

Annual Report 2012 / 2013



" Mobilization of regional resources



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List of Acronyms

ACBPS Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

ACE Accredited Customs Expert
ADB Asian Development Bank
AEO Authorized Economic Operator

AKMAL Royal Malaysian Customs Academy

AME America A/P Asia Pacific

ARF ASEAN Regional Forum

ARPEC Asian Regional Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime

ASEAN Association of South-East Asian Nations
CAREC Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation

CB Capacity Building

CBC Capacity Building Committee

CBCTC Customs Border Control Training Center

CBM Coordinated Border Management

CCF Customs Cooperation Fund

CCF/Korea Customs Cooperation Fund / Korea
CCF/Japan Customs Cooperation Fund / Japan

CEN Customs Enforcement Network

CTI Customs Training Institute
CTS Cargo Targeting System
CPs Contracting parties
CP Compliance Program
DG Director General
DP Development Partner

ECP Economic Competitiveness Package

FCTC Fiji Customs Training Centre

FRCA Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority

GDCE General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia

GNC Globally Networked Customs
GTI Greater Tumen Initiative

HS Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization

IFRC International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IPM Model Interface Public Member Model IPR Intellectual Property Rights

ITIC International Tax and Investment Center
JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency

KCS Korea Customs Service

MRA Mutual Recognition Arrangement

NCP National Contact Point
NII Non-Intrusive Inspection

OCO Oceania Customs Organization
ODS Ozone Depleting Substances

PCA Post Clearance Audit

PICARD Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development Programme

PNG Papua New Guinea RA Risk Assessment

RCP Regional Contact Point

RILO A/P Asia Pacific Regional Intelligence Liaison Office

RKC Revised Kyoto Convention

RM Risk Management

ROAP Regional Office for Asia Pacific
ROCB Regional Office for Capacity Building

ROCB A/P Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building

ROO Rules of Origin

RSG Regional Steering Group
RSP Regional Strategic Plan
RTC Regional Training Centre

SAFE FoS SAFE Framework of Standards

TA Technical Assistance
TF Trade Facilitation
TOR Terms of reference

TRIPS Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

TRP Trade Recovery Program
TRS Time Release Study

UNEP United Nations Environment Program

UNESCAP United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific UNOCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

USAID United States Agency for International Development

USCBP US Customs and Border Protection

WB World Bank

WCO World Customs Organization

14th RHCA 14th WCO Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations

Conference Conference

Part 1: Executive Summary

I. Introduction

ROCB A/P was formally established on 28 September 2004 and is located at the Thai Customs headquarters. There are now 8 full-time staff (as of 1 July 2013), 1 from China, 1 from Hong Kong, China, 2 from Japan (including Head of ROCB A/P), 1 from Korea and 3 from Thailand. In addition, the representatives from the Australia Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and New Zealand Customs Service based in Bangkok provide regular support and assistance to the ROCB A/P activities. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express sincere appreciation to the home administrations of the above-mentioned staff members for their contributions to the ROCB A/P and the regional capacity building activities. I would also want to express our heartfelt appreciation to Japan Customs for providing the Customs Cooperation Fund/Japan (CCF/Japan), the main sponsor for the capacity building (CB) activities conducted by ROCB A/P. In addition, we would also like to express our special thanks to our development partners (DPs), in particular the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for their contributions.

This annual report covers the ROCB A/P activities conducted from July 2012 to June 2013. During this period, the ROCB A/P, having regard to member needs as well as the WCO and regional priorities, has conducted a wide range of effective CB activities under the four-pillar strategic framework. A/P region, at its 14th RHCA Conference, successfully adopted the "Framework to Pool, Utilize, Support and Increase Accredited Customs Experts in the Region", aimed at developing a systematic approach for effective use of regional expertise for the regional CB program. The fiscal year 2012/2013 may be regarded as a year of "mobilization of regional resources". This can best be illustrated by the effective use of regional experts for regional capacity building activities according to the Framework, specified in detail later. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the regional experts as well as their home administrations who kindly agreed to contribute to the regional CB activities.

II. Summary of activities

1. Support the implementation of WCO Conventions, Instruments and Tools

The WCO has developed a number of conventions, instruments and tools as well as introduced a number of programs and initiatives that can significantly enhance Customs operations. In order to facilitate regional member administrations to adopt and implement those useful products of the WCO, ROCB A/P conducted a number of relevant capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific region last year.

1.1 Diagnostic Phase II

- WCO National workshop on the strategic action planning in Mongolia
- WCO National workshop on the strategic action planning in Bangladesh
- ROCB A/P's contribution for Thai Customs Strategic Planning

1.2 Authorized Economic Operators (AEO)

WCO/ADB Workshop on SAFE FoS and AEO for South Asia

1.3 Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)

- WCO/ADB Workshop on RKC in Bhutan
- WCO Sub-regional Workshop on RKC for Southeast Asia

1.4 Time Release Study (TRS)

- WCO/ADB Workshop on TRS for Afghanistan and Pakistan
- WCO Regional Workshop on Time Release Study

1.5 Risk Management (RM)

- WCO Regional Workshop on Accreditation of Risk Management Advisors
- WCO National Workshops on RM and Risk Assessment (RA) in Thailand and in Malaysia

1.6 Intellectual Property Right(IPR)

- WCO Regional Workshop on Development of IPR Enforcement Regime
- WCO National Seminar on Combating Counterfeiting/Piracy in Cambodia
- WCO Sub-Regional Operational IPR Seminar for Southeast Asia

1.7 Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP)

WCO Regional Workshop on ECP

1.8 Post Clearance Audit (PCA)

- WCO/OCO Sub-Regional Workshop on PCA for Pacific Islands
- WCO Regional Workshop on Accreditation of Expert Trainers on PCA
- WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on PCA for South and West Asia
- WCO National Workshop on PCA in Tonga
- WCO/OCO Sub-Regional Workshop on PCA for Pacific Islands
- JICA National Workshop on PCA in Pakistan

1.9 Rules of Origin (ROO)

WCO National Workshop on ROO in Sri Lanka

1.10 Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII)

• X-ray Image Analysis workshop for Bhutan (in Thailand)

1.11 Drugs

WCO Regional Workshop on Countering Drug Smuggling by Air Passenger

1.12 Green Customs

WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Green Customs for South and West Asia

2. Further enhance collaboration with development partners

Enhancing cooperation/collaboration with Development Partners (DPs) is one of the important action items for the ROCB A/P in 2012/2013 and beyond. As reported last year, ROCB A/P named 2011/2012 as a year of "enhanced partnership with development partners" and organized a number of events to promote/enhance donor collaboration. ROCB A/P is currently working with a number of DPs including ADB, WB, UNESCAP, UNEP, UNODC, JICA, USAID etc.

ROCB A/P continued its efforts in 2012/2013 to make this collaboration into action and to develop more concrete project-base collaboration to provide enhanced supports in both quality and quantity to regional members. As a result, ROCB A/P again made a significant progress in 2012/2013 in this regard.

2.1 Enhanced collaboration, coordination and mutual understanding with DPs.

a. Development and implementation of coordinated strategy/program

The objectives of this collaboration are to(1) provide coordinated quality support to regional members, (2) to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts,(3) to complement each other taking into account respective strength and weakness, and (4) to achieve concrete results with the multi-year assistance. Examples of such collaboration are, OCO PCA Project for Pacific Islands, Asia Cargo Highway project for Southeast Asia, and coordinated strategy/development for South Asia etc.

(Note) Multi-year OCO PCA Project

ROCB A/P, in cooperation with Japan Customs and OCO Secretariat, initiated this first multi-year CB project 2 years ago. This project was kindly supported by CCF/Japan and was successfully concluded in May 2013. This project is aimed at (1) developing PCA Guidelines which is specifically designed for OCO countries and (2) developing core resource persons in OCO for the sustainable implementation of PCA. To achieve such objectives, ROCB A/P organized a series of regional/national activities in the last two years in cooperation with our partners. This project highlighted the value of "collaborative work" and, taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like

to express our appreciation to our partners, i.e. OCO Secretariat and Japan Customs as well as our congratulations to working team members, namely, Fiji, PNG, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu for their strong support and contribution.

Outline of the Multi-year OCO PCA Project

Multi-year OCO PCA Project **Objectives** Roadmap Action (under CCF/Japan) **Time Place** 1: Development of PCA Feb **RTC** AP Regional Workshop on PCA Guidelines specifically 2011 India (Discussion of OCO members) designed for OCO members RTC Sub-regional Train-the-trainer Sep 2011 Fiji Workshop on PCA Feb **Vanuat** National Workshop on PCA for 2: Development of core 2012 Vanuatu resources in the OCO for Aug RTC 2nd Sub-regional Workshop on 2012 Fiji the sustainable National Workshop on PCA for Feb **Tonga** implementation of PCA 2013 **Tonga** 3rd Sub-regional Workshop on Mar RTC Fiji PCA (finalize guidelines) 2013 May Tonga Adoption at the 15th OCO **Annual Conference** 2013 Note: For regional workshops, non-WCO OCO members also participated in

b. Participation in the meeting of DPs

The objectives of this effort are to (1) to improve mutual understanding on the respective organization and their program and (2) to explore possibility of future collaboration. For this purpose, ROCB A/P participated in a number of meetings or had meetings with our partners such as, ADB, UNEP, UNODC, ARF, ITIC, USAID, ICAO and etc.

2.2 Organization of the National Donor meeting in Cambodia

In September 2012, at the invitation of the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) of Cambodia, ROCB A/P attended the 3rd Meeting between the GDCE and DPs held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. ROCB A/P highlighted the importance of the "3Ps concept" as a key to successful capacity building. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for both the GDCE and DPs to discuss "As-Is" and "To-Be" analysis to the Strategy and Work Program of GDCE's Reform and Modernization efforts, to share information on priority areas of respective DPs and to exchange views on the way forward. This meeting in Cambodia was well recognized by other members as good practice.

2.3 Promotion of joint activities

a. Organization of joint workshop/seminar

The objectives of this effort are to: (1) to provide coordinated support to regional members with DPs particularly on issues which require interagency cooperation, such as Single Window, Trade Facilitation and Green Customs, (2) to complement each other by utilizing respective experts, and (3) to invite more Customs and other agencies through cost sharing. ROCB conducted a number of joint events with DPs or contributed to the event organized by the DPs in 2012/2013, such as:

- JICA national workshop on PCA (Pakistan)
- WCO/ADB sub-regional workshop on TRS for Afghanistan and Pakistan (Pakistan)
- UNESCAP TF forum and Customs workshop (Sri Lanka)
- WCO Green Customs workshop for South and West Asia (in Maldives) (with UNEP)
- WCO/ADB national workshop on RKC (Bhutan)
- ADB sub-regional workshop for CAREC on TF (Kazakhstan)
- WCO TRS workshop (in Japan) (with ADB)
- WCO/ADB sub-regional workshop on SAFE FoS and AEO for South Asia (Singapore)

3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

3.1 Pool, utilize, support and increase ACE experts in the region

For long-term strategic planning, the ROCB A/P devised a "Framework to Pool, Utilize, Support and Increase accredited experts in the Region" with a view to developing a systematic approach for effective use of regional expertise. Based on the Framework and the growing CB needs in the A/P Region, the WCO and ROCB A/P worked together to identify the gap between the regional needs and available expertise in the A/P region to effectively establish the "pool of regional experts". To contribute to this move and based on the said gap analysis, 3 WCO accreditation workshops were organized on ROO, Risk Management and PCA during the reporting period under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan.

3.2 Contribution of WCO Accredited Experts in A/P Region

There are four categories of accredited experts under the WCO scheme, namely, Diagnostic Facilitators, Customs Modernization Advisors, Technical and Operational Advisors and Expert Trainers. As a result of collaborative efforts done by the WCO, ROCB A/P and, of course, regional members, A/P region has successfully established the pool of WCO accredited experts and they are actively contributing to the regional capacity building. The list of contributions made by the WCO accredited experts is shown below. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would

like to express our appreciation to the experts as well as their home administrations for their remarkable contributions for the regional capacity building activities.

