok, as the first ROCB in the world.

Feeling closely connected with its aims, I witnessed the activities of ROCB A/P over the past ten years, which have been instrumental in creation and development of a strong and effective work of capacity building for AP Members. Undoubtedly, the ROCB A/P's efforts have now brought about a truly "A/P Customs Family" combining invaluable skills, knowledge for Customs. It seems to me that the role of ROCB A/P is a part of significant change for A/P region to step forward as a leading WCO region.

Having the great achievement in the past decade, I would like to express my appreciation to the working of the ROCB A/P staffs for their efforts to support WCO capacity building initiatives, as I believe that they are taking its capacity building work seriously, and for developing programs, training and technical assistance to enhance customs operations. Importantly, I would like to sincerely thank the donor engagement contributed by international organizations and agencies, national Customs administrations and governments.

I hope and trust that the ROCB A/P will continue for many years to play a major role in enhancing better capacity building in the region. I wish every success with its important work.

Supharumpai HANTWEEPANICH,  
Minister (Customs)  
Royal Thai Embassy Brussels  
BELGIUM

## Message from Ex-ROCB A/P Colleague, Mr. Shujie ZHANG

Life is a journey, full of memorable moments and significant milestones. My work experience with ROCB A/P from 2007 to 2012 must be a fruitful and happy journey with affluent harvest.

My first harvest comes for enrichment of professionalism. Frankly speaking, I had never been abroad before I was selected by China Customs to be seconded in ROCB A/P. It was in ROCB A/P that I was widely exposed to international Customs community. Through participating, organizing an array of regional Customs capacity building projects which cover the traditional and emerging Customs topics, I have gained more comprehensive and insightful understanding on how Customs works and how Customs should work better. The field visit to Customs administrations provided me hands-on opportunity to observe various faces of Customs. Today, I harness such accumulated knowledge and enhanced ability in my current work in training & international exchange in Shanghai Customs College (SCC).

Deep friendship and wide networking are another harvest. In the “small” office of ROCB, I could work together face-to-face with Hongkong, Japanese, Korean and Thai colleagues. While in work and in lunchtime, we shared Customs expertise, supported each other. Among them, Matsumoto san as a leading model, Yoko san as a professional and humorous facilitator, Mr. Lee as an insightful

thinker, Kosaka san as a dedicated torch-runner, Khun Parisorn as a closer brother, Khun Pa, Ben, Kik, May, Numtan and Ae as kind and strong supporters and all the colleagues always remind me nice days in Bangkok. Furthermore, friends like Khun Rashaneewan and Khun Paisarn are always touching my heart. Besides these friends, I was also lucky to meet colleagues and friends from WCO, other international institutions and member administrations. Even in SCC today, I could regularly refresh sentiments while meeting old “faces”.

Looking back, I could say that I am the lucky man to grow with ROCB A/P and witness ROCB A/P has established into a regional hub for better Customs. Hereby, I just wish ROCB A/P could position itself at more strategic role, carry on more concrete action and bring more tangible impact to regional members.



Deputy Director

Department of Training & International  
Cooperation Shanghai Customs College  
WCO Accredited Customs Modernization Advisor

## Welcome New Attache from Australia Embassy in Bangkok

I am Dale Furse, the new Counsellor for Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) at Australian Embassy in Bangkok. I have regional responsibility for ACBPS liaison across the Greater Mekong Subregion, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

During my time with ACBPS I have assisted develop the agency's Blueprint for Reform: 2013-18, which is a major change program being implemented by ACBPS to best position the agency for the future. I have also overseen the introduction of new intelligence-led cargo screening approaches and worked in illicit drugs and precursor policy, delivering training in the Asia Pacific region.

I am very much looking forward to working with colleagues from the ROCB A/P, as well as other international organisations and national customs and law enforcement agencies across the region during my posting.



I appreciate the warm welcome already from ROCB A/P colleagues and officers in both Thai Customs and Vietnam Customs, who I have already met with. I look forward to assisting ROCB A/P with their publications so they can continue to contribute to capacity building in the region.

