



ROCB E-Newsletter No. 81

Asia/Pacific

World Customs Organization



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- An Introduction of the ROCB A/P Customs Good Practice Report on Exemplifying Follow-up Actions after the WCO Regional Workshops in FY 2021/2022

Foreword



Dear Readers,

Greetings from Bangkok ROCB A/P.

The new Fiscal Year for the WCO started in July 2023. Looking back at the last administrative year 2022/23, the impact of COVID-19 is being minimized and many workshops

were able to be held face-to-face or as a hybrid. We were also able to undertake some workshops that could not take place during 2021-22 due to COVID-19. It has been a busy year and we are very pleased that we were able to deliver so many workshops to our Asia Pacific members. We would also like to thank the many members for their active participation. Also, at the Council Sessions held at the WCO headquarters in June, the last of the administrative year, a new Secretary General from January 2024 was elected.


In the Fiscal Year 2023/24, ROCB A/P will continue to strive to provide as many workshops as possible to Asia Pacific members. We are really looking forward to meeting many participants. We will also continue to cooperate with the Regional Entities, with the Vice Chairs and with RILO A/P. We look forward to collaborating with our stakeholders.

The latest E-Newsletter No 81, features activities undertaken with Asia-Pacific members in the third quarter of WCO Fiscal Year 2022/23 (April through June 2023). There are three special essays in this E- Newsletter, namely (1) From Vision to Reality: The Journey towards Fully Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region by Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Manager of ROCB A/P. (2) An Introduction of the ROCB A/P Customs Good Practice

Report on Exemplifying Follow-up Actions after the WCO Regional Workshops in FY 2021/2022 by Ms. Pavida Tarapoom (May), Assistant Program Manager of ROCB A/P and (3) Guide for the Illicit Trade Report 2022 by Mr. Louis Chan, 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 (Kuramoto Norikazu).

Norikazu Kuramoto (Mr.)

Head of the ROCB A/P

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From Vision to Reality: The Journey towards Fully Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region



Jaemin CHO (Mr.)

Program Manager, ROCB A/P

Preamble

Cross-Border Paperless Trade procedures, especially those related to Customs clearance, contribute directly to international trade facilitation. Automation and systematization of Customs clearance procedures like the Single Window concept are essential for their realization. The benefits to be gained from such efforts are significant, namely reduced Customs clearance times, improved transparency in the procedures, reduced risk of corruption, improved connectivity with inter-government agencies, environmental friendliness, and improved predictability of logistics. In this essay, I would like to describe the efforts of the WCO and international organizations towards Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia Pacific region.

1. WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and Paperless Trade

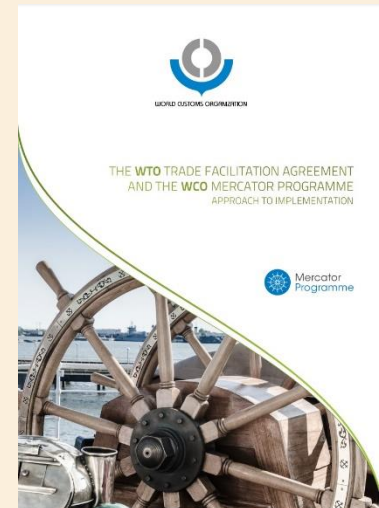
The World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) aims to expedite the movement, release, and clearance of goods while also recognizing the need to enhance assistance and support for capacity building.¹ To achieve these objectives, the WTO

¹ WTO TFA Preamble

TFA emphasizes the simplification of customs procedures², the strengthening of cooperation between customs administrations³, including the exchange of import and export information⁴, and the provision of technical support and capacity building for developing and least-developed countries.⁵

Trade facilitation plays a crucial role in improving the international trade regime, which is why WTO member countries have actively contributed to the conclusion of this agreement since the First WTO Ministerial Conference in 1996.

Since its adoption in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, the WTO TFA has spurred the development of numerous programs and initiatives by various development partners and organizations, including the World Customs Organization (WCO). One notable initiative led by the WCO is the Mercator Programme, which assists governments worldwide in implementing the WTO TFA by utilizing WCO instruments and tools.



In addition to the WCO, the United Nations (UN) has also introduced initiatives for cross-border trade facilitation. One such initiative is the “Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA)”, which was adopted as a UN treaty by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) in May 2016.⁶ The CPTA aims to complement the WTO TFA by promoting paperless trade and data exchange through a Single Window, making international trade transactions more efficient and transparent.⁷



While the CPTA focuses on promoting paperless trade and the development of paperless trade systems for trade digitalization, its primary emphasis also lies in Trade Facilitation. Therefore, there is an overlap between the initiatives of the WCO and the CPTA,

² WTO TFA article 10.4

³ WTO TFA article 12

⁴ WTO TFA article 8

⁵ WTO TFA Article 22

⁶ UNESCAP, Resolution 72/4(E/ESCAP/RES/72/4), May 19, 2016

⁷ CPTA Article 1

particularly in areas such as the WCO TFA Implementation Guidance⁸, WCO Single Window Guidelines⁹, WCO Data Model¹⁰, WCO E-Commerce Package¹¹, WCO Study on Disruptive Technologies¹², etc.

As of July 2023, the member countries of the CPTA include Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, and Tuvalu. Annually, the Standing Committee and Council of CPTA take place at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok. As the Program Manager of ROCB AP, I had the opportunity to participate in the CPTA Standing Committee and Council.

In the following paragraph, I will provide my insights drawn from participating in the CPTA Standing Committee and Council, with a specific focus on Customs-related matters. Additionally, I will explain the progress made in the field of Single Window by WCO and introduce some useful tools and modules that can serve as references in this context.



2. The Standing Committee and Council of CPTA

In the previous year, the inaugural session of the Council of CPTA took place in April 2022, followed by the first session of the Standing Committee in December 2022. During these sessions, the Council adopted the 'Terms of Reference' and 'Rules of Procedure' for both the Council and the Standing Committee of CPTA. Notably, the Council entrusted the Standing Committee with the responsibility of formulating an 'implementation plan' that encompasses specific priority levels and a timeline for execution.¹³ The first session of the Standing

⁸ For detailed information, please refer to the website "World Customs Organization". Available at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/wco-implementing-the-wto-atf/atf.aspx> (Accessed: July 13, 2023).

⁹ Ibid., Available at: <https://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/tools/single-window-guidelines.aspx> (Accessed: July 13, 2023).

¹⁰ Ibid., Available at: <https://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/tools/data-model.aspx> (Accessed: July 13, 2023).

