

# E-newsletter No.75

*Happy New year 2022*  
*From ROCB A/P*

A vibrant tropical scene featuring several tall coconut palm trees with green fronds. In the background, a calm pond reflects the sky and trees, surrounded by lush greenery and a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds.



# FOREWORD

---

Dear Readers,

I wish you all my Asia Pacific friends the best for 2022.  
A year of happiness, in which we are all safe and healthy!

Looking back on last year in brief, we were continually affected by COVID-19; nevertheless, we were able to find a way.



With the understanding and cooperation of experts at WCO HQs and Asia Pacific Members, ROCB A/P was able to deliver several workshops online. I am very happy that many customs officials from Asia Pacific Members participated in such events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved.

At the same time, ROCB strengthened our publication function in response to the current environment. As a new initiative, ROCB A/P published “Special Essay Collection 2021” which was a collection of articles written by ROCB A/P Project Managers. This focused on WCO hot topics and tools in an easy-to-understand manner. You can access these publications through the ROCB A/P website, and I hope you enjoy.

As for 2022, ROCB A/P will continue to provide deliverable capacity building services, as we did last year. Of course, I sincerely hope that the situation improves and we can resume meeting again in person.


This E-Newsletter features our activities undertaken by Asia Pacific members in the

second quarter of Fiscal Year 2021/22, i.e. October through December 2021. In this E-Newsletter, we present special article from Webinar on Trade Facilitation Measures to Address Covid-19 hosted by RTC Indonesia. I really appreciate being able to share this article.

In addition, ROCB A/P is now more focused on publications and information sharing which is one of the main functions of ROCB A/P as I mentioned above. In this ROCB A/P E-Newsletter, we present several special essays that explain WCO tools and its hot topics in a user-friendly and easy-to-understand manner. There are four special essays by the Program Managers of ROCB A/P in this No 75 E- Newsletter, (1) What was discussed at the WCO PICARD Conference 2021 by Ms. Grace YE, (2) Are you ready for HS 2022? by Ms. Sherman YU, (3) Let 's enjoy CLiKC! As the WCO E-Learning Platform by Ms. Pavida Boonmun and (4) Study on Canine Training and Operations in AP region by Mr. Ilkwon HAN. We sincerely hope that ROCB A/P publications will be good reference material for policy officials as well as field officers.

The ROCB A/P is always keen to hear any of your constructive comments and suggestions/input into our activities, including our communications and public relation activities, with a view to better service regional member Customs administrations. I would like to continue to convey not only ROCB A/P's activities but also interesting activities undertaken by members through our E-Newsletters.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norikazu Kuramoto' in a stylized, cursive script.

Norikazu Kuramoto (Mr.)  
Head of the ROCB A/P

# Contents

---

Webinar on Trade Facilitation Measures to Address Covid-19	1
Study on Canine Training and Operations in AP region	4
What discussed at the WCO PICARD Conference 2021	10
Are you ready for HS 2022?	15
Let's enjoy CLiKC! as the WCO E-Learning Platform	21

## Workshops and Meetings

---

The ROCB A/P and the Australian Border Force strengthen cooperation to support capacity building in the Asia Pacific region	27
Pacific Members discussed their key issues, challenges and training needs related to HS Classification	28
ROCB AP join the WCO COVID-19 Project for Pacific	29
19th Regional Training Center (RTC) Heads Meeting	30
ROCB A/P join the discussion on Customs Policy Connectivity	31
31st Regional Contact Point (RCP) Meeting	32
Virtual WCO Asia/ Pacific Regional Workshop on the HS 2022 implementation	33
ROCB AP collaborate with WWF UNEP INCB at RILO AP Seminar	35
Confirmed of Mutual Cooperation with APPU	36

# Webinar on Trade Facilitation Measures to Address Covid-19

14 October 2021, Online Seminar hosted by RTC Indonesia



The Webinar on Trade Facilitation Measures to Address Covid-19 was held on 14 October 2021 by the Indonesian Customs and Excise Education and Training Center (CETC) as WCO Regional Training Centre Asia/Pacific.

This webinar was the 8<sup>th</sup> and last series of Customs Collage: Customs Collaboration Beyond the Edge in 2021. There were more than 300 participants joined the webinar from the Zoom meeting and CETC YouTube channel. The participants came from the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia's employees, other Indonesian government agencies, Customs administrations from Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, and the general public.

The event was opened by Mr. Harry Mulya, Director of the Customs and Excise Education and Training Center (RTC Indonesia). Giving his opening remarks, Mr. Harry Mulya addressed the impact of the pandemic on the international trade order. Hence, it emphasized the need to discuss what measures have been imposed by the customs administration in tackling issues arising from Covid-19 limitations. Next, Mr. R. Syarif Hidayat, Director of International and Public Affairs Chief

of Executive WCO A/P Vice-Chair Office, was invited to present his keynote speech. In his remarks, Mr. R. Syarif Hidayat acknowledged the importance of a quick collaboration response to balance the pandemic handling and economic recoveries. Listing the measures taken by Indonesian Customs during the pandemic, he conveyed sincere hope that the recovery of the Indonesian economy will continue to strive for a better and stronger comeback with solid collaboration among governments and other supply chain communities. He concluded the remarks by expressing his best wishes for the successful seminar.

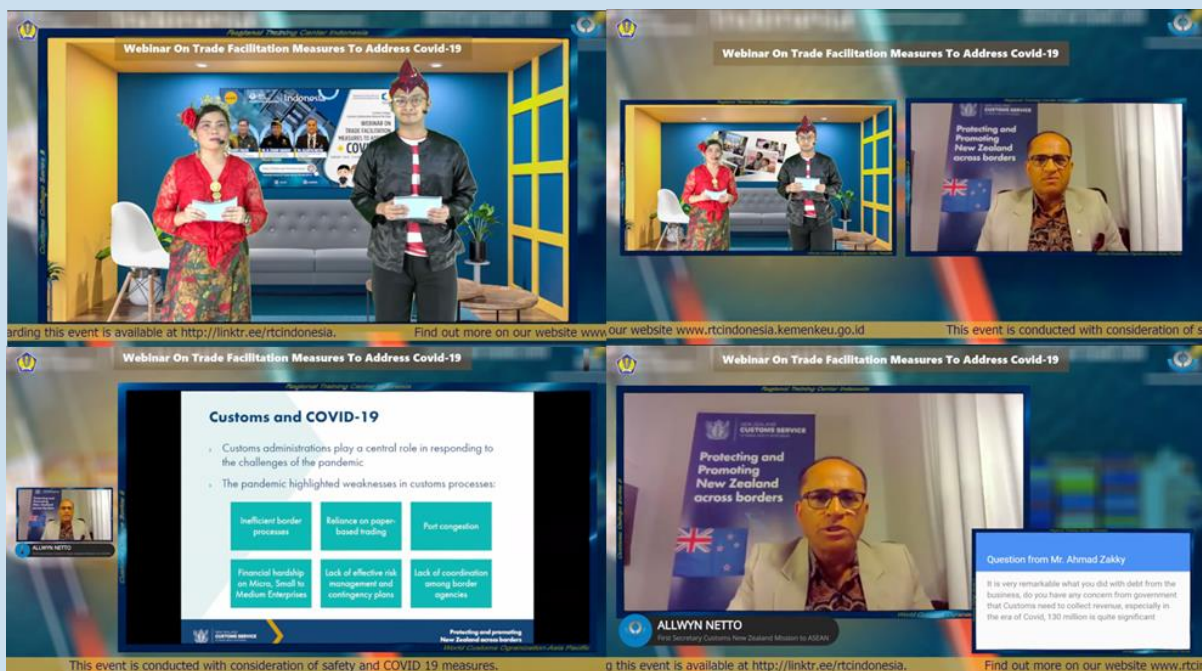
The webinar then started with the presentation from Mr. Allwyn Netto, First Secretary (Customs) New Zealand Mission to ASEAN. He opened the presentation by highlighting the weakness of customs processes that were further enhanced by the pandemic, such as inefficient border processes, reliance on paper-based trading, port congestion, financial hardship on micro and SME, lack of effective risk management and contingency plans, and lack of cross-border agencies cooperation. Mr. Allwyn Netto then proposed measures that the customs administration could take to facilitate international trade. First, implementing paperless transactions could decrease bottlenecks and promote a more efficient supply chain. Second, advance entry and pre-clearance of goods to accelerate the clearance of goods at ports. Third, leveraging off trusted trader arrangements to clear shipments. Fourth, utilize alternative ways to inspect cargo using various forms of technology. Fifth, reduce the duty on certain critical supplies by eliminating tariff or tax and duties exemptions on Covid-19 related goods. Sixth, expediting clearance of certain goods such as Covid-19 vaccines and medical goods.

