



# CUSTOMS NEWS

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## THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

A recurrent theme of the Customs News in recent years has been the changing role and transformation of customs service. In this issue, we carry a number of articles which highlight the new role and responsibilities of the Hong Kong Customs service.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) has chosen the theme of “Customs and Business: Improving Performance through Partnership” for this year’s International Customs Day (ICD) which was held on January 26. Traditionally, WCO Certificates of Merit are awarded to customs officials at the ICD to recognise their distinguished service to customs. This year we saw for the first time ever the award of WCO Certificates of Merit to non-customs related individuals and organisations in recognition of their contribution to promoting co-operation between customs and business.

The choice of the ICD theme and the decision by the WCO to award WCO Certificates of Merit to outside individuals and organisations this year is in response to the growing recognition that, instead of the traditional “tax collector” role,

modern day customs has an increasingly important role to play in facilitating trade and helping business. In many parts of the world, customs is no longer seen as an obstacle to trade but a valuable partner of the business community: business needs customs to maintain the safety and security of the international supply chain and enhance the efficient movement of goods across borders; customs needs the support and co-operation of the business community to protect the community and promote economic growth.

Leveraging on our unique advantage as a free port, Hong Kong Customs has been at the forefront of building partnership with the business sector. Regular dialogue with and knowing the needs of our business operators have enabled us to provide a most customer friendly clearance procedure for our trade and business. The success of this strong customs and business partnership has been extended to other customs activities with very good results. Without the strong support and co-operation of the business sector, Hong Kong would not have been able to make the big strides that it has made in



intellectual property rights (IPRs) enforcement and protection of consumer interests, for example, in recent years. The award of WCO Certificates of Merit was only a small gesture to give recognition to those individuals and organisations who have made valuable contributions to promoting and fostering the close customs and business partnership that has been a hallmark of Hong Kong’s success as an international trade and logistics centre.

**Richard Yuen**  
**Commissioner**

## HK CUSTOMS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

Hong Kong Customs held a reception on January 26, 2010 to celebrate the 2010 International Customs Day (ICD). The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, officiated at the reception ceremony.

The theme of the 2010 ICD is "Customs and Business: Improving Performance Through Partnerships". Echoing the theme, the World Customs Organization (WCO) Certificate of Merit was for the first time awarded to business sector representatives during the reception.

Stressing the importance of a partnership between the Customs and business, Mrs Lau said Hong Kong's success was due in no small measure to its having an efficient and business-friendly Customs service.

"We must continue to promote partnership between Customs and business so that we appreciate each other's concerns. Moreover, by working together, we can improve performance by possibly lowering the need for Customs inspection and reducing the cost of doing business," she said.



The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau (seventh right), and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (sixth left), with the representatives of organisations and the Hong Kong Customs officers who are awarded the World Customs Organization Certificates of Merit for their significant contributions to promoting customs-business partnership.

Also speaking at the reception, Mr Yuen said this year's ICD was different from previous celebration days.

"The choice of the theme and the decision to award the WCO Certificates of Merit to outside individuals and organisations reflects a growing recognition within and outside the international Customs community that Customs has an important role to play not only in protecting public revenue and the security of the borders but also in facilitating trade and promoting economic growth. It also represents recognition that through building partnerships with the business community, we could achieve better Customs compliance through less regulation, creating a win-win situation for all," Mr Yuen said.

At the reception, Mrs Lau presented the WCO Certificates of Merit to the Consumer Council, six business sector organisations and three officers of the Hong Kong Customs in recognition of their notable contributions to the implementation and enhancement of the "customs-business partnership".

About 350 guests, including Executive Council and Legislative Council members, government officials, Consuls General, foreign Customs attaches, Customs representatives from the Mainland and Macau and private sector stakeholders, joined the celebration.

**Customs Liaison Bureau**

## CUSTOMS CONSUMER PROTECTION BUREAU COMBATS SHORT-WEIGHING ACTIVITIES WITH ASSISTANCE OF HK POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

One of the major responsibilities of Hong Kong Customs is to protect consumer interests and to uphold a fair trade environment. The Customs Consumer Protection Bureau of Trade Controls Branch plays an important role in enforcing relevant legislation.

