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SPECIAL TOPICS

SUCCESS of the "Multi-year OCO PCA Project"

ROCB A/P, in cooperation with Japan Customs and OCO Secretariat, initiated this first multi-year capacity building project 2 years ago. Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P, assisted by an expert from Japan customs, led this initiative together with the OCO Secretariat and the working team composed of 5 WCO members in the Pacific Islands, namely Fiji, PNG, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu. This multi-year project was kindly supported by Japan Customs through CCF/Japan and was successfully concluded in May 2013.

The Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Annual Conference was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga from 30th April to 3rd May 2013. This event was attended by delegates from 20 OCO members. It was also attended by a number of the international and regional organizations and private sectors.





Mr. Katsu participated in this conference representing WCO and ROCB A/P. To highlight the importance of innovation for the customs modernization, the Secretariat of OCO designated “Innovation for Customs Progress” as the theme for its 15th Annual Conference. The Prime Minister of Tonga opened this grand event.

At the conference, Mr. Katsu made a report on the outcomes of the multi-year OCO Post Clearance Audit (PCA) Project, which is actually a very first multi-year

project lead by the ROCB A/P. This project was aimed at (1) developing PCA Guidelines which is specifically designed for OCO countries and (2) developing core resource persons in OCO for the sustainable implementation of PCA. To achieve such objectives, ROCB A/P organized a number of regional/national activities in the last two years in cooperation with our partners. With the anonymous adoption of the Guidelines by the DGs and Commissioners of Pacific Islands at the Conference, the multi-year project was completed successfully. This was actually an extremely good example of collaborative work of ROCB A/P, OCO Secretariat, Japan Customs and, more importantly, WCO members in the Pacific Islands. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our partners, OCO Secretariat and Japan Customs for their enormous support. We would also like to congratulate the working team members, namely, Fiji, PNG, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu on their significant achievement. Through this multi-year project, ROCB A/P learned a lot, such as the importance of commitment of top management, leadership and ownership of the working team members, significant value of partnership and a clear road map of the project. They are all repeatedly emphasized at the WCO Capacity Building Committee and this multi-year project can be considered as a good show-case of how important these elements are.

At the end of the OCO Conference, it was also announced that the 16th OCO Annual Conference will take place in Palau in 2014. ROCB A/P will continue its efforts to provide quality assistance to its members, including those in the Pacific Islands, taking into account the good lessons learnt from this multi-year project.



STAFF Replacement

• New Staff from Japan Customs



I am Takayuki MIYOSHI from Japan Customs. You may call me "TAKA". I am a 43-year-old male, who loves enjoying a glass of beer after tennis.

I have experience in almost all kinds of Customs' frontline jobs through my more than 20 years of service to Japan Customs. Based on this experience, I have been involved in a number of international capacity building activities held both in and out of Japan. My area of specialization is Customs Valuation and Post Clearance Audit, and I am a WCO accredited expert on Customs Valuation.

My secondment to ROCB A/P commenced in July 2013 which is my great fortune and honor. I am very much looking forward to cultivating my expertise and working with colleagues of ROCB A/P and Thai Customs for contributing to capacity building in the region while being stationed in this wonderful country of Thailand.

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• New Staff from Korea Customs

On May 1th, ROCB A/P received new specialist from Korea Customs. Hi Lee! Lee is talking about himself ...

"My name is S. K. Lee. I'm from Korea. I used to work in the Narcotic Investigation Division. Today many Customs administrations are faced with challenges from drug traffickers and Organized Criminal Syndicates. They are well trained, specialized and networked. Organized criminals are producing drugs in one country, smuggling them to another and marketing them in a third. They are taking full advantage of logistics and traffic under the global trade facilitation and



a liberalized travel environment. For this reason most governments are suffering from drug problems and some of them are announcing a crackdown on illegal drugs. However they don't seem to be winning in this war. At this moment illegal drug trafficking is one of the most challenging issues the government faces in the war against drugs. So the Customs role of intercepting drugs at the frontline of the country is very important. I believe this is the most efficient and cost effective way to win the war on drugs. I hope I can contribute something to the Asia Pacific region Customs Administration's capacity building in this field. I'm very glad to work with these wonderful Customs gentlemen and ladies from China, HK, Japan and Thai Customs and sincerely thank Thai Customs for their support during my settlement in Thailand.