In this webinar, Mr. Allwyn Netto also shared what procedures New Zealand customs took during the pandemic. NZ customs operated Trade Single Window (TSW) entirely for facilitating automated clearance and release. He also shared that NZ customs practiced remote inspections using advanced mobile X-ray units to restrict physical inspections. Further, to help local businesses survive during the pandemic, NZ customs introduced business financial support such as deferred payment schemes and debt management. NZ customs also expanded its Secure Exports Scheme to ensure low-risk import-export activities through minimal intervention by customs authorities. Lastly, NZ customs provided assistance to help traders address border delays and utilize post-entry audits to manage risk. Mr. Allwyn Netto concluded his presentation by recommending measures for economic recoveries, such as focusing on digitalization of customs procedures, flexible regulations, enhancing cooperation with domestic government agencies and global customs agencies, and sharing best practices and knowledge.



During the webinar, the participants engaged in active discussion. Some of the discussions that emerged from the Q&A session were related to strategy to tackle the resistance from stakeholders regarding the paperless system; the importance of maintaining supply chain in the border area by improving the collaboration between relevant government institutions and international customs institutions; and the means to utilize the WCO to provide guidance and knowledge in supporting better trade facilitation during the pandemic.

Overall, the webinar enabled participants to learn from the best practices on the measurement needed to facilitate trading in times of pandemics. The participants expressed their gratitude to the WCO RTC Asia/Pacific (Indonesian RTC), the Indonesian Customs Administration (Directorate General of Customs and Excise), and the speaker for the invaluable experience and knowledge. (by RTC Indonesia Team)



# Study on Canine Training and Operations in AP region<sup>1</sup>

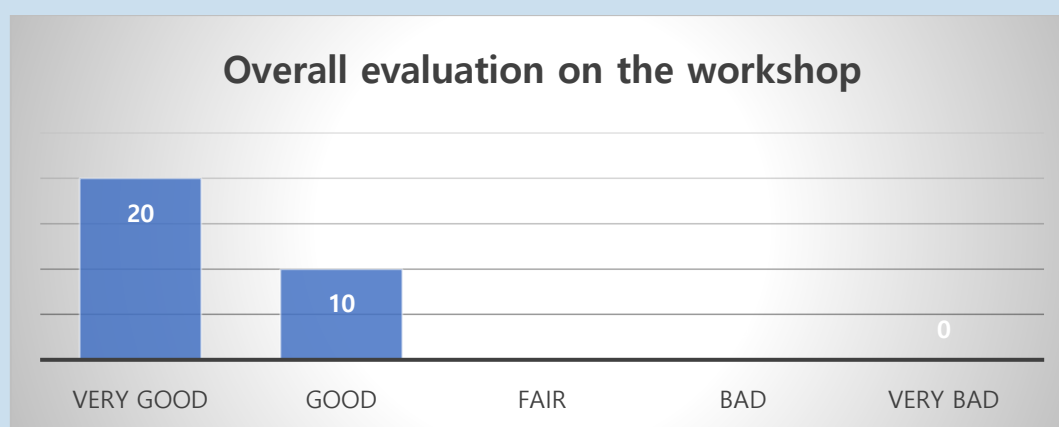


Mr. Gideon Ilkwon HAN

Program Manager, ROCB AP

## 1. Introduction

WCO Regional Dog training Center (RDTC) in Korea was officially started in February 2021. As the second RDTC in AP region, WCO, Korea Customs Service (KCS) and ROCB AP co-hosted the 3 days virtual canine workshop from 8 to 10 June 2021 under the sponsorship of the CCF/Korea. At the workshop, we have witnessed the importance of canine function in the Customs to counter increasingly sophisticated drug smuggling methods and growing threats of terrorism more effectively. In addition, we have got the positive evaluation on the workshop from 30 participants as below.



<sup>1</sup> This paper is extracted from "ROCB A/P Good Customs Practice Report on Canine Training and Operations in AP region" in July 2021. In addition, the contents of the report were presented at the international canine seminar on Drug Anti-Smuggling which was held virtually in September, 2021, hosted by Dog Training Centre of the Federal Customs Service (FCS) in Russia.



As a Program Manager of the workshop, I have analyzed on the current status of detector dog training and operation by participants based on the survey which was conducted for the workshop and ROCB A/P issued “Good Customs Practice Report on Canine Training and Operation in AP region” in July 2021. The questionnaires have core value to establish this report.

Currently, not all the Customs administrations have implemented the canine enforcement<sup>2</sup>. However, one of common enemies for Customs is that organized trans-national crimes related to the drugs, explosive, cash, wildlife products are getting enormous and audacious<sup>3</sup>. To this end, WCO would like to try build international cooperation networks among detector dog operating authorities for swift sharing of information including canine training techniques and the latest detection trends<sup>4</sup>.

In this regard, this study is focused on the 12 members administrations which are currently operating the canine team in AP region, namely Australia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Samoa, Vietnam.

## 2. Findings

### (1) Purposes of Detector dogs

According to the survey, we can see that the most common purpose of the canine is for Drugs. However, the canine capability is not only for the Drugs but also for the additional purposes, such as Explosive, Currency, wildlife products, etc.

As of June 2021, we could classify top 5 members administrations by the number of dogs on duty. Japan has 134 dogs, followed by 113 in China, 100 in Vietnam, 77 in Indonesia, 76 in Australia. The replies are shown in the following Table 1.

---

<sup>2</sup> 3 members are not operating the canine function, namely Lao, Myanmar, Sri Lanka from the survey.

<sup>3</sup> According to the World Drug Report 2021 from UNODC, Drug markets quickly recovered after the onset of the pandemic, but some trafficking dynamics have been accelerated during Covid-19: Larger shipment size, Increased use of private aircraft, Increased use of waterway routes, Contactless methods to deliver drugs to end-consumers.

<sup>4</sup> WCO hosts the Global K9 forum biannually and operates the K9 platform on CEN comm since 2011.

(Table 1)

Purposes	AU	CN	FJ	HK	IN	ID	JP	KR	MY	MN	WS	VN
Drugs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Explosive	X	X		X			X	X		X		
Currency	X		X	X							X	
Others <sup>5</sup>	X	X					X			X		
<b>Total No of Dogs</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>

## (2) Dog breeds

The Survey revealed the current dog breeds in the operating members administrations. The most common breed is Labrador Retriever<sup>6</sup> among 9 breeds in total. Six popular breeds by the number of operating members are shown in the following table 2.

(Table 2)

Breeds	1.Labrador Retriever	2.Springer Spaniel	3.Shepard	4.Cocker Spaniel	5.Malinois	6.Golden Retriever
No of Members	12	4	4	3	3	2

Regarding the number of breeds per member, China has 8 dog breeds, followed by 5 dog breeds in Mongolia, 4 dog breeds in Vietnam, 2 dog breeds in Hongkong China, India, Japan, Korea, and Malaysia, 1 dog breed in Australia, Fiji, India, and Indonesia. The detailed information of members is shown in the following table 3.

<sup>5</sup> Australia is for tobacco, China for CITES, Japan for fire arm, and Mongolia for wildlife items.

<sup>6</sup> The Labrador Retriever, often abbreviated to Labrador, is a medium-large gun dog from the United Kingdom that was developed from imported Canadian fishing dogs. The Labrador is one of the most popular dog breeds in a number of countries in the world, particularly in the Western world. A popular disability assistance breed in many countries, Labradors are frequently trained to aid those with blindness or autism, act as a therapy dog, or perform screening and detection work for law enforcement and other official agencies. (From Wikipedia)

(Table 3)

Breeds	AU	CN	FJ	HK	IN	ID	JP	KR	MY	MN	WS	VN
Labrador	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
S. Spaniel		X		X				X	X			
Sherpard		X					X			X		X
C. Spaniel					X					X		X
Malinois		X								X		X
G.Retriever		X								X		
Hound		X										
Kunming		X										
Rottweiler		X										
No of breeds	1	8	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	5	1	4

### (3) Procurement of dogs

There are two methods to acquire the dogs, which are breeding program and purchase from outside. According to the survey, 5 members are done by the two altogether. However, Australia Border Force (ABF) has the genuine breeding program<sup>7</sup> without purchase scheme, whereas Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, and Vietnam have purchase program only.

As for the Pacific Islands members, Fiji and Samoa are supported by New Zealand Police and Customs for breeding and trainings. The detailed information for the procurement is shown in the following table 4.

