



Customs News

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HK Customs celebrates International Customs Day

Hong Kong Customs celebrated the International Customs Day 2002 on January 25, 2002. This was the 15th year Hong Kong Customs celebrated the International Customs Day since the Department became a member of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 1987.

This year's celebration was specially dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of the WCO. The International Customs Day in 2002 had also been designated by the WCO as the "Customs Integrity Day" having regard to the importance of promoting integrity among Customs administrations.

A reception was held at the Senior Officers' Mess. The principal guest of the function was the Secretary for Justice, Ms Elise Leung. More than 300 guests including Legislative Council members, Consul-Generals, senior Government officials, local dignitaries, foreign Customs attachés and Customs representatives from the Mainland and Macao attended the reception.

On the occasion, the Secretary for Justice presented the WCO Certificates to 11 officials of Hong Kong Customs in

recognition of their exemplary personal integrity or their sustained efforts to the enhancement of Customs integrity standards in the Department.

World Customs Organization Group



△ Secretary for Justice Ms Elise Leung and Commissioner Raymond Wong proposing a toast at the reception.

Commissioner holds year-end press conference

The Customs and Excise Department made significant achievements on various fronts in the past year, namely in boundary enforcement, trade facilitation, transnational Customs co-operation work, and in internal organisation development, said Commissioner Raymond Wong at the year-end press conference to review the work of the Department in 2001 on February 1, 2002.

This was the first year-end briefing given by the Commissioner since he took up the post in July 2001.

During the press conference, the Commissioner outlined the achievements made by the Department over the past year, including revenue collection, cargo clearance, consumer protection and anti-illegal textiles transshipment. He also commended all staff members for their contributions.

Looking ahead, the Commissioner said the Department would continue its role in combating all kinds of Customs crimes and would take an active role in complementing the work for enhancing the logistics trade in Hong Kong.

Information Unit



▷ Commissioner Raymond Wong and Deputy Commissioner Raymond Li holding the year-end press conference.

WCO Policy Commission Session held in Brussels

The World Customs Organization (WCO) held the 46th Session of the Policy Commission at its Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium in December 2001. Mr Parvin Gordhan, Commissioner of South African Revenue Service, chaired the meeting. Forty-five delegates from 22 Policy Commission Member administrations and Australia, participated as an observer, attended the Meeting.

Commissioner Raymond Wong, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Chow Kwong and Superintendent Sam Lui Kin-hung, attended the Meeting in the capacity of the WCO's Vice-Chairman for the Asia Pacific Region. This is the first WCO meeting the Commissioner attended after taking up the post in July 2001.

The meeting discussed various topical Customs issues and Customs strategy at global level, and noted the progress of the activities of the WCO. To address the global concern over terrorist activities, delegates critically examined the proposed Customs security measures at the frontier in the Customs' Action Plan.

The meeting also reviewed efforts on international mutual administrative assistance with a view to strengthening Customs co-operation against transnational crime; approved recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the WCO; agreed on the proposed General Operating Expenses for financial year 2002/03; and preparation for the celebration programmes for the 50th Anniversary of the WCO in 2002.

World Customs Organization Group



△ Commissioner Raymond Wong (right) and Assistant Commissioner Chow Kwong at the 46th Session of the WCO Policy Commission.

HK Customs attends meeting in Brussels

Assistant Commissioner Chow Kwong led a delegation to attend the Third Meeting of the Joint Customs Cooperation Committee (JCCC) between the European Community (EC) and Hong Kong in Brussels on December 13, 2001. The Hong Kong delegation also included Senior Superintendent Lai Chun-kong and two senior staff from the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels. The EC delegation consisted of 11 members: six were officials from the European Commission and five representatives were from member states stationed in Brussels. The head of the EC delegation, Mr Alfred Komaz, chaired the meeting.

At the meeting, the two sides had a thorough and frank discussion on matters concerning mutual interest. There were presentations and discussion on protection of intellectual property rights; information on new and amended Customs legislation; measures to improve Customs procedures and techniques for trade facilitation; exchange of personnel and training; the EC's bid to join the World Customs Organization and adoption of the Revised Kyoto Convention.

