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- ❖ 11th Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers Meeting in Fiji, 5-7 Nov. 2013
- ❖ WCO National Workshop on RoO for Indonesia, 25-29 Nov. 2013
- ❖ WCO A/P Regional Workshop on IPR Border Enforcement in China, 2-6 Dec. 2013
- ❖ WCO National Workshop on Training Management for Fiji, 9-13 Dec. 2013
- ❖ WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Chemical Analysis in Japan, 16-19 Dec. 2013
- ❖ WCO/ADB TRAIN-THE-TRAINER Workshop on Customs Valuation for South Asian Countries, (P)

SPECIAL TOPICS

ROCB A/P welcomed DG of Lao Customs



A delegation from Lao Customs, led by Director General, Mr. Athsaphangthong SIPHANDONE, paid an official visit to the office of WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) in Bangkok, Thailand on 27 September 2013. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P and the staff of ROCB A/P received the delegation and had a fruitful discussion on various Customs issues.

ROCB A/P delivered a detailed introduction of the related capacity building activities in Asia Pacific region and the useful WCO tools and instruments, including the Organizational Development Package (ODP) in which Lao Customs was very much interested. Ideas were exchanged on the key issues for the institutional development, such as the organizational structure, staff training, development and management as well as staff rotation. Capacity building activities for Lao Customs were also discussed.

This visit provided an excellent opportunity for both Lao Customs and ROCB A/P to deepen mutual understanding for strengthening future cooperation between Lao Customs and ROCB A/P. The delegation highly acclaimed ROCB A/P's effort in meeting the capacity building needs of regional members and the provision of high quality training programs. ROCB A/P recognized the strong leadership/ownership of Lao Customs for its reform and modernization and reaffirmed its continued support for Lao Customs.



Exchange on the key issues for the institutional development between ROCB A/P and Lao Customs

Farewell Remarks from Matchima Kiripet

To me, it is a great achievement to be able to complete the 2- year work in ROCB A/P. I enjoy working with colleagues of ROCB A/P a lot. I seize this opportunity and gained knowledge and experience. Though my main responsibility is to assist my colleagues in organizing workshops, I really learned a lot. I have to communicate with many people for cooperation on capacity building activities in the region through emails or phone calls. Some of these people became my friends and some I got friendship from them.

I also had the chance to work with colleagues with international experience. This allowed me not only to gain Customs knowledge but also to learn to work and cooperate with others at international arena. I think these opportunities and this valuable experience will benefit me in my future and Thai Customs career.

Finally I treasure very much the valuable friendship with ROCB A/P officers and those who worked with me before. I hope that this friendship will last forever and really hope to get a chance to join any ROCB A/P activities in future.



Hello from a New Member

My name is Yotsawadee Trakonsup. Please call me "Or". I have been working for Thai Customs Department for five years. My post before coming to ROCB A/P was at Suvarnabhumi Airport Cargo Clearance Customs Bureau. I was lucky to be assigned in the Import Service Section. My daily work routine was related to the facilitation of the clearance process of goods, such as assessing and collecting customs duties and taxes, inspecting declarations and imported cargo. My works also included some processes after the clearance like examining applications for duty refunds and verifying customs documents. I felt really fortunate to have chances to study many subjects which cover broad area of customs works as my first assignment in customs.



Now, I am, again, receiving another great opportunity to be able to join ROCB A/P. Working in an international arena will totally be a new experience for me. Moreover, realizing an important role of ROCB A/P in contributing to improve Customs effectiveness and efficiency in A/P region, I am so glad to be a part of such efforts. I am looking forward to working with all wonderful staff of ROCB A/P as well as regional members. I can be contacted at +66 2 667 7026 or yotsawadee@rocbap.org.

Welcome "Khun Or"!

ROCB A/P Annual Report 2012/2013 issued!

In September 2013, ROCB A/P distributed "ROCB A/P Annual Report 2012/2013" to all A/P regional member Customs Administrations, as well as Regional Training Centers (RTCs), RILO A/P, ROCBs in the other regions and the WCO Secretariat. The Report outlined capacity building activities undertaken by the ROCB A/P from July 2012 to June 2013 including information on a number of technical and management assistance programs as well as enhanced cooperation with various development partners. From a strategic perspective, this report is accompanied by the sub-title "Mobilization of Regional Resources" which reflected the great importance placed by the ROCB A/P on this critical issue during the preceding year.

The Report also contains “ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan 2012-2014” and “ROCB A/P Annual Work Plan for 2013/2014” as Annexes. The preparation of these two documents has taken into account the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2012 -2014 which is the basis for ROCB A/P activities in the coming years. All ROCB A/P staff would continue to collaborate with the WCO, RTCs, RILO A/P, Development Partners and regional members and continue to provide quality capacity building activities to support Customs Administrations in the Asia Pacific region.



This Report is available in both electronic copy and hard copy. Should any reader be interested in this Report, please contact Mr. James K W Wong of ROCB A/P at telephone +66 2667 7026 or email address “jameskwong@rocbap.org” for assistance.

