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THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

When this article goes to print, I would have taken up the appointment as Commissioner for almost six months. Although familiarisation visits did allow me to come across some of you, it is nothing like this opportunity of communicating directly with everyone through a formal channel.

Despite being an Administrative Officer who spent the last 10 years working predominantly alongside professional officers, this assignment is particularly interesting and stimulating for three

reasons. Firstly, the leadership of a disciplinary service demands greater resoluteness and sensitivity than most civilian posts. Secondly, Customs is shouldering a broad range of statutory responsibilities and will be called upon to take up additional duties related to financial regulation and consumer protection. Thirdly, our department is somewhat a rare breed that has to carry the onerous burden of calibrating its law enforcement regime against aspirations for business facilitation.



Deeds are usually far more persuasive than words. There is no better way to demonstrate sincerity and commitment by immersing early into different work streams. The learning curve was rather taxing, and I am grateful to many of you whose knowledge and advice have enabled me to settle down confidently and effectively. Being unfamiliar with the job presents both benefits and pitfalls – one has less to draw on when making judgments and decisions but could take a fresh perspective and dare to query the norm. After going through a compressed “induction” period, it is imperative for me to focus on some priority tasks and pragmatic ways to accomplish them.

The National Development and Reform Commission has laid down a bold vision for faster pace of integration and closer co-operation within the Pearl River Delta Region. This long-term strategy is important in upholding the attractiveness of Hong Kong amidst rising competition posed by other Asian cities and preserving



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (second left), is briefed by Divisional Commander (Lok Ma Chau (Operations)), Mr Hui Kim (second right) on the operation of the X-ray Vehicle Inspection System at the control point.



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (third right), meets with Customs colleagues during his familiarisation visits to various formations.

its unique niche as an incubator for enterprises from the Mainland in their quest for overseas expansion. We should thus lose no steam in preparing for commissioning of infrastructure projects such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link that aim at accelerating flow of cargo and passenger traffic. Apart from addressing the requirement for new manpower and equipment, a critical look should also be taken on how processes and procedures should be modified to reap better efficiency without affecting border security.



Mr Cheung (fourth left) sees for himself the Passenger Processing Contraband Detector at Lok Ma Chau Control Point.

To keep up the impetus of charting a structured career path and according balanced exposure to colleagues while providing effective management tools to guide staff training and deployment, we have held a series of seminars and fora on proposed revisions to the Customs

Professionalisation Scheme. The latest package represents a compromise between underlying objectives and practical constraints but stays organic and sustainable, capable of being refined in light of feedback. I urge you to play an active part in shaping this initiative that affects a wide cross-section of our workforce.

As one of the most dynamic logistics hubs and international financial centres, Hong Kong must prevent itself from being



During the visit to Shenzhen Bay Control Point, Mr Cheung (second left) talks with the frontline officers to better understand their work.



During the visit to the Customs Marine Base in Stonecutters Island, Mr Cheung (second left) is briefed by the Group Head (Marine Enforcement), Mr Lam Chun-keung (third right), about the searching equipment used by the Customs Diving Team.

exploited by criminals who are getting increasingly organised and sophisticated. I will make a strong bid to elevate our readiness and technical capability against such harsh reality. Strengthened interface between formations, enhanced collation/analysis of intelligence and innovative investigation tactics are main areas that deserve close attention. The

extensive liaison network with other law enforcement agencies and the amicable relationship cultivated with relevant trades should also be consolidated.

Finally, I have emphasised on various occasions that part of my mission here is to nurture talents with potential to take the helm as Commissioner and I will remain

engaged with the staff unions to draw up a pragmatic succession plan.

The past few months have been a refreshing and invigorating experience. Let me finish by wishing you a healthy and fulfilling Year of the Dragon.

Clement Cheung
Commissioner



Mr Cheung (second left) visits the Customs Sector Patrol Launch to see the work of the Ports and Maritime Command.

ROCARS LAUNCHED TO PROVIDE ONE-STOP SEAMLESS CLEARANCE FOR LAND CARGO

The successful implementation of the Road Cargo System (ROCARS) on November 17, 2011 has marked a milestone in the electronic customs clearance services of the Hong Kong Customs.