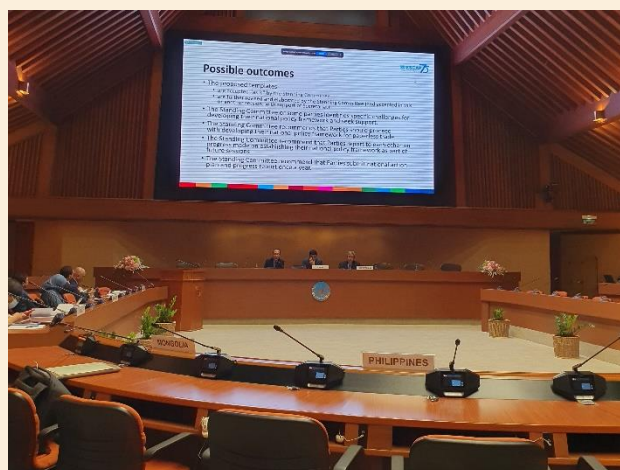
¹¹ Ibid., Available at: <https://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/frameworks-of-standards/ecommerce.aspx> (Accessed: July 13, 2023).

¹² Ibid., Available at: <https://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/tools/wco-wto-study-report-on-disruptive-technologies-2022.aspx> (Accessed: July 13, 2023).

¹³ UNESCAP, ESCAP/PTA/PTC(1)/2022/6, 2022

Committee prepared a draft action plan aimed at facilitating Cross-border paperless trade. This plan delineated separate tasks, duration, priority levels, and other pertinent details.

This year, the second session of the Standing Committee of CPTA was held on 19th - 21st June 2023, followed by the Second session of the Council of CPTA on 22nd -23rd June 2023. During the Standing Committee, the committee adopted the template for the National Action Plan. This plan comprises comprehensive actions and tasks categorized according to the respective CPTA articles. Moreover, the Standing Committee invited each party to report on the establishment of a national committee. Additionally, the Secretariat was entrusted with the task of drafting a model agreement for the bilateral and plurilateral exchange of trade-related data and documents. The Council underscored the importance of launching pilot projects on cross-border paperless trade. And the Council requested the Standing Committee to undertake a comparative analysis, evaluating the benefits of electronically exchanging selected trade-related documents and assessing the readiness of all parties.



In conclusion, the implementation of the CPTA is currently in the early stage. The entities of CPTA are working towards developing the initiatives and tools aimed at establishing an institutional framework for the introduction of cross-border paperless trade systems at the national level. At this early stage, it is evident that conducting a comprehensive study of the legal and technical aspects pertaining to the exchange and recognition of electronic trade-related data among member countries is imperative.

3. WCO initiatives and tools for Cross-Border Paperless Trade

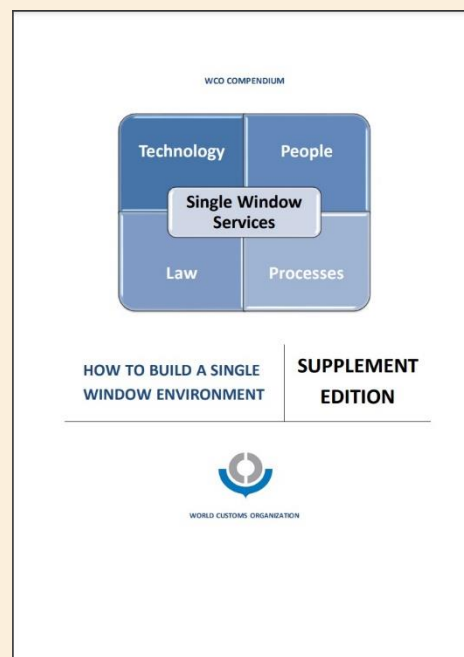
When it comes to Cross-Border Paperless Trade, certain countries have made significant strides by adopting electronic means for trade activities, replacing traditional paper-based documents. These include electronic Customs declarations, electronic Certificates of Origin, and the establishment of E-commerce areas. However, achieving paperless trade necessitates the implementation of an electronic customs system known as the electronic Single Window facility.



Recognizing the significance and legal legitimacy of the Single Window concept, the WCO has acknowledged its importance through WTO TFA.¹⁴ The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) defines the Single Window as an intelligent cross-border facility that allows trade and transport parties to submit standardized information, primarily in electronic form, through a Single Entry Point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements.¹⁵

The implementation of the Single Window offers several benefits. It promotes transparency, efficiency, and predictability in trade processes. Notably, the Single Window expedites the release and clearance of goods, reduces procedural barriers, and facilitates coordination among border agencies within a government and between governments.

To aid countries in establishing a Single Window environment, the WCO provides a framework outlining the different building phases. WCO has developed the Single Window Maturity Model, enabling countries to assess their progress in each stage.



¹⁴ WTO TFA Article 10.4

¹⁵ UN/CEFACT, Recommendations and Guidelines on establishing a Single Window to enhance the efficient exchange of information between trade and government, Recommendation No. 33 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 05.II.E.9)

Supporting capacity-building efforts, the WCO has developed a comprehensive guide titled "Compendium of Building a Single Window Environment." This publication, along with its supplement "On How to Build a Single Window Environment," released in 2015 and updated in 2017, offers valuable insights into the following topics:

Compendium of Building a Single Window Environment Vol 1:

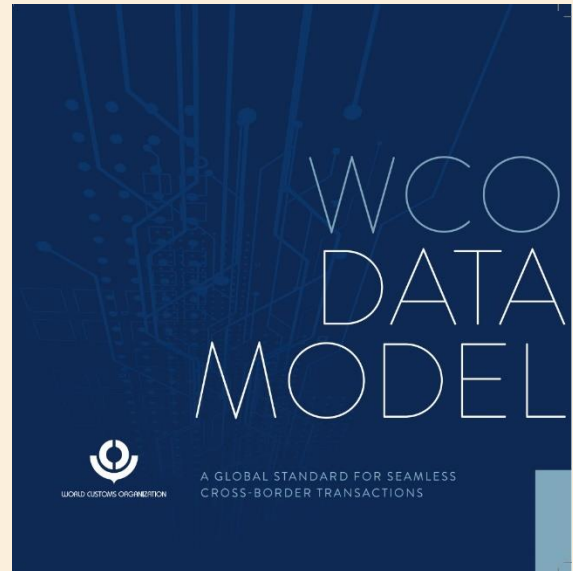
- Understanding Single Window environment
- From cross-border regulatory functions to Single Window services
- Single Window as part of customs modernization
- Creating the policy momentum
- Establishing formal structures
- Designing Single Window services
- Dealing with legal issues
- Data: ensuring quality, security & privacy
- Managing the transition to a Single Window

Compendium of Building a Single Window Environment Vol 2:

- Writing a business case for Single Window
- Introducing the public-private partnership
- Functional assessment
- Innovation in business processes & E payment in Single Window
- Data Harmonization
- Dematerialization & Paperless processing
- Single Window Architecture
- Integrated Risk assessment
- Performance management & Sustainability

Additionally, for a successful Single Window Environment, it's crucial that all involved parties share the system. Data modeling helps unify and simplify data use, enabling well-functioning databases and smooth electronic data exchange with other systems. This modeling formally defines data elements and their relationships and can establish a blueprint for a modern information system. In this process, compliance with international standards in automated data exchange systems is required by the International Convention

on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (The Revised Kyoto Convention).¹⁶



To achieve these objectives, WCO has contributed to Data Modeling. WCO Data Model adopts the Unified Modeling Language (UML)¹⁷ as the basis for its information modeling. Furthermore, the WCO Data Model facilitates the use of XML¹⁸ and GOVCBR¹⁹ messages as the syntax for electronic communication. For a comprehensive view and exploration of the Data Set in the WCO Data Model, you can access the WCO DM App.²⁰



¹⁶ The Revised Kyoto Convention, General Annex, chapter 7 Application of Information Technology, Para. 7.2 – 7.4

¹⁷ It provides a visual representation of systems, making it easier to understand, document, and communicate complex systems and processes.

