



ROCB
Asia/Pacific

E-Newsletter No.79

World Customs Organization



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Foreword

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year 2023 from Bangkok ROCB A/P.

We wish Asia Pacific members and colleagues a healthy and prosperous New Year. We, Customs are 24/7 organizations especially at the frontline of customs enforcement. I would like to pay my sincere respects to all those who welcomed the New Year at their workplaces in the Asia Pacific region. In 2023, we are really looking forward to collaborating with WCO, Asia Pacific members this year even more than last.



I felt that the second half of 2022 was an active period compared with the first half, not only for WCO, but also for ROCB and AP members. There were many face-to-face and hybrid-style meetings and workshops, and a lot of communication among WCO, Regional Entities and AP members. Thanks to these, we have reaffirmed the benefits and advantages of networking, and we hope that in 2023, face-to-face meetings and workshops will continue to strengthen our ties in Asia Pacific region.

The latest E-Newsletter No. 79, features activities undertaken with Asia-Pacific members in the second quarter of WCO Fiscal Year 2022/23 (October through December 2022). In this E-Newsletter, we present special articles from RCL Korea, namely "Korea Regional Customs Laboratory Brief". I greatly appreciate RCL Korea sharing this article with us. Also, we present ROCB A/P's special essay, which explain WCO tools and hot topics in a user-friendly and easy-to-understand manner. There are three special essays in this No. 79 E- Newsletter, namely (1) Are you interested in WCO's A-CIP Programme?" by myself, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P, (2) The First WCO BACUDA (Data Analytics) Scholarship Programme by Mr. Ilkwon HAN (Gideon), former Program Managers of ROCB A/P and (3) Compendium of Gender Equality and Diversity by Ms. Pavida Tarapoom (May), 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.

As for ROCB A/P's activities articles, I would like to briefly touch on the deeply-moving article, Farewell messages from Mr. Ilkwon HAN (Gideon), CCF/Korea Operational Manager and Program Manager. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for my dear colleague, Mr. Ilkwon HAN (Gideon) for his tremendous effort and great contribution to ROCB A/P activities while working with the ROCB A/P. He always done excellent and sincere work and brought good ideas to our activities. I would really appreciate it if you could join me to thank for Mr. Ilkwon HAN (Gideon) for everything that he did for ROCB A/P. But I don't want to say "SAYONARA" to Han san, because I strongly believe that Asia Pacific Members and ROCB A/P will have opportunities to work together in the near future "See you soon". Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Korea Customs for their generous support of ROCB A/P.

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 dark 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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Korea Regional Customs Laboratory Brief



1. Message from the Director General of the WCO A/P RCL Korea



Director General of
Korea Central Customs
Laboratory

Dear WCO members

Hello!!

I'm Jin-Cheol Yang, the Director General of Central Customs Laboratory.

It is my pleasure that I write to you as the Head of Central Customs Laboratory (CCL) Korea.

Welcome to the Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) Korea brief.

It is my great honour to notify you that on July 11th, 2022, I was appointed Director General of CCL Korea which also acts as the WCO RCL.

I would like to show my appreciation to all the members in the region for your continuous and full cooperation and partnership. I have been aware of the importance of the roles of the customs laboratory as the circumstances in which we live change more rapidly and unpredictably than ever before. I hope we will work closely with you and contribute to the development of the customs laboratory.

From the second half of last year to the first half of this year, the RCL Korea has carried out. The following activities:

- The RCL Korea attended the 2021 Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Online Workshop on Capacity Building for Digital Customs and delivered a presentation on analytical technology.
- The RCL Korea ran Customs Laboratory Professionals Programs in order to strengthen the partnership with and increase its contribution to the development of its Uzbek counterpart.
- The RCL Korea has attended sessions of the Harmonized System Committee (HSC), Harmonized Review Sub-Committee (RSC), and Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC) in order to enhance our cooperation with other WCO members by sharing information on classification of goods and products and providing support and cooperation.
- Owing to the Covid-19 situation, The RCL Korea participated in the first RCL Heads meeting online where the participants shared information and promoted our activities.
- The RCL Korea participated in the Regional Seminar on Drugs and Drug Precursors held by RILO AP in June 2022.

I believe that by extending our cooperation and sharing knowledge of customs analysis, we will continue supporting one another and strengthening the relationship among all the members. I look forward to your support and cooperation.

2. Customs Laboratory Professionals Program

('Nov. 15, 2021 - Nov. 26, 2021')

- Two officers from Uzbekistan completed the Customs Laboratory Professionals Program for 2 weeks -

As the RCL Korea contributes to the development of customs analysis technique and gains positive recognition internationally, the RCL Korea has run Customs Laboratory Professionals Programs to lay the foundation for further networks by cultivating professional analysts and building interpersonal networks with other WCO members.

In 2021, The RCL Korea ran a Customs Laboratory Professionals Program for two Uzbek officers from 15th to 26th of November. The program included:

- Introduction of WCO A/P RCL and the CCL Korea,
- Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes analysis,
- DNA analysis on drugs of vegetable origin, drug analysis,
- Analysis of beverages containing alcohol,
- Plasticizer analysis,
- Analysis with X-Ray diffraction and X-Ray fluorescence.

Throughout the program, the RCL Korea not only established the groundwork for strengthening ties and exchanging information with its Uzbek counterpart, but also maintained its positive images as a technologically advanced member in customs analysis. Since we received requests on what should be added to the program, we will consider what is best for trainees in the next Customs Laboratory Professionals program and formulate action plans for the interaction between the CCLs of Korea and Uzbekistan to carry out.



3. 2021 LAC Online Workshop on Capacity Building for Digital Customs

(‘Dec. 7, 2021 - Dec. 10, 2021’)

- Ninety middle managers from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Jamaica, Suriname, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Panama attended -

The 2021 LAC Online Workshop on Capacity Building for Digital Customs was held from December 7th to 10th and The RCL Korea participated and delivered a presentation on analytic technology. Approximately ninety middle managers from nine countries (Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Jamaica, Suriname, Paraguay, Bolivia, Panama) gathered in the online workshop in which IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) joined as a co-host.

The presentation started with introducing our laboratory tasks, facilities, laboratory operation, and analytical instruments. It also included the role of the RCL Korea in the A/P region and international activities, HS classification with analytical instruments such as SEM, XRD, XRF, and GC, and analysis cases.

The RCL Korea will continue to work on understanding demand for digital capacity of the countries through an in-depth analysis with the consulting results for later discussion.