From now on, there is an efficient and convenient electronic declaration and clearance platform for sea, land and air cargo to bring the Hong Kong Customs' mode of clearance in line with other Customs administrations around the world. It ensures a highly efficient cargo clearance service which enhances

enforcement effectiveness and provides facilitation to the industry by shortening their crossing time and increasing their competitiveness.

After more than five years of planning and preparation, the ROCARS was fully implemented on November 17 to provide a fast and more time-saving mode of land boundary Customs clearance so that the industry can enjoy a one-stop seamless Customs clearance service.

The implementation of ROCARS is conducive to Hong Kong's

trading and logistics industries, which in turn, benefiting Hong Kong's economy. Before the system was used, when a truck arrived at a land boundary control point, the driver had to stop at an inspection kiosk of the Immigration Department for immigration clearance and then proceed to a Customs inspection kiosk for Customs clearance. The entire clearance process took over 50 seconds on average. Now, all cross-boundary trucks, except those selected by Customs for inspection, are not required to stop at the land



The ROCARS was fully implemented on November 17, 2011.



The system benefits the shipper and trucker industries.

boundary control points for cargo inspection. Generally speaking, Customs clearance of cargoes and immigration clearance for drivers at one-stop service can be completed within 20 seconds, significantly reducing the crossing time.

To enlist support from the industry before the full implementation of ROCARS, the Department

had set up the ROCARS User Consultation Groups with shipper and trucker industries to solicit their opinions as well as to explain the operational mode of the system to them. Moreover, the Department had also organised a series of promotional activities and training courses and provided outreaching services with a view to facilitating the industry to make registration and to familiarise

with the system. Since 2010, the Department had arranged outreaching teams to provide on-site support to more than 5,000 shippers and forwarding agent companies, and provided training courses and briefing seminars for more than 5,000 stakeholders in Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

No doubt, the success in launching the system is attributed to the support of the shipper and trucker industries as well as the concerted effort of the colleagues of the Hong Kong Customs and other government departments/policy bureaux.

The achievement of ROCARS has earned recognition by winning different awards in the year. The system won a Silver Award of Best Public Service Application (Transformation) of the Hong Kong Information and Communication Technology Awards, a Bronze



Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing (centre), and Senior Staff Officer (Special Duties), Mr Leung Shung-chi (first right) represent the Department to receive the Bronze Prize of the "Departmental Enhancement Award (Large Department Category)".

Prize of the “Departmental Enhancement Award (Large Department Category)” and a Special Citation of the Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme. These awards have reflected the Department’s efforts in improving the efficiency of Customs clearance and enhancing its services quality level.

The ROCARS benefits not only the shipper and trucker industries, but also the Hong Kong Customs’ long-term development. The system will be able to provide frontline colleagues and the management with more information so that they can keep abreast of the latest industry

situation more effectively and carry out analysis scientifically, allowing for corresponding deployment strategies. Besides, ROCARS has also facilitated the implementation of the Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (ITFS). ITFS aims at facilitating the delivery of intermodal transshipment cargoes by reducing the number of Customs inspections on transshipment cargoes. Intermodal transshipment cargoes, if required, will be subject to a single Customs inspection only at the Hong Kong International Airport/Kwai Chung Customhouse, instead of having to be inspected at both the entry and exit control points.

The implementation of ROCARS has marked an important breakthrough and a step forward made by the Department in enhancing the competitiveness of the Hong Kong logistics industry. ROCARS will undoubtedly become a great asset to both the Department and the industry users.

Special Duties Team



The system provides one-stop service for cargo and immigration clearance.

2011 HK DISCIPLINED SERVICES CULTURAL EXCHANGE DELEGATION



Vice-President of the People's Republic of China, Mr Xi Jinping (second right) meets the Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation at the Great Hall of the People. Among the delegation members is Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (first left).

Led by the Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose S K Lee, the "2011 Hong Kong Disciplined Services Cultural Exchange Delegation" visited Beijing, Wenzhou, Ningbo and Shanghai from October 24 to 30, 2011.

The delegation comprised members from five disciplined services, including Customs and Excise Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Immigration Department, Fire Services Department, and Correctional Services Department. Mr Ambrose S K Lee was the Chief Delegation Head while the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, and the heads of other disciplined services were the Chief Deputy Delegation Heads. The Customs' delegation, which consisted of 21 members from various formations, was led by Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Fong

Tai-wai, and Superintendent (Staff Relations), Mr Wong Man-chiu.