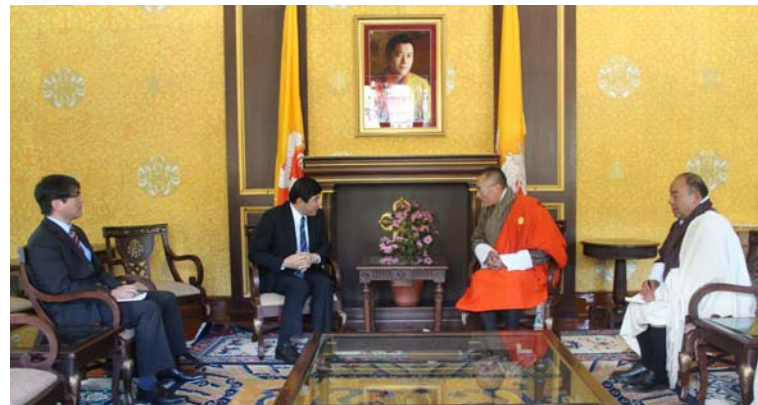


## High-level Policy Dialogue in Bhutan and India

Bhutan and India, 06-11 October 2013

At the invitation of Bhutan and India Customs, Mr. Yoshiriro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P joined the WCO Secretary General, Mr. Kunio MIKURIYA, at a high-level policy dialogue held in Bhutan and India from 6 to 10 October 2013.

On October 7 to 9, they visited Thimphu and Paro of Bhutan and had a series of meetings with top officials from the Government of Bhutan, led by the Prime Minister, His Excellency Lyonchen Tshering Tobgaya. The dialogue covered a range of topics, including the accession to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), modernization of revenue & customs' IT system, border connectivity, human resource development, the importance of regional cooperation/connectivity, customs reform and modernization etc. It was a great encouragement for ROCB A/P to see that the Government of Bhutan attached great importance to customs modernization. The Prime Minister specifically highlighted the role of Bhutan Customs in facilitating trade for enhanced economic competitiveness. He also expressed his concerns regarding hazardous goods prevention, and the enhanced regional cooperation/ connectivity. He expressed his appreciation for the long term support extended by ROCB A/P



in pooling local experts for the sustainable development of Bhutan Customs.

On October 9 to 10, the Secretary General of the WCO and Head of ROCB A/P visited Kolkata, India and discussed the Customs transit arrangements in place. They also visited the Port of Kolkata to observe transit practices of relevant parties involved in the transit arrangement, including Customs, port operators and transport operators, and were able to gain a glimpse into one of the busiest trade hubs for container operations in South Asia.

The fruitful and successful dialogue trip was much acclaimed by both Bhutan and India Customs. The need for enhanced regional cooperation between land locked countries will be well reflected in the future capacity building activities.

## WCO/ESCAP UNNExT Masterclass 2013

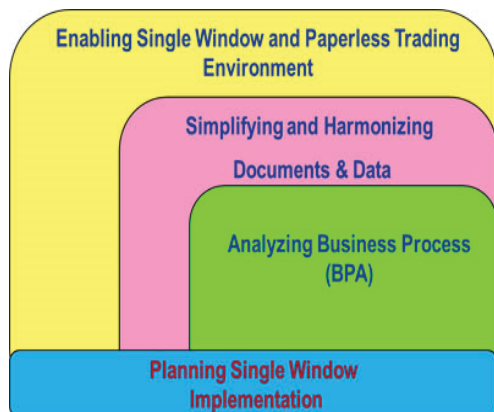
Korea, 07-18 October 2013

A UNNExT Masterclass was held at Customs Border Control Training Center (CBCTC), in Cheon-an, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 18 October 2013. The Masterclass was jointly organized by the ROCB A/P and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) under the sponsorship of Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF) Korea. A total of 22 manager level government officials with responsibilities for trade facilitation participated in the event. Representatives from Academia, the WCO and ESCAP also attended the workshop as resource persons.

Masterclass is an intensive two-week capacity building programme, which aims to support Governments in planning and implementing paperless trade systems and a Single Window through the capacity building of relevant government officials on how to simplify trade proce-

dures, harmonize trade forms and data, address legal issues and conduct implementation planning.

Through the use of multiple training methods, such as lectures by field experts, group discussion, hands-on exercise, expert hearing and field visits, the participants obtained an overview of Single Window implementation and the strategy for better master planning of single window projects.



## 23rd WCO Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meeting

Malaysia, 21-24 October 2013



On 21-24 October 2013, the 23rd WCO Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meeting and the Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meeting were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P, participated in and contributed to those meetings.

