



ROCB
Asia/Pacific

World Customs Organization

E-Newsletter No. 78



In this issue;



Hi, Dear my A/P Friends, I am new RDM for A/P region!



Highlights of Global Trade During The COVID-19 Pandemic
from WCO Illicit Trade Report 2021

and more!

FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

Greetings from Bangkok ROCB A/P.

The WCO's FY2022/23 started in July 2022. Looking around the world today, COVID-19 border measures have been greatly relaxed. I also believe that both the WCO and its members are actively communicating with each other with more face-to-face interactions. Of course, there are still some members who are facing challenges, so I believe that hybrid methods are still being used to facilitate communication among members as a compromise.



Regarding the workshops provided by the WCO in the last fiscal year, most were conducted online due to COVID-19. This fiscal year, we will work with RTCs and members who are able to host workshops to provide workshops in person or in a hybrid format to increase communication and effectiveness. In addition, ROCB A/P will work closely with WCO HQs, Vice Chair, RTC, RCL, RDTC, and RILO A/P to provide beneficial workshops for our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new important partner from WCO. Ms. Akiko Kojima, new Regional Development Manager (RDM) for the Asia Pacific arrived in July at Capacity Building Directorate of WCO HQs. As you know, the RDM is sort of the conductor in delivering our workshops in the Asia Pacific region. As you know and you can imagine, her role is very important and meaningful for Asia Pacific members in Customs modernization. I am very pleased to have her on board the Capacity Building Family in AP region and welcome Akiko as our new RDM.

The latest E-Newsletter No 78, features activities undertaken with Asia-Pacific members in the fourth quarter of WCO Fiscal Year 2022/23 (July through September 2022). In this E-Newsletter, we convey a Greeting Message to Asia Pacific Members from Ms. Akiko

Kojima, Regional Development Manager, Capacity Building Directorate, WCO. Also, we present ROCB A/P's special essay, which explains WCO tools and current hot topics in a user-friendly and easy-to-understand manner. This issue's special essay highlights the new WCO illicit Trade Report by Ms. Pavida Tarapoom, Assistant Program Manager of ROCB A/P.

We sincerely hope you enjoy ROCB A/P's special essays and use them as reference material for policy officials and field officers.

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

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of four Japanese characters: 倉本智和 (Norikazu Kuramoto).

Norikazu Kuramoto (Mr.)

Head of the ROCB A/P

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Hi, Dear my A/P Friends, I am new RDM for A/P region!

Akiko Adachi Kojima (Kiko)

Regional Development Manager (RDM)

Capacity Building Directorate, WCO

Hi everyone! It has been three months since I joined WCO, and I am having the most exciting time with fantastic officers in this region. It is my greatest pleasure to introduce myself and share my roles in WCO with you.



Introduction

My name is Akiko Adachi Kojima (Kiko), and I am working for the WCO Secretariat as the Regional Development Manager (RDM) in A/P region. I was assigned to this office in July 2022, succeeding Mr. Takashi Sato.

First, I would like to briefly touch upon my professional career. I joined Japan Customs in 2012 and worked mainly in the field of international cooperation. In these 10 years, I have also served at the Japan Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representing the Government of Japan. Here in WCO, my service shifted from the Customs in Japan to the Customs across the World, and I am very excited to contribute to multiple nations in A/P region.

In my private life, I have been playing the pedal harp (concert harp) for 10 years. Dr. Masumi Nagasawa, who teaches pedal harp at the University of Music in Detmold, Germany, will be my teacher in Brussels. My husband, who is a Naval Officer in Japan Navy, serves as a researcher/adviser in the mission of Japan to NATO. I



have a German shepherd back in Japan, who retired from Japan customs as a drug-sniffing dog.

We love traveling and experiencing various cultures across the world and hope we can visit your countries in the near future.



Roles of the Regional Development Manager

Grasping AP Members Needs

The Regional Development Managers (RDM) are the contact points for Members of respective regions of the WCO. As the RDM for A/P region, my key role is to serve as a bridge between you, Members of A/P region, and the WCO headquarters.