(Table 4)

Procurement	AU	CN	FJ	HK	IN	ID	JP	KR	MY	MN	WS	VN
Breeding Program	X	X <sup>8</sup>	X <sup>9</sup>	X	X <sup>10</sup>			X		X	X <sup>11</sup>	
Purchase		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X

<sup>7</sup> The program evolved in the early 1990's in partnership with Melbourne University. The University undertook an investigation into dog genetics and development which formed the basis for the breeding strategy.

<sup>8</sup> China is donated by ABF.

<sup>9</sup> The Fiji Detector Dog Unit is a joint Partnership unit between New Zealand Police and New Zealand Customs through the Pacific Detector Dog Unit MFAT Funding.

<sup>10</sup> K9 Breeding program of Indian Paramilitary services.

<sup>11</sup> Dogs are funded by New Zealand under the Pacific Detector Dog Program (PDDP).



#### (4) Training status

The Survey revealed that we can see the diversity of training status among 12 members. The number of instructors and dogs could be varied by the size of the administration. However, I would like to highlight the period of basic training. The period has a large variation from 9 weeks to 24 weeks. The replies indicate that 6 members have 12 weeks and specific data are shown in the following Table 5.

(Table 5)

Training	AU	CN	FJ	HK	IN	ID	JP	KR	MY	MN	WS	VN
Instructors	6	8	0 <sup>12</sup>	4	2	4	10	12	4	4	0 <sup>13</sup>	0 <sup>14</sup>
Dogs / per year	40	100	1	12	10	15	50	25	32	20	0 <sup>15</sup>	100
Period (weeks)	12	12	12	10	24	12	16	16	12	9	12	24

### 3. Challenges

In addition to good practices, existing challenges were also confirmed in the survey. The followings are some examples:

- Improving canine development methods
- Emerging threats, including MHE, Fentanyl.
- Insufficient working chances at international airport, especially passenger search, due to the spread of COVID-19
- Non availability of ready to use artificial scent kits for Tobacco, cash and wildlife training
- Difficulty to access to maritime seacraft for training
- Lack of professional trainer of drug detector dog
- Difficulties to search for good grades detector dogs
- No real sample for training
- Ineffective training program

---

<sup>12</sup> Trainings are done by New Zealand Police and Customs.

<sup>13</sup> Trainings are done by New Zealand Police and Customs.

<sup>14</sup> Trainings are done by police and military training units in Vietnam.

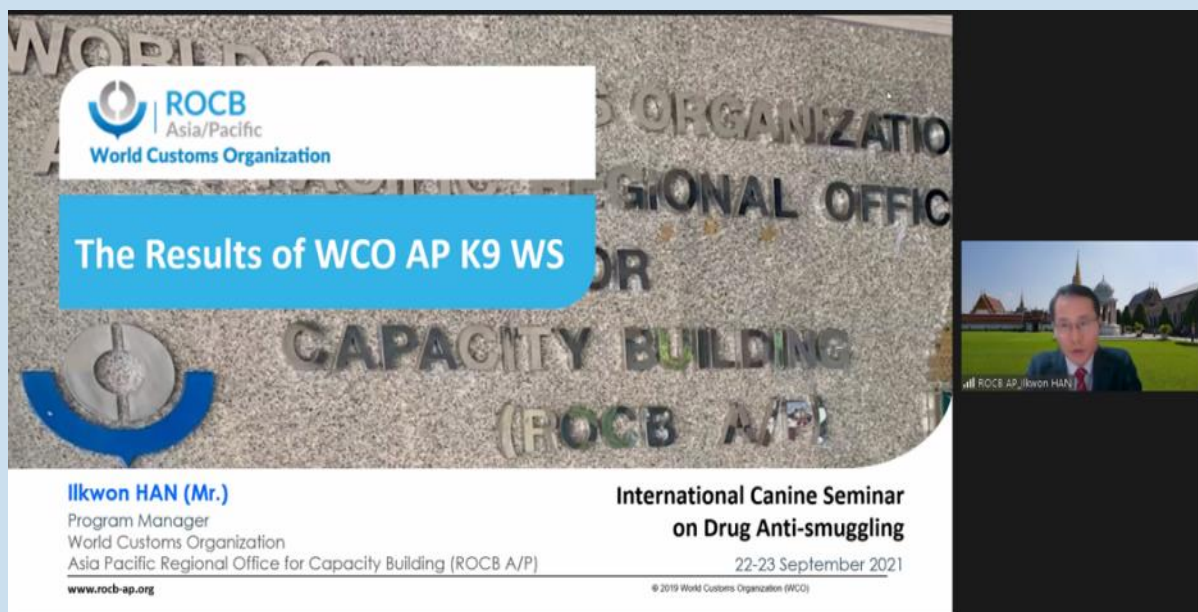
<sup>15</sup> Dogs are only provided when retired by New Zealand Police and Customs

## 4. Way forward

There are some recommendations for our way forward from the survey.

- Provide more personnel training opportunities and learning platform for canine
- Information and training methods sharing among members.
- International joint comprehensive training program
- Capacity building on the profiling and targeting for drugs trends

**In conclusion**, optimized training program and information sharing for canine are needed to cover these challenges and recommendations. WCO RDTC China and Korea<sup>16</sup> in AP region will be the leading role to share their canine training programs and facilities with all WCO members. At the same time, ROCB A/P will do our best to support capacity building programs for canines in this FY<sup>17</sup>. Thanks.



<sup>16</sup> In June 2013, the Beijing Canine Center and the Ruili Canine Center of China Customs were accredited by WCO as the first WCO A/P RDTC.

<sup>17</sup> ROCB AP and KCS (RDTC Korea) have a plan to co-host a face-to-face canine workshop in April. 2022.

# What discussed at the WCO PICARD Conference 2021

---



Ms. Grace YE  
Program Manager

## What is the PICARD?

The WCO Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) Program launched in 2006 and expressed its intention and necessity to enhance sound cooperation with academia, which would greatly support Customs Administrations in their daily work and decision-making processes. PICARD Conference provides a valuable platform for informed exchange and dialogue on Customs-related topics between the Community, academic partners and other stakeholders.

In our future development, I am convinced that there is so much to gain from collaboration with the academic community. Especially in the fields of education and research, I think it is indispensable. Today I participated in the latest PICARD, so I would like to share my impressions and opinions.



**The 16<sup>th</sup> PICARD successfully done!**



The 16th conference on the PICARD was successfully concluded from 9th to 10th of December in a hybrid manner. This event brought together some 800 participants from over 110 countries. Due to COVID-19, it was not possible to hold the event face-to-face, but thanks to the tremendous effort of organizers, some participants were able to participate at the WCO venue in hybrid style.

### ➤ **Keynote**

In the opening session, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General emphasized the importance of cooperation with academic and research communities. At the same time, he illustrated the win-win partnership between the WCO and academia. The universities and research institutions who cooperate with the WCO have access to customs expertise and technical support from the WCO. In turn, they can more easily understand Members needs and common interests amongst the customs community. The researches provided by the academic world help Customs Administrations better understand the challenges they face and enable them to chart a way forward with full confidence.



Dr. Mikuriya also announced the 2022 WCO theme namely “Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem”. He outlined to expect further collaboration with academia in the digitalized era.

### ➤ **Core topics discussed on the conference**

Simply speaking, in my view, the discussion focused on the themes of maximizing digitization technology and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, summarized in four points below..

#### **1) Data Analytic**

This topic echoes the WCO theme for next year. Representatives from the academic community and Customs Administrations introduced newly-developed data models used for fraud detection and explained the application of disruptive technologies for HS Classification, Customs Risk management, E-commerce, single window as well as smart ports. The latest practices related

to application of emerging technologies were shared with participants and offered great insight into future improvements for Customs Administrations.

## **2) Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic**

This topic reflects the WCO current agenda and the theme of the WCO this year. Researchers from academia and private sectors exchanged their views on vaccine supply chain and export prohibitions and restrictions under Article XI:2(a) GATT 1994. Representatives from Customs Administrations explained national Cross-border practices and fraud detection. New ideas and latest developments were presented at the conference that support Customs efforts to adequately address current challenges and threats posed by the pandemic.

## **3) Circular economy**

How customs can support the circular economy with data as well as cross-border management is an interesting and new topic. Experts elaborated on digital infrastructures for circular economy governance, shipment of waste and circular economy policy in the European Union. Without doubt, this is a new area for Customs Administrations to explore in the future.