¹⁸ Extensible Markup Language(XML) is a format designed to write documents that can be easily read by both humans and computer applications.

¹⁹ Government Cross-Border Regulatory (GOVCBR) is one specific type of electronic message between Governments. This is a United Nations standard message according to EDIFACT rules.

²⁰ Please refer to "http://datamodel.wcoomd.org" for more information (Accessed: July 13, 2023).

4. Way forward

In the area of Cross-border Paperless Trade, various international organizations have taken the initiative to implement programs and projects aimed at achieving a common objective. Notably, the CPTA, which is supported by UN ESCAP, seeks to enhance the environment for Cross-Border Paperless Trade in the Asia Pacific region.

To support the same objective, WCO has been actively involved in promoting data modeling since 2002. And WCO has developed essential guidelines, including the "Single Window Data Harmonization Guidelines" and the "Compendium on Building a Single Window Environment." These resources are designed to aid Single Window developers in achieving data harmonization and establishing internationally standardized data sets, reinforcing capacity-building efforts in the process. Furthermore, this activity on Cross-Border Paperless Trade can extend to other interconnected subjects like 'Cross-border E-commerce' and 'Data Analytics' as well.

As we move forward, fostering collaboration among other organizations will be effective and efficient in enhancing Capacity Building for Trade Facilitation and Customs Modernization in the field of Cross-border Paperless Trade. By using the potential for working together in this area, it is hoped that these cooperations will contribute to the advancement of a seamless, efficient, and modernized Customs environment in Asia Pacific regions.

For further inquiries on the article, please contact me at Jaemincho@rocbap.org

An Introduction of the ROCB A/P Customs Good Practice Report on Exemplifying Follow-up Actions After the WCO Regional Workshops in FY 2021/2022



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

What is a Follow-up Actions Survey?

A WCO workshop is an opportunity for Members to learn about international standards, knowledge, and know-how of Customs operations. To maximize the benefits, further utilizing the lessons learnt after joining workshops in the home administration's efforts toward modernization is the key.

All participants are hopefully required to take various actions after attending WCO workshop from the viewpoint of expanding on lessons learnt in their home Customs administrations for example, sharing of training materials with colleagues, submission of reports to superiors, and organizing in-house workshop etc.

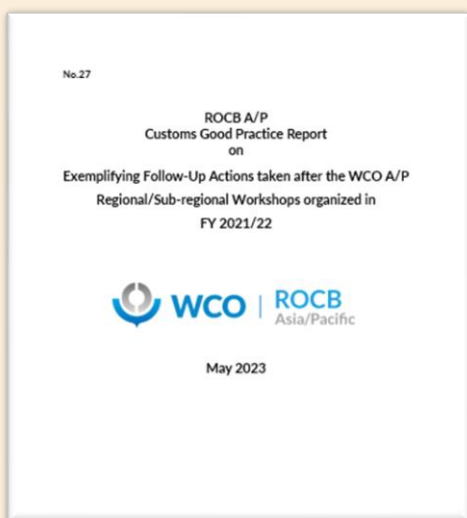
The ROCB A/P is dedicated to organizing capacity building activities for WCO Asia Pacific Members to strengthen their skills and capacity in performing Customs roles, "The Follow-up Actions Survey" has been conducted since 2015 after participation in WCO Regional/Sub-regional workshops, to evaluate both the direct and indirect impact of WCO workshops to the administrations' performance and to contribute their further development.

The ROCB A/P are continuing our activities along with the Follow-up Actions Survey

as we believe that Members are still able to strengthen their skills and capabilities in performing the Customs roles. This can be achieved by applying lessons learnt and disseminating pertinent information to the right colleagues or divisions for further development of their home administrations after attending WCO workshops.

In my essay, I would like to share the findings of Follow-up Actions Survey of last FY 2021/22 as a latest version (hereinafter referred to as “the Survey 2022”).

The Follow-Up Actions Survey 2022



The purpose of the Follow-up Actions Survey does not intend to criticize any reporting or recommendations made by the workshop participants. The main purpose is purely to support and encourage the efforts of participants after the workshop. It is published in the form of a Customs Good Practice Report every year to summarize findings of the survey and aims to take a snapshot of the impact that the capacity building programs have on the performance of the regional Member administrations in terms of work efficiency and effectiveness as well as organizational development. It is also expected to remind workshop participants of their expected roles and encourage them to continuously utilize the skills and knowledge acquired, wherever possible after the respective regional/sub-regional capacity building programs.

The total number of replies to the Survey 2022 is 32. Indicating an overall reply increase to 56% (38% in 2021), the rate of reply received from the participants of sub-regional workshops is around 80%. It is regarded as an indication of strong commitment by the sub-regional members and a recognized result of the capacity building effort in addressing sub-regional issues.

What are the Major Follow-up Actions Taken

The Survey 2022 reveals that the most common follow-up actions are sharing/circulation of training materials with colleagues (24) and submission of reports to superiors (13) and organizing in-house workshop (12). The result is quite the same as last

year's survey that these top two actions are the most common follow-up options for the participants, while this year organizing in-house workshop is the third common action instead followed by making recommendations.

Summary of specific actions of this survey is shown as below.

Specific Actions	No. of reply
✓ Shared training materials with colleagues	75 %
✓ Submitted reports	41 %
✓ Organized in-house workshops	38 %
✓ Made recommendations	31 %
✓ Developed operational manuals	22 %
✓ Others	16 %

Correlations Between Specific Follow-up Actions and Realization of the Direct Effects and Initiation of Modernization Projects

There are proven correlations between follow-up actions and realization of direct effects as well as initiation of new projects. 91% of the respective respondents realized positive effects from circulating/sharing training materials and organizing in-house workshop, while 78% of whom initiated new projects attributed it to the submission of workshop reports and recommendations made to senior officials. In summary, the findings provide convincing proof that taking timely and immediate follow-up actions after joining the WCO workshops will assist Member administrations realize potential contributions to their national development objectives. These follow-up actions can be as simple as writing reports or more intensive like organizing in-house workshops.