The delegation was met by the Vice-President of the People's Republic of China, Mr Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Vice-President Xi was briefed by the heads about the latest development of the disciplined services in Hong Kong. He reminded the disciplined services to act by law and assured that the Central Government would

support the disciplined services to perform their duties. Vice-President Xi also encouraged the disciplined services to serve the members of the public and have more cultural exchange with the Mainland counterparts in the future.

On the following days, the delegation visited various historic monuments, private enterprises and different city development projects. In addition, the Customs' delegation was cordially received by different units including the General Administration of Customs and the Shanghai Customs.

The visits have enabled the Customs' delegation members to have direct exchanges with Customs officials in the Mainland and to get a deeper understanding of the recent developments of the Mainland Customs, which will enhance enforcement effectiveness of both sides.

Office of Service Administration



The Chief Delegation Head and Secretary for Security, Mr Ambrose S K Lee, Honorary Chief Delegation Head, Mr Richard Tang, Chief Deputy Delegation Head and Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, and the delegates from the Customs and Excise Department at the Great Hall of the People.

NETHERLANDS AND UK CUSTOMS DELEGATION VISITS HK CUSTOMS



Mr Yu (sixth right, front row), meets with the delegation led by Mr Devilee (fifth right, front row) and Mrs Gillian Castle (fourth right, front row), at the Customs Headquarters.

Senior Policy Staff Member of the Netherlands Customs Headquarters, Mr Erik Devilee, and Lead for Supply Chain Security Projects of Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC), Mrs Gillian Castle, led a nine-member delegation comprising officials from the Netherlands Customs, the HMRC and the United Kingdom Border Agency to

visit the Hong Kong Customs on August 25, 2011.

During the visit, Mr Devilee briefed members of the Department on "Project Integrity" and "Project Cassandra", two European Union's initiatives aiming at enhancing intermodal global container supply chain visibility and security.

The Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, and officers of various major formations attended the briefing, and had a good exchange of views on enhancing supply chain management and a good sharing of experiences on the implementation of trade facilitation measures with the visiting delegation.

VISITS OF DELEGATIONS FROM OVERSEAS AUTHORITIES AND OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN HK

To maintain a close co-operation with overseas counterparts to strengthen international enforcement action against illegal activities, the Hong Kong Customs (C&ED) receives delegations from time to time from both overseas authorities and official representatives in Hong Kong.

On September 5, 2011, the Deputy Commissioner of Australian Federal Police (AFP), Mr Michael Phelan and Senior Police Liaison Officer of AFP in Hong Kong, Mr Matt Rippon, visited C&ED and discussed mutual co-operation on drug enforcement.

The Deputy Attorney General of

the United States Department of Justice, Mr James Cole, led a seven-member delegation to visit C&ED on November 2, 2011 and exchanged views on combating transnational drug trafficking and piracy activities.

In order to strengthen co-operation ties between Customs



Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Cheung (third right), and Mr Seaton (third left) at the Customs Headquarters Building.

authorities of the European Union and C&ED, the Head of Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao (EU Office), Mrs Maria Castillo Fernandez, and Head of Trade and Economic Section of the EU Office, Mr Stefan Amarasinha, visited C&ED on November 3, 2011 to discuss issues of mutual concern.

On November 22, 2011, the British Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macao, Mr Andrew Seaton, led a two-member delegation to meet with the Commissioner of the Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, and have discussion with the Commissioner on the adoption of risk management for striking

a balance between facilitating trade and combating smuggling activities.

The Consul-General of Royal Thai Consulate-General in Hong Kong, Mr Chakri Srichawana, and Consul (Customs), Mr Senis Pattanasiri, visited C&ED on November 23, 2011 to discuss with the Department about the recent seizure of counterfeit Thai rice in an anti-counterfeit operation and other Customs issues.



Mr Cheung (sixth right) and Mr Cole (sixth left) with the U.S. delegation members.