4. The 1st meeting of the Heads of the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Customs Laboratory

(‘May. 10, 2022’)

- Five countries of WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Customs Laboratory participated

The Heads of the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Customs Laboratory met online for the first time on May 10th, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen mutual cooperation and explore ways of promoting information exchanges. It began with having the heads from the five countries introduce themselves and it was followed by exchanging and presenting information on activities of the WCO, ROCB A/P, RILO A/P and RCL.

The RCL Korea delivered a presentation after the other four regional customs laboratories in the A/P region and the presenter of The RCL Korea spoke about the structure of the organization that consists of one central customs laboratory and five local customs laboratories and the tasks that it performs by providing analysis & classification advice, research & technical guidance, and facilitating international cooperation. The presenter also emphasized the roles the RCL Korea plays in running capacity building programs such as training services and participating in international activities.

It was a great opportunity for the five countries in the A/P region that have their own RCLs to get to understand one another. Since they function as customs laboratories, there are common features such as carrying out analysis for HS classification or for narcotic drug identification. However, there are differences in terms of the ways that they operate their laboratories and scientific instruments in their possession.

Due to the pandemic, unfortunately, it took place online even though it was the first time the heads of the RCLs in the A/P region met. We believe it could have resulted in even better communications had it been a face-to-face meeting since we are certain that when it comes to exchanging views, sharing practical experience and expertise and even generating fresh ideas for the development of the RCL, there is no better way of facilitating improvements in customs analysis and seeking cooperation than offline meetings. We look forward to meeting with them in the near future head-to-head.

5. Participation in the Regional Seminar on Drugs and Drug Precursors held by RILO AP

('June. 16, 2022')

- Eighteen countries of WCO Asia/Pacific members, RILO AP, ROCB AP, UN ODC, and RCL Korea attended

On June 16th, 2022, RILO AP hosted the Regional Seminar via the online platform ZOOM. The RCL Korea attended this seminar as one of the presenters. There were five presenters whose presentations covered different topics on drugs within 30 minutes. The RCL Korea gave a presentation about illegal drug issues in the field of customs analysis. He introduced the identification methods of drugs such as methamphetamine, cannabis,

synthetic cannabinoids, LSD, ketamine and also provided examples of detected cases of these enumerated drugs.

6. Support and Management of Analysis Work in the WCO

1) The RCL Korea attended the 37th Session of the Scientific Sub-Committee of the WCO

The Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC) performs as an advisory body of the Council on questions involving chemical or other scientific matters. It also serves as a forum where the exchange of views with regard to customs-related scientific and engineering developments and best practices by the customs laboratory services of Council Members takes place. It plays a crucial role in assisting the HS Committee (HSC) and the Review Sub-Committee (RSC) by advising on classification questions involving scientific issues and providing scientific and engineering support and advice.

It normally holds at least one session a year. For the past two years, it had taken place online due to the pandemic caused by the spread of Covid-19 and The RCL Korea attended the 37th session that was held online from January 19th to 28th, 2022.

At the session, various topics, including HS classification of goods on the INN list, classification and analysis methods for specific goods or products that belong to Sections I to VII such as LPG, collagen sausage casing, and PCB, and capacity building activities with respect to customs laboratories were discussed.

The Delegate from Korea reported that, due to the pandemic, the year 2020 was unfortunate for Korea Central Customs Laboratory, not allowing them to run the Customs Laboratory Professionals Program, consisting of on-site training. In 2021, however, it successfully ran its Customs Laboratory Professionals Programs for two weeks by having invited and provided two staff analysts from Uzbekistan Central Customs Laboratory with learning opportunities through classification analysis, roles and responsibilities of RCL, and laboratory operation. He also added that Korea Central Customs Laboratory, as Regional Customs Laboratory, will continue to support capacity-building activities for WCO member countries. Finally, he informed that Korea Customs Service donates around 2.2 million Euros every year in supporting the WCO capacity building activities and stated that the RCL Korea will continue to make every effort to enhance the capacity of Customs

Laboratory areas and upgrade programs in close collaboration with Korea Customs headquarters and the WCO.

2) The RCL Korea attended the 68th and 69th Sessions of the Harmonized System Committee of the WCO

The Harmonized System Committee (HSC) acts under the overall direction of the WCO Council and Policy Commission with the purpose and scope of uniform interpretation and application, update, and promotion of classification of goods, and examination of general questions and policy matter regarding the HS.

The HS committee meets twice a year and each session lasts two weeks. It had been held online for the last two years due to the pandemic and The RCL Korea attended the 68th and 69th sessions that were conducted via an online platform respectively in September 2021 and March 2022.

At the 68th and 69th sessions, the RCL Korea presented opinions on HS classification of the agenda items such as rehydrated dried fish, rooibos tea, and presented an amendment to the Explanatory Notes clarifying the scope of heading 24.04. The participants shared views and exchanged opinions. Votes were taken on the discussed items of which HS classification was not decided during the meetings via the CLiKC! platform and the other ones that were not discussed due to lack of time or information were relegated to the next session.

As we prepared for the sessions, we fully appreciated every moment to discuss HS classification, which helped drive further studies into items at issue and exchange views. We hope to make more contributions to further progress in HS classification.

3) The RCL Korea attended the 59th and 60th Sessions of the Harmonized Review Sub-Committee of the WCO

The Harmonized Review Sub-Committee (RSC) is under the overall direction of the HS Committee. It pursues a review of the HS under the general guidance of the HSC by proposing amendments to the HS when it may be considered desirable according to

the needs of users and to changes in technology or in patterns of international trade and preparing any consequential amendments to the Explanatory Notes and the Compendium of Classification Opinions for consideration.

It usually meets twice a year and each session lasts one to two weeks depending on the number of items on the agenda. It had been held online for the last two years due to the pandemic and The RCL Korea attended the 59th and 60th sessions that took place online respectively in November 2021 and May 2022.

WCO members were invited to review amendments of texts in HS Explanatory Notes and examine the addition of new headings and subheadings or alignment of meaning of texts in English and French versions of HS Explanatory Notes.

It was a great opportunity for us to consider what changes to be made in Explanatory Notes and Compendium of Classification Opinions as goods and products change how we trade when they are newly produced or no longer consumed by participating in this meeting. It also helped understand the way the WCO members view items at issue.

Are you interested in the WCO's A-CIP Programme?