In detail, in collaboration with the ROCB, the RDM is responsible for hearing and understanding capacity building needs of respective Member administrations. Based on their respective needs, training programs and workshops are planned and implemented; the RDM coordinates with the Members, ROCB, and experts, throughout this process.



Also, the RDM contributes to maximize the opportunity for developing Members to get assistance by donor coordination within the WCO or connecting with other international organizations.

Delivering Hot topics in WCO

Another important role is to inform regional members with hot topics and updated situations of the WCO as a whole. Taking opportunities of regional meetings, the RDM inform Members of recent developments of the WCO by explaining key outcomes of important meetings at the WCO headquarters

As is well known, WCO updated its Strategic Plan in 2022 in order to adapt to an increasingly complex environment. After years of globalization, the world suddenly experienced disruption of supply chain in COVID-19 pandemic. Today, many countries recognize the importance of supply chain resilience. WCO will also be agile, flexible and resilient in responding to the unknown. Hereafter, I would like to make a couple of remarks on WCO's future focuses provided in the strategic plan.

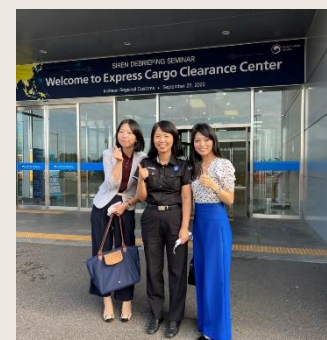
First, on Data Strategy, we should scale up customs digital transformation by embracing a data culture and building a data ecosystem. Governmental wise, customs has the largest data because it monitors all movements across the borders. WCO should encourage each customs to become data-driven organization through data sharing, communities of practitioners, and assistance in transition to data.

Second, on Green Customs, we should encourage the green transition to each customs because customs decides whether items are wastes or recyclable, and customs is the only organization which could trace and monitor these items through border control.

Arrangement of Capacity Building activities in A/P region

After analyzing the needs of AP members and taking into account the priorities of the WCO, RDM takes the leading role in donor coordination to develop a workshop delivery plan for each fiscal year. I will then work with ROCB to arrange the organization of each workshop. It also supports WCO's Human Recourse Development Program, including Professional Associate, Scholarship, and Fellowship programs.

After the control over spread of COVID-19, various on-site workshops are starting to reopen. Last month, I had business trips to Japan and Korea. In Japan, I visited two universities which hold master Scholarship programs for customs officers in developing countries. In Korea, I joined the joint anti-drug operation SIREN debriefing seminar by Korea and Thai Customs supported by WCO. Currently, I am planning business trips to Thailand and Australia in November for regional meetings respectively.



As above, there are various interests and needs from each country, and WCO will deliver tailor-made support for national workshops. I am looking forward to hearing detailed needs from you so that WCO can provide effective capacity building.

Lastly,

Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our team for giving me this opportunity. I really hope you and your family are staying safe, and I am excited to work with you for a better Customs and a better world.

Best Wishes,

Kiko

Highlights of Global Trade During The COVID-19 Pandemic from WCO Illicit Trade Report 2021



Ms. Pavida Tarapoom

Assistant Program Manager, ROCB A/P

Introduction

During the pandemic, with decreasing numbers of international travelers and increasing number of businesses going online, law enforcement agencies have faced new trade trends, namely the increased number of E-commerce shipments. In addition to that, Customs and other law enforcement recognize more complex criminal activities have also moved towards online transactions. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic caused widespread global trade interference with impacts on the global supply chain. Therefore, Customs must realize this situation and implement measures to facilitate cross-border movement to support the economy and protect society while also protecting customs officers as the physical control of goods become more difficult.

In connection with this, WCO produces useful annual reports on smuggling which is called the WCO Illicit Trade Report. In this essay, I briefly summarize the global trade during the COVID-19 pandemic from the latest illicit trade report.

What is the WCO's Illicit Trade Report?