Ms. Krittika Panprasert from Thai customs also participated in this workshop and shared her valuable experience in Thai customs for the preparation of the RKC accession.



In light of the Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014, 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, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan, was held in Malaysia with the involvement of three WCO accredited experts. As one of the follow up activities, this national workshop was held to provide the targeted technical support to Lao PDR based on gaps identified in the sub-regional workshop.

The tangible outcome of this workshop is that Lao PDR has an improved understanding on the RKC, particularly on its benefits. By conducting a gap analysis, they now have a clear roadmap to accede to RKC in the very near future. The experts agreed to render ongoing support to Lao customs.

Workshops/ Meetings

WCO National workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) for Lao PDR



ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO and Asia Development Bank (ADB) organized the WCO National Workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 6 to 8 August 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. It was attended by 27 mid level customs officers of Lao PDR. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P attended this workshop as an expert.

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Computer Forensics in Hong Kong China

ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO and Hong Kong Customs organized the WCO Regional Workshop on Computer Forensics in Hong Kong, China from 20 to 22 August 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. This workshop was the first of its kind organized in the Asia Pacific region.

A total of 34 participants from 25 countries participated in the workshop. The workshop was led by a regional expert from Hong Kong, China who briefed participants on the Digital Forensics Model, Digital Forensics Principles and Digital Forensics Processes. Participants were also given opportunities to visit a Computer Forensic Laboratory, Electronic Crime Investigation Center and the computer rooms in the Customs Headquarters Building of Hong Kong Customs.



The workshop was good opportunities for regional members to share their experiences in applying digital forensics to Customs investigation and for participants to learn how they can enhance their investigation capability by applying digital forensics. The workshop also set up a pool of experts to render technical support to regional Members in applying digital forensics against technology related crimes which have increased sharply in recent years and it geared up the Customs Administrations to face the challenges of technology crimes.

WCO National workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) for Maldives



ROCB A/P in cooperation with Maldives customs and Japan customs, under the sponsorship of CCF Japan, organized a five day workshop on Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) from 31 August - 4 September 2013. This workshop was attended by mid-level managers of Maldives Customs who were in-charge of the RKC Gap Analysis and RKC implementation. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P participated in this workshop as an expert and shared his knowledge on RKC and experience of capacity building. He also assisted Maldives Customs in organizing consultation sessions for stakeholders.

According to the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2012-2014, ROCB A/P has been assisting Customs

Administrations in acceding to the RKC with a view to meeting the target of 18 CPs in June 2014. In response to the request from the Commissioner General of Maldives Customs in June 2013, ROCB A/P decided to offer this timely technical assistance and managed to secure the support from CCF/Japan for this workshop.



This workshop achieved great success. It greatly improved the understanding of Maldives Customs on RKC, particularly on its benefits. The initial gap analysis and the follow up activities were smoothly conducted and identified. Maldives Customs administration highly appreciated this timely assistance. Both ROCB A/P and Japan Customs would continue to support Maldives Customs to join the RKC. ROCB A/P would like to express the highest appreciation to Japan Customs, as well as CCF Japan for their strong support for this workshop.

WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Risk-based Cargo Selectivity in Japan



ROCB A/P, in cooperation with WCO, Japan Customs and Asia Development Bank (ADB), organized the Regional Workshop on Risk based Cargo Selectivity in RTC Kashiwa, Japan from September 9 to 13, 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. This workshop was attended by a total of 38 participants from 23 Customs Administrations in Asia Pacific Region. Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P and Ms. Ben Chamkrom, Program Coordinator of ROCB A/P participated in this workshop as facilitators.

This workshop covered a wide range of topics pertaining to risk management, including the overview of risk management in a Customs context, risk assessment, targeting and profiling, risk based compliance management, Intelligence and information sharing and cargo selectivity techniques. The participants actively contributed in the syndicate group work through the real case simulation, which greatly deepened their understanding of this important topic.



This workshop also provided a valuable opportunity for the participants to have in-depth discussions and experience sharing on how to identify high-risk cargoes based on the WCO Risk Management Compendium as well as practical work experiences. The participants highly acclaimed the efforts of WCO, ROCB A/P and Japan Customs in organizing such a useful workshop and expressed the strong wishes to apply the expertise delivered through this workshop to their administrations.

WCO Regional Seminar on Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement (STCE)

WCO, in cooperation with ROCB A/P, organized the Regional Seminar on Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement (STCE) in Faridabad, India from 24-26 September 2013. It was attended by a total of 24 participants, most of which are customs officers in charge of strategic trade controls/export control related issues. Mr. Seung-Kyoo, Lee, Technical Attaché of ROCB A/P, attended this workshop as one of the facilitators.

This three day workshop provided participants with an overview of Strategic Trade Control, including the main components of national strategic trade control, and the key ingredients of effective enforcement process. The agenda also included a series of case studies which enabled participants to have an in-depth discussion on a range of related issues and an exchange of their best practices.



At the invitation of WCO, Mr. Lee introduced the outline of ROCB A/P, including the mission and activities. He also demonstrated the seizure cases on Strategic Trade Control from Korea which provide the benchmarking references for all the participating countries. His valuable sharing was much acclaimed by the participants.