The Bureau consists of three divisions: the Weights and Measures Division, Consumer Goods Safety Division, and Toys and Children's Products Safety Division, which enforce the Weights and Measures Ordinance, the Consumer Goods Safety Ordinance and the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance respectively.

Customs officers of the Weights and Measures Division tackle short-weighing activities by carrying out spot checks and investigations to ensure that traders use accurate weighing equipment for trade and sell goods by weight, number or measure fairly.

During spot checks and investigations of complaint cases, the officers found that some unscrupulous traders employed tricks, such as using inaccurate weighing equipment, blocking customers from seeing the scales, weighing the goods quickly so that customers could hardly see the indicator of the scale, and mixing sub-standard products with good ones.



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (right), presents a souvenir to the President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Professor Timothy Tong.

A common trick is the use of inaccurate scales. In 2009, Customs officers found some unscrupulous scrap traders using manipulated electronic platform scales. They adjusted the scales by using the remote control during transactions.

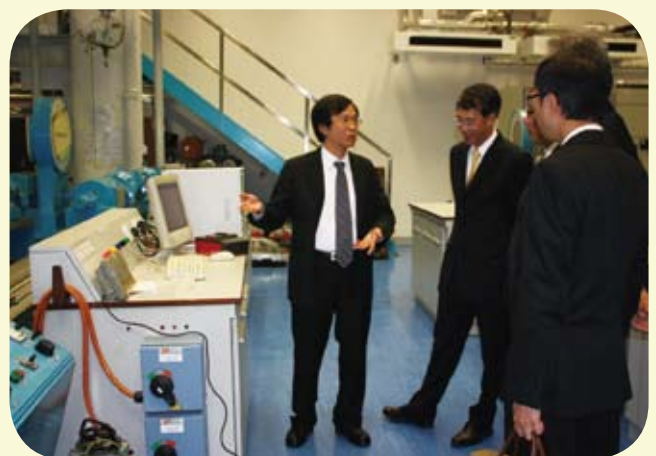
At the beginning, the officers found it quite difficult to differentiate which scales had been modified. By posing as scrap vendors, the officers identified targets with intelligence and also information from complaint cases. In a series of operations, a batch of suspected dubious scales was seized.

The seized scales were then sent for examination by the Department of Electrical Engineering of Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU). Results showed

that the electronic platform was installed with a remote control device and adjusted with a non-standard conversion unit. Unscrupulous scrap traders could easily change the readings by simply pressing the remote control to make the weight of the scrap paper shown by the scales less than the actual weight by 10% to 38%.

With the support of HKPU's advanced technology and testimony from the university's experts, about 30 unscrupulous scrap traders were prosecuted by Hong Kong Customs for infringing the Weights and Measures Ordinance and the platform scales involved were confiscated in 2009.

In appreciation of HKPU's contribution to helping Hong Kong Customs to protect consumer rights, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, together with the Head of



Head of Department of Electrical Engineering of HKPU, Professor Ho Siu-lau (left), demonstrates the examination of a manipulated electronic platform scale to Mr Yuen (second left), and other members from the Trade Controls Branch.





The manipulated electronic platform scales seized from scrap traders.

Trade Controls, Mr Cheung Sai-yin, and other members from the Trade Controls Branch, paid a visit to the university's Department of Electrical Engineering on December 3, 2009 to see how the cheating devices installed in the scales were discovered with

the university's expertise and technology.

The delegation was received by the President of HKPU, Professor Timothy Tong, Vice President (Academic Development), Professor Suleyman Demokan, Associate Vice President, Professor Alex Wai, and Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Professor Ho Siu-lau. Professor Tong briefed the delegation on the latest research projects and development of HKPU. They also discussed future co-operation.

At the laboratory of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Professor Ho demonstrated to the delegation their latest projects, such as Smart Railway Condition Monitoring System, Environmentally Friendly Electric Vehicle and High Efficiency Induction Cooker.