The WCO Illicit Trade Report is a comprehensive study of illicit trade flows based on voluntary submissions of seizure data and case studies by Members Customs administrations worldwide, which aim to broadly grasp the world smuggling trends and to raise awareness of critical areas of Customs enforcement and analytical perspectives to all Members. The latest version of the WCO 2021 Illicit Trade Report (ITR) covers main Enforcement programs which are Drugs, Cultural Heritage, Environment, IPR Health and Safety, Revenue, Security, and a new addition to this report 'the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing' section.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to share my views and highlights on the Illicit Trade Report 2021 in this essay I especially highlight global trade recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sharp increase of e-commerce and small consignments being used to smuggle all types of goods.

Highlights of global trade from the WCO's Illicit Trade Report 2021

In my opinion, this is a good report to get an overview of the smuggling patterns that have changed under the influence of COVID-19.

Overall, the report focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the flow of global illicit trade including the increased use of online marketplace and social media. Therefore, during the pandemic, seizures in mail consignments dramatically increased.

This analysis of illicit trade report 2021 composes of 7 risk area sections of Customs enforcement which are Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing, Cultural Heritage, Drugs, Environmental – endangered species and hazardous waste, IPR, health and safety, Revenue risks including leakage, and Security.

In this essay, each section will be briefly summarized as follows.

1. Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing

The first section, Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing (AML-CTF) section is a new WCO enforcement program which was introduced to Members in this illicit

trade report 2021. The program was created in 2018 to strengthen the WCO's Member's capacity to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

During the pandemic, criminals were unable to move the cash due lockdowns and the decrease of international passenger transportation. So, due to this decrease, criminals used alternative methods such as cargo shipments and informal value transfer systems. In the case of cargo movement of cash and illicit proceeds, the primary method is the concealing of cash inside of cargo containers and via TBML (Trade-Based Money Laundering).

2. Cultural Heritage.

The 'Cultural Heritage' section is focused on the illicit trafficking of cultural objects, archaeological objects and art works. Although customs administrations and other law enforcement agencies were faced with difficulties dealing with illicit trade of cultural goods during the pandemic, there were several successful cases, as well as restitutions which Members can find in the full report.

However, the database for 'Cultural Heritage' had its limitations in 2020 and 2021 due to incomplete data received through CEN (WCO's Customs Enforcement Network). The WCO continues to work with Members to encourage the collection and sharing of seizure data of this illicit trade section.

3. Drugs.

For the 'Drugs' section, the report shows the disruption of organized crime caused by the pandemic including means of distribution worldwide. Due to the persistent nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were increased quantities of drugs seized in postal, express-courier, and e-commerce streams. Criminal drug organizations started relying more on social media and e-commerce. Also, non-commercial means of transport such as general aviation showed a strong comeback in this illicit trade.

However, while drug trafficking by international travelers was disrupted during the pandemic, Members reported an increase in drug seizures through postal channels and express couriers. Members recognize that the illicit drug business remains active and are making the same efforts to uncover it as their priority.

4. Environmental – endangered species and hazardous waste.

The environmental crime that Customs administrations worldwide must focus on with their enforcement capabilities were scoped as not only wildlife but also widened to hazardous chemicals, fishery crimes, and trade in minerals etc. which are currently committed in various forms. However, the environmental section of the report focuses on illegal trade in wildlife, timber products and substances controlled under the Montreal protocol and waste.

As environmental crimes involve other serious crimes and many agencies, a global response on this issue is needed to combat. Also, in the context of COVID-19, there has been an increase in illegal money transfers to launder the proceeds of wildlife and timber crimes and is linked with other serious crimes such as smuggling of wildlife along with drugs and cash.

5. IPR, health and safety.

For the IPR section, the report shows that global smuggling trade has not decreased during COVID-19. The demand has remained high and sea freight was still predominant in terms of number of pieces, while the most frequent transports for IPR trafficking were mail consignments specially for individual use by online shopping.

It was evident that consumers increased their use of online shipping that enables criminal organizations to deliver counterfeit goods to them by mail. Although the quantity per seizure declined, the number of seizures was up reflecting an increase in 'personal internet shopping' due to the pandemic.

6. Revenue risks including leakage.

The Revenue section of this report provides a global overview of the illicit trade of tobacco products and alcohol. During the pandemic, consumers relied more heavily on online shopping especially for taxed goods. So, in the case of excisable goods, the availability of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products below market price has attracted consumers to illicit markets.