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• A Farewell Message from Mr. Shigeaki Katsu, Deputy Head of ROCB A/P

I still recall the day my introductory message was circulated in the ROCB A/P e-newsletter in mid of 2010. Indeed, I feel time flew so fast but actually it didn't, going by the number of regional, sub-regional and national events I attended and facilitated in the past three years. Fortunately I had opportunities to attend either workshop or meeting which was held in a respective Regional Training Centers (RTC) in A/P region, namely China, Fiji, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Korea and Malaysia, as a facilitator, expert or representative of ROCB A/P. In particular, I was very happy to witness the official opening of RTC Fiji in August 2012 and facilitated a kick-off event of Sub-regional workshop on Post Clearance Audit (PCA) for Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Members. I am also very grateful to achieve the goals together with colleagues from Pacific Island countries for Multi-year program for OCO PCA Project.



Taking this occasion, let me express my sincere appreciation to Thai Customs Department for continuous cooperation and support towards ROCB A/P and my stay in Thailand. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Japan Customs who gave me such a valuable opportunity to work in ROCB A/P. I cannot conclude the message without expressing my special thanks to fellow colleagues in all A/P members, RTCs, WCO Secretariat, OCO Secretariat, Development Partners and of course, all ROCB A/P staff for their kindness and friendship. My term in ROCB A/P has not only increased the value of my

professional career but also accumulated personal experience and memories. Many challenges still await us to be addressed in an ever-changing environment surrounding Customs and Business Community, but ROCB A/P is always there for you and members. Let us keep in touch and hope to see you and work together with you again in the nearest future!

3 More CPs? – ROCB A/P Support on the RKC

At the global Customs discussion, Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) of the WCO again highlighted the importance of Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) as the core of modern customs procedures. There are 86 Contracting Parties (CPs) to the RKC (as of June 14), including 15 CPs in the Asia Pacific region. To contribute to the regional development through the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures, Director Generals and Commissioners of Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific region set the target of 18 CPs to RKC by the end of June 2014 through its Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014. A number of Customs administrations in the A/P region have been making extensive efforts to accede to RKC as soon as possible. ROCB A/P has been assisting those administrations by providing various quality supports to accelerate their progress.



As part of its ongoing efforts, ROCB A/P organized a WCO Sub-regional Workshop on RKC for Southeast Asian countries in cooperation with Royal Malaysian Customs in AKMAL (RTC Malaysia) - Melaka, Malaysia, from 8 to 12 April 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF./Japan. In total, 23 participants from 9 Customs Administration, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, together with 5 observers from Royal Malaysian Customs, participated in this workshop. 3 WCO accredited experts on RKC, Ms. Subramanian from India, Mr. Broekema from Netherlands and Mr. Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P agreed to conduct this workshop and share their valuable expertise and knowledge with participants. Ms. Ben Chamkorm, Program Coordinator of the ROCB A/P also attended this sub-regional event as facilitator.



During the 5-day workshop, 3 experts worked together in a very flexible manner to meet the different level of preparedness of respective countries and their expectations by, for instance, combining plenary session and individual consultation sessions. They also made a number of informative presentations on, for instance, (1) Outlines (in details) of RKC (including background, structure, benefits, rights and obligation etc) (2) General Annex

(3) How to do “GAP Analysis” (4) Accession to RKC (5) Body of the Convention (6) Specific Annexes. All non-CPs to RKC, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand reported their preparation to the RKC accession while 3 existing CPs to RKC namely Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam contributed to the discussion by sharing their extremely valuable experience on the preparation and accession to RKC. As a result, all participants deepened their understanding on RKC and successfully identified the way forward towards the early accession to RKC. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to India Customs and Netherlands Customs for releasing their experts to join this important workshop.

Similar support from ROCB A/P has been extended, or will be extended to interested countries, such as Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives in South Asia in cooperation with Development Partners. ROCB A/P is committed to continue its efforts to support regional members and hope that, with the extensive valuable work done by the interested countries, Asia Pacific region will meet the target of 18 CPs by June 2014.