Norikazu Kuramoto
Head of ROCB A/P

Introduction

Do you happen to know about the integrity efforts of the WCO? I would like to share one of the very interesting Programmes of the WCO, which is called the Anti-Corruption and Integrity Promotion (A-CIP) Programme. It aims to achieve a healthy Customs organization through improved integrity. Needless to say, this goal is the same as shared by members of the Asia Pacific region. If you are interested in the A-CIP, do not miss this opportunity.



Summary of A-CIP

Launched in January 2019, the A-CIP Programme responds to the recognized high costs of corruption in Customs. The Programme aims at improving the business and law enforcement environment for cross-border trade in selected WCO member countries by making changes to the operational and administrative context that restricts corrupt behavior and promotes good governance in Customs services. These changes are guided

by and in line with the ten key factors of the WCO Revised Arusha Declaration (<https://rad.wcoomd.org/>) Concerning Good Governance and Integrity in Customs with initial financing from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), and additional funding from Canada, the A-CIP Programme currently supports more than 20 beneficiary countries in their efforts to combat corruption and promote integrity. If you have interested in, please go to the A-CIP dedicated web site of WCO (link on wcoomd.org)

Activities and achievements

The bilateral component of the Programme involves delivery of WCO technical assistance and capacity building to help selected WCO member countries undertaking measures to implement priority areas of the Revised Arusha Declaration. For each administration, a multi-annual action plan is developed along with clear benchmarks and performance measurement criteria. The Programme also contains a multilateral component to create an enabling environment for WCO Members to implement A-CIP Programme measures by leveraging regional and international initiatives in parallel, and to build WCO instruments and tools.

As for the recent achievement, the WCO A-CIP Programme for Customs has developed a new Internal Affairs e-learning module. The course is now available in English on the WCO CLiKC! e-learning platform. This training aims at emphasizing the added value and impact of an Internal Affairs function in fighting corruption and promoting integrity through prevention and investigation activities. It will provide Customs officials with a better understanding of Internal Affairs-related processes, procedures, and activities that will positively impact their level of integrity and that of the overall administration.



Integrity in the Asia Pacific region

The region's Members have long been active in combatting corruption and we hope you will all be participating in the WCO's next Integrity Sub-Committee Meeting (link on wcoomd.org), to be held in hybrid form 27-28 February. In addition, we draw your attention to the WCO A-CIP Programme, which has been supporting select Members to implement integrity initiatives in line with the WCO Revised Arusha Declaration, as well as contributing to new tools and instruments to help all WCO Members. An opportunity may be on the horizon to expand this Programme's support to Members in the Asia-Pacific region. If you are interested in finding more information about the WCO A-CIP Programme and how it might assist your administration, please send an email to (A-CIP@wcoomd.org).

Way forward

As members of the Asia Pacific region are aware, improving integrity is stipulated in Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building) of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Asia Pacific region and I appreciate the general and tremendous efforts of Asia Pacific Members to improve integrity. ROCB A/P always pays attention to Members' needs and focuses on strengthening capacities in promoting Customs modernization including integrity.

The First WCO BACUDA¹ (Data Analytics) Scholarship Programme²



Ilkwon HAN(Gideon)

Program Manager of ROCB AP

I. Introduction

The use of data by Customs is not new. However, Big Data³ and algorithms⁴ are certainly providing new opportunities for Customs, while also raising new challenges in the implementation of Data Analytics. Such challenges require specific approaches to be considered, as well as specific policy attention to develop the appropriate organizational and technical capabilities needed to take advantage of the explosion in data, and to gain the insights that will help Customs make better informed decisions.

Over the past few years, the WCO Secretariat has made numerous efforts to raise awareness among WCO Members about the potential benefits of data analytics, and to support them in their journey towards a successful implementation of the analytics function⁵. Before reviewing the BACUDA (Data Analytics) Scholarship program, I would

¹ "BACUDA" is an abbreviation of "Band of Customs Data Analysts" and means "to change" in Korean.

² Offering a five month online and offline (one month online, four months face to face) programme to Customs officials of Member customs administrations for an in-depth study and training in customs related data analytics.

³ It is a field that treats ways to analyze, systematically extract information from, or otherwise deal with data sets that are too large or complex to be dealt with by traditional data-processing application software.

⁴ In mathematics and computer science, an algorithm is a finite sequence of well-defined, computer-implementable instructions, typically to solve a class of problems or to perform a computation. Algorithms are always unambiguous and are used as specifications for performing calculations, data processing, automated reasoning, and other tasks.

⁵ The WCO dedicated the year 2022 to "Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Enhancing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem". The overall aim is to highlight the progress on Digital Transformation through the entrenchment of Data-base culture and knowledge-driven data ecosystem in Customs focusing on 3 pillars. These pillars are to: build a Customs Data

like to present the WCO BACUDA project to easily understand the whole picture of program.

II. WCO BACUDA Project

The WCO BACUDA project was launched in September 2019 as a collaborative research platform focused on data analytics. The project aims to develop data analytics methodologies (algorithms) in open-source languages so that all the Members can employ them with their own data. It should be necessary to know programming language, such as Python⁶, R⁷ to understand the outcomes of the projects, because the algorithms are based on the languages.⁸

In this regard, it should be necessary to illustrate cross-institutional collaborative efforts to develop the analytical capabilities of the Members, the WCO will continue working on BACUDA project in collaborative research with Members and external experts⁹.

One of the popular algorithms developed by the WCO BACUDA Project team is “DATE¹⁰ model” as below. The DATE consists of three stages. The first stage pre-trains a tree-based classifier to generate cross features of each transaction. The second stage is a dual attentive mechanism that learns both the interactions among cross features and the interactions among importers, HS codes, and cross features. The third stage is the dual-task learning by jointly optimizing illicitness classification and revenue prediction.

Ecosystem based on trust, embrace a data Culture by bridging the human resource gaps and foster a collaborative culture among Customs administrations. Within this framework, the 1st WCO and SKKU Data Analytics Scholarship Programme had been launched in January 2022 in close collaboration between the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU).