## **4) Other topics**

Border management and facilitation were discussed at the conference. These topics are key issues for the Customs Community. Analyses of fraud detection, trafficking in Cross-border parcel flows and customs control equipment were presented. Many new ideas and concepts were generated during the Conference, these will underscore the development of Customs-related policy going forward.

## **Programs in Agenda are**

### **➤ DAY 1**

Firstly, there were opening remarks by Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General and Mr. Grégoire ROTA GRAZIOSI, Director of the Center for Studies and Research on International Development (Cerdi), Clermont Auvergne University, CNRS. Following this, the plenary was divided in sections with guest speakers and roundtables arranged for each of the core topics (Data, Lessons learnt from the COVID-19, circular Economy, Innovations in Facilitation and Fragile borders).

## ➤ DAY 2

Mr. Kunio Mikuriya introduced the WCO MoU with Academia, followed by the MoU signing ceremony (Described later). After that, two round tables were arranged. At the round tables, two newly published books on Customs-related topics by Universities were shared with participants. Following this, an introduction of the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU) and consequent discussions on training and education. Mr. Taeil KANG, Director of Capacity Building Directorate, WCO delivered the closing remarks to conclude the Conference.

## ➤ Expanding cooperation framework

In the Conference, two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Clermont Auvergne University and the University of Victoria were signed. These MoUs establish a framework for cooperation between the WCO and the universities, these aim to enhance research capabilities of the WCO and promote joint research projects in the near future.

The 16 <sup>th</sup> WCO PICARD Conference Agenda Hybrid Conference / 9-10 December 2021		Updated on 9 December (Time is Brussels time GMT+1:00)
Thursday 9 December		
9:00-9:15	Opening remarks Kunio Mikuriya (Secretary General, World Customs Organization)	
9:15-9:45	Key note speech Gregoire Rota Grisol (CIRCI) Questions & Answers	
9:45-10:30	Coffee break	
10:30-11:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Data (1)</b>            Moderator: Wouter Verbeke (KU) (Leuven)            – Meeyoung Cho, Seondeok Kim (Institute for Basic Sciences)            – Seon Young Han, Yang Heon Kim (KICT)            – Dan Bonga (Niger Customs, Nicolas Sapere (SICOT))            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic (1)</b>            Moderator: Yvonne Filagosa (World Customs Organization)            – Shih-Dan (Shanghai Customs College)            – Leonie Zappal (Brunswick European Law School)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
11:30-12:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Data (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Mathieu Labare, Jonathan Mignotte (Belgium Customs)            – Mercedes Gomez, Yesika Chura (Peru Customs)            – Justin Malabu Gashie (Nigerian Customs)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (1)</b>            Moderator: Valentina Ferraro (World Customs Organization)            – Barbara Rukawka (Delft University of Technology), Yao-Hua Tan (Delft University of Technology, Erasmus University)            – Julia Horning, Marjolijn Schepers (Erasmus School of Law)            – Christophe Bellemans (TESS, University of Adelaide)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
12:30-13:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
13:30-14:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
14:30-15:00	Coffee break	
14:00-15:00	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
15:00-16:00	Networking occasion	
Friday 10 December		
9:00-9:15	Introduction of the WCO MoUs Kunio Mikuriya (Secretary General, World Customs Organization)	
9:15-9:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
9:30-11:00	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
11:00-11:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
11:30-12:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
13:00-14:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
14:35-15:00	Coffee break	
14:00-15:00	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
15:00-16:00	Networking occasion	
Friday 10 December		
9:00-9:15	Introduction of the WCO MoUs Kunio Mikuriya (Secretary General, World Customs Organization)	
9:15-9:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
9:30-11:00	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
11:00-11:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
11:30-12:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
13:00-14:30	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
14:35-15:00	Coffee break	
14:00-15:00	<div> <div> <b>Track 1:</b>  <b>Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for Customs (2)</b>            Moderator: Mounir Arafat (World Customs Organization)            – Sarah Meunier (CIRCI, givens)            – Amel Mounir, Susan Sada (Mozambique Revenue Authority)            – Maria Elena Chavez (University of Mexico)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> <div> <b>Track 2:</b>  <b>Circular economy (2)</b>            Moderator: Thomas Cartens (World Customs Organization)            – Manuel Morales (Kennes University, Chair on Circular Economy, ERASM)            – Arnaud Druier, Gaila Bousse (DCA, CERIS, ERASM)            Questions &amp; Answers         </div> </div>	
15:00-16:00	Networking occasion	

## My observation

### ➤ Importance of promoting PICARD Professional Standards

Considering new trends that have great influence on Customs work such as emerging technologies, data analytics and stronger stakeholder engagement. The WCO issued PICARD Professional Standards 2019 that evolved from the previous 2008 Standards. However, many member administrations are not familiar with PICARD Professional Standards. These Standards serve as a good reference for Customs Administrations and universities when organizing/designing professional customs training programs.

PICARD Professional Standards 2019 has provided an opportunity to establish common development standards designed to maintain and raise the professional standing of Customs, particularly Customs senior and middle management. The principal objectives in developing the





standards are to establish benchmarks: which can be developed into job profiles for the purposes of customs recruitment; against which the in-house training of member administrations may be measured; and further academic development can be designed or procured. The standards can and are being used by Universities to develop educational programs that provide professional qualifications for Customs staff, and others, at Bachelor and Master level. These guidelines also establish a process by which universities may apply for and attain WCO recognition for such academic programs. This standard is essential for the customs community as well as academic parameters to be further progressed at a vocational level as well as at an academic level.

### ➤ **Importance of maintaining PICARD Network**

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Customs administrations are facing unprecedented threats. When Customs Administrations are struggling with new challenges due to the pandemic, the academic and research communities have responded quickly. Many projects closely related to customs' interests and concerns as well as international trade have been launched. Expertise from academia, international organizations and the private sector are sorely needed by the Customs Community. New ideas and good practice have been nurtured based on analyses from the academic world. Thanks to the great efforts made by the academic and research communities, Customs Administrations have found ways to adapt to the 'New Normal' in a short time. Therefore, we can see maintaining a partnership approach to find practical solutions based on sound information and professional knowledge is of critical importance for supporting the strategic decisions.

### **My opinion and way forward**

I felt once again that PICARD will contribute to the further development of human resources and research function related in customs field through collaboration between Customs and academia. I sincerely hope that many members will continue interest in PICARD and gain benefit from our wonderful collaboration.

For further enquiries on the article, please contact me at [rocb@rocbap.org](mailto:rocb@rocbap.org)

# 'Are you ready for HS 2022?'



Ms. Sherman YU

Program Manager for the Southeast Asia of ROCB A/P

## Introduction

### What is HS?

The most famous WCO Convention is absolutely the HS Convention. This was formally the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. The HS Convention is the World Customs Organization's flagship convention. The HS convention was initially adopted by the Customs Cooperation Council in 1983 and entered into force on 1 January 1988.



The objectives of the HS Convention are as follows:

- (i) to facilitate international trade and the collection, comparison and analysis of statistics by harmonizing the description, classification and coding of goods in international trade;
- (ii) to reduce the expenses related to international trade;
- (iii) to facilitate the standardization of trade documentation and the transmission of data.

The HS Convention is an international customs classification system that allocates a unique 6-digit HS code to each group of products. The composition of code can be broken down into 3 levels: Chapters (first 2 digits), Headings (first 4 digits) and Subheadings (full 6 digits). The HS codes are further subdivided into 7- to 12- digit items depending on the country (also referred to as commodity codes and national tariff lines).

The HS classification system plays an important role in determining the nature of goods which enable customs authorities to identify the product and apply the appropriate import duty

as well as other taxes and trade measures. More than 200 countries and economies use the HS convention as a basis for their Customs tariffs and for the collection of international trade statistics. Over 98 % of the merchandise in international trade is classified in terms of the HS.

## Why is it so important to review HS?

The aim to have regular reviews are to include measures that secure uniform interpretation of the HS and to respond to developments in technology and new commodities. During each review, new codes can be added and some codes can be removed. In addition, wording and interpretations are revised to clarify classification of goods from the previous version.

## Latest development of HS

HS codes are periodically reviewed and updated (usually once in 5 years). The current version is 2017 whereas the seventh version entered into force on 1 January 2022. The recommendations concerning the Amendment to the Harmonized System were adopted by the



Council in 2019 & 2020 respectively. The new HS2022 edition makes some major changes to the Harmonized System with a total of 351 sets of accepted amendments which covered 8 sectors. Altogether there are 6 additional Headings and 225 sub-headings added to HS 2022 version. For details or updates, please refer to WCO website:

- i) <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/instrument-and-tools/hs-nomenclature-2022-edition/hs-nomenclature-2022-edition.aspx>
- ii) <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/instrument-and-tools/hs-nomenclature-2022-edition/amendments-effective-from-1-january-2022.aspx>

To facilitate a smooth transition and implementation of the new edition, the WCO has compiled a correlation table between the 2017 and 2022 versions as well as updating the HS publications, such as the Explanatory Notes, Classification Opinions, Alphabetical Index and the HS online database.