The meeting discussed a number of issues important for Asia Pacific regional development. As requested, ROCB A/P made two presentations relating to RSP 2012-2014, namely a progress report of Focus Area 3 “Capacity Building” and a general presentation on regional capacity building policy. We particularly talked about the extremely good progress made for the Focus Area 3 highlighting the great efforts done by the ROCB staff as well as the significant level of members’ contribution for the regional capacity building activi-

ties in year 2012/2013. In addition, we emphasized the great progress on the donor coordination aspect of the regional strategies. We also requested members’ cooperation in selecting the most relevant participants to take part in capacity building activities, and the follow up work to ensure the value of capacity building activities can be enjoyed by the organization as a whole.

Many participants expressed their appreciation for the good work and contribution made by the ROCB A/P.



## 11th Meeting of Heads of WCO Asia/Pacific Training Centers

Fiji, 05-06 November 2013

The 11th Meeting of the Heads of Asia/Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers (RTCs) was held at the RTC Fiji in Suva, Fiji on 5-6 November 2013. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jitoko Tikolevu, Chief Executive Officer of Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA). In addition to the delegates from 7 RTCs in the region, namely RTC China, RTC Fiji, RTC Hong Kong China, RTC India, RTC Japan, RTC Korea and RTC Malaysia, representatives from the WCO Secretariat, Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair Office and Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) attended the meeting. A delegate from Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Secretariat also attended the meeting as an observer.

actions for the benefit of regional experts who will be the key for regional Capacity Building delivery. These actions include, but are not limited to, disseminating valuable information and providing further opportunity to enhance their expertise/facilitation and training techniques. The RTCs also exchanged ideas on how to improve training evaluation and on the use of innovative training methods/approaches.

It is expected that the forward-looking discussions among RTCs and ROCB/Vice Chair/WCO Secretariat will contribute to further progress of the region through enhanced regional cooperation on Capacity Building.

At the meeting, all RTCs shared information on their respective latest activities and initiatives. In the spirit of Asia/Pacific Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2012-2014 that stresses the high importance of enhancing regional cooperation on capacity building, the RTCs agreed to work together on several concrete





## WCO National Workshop on Rules of Origin for Indonesia

Indonesia, 25-29 November 2013



The WCO, in cooperation with ROCB A/P, conducted a workshop on Rules of Origin for the Customs Administration of Indonesia at the Indonesian Customs and Excise Training Center in Jakarta, Indonesia from 25 to 29 November 2013. This workshop was financed by the Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan) and hosted by Indonesian Customs within the framework of the WCO Action Plan on Preferential Origin and the Revenue Package Action Plan. Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, CCF/Japan Operational Manager & Program Manager of ROCB A/P attended this workshop as facilitator.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of the Customs officers present to effectively and efficiently manage all issues related to rules of origin. A total of 33 Customs officers participated in the workshop from several departments around the country.

The WCO delivered presentations on the relevant WCO tools and instruments, such as the WCO Guidelines on Preferential Origin Verification and the Comparative Study on Preferential Rules of Origin. Furthermore, the WCO outlined the technical knowledge necessary to ensure proper and streamlined origin determination. Experts from China and Japan expanded on the technical element and shared practical case studies. These regional experts also presented on their countries' practices in dealing with origin matters, including advance rulings and origin-dedicated units in their respective Customs Administrations.

The host country commended the organizers, presenters and participants stating that the workshop was beneficial, relevant and above all, timely.

## 9th WCO Counterfeiting and Piracy (CAP) Group Meeting,

Belgium, 27-28 November 2013

ROCB A/P participated in the 9th WCO CAP Group Meeting held at the Headquarters of the WCO, in Brussels, Belgium from 27-28 Nov 2013. Representatives from Customs Administrations, embassies, related authorities and private sectors attended the meeting.

During the two-day meeting, participants successfully exchanged experiences on combating counterfeiting and piracy activities and had discussions on various issues in relation to intellectual property right (IPR) protection. Reports on international operations against counterfeiting activities, country experience in IPR protection and related capacity building programs were made by participants.

Mr. James KW WONG, Technical Attache of the ROCB A/P, represented our office and contributed to the meeting by making presentations on the regional efforts and initiatives in combating counterfeiting and piracy. These efforts include conducting regional IPR Border Enforcement Workshops, regional operation workshops and national workshops. Apart from the IPR workshops, the ROCB A/P has also communicated with regional members and attended IPR events organized by other institutions to promote IPR protection. The meeting was concluded by stressing that IPR capacity building is essential in combating counterfeiting and piracy.

## WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on IPR Border Enforcement

China, 02- 06 December 2013



The Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), in cooperation with the WCO and China Customs, organized the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on IPR Border Enforcement in the Regional Training Center in Shanghai, China from 2 to 6 December 2013 under the sponsorship of Customs Cooperation Fund/Japan.

A total of 26 participants from 26 countries took part in the workshop. The workshop was led by IPR experts from the WCO, Japan and Hong Kong, China. Participants shared the knowledge and good practices for IPR border enforcement. Through the workshop, participants' awareness of the damages of

counterfeit and infringing goods was raised. The application of TRIPS' Agreement and Interface Public-Members (IPM) were introduced.

There were sessions for 16 right holders to give their presentations on identification of genuine and counterfeit goods. Participants were also given practical exercises in relation to risk assessment and selection of suspicious air cargoes and sea cargoes. Participants gave positive feedbacks and were able to apply what they had learned immediately. Finally, all participants indicated that they would pass what they had learned onto their home Customs administrations.

## National Workshop on CBM, RP and ECP for Thai Customs

Thailand, 03 December 2013



Responding to the request made by Thai Customs, ROCB A/P organized a National Workshop for Thai Customs on Coordinated Border Management (CBM), Revenue Package (RP) and Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) for Thai Customs on December 3, 2013. This event was attended by around 25 participants from the various Bureaus of Thai Customs Department. An expert team from the ROCB A/P expert team, lead by Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P, facilitated this event as resources persons.

The objective of this workshop was to educate newly recruited customs staff and also provide consultative advices on various issues

raised by Thai customs was concerned with. The expert team of ROCB A/P introduced the concept of Coordinated Border Management (CBM) including the examples of methods of CBM implementation in various countries such as Switzerland, France, Germany, and New Zealand. They also introduced important instruments and tools contained in the Revenue Package (RP) and Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) and how they fit into the national context.

Thai Customs appreciated the contribution made by the ROCB A/P, which enabled the Administration to align its action plan with WCO standards.



## Asia/Pacific Regional High-level Seminar on Customs Anti-drugs Strategy

Hong Kong, China, 17 - 19 December 2013



### WCO Asia/Pacific Regional High-level Seminar on Customs Anti-drug Strategy (17-19 December 2013, Hong Kong, China)

An Asia/Pacific Regional High-level Seminar on Customs Anti-drugs Strategy was held at the Headquarters of HKC, Hong Kong, China from December 17 to 19, 2013. This Seminar was organized jointly by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and Hong Kong Customs (HKC).

The seminar was attended by 27 participants, with the majority of participants high level customs officers in charge of drug enforcement strategy issues. Mr. Seung Kyoo LEE and Mr. Takayuki MIYOSHI, technical attachés of ROCB A/P, joined this Seminar and made a presentation.

The overall objective of the Seminar was providing a platform for senior customs officials in the Region to have a high-level discussion on their experience and strategy in combating drug offences, and charting the way forward in developing a sustainable drug

enforcement strategy across nations.

HKC also provided participants with an opportunity to visit the "Electronic Crime Investigation Center", the "Computer Forensic Laboratory", and HKC's operations at "Hong Kong Airport".

During the seminar, two ROCB A/P representatives made presentations on "Capacity Building Strategy in A/P region" and "Methamphetamine Trafficking Trend from African Countries" highlighting the focus of ROCB A/P activities on the member countries' training needs.

The Seminar ended by the attendees adopting four recommendations, which will be put forward to the WCO in relation to drug enforcement strategy.

## 25th Administrative Meeting of National Contact Points (NCP) for RILO A/P

Vietnam, 17-19 December 2013



RILO A/P and Vietnam Customs jointly held the 25th Administrative Meeting of National Contact Point (NCP) for RILO A/P at Da Nang, Vietnam from 17 to 19 December 2013.