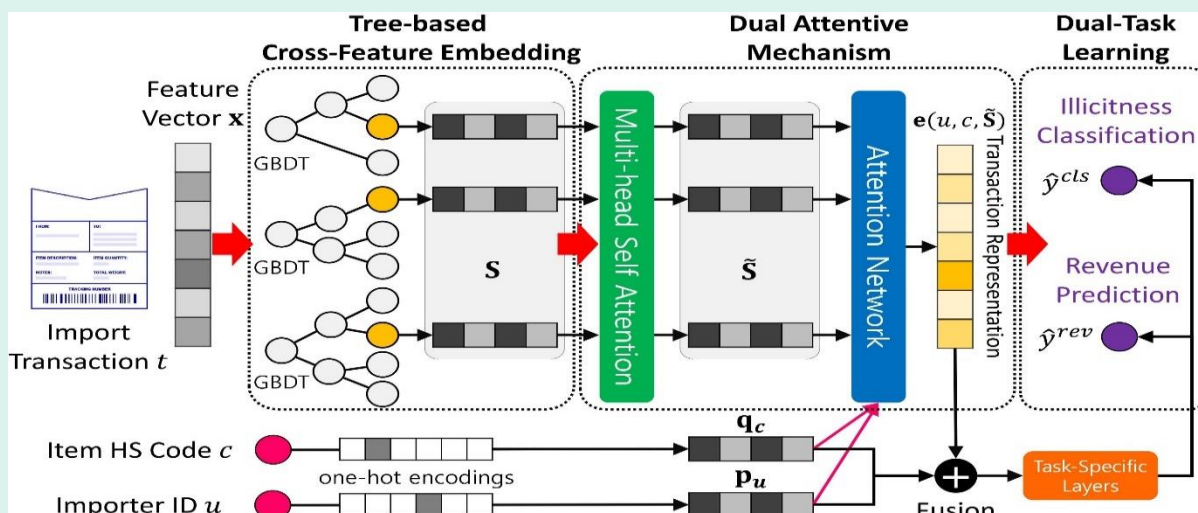
⁶ Python is an interpreted, high-level, general-purpose programming language. Created by Guido van Rossum and first released in 1991.

⁷ R is a programming language and free software environment for statistical computing and graphics supported by the R Foundation for Statistical Computing.

⁸ Due to my preparation of this paper, I studied basic tutorial courses on the python and R about 2 weeks to understand the project. It should be more than 2 months to master the language fully.

⁹ One of the main external experts are IBS DSG (Data Science Group, Institute for Basic Science) in Republic of Korea.

¹⁰ It is called a Dual-Attentive-Tree-aware-Embedded (DATE) neural network model to assist Customs administration to better detect transactions presenting risks of fraud by implementing a pilot test to verify its performance with real-time import data of two Nigerian ports in Tin Can (in Lagos) and Onne (in Port-Harcourt) since March 2020. (WCO Press release, May 19, 2020)



III. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMME

This programme offers a 5-month, non-degree programme: one month online and four months face-to-face.¹¹ The aim of this programme aims at enhancing capacity-building of customs officials on data analysis. Data analysis is a tool by companies and governments in their businesses for years to drive priority-setting, decision-making, performance measurement, budget planning and forecasting, and operations.

Customs has a substantial amount of data at its disposal, beginning with data submitted for the Customs clearance process. Thanks to the development of digital technology, Customs can tap into data from other government agencies, commercially available databases, and open-source information platforms, such as digitized global public records and multilingual news sources.

Accordingly, the framework of the programme includes;

- Fundamentals of Big Data Analytics
- Machine Learning Fundamentals
- Python Programming

¹¹ The WCO and SKKU (Sungkyunkwan University in Korea) launched the Data Analytics Scholarship Programme on Monday, 24th January 2022, with the financial support of CCF-Korea as part of the BACUDA project of the WCO Capacity Building Directorate. Due to the current COVID-19 regulations, the first component of the scholarship programme is being conducted through a web conference platform. One month of online classes preceded an offline curriculum at the SKKU in the second quarter of the year 2022.

- Applied Advanced Analytics
- Data Technology
- WCO BACUDA algorithm
- Leadership and Management

IV. SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS¹²

1. The number of participants for the programme will be twelve. Given the goal of the programme, they should be management-level officials of Customs in developing countries.
2. The candidates should be in good health, preferably within the age range 45-25.
3. Officials who apply for the programme shall meet all the following requirements:
 - a. Certification of the completion of Data Analytics - beginner course on the WCO CLiKC!
 - b. have at least two or more years of work experience in Customs Data Analytics
 - c. Proof of English proficiency (both speaking and listening)

V. FUNDING

The programme will be financed through CCF-Korea provided by the Korea Customs Service.

- For the face-to-face program, the Fund will cover travel costs, admission fees, tuition fees, institutional costs, accommodation costs and other approved incidental expenses to enable the participants to complete the programme.

¹² Twelve customs officials from the six WCO regions, carefully selected from over 60 applicants, are participating in the program of 2022. The following countries are participating in the BACUDA (data analytics) scholarship programme, namely Albania, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, India, Jordan, Liberia, Nigeria, Morocco, Peru, Tanzania, and Uganda.

VI. PROGRAMME SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION

1. Course Description

The program consists of one month of online courses and four months of offline activities. The courses will be divided into the following nine modules.

- 1) Fundamentals of Big Data Analytics (Online)
- 2) Machine Learning Fundamentals (Online)
- 3) Machine Learning Applications (Offline)
- 4) Python Programming (Offline)
- 5) Analytical Skills for AI and Data Science (Online)
- 6) Network Analysis in Customs (Offline)
- 7) Data Technology (Offline)
- 8) WCO BACUDA Algorithms (Offline)
- 9) Leadership and Management Development (Online)

2. Curricular Module

At the end of the whole programme (Online & Face to face), each participant must submit to the University a research paper on a Customs topic, making the full and best use of the knowledge and insights gained from the programme and validated by his/her tutor. This document must demonstrate the participants' analytical skills, their understanding on those topics and discussions from the Programme and their strategic ability and skills.

Module 1	Fundamentals of Big Data Analytics (Online)
1	Unlock the Potential of Customs Data
2	Overview of Hadoop Ecosystem
3	MapReduce and HDFS Fundamentals
4	NoSQL Databases
5	Real-time Processing
6	Analytics
7	Inductive and Deductive Investigation
8	Introduction to Pig and Hive
9	Communicating Your Findings
10	Onsite Deployment
Module 2	Machine Learning Fundamentals (Online)
1	Machine Learning Overview
2	Model Performance Metrics
3	Feature Selection and Engineering
4	Machine Learning Algorithm
5	Regression Analysis - Defining information needs and conducting regression analysis
6	Regression Analysis - Structuring problems data and features
7	Regression Analysis - Evaluating regression models and presenting the results
8	Classification Analysis - Conducting classification analysis
9	Classification Analysis - Structuring problems data and features
10	Classification Analysis - Evaluating classification models
11	Clustering Analysis - Conducting clustering analysis
12	Clustering Analysis - Structure problems data and features
13	Clustering Analysis - Evaluating clustering models