## Consumer Protection Bureau

## CUSTOMS PASSING-OUT PARADE

A passing-out parade was held at the Customs and Excise Training School on April 1, 2010 with nine probationary inspectors and 94 Customs officers being inspected by Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development), Mr Leung Koon-wah.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Leung encouraged the graduates to uphold justice and integrity when performing duties, to work professionally with courtesy as well as to take "life-long learning" as their untiring learning attitude so as to keep pace with the ever-changing social environment and the sustainable development of Hong Kong.

Among the graduates, all of the nine probationary inspectors came from serving Customs Officer (CO) Grade officers with

various years of service. Six of them were promoted through the "Special Appointment Scheme" (SAS) or the "In-service Appointment Scheme" (IAS) while the rest came from open recruitment exercise. Officers with five years' service in the rank of Chief Customs Officer (CCO), or officers with three years' service and relevant qualifications are eligible to apply to the schemes.



Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development), Mr Leung Koon-wah, inspects the probationary inspectors and Customs officers.

Application requirements for the "Special Appointment Scheme":

- a) five years' service in the rank of CCO;
- b) (i) a pass in both English and Chinese Language at Form 2 level or equivalent; or
  - (ii) a pass in the Government Standard Chinese Examination
    - Intermediate I and Government Standard English Examination
    - Intermediate I, or equivalent;
- c) good overall performance in the preceding five years;
- d) the debarring effect for promotion and appointment derived from the punishment under any disciplinary action has been nullified; and
- e) profound knowledge of Customs work and exceptionally good leadership.



Mr Ho Wing-kuen (left) and Ms Lee Lam-wai (right) were promoted through the “SAS” and the “IAS” respectively. Mr Ho joined the Service in 1981 as a CO and was promoted to CCO in 1998. He was promoted to the rank of inspector through the “SAS”. Ms Lee joined the Service in 2005 as a CO and was promoted to the rank of inspector through the “IAS”.

Through the SAS and IAS, the Department hopes to promote a “life-long learning” attitude among serving officers. The schemes also serve as recognition of serving officers with good potential and abilities and help motivate

staff morale, so as to serve the community with “Commitment and Excellence” – the motto of the Department.

### Customs and Excise Training School

Application requirements for the “In-service Appointment Scheme”:

- a) three years’ service in the Service,
- b) five subjects at Grade E or above in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE), or equivalent;
- c) Grade E or above in Chinese Language and English Language (Syllabus B) in HKCEE, or equivalent, if these subjects are not included in (b) above;
- d) good overall performance in the preceding three years; and
- e) the debarring effect for promotion and appointment derived from the punishment under any disciplinary action has been nullified.

## HK CUSTOMS AND NCAC SIGN CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT AGAINST ON-LINE PIRACY

Hong Kong Customs entered into the first-ever Co-operative Arrangement with the National Copyright Administration of the People's Republic of China (NCAC) on March 19, 2010 to strengthen the protection of on-line copyright. Representing Hong Kong Customs to sign the Co-operative Arrangement was Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Tam Yiu-keung, while NCAC was represented by the Director General of the Copyright Division of NCAC, Mr Wang Ziqiang.

The Department has joined hands with NCAC in the fight against optical discs piracy since 2002. Given the solid co-operative partnership, the Department and NCAC signed the co-operative

arrangement against Internet piracy to further strengthen the co-operation.

Both administrations agreed to provide mutual administrative assistance and to exchange information to enhance investigation capability in copyright protection within the ambit of their respective laws, powers and resources. Under the Arrangement, the two administrations would meet regularly to review the co-operation in the fight against on-line piracy.

During their stay in Hong Kong, Mr Wang and his six-member delegation visited the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of Hong Kong Customs and the



Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Tam Yiu-keung (right), exchanges documents with the Director General of the Copyright Division of NCAC, Mr Wang Ziqiang, after signing the Co-operative Arrangement.

Intellectual Property Department, and met with representatives of the copyright industry to understand their work in protecting copyright in Hong Kong.

### Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau

## HK AND MAINLAND SIGN AGREEMENT ON CUSTOMS FACILITATION MEASURES FOR WINE

The Commissioner of Hong Kong Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, and the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Sun Yibiao, signed a co-operation agreement on facilitation measures for wine entering the Mainland market through Hong Kong on February 9, 2010.

The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, and the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism), Miss Yvonne Choi, witnessed the signing of the co-operation agreement.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mrs Rita Lau said that Hong Kong's zero wine duty policy and favourable business environment helped create room for wine traders in the territory to tap the Mainland market, and that the signing of the agreement would enhance co-operation between the Hong Kong and Mainland Customs on wine-related matters, and fortify Hong Kong's position as a regional wine trading and distribution hub.

"We are very grateful to the General Administration of Customs for their support. The measures to be put in place will help enhance transparency and certainty in doing business, thus facilitating Hong Kong's wine traders who wish to expand their operations in the Mainland," Mrs Lau said.

Mr Sun said that the scope, level and quality of co-operation between the Hong Kong and Mainland Customs had been

enhanced continuously in recent years. Meanwhile, co-operation between the two customs administrations in the valuation of alcoholic products and data exchange was highly fruitful. While the Hong Kong and Mainland Customs had been maintaining a close co-operation, these customs facilitation measures for wine would further accelerate the trade development between the two places.

The facilitation measures are open to registered traders in Hong Kong and the Mainland. Wine traders can apply to be the registered exporters and importers respectively, and enjoy customs facilitation measures. The main features of the facilitation measures include:

- pre-valuation of wine duty: registered importers in the Mainland may request Mainland Customs for advance valuation of duty 10 working days before the wine shipment is exported from Hong Kong to the Mainland. When the shipment arrives at a Mainland boundary point, Mainland Customs will complete the clearance procedure within specified timeframes; and
- expediting the clearance process at Mainland ports: for registered importers who do not choose to use the pre-valuation service, Mainland Customs will shorten the clearance time at the Mainland boundary points.

Under the facilitation scheme, the Trade and Industry Department (TID) will be responsible for the registration of Hong Kong traders



The Financial Secretary, Mr John C Tsang (third left), the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau (second left), the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism), Miss Yvonne Choi (first left) and the Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Ms Guo Li (first right), witness the signing of the co-operation agreement on February 9 on customs facilitation measures on wine by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (fourth left) and the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs, Mr Sun Yibiao (second right).

while the Mainland Customs will register their Mainland importers. Hong Kong Customs will assist TID to verify registration applications in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Customs will act as the contact point for the Mainland and TID on matters of registration and exchange of information under the facilitation scheme. The Department will also provide verifications for the Mainland upon request.

The facilitation measures will be implemented as a pilot in Shenzhen in the second quarter of 2010. After trying out the scheme in Shenzhen for six to nine months, the two sides will review the situation and consider extending the scheme to other major Mainland cities such as Shanghai, Guangzhou and Beijing.

**Office of Dutiable  
Commodities Administration**

## IPR CARD HOLDER DESIGN COMPETITION CUM “YOUTH AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR” CEREMONY

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, officiated at the “Respect Intellectual Property on the Internet” Card Holder Design Competition cum “Youth Ambassador of the Year” prize presentation ceremony held at the Y-Theatre of Youth Square in Chai Wan on January 16, 2010. More than 400 eminent representatives from the intellectual property rights (IPRs) industry, leaders and members of the 11 youth uniformed groups under the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme (YAS) and participating student groups in the card competition attended the ceremony.

The YAS was initiated by Hong Kong Customs in 2006 in collaboration with the copyright industry. Some 200,000 members of 11 local youth uniformed organisations joined the scheme which was aimed at promoting a sense of respect for IPRs works among young people.

As a round-up for the year of the scheme and a recognition for the efforts of the supportive Youth Ambassadors, an “Ambassador of the Year” prize presentation

ceremony was organised.

In 2009, different training and educational activities were organised under the YAS, including visits to animation production studios, video shooting workshops, Customs facilities and the card-holder design competition and movie shows, to strengthen members' knowledge of IPRs.