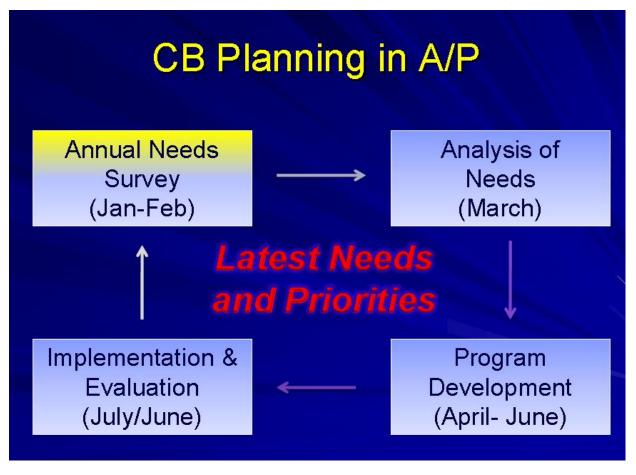
<u>List of contributions made by the WCO accredited experts July 2012-June 2013</u>

WCO Events (unless otherwise specified)	Date	ACEs from
PCA workshop in Pakistan (funded by JICA)	July 2012	ROCB A/P
National Workshop on Action Planning in	August 2012	Australia
Mongolia		ROCB A/P
Sub-regional workshop on PCA for Pacific	August 2012	Japan
Islands at RTC Fiji		ROCB A/P
Regional workshop on IPR Border Enforcement at RTC Japan	Sep. 2012	Hong Kong, China
Sub-regional workshop on Green Customs in Maldives	Nov. 2012	Sri Lanka
National Workshop on RKC for Bhutan (funded by ADB)	Nov. 2012	ROCB A/P
Accreditation workshop on Valuation control via PCA at RTC Japan	Dec. 2012	ROCB A/P
Sub-regional workshop on valuation control	Jan. 2013	ROCB A/P
via PCA for SW Asia at RTC India		Sri Lanka
National workshop on IPR in Cambodia	Feb. 2013	Japan
National workshop on PCA in Tonga	Feb. 2013	ROCB A/P, Japan
National workshop on RA in Thailand	Feb. 2013	Japan
Regional workshop on TRS at RTC Japan	Mar 2013	China (Ex ROCB), Japan
Sub-regional workshop on valuation control	Mar 2013	ROCB A/P
via PCA for Pacific Islands at RTC Fiji		Japan
National workshop on RA in Malaysia	Mar 2013	Australia
Sub-regional workshop on RKC for Southeast	April 2013	ROCB A/P
Asia) at RTC Malaysia		India
Sub regional workshop on IPR operation for Southeast Asia in Thailand	April 2013	Japan
Workshop on the SAFE FoS and AEO for South Asia in Singapore (funded by ADB)	May 2013	ROCB A/P, Japan and Singapore
National workshop on ROO in Sri Lanka	May 2013	India, Japan

Furthermore, ROCB A/P also initiated the work on "candidate list" for the purpose of providing systematic support for regional experts as well as, where necessary, supplementing the capacity building needs of our members, in particular on the areas where there are no WCO accredited experts. ROCB A/P is looking forward to welcoming more registration of "candidates" from A/P regional members.

3.3 CB needs analysis and planning

ROCB A/P placed great importance on this action item in 2012/2013. There is a well-established CB planning cycle in A/P region that is actually considered as a good model of the CB regional approach in the global Customs community. In January 2013, ROCB A/P and Japan Customs (A/P regional CB coordinator) circulated the annual CB needs survey to all regional members. As a result of the joint efforts done by Japan Customs and ROCB A/P, and more importantly cooperation from regional members of course, a good number of constructive feedbacks from our regional members on the latest needs and priorities of their capacity building were received.



ROCB A/P and Japan Customs worked together to analyze these feedbacks against regional/national strategy and prepared regional capacity building proposals. The proposal has been presented to the WCO Secretariat in April 2013 for their consideration and their consultation with available donors. Thanks in particular to the positive consideration of CCF/Japan, ROCB A/P is now at the stage of implementation of those proposals.

3.4 Official Opening of the 7th WCO RTC in the A/P Region

On 20 August 2012, the WCO Regional Training Center (RTC) in Fiji was officially launched with the attendance of Prime Minister of Fiji and the Secretary General of the WCO. This is the first RTC for Pacific Islands and the seventh in the A/P region. The RTC Fiji is located in the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) in Suva. The RTC will be able to further the goals of the WCO in the Oceania region through greater capacity building, hosting relevant regional training programs, providing expertise and technical knowledge as well as further greater cooperation amongst administrations.

3.5 The 10th Meeting of Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers

The 10th Meeting of the Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers (RTCs) was held at the Customs Training Institute in Kashiwa Japan in October, 2012. In the spirit of Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014, the agenda of this meeting included issues such as "Exchange of Information on the evaluation of training courses", "Framework to pool, utilize support and increase accredited experts in the region" and "Involvement of RTCs for the improvement of training techniques of regional experts". RTCs updated the meeting on their latest CB activities and explored how to further enhance the initiative of "Centre of Excellence".

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

4.1 ROCB A/P E-newsletter

To enhance communication among members in the A/P Region, the ROCB A/P publishes e-Newsletter on a quarterly basis and distributes to our members, the WCO Secretariat and the ROCBs in other regions. In 2012/2013, the ROCB A/P prepared and sent out 4 issues of e-Newsletters from issue No. 38 to 41 that provided not only the latest CB activities in the A/P Region, but also offered members / work partners a platform to share information / experience on their latest development.

4.2 ROCB A/P Website

The ROCB A/P Website (http://rocb.wcoasiapacific.org)is linked to the WCO Asia Pacific Region homepage. The ROCB A/P enhanced contents of the webpage with a view to sharing knowledge and information. The informative contents for the webpage include ROCB A/P Customs Good Practice Reports, ROCB A/P e-Newsletters and yearly reports, updated information on ROCB A/P latest initiatives and etc.

4.3 ROCB A/P Customs Good Practice Report on "Training Evaluation"

ROCB A/P with the support of RTC Japan, RTC Korea and RTC India developed its 10th issue of Good Practice Report on Training Evaluation in June. In this report, the good practices from the above RTCs were collected which were intended for the readily available reference for the global Customs capacity builders. This report will be arranged to be uploaded onto the website

of ROCB A/P.

4.4 Designation of "Program Manager" for the respective sub-regions

To meet the expectation from both DPs and regional members to further strengthen capacity building programs in the region, it is important for ROCB A/P to improve our own capacity to take care of these increasing interests. For this purpose, ROCB A/P recently designated respective ROCB A/P staff as "Program Manager" for the respective sub-region and is moving forward to provide more focused quality assistance. The role and responsibility as well as the contact details of the "Program Manager" for the sub-regions are as follows:

Role and responsibility

- To enhance contact with responsible countries
- To encourage participation of responsible countries to the regional events.
- To take care of individual request made by responsible countries
- To collect Customs related information from responsible countries
- To liaise with officers responsible for the sub-region of various DPs

Contact Details

Sub-region	ROCB staff	Contact details
East, Central and West Asia	Mr. Lee	leesk@rocbap.org, + 66 2 667 7026
Southeast Asia	Mr. Wong	jameskwwong@rocbap.org, + 66 2 667 7026
South Asia	Mr. Miyoshi	miyoshi@rocbap.org, + 66 2 667 6018
Pacific Islands	Mr. Cheng	chengjing@rocbap.org, + 66 2 667 7026

5. Other activities

5.1 WCO meetings

With the growing recognition of contribution of ROCB A/P for Customs CB in the A/P Region, ROCB A/P has received more and more invitations to act as moderators/speakers in the global/regional forums/meetings. ROCB A/P contributed significantly to the CB activities/discussions at the global/regional level.

(Global forums/meetings and non-A/P regional meetings)

- The 7th PICARD Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco (Sep. 2012)
- WCO ADB Meeting in Manila, Philippines (Nov. 2012)
- The 4thWCO CBC& ROCBs/RTCs Meeting in Brussels(Feb. 2013)
- A/P-AME Customs Leaders Dialogue in Panama (May 2013)

WCO Council Session in Brussels (June 2013)

(A/P Regional meetings)

- The 22nd WCO A/P RCP and RSG meeting in Australia (Sep. 2012)
- The 10th Meeting of Heads of Asia Pacific RTCs in Japan (Oct. 2012)
- The 24th RILO A/P NCP meeting in India (Oct.2012)
- The 15th OCO Annual Conference in Tonga (April 2013)
- WCO Consultation Session in ASEAN DG meeting in Singapore (June 2013)

5.2 Celebration of New Office Opening

On 19 February 2013, the new ROCB A/P Office was opened by the Director General of the Thai Customs Department, the Head of ROCB A/P, and other distinguished senior executives and guests. The renovated new office will surely contribute to enhance the work of ROCB A/P for the benefit of regional members. The new office also enables ROCB A/P to comfortably accommodate more staff in the future if required. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express our sincere appreciation to Thai Customs Department for their strong support for our staff and activities.

III. Work Plan

This is the second year in implementing the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2012-2014. Following the adoption of RSP 2012-2014, ROCB A/P developed its own Strategic Action Plan 2012-2014 (Annex 2) which directly links with the RSP. ROCB A/P has been conducting capacity building activities in the A/P region in accordance with this document and, for the purpose of proper implementation, developed concrete Annual Work Plan for 2013/2014 in collaboration with Vice Chair, RSG members, RTCs, WCO Secretariat and RILO A/P. This work plan was established based on the following 4 pillars of ROCB A/P activities.

- Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools
- Further enhance collaboration with the development partners
- Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities
- Enhance communication and information sharing among members

For the 1st pillar, ROCB A/P enhanced our efforts to promote Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) and Revenue Package (RP) that were given more attention by our regional members. ROCB A/P will continue our efforts in promoting these tools in particular RKC, RM and PCA. For the 2nd pillar, we are planning to organize regional workshop on "business case development" as one of the concrete follow up activities of the regional

donor conference which we had successfully organized in 2012 and we will try to further enhance activities on this pillar. For the 3rd pillar, we will continue with analysis of latest regional needs and priorities through capacity building needs survey and will develop tailor-made projects which will meet the expectation of our members. In implementing these projects, we are expecting more utilization of regional expertise in 2013/2014. As for the 4th pillar, we are going to continue utilizing our regional communication tools, Regional/ROCB web, e-newsletters as well as good practice report to share members' good practices.

It is very important to note that the collaborative efforts of ROCB A/P, RTCs, regional members and WCO Secretariat is the only way forward to the continuous improvement of regional capacity building activities, and ROCB A/P is looking forward to working with all relevant parties together to achieve this objective.

IV. ROCB Audit

There are 3 different kinds of projects in A/P region, namely (1) projects under the CCF/Japan, (2) projects under the CCF/Korea and (3) projects financed by Development Partners(DPs), such as ADB. Among those 3 different kinds of source of funding, ROCB A/P only managed CCF/Japan and was thus subject to the financial audit of the WCO. Last year, the ROCB A/P underwent an external audit in October and no discrepancy was reported. The audit report as well as the financial statement was reported to all WCO members at the WCO Finance Committee. Please refer to the documents SF0405 and SF0415 of the WCO Finance Committee. The timing of the next ROCB A/P audit is scheduled in the beginning of October 2013.

Yoshihiro Kosaka	
Head	
ROCB A/P	
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Part 2: Activities of 2012/2013

Introduction

The World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P) was formally established on 28 September 2004, following the approval from the Thai Government on 7 September 2004. It is located at the headquarters of the Thai Customs Department in Bangkok, Thailand. There are now 8 full-time staff (as of 1 July 2013), 1 from China, 1 from Hong Kong, China, 2 from Japan (including Head of ROCB A/P), 1 from Korea and 3 from Thailand. In addition, the representatives from the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and New Zealand Customs Service based in Bangkok provide regular support and assistance to the ROCB A/P activities. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express sincere appreciation to the home administrations of the above-mentioned staff members for their contributions to the ROCB A/P as well as the regional capacity building activities. We also express our heartfelt appreciation to Japan Customs for providing the Customs Cooperation Fund/Japan (CCF/Japan), the main sponsor of capacity building (CB) activities conducted under the ROCB A/P. In addition, we would also like to express our special thanks to a number of Developing Partners (DPs), in particular, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for their contributions to a number of joint projects we had in the reporting period, i.e. July 2012 to June 2013. Enhanced collaboration with DPs became one of the highlights in the last year and we are glad to report our progress in detail later.

Capacity building includes activities which strengthen the knowledge, abilities, skills, and behavior of individuals and improves institutional structures and processes so that the organization can efficiently meet its missions and goals in a sustainable way. In Customs context, it embraces key factors, for instance, leadership, organizational structure, Customs procedures, technology, partnership/cooperation and good governance.