An analysis on the correlation between realization of direct effects and follow-up actions taken was conducted and the finding are shown in Table 1

(Table 1)

WCO Sub-/Regional Workshops	Member participants shared workshop materials	Member participants organized in-house workshop	Member participants realized direct effects
Total	23	12	11
Numbers and percentage of respective actions presumably led to realizing direct effects	10 (43%)	4 (33%)	-
Number and percentage presumably attributed to sharing materials and/or in-house workshops			10 (91%)

An analysis on the correlation between initiation of modernization projects and follow-up actions taken was conducted and the finding are shown in Table 2.

(Table 2)

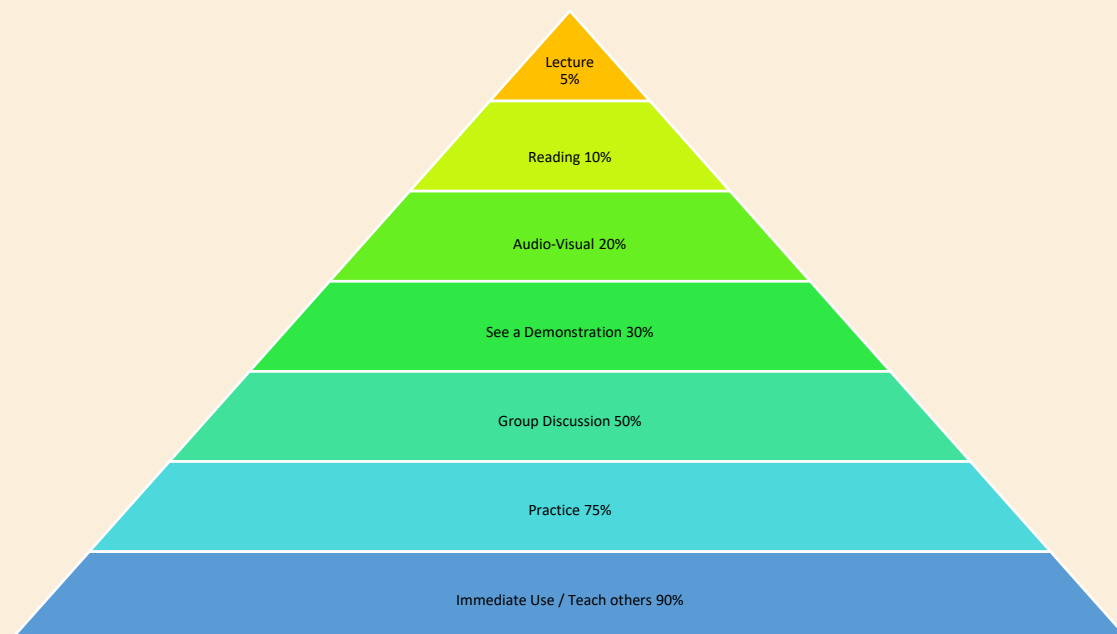
WCO Sub-/Regional Workshops	Member participants submitted reports	Member participants made specific recommendations	Member participants initiated new projects
Total	13	10	9
Numbers and percentage of respective actions presumably led to initiating new projects	4 (31%)	6 (60%)	--
Number and percentage presumably attributed to submitting reports and/or making specific recommendations			7 (78%)

Recommendations

How can participants retain what that learnt from the WCO workshops? What is the most effective action to follow to utilize what they learnt from the workshops and other participants?

Based on the research by the National Training Laboratory Institute as shown below, it shows that learners can retain up to 90% of what they learnt by teaching others or using it

immediately. Apart from that, learners can also retain their knowledge by practicing and participating in group discussion at 75% and 50% respectively. However, seeing a demonstration, audio-visual and reading can also be effective but at lesser percentage while lecturing is the least at only 5%.



In this regard, to enhance further organizational development of Members' administrations. ROCB A/P strongly recommends sharing material and reports to relevant officials in your administrations as soon as possible because it is the easiest action to follow. Members are recommended to mandate a workshop report for their representatives of WCO workshops to ensure the acquired knowledge and its values are properly recorded and reported to the management for consideration of further organizational development.

On top of that, teaching others is one of the best ways to retain information and knowledge. Therefore, the ROCB A/P also recommend Members to conduct in-house training by participants as teachers to transfer their knowledge and experience gained through WCO workshops directly to other officers in their home administrations.

Conclusion

Referring to the findings of Survey 2022, the ROCB A/P observes that many workshop participants shared an abundance of information and knowledge learnt from workshops to the right officers/divisions including practically applying this information and knowledge in their

administrations through different kinds of follow-up actions. It also reveals pertinent information on these follow-up actions, providing a snapshot and exemplifying the impact these capacity building programs have had on the performance of regional Member administrations in terms of work efficiency and effectiveness as well as organizational development.

We believe that participation in workshops with clear objectives by officers with strong commitment, along with the shared ownership of Customs administrations is key for harvesting the good fruits from collective efforts towards Customs reform and modernization.

In the next FY, The ROCB A/P will continue capacity building activities with our strong commitment to encourage Member representatives in the WCO workshops to optimize the value of regional capacity building programs in their organizations. The ROCB A/P will continue to evaluate the development progress to further identify the technical assistance needs of Member administrations.

For full issue of Customs Good Practice Report on exemplifying follow-up actions survey No.27, please visit our website at www.rocba.org or contact me at maypavida@rocba.org

Workshops and Meetings

The Heads of Regional Customs Laboratory in Asia/Pacific gathered to discuss further cooperation for the region.

18th - 20th April 2023, Kashiwa, Japan



The 2nd Meeting of the Heads of Asia/Pacific WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) was held at the Central Customs Laboratory of Japan in Kashiwa on 18th - 20th April 2023 in hybrid manner organized by Asia/Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P). Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head and Ms. Zhengqing (Grace) YE and Mr. Jaemin Cho, Program Managers joined in person from ROCB A/P as the organizer.

The Heads of the 5 RCLs in the region (namely RCL China, RCL India, RCL Indonesia, RCL Japan and RCL Korea), along with representatives from the WCO Secretariat, Asia/Pacific Vice-Chair Office and Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO A/P) participated in the meeting. The EU-WCO HS-African programme members also joined as observers as well.

Mr. Kuramoto provided ROCB A/P report on the capacity building activities delivered in 2022-23. In addition, WCO Secretariat, Asia Pacific Vice Chair, and RILO A/P also provided

its recent activity and updates for participants. Thereafter, all the RCLs provided their outlines and recent initiatives to enhance professionalism in Customs Analysis areas and had an opportunity to learn from each other on training strategies and activities of the respective RCLs.

During the meeting, RCL Japan and RCL Korea shared the experience of WCO Professionals Program 2022/23 with its participants feedback. WCO Regional Development Manager shared its Human Resource Development programs, a marvelous learning opportunity for its members. ROCB A/P led the discussion on capacity building needs for Customs Laboratories. WCO Tariff and Trade Affairs shared related information on Customs Laboratories for reference. RILO A/P shared recent trends of illegal drugs globally for reference.