HK CUSTOMS VISITS NATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS

Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human Resource Development), Ms Kwok Ngan-ping, led a three-member delegation to attend a meeting with National Education and Training Centre of the General Administration of Customs on training and co-operation in Beijing from October 17 to 21, 2011. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on training issues and explored opportunities to strengthen future co-operation on training. The delegation also

visited Qinghuangdao Customs Training School of the General Administration of Customs and

Shanghai Customs College to see for themselves the training facilities there.



Ms Kwok (fourth right) and Deputy Head of National Education and Training Centre of the General Administration of Customs, Mr Wang Donghong (fifth right).

WCO CONFERENCE OF PARTNERSHIP IN CUSTOMS ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The 6th World Customs Organization (WCO) Conference of Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) was held from September 14 to 16, 2011 in Geneva,

Switzerland.

Acting Deputy Commandant of Customs and Excise Training School, Mr Leung Tak-yin, and Senior Inspector, Mr Leung Yiu-man, represented

Hong Kong Customs at the conference.

A total of 197 participants of Customs administrations, academic institutions and the private sector from 65 countries attended the meeting to share their knowledge and experience on four areas: co-ordinated border management, measurement of Customs performance, economic security and poverty reduction, and integrity. The meeting also strengthened the bonding of relevant stakeholders of different sectors.



Mr Leung Tak-yin (left) and Mr Leung Yiu-man at PICARD Conference 2011.

SHENZHEN DELEGATION VISITS HK CUSTOMS

The Standing Committee of Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress and the Market Supervision Administration of Shenzhen Municipality visited Hong Kong Customs on July 18, 2011.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged experience on enforcement strategies pertaining to consumer protection covering the areas of the safety of toys, children's products and other consumer

goods as well as the legitimate trade descriptions for general merchandise. The visit enhanced mutual co-operation between both sides and was conducive to the formulation

of enforcement strategies and legislative amendments with a view to guarding against the supply of unsafe products and goods bearing false trade descriptions in the market.



The Hong Kong Customs officers and the delegation members at the meeting.

HK CUSTOMS VISITS JAPAN

To better understand Japan's radiation scanning work and foster the mutual understanding with Japan Customs, the Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, led a delegation comprising officers of

Airport Command and Ports and Maritime Command to visit Tokyo and Osaka in Japan from October 16 to 22, 2011 at the invitation of Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation met Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries, and Ministry of Finance on the latest situation in Japan. Through discussion and sharing of experiences, the delegates were briefed on the measures on radiation scanning work. They also paid visits to Tsukiji Market, Itochu Corporation, Japan Frozen Foods Inspection Corporation and Japan Agricultural Cooperative to understand the procedures, workflow and the equipment used for radiation testing and examination.



The delegation visits the laboratory of Japan Frozen Foods Inspection Corporation to see for themselves the equipment used for radiation testing.

During the visit to Osaka, the delegation made a courtesy call on the Director General of Osaka Customs, Mr Soichi Yoshimura. They exchanged



Mr Yu (left) presents a souvenir to Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Shinichi Nishimiya.

views on the smuggling trend and shared experience on the use of large-scale equipment for examination of sea cargo. The visit has facilitated the Hong Kong Customs to develop a network with Japan Customs and other relevant government departments for the formulation of strategies on related work.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE

A seminar to facilitate the public and private sectors to join forces in the fight against counterfeit medicine was held on August 24, 2011. The seminar, “Public-Private Partnership to Combat Counterfeit Medicine”, was jointly organised by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and the Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry (HKAPI). It marked a milestone in the co-operation amongst C&ED, HKAPI, Department of Health, Consumer Council, pharmaceutical industry, academia and patients’ groups to work out enforcement strategies and other measures against counterfeit medicine.

The seminar discussed a series of co-operation measures, including a task force formed by

the C&ED with the partnership of various industry organisations to formulate effective strategies to enhance enforcement effectiveness; a “Name-and-Shame” scheme to reveal names of convicted dispensaries to arouse the public awareness of counterfeit medicine; and submission of adverse impact of

counterfeit medicine to the court as a reference for sentencing.

It is expected that the co-operation can ensure the safety of medicine and secure the integrity of the import/export channels and the local retail market, so that only safe and effective medicine will reach the hands of the patients.



Deputy Commissioner, Mr Luke Au Yeung, gives a speech at the seminar.