The 14th WCO Asia Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference (14th RHCA Conference) held in May 2012 adopted the Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2012-2014, applicable from July 2012 to June 2014, reflecting the WCO's fiscal year and the term of the new Vice Chair for the region. In line with this planning and reporting cycle, ROCB A/P developed its Strategic Action Plan 2012-2014 and Annual Work Plan 2012/2013. This annual report covers the ROCB A/P activities conducted from July 2012 to June 2013. During this period, the ROCB A/P, having due regard to the member needs as well as the WCO and regional priorities, has conducted a wide range of effective CB activities under the four-pillar strategic framework. A/P region, at its 14th RHCA Conference, successfully adopted the "Framework to Pool, Utilize, Support and Increase Accredited Customs Experts in the Region", that is aiming at developing a systematic approach for effective use of regional expertise for the regional CB programs. The fiscal year 2012/2013 may be regarded as a year of "mobilization of regional resources". This can best be illustrated by the effective use of regional experts for regional CB activities

according to the Framework specified in detail later. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the regional experts as well as their home administrations who kindly agreed to contribute to the regional CB activities.

Summary of activities

1. Support the implementation of WCO Conventions, Instruments and Tools

The WCO has developed a number of conventions, instruments and tools as well as introduced a number of programs and initiatives that can significantly enhance Customs operations. To facilitate regional member administrations to adopt and implement those useful products of the WCO, ROCB A/P conducted a number of relevant capacity building activities in the Asia Pacific region last year. Some of the major activities are illustrated below.

1.1 To work with the WCO Secretariat to assist all requesting developing members to undertake Diagnostic Phase II

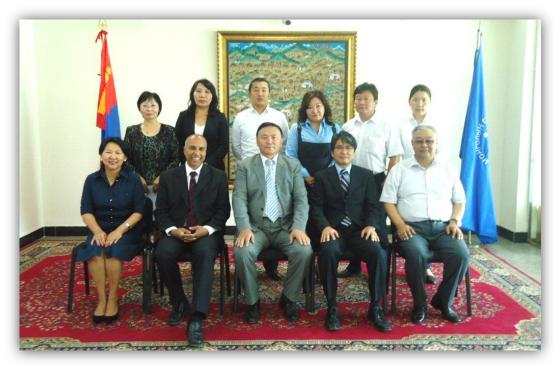
The WCO Columbus Program was launched in January 2006 and is to date the largest and most comprehensive Customs CB initiative on record. The overall aim of the Program is to provide strategic, technical and implementation support to member administrations in their respective reform and modernization initiatives. The Columbus Program and other CB programs have adopted a broader approach to organizational development, and are focused on the implementation of the SAFE FoS as well as other international standards and best practices in the area of Customs reform and modernization. The support also takes into account the principles and methodologies outlined in the Organizational Development Package.

The Columbus Program delivers support to Members of the WCO through three Phases, (1) Needs assessment, (2) Planning and implementation and (3) Progress evaluation. For Phase II, based on findings and recommendations of the diagnostic, as well as other organizational and government priorities, the administration develops a reform and modernization plan that serves as the roadmap to enhance the capability of the organization. The development and implementation of key initiatives to contribute to the development of the administration becomes the focus. When needed, the WCO and ROCB A/P offer assistance in the development of the strategic and modernization plans, and in the implementation of key priorities changes to ensure the sustainability of the modernization process.

There were mainly 3 activities in 2012/2013 relating in particular to action planning under the phase II and III of Columbus Program.

WCO National workshop on the strategic action planning in Mongolia

2 WCO accredited experts headed by ROCB A/P visited Mongolia and conducted the action planning workshop from 14 to 17 August 2012 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. Mongolia Customs participated in the Columbus Program phase III pilot projects and received a number of useful recommendations from the WCO experts through the pilot. The workshop was designed to incorporate those useful recommendations into the new Strategic Plan of Mongolia Customs for 2013-2016 and to transfer knowledge on how to develop, implement and monitor the action plan to the Mongolia Customs Task Force.



After the intensive 4-day work at the workshop, Mongolia Customs Task Force successfully reported the outcome of this workshop and the draft strategic plan they developed to the Director General with the support from the 2 WCO experts.

WCO National workshop on the strategic action planning in Bangladesh

3 experts from the WCO visited Dhaka, Bangladesh from 3 to 7 February 2013 and conducted the action planning workshop under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. Bangladesh Customs recognizes the need for modernization and reform if it is to compete effectively in a global economic environment. A diagnostic mission was conducted in 2011 which made recommendations focusing on strategic management, technology, improving integrity and strengthening partnerships with Trade.

The workshop was conducted over 5 days and up to 27 senior managers from across the organization attended and actively participated. Participants were provided with a mix of presentations by the WCO experts on the strategic planning process, WCO tools and instruments and latest policy, interactive sessions, group and syndicate exercises and

discussions combined with opportunity for reflection and consideration of case studies. Over the 5 days, participants identified a clear vision, mission and values, 8 strategic objectives, 101 actions and 24 projects which were prioritized and assigned to relevant owners. It was agreed that the draft plan would be submitted to the executives for final consideration and endorsement prior to communication and dissemination to staff and the Business Community and implementation of action items.

ROCB A/P's contribution for Thai Customs Strategic Planning

On 27 August 2012, ROCB A/P attended a seminar to develop the Thai Customs 5-year Strategic Plan held in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the seminar was to discuss the development of the 5-year strategic plan of Thai Customs (fiscal year 2013-2017). Nearly 200 senior Thai Customs officials from all around the country attended the seminar.



The Director General of Thai Customs emphasized in his opening remarks that the importance of the administration's commitment to Customs Modernization and underlined economic competitiveness in Thailand. ROCB A/P was invited to share information on the latest WCO initiatives, instruments and tools including IPR, RKC, Business Partnership, SAFE FoS, Economic Competitiveness Package, Revenue Package, Globally Networked Customs, WCO Data Model and Single Window. Thai Customs appreciated the contribution made by the ROCB A/P, which enabled the Administration to formulate its strategic plan in line with WCO standards.

1.2 To assist regional members in developing AEO programs

♣ WCO/ADB Workshop on SAFE FoS and AEO

The WCO, ROCB A/P and ADB, in cooperation with Singapore Customs, jointly organized a Workshop on SAFE FoS and AEO in Singapore from 27 to 31 May 2013 under the sponsorship of ADB. This workshop is intended for 6 South Asian Countries namely Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The objective of the workshop was to deepen the understanding of Customs officials of South Asian countries on the SAFE FoS and AEO together with Compliance Program (CP) under the RKC. During the workshop, participants from the 6 participating countries made an introduction on the status of AEO/CP program in their countries. With the kind coordination of the Singapore Customs, a field visit to an AEO company was arranged for all participants. As a result of this workshop, the participants successfully developed the concrete roadmap towards the implementation of AEO program. ADB, WCO and ROCB A/P as well as all participants were greatly satisfied with the outcome of the event and recognized the value of 'partnership approach'.

1.3 To assist regional members in acceding to the RKC

The Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) of the WCO again highlighted the importance of RKC as a core of modern Customs procedures. There are 90 Contracting Parties (CPs) to the RKC (as of July 31, 2013), including 15 CPs in the Asia Pacific region. To contribute to the regional development through the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures, Director Generals and Commissioners of Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific region set the target of 18 CPs to RKC by the end of June 2014 through its Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014. A number of Customs administrations in the A/P region have been making extensive efforts to accede to RKC as soon as possible. ROCB A/P has been assisting those administrations by providing various quality supports to accederate their progress.

Bangladesh accession to the RKC

Bangladesh deposited its instrument of accession to the RKC on 28 September 2012 and ROCB A/P would like to congratulate their achievement. RKC is regarded as a blueprint for effective and modern Customs procedures. Its key elements are the application of simplified Customs procedures in a predictable and transparent environment, making maximum use of information technology, the utilization of risk management, a strong partnership with the trade and other stakeholders, and a readily accessible system of appeals.

OMD WCO

In the press release issued by the WCO, Secretary General encouraged more members to accede to this important Customs instrument as soon as possible.



WCO/ADB Workshop on RKC in Bhutan

At the invitation of ADB and Bhutan Customs, ROCB A/P conducted the WCO/ADB joint workshop on RKC from 27 to 29 November 2012. This 3-day workshop was fully funded by ADB and, in total, approximately 70 participants; including 50 participants from Bhutan Customs joined this workshop. Bhutan Customs identified accession to RKC as one of the priority activities. Both Bhutan Customs and ADB are of the view that WCO involvement for this project is extremely beneficial and therefore requested us to provide support. From the ROCB A/P's perspective, this can be an excellent example of donor engagement and also a practical follow up work of the regional donor dialogue that ROCB A/P organized in Bangkok in May 2012.



The 3-day program covered wide areas related to RKC, including the outline, benefit, rights and obligation, accession process of the RKC as well as introduction of the provisions of General Annex and Specific Annexes. Bhutan Customs made significant progress in finalizing their gap analysis between RKC and their national legislation, deepened their understanding on RKC and confirmed their preparedness towards accession to RKC through this workshop. The task force for RKC was established and initiated their work of concrete preparation and, at the end of this workshop, they reported the roadmap of accession to RKC. The workshop initiated a number of positive discussions and outcomes. Participants were of the view that this tripartite coordinated effort of Bhutan Customs, ADB and WCO/ROCB can make huge difference and welcomed the WCO/ROCB involvement for this work. From WCO/ROCB perspective, this is a good example of "ownership", "leadership", "partnership" and "regionalization".

WCO Sub-regional Workshop on RKC for Southeast Asia

As part of its ongoing efforts to support RKC, ROCB A/P organized a WCO Sub-regional Workshop on RKC for Southeast Asian countries in cooperation with Royal Malaysian Customs in AKMAL (RTC Malaysia) - Melaka, Malaysia, from 8 to 12 April 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan.3 WCO accredited experts on RKC agreed to conduct this workshop and to share

their valuable expertise and knowledge with participants. During the 5-day workshop, the 3 experts worked together in a very flexible manner to meet the different expectation and preparedness of respective countries.



All non-CPs to RKC, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand reported their preparation to RKC accession while 3 existing CPs to RKC namely Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam contributed to the discussion by sharing their extremely valuable experience on the preparation and accession to RKC. As a result, all participants deepened their understanding on RKC and successfully identified the way forward towards the early accession to RKC.

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

1.4 To assist regional members in undertaking TRS in accordance with the WCO TRS guidelines

♣ WCO/ADB Workshop on TRS for Afghanistan and Pakistan

At the invitation of Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2 ROCB A/P experts conducted the ADB Time Release Study (TRS) workshop in Islamabad, Pakistan from 25 to 26 September 2012. 10 Afghanistan and 15 Pakistan Customs officials attended this workshop. This is a good example of collaborative work between ROCB A/P and ADB assisting regional Customs administrations. The TRS workshop was fully sponsored by the ADB under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) umbrella.



During the workshop, the ROCB A/P experts introduced WCO TRS guidelines and software as well as TRS best practices of several countries, while Afghanistan and Pakistan Customs introduced their national Customs procedures. Following these information sessions, the participants were divided into groups and discussed the development of TRS Questionnaires and Work Plan/Timetables. Participants recognized the importance and usefulness of TRS and also how to undertake a TRS. The participants and ADB expressed their deep appreciation for the well-organized workshop. It provided significant benefits to both Pakistan and Afghanistan Customs and greatly enhanced collaboration between the ADB and ROCB A/P.

WCO and ROCB A/P, in cooperation with Japan Customs, organized the WCO Regional Workshop on TRS in Kashiwa, RTC Japan from 4 to 8 March 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. In total, 39 participants from 26 countries attended the workshop. In support of this workshop, ROCB A/P successfully coordinated the sponsorship from ADB to invite additional participants from the South Asia.



WCO has been keen on promoting the agenda of TRS among the members in the Asia Pacific region. With an effective tool in measuring the efficiency of trade facilitation, TRS can help the members to identify the bottlenecks of border control agencies in the clearance of cargo and indicate the possible steps to make further improvement. The experts from WCO, Japan Customs and China Customs not only explained the methodology of the utilization of this tool, but also provided their valuable perspectives on how to read behind the collected data and then take effective measures. For the benefit of workshop participants, the agenda also included a session on member experience sharing, which invited the countries who have conducted TRS to report on the benefits, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of TRS. A group exercise session was also successfully conducted, which assisted more members to have a clear roadmap in the implementation of TRS at the later stages. All participants acclaimed the timely nature of this workshop and showed strong commitment to the follow up action.