The Card Holder Design Competition was jointly organised by Hong Kong Customs and the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) to encourage creativity and strengthen public awareness of intellectual property rights. More than 800 students, YAS members and the “I Pledge” Campaign members had submitted entries. The winning designs were produced for distribution to the public.

Speaking at the prize presentation ceremony, Mr Yuen said that the fight against piracy activities would never be successful without the co-operation and support of various sectors in society.



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen (eighth left), the Deputy Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Peter Cheung (seventh left), the Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Tam Yiu-keung (seventh right), Head of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau, Mr Albert Ho (sixth left), and representatives of 11 youth uniformed organisations officiate at the prize presentation ceremony for the “Respect Intellectual Property on the Internet” Card Holder Design Competition and “Youth Ambassador of the Year”.

He noted that Hong Kong Customs had been joining with other government departments, including the IPD, and the copyright industry in boosting public respect for IPRs, especially among youngsters, through civic education and various publicity activities, including the YAS.

Also officiating at the ceremony were the Deputy Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Peter Cheung, the Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Tam Yiu-keung, the Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau, Mr Albert Ho, and representatives of the 11 youth uniformed organisations.

**Intellectual Property  
Investigation Bureau**



## HK CUSTOMS ATTENDS 2010 1ST APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES MEETING

The Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Yu Koon-hing, led a four-member delegation of Hong Kong Customs to attend the 2010 First APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP1) Meeting in Hiroshima, Japan from March 2 to 5, 2010.

At the meeting, members of the delegation exchanged views with Customs delegates of other member economies on major international Customs issues, including international supply chain security and facilitation of legitimate trade, simplification of

Customs procedures, application of information technology in Customs clearance and Customs intellectual property rights (IPRs) enforcement at the border.

Staff Officer (Special Duties), Mr Leung Shung-chi, and Divisional Commander (Trade Descriptions Investigation), Mr Koon Hon-chuen, presented to the meeting the new "Road Cargo System" and Hong Kong Customs' role and strategy in IPRs enforcement.

In 2010, Hong Kong Customs and Singapore Customs will jointly help organise an APEC

2010 Ease of Doing Business - Trading Across Borders capacity building programme, which aims at sharing best practices on efficient trade processes for cross border trade. The meeting also endorsed Hong Kong Customs to work with Japan Customs in developing initiatives for Customs administrations of the APEC member economies to share experience and best practices on IPRs border enforcement.

Before attending the SCCP1 Meeting, Mr Yu and Divisional Commander (WCO and APEC), Mr Mak Tak-wing, also participated in the APEC Workshop on Global Value Chains on March 1, 2010.

Through active participation in the APEC meetings and workshops, Hong Kong Customs is keeping its finger on the pulse of the developments of Customs initiatives in the APEC forum.



Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Yu Koon-hing (sixth left, front row), with other delegates of the 2010 First APEC SCCP Meeting.

**Customs Liaison Bureau**

## CHANGE OF FEMALE UNIFORM HAT

From April 1, 2010, female Customs officers put on a new uniform hat with a green serge surrounding, the brim folding up at the back and the front part slightly inclining downwards.

The change reflects joint efforts of the staff and management to upgrade the professional image of the Department and to make the hat more comfortable to wear. Taking this opportunity, the slight

differences between the Uniform Scales of male and female officers have also been tallied. The uniform hats and other items in the Scale for female are now extended to the rank of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner.

Having accomplished its historic mission since 1981, the obsolete hat was kept in the Customs Museum as part of the Department's heritage.



The new female uniform hat comes under spotlight at the passing-out parade on April 1, 2010.

**Office of Service Administration**



## VISITS OF NIGERIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE AND INDIAN CUSTOMS

To maintain closer co-operation with counterparts to strengthen international enforcement action against illegal activities, Hong Kong Customs receives delegations from time to time from overseas enforcement agencies.

The Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service, Mr D.I. Abdullahi, led a 15-member delegation to visit Hong Kong Customs from February 22 to 24, 2010 to get the latest developments of the Department. During the visit, Mr Abdullahi met with the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Richard Yuen, and other directorate. The delegation

also visited Customs facilities at the Hong Kong International Airport, Shenzhen Bay Control Point, Kwai Chung Customhouse and Customs Marine Base.

Meanwhile, the Director General (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) of Indian Customs, Ms Vijai Lakshmi Sharma, visited Hong Kong Customs on February 18 and 19, 2010. Leading a 5-member delegation, Ms Sharma met with the Deputy Commissioner of Customs and

Excise, Mr Luke Au Yeung, and Acting Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Ms Kwok Ngan-ping, to exchange views on enhancements in intelligence sharing and investigative assistance.

The delegation also visited the Shenzhen Bay Control Point and the Air Passenger Terminal to grasp the latest developments of the air mode and land mode clearance operations of Hong Kong Customs.



Acting Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Leung Lun-cheung (centre), and Acting Head of Land Boundary Command, Mr Tang Yi-hoi (first right), introduce the facilities of Shenzhen Bay Control Point to Ms Sharma (second right) and the delegation.



Mr Abdullahi (seventh right), together with other delegation members, visits the airport and is briefed by Acting Head of Airport Command (ninth right), Mr Edmond Cheng.

## HK CUSTOMS ATTENDS 7TH MEETING OF THE HEADS OF WCO REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development), Mr Liu Cheung-shing and Inspector of the Office of Training and Development, Mr Kong Hoi-kit, attended the 7th Meeting of the Heads of World

Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Training Centres at the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics (NACEN) in Faridabad, India on December 21 and 22, 2009. Participants from

WCO Regional Training Centres in India, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Hong Kong reported the work of their training institutes and exchanged views on training matters during the meeting. Officials from the WCO and the WCO Regional Office of Capacity Building also participated in the meeting to review the 2009 achievements and take forward the regional training activities to be organised in 2010.



Mr Liu (second left, front row), with the participants from WCO Regional Training Centres.

## STUDY VISIT TO MONETARY AUTHORITY OF MACAO

In order to prepare for the implementation of a new regulatory regime for regulation of remittance agents and money changers (RAMCs) in Hong Kong, the Customs' Trade Controls Branch Special Project Planning Team (TSPT) visited the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) on January 29, 2010 to understand in detail the regulatory regime for RAMCs in Macao, and their supervisory work.

The delegation was led by the Head of TSPT, Mr Chan Chi-keung, and consisted of six members, including four from TSPT and two from the Office of

Training and Development.

During the visit, the delegation gained a better understanding of the operational issues of the regulatory regime, including

the issues relating to licence application and related verification work, supervisory challenges as well as issues on controlling unlicensed RAMCs.



Mr Chan (fourth left), with AMCM Deputy Director, Mr Wilson Vong (fifth left), and officers of both sides.

## VISIT TO KOREA CUSTOMS SERVICE

To enhance the human resources management and training systems of Hong Kong Customs, four Customs officers from the Office of Training and Development, and the Office of Service Administration visited the Korea Customs Service (KCS) in Daejeon, Korea from February 23 to 26, 2010 to learn their newly designed and implemented personnel management system and training programmes.

The visit also helped the officers to broaden their horizons and

foster their networking with overseas enforcement agencies.



The delegation led by Assistant Staff Officer (Higher Training), Mr Lee Yuen-man (third left), was received by the Director General of Korea Customs Service, Mr Chung Il Sok (fourth left), and Director of Korea Customs Service, Mr Kim Jai Il (second left).



## TRAINING OFFICIALS FROM POLICE AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS VISIT CETS

A total of 23 officers from Police College and Immigration Service Institute of Training and Development visited Customs and Excise Training School (CETS) on January 29, 2010. Apart from visiting the facilities of CETS, the officers took the chance to share their training experiences. Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development), Mr Liu Cheung-shing, who received the visitors, noted that the visit provided a good platform for different training officers to share their training experiences and best practices with their counterparts.



Mr Liu (left) receives a souvenir from a representative of the visiting officers.