The JCCC was formed under the EC-HK Customs Cooperation Agreement (CCA) signed between the two parties on May 13, 1999, for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the CCA. The JCCC Meeting is held annually.

Customs Liaison Group



△ Assistant Commissioner Chow Kwong (second from right) and Senior Superintendent Lai Chun-kong (first from right) attending the co-operation committee meeting chaired by the head of the European Community delegation, Mr Alfred Komaz (second from left).

Vincent Poon chairs IPR Conference

On the invitation of Interpol, Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon and Assistant Superintendent Mak Hoi-wan participated as guest speakers at the First International Conference on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Lyon, France on November 15 and 16, 2001.

The conference was the first ever hosted by Interpol for promoting global partnership between law enforcement officials and the IP industry in the fight against IPR violations. The international forum sought to enable the active sharing of intelligence and exchange of ideas among the concerned parties to pave the way for further co-operation in IPR enforcement. There were 25 speakers and 91 participants taking part in the two-day conference.



In recognition of Hong Kong Customs remarkable success in the protection of IPR, Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon had the honour of being elected as chairman of the conference. Mr Poon also gave a talk on "Strategic Partnership in Combating IPR Violations", while Assistant Superintendent Mak Hoi-wan made a presentation on "Enforcement Strategy in IPR Protection in Hong Kong".

The presentations ended up with great success and helped demonstrate internationally Hong Kong's commitment to IPR protection. The participants were deeply impressed by the way Hong Kong Customs tackled the IP problem with vigorous enforcement supported by a sound legal framework.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau

◁ (From Right) Assistant Director of Financial and High Tech Crime of Interpol Mr Rainer Buhrer, Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon (Chairman), Mr Iain Grant of IFPI (Vice Chairman), and Crime Intelligence Officer of Interpol Mr Erik Madsen pictured at the conference.

Macao Customs hosts Regional Contact Points Meeting

The 11th Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meeting of the World Customs Organization (WCO)'s Asia Pacific Region was held in Macao between November 13 and 16, 2001. Superintendent Lai Chun-kong and Assistant Superintendent Tsui Lok-ye represented the Department to attend the meeting. On invitation of the Macao Customs Service, Superintendent Sam Lui Kin-hung acted as the advisor to the Meeting Chairman and three Senior Inspectors of the World Customs Organization Group provided secretarial support for the Meeting.

The Secretary for Security of the Macao SAR, Mr Cheong Kuok-va, and the Director-General of the Macao Customs Service, Mr Choi Lai-hang, officiated at the opening ceremony. Twenty-eight delegates from 16 Member administrations and three observers from the WCO, Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), and Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO AP) respectively participated in the Meeting.

During the Meeting, delegates reviewed the progress of key tasks under the 2001/02 Regional Strategic Plan and shared views on the way forward for advancing the Region's work. Delegates were also briefed about the work and achievements of the WCO and RILO AP, and the Customs activities at other regional forums like the OCO, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

The Hong Kong delegation played an active role in the Meeting. In the capacity of the Regional Vice-Chairman, we reported on the major achievements of the Region in the past year and led the Meeting through the deliberations on a number of WCO and regional issues.

The 11th RCP Meeting provided a good opportunity for a review on the work of the Region. Its successful conclusion served to prepare for the Regional Conference for Heads of Customs Administrations to be held in Hong Kong in April 2002.

World Customs Organization Group



△ Participants of the 11th Regional Contact Points Meeting of the WCO's Asia Pacific Region.

WIPO hosts Intellectual Property Workshop

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Intellectual Property Department jointly hosted the "Asian Regional Workshop on Intellectual Property (IP) and Public Administration" from December 12 to 14, 2001. The prime objectives of the workshop are to examine the relationship between the intellectual property system and the role of public administration; provide a forum to exchange views and experience on the subject; and explore measures for promoting awareness of the IP system and its role in national development.

Participants in the workshop were eminent scholars and Government officials from countries in the Asia Pacific Region.