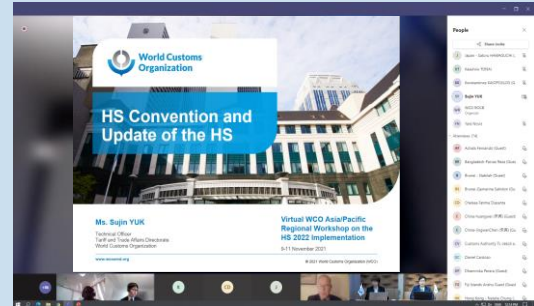
## Regional Workshop on HS 2022 for AP region

Implementation of new HS version is vital for operation of Customs Administrations worldwide. In view of this, a Virtual WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Workshop on the HS 2022 Amendments was organized for the AP members from 9 to 11 Nov 2021. The Workshop was funded by CCF/Japan and hosted by ROCB A/P. Over 80 officials including observers from 27 Customs Administrations in Asia Pacific region attended to the Workshop. On the 1st day of the Workshop, speakers gave an introduction of HS and outlined the Amendments. This was followed by detailed explanations on the Amendments in Section I to IV.



During the 2nd and 3rd day of Workshops, the focus of presentations was on the elaboration of Amendments from Section V to XXI.

To share best practices of preparation and implementation of HS 2022, two speakers from China Customs and Thailand Customs were invited to give presentations respectively.



## **Summary of new amendments**

As for its implementation, the HS 2022 consists of the Harmonized System (Legal Texts), HS Explanatory Notes, Compendium of Classification Opinions, Alphabetical Index, Amendments to the Harmonized System, Nomenclature, Classification, Secretariat's Advice, WCO Trade Tools, Customs Laboratory Guide, WCO Website, WCO Recommendations, Seminars, E-learning and Training Programs.

### ➤ **Section I to IV**

As aforementioned, the HS is reviewed and updated every 5 years. The amendments are necessary to keep up with the needs in public interest (e.g. health and safety, anti-terrorism, environmental protection), upholding the compliance to international conventions, technological progress, trade pattern changes and clarification of HS texts therein.

Under the category of 'Agricultural, food and tobacco', new provisions for novel tobacco and nicotine based products were added due to difficulties in the classification of these products in the previous version.

➤ **Section V to X**

Starting from Section V onwards till XVI, we have to understand the concept of “Dual use Items” and the reason for the Amendments in these sections is to “facilitate the monitoring and control of certain products considered by the WCO enforcement experts as strategic dual use goods that could be diverted to unauthorized uses”. From section V to X, the chemicals and medical items’ classification as the main focus and the new codes were assigned in these sections.

➤ **Section XI to XVI**

In these sections, “electronic textiles”, electronic or technological items e.g. smart phone, 3D printing and electronic waste & scrap were incorporated in the Amendments of HS 2022. These items will gain their own subheading and Note, which will also clarify and confirm the current heading classification of these multifunctional devices.

➤ **Section XVII to XXI**

The classification and clarification of “electric vehicles” is highlighted. There are quite a number of differences when comparing the relevant content between HS 2017 and HS 2022 version. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly referred to as drones, also gain their own specific provisions to simplify the classification of these aircraft. Amusement Park equipment were incorporated in the Amendments. In addition, with an aim to combat illicit trafficking of cultural objects, HS 2022 gives more detail in the relevant classification and description.

## WCO Trade Tool

WCO launched a new online database called 'WCO Trade Tools' ([www.wcotradetools.org](http://www.wcotradetools.org)) in March 2021. This new online database serves as a single point of access to HS, Preferential Rules of Origin and Valuation. WCO Trade Tools contained necessary information that can assist international trade actors in classifying of goods and in determining corresponding Customs tariffs and taxes.

As of today, it is free of charge to access the WCO Trade Tool. However, the five latest versions of HS, Explanatory Notes and Classification Opinions are only readable online through subscription.



## Way forward

### **Smooth transition and implementation from HS 2017 to HS 2022**

During each review, new codes can be added and some codes can be removed. In addition, there are changes for the clarification and alignment between French and English under the HS system. All these changes will create discrepancies between the different versions of the HS. Therefore, to have a seamless switch from HS 2017 to HS 2022, concerted efforts from stakeholders and Customs Administrations are imperative. "Translation", "Transition" and "Training" are the major challenges that we need to overcome in the implementation. Customs Administrations should have a comprehensive plan with timely dissemination of latest updates to their staff and stakeholders so that relevant parties will have a clear understanding of the new version.

### **Promoting of using CLiKC! and WCO Trade Tool**

CLiKC! is WCO's portal for Customs professional e-learning and training. It contains more than 350 courses that cover the main Customs topics or tools. This website offers to the worldwide Customs Community a single entry point for WCO training activities and a collaborative portal to share and foster Customs knowledge. Since HS is WCO's flagship convention, CLiKC! has a 30-hour course so as to provide a comprehensive and in-depth training for the interested parties

As mentioned previously, WCO Trade Tool can help the stakeholders and frontline officers of Customs Administration to navigate, search and compare the HS systems and obtain necessary information for their decision making. Therefore, it is suggested that those who have to deal with HS in their daily work should access to CLiKC and WCO Trade Tool to equip themselves for the HS 2022 implementation.

### **Sharing of best practices among AP members**

Although HS has been implemented over three decades, the pace and stage of adoption varies country by country. Therefore, for those that have a longer history of using HS system, it is strongly advised to share experiences, challenges and best practices with other AP members. The knowledge gained in using HS is valuable to other Customs Administrations. Sharing such knowledge can achieve a smooth implementation of HS 2022 across borders.

### **Capacity building activities**

Capacity building is a very effective means of supporting the proper implementation of the HS Convention. ROCB AP conducts an annual needs survey of capacity building for AP members from every January to February. If there is need for capacity building to implement the HS Convention, I strongly recommend to make your request by responding to this needs survey. Based on the survey, WCO will make a workshop plan for the Asia Pacific region and requested Members.

ROCB A/P will continue to support the work of WCO and acting as a bridge between the AP members and WCO. We will promote the tools, conventions, instruments and hot topics of WCO to the members. For further enquiries on the article, please contact me at [shermanyu@rocbap.org](mailto:shermanyu@rocbap.org)



# Let's enjoy CLiKC! the WCO E-Learning Platform

---



Ms. Pavida Boonmun  
Assistant Program Manager, ROCB A/P

## Introduction

Under the global pandemic, human activities and daily routines have dramatically changed. With face-to-face communication being restricted we have observed gigantic growth in virtual interactions around the world. This has allowed people and communities to connect at distance in response to the New Normal. As for our business situation especially in conducting meetings and events, digital technology has helped continuity efforts, even if things are not perfect.

ROCB A/P have confirmed that such technology significantly contributes to learning opportunities in Customs training. During the Work From Home (WFH) period and in an environment where business trips are not possible, the effectiveness of distance learning has once again attracted attention and its demand has been increasing.

I have been learning using CLiCK! since the pandemic started. I have acquired more useful knowledge than I could have imagined. Today, I would like to share with you my experience and opinion of CLiKC!, a WCO E-learning system.

## What is CLiKC!

The WCO is an organization that realizes future learning trends are changing. To this end, CLiKC! is an information provision tool created by WCO for its members and is also an E-Learning System. I would say that it is a gold mine of available training material and useful information from e-learning courses to scheduled global and regional training workshops with just one click.

