



CUSTOMS NEWS

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THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

I see no better way to start by reporting on the 2013-14 Resource Allocation Exercise. A total of 138 new posts have been granted to our department, expanding its establishment by 2.3%, providing reinforcement on border management, drug interdiction, trade facilitation, consumer protection and money service supervision. This outcome is both a timely and fitting recognition of your unwavering dedication and admirable achievement towards serving the local community.

Export control of powdered formula continues to take a heavy toll on frontline staff, with parallel trading activities under control but showing no sign of abatement. As I assured colleagues while paying visit to different outposts, no effort will be spared in seeking feasible ways to relieve the acute workload. My promise is now materializing since 35 new posts are already earmarked for this critical area of responsibility. Moreover, some of you might notice that the idea of engaging retirees on contract basis to provide short-term contingent support has been enshrined in the package of proposals to address human resource development needs in the civil service recently unveiled for consultation. It is indeed heartening to know that the courage and conviction to change not only enabled us to deliver on a demanding mission, but also opened up a brand new tool for manpower planning and deployment.

Turning to the anti-narcotics campaign, sustained and high tensioned enforcement has substantially reduced the scope for Hong Kong to be exploited as a transit point or distribution hub of dangerous substances. The

downward trend recorded on number of drug abusers also vividly reflects the return that a singular persistence could yield to the well being of society. Aimed at leveraging fully on the international network built up over past years, 40 new posts are reserved to upgrade our capacity of collating intelligence and conducting joint operations. Consequential reorganization being rolled out in the Customs Drug Investigation Bureau should enable us to respond more promptly and react more effectively when dealing with incidents connected with syndicated crime.

On the other hand, an uneventful introduction of ROCARS somewhat masked its intrinsic value in reconciling clearance optimization with target profiling. The powerful impact of this linkage could best be illustrated by a successful way in which large quantity of contrabands are intercepted at the land boundaries. For instance, seizures involving over 500,000 sticks of illicit cigarettes rose sharply by 47% to 25 in 2013, significantly altering the risk-reward ratio of this potentially lucrative business. From an institutional perspective, it helps to break down the traditional blockade that inspection and facilitation are antagonistic, and that efficiency necessarily compromises integrity. The enlightening experience gleaned from this project will guide our way on how to engineer similar reforms for air and marine traffic, converging towards the ultimate goal of implementing a single electronic platform for advance cargo declaration. Meanwhile, a third mutual recognition arrangement under the Authorized Economic Operator Programme was ratified with Korea in February, and another one with Singapore will come to



fruition in June. Hectic preparations are taking place to install software interface and formulate operational procedures so that accredited entities could derive immediate and practical benefits from the scheme.

Armed with new enforcement powers and propelled by avid public attention, Customs has become a bastion of consumer rights protection. The task in hand is by no means straightforward as we have scanty experience of investigation on the prescribed unfair trade practices and there is no local precedence from which the courts could draw reference when handling the related prosecutions. Although immense pressure is brought upon by an explosion of public complaints that exceeded 3,200 at the end of March, we have patiently invested resources in those cases that involve substantial public interest or landmark judicial significance. Given the addition of 40 new posts, I eagerly look forward to further progress on this front that will anchor the cherished reputation of Hong Kong as a preferred place of doing business and a premier tourist destination.

Clement Cheung
Commissioner

CHIEF EXECUTIVE COMMENDS HONG KONG CUSTOMS



The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung, speaks at the dinner reception.

The Chief Executive, Mr C Y Leung, said at a dinner reception by Customs' staff in December last year that Hong Kong Customs played a significant role in border control and trade facilitation which helped to maintain Hong Kong's trade reputation and competitiveness. Mr Leung commended the Customs for its determination and courage in facing challenges and coping with difficulties flexibly.

He noted that various infrastructure projects commenced in recent years had brought challenges to

the Customs. Among the projects were the Cathay Pacific Cargo Terminal, Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Liantang/ Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point. While providing opportunities for the growth of Hong Kong, the infrastructure had also brought challenges to the Customs. Mr Leung encouraged all staff to keep up the good work and professionalism, and to contribute to the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

The Customs & Excise Service Senior Officers' Mess Annual Dinner was held on December 20, 2013 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. In addition to Mr Leung and his wife, about 310 guests, including the Under Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, Customs' senior officers and members of other Disciplined Services, also joined the reception.

**Customs & Excise Service
Senior Officers' Mess**

MRA TRIO THEMED ON CLEARANCE FACILITATION

Another great stride has been taken to enhance clearance facilitation as the Hong Kong Customs entered into an arrangement with the Korea Customs in February 2014 to mutually recognize the respective Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programmes.

This mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) is the third of its kind that the Department has reached with other Customs administrations. The first two are concluded with the Mainland and India Customs.