Superintendent Ben Ho Kai-hoi gave two presentations regarding the enforcement of intellectual property rights, namely "Viewpoint of Law Enforcement Authorities" and "Support of Rightholders to Government Efforts".

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau

Visit to New Zealand Customs

To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department's intelligence management, the Intelligence Branch Project Group is now studying the establishment of a new intelligence and co-operation setup and conducting an Information Systems Strategy Study.

In this regard, Assistant Staff Officer (Computer System Studies) Jose Tong Chi-keung and I were nominated to attend a five-day attachment programme to the New Zealand Customs Service in Wellington between December 17 and 21, 2001.

During the visit, we exchanged views on intelligence systems and studied the e-Customs and e-government strategies. We were briefed on the New Zealand Customs intelligence strategy and the heart of its frontline operations - the Computer Modification System.

We also had an opportunity of seeing how the New Zealand Customs applied tactical intelligence products to facilitating air passenger and sea cargo clearance, and investigating non-compliance cases.

In conclusion of the visit, we were received by Mr Robin Dare, the Comptroller of the New Zealand Customs Service.



Sunny Ho Sang-lee
Superintendent
Intelligence Branch Project Group

△ The Comptroller of New Zealand Customs Service, Mr. Robin Dare (middle), Superintendent of the Intelligence Branch Project Group Sunny Ho Sang-lee (right) and Assistant Staff Officer of the Computer System Studies Division Jose Tong Chi-keung (left).

Liaison visit to Thai Enforcement Agencies

Superintendent Cheung Chi-kwong, Assistant Superintendent Lam Sze-hau and Senior Inspector Lam Chun-keung of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (CDIB) paid a liaison visit to the Enforcement Agencies in Thailand between January 15 and 18, 2002, to enhance mutual co-operation and communication.

During the four-day visit, the CDIB officers met the officials of Royal Thai Customs at their Bangkok Headquarters, the Laem Chabang Seaport Customs House, Investigation Bureau Head Office and Bangkok International Airport. They also visited the Office of Narcotics Control Board of the US Drug Enforcement Administration and the National Police Agency of The Netherlands.

Through their meetings with Thai officials, the CDIB officers enhanced their knowledge on the structures, functions and operations of Royal Thai Customs. Following the exchange of information and views on the drug trafficking trends, both sides gained a better understanding of the drug trafficking problem of the region and agreed to further co-operation in combating drug trafficking activities.

Customs Drug Investigation Bureau



▷ Director-General of Royal Thai Customs Mr Manit Wityatem (front row middle) and Deputy Director-General Mr Manas Kampakdee (front row left) met the Hong Kong Customs delegation at the Thai Customs Headquarters.

Visit to Shanghai Customs

By kind arrangement of Shanghai Customs, I visited the International Express Shanghai Customs Supervision Centre on November 9, 2001.

The centre, which commenced operation in May 2001, is situated in the

freight area of Shanghai Pudong International Airport. It consists of five express consignment warehouses accommodating 24 express companies and a comprehensive office building. This office building houses different Government departments. It provides one-stop service to express companies. All formalities such as declaration, duty, transmission of electronic data and examination of express consignment are handled there.

The centre is prominently advanced in technology in its application to clearance facilities. Particularly note-worthy is the Centre's "Express Consignment Clearance Management Systems" which integrate advanced technology and risk management system into a computerised system.

With China's accession to the World Trade Organization and Shanghai being the most important trading port of the Mainland, trade activities between Hong Kong and Shanghai will be increased in the near future. Clearly, we should maintain close co-operation with Shanghai Customs and at the same time, ensure that Hong Kong Customs is not falling behind in maintaining Hong Kong's status as an international and regional aviation hub.



◁ Twenty-four-hour operated CCTV monitoring system.

Maggie Kwok
Head of Airport Command

Training for new comers

With the commissioning of two Customs launches and the purchase of four speedboats in late 2001, additional officers were posted to the Marine Enforcement Division (MED).