The Heads of RCLs exchanged views on how to enhance regional cooperation among RCLs in Asia Pacific region. The delegates intensively discussed and finally agreed further close cooperation among RCLs through active communication and to create the RCL detailed contact point list to this end.

The delegations visited Tokyo Customs and its laboratory on the last day to learn its operation as well as to exchange professional views.

ROCB A/P join Korea Customs Week 2023

26th – 28th April, Seoul, Korea



At the invitation of Mr. Tae-Sik Yoon, the Commissioner of the Korea Customs Service (KCS), Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P attended Korea Customs Week 2023 organized by KCS in Seoul, Korea.

Mr. Kuramoto participated Seminar 2 “Leveraging Disruptive Technology for Customs Innovation: Big Data, AI, Blockchain, etc.” as a panelist. During this session, he shared his views on this topic and the current situation in Asia Pacific region as well as emphasizing the importance of capacity building for developing countries to address.

He also shared the challenges and key issues to introduce Disruptive Technology, such as studying necessary information and its benefits, drawing strategies with strong political will, preparing and organizing accurate digital data, and having modernized Customs systems and functions in place and etc.

The theme of the event was “Global Customs Cooperation and Digital Customs” as a global event with delegations from 78 countries.

ROCB A/P attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony of Thai Customs Canine Training Center

8th May 2023, Samut Prakan, Thailand



At the invitation of Thai Customs Department, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P together with ROCB A/P members attended the groundbreaking ceremony of Thai Customs Canine Training Center on 8th May 2023, Samut Prakan, Thailand.

Thai Customs Department established The Canine Training Center with aims to train detective dogs and will be officially launched in August 2023.

In this regard, Mr. Kuramoto and ROCB A/P members cerebrate together in Thai traditional way at the ceremony and convey sincere congratulations with Mr. Patchara Anuntasilpa, Director General of Thai Customs Department and our hope of the successful implementation of Thai Customs Canine Training Center.

ASEAN Members shared the best practices and discussed how to address the challenges posed by cross-border E-commerce

8th - 11th May 2023, Sabah, Malaysia



The WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on cross-border e-commerce for Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held from 8th to 11th May 2023 at the Sabah branch of the WCO Regional Training Centre (RTC) in Malaysia with support of ROCB

A/P under the sponsorship of the Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan). The Workshop was organized with generous support from the Royal Malaysian Customs Academy (AKMAL). A total of 13 participants representing 8 Customs administrations attended the Workshop and discussed topics related to e-commerce. Together with the WCO Accredited Customs Expert (ACE), Ms. Yuko Mamiya, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, also attended the workshop as a coordinator.

Ms. Mamiya delivered the opening remarks. In her remarks, she underlined that this workshop is a good opportunity for ASEAN Members to share their best practices and learn from each other to consider how to address the challenges posed by e-commerce.

During the Workshop, WCO and ACE introduced the details of the WCO E-Commerce Framework of Standard (E-Commerce FoS) and related tools. They encouraged Members to implement those tools to further facilitate and secure the cross-border e-commerce trade. Each participant delivered the presentation to share their experiences and challenges in cross-border e-commerce. Ms. Mamiya updated on the ROCB A/P's recent activities and capacity building in the AP region. She also encouraged participants to learn a lot from each other and utilize the lessons learnt for further development and modernization of the home administrations. On the last day of the workshop, she introduced the follow-up action survey conducted by the ROCB A/P six months after the respective WCO regional/sub-regional workshop. She underlined that the workshop participants' follow-up actions are a key enabler for sustainable organizational development.

Ms. Raizam Binti Setapa Mustapha, Director of the AKMAL, delivered closing remarks. She emphasized that AKMAL is willing to continue providing support for Members as RTC by hosting the WCO workshops.

The Workshop deepened the participants' understanding of WCO tools related to e-commerce and strengthened the relationship between the WCO, ROCB A/P, participants and AKMAL. The participants expressed their appreciation to the WCO, the ROCB A/P, the WCO ACE, CCF/Japan and the AKMAL for their contribution to the workshop.

WCO National Workshop on Coordinated Border Management for Thai Customs Department

15th – 19th May 2023, Bangkok, Thailand



The WCO National Workshop on Coordinated Border Management (CBM) for the Thai Customs Department was successfully held from 15th to 19th May 2023 at the Customs Academy of the Thai Customs Department in Thailand. Organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO) in cooperation with the Regional Office for Capacity Building Asia/Pacific (ROCB A/P), the workshop received sponsorship from the Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan) and generous support from the Thai Customs Department. The workshop was led by WCO resource persons specializing in CBM.

The opening ceremony commenced with addresses from a WCO expert, a representative from the Thai Customs Department, and Mr. Louis Chan, Program Manager of ROCB A/P. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, Head of ROCB A/P, also attended the opening session and delivered a comprehensive presentation on ROCB A/P's capacity building activities. The workshop, conducted in face-to-face mode, included 20 participants from Thai Customs.

The workshop focused on the concept of CBM, which involves a coordinated approach by both domestic and international border control agencies. Its aim was to balance facilitating trade and travel flows with maintaining compliance with customs requirements, thereby enhancing efficiency in managing these flows.

Throughout the five-day workshop, participants engaged in discussions on various topics, including the WCO Trade Facilitation Tools and Instruments, an overview of CBM, the implications of CBM for Trade Facilitation and Law Enforcement, and digital customs solutions. The agenda also featured a field visit to Aranyaprathet Customs House and Ban Klong Luk border checkpoint.

The workshop not only deepened participants' knowledge and understanding of CBM but also fostered the exchange of ideas and experiences, promoting enhanced cooperation among customs administrations. By organizing such events, the aim is to continually strive for greater efficiency in customs operations.

ROCB A/P attended UNEP Green Customs Initiatives (GCI) Capacity Building Workshop for Customs Officers of the South Asia Region

21st – 23rd May 2023, Male, Maldives



At the invitation from the United Nation Environment Program (UNEP), Ms. YE Zhengqing, the representatives from the ROCB A/P to attend the Green Customs Initiatives (GCI) Capacity Building Workshop for Customs Officers of the South Asia Region.

During the workshop, Ms. YE Zhengqing introduced the ROCB A/P' activity and WCO environment programme as well as discussing possibilities to work together with UNEP GCI on capacity building for customs officials, with a view to promoting innovation and enhancing the efficiency of customs procedures, while also protecting the environment. The workshop provided a unique platform for customs officials to share experiences, exchange best practices, and learn about the latest tools and technologies that could help them to improve compliance with environmental regulations while facilitating trade.

