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- ▶ WCO National Workshop on ROO in Sri Lanka 27-31 May 2013
- ▶ WCO Regional Workshop on the Economic Competitiveness Package in Hong Kong 3 – 5 Jun. 2013
- ▶ WCO Council Session (Brussels) 27 – 29 Jun. 2013

Special Topics

• Celebration of New Office Opening

As introduced in the last e-newsletter, ROCB A/P has been hosted by Thai Customs Department since its establishment in 2004. With the great efforts undertaken by all ROCB A/P staff as well as our predecessors, our role and areas of support given to AP regional members has been successfully expanded and, in response to the increased needs of capacity building of our regional members, the number of ROCB staff has also been increased. To further enhance her support to our office and to ensure the sound base for our smooth and effective activity for the benefit of regional members, Thai Customs Department kindly offered to renovate our office. This work has now been completed and we celebrated with an official opening of the new office.



On 19th February 2013, the ROCB A/P Office was opened with a tape cutting ceremony led by the Director General of the Thai Customs Department, **Mrs. Benja Louichareon**, the Head of ROCB A/P, **Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka**, and other distinguished senior executives and guests. Mr. Kosaka showed the newly renovated office to the Director General and the senior executives of Thai Customs Department and extended his sincere appreciation to the Thai Customs Department for their great support to further improve the working environment of ROCB A/P which will

surely contribute to enhance the work of ROCB A/P for the benefit of regional members. The new office also enables us to comfortably accommodate more staff in the future if required. All regional members as well as our partners are of course most welcome to our office. Visit ROCB A/P!!!

Again, we, all staff of the ROCB A/P would like to express our utmost appreciation to the Thai Customs Department especially Director General, **Mrs. Benja Louichareon** and the Deputy Director General, **Mr. Yuttana Yimgarund** with this strong continuous support.

• New Technical Attaché from Hong Kong Customs



In March 18th, ROCB A/P welcomed new colleague from Hong Kong Customs. Welcome James!

Message from James ...

"I am James Wong from Hong Kong Customs. You may call me "James". I had worked in the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau and the Intelligence Bureau for a few years. My work experience in these two formations is quite interesting. I hope that I can share it with my colleagues and the work experience will help me to meet challenges of my new post.

My secondment to ROCB A/P commenced on 18 March 2013. It is very fortunate and my honor to work in this office. Though I have just been here for a few days, I have found that colleagues of ROCB A/P and people in Bangkok are both friendly and helpful.

I am impressed by the office of ROCB A/P which has been newly expanded and refurbished. It is equipped with modern office equipment and provides us with a comfortable working environment.

With all these outstanding hard and soft ware, I am confident that ROCB A/P will make great achievements and accomplish projects with flying colors in the coming years"



Workshop / Meeting

ROCB A/P Contributed to the global Capacity Building Discussion (4th WCO Capacity Building Committee Session) Brussels, Belgium

The 4th WCO Capacity Building Committee (CBC) Session was held in Brussels on 25-27 Feb 2013. Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P attended one of the most important global events in Customs capacity building arena, which charts the direction for the coming year and beyond. He contributed to the global discussion by sharing Asia Pacific best practice.

The 4th CBC session discussed a wide range of prevalent and critical topics addressing past and future capacity building activities: Strategic Plan to Implementation, Performance Measurement, Columbus Phase III, Donor Engagement, Orientation Package, Academic Partners and Research, Professionalism in Customs etc. Mr. KOSAKA was invited by the WCO to be a panelist and present the best practices in Asia Pacific region on the Donor Engagement and activities.



As an adjunct event, the 8th Informal Meeting of Regional Offices for Capacity Building, Heads of the RTCs and Vice Chairs Offices took place in Brussels on 23-24 Feb 2012. For the ROCB/RTC meeting, our office was invited to introduce the outcome of 10th RTC heads meeting which was conducted in October 2012 - in particular how to conduct the follow up evaluation. All these contributions and experience sharing have been well acclaimed by the participants.

WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via Post-Clearance Audit (PCA)

For South and West Asian Members

Faridabad, India

The WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via PCA for South and West Asian Members was held in Faridabad, India from 28 January to 1 February 2013. A total of 18 participants from 9 countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the workshop. Mr. Shigeaki KATSU, Deputy Head of ROCB AP along with the experts from WCO and Sri Lanka Customs joined this workshop as facilitators.