To synchronise the efficiency and effectiveness of the newcomers with our modernised Customs fleet, a tailor-made professional seamanship training programme is of pressing need. After months' preparation, MED organised the first self-developed training programme, the Efficient Deck Hand (EDH) Training Course in November 2001.

The EDH course was a six-day programme aimed at lifting the professional standard of Customs crew as well as strengthening their marine knowledge and skills. It was designed to supplement the existing navigational training courses provide by other training institutions. Its curriculum was diversified, including classification of vessels, usage of knots, practice of mooring ropes, engine room practical training and steering practice.

On the first day of the course, Head of the Marine and Land Enforcement Command Leung Ho and Deputy Head Liu Cheung-shing gave short briefings to boost the morale of the participants and also signify their support to the training programme.

Marine and Land Enforcement Command



△ A trainer explained the usage of life jackets to trainees.

Forensic Computing Course

With the advent of the IT era, nowadays more crime syndicates have used computers and internet facilities in running their illegal businesses. To keep up with the emerging trend, the Department has established in spring 2000, its first internet investigation team, the Anti-Internet Piracy Team (AIPT) which is a seven-man taskforce tasked with investigating online copyright piracy activities.

Apart from internet piracy, the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau (IPIB) has also started to enforce the legislative amendments in April 2001 concerning the fight against corporate use of infringing copyright works,

particularly, computer software. To equip investigators with the necessary skills to tackle computer-based piracy, IPIB has frequently explored computer training opportunities for staff members.

As a leader of the AIPT, I am pleased to have the opportunity to attend a two-week Forensic Computing Course in the UK jointly run by Cranfield University and the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham in November 2001.

The course is tailored-made for law enforcement agencies and investigators tasked to track down criminals in the

cyber-space and to conduct forensic examination of computers and computer-related exhibits seized by frontline officers. The training programme covers all the fundamentals of recovery of evidence from PC-based computer systems and the presentation of the digital evidence at court.

Jimmy Tam Yat-keung
Senior Inspector
Copyright Investigation Division

Recruitment Exercise for Customs Inspector

A Recruitment Exercise for Customs Inspector was launched in October 2001. The Department received a record high response of 6 893 applications.

The Recruitment Exercise is divided into five stages, namely Physical Fitness Test, Preliminary Interview, Written Examination, Extended Interview and Final Interview.

The Physical Fitness Test had already been held at the Customs and Excise Training School (CETS) from December 1, 2001 to January 23, 2002. A new set of Physical Fitness Test comprising standing long jump, threading, isometric strength and 800-metre run was adopted. A total of 2 809 candidates turned up and 1 898 of them successfully met the requirements, representing an overall passing rate of 68 per cent.

The Preliminary Interview stage began on January 2, 2002 and ended on January 31, 2002. There were six interview boards each comprising one Assistant Superintendent and one Senior Inspector. As at January 23, 1 503 candidates attended the Interview and 301 of them emerged successfully from the Interview, representing a passing rate of 20 per cent.

The Written Examination will be held on March 16, 2002. For the first time, the Civil Service Examinations Unit of the Civil Service Bureau will set the examination paper and arrange venues for the Department.

Training Administration and Trade Controls Training Division
Office of Training and Development

Looking for “Items of Interest”

The Customs and Excise Training School (CETS) has a history of 27 years since its foundation in 1974. Every year the Museum of CETS attracts more than 3 000 visitors from various organisations, schools and all walks of life.

To enhance the attractiveness of the Museum, CETS appeals to all serving and retired colleagues to donate treasured items representative of Hong Kong Customs or of special commemorative value to the Museum. This will not

only enrich the collection of display items in the Museum but also reflect the history of Hong Kong to visitors.

For enquiries concerning donation, please contact Inspector (Training Support) at 2450 6764 Ext. 10.

Edwin Chan Chi-wah
Inspector
Customs and Excise Training School

Roll-out of EGOA

The project of Extension of Government Office Automation Programme (EGOA) was launched on December 10, 2001. The successful roll-out was attributable to the concerted efforts of the project teams of the Office of Information Technology and the Information Technology Services Department, as well as our senior management's full support and users' facilitation.