This workshop was a highly informative event that brought together various stakeholders from the customs, environmental and trade sectors to examine strategies for enhancing environmental protection and fostering economic development. This workshop offered an opportunity to exchange ideas, explore innovative approaches, and highlight best practices that could be adopted by different countries for effective environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

In addition, this workshop targeted partnerships and cooperation between different agencies. It invited customs authorities, environmental agencies, and trade organizations to work collaboratively to address cross-border environmental challenges in an effective and lasting manner. It emphasized that the effective environmental management required integrated approaches that cut across geographical boundaries and sectors.

With no doubt, this WS was an essential platform for advancing green customs initiatives, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing environmental and economic outcomes. Through this workshop, stakeholders could build a shared understanding of the role of customs in environmental management and ensured that customs policies and procedures align with environmental sustainability goals. Ultimately, this will contribute to more robust environmental protection, a better trading environment, and sustainable economic growth for communities worldwide.

Turkmenistan Customs discussed the further improvement of its risk management system

22nd - 26th May 2023, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan



The WCO National Workshop on Risk Management for the State Customs Services of Turkmenistan was held from 22nd to 26th May 2023 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, under the sponsorship of the China Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/China). Together with the WCO Accredited Expert on Risk Management, Ms. Yuko Mamiya, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, also attend the workshop as an expert on Risk Management. A total of 21 Customs officers from various Departments benefited from the practical presentations and discussions on risk management.

The objectives of the workshop were to review and analyze Turkmenistan Customs' risk management systems, including the Risk Management Committee, as well as provide support for further improvement of its system.

In the course of the workshop, the workshop participants were updated on various topics including WCO Risk Management Compendium (RMC) Volume 1, the latest WCO tools and instruments, the Trusted-Trader programme, etc. Ms. Yuko Mamiya introduced the updates of RMC Volume 2 and explained the architecture of risk management. Furthermore, she explained the role of information and intelligence as well as the WCO Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) and how to analyze the data from WCO CEN. The participants

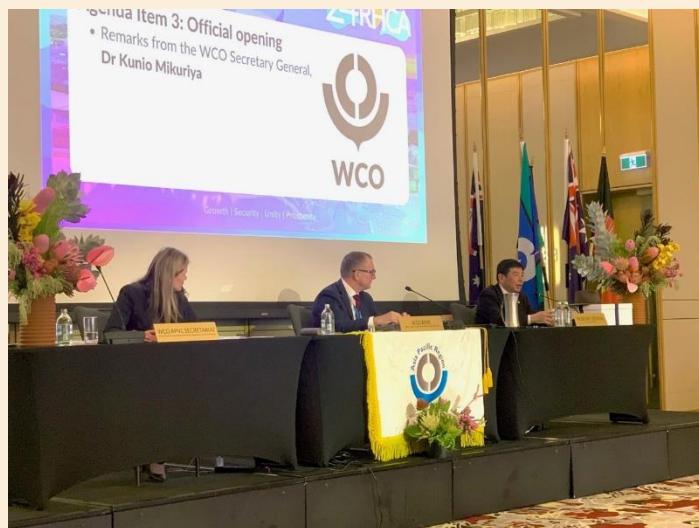
and WCO experts discussed the further improvement of the risk management system, risk register as well as the Risk Management Committee and its Terms of Reference.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Dovran Jepbarov, Head, Law and International Relations Department, expressed his appreciation to the WCO, CCF/China and WCO experts for organizing this workshop to assist the Turkmenistan Customs in implementing risk management in accordance with international standards. The WCO experts gave some suggestions for a way forward for Turkmen Customs to carry out their Customs modernization project.

The active participation and contribution of the participants resulted in a successful workshop. The workshop assisted the participants in enriching their knowledge about risk management. The workshop participants expressed appreciation to the WCO and its experts for sharing knowledge and valuable information related to risk management that is useful for them to further improvement of their risk management system.

ROCB A/P join Asia Pacific Heads Conference

29th – 31st May 2023, Perth, Australia



The WCO A/P 24th Regional Heads of Customs Administrative Conference (RHCA) was held in Perth, Australia from 29th to 31st May 2023 hosted by the Australia Border Force as the Asia/Pacific Regional Vice Chair. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head and Ms. Zhengqing (Grace) Ye and Mr. Jaemin Cho,

the Program Managers of the ROCB A/P attended.

The Heads and delegations from Asia/Pacific region, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General, the WCO Regional Development Manager for Asia/Pacific, the RILO A/P and the ROCB A/P attended the conference.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Michael Outram, the Vice-Chair of Asia/Pacific warmly welcomed participants in person in Perth and acknowledged the Solomon Islands as the newest WCO Member in the region. Dr. Kunio Mikuriya congratulated the Asia/Pacific Vice Chair on organizing the RHCA conference and appreciated their leading role in Asia/Pacific region as well as he promoted digitalization and the utilizing of advance information to address E-Commerce in order to support supply chain resilience. He also explained that the WCO Strategic Plan focused on Digitalization, Green Customs (environment), Governance and accountability. Ms, Hon Claire O'Neil MP, the Australian Minister for Home Affairs delivered an online keynote address highlighting the importance of borders, and Customs' critical role in achieving growth, security, unity, and prosperity in Asia/Pacific.

Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P, updated its capacity building activities in the Asia/Pacific region including workshop achievements in this FY, Annual work plan for the next FY, Training Management Project in the Asia/Pacific, cooperation with regional entities and its publications. In addition, Ms. Zhengqing (Grace) Ye and Mr. Jaemin Cho also gave a report on the implementation of the Focus Area 3 (Capacity Building) of the Asia/Pacific Regional Strategic Plan 2022-2024 on behalf of co-coordinators with Japan Customs.



During the conference, applications of Australia, Hong Kong, China and Indonesia for Regional Dog Training center (RDTC) were atheized by heads. In addition, the MOU by WCO and Japan Customs for transferring the RILO A/P to Tokyo from January 2024 was signed.

WCO Sub-regional Workshop on Customs Valuation for ASEAN

29th May to 2nd June 2023, Bangkok, Thailand



The WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Customs Valuation for Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was successfully convened in Bangkok, Thailand from 29th May to 2nd June 2023. This event was supported by ROCB A/P and sponsored by the Japan Customs Cooperation Fund (CCF/Japan), with generous backing also provided by the Thai Customs Department. The Workshop gathered 24 delegates from the ASEAN region who participated in thorough discussions on Customs Valuation. The workshop was facilitated by a Senior Technical Officer from the WCO Secretariat and two WCO pre-accredited expert trainers on Customs valuation, from Japan Customs.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Senior Technical Officer from the WCO Secretariat, Mr. Louis Chan, and Mrs. Nunthita Sirikup, Deputy Director-General of Thai Customs. They extended gratitude to CCF/Japan for their financial sponsorship of the workshop and conveyed deep appreciation for the support from WCO, ROCB A/P, and the participation of ASEAN delegates. Furthermore, they highlighted the workshop's vital role in encouraging collaboration among ASEAN members and addressing challenges related to Customs Valuation.