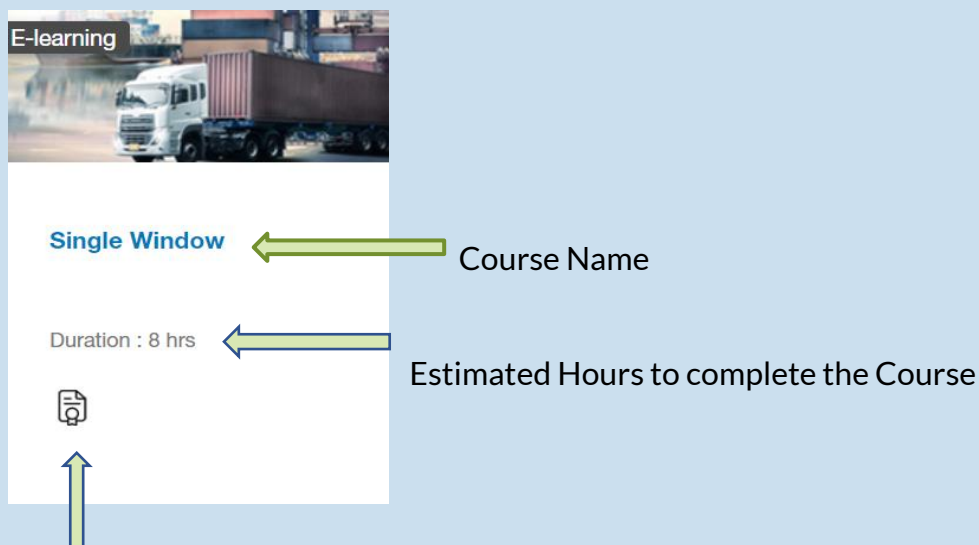


The CLiKC! Platform consists of six sections that are training resources, e learning, workshops, forums, webinars, and videos. All contents in this platform are multi-lingual for the users benefit.

### <Easy to start>

When users choose the content of e learning and choose the language that they would prefer. There will also be the list of learning programs shown on the screen, estimated hours to finish each course is also informed. Some courses may take less than an hour to finish, while some may take more than ten hours depending on the content of each topic.

### Example



With this sign, users will receive certificate when complete the course

### <Enriched contents>

This is the list of programs when sorted in English. The available contents are enriched daily. As of today, 38 programs in English are ready for Members to click and learn. As you fully aware, the WCO is a standard setting organization, so we can promote our key priorities through CLiKC! including our flagship conventions and guidelines as well as hot topics like Data Analytics.

- Risk management
- Drug Precursors Control
- IPR
- Coordinated Border Management
- Montreal Protocol
- Customs Wild Fauna and Flora
- Time Release Study
- Integrity
- Implementing Gender Equality and Inclusion in Customs
- Advancing Gender Equality in Customs
- The Harmonized System
- The Harmonized System 2017
- Customs Valuation
- Rules of Origin
- RKC
- WTO TFA
- WTO TFA (Archive)
- SAFE Framework of Standards
- Air Passenger Control
- Customs Control
- Small Arms and Light Weapons
- Global Shield Program
- The Chemical Weapons Convention
- COPES
- Customs Transit
- The TIR System
- CITES an Introduction
- COLIBRI: Monitoring and Controlling General Aviation
- Discover the WCO
- Data Analytics (Beginner)
- Data Analytics (Intermediate)
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

- PCA
- Transfer Pricing
- The WCO Data Model
- The Istanbul Convention
- Single Window
- Multilateral Environmental Agreement

## **Benefits to Learners**

### **<Improve the knowledge of international standards>**

Through my CLiKC! study, my knowledge of international standards has increased dramatically. My knowledge of subjects I have experienced so far has become deeper, and the subjects I have not experienced remain a good opportunity to start learning. Through CLiKC! learning, I was able to understand that the WCO international standard is our common platform. I also took this opportunity to share my knowledge learned from CLiKC! with my colleagues and recommend it to other officials.

### **< Expand my Customs knowledge >**

I reconfirmed that there is a wide range of Customs topics. Customs has a tax area, an Enforcement area, and a trade facilitation area. In addition, there are international cooperation matters, Integrity issues, Gender Equality & Diversity issues, etc., all of which are indispensable and deeply connected. CLiKC! also contributes to improving communication ability. When we talk about customs matters in an international field, a specialized glossary is essential. We can also learn these professional terms and their implementation at CLiKC!

### **<Support my Customs carrier>**

Once you have finished a course, you will get a certificate of achievement from the WCO with your name and the course name on it. As a user, I would like to share that some courses I finished are very long and I had to spend a lot of time on, whilst some courses are very short that I can be completed in a day, but still very useful and interesting to learn. These certifications are evidence of my effort and increased knowledge in customs.



## Example of Certificate of Achievement



### <Effort-friendly learning system>

As I mentioned before users can choose online courses based on their own interests. To complete the course, you have to finish all lessons and pass the test. Do not worry, if you cannot pass the test, you can ask to do the test again as many times as you would like or even go back to revise the lessons again. You can spend time on it without limitation. Moreover, if you want to brush up on knowledge, the CLiKC! platform is a great tool assist you with updated and concrete information.

In summary, I gained more knowledge of international standards and learned a wide range of customs topics including international cooperation issues and other Customs related topics. I also received certificates upon course completion and was able to share knowledge to my colleagues.

### **Benefit to Customs Community**

Learning from CLiKC! brings the benefit of not only improving your knowledge, experience, and communication skills, but it also benefits your home administration.

### <Strengthening to the human resources development system>

CLiKC! as a training tool can contribute to an increased understanding of Customs in a global context. This is very important when considering staff development, especially that of mid-level customs officers. I strongly believe CLiKC! is a useful tool in the education of essential customs' knowledge. This could have great impact on the mindset and culture of Customs Administrations by putting it in the training of mid-level customs officers like me.

### **<Contributing to ensure the quality of the organization>**

It is an opportunity to pool talented officials to catch up world trends as well as to reflect on customs laws and its field operation. These talented officials also contribute to ensure and maintain the high quality functioning of your organization as to contribute to future vision and ideas for modernization of international standards.

In summary, CLiCK! is a good opportunity for mid-level officers to gain knowledge and is an effective training tool under current pandemic restrictions. Therefore, ROCB A/P strongly encourage Customs officials to actively engage in the use of CLiKC!

### **ROCB A/P and RTCs Commitment in the Region**

Referred to in the latest regional strategic plan 2020-2022 Focus area 3 Capacity building, workshop participants are required to complete the e-learning modules before participation; and members are required to encourage their officials to use WCO CLiKC!

It is also a proposal for the funding of RTC establishment that RTC candidates are required to encourage officers to access and complete more online courses on CLiKC!

### **Recommendations**

By using CLiCK! as a mid-level customs officer, I increased understanding of Customs at an international level. I strongly believe that it is useful for the education in essential Customs knowledge. As well as influencing the mindset and culture of Customs Administrations by putting it in the training of mid-level Customs officers.

In addition, under pandemic restrictions, group training cannot be arranged easily. In this situation CLiCK! provides a great alternative with remote access.

Courses provided in the CLiKC! platform are updated from time to time. Also, new Customs courses and other related topics that may be useful for Customs Members are always added. I reconfirm that CLiKC! is a good resource for Members to enhance their knowledge and this would give massive benefit to their own administrations as well as the World Customs Community.

For more information, please contact me at [maypavida@rocbap.org](mailto:maypavida@rocbap.org) or visit WCO website at [www.wcoomd.org](http://www.wcoomd.org)

## Workshops and Meetings

---

### The ROCB A/P and the Australian Border Force strengthen cooperation to support capacity building in the Asia Pacific region

6 October 2021, Bangkok, Thailand



On 6 October 2021, Mr. Joel Carruthers, Acting Australian Border Force (ABF) Counsellor Mekong of the Australian Embassy in Thailand, accompanied by Mr. Banpot Denmetharat, Senior Project Officer - Mekong region of the Australian Embassy in Thailand, paid a courtesy visit to the ROCB A/P. Mr. Kuramoto, Head of ROCB and his colleagues warmly welcomed them.

Mr. Kuramoto introduced the outline of ROCB A/P, capacity building activities in the AP region and current key topics of the WCO. Mr. Carruthers provided the ROCB A/P with information on capacity building activities delivered by ABF for Customs Administrations in the Mekong region. Furthermore, they exchanged views on how the ROCB A/P and the ABF could collaborate in capacity building in the AP region. Mr. Kuramoto and Mr. Carruthers have agreed on continuously strengthening cooperation between the ROCB A/P and ABF to support the AP Members' efforts on their capacity development.

## Pacific Members discussed their key issues, challenges and training needs related to HS Classification

18 – 22 October 2021, Online Workshop hosted by ROCB A/P



The first WCO/JICA Joint Sub-Regional Working Group Activity for Master Trainer Programme (MTP) on HS Classification for the Pacific Islands was held online from 18 to 22 October 2021. The Working Group Activity was organized by the WCO and JICA with the support of ROCB A/P. A total of 12 participants representing six WCO Members in the Pacific region, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu as well as the Acting Head of Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) Secretariat attended the Working Group Activity. Together with the experts on HS Classification from the WCO, Japan Customs and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Mr. Noriakazu Kuramoto, Head, Ms. Yuko Mamiya, Program Manager, Ms. Jatearpa Benjaphong, Ms. Vareemon Chairungsrilert, and Ms. Kanyawarat Sitthikunpanit, Program Coordinators of the ROCB A/P, also attended to assist in organizing the Working Group Activity.