The GOA user group is now extended to all staff at the rank of Inspector or Assistant Trade Controls Officers and above, with a total number of 1 550 users. The Department is one of the only two Government departments with GOA users over 1 500.

All users in the Department are provided with GOA and Internet email accounts, as well as Internet browsing service. As the project is adopting a common workstation approach, all EGOA users can log in to the GOA service at any EGOA/

CAPS workstations with the zip disk issued to them individually.

The roll-out of EGOA has definitely enhanced our communication and work efficiency. In 2002/03, we are going to install GOA kiosks for the common access by all departmental staff.

Office of Information Technology



System Administrators conducting test on the EGOA servers. >

Case Processing System launches

The Case Processing System (CAPS) was launched on December 20, 2001. It is the very first workflow and document management system in the Government. At a cost of more than \$62 million, the system was set up to monitor and enhance the quality, efficiency, effectiveness and security in case processing, spanning from dissemination of intelligence to facilitation of seizure records update.

With CAPS, electronic case files are available to facilitate the maintenance and on-going transmission of case data and case information can be disseminated in no time. CAPS is another milestone in the Department's IT development.

Although it may take some time for officers to accustom to the new system, it will certainly bring significant

improvement in case processing as compared to the paper mode processing of case files.

Office of Information Technology

Airport Command organises logistics seminar

With the growing importance of logistics to Hong Kong, the Department has to play a more active role in assisting the logistics industry. One important thing is to acquaint ourselves with sufficient knowledge on logistics operations to allow us to offer necessary assistance to the industry.

To this end, the Airport Command organised a seminar on "Logistics Development in Hong Kong" on November 1, 2001 in collaboration with the Hong Kong Logistics Association. The Airport Command also assisted in organising a similar event at the departmental seminar on December 8. The two seminars were well received by our officers.

In early 2003, an international consortium, Tradeport Hong Kong, will operate the first on-airport logistics centre in Hong Kong. With a mission to facilitate trade and industry, the Airport Command stands ready to provide necessary facilitation to ensure a speedy flow of cargo at the logistics centre.

Airport Command



△ Head of Airport Command Maggie Kwok presenting a plaque to Mr Stephen Ip, Secretary of Hong Kong Logistics Association.

Customs participates in Creativity Fair

The Department participated in the First Creativity Fair organised by the Intellectual Property Department at the Tamar Site on November 10 and 11, 2001. The theme of the Fair focused on the importance of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, which is instrumental to creative thoughts and productions.

The Fair featured a variety of game booths, new products displays, live stage performances, and fashion shows, which had drawn as many as 20 000 people to the event.

The Department set up a game booth to publicise our "anti-piracy" campaigns. The booth offered pleasure shooting, where two "laser beam rifles" were provided to members of the public to shoot down notorious shopping centres where pirated optical disc retailing is rampant.

Through publicity and the game, our booth indeed delivered a clear message - the importance of IPR protection.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



△ (From right) Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon; Central and Western District Council Chairman Mr Wu Chor Nam; Director of Intellectual Property Mr Stephen Selby; Legislator Choy So-yuk; and pop singer Miss GiGi Leung staging the kickoff of the Creativity Fair.

Anti-piracy Reward Scheme renews

Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon Yeung-kwong signed a renewed agreement of the Anti-piracy Reward Scheme for the year 2002 amidst the presentation of the 24th Top 10 Golden Song Awards, hosted by Radio Television Hong Kong on January 18, 2002.

Representing the Department, Mr Poon cast his "electronic" signature on the silver screen, while representatives of the copyright industry were invited on stage to witness the great moment.

The Anti-piracy Reward Scheme was first launched in January 1998 to encourage members of the public to report copyright piracy. The Reward Scheme 2002 was funded by nine prominent members of the copyright industry: the Business Software Alliance, the Hong Kong Optical Disc Manufacturers Association, the Interactive Digital Software Association, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (Hong Kong Group), the Motion Picture Association, the Motion Picture Industry Association, Philips Hong Kong,

the Software Publishers Association, and Sony Computer Entertainment. The total available fund for 2002 is \$485,000.