The participants received an overview of WCO, ROCB A/P and WCO Regional Activities on PCA, the principles and basic rules of the Customs Valuation Methods in WTO Valuation Agreement. The WCO expert introduced WCO tools and instrument in the Revenue Package such as WCO PCA Guidelines and Practical Guidelines for Valuation Control. The experts also explained some technical issues which are now being discussed at the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation. On top of that, new WCO training materials on valuation control via PCA developed under a pilot program used in some of the sessions.

The Counselor of Australia Customs and Border Protection Service based in New Delhi, India also shared the experience on PCA and its case study from his administration. To this end, the wrap up and evaluation sessions were conducted to ensure enhancing understanding and knowledge of the participants. They are also encouraged to report back to their administrations and submit the progress report to ROCB on any follow-up activities, specific needs for further assistance, as well as the feedback for improving the new WCO training materials.

WCO National Seminar on the Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy for Cambodia Customs

Phnom Pehn, Cambodia

WCO National Seminar on the Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy for Cambodia Customs was held in the headquarters of General Department of a Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE) on 11 to 13 February 2013. 40 officers from Cambodia Customs attended



the seminar. Two WCO accredited experts on IPR conducted the seminar and Mr. Shigeaki KATSU represented ROCB A/P and joined as a facilitator.

The program of the seminar included ROCB outlines and regional activities on IPR, as well as WCO activities such as legislative framework and fight against counterfeiting and piracy. The participants were introduced to: the Interface Public Members (IPM), an outline of the TRIPS Agreement, and targeting and selection techniques. This workshop also invited five rights holders to explain their

company outlines and key elements to distinguish authentic and fake products which would contribute in the detection of counterfeiting products at the border.

At the end, a site visit to the Airport Cargo Terminal Office and warehouse at GDCE was also arranged so as to enhance knowledge and skills of participants on examining cargo manifests and air way bills, and selecting high risk cargo, in particular the IPR infringed goods.

WCO National Workshop on Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for Tonga Customs Service

Nuku' Alofa, Tonga

WCO National Workshop on Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for Tonga Customs Service was held in Nuku' Alofa, Tonga on 18 to 22 February 2013. This workshop aims to improve the understanding and implementation of Tonga Customs on PCA and Customs Valuation under WTO Valuation Agreement. It includes a one and a half PCA Awareness and Customs Valuation Seminar for the Trade Community and a three and a half day National Workshop on PCA for Tonga Customs Service staff. In total, 36 participants, from Trade community and departments of Customs, Tax and Revenue attended the workshop. Mr. Shigeaki KATSU, Deputy Head of ROCB AP joined the experts' team which consists of Japan Customs and Tonga Customs Service in facilitating this workshop.



The multi-year PCA project for OCO members aims at pooling experts on PCA and developing PCA Guidelines for OCO members. Tonga, one of the active countries of PCA implementation in the Pacific Islands, considers that the capacity building on PCA both for Trade Community and Tonga Customs Service will help to improve their implementation of PCA and contribute to the entire PCA project for OCO members.

The PCA policy, objectives, and benefits were covered for better understanding of the

participants in the first session of PCA awareness and Customs Valuation Seminar for the Trade Community. The participants were also updated on the latest information of Incoterms, WTO Valuation Agreement principles and their interpretation. During the national workshop on PCA for Tonga Customs Service, the participants were updated on the situation on PCA in Tonga and the OCO PCA Project which covers both enhancing the partnership with the trade community and capacity building for Customs officials.

WCO National Workshop on Risk Management and Risk Assessment

Bangkok, Thailand

The WCO National Workshop on Risk Management and Risk Assessment was held at the Thai Customs Department Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand on 26 to 28 February 2013. A total of 25 officers of Thai Customs attended the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the experts from the WCO, Japan Customs, USCBP, and Thai Customs. Mr. Shigeaki KATSU represented the ROCB in the Opening and Closing ceremony.

The participants received an overview of the WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium from WCO experts. Elements covered in their presentations included: information and intelligence, risk management, profiling and targeting, compliance management, and key risk areas and risk indicators. Several case studies and examples were also conducted to enhance the participants' understanding.



The representative from USCBP kindly agreed to participate in this workshop and introduced the concept of "National Targeting Center" which included its scopes and current Initiatives. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to extend our sincere appreciation for her enthusiasm and kind contribution for the regional activities.

WCO Regional Workshop on the Time Release Study Kashiwa, Japan

WCO and ROCB AP, in cooperation with Japan Customs organized the WCO Regional Workshop on Time Release Study in Kashiwa, RTC Japan from 4 to 8 March 2013. In total, 39 participants from 26 countries attended the workshop. For this workshop, ROCB AP successfully coordinated the sponsorship from Asia



Development Bank (ADB) to invite additional four participants from the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) members, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, Head of ROCB A/P, Mr. Jing CHENG, technical attaché of ROCB A/P and Ms. Ben CHAMKROM attended this regional event as facilitators.