This first Working Group Activity aims to share information on current challenges related to HS Classification, improve knowledge on HS Classification and develop work plan of MTP on HS Classification. The experts shared their knowledge and experience on HS Classification with the participants as well as facilitated participant discussion on case studies and development of work plans. Mr. Kuramoto delivered a presentation on capacity building activities in the AP region. In the course of the Working Group Activity, the participants actively shared and discussed their key issues and challenges that they are facing relating to HS Classification. At the end of this Working



Group Activity, the participants developed their collective work plan to achieve the objectives of the MTP through the progressive follow-up activities.

The first Working Group Activity was successfully concluded with participants' clear understanding, and it strengthened the relationship between the WCO, JICA, experts, participants and ROCB A/P. The participants expressed their appreciation to the WCO, the JICA, Japan Customs, experts and the ROCB A/P.

### ROCB AP join the WCO COVID-19 Project for Pacific

19 - 22 October 2021, Online Sub-regional workshop hosted by WCO



The WCO Virtual Sub-regional workshop for the Consultation and Development of Standard Operating Procedures on Disaster Management and Supply Chain Continuity in the time of COVID-19 for the Pacific Islands was held from 18 to 22 October 2021 in collaboration with the Oceania Customs Organization under the sponsorship of the government of Japan. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of the ROCB A/P attended the Workshop.

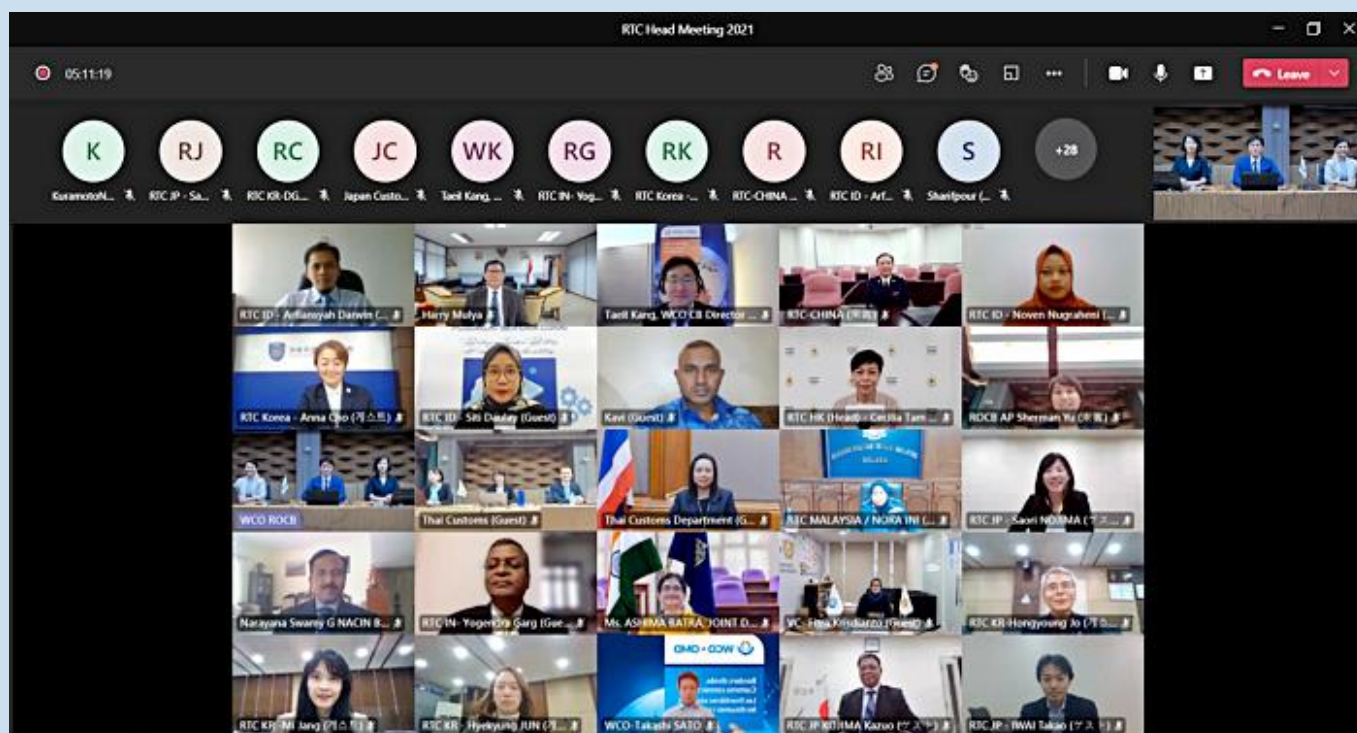
This workshop is part of a series of regional workshops for sharing Member administrations' best practices on disaster management and supply chain continuity as part of the "COVID-19 Project".

The workshop kicked off with the opening remarks of Mr. Pranab Kumar Das, Director, Compliance and Facilitation WCO, followed by Mr. Richard Brennen, Head of Oceania Customs Organization, and Mr. Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P. In his remarks, Mr. Kuramoto underlined that

Customs plays a pivotal role in business continuity under the COVID-19 with WCO tools to support the nation's resilience efforts of Member administrations to sustain economic activities through the cooperation with other internal organizations and neighboring Customs to address the challenges related to the disaster management and supply chain continuity in the pandemic.

## 19th Regional Training Center (RTC) Heads Meeting

27 – 28 October 2021, Online Meeting Hosted by ROCB A/P



The 19th Meeting of Heads of WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Training Center was organized and hosted online by ROCB A/P on 27 – 28 Oct 2021. Over 50 participants from RTCs, WCO Secretariat, Vice Chair Secretariat, RILO A/P and ROCB A/P attended the meeting. In addition, Iran Customs and Thai Customs Department, who are currently applying to be RTCs also joined as observers. Due to the Covid pandemic and travel restrictions, the ROCB A/P decided to follow last year's practice and continued to host the meeting virtually.

The Meeting kicked off with an opening speech by Mr. Takashi Sato, WCO Regional Development Manager (RDM) for the A/P region and followed by Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P who made welcoming remarks.

At the Information Sharing session, updates of WCO policy, Asia Pacific region's activity, and RILO A/P work were shared and presented to participants by RDM WCO, Vice Chair Secretariat, and RILO A/P respectively. At the ROCB Presentation session, ROCB A/P shared its outline and

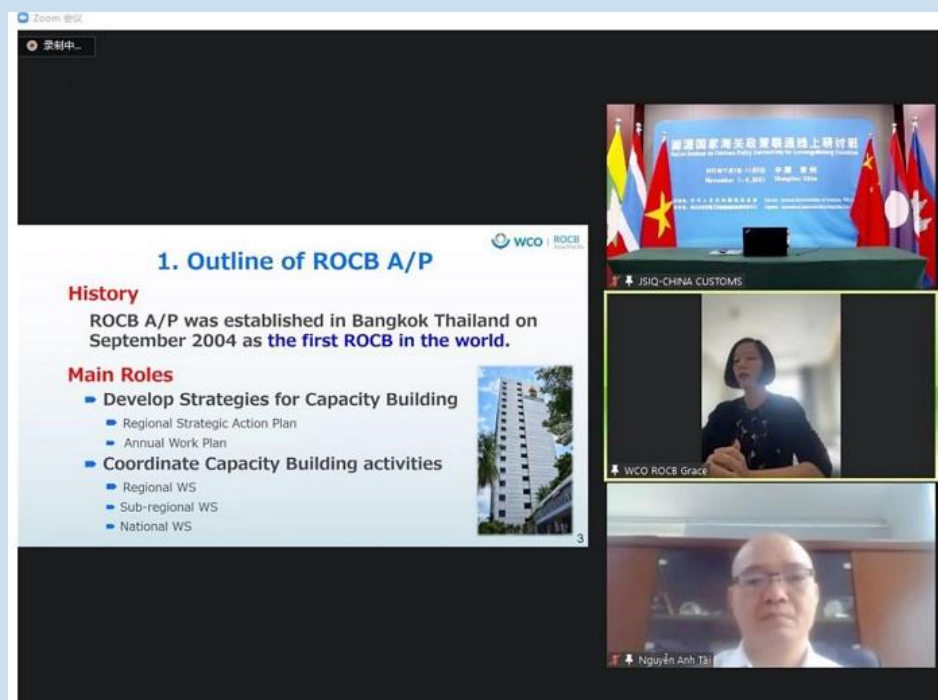
recent activities in detail.