Significant Progress of Collaboration with Development Partners in A/P Region

Enhancing cooperation/collaboration with Development Partners (DPs) is one of the priority action items for the ROCB A/P in 2012/2013 and beyond. ROCB A/P is currently working with a number of DPs including ADB, WB, UNESCAP, UNEP, UNODC, JICA etc. In order to boost further collaboration with DPs, in cooperation with WCO Secretariat and Thai Customs Department, ROCB A/P organized the Asia Pacific Regional Donor Conference on 28 May to 1 June 2012 in Bangkok where the majority of the DPs above participated in and exchanged their views on how to enhance partnership with regional Customs administrations. The Regional Donor Conference highlighted the importance to continue discussion at the sub-regional, national and/or agency level as one of its findings. Subsequently, ROCB A/P continued its efforts to make the theoretical collaboration with DPs into action and to develop more concrete project-based collaboration to provide quality supports to regional members. This article briefly outlines the significant progress we made in this regard in 2012/2013.

1. Current situation of collaboration with DPs in AP region

ROCB A/P is currently expanding more concrete project-based collaboration with DPs while paying due attention to the long-term strategy/program of the countries. The current practical collaboration between ROCB A/P and DPs can be summarized in the following 5 categories.

(1) *Category 1: Development and implementation of coordinated strategy/program*

The objective of this collaboration is (1) to provide coordinated quality support to regional members; (2) to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts; (3) to complement each other taking into account respective strength and weakness, and (4) to achieve concrete result with through multi-year assistance. An example of this collaboration is as follows.

Name of the Joint Strategy/Program	Outline of Strategy/Program
OCO PCA Project	This is a multi-year project implemented in cooperation with Japan customs and OCO Secretariat aiming at development of PCA guidelines and pool of resources. The project has been completed successfully with the adoption of PCA guidelines at the 15 th OCO Council in

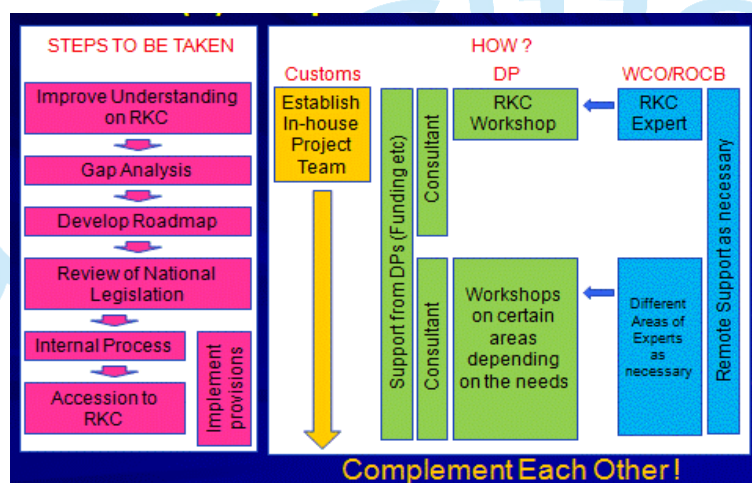
	Tonga in May 2013. (See Example 1 below)
Asia Cargo Highway Initiative (Southeast Asia)	This is a multi-agency initiative involving WCO and ADB and provides a number of coordinated capacity building activities to the customs administrations in Southeast Asia taking into account their needs. Areas of support vary from country to country while WCO are involved more in RKC, TRS and etc.
Coordinated strategy/program development for SASEC countries (South Asia)	ADB and ROCB A/P are working together to provide a coordinated multi-year support to SASEC (South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation) countries. A number of regional/national programs on RKC, PCA etc are under consideration for achieving concrete result paying due attention to the complementarities. Image of the joint support provided by the WCO and ADB is shown in the "Example 2" below.
Coordinated strategy/program development for Pacific islands (Pacific Islands)	ADB and ROCB A/P are working together to provide coordinated multi-year support to pacific islands countries. The areas of support may include: training development (for RTC Fiji), HS, PCA, SAFE FoS, Risk Management etc. A number of regional/national programs may be considered.