Module 3	Machine Learning Applications (Offline)
1	Types of Machine Learning Techniques
2	Supervised Learning – Classification, Regression
3	Unsupervised Learning – Clustering, Association
4	Semi-Supervised Learning – Classification, Clustering
5	Reinforcement Learning
6	ML Algorithms: Linear Regression
7	ML Algorithms: Logistic Regression
8	ML Algorithms: Decision Tree
9	ML Algorithms: SVM
10	ML Algorithms: Naïve Bayes
11	ML Algorithms: k-NN
12	ML Algorithms: Random Forest
13	ML Algorithms: Dimensionality Reduction Algorithms
14	ML Algorithms: GBM, XGBoost, LightGBM, CatBoost
15	Practice ML Problems
Module 4	Python Programming (Offline)
1	Python - Variables and Operations
2	Python - Data Structure
3	Python - Control Flow Statement
4	Python - Functions and Packages
5	Python - Classes and Class Inheritance
6	NumPy Basic
7	Structure and Creation
8	NumPy Array Indexing
9	Broadcasting
10	NumPy Methods
11	Data Structures in Pandas
12	Pandas Data Frame

13	Methods on pandas Data Frame
14	Reshaping Data Frames
15	Text Files (.txt, .csv) - Input & Output
16	JSON Files – Input & Output
17	XML_HTML
18	Database (SQLITE)
19	Introduction to Data Visualization with Matplotlib
20	Advanced Data Visualization with Matplotlib
21	Visualization with Pandas
22	Practice: Data Visualization with Pandas and Matplotlib

Module 5	Analytical Skills for AI and Data Science (Online)
1	Introduction to Evidence-based Decision Making: Examples in Economic Development
2	Analytical Thinking and Methods (I): How to Define Research Question and Introduction to Statistical Approaches to Draw Inference
3	Machine Learning Applications for the Public Sector
4	Discovering and Collecting Data: Practical Advice for Government Managers
5	Analytical Thinking and Methods (II): Correlation, Causation and Decision-Making
6	Barriers to Building a Data Practice in Government
7	Data Collaborative: Creating Public Value By Exchanging Data
8	Strengthening a Data Analytic Culture
9	Analytical Thinking and Methods (III): Optimization
10	Practical Guide to Analytic Selection

Module 6	Network Analysis in Customs (Offline)
1	What are Networks
2	Network Analysis as a Method
3	Social Network Analysis
4	Visualizing Network Models
5	Foundational Network Measures
6	Introduction to Big-FINDER Models
7	Air Passenger Intelligence
8	Customs Supply Chain Analysis
9	Delinquent Taxpayer Analysis
10	Practice – CASOS ORA
Module 7	Data Technology (Offline)
1	What is NoSQL?
2	MongoDB installation and environment setting
3	Data entry/modification/deletion
4	Data manipulation method
5	Creating reports using NoSQL
6	Report visualization
Module 8	WCO BACUDA algorithms (Offline)
1	Price investigation (Web Scrapping)
2	HS6 recommendation
3	Mirror data analysis
4	DATE algorithm
Module 9	Leadership and Management (Online)
1	Leadership and communication
2	Decision-making process
3	Conflict and coordination
4	Strategy, organizational design, and effectiveness

VII. Conclusion

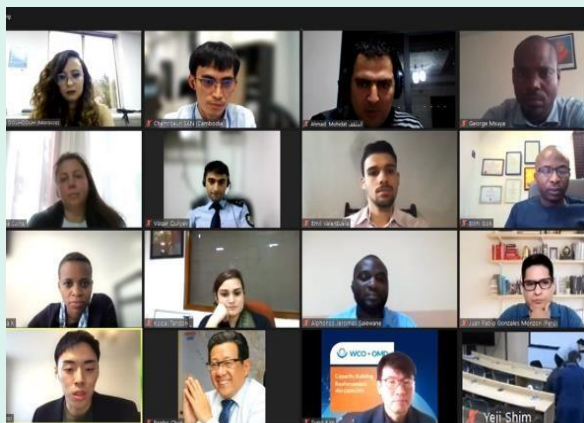
The 1st WCO BACUDA (Data Analytics) Scholarship Program conducted with the cooperation of the World Customs Organization and Sungkyunkwan University under the sponsorship of the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF-Korea) has been finalized in July 2022. This Program has great significance in that it offers all academic theories, technical skills, and best practices applied in real fields which enable participants to get holistic perspectives and clear visions.

The curriculum holds a wide array of courses on data analytics, ranging from introductory courses to expert courses. The program will cover state-of-the-art topics such as Big Data Analytics, Machine Learning, Blockchain, and algorithms developed by the BACUDA expert group to widen the participants' horizons. Successful completion of the course entails in-depth research and study and the writing of a paper by each participant. After that, they will be fully equipped with knowledge and skills to help their respective organizations maximize the potential of data usage.

The WCO plans to continue providing this program for officials from developing Member administrations continually¹³. I hope this article help all customs officials to understand this program and encourage them to apply for this program as a CCF-Korea operation manager in ROCB AP. Thank you.

¹³ For more information, please contact capacity.building@wcoomd.org.

Official Milestone & Ceremonies of the First BACUDA Scholarship program



Orientation of the Program
(January 24th, 2022)



Offline Program Starts
(April 1st, 2022)



Offline Opening Ceremony
(April 4th, 2022)



Completion Ceremony
(July 20th, 2022)

Compendium of Gender Equality and Diversity in Customs



Pavida Tarapoom (Ms.)

Assistant Program Manager, ROCB A/P

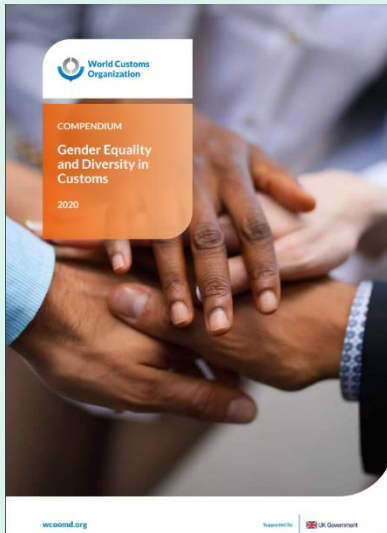
Introduction

Since 2013, Gender Equality and Diversity has been an important part of the WCO capacity building agenda. In continuing efforts to promote the advancement of gender equality and diversity in Customs, it is proved that development programs and capacity building activities can improve overall outcomes and ensure sustainability of activities, the WCO launched several tools and initiatives to maximize potential of our Members which are;

- Gender Equality Organizational Assessment Tool (GEOAT)
- WCO Virtual Working Group for Gender Equality and Diversity
- Blended training package “Advancing Gender Equality in Customs”
- Module addressing Gender Equality and Inclusiveness in Leadership and Management Development (LMD) Programs and People Development Diagnostic tool
- Compendium of Gender Equality and Diversity in Customs

However, in this essay, I will highlight the “*Compendium of Gender Equality and Diversity in Customs*” to readers and show its importance including why we need this for our customs community.