1.5 To assist regional members in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment

★ WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the Accreditation of Risk Management Advisors

From 19 to 23 November 2012, the WCO A/P Regional Workshop on the Accreditation of Risk Management Advisors was held in RTC Hong Kong, China under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 16 selected participants from 12 member administrations attended the Workshop.



The workshop was conducted to measure the candidate's expertise on overall risk management capacity and progress towards compliance with relevant international instruments and developments and the skills of training delivery, including Risk Management Essentials, WCO Risk Management Compendium, WCO Capacity Building Development Compendium sub-section on Strategic Risk Management, WCO Diagnostic Framework on Risk Management, Revised Kyoto Convention, and components of producing effective reports, risk management policies and plans.

The WCO facilitators introduced WCO Accreditation Process, WCO Columbus Program, and WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium, RILO, CEN, nCEN, CTS, as well as informative training tips. During the Workshop, all participants actively participated in the individual and group work sessions and demonstrated their training skills with ability to undertake an advisor role. They agreed that the knowledge and techniques conveyed through this workshop would be beneficial for them to undertake the future roles.

WCO National Workshops on Risk Management and Risk Assessment in Thailand and in Malaysia

The WCO National Workshop on Risk Management and Risk Assessment was held at the Thai Customs Department Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand from 26 to 28 February 2013, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. The workshop was facilitated by the experts from the WCO, Japan Customs and USCBP. A similar National Workshop was also organized in Malaysia from 12 to 14 March 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. The Malaysian workshop was facilitated by the experts from the WCO, ACBPS and USCBP.



The participants received an overview of the WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium from WCO experts. Elements covered in their presentations included: information and intelligence, risk management, profiling and targeting, compliance management, and key risk areas and risk indicators. Several case studies and examples were also conducted to enhance the participants' understanding. The representative from USCBP kindly agreed to participate in these workshops and introduced the concept of "National Targeting Center" which included its scope and current Initiatives. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to extend our sincere appreciation for her enthusiasm and kind contribution towards the A/P regional activities.

1.6 To assist regional members in promoting awareness of IPR issues

★ WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Development of IPR Enforcement Regime

The IPR Regional Workshop on Development of the Enforcement Regime was held in Kashiwa, RTC Japan from 11 to 14 September 2012, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan.WCO was represented by 2 WCO-accredited experts from Luxembourg and Hong Kong, China while IPR-experts from Japan Customs participated in and contributed to the workshop too. 31 participants from 23 A/P Customs Administrations attended the workshop.



Considering the importance of IPR for Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific region, ROCB A/P organizes regional workshop on IPR every year highlighting different perspectives on the development of an enforcement regime. This year, participants in particular shared their experience on awareness-raising for both Customs and the public. Throughout this workshop, a number of useful and informative sessions, including the Global Review on Counterfeiting and Piracy, WCO CB and its Strategy, Regional CB experience on IPR, and WCO Tools &Instruments related to IPR were held. With the assistance of Japan Customs and Customs Intellectual Property Information Centre (CIPIC) of Japan, participants had a chance to exchange views directly with 17 Rights Holders on how to enhance cooperation between them. On the third day of the workshop, Japan Customs also kindly arranged a field visit to the IPR National Center

and the Clearance Division at Tokyo Customs, which helped participants understand how to put the theory into practice. The participants expressed great appreciation for the arrangements and found the workshop very practical and useful.

★ WCO National Seminar on the Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy in Cambodia

WCO National Seminar on the Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy for Cambodia Customs was held in the headquarters of General Department of a Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE) under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan from11 to 13 February 2013. 40 officers from Cambodia Customs attended the seminar. 2 WCO accredited experts on IPR conducted the seminar and 1 ROCB A/P officer joined as a facilitator.

The program of the seminar included ROCB outlines and regional activities on IPR, as well as WCO activities such as legislative framework and fight against counterfeiting and piracy. The participants were introduced to: the Interface Public Members (IPM), an outline of the TRIPS Agreement, and targeting and selection techniques. This workshop also invited five rights holders to explain their company outlines and key elements to distinguish authentic and fake products which would contribute in the detection of counterfeiting products at the border.

At the end, a site visit to the Airport Cargo Terminal Office and warehouse at GDCE was also arranged so as to enhance knowledge and skills of participants on examining cargo manifests and airway bills, and selecting high risk cargo, in particular the IPR infringed goods.

★ WCO Sub-Regional Operational IPR Seminar for Southeast Asia

WCO Sub-regional Operational IPR Seminar for Southeast Asia Members was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 29 April to 3 May 2013, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 24 participants attended this seminar. 2 WCO accredited WCO experts facilitated the workshop.



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

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

1.7 To undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region (e.g. SAFE FoS and RM)

During the reporting period, ROCB A/P organized various CB activities to promote trade security and facilitation as illustrated in the section (1.2) to (1.5) above on AEO, RKC, TRS and Risk Management. In addition, ROCB A/P organized a number of activities responding directly to the latest needs identified through the CB needs survey. Examples of these activities are shown below.

♣ WCO Regional Workshop on ECP

A 3-day regional workshop on ECP was held at the RTC Hong Kong, China under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan from 3 to 5 June 2013. It was attended by 28 participants from 25 Customs Administrations in Asia Pacific region and 1 observer from South Africa. 2 officers from the WCO and 2 officers from ROCB A/P facilitated the workshop.



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

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

WCO/OCO Sub-Regional Workshop on PCA for Pacific Islands

WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on PCA for Pacific Islands was held from 20 to 24 August 2012under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. It was the first official event Organized at the RTC Fiji. It was co-organized by the ROCB A/P and the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO) in cooperation with Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA).

Throughout this workshop, participants had a very intensive discussion on a number of key issues relating to the effective implementation of PCA including infrastructure and Risk Management on PCA, practical Case Studies in the Pacific Islands, awareness and education programs for the trade community, and some of the difficulties and challenges that implementing agencies would face. The participants agreed to work together to review the OCO PCA guidelines currently under development.

Participants improved their technical knowledge and expertise on PCA and confirmed their commitment to develop the OCO PCA Guidelines in accordance with the road map adopted at the workshop.

WCO Accreditation Workshop for Expert Trainers on Valuation Control via PCA

The WCO Accreditation Workshop for Expert Trainers on Valuation Control via PCA was held in Kashiwa, WCO Regional Training Center Japan from 3 to 7 December 2012 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. 15 selected participants from 10 member Customs administrations attended the Workshop. 2 ROCB A/P officers and 2 WCO officers joined as facilitators. This workshop, Valuation Control via PCA, was a pilot event for a new program initiated by the WCO with a view to establishing a pool of expert trainers capable of developing training materials on the subject matter and leading training activities on behalf of the WCO in the Asia Pacific Region. The workshop was intensive, with a review of the latest WCO training policy, sharing with the new WCO Revenue Package approach and tools and conducting group discussions and presentations as well as individual work to develop training plan etc.



During the workshop, all participants actively contributed to the breakout sessions as group activities and plenary sessions for various discussions and presentations. They also learned the importance of being equipped with the latest WCO knowledge, international exposure and effective delivery skills, as well as having advanced technical knowledge and experience in the field of Valuation and PCA. All participants committed to developing training materials and some of which will be used for the upcoming sub-regional workshop on Valuation Control via PCA in India to be held at the end of January 2013.

★ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via PCA for South and West Asia

The WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via PCA for South and West Asian Members was held in Faridabad, India from 28 January to 1 February 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. A total of 18 participants from 9 countries namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, attended the workshop.



The participants received an overview of WCO, ROCB A/P and WCO Regional Activities on PCA, the principles and basic rules of the Customs Valuation Methods in WTO Valuation Agreement. The WCO expert introduced WCO tools and instrument in the Revenue Package such as WCO PCA Guidelines and Practical Guidelines for Valuation Control. The experts also explained some technical issues which are now being discussed at the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation. On top of that, new WCO training materials on valuation control via PCA developed under a pilot program were used in some of the sessions.

WCO National Workshop on PCA in Tonga

WCO National Workshop on PCA for Tonga Customs Service was held in Nuku' Alofa, Tonga from 18 to 22 February 2013, under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan.

This workshop aimed to improve the understanding and implementation of Tonga Customs on PCA and Customs Valuation under WTO Valuation Agreement. It includes a one and a half PCA Awareness and Customs Valuation Seminar for the Trade Community and a three and a half day National Workshop on PCA for Tonga Customs Service staff. In total, 36 participants, from Trade community and departments of Customs, Tax and Revenue attended the workshop.

The PCA policy, objectives, and benefits were covered to ensure better understanding of the participants in the first session of PCA awareness and Customs Valuation Seminar for the Trade Community. The participants were also updated on the latest information on Inco terms, WTO Valuation Agreement



principles and their interpretation. During the national workshop on PCA for Tonga Customs Service, the participants were updated on the situation on PCA in Tonga and the OCO PCA Project which covers both enhancing the partnership with the trade community and capacity building for Customs officials.

★ WCO/OCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via PCA for Pacific Islands

WCO, ROCB A/P, OCO Secretariat and Japan Customs, in cooperation with the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority organized the WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Valuation Control via PCA for Pacific Islands from 25 to 29 March 2013 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan.

Participants presented their progress reports on PCA and national experience on Valuation Control via PCA, their problems and challenges. During the course, the core elements for assistance with the implementation of PCA, such as the Inco terms 2010, overview of the WTO Valuation Agreement, preparation and conduct of Field PCA and its case studies and

exercises were conducted by the experts from Japan Customs. Participants also made progress reports on the PCA Guidelines for Oceania Region and WCO training materials on Valuation Control via PCA developed under a pilot program.



At the end of the workshop, the PCA Guidelines for Oceania Region developed through the multi-year OCO PCA Project was unanimously adopted. It was also agreed to table it for endorsement at the upcoming 15th OCO Annual Conference in Tonga in May 2013. These PCA Guidelines as well as the training materials provided will be used by OCO members to guide their national implementation of PCA.

JICA national workshop on PCA in Pakistan

At the invitation of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office, the ROCB A/P offered technical assistance to Pakistan Customs Modernization Support Project in Karachi and Islamabad, Pakistan from 2 to 6 July 2012 focusing on PCA implementation in Pakistan.

Based on the information provided by Pakistan Customs on the status of PCA implementation, an expert from the ROCB A/P made a number of recommendations to Pakistan Customs for the improvement of PCA. They include the organization of training focusing on the audit techniques and the need of awareness program for stakeholders. ROCB A/P is going to continue this type of collaboration, when needed, to expand the assistance on this emerging area.

WCO National Workshop on Rules of Origin in Sri Lanka

Under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan, WCO and ROCB A/P offered Sri Lanka Customs a national workshop on ROO in Colombo from 27 to 31 May 2013. A total of 50 participants from Sri Lankan Customs and the Department of Commerce attended this workshop. 1 WCO officer, 1 Indian Customs officer, and 1 Japan Customs officer facilitated the workshop, and 1 ROCB A/P officer attended and contributed to this workshop.



As one of the follow up activities of the WCO regional workshop on ROO which was held in Shanghai in 2012, this workshop aimed to provide Sri Lanka Customs with targeted technical assistance in support of their effort in the administration of ROO. The agenda covered a range of ROO issues, such as the key concepts for proper origin determination based on the WCO Comparative Study on Preferential ROO and as well a number of related operational issues. The participants also gained deeper understanding on the WCO's Revenue Package initiative and the newly developed Guidelines on Preferential Origin Verification. WCO and ROCB A/P will continue to support Sri Lanka Customs for their improvement in this area.

X-ray Image Analysis workshop for Bhutan (in Thailand)

ROCB A/P and Thai Customs jointly organized the X-Ray Image Analysis workshop for Bhutan Customs in Thailand from 3 to 7 June 2013. The workshop was financed by ADB through Bhutan Customs. The 5-day workshop contained the presentation on risk management and profiling, the description of X-Ray Machine and technique for drug seizures by the use of X-ray machine. The participants had a chance to visit Customs Control Technology Center to see the efficiency of CCTV technology as a Customs control employed by Thai Customs. In addition, the participants had opportunities to make field visits to Arunyapradesh Customs House, the land border with Cambodia, Suvarnnabhumi Airport Passenger Control Customs Bureau, Suvarnnabhumi Airport Cargo Clearance Bureau and Laem Chabang Port, the biggest Sea Port of Thailand, to see the container inspection by fixed-type X-Ray Machine and X-Ray system for train cargo.