In this regard, several Customs administrations used initiative to donate seized alcohol to local hospitals, firefighter services, emergency services, and other health care facilities to be used to make disinfectants to support fight against COVID-19.

7. Security.

Customs play a key role in protecting their citizens and society to prevent dangerous goods including explosive precursors, weapons, and materials of mass destruction from illegal use. In the last section of the report 'Security', it shows that recent trends in trafficking of firearms components increased, and they can be purchased through e-commerce sites as well as the dark web before they are assembled into fully functioning weapons. As consumers become used to purchasing goods through e-commerce and the dark net, the online market for weapons and their components continue to increase.

Conclusion

Over the last two years, global citizens faced the difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in the restricted movement of people across borders, while criminal organizations took this advantage and found way to continue their trafficking through online shopping, e-commerce, and social media. However, Customs administrations worldwide have been trying to ensure the smooth cross-border movement to keep the lifeline of economies whilst ensuring the safety of their own citizens.

For more effective contribution, the WCO continued working with Members to encourage collection and sharing of seizure data that will facilitate perspectives on the next issue of illicit trade report. In this connection, ROCB A/P hopes this information and analysis from the WCO illicit trade report 2021 could assist and support Members to ensure enforcement to protect their citizens and economies.

For more information, please contact me at maypavida@rocbap.org

Meetings and Workshops

Virtual WCO Asia/ Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop on Post Customs Audit for South Asia

5 – 7 July 2022, online hosted by ROCB A/P



A sub-regional workshop on Post Customs Audit (PCA) for South Asia members was held virtually on 5 – 7 July 2022. The Workshop was funded by CCF/Japan and hosted by ROCB A/P. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P, Program Managers of ROCB A/P, Ms. Sherman Yu and Ms. Grace Ye, Program Coordinator, Ms Kanyawarat Sitthikunpanit attended to provide support.

Over 13 participants and 100 observers from 7 Customs Administrations in South Asia participated in the Workshop. In the opening speech, Mr. Pranab Kumar DAS, Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, WCO affirmed the importance of PCA in revenue collection. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P, who was the 2nd speaker, echoed Mr. DAS that PCA is a good scheme not only to collect duties but also to detect tax evasion and fraud. In addition to that, PCA operation is an area where digitization can be applied for more sophisticated operations.

In this 3-day Workshop, WCO accredited experts from Compliance and Facilitation Directorate facilitated and delivered presentations. On the 1st day, ROCB A/P provided its capacity building activity in Asia Pacific region to support modernization efforts of AP Members. In addition to that, ROCB A/P echoed the importance of post workshop action at their home administrations by participants to maximize benefits. The agenda not only covered WCO's concept and background of PCA, but also included fraud detection techniques and related tools. Since Data Analytics is one of the hot topics in WCO, experts shared their experience in how to make use of the Big Data to facilitate PCA work. Participants were invited to share its experience and presented case study in Data analysis techniques for PCA targeting of auditees or Auditing techniques leading to detection of frauds.

Robust discussion arose throughout the Q & A sessions. Participants were eager to learn about the best practice and the challenges that other customs administration faced in PCA. They showed positive responses as they learnt the latest updates during the workshop.



ROCB A/P confirm close cooperation with RILO A/P in FY 2022-2

16 August 2022, Bangkok Thailand



The ROCB A/P had a fruitful and constructive meeting with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for the Asia/Pacific region (RILO A/P) for further close cooperation in supporting Asia Pacific Members this fiscal year as the same regional body of WCO in Asia Pacific region on 16 August 2022

During the meeting, Mr. Norikazu KURAMOTO, the Head of the ROCB A/P expressed his highest welcome to the RILO delegation and expressed appreciation to the RILO A/P for its consistent support of ROCB's enforcement-related capacity building activities in AP region. In response, Mr. Cheon Jeong PARK, the Head of the RILO A/P, reaffirmed the RILO A/P's commitment to work closely with the ROCB A/P to support regional Members.