● Example 1: Outline of the Multi-year OCO PCA Project

Multi-year OCO PCA Project		
Objectives	Roadmap	
1: Development of PCA Guidelines specifically designed for OCO members 2: Development of core resources in the OCO for the sustainable implementation of PCA	Time	Action (under CCF/Japan)
	Place	
	Feb 2011	RTC India
	Sep 2011	RTC Fiji
	Feb 2012	Vanuatu
	Aug 2012	RTC Fiji
	Feb 2013	Tonga
	Mar 2013	RTC Fiji
	May 2013	Tonga

Note: For regional workshops, non-WCOOCO members also participated in

- Example 2: Image of coordinated support on RKC for South Asian countries



(2) Category 2: Organization of joint workshop/seminar

The objective of this effort is (1) to provide coordinated support to regional members with DPs particularly on issues which require interagency cooperation, such as Single Window, Trade Facilitation and Green Customs (2) to complement each other by utilizing respective experts and (3) to invite more Customs and other agencies through cost sharing. The example of this collaboration is as follows.

Time	Event	DP name	Remarks
Oct. 2012	UN/ESCAP TF forum and Customs workshop (Sri Lanka)	UNESCAP	Participation of WCO expert for the joint session
Nov. 2012	WCO Green Customs workshop (in Maldives)	UNEP	Participation of UNEP expert for the joint session
Mar. 2013	WCO TRS workshop (in Japan)	ADB	Additional participants through ADB funding

(3) Category 3: Providing experts to the seminars/workshop organized by DPs

The objective of this effort is (1) to utilize donor funding for the Customs capacity building and (2) to ensure the quality of capacity building activities under the donor funding. Recipient countries are also happy to receive this type of collaboration between the WCO and DPs. The example of this collaboration is as follows.

Time	Event	DP name	Remarks
July 2012	JICA national workshop on PCA (Pakistan)	JICA	Full funding for WCO accredited expert by JICA
Sep. 2012	ADB sub-regional workshop on TRS for West Asia (Pakistan)	ADB	Full funding for ROCB A/P expert by ADB
Nov. 2012	WCO/ADB national workshop on RKC (Bhutan)	ADB	Full funding for WCO accredited expert by ADB
Feb. 2013	ADB sub-regional workshop for CAREC on TF (Kazakhstan)	ADB	Full funding for ROCB A/P expert by ADB
March 2013	UNESCAP national workshop on Trade Facilitation (Lao PDR)	UNESCAP	Full funding for ROCB A/P expert by UNESCAP
May 2013	WCO/ADB sub-regional workshop on SAFE FoS and AEO for SASEC (Singapore)	ADB	Full funding for WCO and ROCB A/P experts by ADB

(4) Category 4: Participation to the meeting of DPs

The objective of this effort is (1) to improve mutual understanding on the respective organization and their program and (2) to explore possibility of future collaboration. The example of this collaboration is as follows.

Time	Event	DP name	Remarks
Sep. 2012	WCO/ADB joint mission (Bhutan)	ADB	Identification of areas of coordinated support with ADB
Nov. 2012	UNEP project REN meeting (Philippines)	UNEP	Introduction of WCO/ROCB activities
March 2013	ADB Trade Facilitation Week for SASEC (Thailand)	ADB	Identification of areas of coordinated support with ADB
March 2013	UNODC expert group meeting on training (Indonesia)	UNODC	Introduction of WCO/ROCB activities
May	ARF on strategic trade control	ARF	Introduction of

2013	(Thailand)	(USAID)	WCO/ROCB activities
May 2013	ITIC workshop on illicit trade on tobacco (Vietnam)	ITIC	Introduction of WCO/ROCB activities

(5) Category 5: Information sharing for better coordination

The objective of this effort is (1) to initiate contact, (2) improve mutual understanding on the respective organization and their program and (2) to explore possibility of future collaboration. The example of this collaboration is as follows.

Time	Event	DP name	Remarks
Sep. 2012	National donor meeting in Cambodia	ADB, JICA, WB, IMF etc	Introduction of WCO/ROCB activities and facilitation of discussion
April 2013	AP-AME Customs Leaders' Dialogue (Panama)	ADB, IDB	Participation and sharing ideas
Regularly	Individual consultation with ADB, WB, ACBPS, USCBP and ICAO	ADB	Regular consultation took place through face-to-face meeting and/or telephone conference

In order to further strengthen ROCB A/P's own capacity to provide quality support to regional members, ROCB A/P designated respective staff as a "program manager" for the 4 sub-regions, namely;

East, Central and West Asia (Mr. Lee: leesk@rocbap.org)

Pacific Islands (Mr. Cheng: chengjing@rocbap.org)

Southeast Asia (Mr. Wong: jameskwong@rocbap.org)

South Asia (Mr. Miyoshi: miyoshi@rocbap.org)

They are ready to work with regional members and please do not hesitate to contact them whenever you feel it necessary.