Throughout the Workshop, the WCO experts guided participants in comprehensive discussions on Customs Valuation, emphasizing transaction value methods, related party

transactions, and transfer pricing. Each delegate had the opportunity to share their country's experiences, stimulating dynamic discussions and fruitful exchange of ideas. On the final day, the Workshop focused on case studies and the application of valuation methods learned throughout the course.

The closing remarks were delivered by Miss Namthip Pongsangiam, Director of the Customs Academy, Mr. Louis Chan, and the Senior Technical Officer from the WCO Secretariat. Again, they thanked CCF/Japan for their financial support of the workshop, reiterated their appreciation for the backing from WCO, ROCB A/P, and the engagement of ASEAN delegates. They stressed the importance of ongoing dialogue beyond the Workshop and the application of the knowledge gained within their respective administrations.

The Workshop enriched the participants' understanding of Customs Valuation and strengthened the bond between the WCO, ROCB A/P, and the participating members. The participants expressed gratitude for the in-depth discussions, the expertise of the facilitators, and the overall management of the workshop.

ROCB A/P supports WCO Sub-Regional AEO Workshop for ASEAN Members

5th – 8th June 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia



The WCO Sub-regional Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Workshop for the Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 5th to 8th June 2023 sponsored by the Customs Cooperation Fund China (CCF-China). From ROCB A/P, Ms. Zhengqing Ye, the Program Manager and Operation Manager of the CCF-China participated this workshop.

During the workshop, Ms. Ye introduced ROCB A/P's outline, and its activity including the annual workshop plan and encouraged the members to share their capacity building needs via Annual Needs Survey conducted by our office. She reaffirmed that the ROCB A/P will continuously dedicate itself to organizing the WCO WS as much as possible to meet regional members' technical needs. She also supports this workshop as a facilitator.

The workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Customs officials in implementing AEO programmes and fostering Customs-Business partnerships. Participants from all ASEAN Member States, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as the AEO experts from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) participated in the workshop to share their experience in AEO operation.

The workshop agenda included sessions that covered essential aspects of AEO programmes, such as an overview of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards, the WCO's AEO concept and its background, overview, and linkages with the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

Sessions throughout the workshop focused on case studies, lessons learned, and best practices related to AEO programme implementation and the associated benefits. Participants shared their experiences and insights during these sessions, covering topics such as AEO validation and authorization, mutual recognition of AEO programmes, coordinated border management, AEO compliance and risk management, post-certification monitoring, and stakeholder engagement strategies.

The workshop also fostered networking and knowledge sharing among Customs officials from different ASEAN countries, promoting regional cooperation and harmonization of Customs procedures. Participants also engaged in meaningful discussions highlighting the challenges associated with involving Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the AEO programme, recognizing the significant role SMEs play in regional trade and the need to increase level of their participation in the programme.

ROCB A/P's Active Participation in the 12th ASEAN – World Customs Organization (WCO) Consultation

8th June 2023, Pattaya, Thailand



Upon the invitation of the ASEAN Secretariat, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P, actively participated in the 12th ASEAN – World Customs Organization (WCO) Consultation at the 32nd Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Customs. The meeting, held on 8th June 2023 in Pattaya, Thailand, adopted a hybrid model, blending in-person attendance with virtual participation. Mr. Louis Chan, Program Manager of the ROCB A/P, engaged in the consultation remotely.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the Secretary-General of the WCO, expressed his appreciation for the beautiful beach in Pattaya and warmly invited all ASEAN DGs to the WCO Council Session, scheduled to be held in Brussels two weeks later. He then emphasized the significant current themes of the WCO, including technology innovation, and data strategies, including data harmonization and sharing. He also introduced a new initiative encouraging the younger generation to harness the power of technology and knowledge sharing. Furthermore, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya outlined initiatives aimed at assisting member

administrations in adapting to technological transformation. He emphasized additional key themes such as disruptive technology, Green Customs, Plastic Waste Management, and human resource management. Dr. Kunio Mikuriya extended his gratitude to ASEAN Members for their recent advancements and conveyed his openness to discuss other areas of concern and priorities from members.

During the consultation, Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto briefed the ASEAN Members on the ROCB A/P's capacity-building activities, which included collaborations with Regional Entities in the AP region, and shared plans for upcoming workshops. He also highlighted a regional workshop on training management, initiated by ROCB A/P. This workshop provided a platform for regional members to exchange their experiences and best practices on human resource and training management, and to discuss ways to continuously improve the training capacity of Members in the Asia Pacific region. In his closing remarks, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya expressed his appreciation to ASEAN countries for their sustained support of the WCO. He encouraged more active engagement with the WCO and invited members to send young personnel to the WCO Headquarters as attachés, who would then contribute to improvements within their Customs administration.

The consultation was chaired by Mrs. Kitjaluck Srinuchart, Deputy Director-General of the Thai Customs Department. The meeting served as a dynamic platform for exchanging views on international and emerging Customs issues.

The comprehensive discussions and exchange of insights during the 12th ASEAN-WCO Consultation are anticipated to offer a roadmap for future cooperation and a thorough understanding of contemporary customs challenges. The event underscored the potential of combined efforts in addressing these challenges and enhancing customs operations within the region.

ROCB A/P welcomed Secretary General of WCO

9th June 2023, Bangkok Thailand



Mr. Norikazu KURAMOTO, the Head of ROCB A/P received the courtesy visit of Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, the Secretary General of WCO on 9th June 2023. During this visit, Mr. Mikuriya expressed his appreciation to ROCB A/P for capacity building support and related activities in AP region.

Taking this opportunity, Mr. Kuramoto introduced ROCB A/P Members and expressed his commitment to further capacity building activities support in the region.

Japan Customs Director General Visit to the ROCB A/P

9th June 2023, Bangkok Thailand

Mr. Suwazono Kenji Director General, Japan Customs paid courtesy visit to Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of the ROCB A/P accompanied by his colleagues on 9th June 2023.

Taking this opportunity, Mr. Kuramoto introduced the ROCB A/P Members and shared experiences working for AP region. In addition to that, Mr. Kuramoto expressed his highest appreciation to Mr. Suwazono and Japan Customs for its long-standing support to the ROCB A/P and looked forward to an ongoing close relationship with Japan Customs.



Pacific Islands' Members are in the process of developing training materials for the Pacific region.

12th – 16th June 2023, Suva, Fiji



The fourth 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 12th to 16th June 2023 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 22 participants representing six WCO Members in the Pacific region, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, and Vanuatu as well as the representatives from the Australian Border Force (ABF) and New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS) 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, WG Members discussed the further improvement of training materials for the Pacific Islands and actively provided valuable insights. Furthermore, Members practiced the presentations which are developed by themselves to further improve their presentation skills. 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. Ms. Yuko Mamiya delivered the closing remarks in the closing ceremony on behalf of the WCO and ROCB A/P. She expressed sincere appreciation to the FRCS, JICA, Experts and WG Members for their contribution to the success of this Working Group Activity.