In this meeting, many participants were concerned with combating IPR crimes and the need to raise the capability of Customs officers to fight against IPR crime. Mr James KW WONG represented ROCB A/P and made a presentation on the capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific region. He reported that given the increasing trend of IPR crimes committed via internet, ROCB A/P had jointly organized a WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Computer Forensics in August 2013 with Hong Kong Customs under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. Mr WONG outlined the work of ROCB A/P in organizing Regional IPR Border Enforce-

ment Workshops and Regional IPR Operation Workshops to strengthen participants' ability to select suspicious cargoes and passengers for examination, and to make use of the WCO Interface Public-Members (IPM) so as to have closer co-operations with right holders. In his presentation, he also stressed the importance of the close cooperation among the Vice Chair, ROCB A/P and RILO A/P for that purpose.

The meeting was completed successfully and participants were able to share valuable experiences and exchange ideas on trends in the region.

## WCO National Workshop on Training Management for Fiji

Fiji, 09 – 13 December 2013



A WCO national workshop on Training management was held in Suva, Fiji from 9 to 13 December under the sponsorship of CCF Japan. The workshop was attended by 25 customs officers of Fiji Revenue and Customs Administration (FRCA). Ms. Benedicte MEILLE, Senior Officer of WCO Capacity Building Directorate, Mr. Jing CHENG, Technical Attache of ROCB AP, and Mr. Ryoji Tajima, Expert of Japan Customs participated in this workshop as experts.

During the workshop, the issues discussed included the WCO Human Resource Development (HRD), Human Resource Management (HRM) policies, National Training Center (NTC) Guidelines, training courses development, training evaluation, core training techniques and regional coordination mechanism. The practices from relevant RTCs on the development and imple-

mentation of training programs were also introduced and discussed. Their specialist inputs vividly explained how to optimize the model of national curriculum development and training management to suit the requirements of states and administrations. All participants had a clearer idea about the WCO regionalization strategy and how RTC Fiji could better serve pacific islands sub-region through the provision of capable experts and high quality training programs. At the end of the workshop, the participants also produced practical and feasible action plans for applying the learned methods and knowledge into the actual work environment.

The joint effort made by WCO and ROCB A/P in the provision of this timely workshop was much acclaimed by FRCA and all the participants.



## WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Chemical Analysis for Customs Purposes at Central Customs Laboratory (CCL), Kashiwa

Japan, 16-19 December 2013



ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO and Japan Customs, organized the “WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Chemical Analysis for Customs Purposes” at the Central Customs Laboratory (CCL) of Japan Customs in Kashiwa, Japan from 16 to 19 December 2013 under the sponsorship of Customs Cooperation Fund/Japan. A total of 29 participants from 21 Asia Pacific Customs Administrations took part in the Workshop.

Throughout this 4-day Workshop, participants shared information on their good practices, experiences and challenges on Customs chemical analysis and obtained knowledge on WCO tools and instruments relating to the Harmonized System in particular Customs Laboratory works. They emphasized the importance of Customs Laboratory for achieving Customs missions, such as revenue collection and border enforcement of illicit

drugs by providing analytical results. They also discussed the effective way forward in strengthening regional cooperation in the area of Customs chemical analysis and agreed to work together for the further improvement of customs efficiency in the A/P region through the joint efforts among them.

This workshop is part of the ongoing trial project on the “WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) initiative” in the Asia Pacific Region and, through this workshop, participants reaffirmed the value of this initiative in order to further strengthening regional cooperation in the area of customs chemical analysis.

## Global Trade Facilitation Conference 2013

Thailand, 18-22 November 2013

Global Trade Facilitation Conference (GTFC) 2013 organized by the UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18 to 22 November, 2013. This event was attended by participants from the members of ESCAP and the representatives from various international organizations such as WTO, ADB and OECD. Together with the Mr. SP Sahu, WCO Technical Officer, Mr. Seung Kyoo LEE, Program Manager of ROCB A/P attended this event as a resource person.

During the meeting, Mr. LEE shared the perspectives on the ROCB A/P's role of Capacity Building for developing member administrations in AP region. His contribution was much acclaimed by the participants.





## ADB-CII Conference on “Promoting Mekong-India Economic Cooperation”

India, 19 November 2013



At the invitation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P represented WCO at the ADB-CII Conference on “Promoting Mekong- India Economic Cooperation” held in New Delhi India on 19 November. The conference was attended by around 120 participants from both government and business sector of India and Mekong countries, namely Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

This conference dedicated four specific sessions to discuss India-Mekong Economic Cooperation, namely Physical Connectivity: Missing Links and New Routes, Trade Facilitation and Trade Finance, Energy Security and Power Trade, and Financing Regional Infrastructure. In the Session on

“Trade Facilitation and Trade Finance”, Mr. KOSAKA participated as one of the panelists together with the business representatives from India, Cambodia and Vietnam as well as ADB representative responsible for trade facilitation. He widely talked about how the WCO initiatives/tools can contribute to the enhanced regional connectivity highlighting the RKC and also shared his perspectives on the importance of TRS, Coordinated Border Management and facilitation of OGA process required at the border.