Note: After the return of participants from the workshop, Bhutan Customs immediately applied the knowledge and organized an in-house training.

1.8 To undertake capacity building activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement in the region

During the reporting period, ROCB A/P organized various CB activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement, including IPR as illustrated in the section (1.6) above. In addition, ROCB A/P organized a number of activities responding directly to the latest needs identified through the CB needs survey. Examples of these activities are shown below.

♣ WCO A/P Regional Workshop on Countering Drug Smuggling by Air Passengers

The WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Countering Drug Smuggling by Air Passengers was held in Kashiwa, RTC Japan from 23 to 27July 2012 under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. This workshop was conducted by experts from the WCO and Japan Customs. 45 participants from 30 Member and counterpart administrations in the Asia Pacific Region attended the workshop.



The workshop enhanced participants' knowledge in regard to increasing methamphetamine smuggling by air passengers. They also shared national best practice investigation and seizure practice, learned how to establish a national intelligence strategy and developed a better understanding of relevant WCO tools.

Note: Immediately after the workshop, there was great news from Cambodia Customs that several cases of methamphetamine and cocaine seizure were made at the Siem Reap Airport by utilizing the knowledge obtained.

♣ WCO Sub-Regional Workshop on Green Customs for South and West Asia

In collaboration with Maldives Customs Service, and under the sponsorship from CCF/Japan, WCO and ROCB A/P held the Asia Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop on Green Customs for South and West Asia in Male, Maldives from 4 to 8 November 2012. This workshop was facilitated by the experts from WCO, UNEP ROAP, RILO A/P, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat, INTERPOL NCB Maldives, Sri Lanka Customs as well as the 2 facilitators from ROCB A/P. 23 participants from 8 Customs Administrations in South and West Asia attended the workshop.



During the workshop, the participants were given valuable opportunity to know about Green Customs initiative, overview of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, CETES, CEN, CENcomm and ENVIRONNET and etc. On their return to their home administrations, all participants were expected to disseminate the knowledge gained through the workshop to their colleagues.

2. Further enhance collaboration with development partners (DPs)

Enhancing cooperation/collaboration with DPs is one of the important action items for the ROCB A/P in 2012/2013 and beyond. As reported last year, ROCB A/P named 2011/2012 as a year of "enhanced partnership with development partners" and organized a number of events to promote/enhance donor collaboration. ROCB A/P is currently working with a number of DPs including ADB, WB, UNESCAP, UNEP, UNODC, JICA, USAID etc.

To boost further collaboration with DPs, ROCB A/P in cooperation with WCO Secretariat and Thai Customs Department, organized the Asia Pacific Regional Donor Conference from 28 May to 1 June 2012 at Bangkok where most of the DPs above participated and exchanged their views on how to enhance partnership with regional Customs administrations. The Regional Donor Conference highlighted the importance to continue discussion at the sub-regional, national and/or agency level as one of its findings.

Subsequently, ROCB A/P continued its efforts in 2012/2013 to make this collaboration with DPs into action and develop more concrete project-base collaboration to provide enhanced support in both quality and quantity to regional members. As a result, ROCB A/P again made a significant progress in 2012/2013 in this regard.

2.1 Enhanced collaboration, coordination and mutual understanding with DPs.

a) Development and implementation of coordinated strategy/program

Objectives of this collaboration are (1) to provide coordinated quality support to regional members, (2) to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, (3) to complement each other taking into account respective strength and weakness and (4) to achieve concrete result with the multi-year assistance. Examples of such collaboration are as follows.

Project/Initiative	Outline
OCO PCA Project	This is a multi-year project implemented in cooperation with <u>Japan Customs</u> and <u>OCO Secretariat</u> aiming at development of PCA guidelines and pool of resources. The project was just completed successfully with the adoption of PCA guidelines at the 15 th OCO Council in Tonga in May 2013. (Please see (note) "Multi-year OCO PCA Project" below)
Asia Cargo	This is a multi-agency initiative involving WCO and <u>ADB</u> and provides a
Highway Initiative	number of coordinated CB activities to the Customs administrations in Southeast Asia. Areas of support vary from country to country while
(Southeast Asia)	the WCO is involved more in RKC, TRS and etc.
Coordinated strategy/program development for South Asia	<u>ADB</u> and ROCB A/P are working together to provide coordinated multi- year support to SASEC (South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation) countries, particularly to Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. A number of regional program and national program on RKC, PCA etc. are under consideration.
Coordinated strategy/program development for Pacific islands	<u>ADB</u> and ROCB A/P are working together to provide coordinated multi- year support to pacific islands countries. The development of strategy/program is still at very early stage. The areas of support may include, training development (for RTC Fiji), HS, PCA, SAFE FoS, Risk
(Pacific Islands)	Management etc.

(note)"Multi-year OCO PCA Project"

ROCB A/P, in cooperation with Japan Customs and OCO Secretariat, initiated this first multi-year capacity building project 2 years ago. This multi-year project was kindly supported by Japan Customs through CCF/Japan.

This project is aimed at (1) developing PCA Guidelines which is specifically designed for OCO countries and (2) developing core resource persons in OCO for the sustainable implementation of PCA. To achieve such objectives, ROCB A/P organized a series of regional/national activities in the last two years in cooperation with our partners. With the unanimous adoption of the Guidelines by the DGs and Commissioners of Pacific Islands at the OCO Conference in May 2013, the multi-year project was completed successfully.

Outline of the Multi-year OCO PCA Project

Multi-year OCO PCA Project

Objectives

- 1: Development of PCA Guidelines specifically designed for OCO members
- 2: Development of core resources in the OCO for the sustainable implementation of PCA

Roadmap

Time	Place	Action (under CCF/Japan)
Feb 2011	RTC India	AP Regional Workshop on PCA (Discussion of OCO members)
Sep 2011	RTC Fiji	Sub-regional Train-the-trainer Workshop on PCA
Feb 2012	Vanuat u	National Workshop on PCA for Vanuatu
Aug 2012	RTC Fiji	2 nd Sub-regional Workshop on PCA
Feb 2013	Tonga	National Workshop on PCA for Tonga
Mar 2013	RTC Fiji	3 rd Sub-regional Workshop on PCA (finalize guidelines)
May 2013	Tonga	Adoption at the 15th OCO Annual Conference

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

This project highlighted the value of "collaborative work" and, taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to OCO Secretariat and Japan Customs as well as congratulations to the working team members, namely, Fiji, PNG, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu. Through this multi-year project, ROCB A/P had learned a lot, such as the importance of commitment of top management, leadership and ownership of the working team members, significant value of partnership and a clear road map of the project. They are all repeatedly emphasized at the WCO Capacity Building Committee and this multi-year project can be considered as a good show-case of how important these elements are.

ROCB A/P will continue its efforts to provide quality assistance to its members, including those in the Pacific Islands, taking into account the good lessons learnt from this multi-year project.

b) Participation in the meeting of DPs

The objectives of this effort are (1) to improve mutual understanding on the respective organization and their program and (2) to explore possibility of future collaboration. Examples of such collaboration are as follows.

Time	Event (Place)	DP name
Sep. 2012	WCO/ADB joint mission (Bhutan)	ADB
Nov. 2012	UNEP project REN meeting (Philippines)	UNEP
March 2013	ADB TF Week for SASEC (Thailand)	ADB
March 2013	UNODC meeting on training (Indonesia)	UNODC
April 2013	A/P-AME Customs Leaders Dialogue (Panama)	ADB, IDB
May 2013	ARF on strategic trade control (Thailand)	ARF (USAID)
May 2013	ITIC WS on illicit tobacco trade (Vietnam)	ITIC
June 2013	Eminent Speaker's Forum (Philippines)	ADB

(note) In addition, a number of consultations with DPs and international organization, such as ADB, WB, UDAID, ICAO, took place in 2012/2013.

2.2 Organization of the National Donor meeting in Cambodia

The ROCB A/P has made every effort to enhance cooperation between DPs and members in the A/P Region. Being aware of the importance of trade facilitation, development partners have conducted and funded many Customs CB initiatives in the region. To gain the support from development partners, the ROCB A/P, upon request, have worked with several members and successfully organized the national DPs meetings for them.

In September 2012, at the invitation of the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) of Cambodia, ROCB A/P attended the 3rd Meeting between the GDCE and DPs held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 27 September 2012. 50 persons from the GDCE and relevant Ministries in the Cambodian government as well as DPs such as ADB, EU, Japan Embassy, JICA, World Bank, IMF and UNESCAP joined the meeting. The meeting was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of Economy and Finance of Cambodia.

ROCB A/P made presentation and highlighted the importance of "3Ps concept" as a



key to successful capacity building. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for both the GDCE and DPs to discuss "As-Is" and "To-Be" analysis to the Strategy and Work Program of GDCE's Reform and Modernization efforts, to share information on priority areas of respective DPs and to exchange views on the



way forward. At the end of the meeting, Director General of the GDCE expressed his deepest appreciation to all participants for their support and cooperation and stressed the importance of continuing this kind of meeting. This meeting in Cambodia was well recognized by other members as good practice.

2.3 Promotion of joint activities

a) Organization of joint workshop/seminar

The objectives of this effort are (1) to provide coordinated support to regional members with DPs particularly on issues which require interagency cooperation, such as Single Window, Trade Facilitation and Green Customs, (2) to complement each other by utilizing respective experts and (3) to invite more Customs and other agencies through cost sharing. ROCB conducted a number of joint events with DPs or contributed to the event organized by the DPs in 2012/2013.

Timing	Event	DP name
July 2012	JICA national workshop on PCA	JICA
	(Pakistan)	
Sep. 2012	WCO/ADB sub-regional workshop on TRS for Afghanistan and Pakistan (Pakistan)	ADB
Oct. 2012	UNESCAP TF forum and Customs workshop	UNESCAP
	(Sri Lanka)	
Nov. 2012	WCO Green Customs workshop for South Asia (Maldives)	UNEP
Nov. 2012	WCO/ADB national workshop on RKC (Bhutan)	ADB
Feb. 2013	ADB sub-regional workshop for CAREC on TF (Kazakhstan)	ADB
March 2013	WCO TRS workshop	ADB
	(Japan)	
March 2013	UNESCAP national workshop on Trade Facilitation	UNESCAP
	(Lao PDR)	
May 2013	WCO/ADB sub-regional workshop on SAFE FoS and AEO for South Asia (Singapore)	ADB

- 3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities
- 3.1 Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework

For long-term strategic planning, the ROCB A/P devised a "Framework to Pool, Utilize, Support and Increase accredited experts in the Region" with a view to developing a systematic approach for the effective use of regional expertise for the regional CB programs. After a series of consultations with the WCO, RTCs and, more importantly, regional members, the Framework was unanimously adopted by the DGs and the Commissioner of regional Customs administrations at the 14th RHCA Conference in May 2012 for implementation. **2012/2013 was actually a year of implementation of the Framework.** Based on the Framework and the growing CB needs in the A/P Region, the WCO and ROCB A/P worked together to identify the gap between the regional needs and available expertise in the A/P region to effectively establish the "pool of regional experts". To contribute to this move and based on the said gap analysis, the following 3 WCO accreditation workshops were organized in the A/P region during the reporting period under the sponsorship of CCF/Japan. It is important to note that some of the accredited experts from the 3 workshops had been formally put in-charge of CB activities in the A/P region.

- Expert Trainers on ROO (RTC China 15-19 October 2012)
- Risk Management Advisors (RTC Hong Kong, China 19-23 November 2012)
- Expert Trainers on valuation control via PCA(RTC Japan 3-7 December 2012)

3.2 Contribution of WCO Accredited Experts in A/P Region

Accreditation of Customs experts and their utilization for the WCO activities are the important capacity building policies of the WCO for providing quality assistance to its members. In the A/P region, as introduced in the ROCB A/P e-newsletter no. 37 (July 2012), the regional Framework on the utilization of expertise was adopted and implemented by the ROCB A/P in order to initiate a more strategic approach to increase the number of capable experts to be used for the regional development through the Customs CB.