Donor Engagement

ROCB A/P contributed to enhance Air Cargo Security-Regional Aviation Security Coordination Forum (RASCF)

ROCB A/P, representing the WCO, participated in the Inaugural Regional Aviation Security Coordination Forum (RASCF) held on 1-2 July 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand as part of the ongoing collaboration between the WCO and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Forum was organized by the Asia Pacific Office of ICAO and was attended by representatives from 24 Asia Pacific States/Administrations and 5 aviation security partners including the WCO and IATA (International Air Transport Association). Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head, and Ms. Ben CHAMKROM, Program Coordinator, of the ROCB A/P joined the Agenda Item 4 – Partnership and Agenda Item 5 – Emerging Issues.

Mr. KOSAKA made a presentation on the WCO and its work on Air Cargo Security and introduced the WCO, SAFE FoS and AEO, as well as the WCO's work on Air Cargo Security. The participation of the ROCB A/P as well as the information provided was very well appreciated by the participants to the Forum. In conclusion, the Forum agreed to;

- Establish partnerships with World Customs Organization (WCO) and Customs agencies at the regional and national levels, respectively.

- Deliver a joint ICAO-WCO regional workshop to enhance mutual understanding and awareness as a first step in establishing partnership at the regional level.
- Welcome the decision that the ICAO-WCO joint training module will be launched in APAC.

ROCB A/P contributed to the ADB Workshop on TRS in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Responding to the request from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Jing Cheng of ROCB A/P joined the WCO expert team to conduct the workshop on Time Release Study in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 21-22 August 2013. It was attended by 23 participants from customs departments of five Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) countries, namely Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan financed by the ADB.

The objective of this workshop was to enable customs officials to explore options for employing the TRS to strengthen customs cooperation among CAREC members. WCO experts systematically introduced the WCO instruments and tools, TRS overview, purpose and methodology, the development of the process map, work plan and timetable and the use of WCO TRS software.



This workshop also provided participants with an opportunity to exchange the information and experience on their customs procedures and the implementation of TRS. Uzbekistan customs introduced the results of TRS implemented in 2011 and 2012, which provided useful information for the other four participating countries. At the end of the workshop, participants agreed to discuss TRS implementation at the next CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee meeting in September. All participants thanked the host and the WCO for this timely technical assistance and expressed the willingness to disseminate the acquired knowledge and ideas among their colleagues.

Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF)



The Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) 2013 was held in Beijing, China from 9-13 September 2013. It was organized jointly by ESCAP and ADB and was attended by more than 250 participants, consisting of government officials, paperless trade experts and consultants, traders, trade facilitation and logistics service providers. At the invitation of WCO, Mr. Seung-Kyoo, Lee, Technical Attaché of ROCB A/P participated in this event. The forum aims were to:

- enable sharing of experience and knowledge on trade facilitation between countries of the greater Asia and Pacific region including LDCs and LLDCs,
- foster increased understanding and exchange of views between public and private stakeholders, trade facilitation standards developers and technical assistance providers; and
- introduce relevant international tools, instruments, and facilities by the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Lee introduced the outline of WCO and ROCB A/P. He also elaborated on the activities of ROCB A/P related to Trade Facilitation.

ADB/WCO National Workshop on AEO for Bangladesh

ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized a national workshop on implementing an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programme in Bangladesh from 17-19 September. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P and Ms. Asha Menon, Technical Officer from WCO participated in this workshop as facilitators and presented background information on the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, AEO Programme requirements and benefits, and examples of international best practices.



The workshop was attended by Mr. Md. Farid Uddin (Member Customs) Bangladesh National Board of Revenue, and 26 Customs officials including several Commissioners and other high ranking officials.

To support Customs-Business partnerships, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Clearing and Forwarding Agents, Customs Agents, the Port Authority, the Tariff Commission, and several businesses participated during the last day of the workshop. The level of participation reflected the importance that Bangladesh Customs accords this initiative.

The workshop achievements included an action plan, the establishment of an AEO Implementation Team, and the delineation of programme criteria including requirements and benefits.

Future Activities

| No. | Event Name | Timing |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 1 | WCO/ESCAP Masterclass on Single Window in Korea | 7 - 18 Oct. 2013 |
| 2 | WCO A/P Regional Contact Point (RCP) and Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meetings in Malaysia | 21 - 24 Oct. 2013 |
| 3 | 11 th Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers Meeting in Fiji | 5 - 7 Nov. 2013 |
| 4 | WCO National Workshop on RoO for Indonesia | 25 - 29 Nov. 2013 |
| 5 | WCO A/P Regional Workshop on IPR Border Enforcement in China | 2 - 6 Dec. 2013 |
| 6 | WCO National Workshop on Training Management for Fiji | 9 - 13 Dec. 2013 |
| 7 | WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Chemical Analysis in Japan | 16 - 19 Dec. 2013 |
| 8 | WCO/ADB TRAIN-THE-TRAINER Workshop on Customs Valuation for South Asian Countries | (P) |