Workshops/Meetings

WCO Regional Workshop on Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP)

A 3-day regional workshop on the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) was held at the Regional Training Centre in Hong Kong China which is also the Customs and Excise Training School of Hong Kong Customs under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan from 3 to 5 June 2013. It was attended by 28 participants from 25 Customs Administrations in Asia Pacific region and 1 observer from South Africa. Ms. Susanne Aigner, Deputy Director, and Mr. Toshihiko Osawa, Technical Officer, both from the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate of the WCO facilitated the workshop. Mr. Shigeaki Katsu and Mr. Wong Kai Wah from ROCB A/P also attended the workshop and contributed.

The workshop aimed at deepening understanding of the region on ECP and identifying regional needs and priorities to develop ECP action plan. In the workshop, all participants received an overview of ECP including WCO vision, ECP strategy plan and WCO instruments and tools. They were also introduced a series of WCO documents such as RKC and SAFE FoS, etc. To enable the participants to gain deeper understanding of these topics, some participants were arranged to present the current situation of the application of trade facilitation in their country. After fruitful discussions among the participants, key areas of the regional strategic plan were identified and prioritized.

The participants thanked the organizing committee and indicated that they would try their best to apply what they had learned in the workshop upon return to their countries.



WCO Sub-Regional Operational IPR Seminar for Southeast Asia Members

WCO Sub-regional Operational IPR Seminar for Southeast Asia Members was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 April to 3 May 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 24 participants attended this seminar.

Two WCO accredited WCO experts, Ms. Aki Kobayashi and Ms. Junko Yamamoto facilitated the workshop. Mr. Wong Kai Wah, Mr. Jing CHENG and Ms. Matchima Kiripet, represented ROCB A/P in the seminar.



This seminar aims to raise the awareness of the participants on the importance of fighting against counterfeiting activities, and to deliver the targeting techniques of selection for the suspicious air and maritime cargoes. Participants were introduced TRIPS and Interface Public Members (IPM) and also received an overview of the application of Risk Management to the selection of suspicious cargoes. During the seminar, WCO experts also arranged the concrete exercise of suspicious cargo selection to participants.

With the kind arrangement of Thai customs, participants and facilitators also visited the Cargo control division of Suvarnabhumi International Airport and the Bangkok Port Customs. With the in-situ communication with the experts, participants further strengthened the ability to apply the learned expertise to target the suspicious cargo.

WCO National Workshop on Rules of Origin in Sri Lanka

Under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan, WCO and ROCB A/P offered Sri Lanka Customs a national workshop on Rules of Origin in Colombo from 27-31, May 2013. A total of 50 participants from Sri Lankan Customs and the Department of Commerce attended this workshop. Mr. Atsushi Tanaka, Technical attache of the WCO, Mr. Satish Reddy from India Customs and Ms. Rika Tokai from Japan Customs facilitated the workshop. Mr. Jing CHENG, from ROCB AP attended and contributed to this workshop.

As one of the follow up activities of the WCO regional workshop on ROO which was held in Shanghai 2012, this workshop aimed to provide Sri Lanka customs with targeted technical assistance in support of their effort in the administration of ROO. The agenda prepared by WCO was very comprehensive, covering a range of ROO issues, such as the key concepts for proper origin determination based on the WCO Comparative Study on Preferential Rules of Origin and as well a number of related operational issues, such as the establishment of an efficient organization, effective training and private sector outreach to the private sector.



The participants also gained deeper understanding on the WCO's Revenue Package initiative and the newly developed Guidelines on Preferential Origin Verification. In recognition of the increased ability of the participants on origin determination, an exercise was also arranged in the middle of the workshop. With the great cooperation of Sri Lanka Customs, this workshop achieved tangible results. The network between the WCO experts and Sri Lanka Customs officers was greatly enhanced. WCO and ROCB AP will continue to support Sri Lanka Customs to continue the steady improvement in this area. Meanwhile, the effort of WCO experts group was also recognized by the participants.