## “SEAFREIGHT OPERATIONS” TRAINING COURSE

Hong Kong Customs joined with the Vocational Training Council (VTC) in organising a training course on “Seafreight Operations” for 30 Customs officers on March 24, 2010.

The course was jointly developed and designed by the Port and Maritime Command (PMC) and Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi) of the VTC with the assistance of Hong Kong Center for Transport and Logistics and The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong.

It covered various topics including “Freight Forwarding”, “Liner Operation & Third Party Logistics”, “Insurance & Liability”, “River Trade & Mid-Stream Operations”, “Containerisation & Container Leasing”, and “Updates on Seafreight Industry and Trade

Association”.

Customs officers from PMC, the Office of Training and Development, and the Intelligence Bureau attended the course. The VTC lecturers and the logistics industry practitioners had good discussions with

the officers on various aspects including the contemporary practices in the logistics industry so that the officers could apply the knowledge in their daily duties such as cargo clearance, case investigation, intelligence analysis as well as training and development.



A total of 30 Customs officers attend the “Seafreight Operations” course.



## INTEGRITY WORKSHOP FOR DUTIABLE COMMODITIES AND MOTOR VEHICLES INDUSTRIES

In order to foster an open, transparent and productive relationship between Customs

and the private sector, the Office of Prosecution and Management Support and the Office of Dutiable

Commodities Administration of Hong Kong Customs and the Independent Commission Against Corruption jointly organised the Third Integrity

Workshop for the business partners of dutiable commodities and motor vehicles industries on March 2, 2010. This workshop was also aimed at echoing the Revised Arusha Declaration (2003) adopted by the World Customs Organization (WCO) for promoting integrity at the international level. More than 30 managers from the industries attended the workshop to learn how to develop in-house measures to strengthen integrity in their organisations.



More than 30 participants from the industries attend the workshop.

## YOUNGSTERS TO PARTICIPATE MORE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION

The annual general meeting of the Intellectual Property Rights Protection Alliance (IPRPA), chaired by Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Tam Yiu-keung, was held on March 30, 2010.

To foster closer co-operation between Hong Kong Customs and the intellectual property rights (IPRs) industry, it was endorsed at the meeting that members of the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme (YAS), aged from 15 to 18,

could take part in the Protection of IPRs on the Internet Creative Competition, which was jointly organised by Hong Kong Customs and IPRPA. Participants are required to submit proposals with creative ideas on IPRs enforcement and education.



Mr Tam (fourth left), chairs the meeting.

The competition is open for submission of entries from May 4 to June 14. Eleven winners of the competition will join a study tour to Japan in late August to deepen their understanding of the work and contributions of intellectual property protection through visits to Japanese institutions and cultural exchange.

## EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO 2010

Hong Kong Customs participated in the Education and Careers Expo 2010 from February 4 to 7, 2010. A booth on Customs' work and recruitment information was set up by the Office of Training and Development, the Office of Service Administration and the Trade Controls Branch at the Expo. Officers of the Customs Detector Dog Division also stationed at the booth to explain their job duty to visitors. The Expo, organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, was well received with over 100,000 visitors.



The Customs booth set up at the Careers Expo introduces the work and recruitment information to the public.

## HK CUSTOMS STRENGTHENS CO-OPERATION WITH INDUSTRIES AGAINST ILLICIT FUEL AND CIGARETTE ACTIVITIES

To demonstrate Customs' determination in combating illicit fuel and cigarette activities with the industries, Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Tam Yiu-keung, signed agreements with representatives of the oil and tobacco industries in mid-January this year to renew the reward schemes, which aimed at encouraging the public to report illicit fuel and cigarette activities.

The participating oil and tobacco companies are Chevron (HK) Ltd., Chinaoil (HK) Ltd., Exxonmobil (HK)

Ltd., Shell (HK) Ltd., Sinopec (HK) Ltd., British-American Tobacco (HK)

Ltd., Japan Tobacco (HK) Ltd., and Philip Morris Asia Ltd.



Mr Tam (second right), signs an agreement with representatives of the tobacco industry.