There are four categories of accredited experts under the WCO scheme, namely, Diagnostic Facilitators, Customs Modernization Advisors, Technical and Operational Advisors and Expert Trainers. The WCO introduced the two-step approach for the accreditation of experts, namely "accreditation workshop" and "field mission". ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO, organized a number of WCO accreditation workshops of experts in the last couple of years taking into account the needs and priorities of our regional members. In the first step, i.e. accreditation workshop, nominees are requested to demonstrate their knowledge as well as skills and only those successful participants of this workshop will go to the second step of accreditation, i.e. field missions. If they are considered capable of conducting a mission on behalf of the WCO through this second step, they will be formally accredited by the WCO and subsequently receive his/her certificate of accreditation.

As a result of collaborative efforts by the WCO, ROCB A/P and, of course regional members, A/P region has successfully established the pool of WCO accredited experts in our region. They are actively contributing to the regional capacity building and thus ROCB A/P

named 2012/2013 as a year of "mobilization of regional resources". The list of contributions made by the WCO accredited experts in the reporting period is shown below. Taking this opportunity, ROCB A/P would like to express our appreciation to the experts as well as their home administrations for their remarkable contributions for the regional CB activities.

List of contributions made by the WCO accredited experts July 2012-June 2013

WCO Events (unless otherwise specified) PCA workshop in Pakistan (funded by JICA) Jul 2012 ROCB A/P National Workshop on Action Planning in Mongolia Aug 2012 Australia and ROCB A/P Sub-regional workshop on PCA for Pacific Islands at RTC Fiji Regional workshop on IPR Border Enforcement at RTC Japan Sub-regional workshop on Green Customs in Mov 2012 Maldives National Workshop on RKC in Bhutan(funded by ADB) Nov 2012 ROCB A/P Accreditation workshop on Valuation control via PCA at RTC Japan Sub-regional workshop on valuation control via PCA for South and West Asia at RTC India Rational Workshop on PCA in Tonga Rocb A/P and Japan National workshop on RA in Thailand Regional workshop on RA in Thailand Regional workshop on Valuation control via PCA for South and West Asia at RTC Japan Regional workshop on PCA in Tonga Rocb A/P and Japan Regional workshop on RA in Thailand Regional workshop on RA in Thailand Regional workshop on RA in Malaysia Sub-regional workshop on valuation control via PCA for Pacific Islands at RTC Fiji National workshop on RA in Malaysia Sub-regional workshop on RFC for Southeast Asia at RTC Malaysia Rocb A/P, Japan Rocb A/P, Japan Rock A/P, Japan Roch A/P, Japan R			
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	•	May 2013	
National workshop on ROO in Sri Lanka May 2013 India and Japan			and Singapore
	National workshop on ROO in Sri Lanka	May 2013	India and Japan

Furthermore, ROCB also initiated our work on the "candidate list" for the purpose of providing systematic support for regional experts as well as, where necessary, supplementing the CB needs of our members particularly in areas where there are no WCO accredited experts. ROCB A/P, in cooperation with the WCO, regional members and RTCs, will continue our efforts to provide quality assistance to our members in cooperation with those regional experts. In this regard, ROCB A/P is looking forward to welcoming more registration of "candidates" from A/P regional members.

The Following is an article, written by one of the WCO ACEs, which introduces her experience

Contribution of WCO Accredited Experts and Commitment of WCO Members in Capacity Building

Ms. Kameswari Subramanian
Central Board of Customs and Excise
India



Readers of this Newsletter will be aware under the WCO CCF program a variety of technical assistance and capacity building program are carried out in WCO Member administrations through its Regional Offices for Capacity Building (ROCB). The WCO has been accrediting experts from various administrations to help assist in implementing their capacity building program. Equally national administrations have been

proactively and positively in contributing to the WCO's capacity building activities by making available the expertise of their officers accredited by the WCO to participate in these programs. As a WCO accredited expert in Customs Procedures and Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), I was aware that I could be called upon to participate in training and workshops in this area of expertise.

Since increasing the number of contracting party to the RKC is one of the priority areas specified in the Asia Pacific Regional Strategic Plan 2010-2012, Asia Pacific ROCB (ROCB A/P) has been promoting accession by utilizing the regional experts. The WCO through ROCB A/P requested my administration, the Central Board of Excise & Customs, India, for my participation as a resource person in two workshops in Nepal and Cambodia to assist the administrations in their accession to the RKC.

The first "WCO National Workshop on the RKC" was held in Nepal on 8-10 March 2011 in Kathmandu. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Yoshihiro Kosaka, Head of ROCB A/P, and I. The next Workshop was held in Cambodia at Phom Penh on 13-17 February, 2012 during which I was assisted by the very capable officers from ROCB A/P, Mr. Sang-Hyup Lee and Mr. Jae-Kwan Choi.

Both Nepal and Cambodia have been working extensively on the modernization of their Customs administrations and had indicated a strong interest in acceding to the RKC. Both administrations had made great strides in revising their legislation as well as in the use of information technology in their Customs processes and procedures. Hence the workshops were opportunely timed to facilitate the detailed examination of the national legislation and the provisions of the RKC and also discuss the issues that would have to be considered for their accession to the Convention.

The WCO and ROCB A/P's approach to encouraging accessions has been very proactive and the administrations are provided with a preparatory list of documents and questionnaires with comparison tables to enable the administrations to make the preliminary preparations for the Workshop. These assist the administrations to analyze and examine their national legislation with the RKC, make a comparison between national legislation and RKC provisions with the help of WCO experts and finally develop a draft roadmap for the RKC accession by the administrations. These processes also improve the understanding of the WCO experts of the situation in the Member administration for the accession to the RKC and help to provide necessary clarifications to the questions of Member administration's officials regarding the RKC, its benefits as well as the process of accession.

Both the administrations set up a RKC Working Group who were able to analyze their national legislations vis-à-vis the provisions of the General and Specific Annexes of the RKC. They also made available their senior managers for the workshops. The working teams in both administrations were focused and could present a detailed analysis of the compliance level of their legislation to the RKC. For our part, the experts not only studied the clearance processes and documentation requirements first hand but also got an opportunity to examine the national legislation and the required changes to their existing legislation and procedures to comply with the requirements of the RKC. The final outcome of the Workshops was to draw up a road map with WCO expert's support, for their accession to the RKC for the DG. The encouragement from management level was evident by the time taken by the Secretary Revenue and the DG of Customs in Nepal and the Director General of GDCE, Cambodia, who allocated substantial time to discuss the outcomes with the WCO team of experts and explore means of early accession by their administration.

The dedicated and detailed work done by the administrations for which the workshops were conducted was the key to success achieved. The progressive agenda of the ROCB A/P and WCO in Capacity Building and the support of administrations in releasing their experts to provide the technical assistance for such workshops will go a long way towards enhancing capacity in the Member administrations of the region in this very important strategic goal of the WCO.

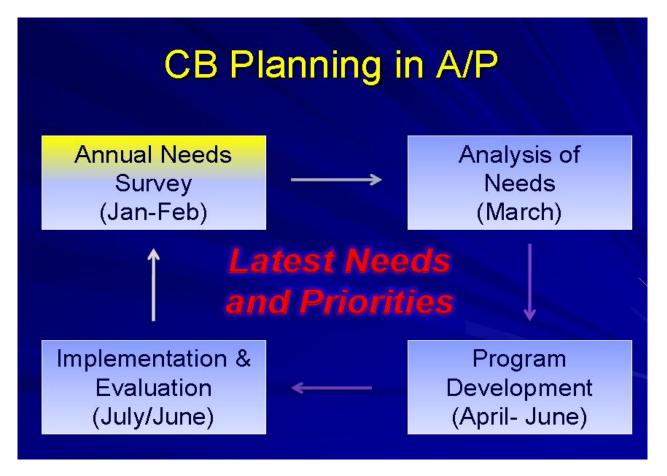
I cannot conclude this brief sharing of my experience as an accredited expert without mentioning the fact that not only did the Nepal and Cambodia Customs colleagues exhibit a high level of professionalism and dedication to the work but also extended their warm hospitality to us explaining the nuances of their culture



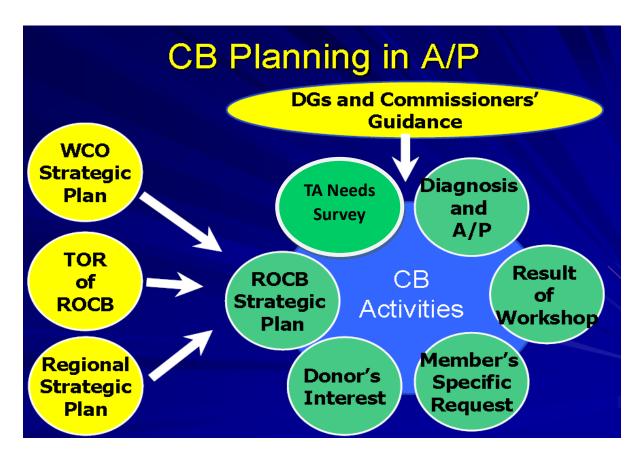
and heritage. We left both the countries with the sense of having gained new friends and enriched by our interaction with the people and culture which is always warm and welcoming, a thought which will always remain in my mind and I am sure in the minds of my fellow experts.

3.3 Work with regional training coordinator to identify and review members' CB needs and priorities through conducting a needs assessment via a survey and ongoing consultation

ROCB A/P placed great importance on this action item in 2012/2013. There is a well-established CB planning cycle in the A/P region which is considered a model approach in the global Customs community. In January 2013, ROCB A/P and Japan Customs (A/P regional CB coordinator) circulated the annual CB needs survey to all regional members. As a result of the joint efforts done by Japan Customs and ROCB A/P, and more importantly cooperation from regional members, a good number of constructive feedbacks from our regional members on the latest needs and priorities of their CB were received.



ROCB A/P and Japan Customs worked together to analyze these feedbacks against regional/national strategy and prepared regional CB proposals. The proposal has been presented to the WCO Secretariat in April 2013 for their consideration and their consultation with available donors. To date, ROCB A/P received a very positive feedback of the result of their consultation with donors. Thanks in particular to the positive consideration of CCF/Japan, ROCB A/P is now at the stage of implementation of those proposals and, based on the information we have received so far, prepared ROCB A/P Annual Work Plan for 2013/2014 as attached as Annex 3 to this report.



3.4 Official Opening of the 7th WCO RTC in the A/P Region

On 20 August 2012, the WCO Regional Training Center (RTC) in Fiji was officially launched with attendance of Prime Minister of Republic of Fiji and the Secretary General of the

WCO. This is the first RTC for Pacific Islands and the seventh in the Asia Pacific region. The Prime Minister mentioned in his opening speech, "our central location makes Fiji a convenient hub for the South Pacific, and hosting the Customs RTC in Fiji is a significant step towards greater regional collaboration". The Secretary General said in his congratulatory remarks "the RTC will provide an opportunity for the region to share expertise and knowledge". ROCB A/P attended the ceremony too.

The RTC Fiji is located in the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) in Suva. The center equips with furnished classrooms with the latest technology, a computer laboratory, a library and a staff cafeteria together



with a recreational area. The RTC will be able to further the goals of the WCO in the Oceania region through greater CB, hosting relevant regional training programs, providing expertise and technical knowledge as well as further greater cooperation amongst administrations.

3.5 The 10th Meeting of Heads of Asia Pacific WCO Regional Training Centers

The 10th Meeting of the Heads of A/P WCO RTCs was held at the Customs Training Institute in Kashiwa Japan from 25 to 26 October 2012. It was attended by the representatives from 6 RTCs (Fiji, Malaysia, India, Japan, Korea and Hong Kong, China) as well as those from the WCO Secretariat, Vice Chair Office of the Asia Pacific Region and ROCB A/P and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO AP). The Head of OCO Secretariat also attended the meeting as an observer.



In the spirit of Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2014, the agenda of this meeting included some issues such as "Exchange of Information on the evaluation of training courses", "Framework to pool, utilize support and increase accredited experts in the region" and "Involvement of RTCs for the improvement of training techniques of regional experts", which reflected the regional demand on the sustainability and effectiveness of capacity building.

All RTCs updated the meeting on their latest CB activities and explored how to further enhance the initiative of "Centre of Excellence". Besides, participants also shared their valuable experience in training quality control and engaged in active discussion on how to make effective use of regional expertise, including the ACEs (Accredited Customs Experts) and candidates. To maximize the benefits of this meeting, ROCB advised the meeting of the plan to compile a compendium on training evaluation and invited all RTCs to contribute their best practices in this area after the meeting. All participants acknowledged the timely nature of this work and expressed the willingness to cooperate.