During the meeting, each RTC was invited to give a presentation to introduce their capacity building activities as well as latest developments. As distance or virtual training has been adopted as the new norm, a topic on 'how to introduce distance training in Customs' was added in the agenda. Participants shared their views on the challenges and benefits of conducting online training according to their experience. This information is a good reference for members and they can take note of the best practices of RTCs that can be put into practice. It is hoped that close collaboration and cooperation among RTCs will be fostered in near future.

Mr. Kuramoto summarized the 2-days meeting in the wrap-up and way forward session. Closing remarks were delivered by Dr. Taeil Kang, Director of Capacity Building Directorate, WCO. Mr. Kuramoto also took the opportunity to thank all the participants for their active participation and discussion in the 19th RTC Heads meeting.

## ROCB A/P join the discussion on Customs Policy Connectivity

1 – 5 November 2021, online hosted by GACC



Upon invitation, Ms. Grace Ye, Program Manager of ROCB A/P joined the Online Seminar on Customs Policy Connectivity organized and hosted by General Administration of China Customs (GACC) on 1 – 5 November 2021. Over 70 participants from LMC (Lancang-Mekong Cooperation) Countries namely Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and China attended this virtual workshop.

In the seminar, Ms. Grace Ye, as a representative of ROCB A/P delivered the presentation on



Capacity Building Activities in the Asia Pacific Region. She highlighted updates of ROCB A/P, Capacity Building Policy, Achievements of WS in FY 20/21, Annual Work Plan 2021/22, and Cooperation with Regional Entities as well as ROCB publication to participants in detail. During the seminar, participants expressed their appreciation for the ROCB A/P's great contribution to assist AP Members build capacities and recognized the crucial role the ROCB A/P is playing. Ms. Grace Ye took the opportunity to introduce ROCB A/P's first Special Essay Collection which covered the hottest topics attracted participants' attention. Participants also emphasized the importance of enhancing close collaboration with ROCB A/P in the near future.

### 31st Regional Contact Point (RCP) Meeting

2 -3 Nov 2021, Online Meeting Hosted by Vice Chair



The 31st Regional Contact Point (RCP) Meeting was organized and hosted online by Vice Chair on 2 – 3 Nov 2021. Over 60 participants from Asia Pacific members, WCO Secretariat, Vice Chair, RILO A/P and ROCB A/P attended the meeting. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head, Ms. Sherman Yu, Program Manager, and Ms. Yuko Mamiya, Program Manager of ROCB A/P attended.

To kick off the meeting, Mr. Askolani, Vice Chair of A/P region, WCO and Dr. Taeil Kang, Director of Capacity Building Directorate, WCO both delivered opening speeches. After adoption of the agenda, updates of WCO policy, report on Asia Pacific region's activity, ROCB A/P work and RILO A/P work were shared and presented to participants. Mr. Kuramoto updated on ROCB A/P activities.

As for the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2020 -2022, Since ROCB A/P and Japan Customs are



the co-coordinators for Focus Area 3 (FA3) – Capacity Building Activities, Mr. Kuramoto also made a presentation on the Progress Report on FA3 on behalf of the co-coordinators. As for the next RSP 2022 – 2024, Vice Chair Secretariat reported the preparation including proposed timeline to draw up the plan.

During the meeting, Thai Customs and Iran Customs who are applying to be RTC and RDTC respectively, provided updates on their activities as well as preparation to be accredited as regional entities. Followed by these presentations, Asia Pacific members were invited to share their experiences as well as latest development on various topics. Members took this opportunity to actively discuss and exchange views on Customs-related issues.

### Virtual WCO Asia/ Pacific Regional Workshop on the HS 2022 implementation

9 -11 Nov 2021, online hosted by ROCB A/P



A Regional Workshop on the HS 2022 Implementation for Asia/Pacific members was held virtually on 9 – 11 Nov 2021 organized by WCO. The Workshop was funded by CCF/Japan and hosted by ROCB A/P. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P and Program Managers of the ROCB A/P, Ms. Sherman Yu and Ms. Yuko Mamiya attended to provide support.

Over 80 officials from 27 Customs Administrations in Asia Pacific region participated in the Workshop. In the opening speech, Mr. Satoru HAMAGUCHI, Director for International Technical Cooperation, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan thanked the WCO for providing guidelines and instruments in HS implementation. The 2nd opening speaker was Mr.

Konstantinos KALIOPOULOS, Director of Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO. He noted that with the development of world trade, Customs Administrations are facing a number of challenges in the areas of classification and valuation. Therefore, HS has to be reviewed once every 5 years to keep up with the changes. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P, acknowledged the importance of HS that is a fundamental tool for Customs clearance, administering tax as well as compiling trade statistics of members and emphasized this is golden opportunity to catch up on the latest HS version.

In this 3-day Workshop, WCO experts from Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate facilitated and delivered presentations. The agenda covered the key points of HS convention, main points of HS2022 version, updates of the HS rules and related tools. In the presentations, all the speakers were mainly highlighting and elaborating the classifications in nomenclature by the amendments in HS 2022 version. During the summation/information exchange session, two speakers from Thai Customs and China Customs were invited to share their experience on the HS amendment process respectively. They shared the challenges faced and the roadmap to implement the HS 2022 in their home administrations.

Robust discussion arose throughout the Q & A sessions. Participants were eager to learn about the classification regarding new products or new rulings in HS. They also showed great interest in the WCO Trade Tool as presented by the Publication Team of WCO.

## ROCB AP collaborate with WWF UNEP INCB at RILO AP Seminar

11 November 2021, online organized by RILO A/P



At the invitation of RILO A/P, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of the ROCB A/P attended the Regional Seminar in Asia and the Pacific at 11 November 2021 which is a collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) hosted and organized by RILO A/P.

Mr. Kuramoto delivered opening remarks at the beginning the seminar. In his remarks, Mr. Kuramoto underlined that Customs plays a critical role at the national borders to facilitate legitimate trade with reasonable enforcement operations. He also emphasized that Intelligence is a key in our enforcement operation at the frontline. In addition, that Customs need to maintain and improve enforcement functions in line with updated trends of illegal activities. Sharing of information in a timely manner and collaboration with key counterparts namely WWF, UNEP and INCS is also of utmost importance.

This regional seminar was organized and designed by RILO A/P for Asia Pacific members aiming to further collaborate with intergovernmental organizations and NPO as key counterparts of Customs administration in enforcement operation though exchanging information and views.

## Confirmed of Mutual Cooperation with APPU

21 December 2021, Bangkok Thailand



Upon invitation from the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), Mr. Norikazu KURAMOTO, the Head of ROCB A/P and Ms. YE Zhengqing (Grace), Program Manager of ROCB A/P met with Mr. LIN Hongliang, the Secretary General of the APPU on December 21, 2021. This visit aimed at exchanging information on Customs-related Capacity Building activities as well as exploring synergies for future co-operation.

Mr. LIN welcomed the representatives of ROCB A/P and introduced the history of the APPU including APPC (Asian-Pacific Postal College). He appreciated ROCB A/P for its continuous support for the APPU over the last few years and emphasized that this visit provided an excellent opportunity to discuss joint Capacity Building efforts in the near future.

During this courtesy visit to the APPU, Mr. Kuramoto expressed his appreciation for long standing cooperation between ROCB A/P and APPU. He also explained the updates of ROCB A/P and shared the challenges the office is facing during COVID-19 pandemic as well as its experience in online workshops. Lastly, He expressed his commitment to support with APPU as much as possible as well as to invite Mr. LIN to visit ROCB A/P's new office at his convenience.

Both parties found this visit a wonderful opportunity to exchange views and agreed to continue to explore the future cooperation in Customs-related areas.

# WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

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

Address: 1, Thai Customs Department, G Floor of 120 Years Building,

Sunthornkosa Rd., Khlongtoey, Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Telephone: +66-2-667-6777

E-mail: [rocb@rocbap.org](mailto:rocb@rocbap.org)

website: <http://www.rocb-ap.org>

Mr. Norikazu KURAMOTO, Head, WCO ROCB A/P

Ms. Yuko MAMIYA

Ms. Sherman YU

Ms. Grace YE

Mr. Ilkwon HAN

Ms. Pavida BOONMUN

Ms. Jate-Arpa BENJAPHONG

Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRILERT

Ms. Kanyawarat SITTHIKUNPANIT

Regular Supporters: Mr. David RADOVANOVICH and Mr. Wayne MORAN