During this Working Group Activity, significant progress was made in developing the training materials which will greatly assist customs officers in the Pacific region in enhancing their knowledge and skills. The participants expressed their appreciation to the WCO, the JICA, Japan Customs, experts and the ROCB A/P.

ROCB A/P support the WCO Middle Management Development (MMD) Train-the-Trainer Workshop

12th -21st June 2023, Hong Kong, China



The WCO Middle Management Development (MMD) Train-the-Trainer Workshop for Asia Pacific members was held in Hong Kong China from 12th – 21st June 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 participated this workshop.

Ms. YE, the representative of the ROCB A/P, shared the updates related to her office's capacity building activities. She highlighted the leading role of the ROCB A/P to provide technical assistance to the regional members based on their needs. Meanwhile, she also encouraged closer communication between the members and the ROCB A/P. She also actively joined this ToT workshop including group discussions and presentation sessions.

The MMD is the third core element of the WCO Leadership and Management Development (LMD) Programme. It is designed to offer support to Middle Managers by expanding their knowledge and understanding of modern management, by developing in them the appropriate behaviour and attitude of a modern manager and by equipping them with a set of fundamental skills necessary to manage themselves, teams, stakeholders and the organization on a daily basis.

Moreover, it is part of the philosophy that it is far more beneficial to create a critical mass of expertise in member administrations. It is to this end that, partnering with desiring administrations, the WCO provided the ToT WS to train more trainers to guide their home administrations' middle managers in the modernization journey.

During the 8-days WS, all the participants acquired the requisite skills to support the implementation of the MMD training program at national and regional levels. They familiarized themselves with the contents of the training modules and materials of the MMD in particular and increased the knowledge on best practices and modern training techniques.

ROCB A/P collaborates with UNESCAP in Paperless Trade

19th - 23rd June 2023, Bangkok, Thailand



At the invitation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Mr. Jaemin Cho, the Program Manager attended the key meetings related to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) facilitated by UNESCAP on 19th - 23rd June 2023 on the behalf of ROCB A/P as an observer.

The events consisted of two occasions, namely 'The 2nd session of the Standing Committee of the CPTA' and 'The 2nd session of the Paperless Trade Council of the CPTA'. These sessions were attended by delegates from the CPTA member countries and observers.

During the sessions, it was reported that WCO and UNESCAP had collaborated to organize the 5th UNNEXt Masterclass Workshop for Customs officials focused on Facilitating Cross-border Paperless Trade using emerging technologies, which took place from 19th to 28th September 2022 in Seoul, Korea in cooperation with the ROCB A/P and the Korea Customs Services with financial support from the Customs Cooperation Fund of Korea (CCF/Korea) as a significant achievement. In addition, the sessions placed significant emphasis on data sharing, particularly in relation to the Single Window concept as well as Customs' leadership in the efforts. As a result, we confirmed that there is an opportunity for collaboration again between

WCO and UNESCAP in organizing capacity-building activities for Customs such as workshops in the near future.

During this both sessions of the Standing Committee and the Council, a comprehensive review was conducted on the implementation of prioritized tasks, strategies, and practical measures to expedite the adoption of Cross-border Paperless Trade in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Standing Committee and the Council emphasized the importance of comprehensive stakeholder mapping to ensure that all potential collaborators are included. They also stressed the need for establishing effective communication and collaboration channels among development partners to facilitate the sharing of information on Cross-border Paperless initiatives and projects. Furthermore, they highlighted the potential for synergies among development partners in capacity building, considering the numerous training and capacity-building programs offered by these partners. The sessions also underscored the significance of coordinated advocacy efforts by development partners to promote the Framework Agreement. Lastly, actionable initiatives that can receive joint support from development partners were identified.

ROCB A/P attended the 141/142 WCO Council Sessions

22nd - 24th June 2023, Brussels, WCO



The 141st / 142nd Council Sessions of the World Customs Organization (WCO) were held at WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium from 22nd to 24th June 2023. Directors General of Customs representing the WCO Members participated. Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P attended as observers.

This Council Sessions reviewed the work carried out by the WCO throughout the year. The discussions covered its deliberations on Capacity Building, Rules of Origin, Valuation, Nomenclature and Classification, Compliance, and Trade Facilitation as well as on administrative matters.

The Council took note of the progress made in implementing the WCO Strategic Plan 2022-2025, particularly in the key focus areas of Technology and Innovation, Green Customs and Governance and Accountability. Regarding Technology and Innovation, the Council acknowledged the efforts of the Data and Statistics Working Group in implementing the WCO Data Strategy and took note of the establishment of a Data Scholarship for capacity building.

During the sessions, Mr. Ian Saunders from the United States is elected as the new WCO Secretary General for a five-year term as of 1st January 2024. They also elected Mr. Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner of the South African Revenue Service, as the Chairperson of the WCO Council.

The Council delegates also witnessed the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) including Asia Pacific Members, namely MoU on the recognition of Regional Dog Training Center in Australia, Hong Kong China and Indonesia, and MoU on the recognition of the Regional Customs Laboratory's Professionals Programme in India.

ROCB A/P confirmed the closed cooperation with Australia Border Force

29th June 2023, Bangkok, Thailand



Mr. Norikazu Kuramoto, the Head of ROCB A/P and his colleagues have a meeting with Mr. Michael Cymbalista, Counsellor of the Australian Border Force (ABF) Attaché and his team at the Australia Embassy in Bangkok Thailand at 29th June as the cooperate partner of the ROCB A/P.

We exchanged views on cooperation between the ROCB A/P and the ABF from July onwards as a new fiscal year. The ROCB A/P provided information on the updates our activity and the results of the Council Sessions as well as forthcoming events for the new fiscal year.

The ABF Counsellor expressed its continued support for ROCB A/P activities in the new fiscal year and both parties confirmed their cooperation, particularly in public relations and workshop activities. They also introduced us the newly established ABF attaché in Viet Nam in person and confirmed that they would continue to cooperate as well.

Staff Update

Farewell message from Yuko MAMIYA



Dear Colleagues,

My tenure comes to an end. I feel that time passes very quickly. It means that I really enjoyed working with my colleagues at the ROCB A/P. Working experience at the ROCB A/P enriched my knowledge on international standards, sharpened my skills on carrying out capacity building activities and gave me plenty of opportunities to meet wonderful colleagues from the WCO and various Customs Administrations. It is a pleasure and a privilege to have worked together with them.

In my first and second years, there were various difficulties in carrying out capacity building activities under the COVID-19 Pandemic, however, it also can be said that I was able to get experience and skills on organizing the workshops under any circumstances through

this situation. There is no doubt that working experience in the ROCB A/P is a valuable asset to my future career.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow colleagues of ROCB A/P, Thai Customs Department and WCO officers for their kind assistance. If it had not been for their support, I would not be able to finish my tenure without any serious problems.

I believe that we can meet again in the near future and am looking forward to working together with you again!

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