The First Edition of the Compendium



On the occasion of International Women’s Day, 8 March 2021, the first edition of the Compendium of Gender Equality and Diversity in Customs which covers practices from Members was launched. The compendium is one of WCO initiatives promoting GED and inspiring Members to take further action. This first edition of the Compendium of Gender Equality and Diversity in Customs was issued in 2020 to update and encourage Members to share more practices and lessons learned on advancing gender equality and diversity. Implementing gender responsive and

inclusive measures is often linked to a national legislative framework which can also be the result of proactive initiatives from the Customs administrations to drive this agenda forward.

The latest Compendium consists of 17 practices from 17 Members to illustrate several of the key GEOAT principles and indicators, namely,

- Australia Border Force
- Federal Revenue of Brazil
- Finnish Customs
- Iceland Customs
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs of India
- Indonesia Customs
- Israel Customs
- Jamaica Customs

- Mali Customs
- New Zealand Customs
- Philippines Customs
- South African Revenue Service
- Swedish Customs
- Uganda Revenue Authority
- Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs of the United Kingdom
- United States Customs and Border
- Vietnam Customs

The 17 practices from the Compendium illustrate several GEOAT key principles and indicators. Sharing experiences from those Members helps to concrete initiatives to address particular issues such as promoting work life balance, inclusiveness in organizations, women in leadership positions or preventing sexual harassment and violence. It also provides possible inspiration across the WCO Membership to promote the agenda.

The Second Edition of the Compendium will come soon?

In this regard, I am informed that the second edition of the compendium of Gender Equality and Diversity is now under progress with cooperation between Members and the WCO Secretariat. The updated practical examples on how WCO Members are implementing GED will be provided to other Members encouraging them to take further action and foster further learning and inspiration across the Membership. I believe that it is time for Asia Pacific Members to contribute this compendium!

Way Forward

Together with raising awareness on the importance of Gender Equality and Diversity in the Customs community with WCO initiatives, it is hoped that the Members' constant effort on this matter will maximize the potential of diversity towards a more modern, open and attractive Customs.

ROCB A/P still pays attention to Members' needs and focus on strengthening capacities in Customs-related issues including the importance of Gender Equality and Diversity. We highly appreciate the support of AP Members in considering Gender Equality in promoting international opportunities, especially capacity building workshops.

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

Workshops and Meetings

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. She also invited active participation in workshops and training conducted by ROCB A/P this fiscal year. She also highlighted WCO tools and material for risk profiling 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.

On 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 their 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.

Starting from day 2 onwards, the trainers and speakers focused on practical aspects and specific topics. Participants were given the opportunity to complete group assignments as well as taking part in 'role play', putting what they learnt in the workshop into practice.



ROCB A/P Signing Ceremony for establishment of RTC Thailand

10 October 2022, Bangkok



At the invitation of Mr. Anuntasilpa Patchara, the Director-General of Thai Customs Department, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P and his colleagues attended the virtual signing ceremony for establishment of the RTC Thailand.

Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the Secretary General of WCO and Mr. Anuntasilpa Patchara, the Director-General of Thai Customs Department virtually signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the WCO Asia-Pacific Regional Training Center (RTC) at the Thailand Customs in Bangkok, Thailand on 10 October 2022.

Mr. Kuramoto expressed his warmest congratulations to the Thai Customs Department and looked forward to further collaboration with RTC Thailand and other regional entities located in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Anuntasilpa Patchara, the Director-General of Thailand Customs Department expressed his intention to support WCO and Asia Pacific region.

RTC Thailand was approved as the 10th RTC in Asia Pacific region by the Asia-Pacific Heads of Customs meeting that took place in Bali, Indonesia in May 2022.

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 donors, Mr. Kuramoto also opened the Workshop and warmly welcomed 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 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 emphasizing the importance of individual commitment to 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 participants to take action and 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.



The ROCB A/P and the Korea Customs Service confirm continued cooperation to support capacity building in the Asia Pacific region

31 October 2022, Bangkok, Thailand



On 31 October 2022, Mr. Cheon Jeong Park, the Director of the International Investigation Division, Korea Customs Service (KCS), accompanied by his KCS colleagues, paid a courtesy visit to the ROCB A/P. Mr. Kuramoto, Head of ROCB and his colleagues warmly welcomed them.

Mr. Park introduced the outcomes of Operation SIREN which was a joint operation between the KCS and the Thai Customs Department and aimed to fight against drug trafficking. He explained that the KCS will endeavor to provide training for effective drug enforcement with AP members so that this will lead to more successful results in future operations.

Mr. Kuramoto and Mr. Park exchanged their views on how the ROCB A/P and the KCS could collaborate in building the capacity of drug enforcement in the AP region. Mr. Kuramoto and Mr. Park confirmed that their purpose is the same: to assist AP Members in building their capacity. They have agreed on continuously strengthening cooperation

between the ROCB A/P and KCS to support the AP Members' efforts on their capacity development.

20th Regional Training Center (RTC) Heads Meeting

2 – 3 November 2022, Hosted by ROCB A/P and RTC/ Thailand (Hybrid Mode)



The 20th Meeting of Heads of WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Training Center was organized and hosted by ROCB A/P and RTC/ Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand on 2 – 3 November 2022. Over 50 participants from RTCs, WCO Secretariat, Vice Chair Secretariat, and ROCB A/P attended the meeting. Due to the Covid pandemic and travel ban, the ROCB A/P decided host the meeting in hybrid mode. In the Opening Session, Mrs. Nunthita Sirikup, Deputy Director-General of Thai Customs Department delivered welcoming remarks. RTC/ Thailand was newly accredited as the 10th RTC in the AP region in 2022 and hosting the 20th RTC Heads Meeting bears an important meaning to them. Mr. Taeil Kang, Director of Capacity Building Directorate, WCO, Mr. Cheon-jeong PARK,

Head of RILO A/P and Mr Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P delivered remarks following Mrs. Nunthita Sirikup's speech.