Taking this opportunity, Mr. KURAMOTO introduced the ROCB A/P's annual work plan for FY 2022/23 and key meetings namely RTC heads meeting and RCL heads meeting in this fiscal year. He asked for close cooperation at these events in providing the RILO A/P's expertise and resources to support ROCB A/P capacity building activities. With a view to further enhancing cooperation. The RILO A/P delegation briefed its capacity building programs and international cooperation activities in FY 2022/23 and asked the ROCB A/P to attend RILO National Contact Point meeting in 27-29 September at Korea and other regional seminars which will be organized by RILO A/P in this fiscal year. In addition, they emphasized

that this visit offered a great opportunity to discuss joint capacity building efforts as well as explore synergies for future cooperation.

Both sides in the discussions found the exchange to be a good and motivating basis for continued cooperation between the ROCB A/P and the RILO A/P.

The WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Face-to-face Workshop on Canines

29 August – 2 September 2022, RDTC Korea



The WCO Asia/Pacific regional Workshop on Canines was held from 29 August to 2 September 2022 at the Regional Dog Training Center (RDTC) Korea as the first face-to-face workshop in AP region after COVID-19 pandemic. The Workshop was hosted by the ROCB A/P in close cooperation with the WCO under the sponsorship of the Korea Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Korea). The 18 Customs administrations in the Asia and Pacific region attended the Workshop. Together with the canine and drug experts from the WCO and ABF, Mr. Gideon Ilkwon HAN, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P also attended as facilitator/coordinator for the Workshop.

The workshop focused on enhancing Members' capacities of canine enforcement and ability to combat the smuggling of dangerous and contraband items. It also served as an effective regional platform to share best practices and define common challenges. The Workshop covered the canines training programs, the sharing of knowledge from RDTC Korea and ABF as well as experiences from AP members, including Philippines Drug

Enforcement Agency (PDEA). Through a series of presentations and discussions, the participants understood that canine capability is the effective and efficient tool to tackle the illegal goods with minimal disruption, such as drugs, cash, wildlife product etc.

During the workshop, Experiences from 9 AP members, namely Australia, Fiji, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, and Pakistan were shared through the country presentations and the participants actively participated in discussions which covered training, breed and operation schemes for benchmarking, all discussions were facilitated by experts. Also, the participants exchanged their experiences to address the challenges on how to implement detector dog activity under the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, participants had two on-site tours at the Incheon International airport passenger terminal and post office, together with the Express Cargo Clearance Center in Incheon Main Customs to observe the canine deployment.

The active contribution of participants resulted in a successful workshop and this workshop supported enhancing communication and information sharing among Member administrations even in the pandemic. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Korea Customs Service, the WCO, the ROCB A/P and the Experts for their support to the workshop.

ROCB A/P encourage Postal Sector to close cooperate with Customs

2 and 5 September 2022, Bangkok Thailand

At the invitation of Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the head of ROCB A/P attended the 60th Anniversary of Asian-Pacific Postal Union on 2nd September and the 9th APPU Postal Business Forum on 5th September respectively.



At the ceremony of 60th Anniversary of Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Mr. Lin Hongliang the Secretary General made welcome remarks and expressed appreciation to all stakeholders and persons involved in the history of APPU. One of the main guest speakers, Mr. Masahiko Metoki, the Director General of Universal Postal Union or UPU made congratulatory remarks

to the APPU and all attendees . He expressed appreciation for the great effort of the APPU, its member posts and sponsors. He also acknowledged the APPU for its long-standing history and support of the UPU.

At the 9th APPU Postal Business Forum, Mr. Kuramoto delivered key remarks to participants and expressed the importance and necessity of Post and Customs cooperation for dealing with the increasing the number of international postal parcels with illegitimate trade. In addition to that, he informed the WCO-UPU joint global conference will be held in Tokyo Japan in the first half of 2023 to promote further cooperation between postal services and Customs and encouraged the participants of this forum to actively participate.

ROCB A/P attend the Joint Anti-Drug Operation SIREN Debriefing Seminar

20 - 22 September 2022, Seoul, Korea



The Joint Anti-Drug Operation SIREN Debriefing Seminar was convened from 20 to 22 September 2022 in Seoul, Korea, under the sponsorship of the Korea Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Korea). The Seminar was organized by the Korea Customs Service (KCS) in cooperation with the WCO. 60 on-site participants from the Thai Customs Department (TCD) and KCS attended this Seminar to share the results of Operation SIREN. Together with the representatives from the WCO Secretariat, RILO A/P and the U.S.

Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration, Ms. Yuko Mamiya, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, also attended the Seminar as a speaker.

During the Seminar, Ms. Mamiya introduced ROCB A/P's capacity building activities, WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium and WCO Illicit Trade Report which are the WCO tool and reference material to support the WCO Members' effort toward the further improvement of risk management systems in their home Administrations. At the seminar, the participants introduced several drug trafficking cases which were detected through Operation SIREN. The Seminar also arranged a study visit to the Canine Training Center, Incheon Airport Customs and Express Cargo Terminal in order to exchange views and experiences between KCS and TCD.

Operation SIREN is a Joint operation between the KCS and the TCD, which aims to fight against drug trafficking. The Operation Co-ordination Unit was established in the TCD, and the officials of KCS and TCD worked together there to analyze the information for drug enforcement. This Operation resulted in the successful seizure of 22kg of methamphetamine, 29 thousand amphetamine pills and 479 ecstasy pills.

This Seminar was a good opportunity to analyze the results of the operation in order to utilize this analysis for future drug enforcement as well as further enhance cooperation between WCO, ROCB A/P, RILO A/P, KCS and TCD. The participants expressed their appreciation to CCF/Korea, the WCO, the KCS and the ROCB A/P.



WCO-UNESCAP 5th UNNEXT Masterclass: Facilitating Cross-Border Paperless Trade Using Emerging Technologies

19-28 September 2022, Seoul, Korea



WCO-UNESCAP 5th UNNEXT Masterclass

Facilitating Cross-border Paperless Trade using emerging technologies

19–28 September 2022 | Seoul, Republic of Korea

The WCO and the UNESCAP organized the 5th UNNEXT Masterclass: Facilitating Cross-border Paperless Trade using emerging technologies from 19 to 28 September 2022 in Seoul, Korea, in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the Korea Customs Service under the financial support of Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea) to support the WCO Members' commitment to the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and effective use of information and communications technology in the introduction of the National Single Window environment in the A/P region.

34 participants from 22 Member Customs administrations and relevant border agencies participated in the Workshop. Mr. Ilkwon HAN, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P and Ms. Pavida Tarapoom, Assistant Program Manager, attended this workshop as one of the resource persons, and took a role of facilitator, she also made a presentation on the ROCB A/P's contributions and activities in capacity building.

The workshop provided Members with the opportunity to examine their WTO TFA engagement and Single Window Implementation status for facilitating cross-border paperless trade by sharing the emerging technologies, such as blockchain, AI, Cloud computing and IOT.

Through this 10-day workshop, the participants actively took part in all the discussions and exercises and shared their views on their possible steps for their administration to materialize the lessons learned from the workshop.

In addition, the participants had a study visit to regional customs house and RTC Korea to observe the practical cases on the utilization of Single Window System for verifying required certificates for clearance, which were authorized by the responsible government agencies and the virtual training experience.

ROCB A/P attended the 33rd RILO A/P NCP Meeting

27 – 29 September 2022, Seoul, Korea



At the invitation of the of Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P), Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P participated in 33rd Administrative Meeting for National Contact Points of Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the

Pacific (RILO A/P NCP Meeting) which was held in hybrid on 27 – 29 September 2022. Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, Ms. Sherman Yu also joined the meeting to provide support.

At the meeting, Mr. Kuramoto delivered his opening remarks and recalled how important effective utilization of intelligence is in cooperation with key stakeholders namely Asia Pacific members, RILO A/P as well as its domestic enforcement administrations. He introduced the ROCB A/P and provided an overview of the upcoming capacity building activities. He also introduced ROCB A/P's publications and encouraged members to participate in capacity building activities organized by ROCB A/P this fiscal year. Since both RILO A/P and ROCB A/P shouldered the role to coordinating and consolidating regional activities, Mr. Norikazu expressed wishes that both offices will continue to work hand in hand in future.