X-ray Image Analysis workshop for Bhutan



ROCB A/P together with Thai Customs jointly organized the X-Ray Image Analysis workshop for Bhutan Customs in Thailand from 3 to 7 June 2013. In total, 7 Customs Officers from Paro International Airport, Bhutan Customs and Excise attended the training. Mr. Jing CHENG, Mr. Seung Kyoo LEE and Ms. Ben Chamkorm, from ROCB A/P attended this training as the facilitators.



The 5 days workshop contained the presentation on risk management and profiling, the description of X-Ray Machine and technique for Drug seizures by the use of X-ray machine. The participants had a chance to visit Customs Control Technology Center to see the efficiency of CCTV and technology of Customs Control employed by Thai Customs. In addition, the participants had the opportunity to make field visits to Arunya Pradesh Customs House, situated at the land border with Cambodia, Suvarnabhumi Airport Passenger Control Customs Bureau, Suvarnabhumi Airport Cargo Clearance Bureau. They also visited Laem Chabang Port, the biggest Sea Port of Thailand, to see the container inspection by fixed-type X-Ray Machine and X-Ray system for train cargo.

Due to the success of this training which was supported by Thai Customs, one of participants, Ms. Rinzin PEMO shared her appreciation of this training as:

"Five days training on x-ray image reading and analysis was an eye opener for the Bhutan Customs, on how such modern tools can be effectively used in facilitating Customs service delivery. This training proved very effective in enhancing the knowledge of the officials at the implementation level and would contribute in facilitating while ensuring effective enforcement. X-ray plays a part but main performance depends on the person who is operating the X-ray"

machine. We would like to thanks ROCB A/P, Thai Customs, ADB and RGOB for giving us this opportunity to make a memorable visit to an interesting country. We hope that you will continue to provide such training to enhance our skills and knowledge for better service delivery at

the border points in our country with effective law enforcement. This tour has definitely raised the morale, enhanced knowledge and skill of the staff, and we will definitely be bringing some positive change at Paro international airport."



Donor Engagement

Asia Pacific – America Customs Leaders Dialogue

WCO, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Panama Customs jointly organized the Asia Pacific – America Customs Leaders Dialogue in Panama on 4-5 April 2013. The event attracted the attendance of around 100 participants from the Asia Pacific Region and America Region, including many Director Generals and Commissioners of Customs. Along with the WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya and the Deputy Secretary General

Sergio Mujica, Mr. Yoshiriro Kosaka, Head of ROCB AP, participated and made a significant contribution to the dialogue.

Topics discussed in the dialogue included: Enhancement of strategic partnership between the regions, the relevance of the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) to the WCO Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP), Single window: the enabler to the international cooperation, border performance measurement, cooperation between Customs administrations in protecting society from illicit trade and so on. This dialogue provided an opportunity to

discuss the way forward on the cooperation between the Asia Pacific Region and America Region. The outcome of the dialogue stressed the importance of the approach for building sustainable institutional capacity through a joint effort of ADB, IDB and WCO, including ROCBs and RILOs.

As one of the panelists in the session on “strategic alliance”, Mr. Kosaka introduced the strategy and a progress report of capacity building in the AP, where a series of topics such as the donor engagement, utilization of regional expertise and result-oriented capacity building activities were covered. Participants appreciated his contribution to this meeting.

ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540

On 15 May 2013, Mr. James K W Wong, the Program Manager (SEA) of ROCB A/P was invited, as a speaker, to attend the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Confidence Building Measure (CBM) Seminar on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Bangkok. The Seminar was organized by the U.S. Department of State and was co-chaired by representatives of Thailand and the United States.

Apart from introduction of WCO and ROCB A/P's capacity building activities, Mr. James K W Wong delivered a brief introduction on Risk Management and Targeting as one of the WCO enforcement tools to the participants under the discussion area of Strategic Trade Control at the Seminar. The organizing committee appreciated the vivid examples relating to Risk Management and Targeting presented by the representative of ROCB A/P.

Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Seminar

From 22 to 24 May 2013, Mr. James K W Wong, the Program Manager (SEA) of ROCB A/P was invited to participate, as a speaker, in the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products Seminar in Vietnam. The Seminar was funded by the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC) and jointly organized by ITIC and the Ministry of Finance of Vietnam.

The workshop was designed to inform the regional members of the current situation of illicit trade in tobacco products. It provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the way forward on the issue.

A tailor-made presentation on “WCO and ROCB A/P Assistance” was delivered by Mr. James K W Wong. Various WCO tools and related capacity building activities were introduced to the participants. The ITIC thanked ROCB A/P's presentation and planned to invite ROCB A/P to join its Working Group for drafting an ASEAN handbook to help combat illicit trade in tobacco in the region.

WCO/ADB Workshop on the SAFE FoS and AEO for South Asian Countries

The WCO, ROCB A/P and Asian Development Bank (ADB), in cooperation with Singapore Customs, jointly organized a Workshop on SAFE FoS and AEO in Singapore from 27 to 31 May 2013 under the sponsorship of ADB. This workshop is intended for 6 South Asian Countries namely Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and was attended by around 20 participants. Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P participated in this workshop as a resource

person together with Ms. Asha Menon, Technical officer of the WCO.

The objective of the workshop was to deepen the understanding of Customs officials of South Asian countries on the SAFE FoS and AEO together with Compliance Program (CP) under the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC). Topics discussed in this workshop included: AEO Programme and Mutual Recognition Agreement, SAFE Package, RKC, AEO benefits and requirements etc.

During the workshop, participants from 6 participating countries made an introduction on the status quo of AEO/CP program in their countries. With the kind coordination of the Singapore customs, a field visit to an AEO company was arranged for all participants. The interaction among participants as well as between the participant and members of the private sector significantly contributed to the achievement of the objective of this workshop. As a result of this workshop, the participants successfully developed the concrete road map towards the implementation of AEO programme. ADB, WCO/ROCB A/P as well as all participants were greatly satisfied the outcome of the even. They were impressed with the 'partnership approach' and reaffirmed their commitment to work together for the regional development.

ASEAN Customs Directors-General Meeting - WCO Consultation Session

In conjunction with the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Customs Directors-General Meeting, WCO Consultation Session was held in Singapore on June 6th and Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P joined WCO Secretary General for this important meeting. Participants to this session received an overview of ASEAN Customs integration and the progress on the ASEAN single window (ASW) and National Single Window (NSW) from the ASEAN Secretariat while from the WCO, Secretary General introduced of the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) and the new WCO Strategic Plan. The Directors-General supported the new WCO Strategic Plan and expressed their interest in certain areas of the Strategic Plan, including the potential linkage between export and import data, and expansion of the Revenue Package to include the issue of excise duties.

Following the high level policy dialogue, ROCB A/P briefed the meeting of the ASEAN-related capacity building projects which are currently focusing on three areas in response to the needs expressed by the region: Revised Kyoto Convention, risk assessment, and valuation and post-clearance audit. The participants expressed their satisfaction with and appreciation for the capacity building support provided by ROCB A/P

ROCB A/P will continue to give its best efforts to support members.

Other Issues

ROCB A/P Internal Study Workshop

Self-development of ROCB A/P staff is key to successful implementation of capacity building activities in the region. With that in mind, on 11 June 2013, ROCB A/P organized an internal study workshop for ROCB staff to share their respective knowledge and expertise. A regularly held event, this workshop serves as a platform for research and self-development and provides an occasion to deliberate what action to take for the benefits of regional members.

Combined with the ongoing projects of ROCB AP, a wide range of voluntarily-chosen topics were discussed, which included: IPR, Single Window,



air passengers targeting, Lessons- learnt from Multi-year project, Project Map Database, Compendium of Thai Customs, How to improve presentations and ROCB AP work focus etc. Through the exchange of knowledge and views, attendees gained more knowledge on these prevailing issues gained an increased awareness of the scope of regional capacity building.

This internal workshop aroused great enthusiasm in ROCB A/P and we all agreed to continue this effort for the benefit of regional members. The next event is expected to take place in July.