WCO has been keen on promoting the agenda of Time Release Study (TRS) among the members in the Asia Pacific region. An effective tool in measuring the efficiency of trade facilitation, TRS can help the members to identify the bottlenecks of border control agencies in the clearance of cargo and indicate the possible steps to make further improvement. The experts from WCO, Japan Customs and China Customs not only explained the methodology of the utilization of this tool, but also provided their valuable perspectives on how to read behind the collected data and then take effective measures.



For the benefit of workshop participants, the agenda also included a session on member experience sharing, which invited the countries who have conducted TRS to present on the benefits, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of TRS. A group exercise session was also successfully conducted which assisted more members to have a clear roadmap in the implementation of TRS at the later stages. All participants acclaimed the timely nature of this workshop and showed strong commitment to the follow up action.

WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via Post-Clearance Audit (PCA) for OCO Members

Suva , Fiji

WCO, ROCB A/P, OCO Secretariat and Japan Customs, in cooperation with the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority organized the WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via PCA for OCO Members from 25 to 29 March 2013. This workshop was attended by a total of 15 participants from 10 OCO member countries. Mr. Shigeaki KATSU, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P and Ms. Pariyabhat ARIYAPONGKOSON, technical officer of ROCB A/P joined this workshop on behalf of WCO as facilitators. Two Japanese experts also attended as facilitators.

The representatives from 10 Customs administrations presented their progress reports on PCA and national experience on Valuation Control via PCA problems and challenges. During the course, the core elements for assistance with the implementation of PCA, such as the Incoterms 2010, overview of the WTO Valuation Agreement, preparation and conduct of Field PCA and its case studies and exercises were conducted by the experts from Japan Customs.

A representative of each country made presentations on several topics based on the PCA Guidelines for Oceania Region and WCO training materials on Valuation Control via PCA developed under a pilot program. There was also a presentation on PCA Power Table delivered by the representative from the OCO Secretariat, explaining list of provisions that help officers' carryout PCA.

Mr. KATSU chaired overall sessions as a chief advisor of OCO PCA Project and at the end of the workshop the PCA Guidelines for Oceania Region developed by multi-year program on OCO PCA Project was unanimously adopted and will be tabled at the upcoming 15th OCO Annual Conference in Tonga in May 2013 for endorsement. These PCA Guidelines as well as the training materials provided will be used by OCO members to guide their national implementation of PCA.



WCO RKC/Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring Workshop

Kazakhstan

The WCO Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)/Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) Workshop was held from 27 February to 1 March 2013 in Kazakhstan. At the invitation from Asia Development Bank, Mr. Lee Sang-Hyup, technical attaché of ROCB A/P joined this workshop as facilitator.

Mr. Lee provided an overview of RKC, emphasizing critical elements, such as its benefits and rights of contracting parties, RKC general and specific annexes, self –assessment tool, and Customs Modernization etc. For the CPMM workshop, he also introduced the WCO Time Release Study tool, including its concept, benefits and best practice.

His presentation and expertise was well received by all participants. The participants appreciated the WCO efforts in developing the Trade Facilitation tools and showed a very positive attitude in adopting the benefits of their Customs reform and modernization.

UNESCAP/UN-DHRLLS/UNECE/Government of Lao PDR Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action (APOA) for the landlocked Developing Countries

Vientiane, Laos PDR

At the invitation from United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), Mr. Shigeaki KATSU represented the WCO in the captioned event which was held in Vientiane Laos PDR from 5 to 7 March 2013. The meeting was also attended by a number of participants of member countries as well as the representatives from UN Agencies, and Development Partners such as Asia Development Bank, World Bank etc.



This meeting aimed to review the progress made on the implementation of the APoA which was adopted at the first International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Transit Developing Countries and Development Partners held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2003. Several presentations were made by the member countries with regard to their internal progress under this program. Since Laos PDR has recently acceded to the WTO Membership which was enacted on 2nd February 2013, this meeting encouraged other LLDCs for join this positive

move which will greatly facilitate their process in obtaining the non-discriminatory market access and other benefits of multilateral framework for trade.

The outcome of the event, the “Vientiane Consensus” was adopted at the meeting, and will be submitted to the sixty-ninth session of the global review of the APoA to be held in 2014, for endorsement.