The meeting was chaired by RILO A/P and co-chaired by Korea Customs Service (KCS) as the host administration. During the meeting, respective Customs administrations shared their best practices and case studies in their daily operations. Case statistics, new initiatives and views on smuggling trends were shared and discussed during the presentations. Japan Customs also took the opportunity to share the preparation work for the transition of RILO A/P from KCS to Japan Customs from January 2024.

All participants agreed that closer cooperation and more intelligence exchange are vital to uphold the enforcement effort in the region.



ROCB A/P attended the Workshop for Passenger Assessment for Asia/ Pacific Customs Administration Officers

2 – 8 October 2022, Bali, Indonesia



At the invitation of RTC Indonesia, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, Ms. Sherman YU, attended the 'Workshop for Passenger Assessment for Asia/ Pacific Customs Administration Officers' held in Bali, Indonesia on 2 – 8 October 2022.

During the workshop, Ms. Sherman YU delivered a presentation on WCO elaborating the capacity building work done or planned by ROCB A/P, especially its workshops and meetings and publications. She also invited them to actively participate in the workshops and training conducted by ROCB A/P this fiscal year. She highlighted WCO useful tools and materials for Customs targeting as well as encouraged the participants to make the best use of WCO resources and materials.

At the workshop, Ms. Oza Olavia, Assistant to the Minister for State Revenue Policy Affairs delivered opening speech for the workshop. She acknowledged that training is very important as not only this will support the officers of Customs Administration to carry out their duties effectively but also facilitate the development of the organization itself.

In the 1st day of the workshop, RTC/ Indonesia invited Australian Border Force (ABF) and also an expert in Air Passenger Processing, to be one of the speakers. The theme of the 1st day workshop was 'International Passenger Control Regulations' and 'Human Resource and Passenger Monitoring Infrastructure'. Indonesia Customs shared the experience from his home administration on these topics. Following Indonesia Customs presentation, participants from 8 countries were invited to share their best practice or current situation in Air Passenger Processing.

From day 2 onwards, the trainers and speakers focused on practical aspects focus on specific topics. Participants were given opportunity to complete group assignments as well as taking part in 'role plays' so that they can put what they learnt in the workshop into practice.

Asia-Pacific Members reaffirmed the importance of utilizing Digital Forensics for Customs enforcement

17-21 October 2022, Perth, Australia



The WCO Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Digital Forensics was held from 17 to 21 October 2022 in Perth, Australia, under the sponsorship of the Japan Customs

Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan). The Workshop was organized with the support of the ROCB A/P as well as with generous support from the Australian Border Force (ABF). A total of 16 participants representing 16 Customs administrations in the AP region attended the Workshop and discussed topics related to digital forensics. Together with the WCO Accredited Customs Expert (ACE) and the resource person from Japan Customs, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head, and Ms. Yuko Mamiya, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P also attended the workshop as facilitators/coordinators.

Together with the WCO Asia-Pacific Regional Vice-Chair, WCO experts and donor, Mr. Kuramoto also opened the Workshop and warmly welcomed the speakers and participants. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of digital forensics in the Customs context. Furthermore, he introduced ROCB A/P's capacity building activities such as organizing workshops and publishing various materials for information sharing. He demonstrated a commitment to assisting AP Members in building their capacity.

During the Workshop, the participants actively shared their experiences and challenges in utilizing digital forensics. In particular, the ABF actively contributed to the workshop by sharing their techniques for extracting the data, ensuring the integrity of data and utilizing various tools. Ms. Yuko Mamiya facilitated the workshop and explained the background and objectives of this workshop by emphasizing the importance of individual commitment for the organizational development of Customs administrations. She also explained the Follow-up Actions Survey, which aims to take a snapshot of the impact of WCO capacity building activities on AP Members' performance and encouraged the participants to take action to utilize lessons learnt from this workshop.

The Workshop was successfully concluded with participants' positive feedback. The participants expressed their appreciation to the WCO, the ROCB A/P, the WCO ACE, Japan Customs and the ABF for their contribution to the workshop.

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

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 TARAPOOM

Ms. Jate-Arpa BENJAPHONG

Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRILERT

Ms. Kanyawarat SITTHIKUNPANIT

Regular Supporters: Mr. David RADOVANOVICH and Mr. Michael CYMBALISTA