The MRA allows local AEOs be treated as equivalent to Korea's AEOs, resulting in reduced inspection and prioritized clearance for their shipments bound for Korea. The facilitation measures assist local traders in accessing the vast Korean market, bringing more business opportunities to

the import/export and logistics industries. The Department will give equal facilitation measures to Korean AEOs. The MRA serves as a catalyst to strengthen the trade ties with Korea.

The Department expects to enter into MRA with the Singapore Customs in June this year. To further strengthen the ties with Hong

Kong's principal trading partners, the Department will continue to take active steps to develop MRAs with other Customs administrations, such as the Customs of Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia and New Zealand.

Office of Supply Chain Security Management



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung (right), and the Commissioner of the Korea Customs, Mr Baek Un-chan (left), exchange the MRA documents.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS CELEBRATES 2014 INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

In support of the 2014 International Customs Day (ICD), a reception was held on January 24 at the Customs Headquarters Building. The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mrs Carrie Lam, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, officiated at the reception.

The theme for this year's ICD is

“Communication” with the slogan “Sharing Information for Better Co-operation”. Mrs Lam mentioned in her speech that communication was an essential element of corporate governance and public administration – support and understanding of the masses must be secured in shaping our policies to ensure that they met with prevailing

needs and aspirations. She also pointed out that partnership and collaboration are important in mastering Customs' wide range of duties, not just with counterparts in the law enforcement domain, but also with those in the business sector and the community as a whole.



Mrs Carrie Lam speaks at the 2014 International Customs Day reception.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Mr Cheung said that communication was at the heart of all successful missions. Hong Kong Customs was acutely aware of the need to strike

a balance between protection and facilitation.

At the reception, Mrs Lam presented the World Customs

Organization Certificates of Merit to 19 officers in Hong Kong Customs in recognition of their contribution in international Customs co-operation, Customs-Business engagement, intelligence exchange, publicity project and other initiatives related to communication.

Some 360 guests patronized the reception including Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, government officials, Consuls General, foreign Customs attachés, representatives from Customs administrations of the Mainland and Macau as well as private sector stakeholders.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation

HONG KONG CUSTOMS DEDICATED TO TACKLE WILDLIFE CRIME

Throughout the years, strenuous efforts have been taken by Hong Kong Customs in combating the smuggling of endangered fauna and flora under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, Cap. 586, Laws of Hong Kong. In 2013, Hong Kong Customs continued to play a prominent role at the international level in the fight against wildlife crime through the successful detections of a number of significant cases.

Working closely with the Agriculture, Fisheries and

Conservation Department in wildlife law enforcement, Hong Kong Customs successfully intercepted some 400 smuggling cases of ivory tusks and ivory products, rhino horns, red sandalwood, pangolin scales, seahorses and other endangered species in 2013, with a total seizure value of more than \$110 million.

The confiscation of 769 kilogrammes of ivory tusks from three sea-borne containers in late September 2013 certainly was an invaluable encouragement to the

Department. Upon examination of three consignments manifested to contain “Soya” arriving from Cote d’Ivoire, Africa, officers of the Ports and Maritime Command found 189 ivory tusks, which were packed in linen and nylon bags and mix-loaded with bags of soya. The seized ivory worth about \$11.5 million.

Besides, smuggling of endangered species into Hong Kong through air passenger channel was also being closely monitored. In 2013, the Airport Command detected

more than 60 cases of smuggled ivory or ivory products carried by air passengers, with a sheer scale of seizures amounted to 600 kilogrammes.

The active participation of Hong Kong Customs in transnational intelligence-driven operations against wildlife crime also exemplified the coordinated enforcement effort at the international level. In 2013, two containers loaded with seven tons of red sandalwood were seized in Xiamen in a transnational controlled-delivery operation involving the Customs of India, Mainland and Hong Kong. A further 19 tons of endangered wood logs were seized in the subsequent investigation by the Mainland counterparts. Another remarkable example of co-operation in international enforcement was the series of controlled-delivery operations triggered by intelligence offered by the German Customs.

More than 500 kilogrammes of pangolin scales were seized by the Syndicated Crimes Investigation Bureau of Hong Kong Customs from a batch of air parcels destined for Hong Kong. In addition, through intelligence exchange with the Mainland Customs, Hong Kong Customs seized a massive haul of ivory tusks, rhino horns and leopard skins, worth \$41 million, from two containers shipped from Nigeria, Africa.

Customs administrations around the world have heightened their awareness in combating illegal trade in wildlife with a special focus on animals controlled by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Hong Kong Customs is committed to work closely with its local and overseas counterparts to enhance the enforcement against illegal wildlife trade. The Department

was awarded two Certificates of Commendation by the CITES in 2003 and 2012 in recognition of its exemplary enforcement actions against wildlife trade.