TRAINING FOR DOG HANDLERS AND CUSTOMS DETECTOR DOGS IN UK

To strengthen the anti-narcotics work by Customs detector dogs, three dog handlers and detector



Customs Officers with the instructors of Surrey Police Dog Training School.

dogs attended an eight-week “Drugs Detector Dog Handler Course” organised by the Surrey Police Dog Training School in the United Kingdom from August 15 to October 7, 2011.

After the eight-week

intensive training, the detector dogs which are Labradors can now distinguish different kinds of dangerous drugs, such as heroin, ketamine, amphetamine and cocaine. The dog handlers and their partners were also given practical training at London Gatwick Airport and railway stations. Throughout the exercises, they had strengthened the bonding between each other and the confidence in performing the duty.

THE 3RD APEC SEMINAR ON PROTECTION OF CYBERSPACE



Mr Lee (second left, last row) and Mr Chan (first left, last row) and other representatives at the seminar.

The 3rd Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Seminar on Protection of Cyberspace, hosted by Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), the

Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS), and the Korea Communications Commission (KCC), was held in Seoul, Korea on September 7 and

8, 2011.

The seminar was held in response to cyber security threats which had become more diverse and

complex. The APEC economies had been very concerned about these threats.

A total of 86 participants from 16 member APEC economies, including two Hong Kong Customs representatives: Superintendent, Mr Lee Hon-man and Systems Manager, Mr

Chan Yu-kwong of the Office of Information Technology, attended the seminar. The participants emphasised the importance and necessity for cyber security information sharing, user awareness enhancement, development of security expertise as well as integrated security governance at the seminar.

They also reaffirmed that international co-operation and trans-border collaboration were the prerequisites for securing the cyberspace and close co-operation was crucial to maintaining better protection of APEC member economies from various cyber threats.

COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT SEARCH COURSE

To train up a pool of Customs officers specialised in aircraft search for the Airport Command (APC), the Airport Apron Division organised two half-day “commercial aircraft training” courses on September 24 and October 22, 2011.

Each course consisted of two sessions. The first session was a lecture conducted by the former Manager of Line Maintenance of Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company (HAECO), Mr William Leung, and the second session was a practical workshop cum observation tour to HAECO.

Through interactive lectures, practical exercises, and group discussions, the participants gained a deeper understanding of the generic commercial aircraft design, occupational safety, and potential hazard and risks of aircraft search.



APC officers attend the course at HAECO.

RGIB SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

As frontline officers may face certain level of danger in their daily enforcement operations, with the assistance of the Departmental Safety and Health Officer (DSHO), the Revenue and General Investigation Bureau (RGIB) has started the Safety Management System (SMS) from November 2009 with a view to enhancing the safety awareness of officers at work and fostering a safety culture. In July 2011, RGIB achieved satisfactory results in an evaluation conducted by the DSHO with reference to the Continual

Improvement Safety Programme Recognition of System, developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Council. RGIB will continue

the implementation of the SMS to enhance the safety awareness of all members.



RGIB officers and DSHO regularly hold meeting to discuss work safety issues in the bureau.

SEMINAR AND CONSULTATIVE SESSIONS ON ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING & COUNTER-TERRORIST FINANCING (FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS) ORDINANCE

The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Bill was passed as the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance, Chapter 615 (AMLO) and gazetted on July 8, 2011. The AMLO will be implemented from April 1, 2012.

Under the AMLO, the Customs and Excise Department will be

responsible for administering the licensing regime for money service operators (i.e. remittance agents or money changers) and supervising licensed money service operators on compliance with the customer due diligence and record-keeping obligations.

The Department published a draft Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing on its

website on September 30, 2011 and members of the public were invited to give views and comments on it before November 18, 2011.

The Trade Controls Branch Special Project Team (TSPT) organised two seminars on June 7 and 9, 2011 respectively for Trade Controls Officer Grade Officers to know more about the Ordinance.

TSPT also introduced the background and the statutory requirements of the Ordinance and the draft Guideline to representatives of remittance agents and money changers at four consultative sessions in October and November 2011. The Department will take into account the written comments received after the consultative sessions from the industry when finalising the Guideline.



About 280 representatives attend the four consultative sessions.