PICARD Conference 2013

Brussels, 4th July 2013

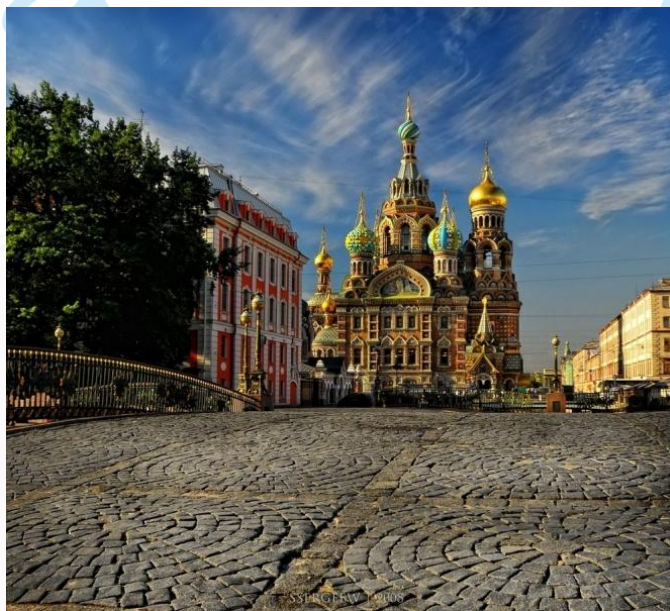
With the participation of Russian Federal Customs Services, the **PICARD Conference 2013** is organized in partnership with the Institute of International Business and Law of the University of St-Petersburg, the St-Petersburg ITMO State University and with the support of the International Network of Customs Universities. It is the major annual event of the Partnerships in Customs Academic Research and Development Programme (PICARD). The annual PICARD Conference indeed brings together senior customs executives responsible for Customs reform, modernization and policy issues, and human resources and development, academics, representatives of international and regional organizations and business executives, to think and exchange about the Customs challenges.

The PICARD programme emphasises the necessity of a harmonization of Customs procedures and training, in order to facilitate trade but also to fight against fraud and illicit exchanges more efficiently. In that extent, Regional Training Centres implication is important because they are the ones that implement trainings, which gives them an expertise in this field. WCO RTCs are central in customs training, and therefore can give a motivated point of view concerning the discussed themes of the Conference.

The annual PICARD Conference is a networking place for actors, and permits to think about the best ways to tackle the challenges customs are facing, especially insisting on training role in actors' response and anticipation capacities. Therein, this year themes, talked over a plenary session, debates and brainstorming groups question about three aspects of custom training :

- The impact on Customs of the development, implementation and administration of regional integration initiatives. This reflexion will underline the effects of free-trade areas, created through Regional Agreement such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) , on customs work. Knowing the impact of these agreements should make possible to adapt training and procedures to make them more efficient and better coordinated.
- The WCO Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP). Adopted in 2012 Council the ECP uses the Revised Kyoto Convention to harmonize and simplified Customs procedure, in order to facilitate legal exchanges while fighting against fraud. The session dedicated to the ECP will address the question of Customs contribution to competitiveness and trade facilitation.
- The enhancement of professionalism in Customs the operationalization of the PICARD 2020 Strategic Document. This theme directly related to capacity building focuses on the terms of definition of professional norms and harmonized training. It examines the basis that will help the WCO and its partners, such as the INCU as it is completely involved in training, to work efficiently on the implementation of the document adopted last February. It especially questions the role of ROCBs and CRF concerning the implementation of this document.

Exchange, discussion and reflexion forum, the PICARD Conference 2013 will permit, as the past years, to know the current Customs challenges, and help taking strategic decisions, as well as it will be an occasion to relate people working on different field but facing the same issues.



Please register on the website:
<http://picard.spb.ru/en/english.htm>
 (Preferential rates for an early registration, until August 15th)

Future Activities

No.	Event Name	Timing
1	WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Computer Forensics in Hong Kong, China	20 – 22 Aug. 2013
2	WCO National Workshop on RKC in Maldives	27 – 29 Aug. 2013 (P)
3	WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Risk-Based Cargo Selectivity in Japan	9 – 13 Sep. 2013
4	PICARD Conference in Russia	18 – 20 Sep. 2013
5	WCO Regional Seminar on Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement in India	24 – 26 Sep. 2013
6	11 th RTC Heads Meeting in Fiji	5 – 7 Nov. 2013