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

4.1 ROCB A/P E-newsletter

To enhance communication among members in the A/P Region, the ROCB A/P publishes an e-Newsletter on a quarterly basis. The e-Newsletters were distributed to our members, the WCO Secretariat and the ROCBs in other regions and also placed on the ROCB A/P Website. In 2012/2013, the ROCB A/P prepared and sent out 4 issues of e-Newsletters

from issue No. 38 to 41. The e-newsletters not only provided the latest news on the CB activities in the A/P Region, but also offered members / work partners a platform to share information / experience on their latest development.



4.2 ROCB A/P Website

Since 2006, the ROCB A/P has developed the ROCB A/P Website (http://rocb.wcoasiapacific.org)which is linked to the WCO A/P Region homepage for further communication between the ROCB A/P and members. With the help of the Vice Chair office, the ROCB A/P has been uploading the latest information about the regional CB activities. The ROCB A/P had enhanced contents of the webpage with a view to knowledge and information sharing. The informative contents for the webpage include ROCB A/P Customs Good Practice Reports, ROCB A/P e-Newsletters and yearly reports, updated information on ROCB A/P latest initiatives and RTC development, latest meeting reports on various regional meetings, etc.



4.3 ROCB A/P Customs Good Practice Report on "Training Evaluation"

ROCB A/P with the support of RTC Japan, RTC Korea and RTC Indian developed its 10th issue of Customs Good Practice Report on Training Evaluation in June 2013. In this report, the best practices from these RTCs were collected for use as a readily available reference for global Customs capacity builders.

This report will be uploaded onto the website of ROCB A/P soon. (http://rocb.wcoasiapacific.org/Home.aspx)



4.4 Designation of "Program Manager" for the respective sub-regions

As reported earlier, ROCB A/P has recently been strengthening collaboration with a number of DPs in recent years. With the successful conclusion of regional donor conference in Bangkok in May 2012 and the subsequent bilateral dialogue, the number of joint projects between the ROCB A/P and DPs are significantly increasing, particularly with ADB. In order to meet the expectation from both DPs and regional members, it is important to note that ROCB A/P is required to improve our own capacity to take care of these increasing interests to further improve our effectiveness and efficiency. For this purpose, ROCB A/P recently designated respective ROCB A/P staff as "Program Manager" for the respective sub-region and is moving forward to provide more focused quality assistance. They are ready to work with regional members and please do not hesitate to contact them whenever you find it necessary.

The role and responsibility of the "Program Manager" for the sub-regions are as follows:

- To enhance contact with responsible countries
- To encourage participation of responsible countries to the regional events
- To take care of individual request to be made by responsible countries
- To collect Customs related information of the responsible countries
- To liaise with officers responsible for the sub-region of various DPs



List of respective "Program Manager" for the 4 sub-regions

Sub-region	ROCB staff	Contact
East, Central and West Asia	Mr. Lee	leesk@rocbap.org, + 66 2 667 7026
Southeast Asia	Mr. Wong	jameskwwong@rocbap.org, + 66 2 667 7026
South Asia	Mr. Miyoshi	miyoshi@rocbap.org, + 66 2 667 6018
Pacific Islands	Mr. Cheng	chengjing@rocbap.org, + 66 2 667 7026

5. Other activities

5.1 WCO meetings

With the growing recognition of the contribution of ROCB A/P for the Customs CB in the A/P Region, ROCB A/P received more and more invitations to act as moderators/speakers in the global/regional forums/meetings. In the meetings listed below, the ROCB A/P staff moderated some of the CB-related sessions and/or made presentations on our experience and activities. Through these activities, the ROCB A/P contributed significantly to the CB activities at the global and regional level.

(Global forums/meetings and non-A/P regional meetings)

- The 7th PICARD Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco (September 2012)
- WCO ADB Meeting in Manila, Philippines (November 2012)
- The 4th CBC& ROCBs/RTCs Meeting in Brussels, Belgium (February 2013)
- A/P-AME Customs Leaders Dialogue in Panama (May 2013)
- WCO Council Session in Brussels (June 2013)

(A/P Regional meetings)

- The 22ndA/P RCP and RSG meeting, Adelaide, Australia (September 2012)
- The 10th Meeting of Heads of Asia Pacific in RTC, Japan (October 2012)
- The 24thRILO A/P NCP meeting in Jaipur, India (October2012)
- The 15th OCO Annual Conference in Tonga (April 2013)
- WCO Consultation Session in ASEAN DG meeting in Singapore (June 2013)

5.2 Celebration of New Office Opening

On 19 February 2013, the ROCB A/P Office was newly opened with a tape cutting ceremony led by the then Director General of the Thai Customs Department, the Head of ROCB A/P, and other distinguished senior executives and guests. ROCB A/P showed the newly renovated office to the Director General and the senior executives of Thai Customs Department and extended his sincere appreciation to the Thai Customs Department for their great support

to further improve the working environment of ROCB A/P which will surely contribute to enhance the work of ROCB A/P for the benefit of regional members. The new office also enables all ROCB A/P staff to work comfortably and may accommodate more staff in the future if required. ROCB A/P would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Thai Customs Department for their strong support to our office and staff.





Part 3: ROCB A/P Work Plan for 2013/2014

This is a second year in implementing Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) 2012-2014 that was adopted by the regional DGs and Commissioners at its last Conference in May 2012. As reported last year, following the adoption of RSP 2012-2014, ROCB A/P developed its Strategic Action Plan 2012-2014 (Annex 2) that was actually linked to the RSP directly in collaboration with the WCO Secretariat, Vice Chair Office, Regional Steering Group (RSG) members and RILO A/P. ROCB A/P has been conducting capacity building activities in the A/P region based on this ROCB A/P strategic Action Plan 2012-2014 and, for the purpose of proper implementation of this Plan, has developed a more concrete Annual Work Plan taking into account the latest needs and priorities of Customs administrations in the Asia Pacific Region identified through the annual capacity building needs survey. This well-established planning mechanism was considered as one of the "best practices" in the world by the WCO Secretariat and ROCB A/P introduced this good practice at a number of WCO meetings.

Last year, ROCB A/P highlighted the importance of proper needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of the capacity building in our region and decided to reorganize our 4 pillars of activities. The revised 4 pillars of ROCB A/P activities are:

- (1) Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools
- (2) Further enhance collaboration with the development partners
- (3) Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities
- (4) Enhance communication and information sharing among members

As for the 1stpillar, i.e. to support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools, ROCB A/P has been enhancing our efforts to promote the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) and Revenue Package (RP) that were given more attention by our regional members. Particularly, ROCB A/P has been conducting a number of activities relating to RKC, RM and Valuation Control via PCA and we continue these efforts in 2013/2014.

As for the 2nd pillar on partnership with Development Partners, we named 2011/2012 as a year of partnership and since then we promoted this matter significantly in the last two years. As a result, we made extremely good progress in this regard. In 2013/2014, we are planning to organize regional workshop on "business case development" as one of the concrete follow up activities of regional donor conference we successfully organized in 2012 and try to further enhance activities on this pillar.

As for the 3rdpillar, we will continue proper analysis of the latest regional needs and priorities through the capacity building needs survey and will develop tailor-made projects which will meet the expectation of our members. In implementing these projects, we are

expecting more utilization of regional expertise in 2013/2014.

As for the 4thpillar, we are going to continue utilizing our regional communication tools, Regional/ROCB web, e-newsletters as well as good practice report to share members' good practices.

Further details have been incorporated in the ROCB A/P Annual Work Plan 2013/2014 attached as Annex 3 to this report. It is very important to note that the collaborative efforts of ROCB A/P, RTCs, regional members and WCO Secretariat is the only way forward to the betterment of regional capacity building activities and ROCB A/P is looking forward to working with all relevant parties together to achieve this objective.

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Part 4: ROCB A/P Audit

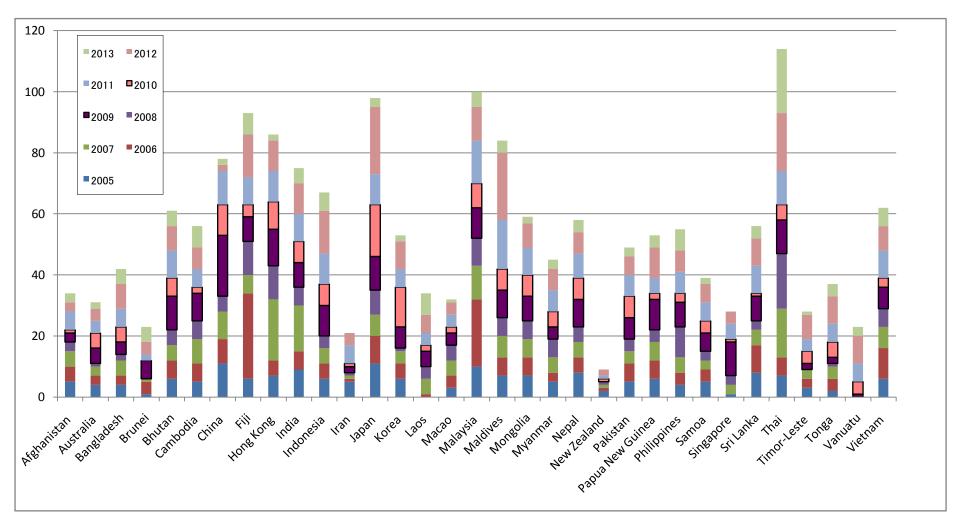
There are 3 different kinds of projects in A/P region, namely (1) projects under the CCF/Japan, (2) projects under the CCF/Korea and (3) projects financed by Development Partners (DPs), such as ADB. Of those 3 funding sources, ROCB A/P only managed CCF/Japan in the last 9 years and this has been subject to the financial audit of the WCO.

Last year, the ROCB A/P underwent an external audit check, from 15 to 17 October 2012, conducted by a company designated by the WCO. As a result of this audit, no discrepancy was reported in the audit report. The audit report as well as the financial statement was reported to all WCO members, including Asia Pacific regional members, at the WCO Finance Committee, to ensure transparency and accountability. Please refer to the documents SF0405 and SF0415 of the WCO Finance Committee.

As a transparent organization with high integrity, the ROCB A/P always welcomes comments and advice. The timing of the next ROCB A/P audit is scheduled in the beginning of October 2013. The result of this audit will also be reported to all members.

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Number of Participants in the Regional Workshops



2013 (Jan – June)

Strategic Action Plan 2012-2014 For WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P)

1. Vision

Being a focal point of capacity building to achieve "World Best Regional Customs effectively realizing "Customs in the 21st Century" together".

2. Mission

To assist building the capacity of Member Customs Administrations to realize efficient and effective Customs

3. Strategic Action Plan

In accordance with the direction given by the Director-Generals and Commissioners of the Customs Administrations in the Asia Pacific Region, the ROCB A/P has set the following Strategic Action Plan. To ensure the close linkage between RSP 2012-2014 and ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan, most of the ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan refers to or is directly quoted from the RSP 2012-2014, and is specified under the following renewed four pillars of ROCB A/P activities. Like the RSP 2012-2014, this ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan is also applicable from July 2012 to June 2014.