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. During the meeting, each RTC was invited present and introduce their capacity building activities as well as latest developments. A Panel discussion

was held to discuss the 'Challenges and good practice of Customs training during COVID-19' and 'What are the lessons and way forward for future capacity building activities. Presenters and participants shared their views on the challenges and benefits of conducting online training according to their experience. This information was good reference for members of best practices of RTCs which can be put in place. It is hoped that close collaboration and cooperation among RTCs will be fostered in near future.

Mr. Kuramoto summarized the 2nd day of the meeting in the wrap-up and way forward session. Closing remarks were delivered by Ms. Akiko Kojima, Regional Development Manager, WCO Capacity Building Directorate followed by Mr. Cheon-jeong PARK, Head of RILO A/P, Mrs. Arpananee Sangmukda, Head of RTC/ Thailand. Mr. Kuramoto also took the opportunity to thank all the participants for their active participation and discussion in the 20th RTC Heads meeting.

Pacific Islands' Members discussed future training materials for the Pacific region

7 – 11 November 2022, Suva, Fiji



The third WCO/JICA Joint Sub-Regional Working Group Activity for Master Trainer Programme (MTP) on Customs Valuation and HS Classification for the Pacific Islands was held from 7 to 11 November 2022 in Suva, Fiji. The Working Group Activity was organized by the WCO and JICA with the support of ROCB A/P as well as in cooperation with the Fiji Revenue & Customs Service. A total of 24 participants representing six WCO Members in the Pacific region, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, and Vanuatu attended the Working Group Activity in person. Together with the experts on Customs Valuation and HS Classification from the WCO and Japan Customs, Ms. Yuko Mamiya, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, also attended to assist in organizing the Working Group Activity.

In the course of the Working Group Activity, the MTP Working Group members actively discussed future training materials for the Pacific region. Ms. Yuko Mamiya led the discussion in the HS session and the MTP Working Group members on HS shared their views and opinions to develop presentation materials that meet the unique needs and priorities of the Pacific Islands. Furthermore, the participants delivered the presentations as part of the Train the Trainer program with the aim of becoming quality trainers. At the end of this Working Group Activity, the participants reviewed and updated their work plan

as well as demonstrated their strong commitment to all activities written in the work plan in order to achieve the objectives of the MTP through progressive follow-up activities.

Participants' active contribution resulted in the successful Working Group Activity and this Activity deepened the bonds 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 A/P attend Opening Ceremony of RTC Thailand

8 November 2022, Bangkok



At the invitation of Mr. Patchara Anuntasilpa, the Director-General of Thai Customs Department, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P and his colleagues attended the Opening Ceremony of the RTC Thailand.

Mr. Patchara Anuntasilpa, the Director-General and executives of Thai Customs Department invited representatives of International Organizations and Customs Attaches based on Bangkok to this Opening Ceremony of the RTC Thailand at the Thailand Customs in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 November 2022.

Mr. Kuramoto celebrated together with Thai Customs Department at this event on the behalf of invited attendance. During the event, a lot of attendance expressed its congratulations for the Thai Customs Department and the RTC Thailand.

The RTC Thailand was approved as the 10th RTC in Asia Pacific region by the Asia-Pacific Heads of Customs meeting that took place in Bali, Indonesia in May 2022 and signed the MoU on the establishment of RTC Thailand with the WCO at the 10 October 2022.

ROCB A/P attends the 32nd session of the World Customs Organization Asia/Pacific Regional Contact Points

14 -18 November 2022, Brisbane, Australia



The 32nd Asia Pacific Regional Contact Points Meeting was held in Brisbane, Australia on 14 -18 November 2022 in hybrid mode hosted by Asia Pacific Vice Chair. Mr. Norikazu KURAMOTO, the Head of the ROCB A/P together with Program Managers, Ms. Zhengqing YE and Ms. Sherman YU joined this meeting.

Mr. KURAMOTO introduced the outline of the ROCB A/P and its activities including workshop delivery plan in this FY and its cooperation framework with regional entities in the Asia Pacific region. In particular, he emphasized the importance of the annual

needs survey on capacity building which will be conducted in December 2022 and encouraged timely feedbacks to ROCB A/P. He also requested Asia Pacific members' cooperation related to Training Management supporting activities conducted by the ROCB A/P.

He also made implementation report on new Regional Strategic Plan 2022-24 (RSP) Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building) on the behalf of co-coordinator with Japan Customs and encouraged Asia Pacific members' active participation to capacity building activity in the Asia Pacific region aligned with Focus Area 3. During group discussion sessions, Ms. YE and Ms. YU actively joined breakout sessions on discussion for linking the WCO Implementation Plan 2022-2023 to the RSP and Supply Chain Integrity as well as made the summaries of the group discussion respectively.

As for the regional entity's application matter Australia, Hong Kong China and Indonesia expressed their intentions to be accredited as the Regional Dog Training Centers (RDTC). Taking this opportunity, the ROCB expressed the sincere gratitude to the above three administrations for the willingness to make more contributions in this region. Many delegates welcomed the initiatives and this RCP meeting endorsed to forward to the RHCA next year.

This RCP meeting consists of the Asia Pacific members as well as the WCO Secretariat, RILO AP and ROCB A/P. During the meeting, the WCO's updates included its hot topics and new WCO Strategic Plan 2022-25, the achievements made by the RILO A/P were reported and discussed in addition to that ROCB A/P. Moreover, all the participants joined 2 group discussion sessions. The quality of the presentations and the depth of the discussions, together with the sharing of experience and best practice, enabled the Contact Points Meeting to build a clearer picture of progress with Customs reform and modernization strategies in the AP region.

ROCB A/P celebrate 150th Anniversary of Japan Customs

25 and 28 November 2022, Tokyo, Japan



Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General attended the events related the Japan Customs 150 anniversary namely, Symposium on Commemorate the 150th anniversary of Japan Customs and Celebration Event of the 150th Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Japan Customs at 25th and 28th December respectively. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P accompanied these events.

At the Symposium, Secretary General shared WCO overview and recent key activities, Environment surrounding Customs and Future challenges at his keynote speech. In addition to that, he delivered his congratulatory address at the Celebration Event to express congratulations and appreciation for long standing contribution for Japan's economic growth.

The symposium was attended by executives of Japan Customs, many stakeholders including customs brokers and it was opportunity to exchange views on the role of customs in the changing and evolving international situation in the recent years. The ceremony was attended by Crown Prince Akishino and Crown Princess Kiko of Japan.