SEMINAR ON “RULES OF EVIDENCE: VISUAL IDENTIFICATION”

To enhance Customs officers' knowledge in identification evidence, Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Hayson Tse, and Senior Public Prosecutor, Mr Beney Wong, of the Department of Justice, were invited by the Office of Prosecution and Management Support (OPMS) to give a seminar

on identification evidence to the officers on August 1, 2011.

During the seminar, the speakers shared with participants a recent Court of Appeal's judgment, essential principles in collecting identification evidence, evidential value of identification parade and different forms of identification

tools, and proof of identification evidence at court coupled with case studies and discussion.

Around 250 officers from various formations participating in the seminar found it very informative and useful in enriching their knowledge and legal concept on visual identification of suspects.



Mr Hayson Tse (fourth left), Mr Beney Wong (second right), and officers of OPMS take a group photo after the seminar.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS PRESENTS AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR CERTIFICATES TO FOUR ENTERPRISES

To tie in with the “SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade” initiated by the World Customs Organization, the Hong Kong Customs launched the “Hong Kong Authorised

Economic Operator (AEO) Pilot Programme” to promote international supply chain security in June 2010. The Programme was designed to suit the unique local trading environment under

the concept of Customs-to-business partnership. Under the Programme, a joining company is required to go through the validation process in different dimensions to ensure its compliance with the

international safety and security standards for the betterment of the international supply chain security and efficiency. The Programme also provides facilitation to traders, creating a better business environment.

On October 3, 2011, four accredited enterprises received the AEO certificates. They were the Janel Group of Hong Kong Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, DHL Global Forwarding (Hong Kong) Limited and Fuji Xerox (Hong Kong) Limited.



Head of Intelligence Bureau, Mr Mak Hoi-wan (centre), presents the AEO certificates to the four enterprises.

“YOUTH AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD” PRESENTATION CEREMONY CUM “I PLEDGE” ANTI-INTERNET PIRACY PUBLICITY SHOW

The “Youth Ambassador of the Year Award” Presentation Ceremony cum “I Pledge” Anti-Internet Piracy Publicity Show, co-organised by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) and Intellectual Property Department (IPD), was held on July 16, 2011.

The award presentation ceremony was an activity under the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme initiated by the C&ED in 2006 in collaboration with the copyright industry. Some 200,000 members of 11 youth uniformed groups have so far joined the scheme, which is aimed

at promoting a sense of respect for intellectual property rights (IPRs) among young people.

The “I Pledge” campaign, launched by the IPD in 1999, has so far attracted over 10,000 members to join. The members have pledged not to buy or use pirated or counterfeit goods and to show respect for the IPRs of others.

For this year’s “Youth Ambassador of the Year Award”, the Hong Kong St. John Ambulance Brigade was awarded the Champion, while the Junior Police Call and the Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps were

awarded the first and second runners-up respectively. Individual outstanding youth ambassadors were also awarded certificates in recognition of their active participation in the scheme and their outstanding performances in promoting IPRs protection.

Eight winners of “Protection of Intellectual Property Rights on the Internet Creative Competition” also shared with guests and participants their experiences gained from their study tour to the IPRs organisations in Tokyo in August 2010.



Representatives of C&ED, IPD and 11 youth uniformed groups officiate at the "Youth Ambassador of the Year" Award Presentation Ceremony cum "I Pledge" Anti-Internet Piracy Publicity Show.

INAUGURATION OF THE 2011-13 CROSS BOUNDARY TRANSPORT INDUSTRY CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP

At the inauguration of the 2011-13 Cross Boundary Transport Industry Customer Liaison Group (CBTICLG) held on October 10, 2011, the Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, on behalf of the Department, presented appointment certificates to the group members and expressed gratitude to them for their support in previous years. Since its establishment in 1999, the CBTICLG has played a crucial role in providing a platform for the cross boundary transport industry to reflect their views on Customs clearance services and to promote a sustainable development of the cross boundary transport industry. In particular, in developing the Road Cargo System (ROCARS), the Hong Kong Customs has

maintained a frank and open dialogue with the industry to achieve a smooth implementation of the system.

In the following 45th CBTICLG meeting, members were updated on the latest development of

the ROCARS. Mr Yu assured members that with the full implementation of the ROCARS on November 17, 2011, the Department would provide adequate support to assist the industry in migrating to the system smoothly.



Members of the CBTICLG.