- i. Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools
- ii. Further enhance collaboration with development partners
- iii. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities
- iv. Enhance communication and information sharing among members



ROCB A/P Strategic Action Plan (2012-2014)

1. Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools

	Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2012- 2014	КРІ	Target	Timeframe in the RSP
a)	Work with the WCO Secretariat to assist all requesting developing members to have undertaken Diagnostic Phase II	1.1.1-2 nd milestone	Number of members assisted	19/19 members	JUN 2014
b)	Upon request, assist member's efforts to develop AEO(Authorized Economic Operators) program, to increase AEO MRA(Mutual Recognition Arrangement), to share experiences on the implementation of SAFE FOS including TRP (Trade Recovery Program) program.	1.1.1-3 rd to 5 th milestones	Number of instances of assistance provided	At least once per year	JUN 2014
c)	Upon request, assist Non-contracting member's effort to accede to the RKC	1.1.2-1st milestone	Number of implementing members	At least 18/33 members	JUN 2014
	Upon request, assist member's effort on the 1) smooth implementation of HS 2012 (for CPs) (2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs)	1.1.2- 2nd milestone	(1)Number of implementing members (2)Number of contracting members	23/23 members At least 30/33 members (for non-CPs)	JUN 2014
e)	Upon request, assist member's effort in introducing Advance Ruling system for tariff classification decision	1.1.2-3rd milestone	Number of implementing members	At least 20/33 members	JUN 2014



f)	Upon request, assist member's effort to undertake TRS in accordance with the WCO TRS guidelines	1.1.2-4th milestone	Number of members	At least 13/33 members	JUN 2014
g)	Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing WCO Data Model Ver. 3.0	1.1.2-6th milestone	Number of implementing members	At least 10/33 members	JUN 2014
h)	Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	1.1.2-7th milestone	Number of implementing members	At least 15/33 members	JUN 2014
i)	Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment,	1.1.3-1st,milestone	Number of implementing members	At least 22/33 members	JUN 2014
j)	Upon request, assist member's effort in developing national risk management database (e.g. CEN),	1.1.3-3rd milestone	Number of members	At least 11/33 members	JUN 2014
k)	Upon request, assist member's effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool	1.1.3-4th milestone	Number of members	At least 20/33 members	JUN 2014
I)	Upon request, assist member's effort to enhance cooperation under GNC	1.2.1- 1st to 3rd milestones	Number of activities	Once in two years	JUN 2014
m)	Upon request, assist member's effort to promote cooperation and coordination for CBM	1.2.2-1st to 2nd milestones	Number of activities	Once in two years	JUN 2014
n)	Work with Vice Chair and members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues	2.2.1-2nd milestone	Number of discussions in meetings in A/P region	At least once per year	JUN 2014



o)	Undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region(e.g. SAFE FoS, RM)	3.2.2- 1 st milestone	Number of CB activities undertaken	At least 3 times per year	JUN 2014
p)	Work with RILO AP and members to undertake capacity building activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement in the region (e.g. IPR, Commercial Fraud, drugs and precursors, environmental crime)	3.2.2-2nd milestone	Number of CB activities undertaken	At least 3 times per year	JUN 2014
q)	Develop and undertake leadership and management training programs	3.2.3- 1st milestone	Number of activities	At least once per year	JUN 2014
r)	Upon request, assist member to improve the understanding of integrity	ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of activities	Once in two years	JUN 2014

2. Further enhance collaboration with development partners

	Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2012- 2014	КРІ	Target	Timeframe in the RSP
a)	miitiiai iindarctanding natwaan davalonmant	ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of exchange of information	At least 4 times per year	JUN 2014
b)	Work with interested members to organize national meeting with development partners to follow up regional dialogue	ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of national meeting with development partners	At least once per year	JUN 2014
c)	Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners	3.1.1-2 nd milestone	Number of activities	At least twice per year	JUN 2014



3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

	Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2012- 2014	КРІ	Target	Timeframe in the RSP
a)	Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework	3.1.2-1st milestone	Number of experts utilized	Use of accredited experts for at least one half of the requested missions	JUN 2014
b)	Upon request, assist members to promote the WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with RTCs and accredited experts	3.1.2-2nd milestone	Number of implementing members	At least 15/33 members	JUN 2014
c)	Work with developed members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities	3.1.2-3rd milestone	Number of contributions	Meet at least 75% of the ROCB A/P requests	JUN 2014
d)	Work with regional training coordinator to identify and review members' capacity building needs and priorities through conducting a needs assessment via a survey and ongoing consultation	3.2.1-1 st milestone	Number of surveys conducted	At least once per year	JUN 2014
e)	Work with members to ensure their input to ROCB A/P annual plans by responding to the regional needs survey	4.1.2- 1 st milestone	Number of contributing members	At least 25/33 members	JUN 2014
f)	Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due attention to the needs and priorities identified	3.2.1-2 nd milestone	Number of CB activities	At least once per month	JUN 2014
g)	Work with the WCO Secretariat and members to evaluate the regional capacity building program	3.2.1-3 rd milestone	Results of participants' evaluation	At least average of 4 out of 5	JUN 2014



h) Work with the WCO Secretariat and members to follow-up capacity building activities	ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of follow-up work undertaken	At least once per year	JUN 2014
i)	Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back into planning for regional capacity building activities	3.2.1-4 th milestone	post action	Once per year	JUN 2014
j)	Strengthen cooperation among 7 Regional Training Centers paying due attention to promoting "center of excellence"	ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of activities	At least once per year	JUN 2014

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

	Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Relevant part of RSP 2012- 2014	КРІ	Target	Timeframe in the RSP
a)	Work with Members, Vice chair and RILO AP to share experiences on capacity building activities with members on regular basis via regional communication tools (e.g. WCO AP Website and Newsletter, ROCB A/P Website and Newsletters)	3.1.1- 1 st milestone	Number of sharing experiences	At least once every quarter	JUN 2014
b)	Work with members, Vice chair and RTC to share good practices with other members via regional communication tools	4.1.4- 1 st milestone	Number of items shared	At least once per quarter	JUN 2014
c)	Work with WCO to utilize CLIKC platform for virtual discussion for exchange of ideas on a number of capacity building related topics	ROCB A/P specific (not mentioned in the RSP)	Number of use of forum	Once in two years	JUN 2014



Annual Work Plan for ROCB A/P (Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building) (2013/2014)

1. Support the implementation of WCO conventions, instruments and tools

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Work plan for 2013/2014	Timeframe
a) Work with the WCO Secretariat to assist all requesting developing members to undertake Diagnostic Phase II	Send experts to PNG, Vanuatu and other interested countries, if any, to help them to develop/review strategic action plans	June 2014
b) Upon request, assist member's efforts to develop an AEO(Authorized Economic Operators) program, to increase AEO MRA(Mutual Recognition Arrangement), to share experiences on the implementation of the SAFE FOS including the TRP (Trade Recovery Program).	Organize national AEO and other SAFE FOS related workshops for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other interested countries to assist them in developing AEO program or implement other elements of SAFE FOS smoothly	June 2014
c) Upon request, assist Non-contracting member's effort to accede to the RKC	Organize regional workshops to accelerate the accession process for the interested members, such as Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam, to ensure that 18 countries in total in A/P region will accede to RKC by June 2014.	June 2014
d) Upon request, assist member's effort on the 1) smooth implementation of HS 2012 (for CPs) 2) adoption of the HS (for non-CPs)	Organize Train-the-Trainer workshop on HS for the Pacific Islands and, upon request, provide assistance to other interested members to assist their smooth implementation of HS 2012 and to assist their adoption of/accession to HS.	June 2014
e) Upon request, assist member's effort in introducing Advance Ruling system for tariff classification decision	Upon request, provide assistance in introducing Advance Ruling system	June 2014
f) Upon request, assist member's effort to undertake TRS in accordance with the WCO TRS guidelines	Send experts to Myanmar and other interested countries to organize national workshop on TRS so as to facilitate smooth implementation of TRS in their countries in cooperation with the WCO and interested development partners	June 2014



g) Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing WCO Data Model Ver. 3.0	Organize regional workshop on Single Window and WCO Data Model in conjunction with IT Conference to be held in Australia in May 2014.	May 2014
h) Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	Upon request, provide assistance in implementing the resolution on Natural Disaster Relief	June 2014
i) Upon request, assist member's effort in implementing risk management tools including guidelines and Standardized Risk Assessment,	Organize 2 regional workshops on risk assessment, one on cargo selectivity and another on passenger selectivity, taking into account the feedback made by the participants to the previous	Sep 2013 and May 2014
j) Upon request, assist member's effort in developing national risk management database (e.g. nCEN),	workshops. Utilize regional experts accredited through the accreditation	June 2014
k) Upon request, assist member's effort in developing and using national valuation database or the like as a risk management tool	workshop held last year. Taking into account the findings of the 2 regional workshops above, upon request, provide national-level assistance to interested countries to enhance risk management capacity.	June 2014
Upon request, assist member's effort to enhance cooperation under GNC	Upon request, provide assistance to improve understanding on GNC and contribute to the WCO work on the development of GNC action plan	June 2014
m) Upon request, assist member's effort to promote cooperation and coordination for CBM	Upon request, provide assistance in implementing CBM. Encourage members to share their experiences on CBM using ROCB tools, such as ROCB web or ROCB newsletter.	June 1014
n) Work with Vice Chair and members to promote activities to raise awareness of IPR issues	Organize regional/national workshops on IPR to assist members' effort to improve their capability to protect IPR. Promote IPR for both Customs and business.	June 2014
o) Undertake capacity building activities to promote trade security and facilitation in the region(e.g. SAFE FoS, RM)	Organize regional/national workshops to enhance knowledge and skills of members to secure and facilitate international trade including RM, AEO, TRS, PCA, RKC and other modern working methods.	June 2014



p) Work with RILO AP and members to undertake capacity building activities to enhance capacity of compliance and enforcement in the region (e.g. IPR, Commercial Fraud, drugs and precursors, environmental crime)	Organize workshops in cooperation with RILO on the topics of mutual interest, such as IPR, drugs, computer forensics and risk assessment	June 2014
q) Develop and undertake leadership and management training programs	Upon request, work with the WCO to send experts to Maldives and other interested countries to organize leadership and management training	March 2014
r) Upon request, assist member to improve the understanding of integrity	Upon request, provide assistance on integrity	June 2014

2. Further enhance collaboration with the development partners

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Work plan for 2013/2014	Timeframe
a) Enhance collaboration, coordination and mutual understanding between development partners and ROCB A/P	Continue positive participation in the meetings/seminars organized by the development partners	June 2014
b) Work with interested members to organize national meeting with development partners to follow up regional dialogue	Work with Maldives and other interested members to organize national donor meetings to follow up regional dialogue held in Bangkok in May 2012.	June 2014
c) Promote joint activities with international and regional development partners	Work with ADB, UNEP, WB and other interested development partners to conduct more joint workshop on the topics of mutual interest, such as TRS, RKC and RM. Organize business case development workshop as one of the concrete follow up actions from the regional dialogue held in May	June 2014 Feb 2014
	2012 in order to further enhance members' capacity to work with development partners.	



3. Improve needs analysis, planning, delivery and management of regional capacity building activities

Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Work plan for 2013/2014	Timeframe
a) Pool, utilize, support and increase accredited experts in the region based on the framework	Utilize regional experts, both accredited experts and candidates as appropriate, for two-thirds of all capacity building activity in the A/P region to further improve the quality of capacity building activities based on the agreed regional framework. Continue to expand the "candidate list" to have better understanding on existing regional expertise.	June 2014 June 2014
b) Upon request, assist members to promote the WCO e-learning programs in cooperation with RTCs and accredited experts	Upon request, provide necessary information on e-learning to interested members in cooperation with the WCO Secretariat	June 2014
c) Work with developed members to ensure their contribution to the regional capacity building activities	Identify areas of existing expertise and their possible inputs from developed countries and seek further contribution from them for the regional capacity building activities at an early stage of planning	June 2014
d) Work with regional training coordinator to identify and review members' capacity building needs and priorities through conducting a needs assessment via a survey and ongoing consultation	Work with regional training coordinator to further review capacity building needs survey to properly collect members'	June 2014
e) Work with members to ensure their input to ROCB A/P annual plans by responding to the regional needs survey	latest needs and priorities. Work with the WCO, members and development partners to	
f) Develop and conduct capacity building activities paying due attention to the needs and priorities identified	plan, deliver and review capacity building activities paying due attention to the members' needs and priorities	
g) Work with the WCO Secretariat and members to evaluate the regional capacity building program		
h) Work with the WCO Secretariat and members to follow-up capacity building activities		
i) Work with regional training coordinator to feed results back into planning for regional capacity building activities	J	

Annex 3

j) Strengthen cooperation among 7 Regional Training Centers	Organize Heads of RTC meeting to further strengthen cooperation	Nov. 2013
paying due attention to promoting "center of excellence"	among ROCBs and 7 RTCs	

4. Enhance communication and information sharing among members

	Specific Actions of ROCB A/P	Work plan for 2013/2014	Timeframe
a	Work with Members, Vice Chair and RILO AP to share experiences on capacity building activities with members on regular basis via regional communication tools (e.g. WCO AP Website and Newsletters)	Issue ROCB e-newsletter every 3 months and include more information on members experiences Update ROCB web-site after the respective major events	June 2014
b	Work with members, Vice Chair and RTC to share good practices with other members via regional communication tools	Assist member, Vice Chair and RTC to share good practices. Issue another regional good practice report on selected topics	June 2014
c)	Work with WCO to utilize CLIKC platform for virtual discussion for exchange of ideas on a number of capacity building related topics	Establish on-line forum under the CLIKC platform on selected topic to deepen discussion on selected topics	June 2014

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