The organizers of the conference expressed their great appreciation to the WCO participation for the valuable contribution to the Conference.

## The Second Network Workshop of the Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (REN)

Thailand, 19-22 November 2013



The Second Network Workshop of the Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (REN) organized by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) was held in Bangkok Thailand from 19 to 22 November, 2013. It was attended by more than 50 participants, including the participants from 23 customs administrations in the Asia Pacific Region. Upon invitation, Mr. Jing CHENG, Program Manager of ROCB A/P, attended this workshop as resource person.

This workshop updated the activities and achievements of REN, discussed cooperation and collaboration with participating countries and relevant partner organizations, identified the countries' needs for capacity building and developed REN's work plan and next steps.

In the session on Combating Illegal Trade in Chemicals/Wastes, Mr. CHENG introduced the outline of ROCB AP and its activities under project REN. The organizers of the workshop appreciated his contribution to this meeting.

## Inception Workshop on Trade and Transport Facilitation Performance Monitoring System (TTFPM)

Thailand, 26-27 November 2013

Asia Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) jointly organized the inception workshop on trade and transport facilitation performance monitoring system (TTFPM) in Bangkok, Thailand from 26 to 27, November 2013. It was attended by around 25 participants from the members of national trade and transport committees of South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC). At the invitation of the ADB, Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P and Mr. Jing CHENG, Program Manager of ROCB A/P joined Mr. Takashi MATSUMOTO, TRS expert from the WCO, and participated in this meeting as resource persons.

The workshop was the initial part of the ADB and UNESCAP's effort to undertake integrated methodologies, namely Business Process Analysis (BPA), TRS (Time Release Study) and TCD (Time-Cost-Distance) to examine trade barriers in SASEC countries. During the workshop, Mr. Jing CHENG made a presentation on overview, purpose and methodology of TRS, in cooperation with Mr. MATSUMOTO. With the assistance of the WCO expert, the follow up activities to promote the WCO TRS methodology among the SASEC countries were specified.

The convening parties expressed the heartfelt thanks to the WCO for the valuable contribution.

## ADB Brunei Darussalam Royal Customs and Excise Department Time Release Study Workshop in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam, 09 - 10 December 2013.



WCO in cooperation with the ADB and Brunei Darussalam Royal Customs and Excise Department (RCED) held a workshop on Time Release Study at the Headquarters of RCED, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam from December 9 - 10, 2013.

This workshop was attended by about 25 participants from RCED, other government authorities, and private companies. The objectives of the workshop were to enable customs officials to conduct TRS

by using the WCO TRS software and to raise the awareness of stakeholders for the next TRS in Brunei Darussalam scheduled in early May 2014.

WCO experts introduced the WCO TRS such as overview, purpose, methodology, development of the process mapping, work plan and timetable, use of the WCO TRS software, and TRS experience in member countries. This workshop also provided an opportunity for customs officials to make an actual TRS questionnaire in line with the import procedures in Brunei Darussalam by using the WCO TRS software.

At the end of the workshop, all participants thanked WCO and ADB for this timely and practical technical assistance and expressed their confidence to properly conduct the coming TRS.



## Future Activities

No.	Event Name	Timing
1	Thai Customs International Customs Day Ceremony (including Inauguration of ROCB A/P 10th Anniversary)	27 January 2014
2	WCO/ADB Joint Sub-Regional TRAIN-THE-TRAINER Workshop on Customs Valuation for South Asian Countries (in Sri Lanka)	3 – 7 February 2014
3	WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Resource Mobilization (in RTC Malaysia)	24 – 28 February 2014
4	WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Air Cargo Security (in Thailand) (P)	3 – 6 March 2014 (P)
5	9th WCO Global ROCBs-RTCs-VCs Meeting in Brussels	27-28 March 2014
6	5th WCO Capacity Building Committee in Brussels	31 March – 2 April 2014