Around 300 guests, including Members of the National Diet (Japan House of Representatives), Government Officials, related organizations and Ambassadors based in Tokyo, celebrated the milestone achievement.

ROCB A/P join the RILO Online Regional Seminar

1st December 2022, Online



At the invitation of the RILO A/P, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P attended the Regional Seminar in Asia Pacific region held on 1st Dec 2022 online hosted by RILO A/P.

In the opening session, Mr. Kuramoto delivered his welcoming remarks and explained that illicit drugs are the major concern in Customs enforcement and Customs play a key role in enforcement through targeting high-risk cargo and passengers at national borders. He also stressed that ROCB A/P also fully supports Asia Pacific Members delivering capacity building activity to improve enforce capability in close cooperation with the RILO A/P.

In this seminar, RTC Thailand and RDTC Korea also joined to share its outline and updates. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and World Wide Fund (WWF) were also invited the seminar to share their information.

ROCB A/P attends the Thailand Maritime Stakeholder Workshop to Detect and Investigate Wildlife Trafficking in International Maritime Supply Chains

6-7 December 2022, Bangkok, Thailand



At the invitation of the Royal Thai Customs, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head, and Ms. Yuko Mamiya, Ms. Zhengqing Ye and Ms. Sherman Yu, Program Managers of ROCB A/P attended the Thailand Maritime Stakeholder Workshop on Detect and Investigate Wildlife Trafficking in International Maritime Supply Chains held from 6 to 7 December 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand.

This meeting aims to enhance public-private partnership, raise the maritime sector awareness about illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT) in Thailand and relevant initiatives to address IWT as well as share global and national-level wildlife enforcement experience.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto underlined the importance of collaboration between WCO, its Members, other government agencies and other stakeholders. He also introduced the WCO tool “Frontline Customs Officers’ Guide to Key Multilateral Environmental Agreements” and demonstrated WCO’s and ROCB A/P’s commitment to building Members’ capacity.

During the workshop, participants actively discussed how to utilize the various tools to fight against IWT and enhance cooperation between government agencies and the private sector. Ms. Mamiya moderated the session concerning law enforcement tools

and complementary initiatives. This workshop resulted in promoting cooperation among all stakeholders and deepening their understanding of the latest trend of IWT.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection visit to the ROCB A/P

13 December 2022, Bangkok Thailand



Ms. Debbie Seguin, Assistant Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (US CBP) paid courtesy visit to Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P accompanied by her team on December 13th 2022.

Mr. Kuramoto welcomed them and expressed his gratitude for the great help provided by US CBP to ROCB A/P. At the same time, He expressed warmest welcome to Ms. Debbie Suguin to ROCB A/P team and look forward to forthcoming collaboration in the WCO community. She also expressed her commitment to the supporting WCO and its members.

Taking this opportunity, Mr. Kuramoto introduced all the ROCB A/P members and outlined the major current initiatives of the ROCB A/P followed by the introduction on how to organize workshop activity in Asia Pacific region.

In addition to that, Mr. Kuramoto expressed his deepest appreciation to the US CBP and looked forward to closer cooperation in the future.

ROCB A/P support WCO Regional Workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention for the Asia/Pacific region

19 - 22 December 2022, Bali, Indonesia



The WCO Regional Workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention (the RKC) for Asia Pacific members was held in Bali Indonesia from 19-22 December 2022 sponsored by the Customs Cooperation Fund of China (CCF-China). From ROCB A/P, Ms. Zhengqing Ye, the Program Manager and Operation Manager of the CCF-China and Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRILER, the Program Coordinator supported in organizing this workshop.

Ms. Ye warmly welcomed the experts and participants to join the RKC regional workshop, and she emphasized the importance of RKC in the trade facilitation context in her opening remarks. During the workshop she introduced ROCB A/P's capacity building activities such as organizing workshops and publishing various materials for information sharing. She demonstrated a commitment to assisting AP Members in building their capacity by ROCB A/P. 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.

This event gathered a total of 27 Customs officials from the region attended the workshop in-person, and about 15 officials joined online from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) and the Korea Customs Service. Overall, 22 Contracting Parties and 2 Observers (Timor Leste and Brunei Darussalam) to the RKC participated in the workshop.

As we all know, the RKC presents a blueprint for modern and efficient Customs procedures in the 21st century to facilitate legitimate trade while not compromising the Customs control function. It provides a comprehensive and basic set of international Customs standards; it also serves as a basis for other Customs instruments and constitutes a benchmark for successful capacity building activities. In this regard, reviewing and understanding the RKC and ensuring proper implementation by customs administrations is of vital importance.

This regional workshop provided ample opportunity for our Members Administrations to better understand the implementation issues and challenges faced by the contracting parties. In addition, the workshop was briefly updated on the relationship between the RKC and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and on the status of the on-going comprehensive review of the RKC.

Staff Update

Farewell message from Mr. Ilkwon HAN(Gideon)

Dear colleagues and friends,

Time flies. I can't believe that I have completed my 3-year tenure at the ROCB A/P on 10 November 2022. The day I started working at the ROCB A/P in 2019 couldn't imagine the COVID-19 pandemic.



In fact, my 3 year-term was passing through the COVID-19 situation. However, the pandemic couldn't stop my passion to deliver the Capacity building activity. To wrap up my performance on organizing the regional workshop under the sponsorship of CCF-Korea, I should say 2-2-2.

The first 2 are two times of virtual workshop on Data Analytics and K9. The second 2 are two times of hybrid workshop on Railway in Seoul, Korea and Data Analytics in Nadi, Fiji. The last 2 are two times of face-to-face workshop on K9 in RDTC Korea and the Masterclass in Seoul, Korea. Furthermore, I am proud that I have made the first hybrid and face-to-face workshop in AP region.

Other than these, I also had several experiences, such as writing special essay, organizing meetings, joining the workshop as PCA and Valuation expert, etc. all my performance in ROCB AP has improved myself a lot.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone I have met and worked with through my tenure of the ROCB A/P, including Thai Customs Department, WCO Secretariat, Regional Vice Chair, WCO Regional Entities, WCO Member administrations in the region. I believe that my experience at the ROCB AP will be a big steppingstone that will continuously bring benefits to the region. I am looking forward to working with you all again even after returning to Korea Customs Service.

May God bless you. Thank you.



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Ms. Sherman YU

Ms. Grace YE

Ms. Pavida TARAPOOM

Ms. Jate-Arpa BENJAPHONG

Ms. Vareemon CHAIRUNGSRILERT

Ms. Kanyawarat SITTHIKUNPANIT

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