The Scheme also covers internet piracy activities. The reward for such cases is raised significantly from \$20,000 to a maximum of \$80,000.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



◁ Assistant Commissioner Vincent Poon presenting the Best Selling Album Award to Miss Joey Yung.

Informer Reward Scheme renews



△ Assistant Commissioner Simon Wong Shiu-ming and Miss Doris Ho of the Tobacco Institute of Hong Kong at the reward scheme signing ceremony.

Assistant Commissioner Simon Wong Shiu-ming and Miss Doris Ho of the Tobacco Institute of Hong Kong (TIHK) signed a renewed Agreement on "Informer Reward Scheme" for the year 2002 on January 16, 2002.

The Scheme complements the Government reward in suppressing the trade of illicit cigarettes by paying monetary rewards for information leading to seizure of duty-not-paid or counterfeit cigarettes.

Under the Agreement, TIHK undertook to make an annual contribution of \$1.2 million for the Scheme and to reinforce their campaign against smuggling and peddling of illicit cigarettes.

Since the introduction of the Scheme in 1994, a total of \$3.16 million reward money has been contributed. The Scheme has proven to be a success in assisting the Department in combating illicit-cigarette activities.

Anti-Illicit-Cigarette Task Force

Customs Passive-alert dogs

Being a pioneer amongst local law enforcement authorities, the Department has mooted and started the employment of passive-alert dogs (PADs) to screen passenger since 1999.

The Department now has a total of six PADs. They were trained by the Surrey Police Dog Training School in the UK and the Hong Kong Police Dog Unit. The PADs work seven days a week.

It is not easy to be a PAD handler. The job is complicated and it involves careful planning and good application of professional knowledge and skills. The

handler has to figure out how to make use of a dog and where to position it to prevent someone from slipping through behind it. Moreover, the handler has to ensure smooth passenger flow while the dog is working.

As PADs continue to prove their worth in the fight against dangerous drugs activities, they also demonstrate the full play of public relations with loveable appearance and good association with people during their work.

Pong Wing-kuen
Senior Inspector
Narcotics Dog Unit



△ Passive-alert dog "Holly" detected drug concealment from an arriving passenger.

9 officers promoted to SS and AS

Commissioner Raymond Wong and Acting Deputy Commissioner Vincent Poon presented promotion letters to officers promoted to the rank of Senior Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent respectively at the Senior Officers' Mess on December 28, 2001.

Officers promoted are as follows:-

Senior Superintendent

Lam Ming-mon

Leung Koon-wah

Ko Chi-lok



△ Commissioner Raymond Wong presenting a promotion letter to Senior Superintendent Ko Chi-lok.



Assistant Superintendent

Shiu Hok-bun

Chan Kwai-wing

Lam Kam

Koo Ko Sau-ling

Mak Hoi-wan

Lin Shun-yin

Office of Service Administration

◁ Commissioner Raymond Wong presenting a promotion letter to Senior Superintendent Lam Ming-mon.

Obituary - SS Wong Man-on

Senior Superintendent Wong Man-on passed away on December 7, 2001 at the age of 49. Mr Wong joined the Department in 1974 and was promoted to the rank of Senior Superintendent in 1996.

In his 27 years of service, Mr Wong made tremendous contributions to the Department. To mark his achievements in anti-narcotics operation, he was awarded commendations by the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner in 1982 and 1992 respectively. In 1998, Mr Wong was tasked with formulating departmental policies and strategies in respect of intelligence handling and Customs co-operation at regional and international levels. Through his effort and dedication, the Department is able to reinforce the co-operative partnership with overseas Customs administrations. On October 14, 2001, Chief Executive of the HKSAR Tung Chee Hwa awarded Mr Wong the Customs and Excise Medal for Meritorious Service in recognition of his exemplary service and exceptional ability.

Mr Wong was completely devoted to his work and displayed a high degree of honesty, loyalty and integrity. He won the highest regard of all. We all feel sorrow for his tragic death.



Office of Service Administration