The 2nd GTI Trade Facilitation Workshop

Customs Border Control Training Center, Korea

The 2nd Greater Tumen Initiative's (GTI) trade facilitation workshop was held at the Customs Border Control Training Center (CBCTC), Korea from 18 to 22 March, 2013. In total, 33 participants from China, Russia, Mongolia and Korea attended the workshop. Mr. Lee Sang-Hyup, technical attaché of the ROCB A/P joined this workshop.

GTI is an inter-governmental cooperation mechanism which is now supported by UNDP with four members namely China, Mongolia, Korea and Russia. It includes several cooperation bodies, such as Transport, Energy, Tourism, Environment and newly launched Trade Facilitation committee. Currently, the CBCTC was designated to undertake the GTI capacity building programs based on the MOU between KCS and GTI which was signed in 2012.

Mr. Lee Sang-Hyup from ROCB A/P made a presentation on *Enhancing Trade Facilitation through TRS* during the workshop. The other representatives also introduced their trade facilitation measures under their respective framework. In the last 2 days of the workshop the site visit to Incheon Airport and Seaport Customs was arranged for the participants.

UNODC Experts Group Meeting on Model Border Control Service Academy Guide Semarang, Indonesia

The UNODC (United Nation Office of Drug and Crime) organized the *Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Model Border Service Academy Guide* in Semarang, Indonesia on 20 and 21 March 2013. It was attended by representatives from UNODC, WCO, ICMPD (International Center for Migration Policy Development), Lithuanian State Border Guard Service, Tajikistan Border Management Staff College, Turkey TADOC Academy and Indonesia Police Academy. Mr. Jing CHENG, technical attaché of ROCB A/P joined the meeting on behalf of WCO.

This meeting was organized to establish a Model Border Service Academy Guide which will be used as a generic guide, including infrastructure and curriculum components that countries could then localize, implement and maintain with little additional assistance. It will help develop each recipient country's long-term sustainable capacity to build and maintain an effective, professional Border Service (border police/immigration/customs/border army etc.) by supporting them to create or improve a national Border Service academy (or training Centre).



In his overview of WCO training strategy, Mr. Jing CHENG provided the WCO and ROCB AP perspectives on the curriculum development of the WCO Regional Training Center (RTC). The elements were covered in his oral presentation, included the WCO PICARD Programme, WCO training Kits, WCO initiative on center of excellence, WCO training needs survey, and Regional Expert Pool etc. He also introduced the best practice from the Customs community on the development of training modules specific to border control, such as the controlled delivery, non-Intrusive Inspection, Green Customs etc. UNODC thanked Mr. Jing CHENG for his valuable input and expressed the hope to work more closely with WCO and ROCB A/P in the area of capacity building in future.

Enhancement of collaboration with ADB for South Asian countries

Bangkok, Thailand

The Asia Development Bank (ADB), in cooperation with UNESCAP and WCO organized a four-day Trade Facilitation policy dialogue, in Bangkok, Thailand from 25 to 28 March 2013. This dialogue was intended for members of South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, India and Nepal. It was attended by a total of 30 representatives from the Transportation and Customs and Trade Facilitation Departments of those countries. On behalf of WCO, Mr. Yoshihiro KOSAKA, head of ROCB A/P and Mr. Jing CHENG were invited to this event.

This event aims to help the SASEC members to raise the awareness of the negative effect of intangible and non-tariff barriers on the efficiency of trade facilitation and then, provides a series of feasible and practical solutions for members' reference. Hence, it helps to establish a mutual cooperative mechanism among countries to improve the transnational movement of goods.



The 3rd day of the event involved representatives from some international organizations, including the UNESCAP, WCO and ADB etc. To meet the demand of the SASEC Sub-region, they systematically introduced the trade facilitation measures under their respective framework, including the Single Window, Risk Management, Revised Kyoto Convention and SAFE FOS and Secure cross-border-transport mode etc. In Mr. KOSAKA's overview of the RKC

and SAFE FOS, he presented the outline of these two important WCO instruments with great emphasis on the significance of the accession to RKC and the implementation of an AEO program. His presentation was very much appreciated by all participants. On the 4th day of the event, in the discussion session on capacity building activities, Mr. Jing CHENG introduced the WCO procedure to conduct a survey for the identification of training needs from countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. After this session, Mr. KOSAKA carried out on

the spot, individual consultation with representatives from some countries to design tailor-made projects to maximize the benefit of future activities. The representatives of these countries were provided with the best advice and they had a clear roadmap on how to improve their capacity building and put forward their modernization of Customs business.

ADB greatly appreciated the contribution from WCO and ROCB A/P and hoped that such good relationship and partnership could be maintained and strengthened

Future Activities

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