In 2013, the Department participated as one of the guest speakers at the International Conference of “Combating Wildlife Crime: Securing Enforcement, Ensuring Justice, and Upholding the Rule of Law” held in Bangkok, Thailand. The World Customs Organization (WCO) Technical Attaché from Hong Kong Customs also assisted the WCO in planning and organizing global enforcement operations against illicit wildlife trade, including the Operation “COBRA II” which focused on anti-smuggling of CITES items.

**Intelligence Bureau
Office of Customs Affairs and
Co-operation**



Some of the seized ivory tusks.



Leopard skins seized by Hong Kong Customs.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS SUPPORTS WCO'S RESOLUTION ON TRADE FACILITATION

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, led a delegation to attend the 70th Session of the Policy Commission (PC) of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Dublin, Ireland from December 9 to 11, 2013.

Members of the PC noted that the World Trade Organization had endorsed an Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF) at a Ministerial Conference in December 2013 and discussed the role of the Customs in its implementation. Hong Kong Customs expressed at the PC meeting full support to WCO in promoting trade facilitation and

assisting members in enhancing transparency and simplifying clearance procedures. Members of the PC also adopted the Dublin Resolution at this meeting to pledge their support for the ATF implementation.

The PC meeting further discussed Customs' partnership with the private sector. Hong Kong Customs remarked that trust and collaboration among the Customs, the trade and other government agencies could be established through regular and close liaison. This would benefit the implementation of sustainable strategies for achieving trade

facilitation, combating transnational crime and protecting revenue collection.

Also discussed at the 70th PC Session were other global Customs issues, including economic competitiveness, regional integration, and the use of product identification number, etc.

Hong Kong Customs has been actively participating in the WCO fora and was elected as a regional representative in the PC for the terms 2011/12 and 2012/2014 to provide overall steer to the WCO in strategy and policy formulation.



Delegates attending the 70th Session of the WCO Policy Commission in Dublin, Ireland in a group photo.

WCO ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON CUSTOMS ANTI-DRUG STRATEGY COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY



Mr Zhu Gaozhang delivers a keynote speech at the Seminar.

Hong Kong Customs and the World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific (A/P) Vice-Chair (Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS)) co-hosted the WCO Asia/Pacific Regional High-level Seminar on Customs Anti-drug Strategy between December 17 and 19 in Hong Kong. A total of 27 representatives from 12 Member Administrations, the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific Region (RILO A/P) and the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), together with 10 local attachés participated in the Seminar. The Director of WCO Compliance and Facilitation, Mr Zhu Gaozhang, was the keynote speaker of the Seminar.

In light of the increasing global problems on drug trafficking, Hong Kong Customs introduced a Conceptual Framework for a Dynamic Customs Anti-drug Strategy (CADS) at a WCO meeting earlier. The Framework advocated the development of a long-term strategy in deterring drug problems through the application of 12 anti-narcotic tools, such as information and intelligence exchange, and risk management. With support of the WCO, the Department further initiated co-operation with the A/P Vice-Chair in organizing a three-day seminar, with a view to providing a platform for senior Customs officials in the region to discuss tactics in combating drug offences,

and charting the way forward in developing a sustainable drug enforcement strategy.

Delegates of Australia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Macau China, New Zealand, Thailand, RILO A/P, ROCB A/P and Hong Kong China shared their experience and strategies in anti-narcotic operations at the Seminar. During the panel discussions, participants actively exchanged their views on the planning and way forward in developing a holistic enforcement approach to fight against global drug problems.

This important regional anti-drug Seminar ended with satisfying results. Participating Customs Administrations committed to a closer co-operation in drug enforcement and agreed to put forward to the WCO the recommendations on developing a sustainable strategy.

**Office of Customs Affairs
and Co-operation**

CUSTOMS' PASSING-OUT PARADE



Mr Luke Au Yeung inspects the Customs Officers.

A passing-out parade was held at the Customs and Excise Training School on February 28, 2014 with 196 Customs Officers being inspected by the Deputy Commissioner (Special Duties), Mr

Luke Au Yeung. More than 800 guests from various government departments, private sectors as well as families and friends of the graduates attended the ceremony.

Addressing the parade, Mr Au Yeung praised the graduates for their excellent performance and demonstration of the characteristics of being a member of the disciplined services. He encouraged them to exert utmost diligence, enthusiasm and commitment at work. They were expected to uphold the principles of justice and probity and to execute their duties with courtesy and professionalism. By serving the public with the Customs' fine spirit of "Commitment and Excellence", the officers could contribute their efforts in maintaining the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

Office of Training and Development

■ News in Snapshot - Meeting / Conference ■

THE 11TH HEADS OF WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES MEETING

The Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development), Mr Koon Hon-chuen, and Senior Inspector, Ms Lau Pui-shan, represented Hong Kong Customs in the 11th Heads of World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Training Centres (RTCs) Meeting from November 5 to 6, 2013 in Suva, Fiji.

The meeting aimed to further

strengthen co-operation among the WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB), WCO Regional Vice Chair Office and the RTCs in the Asia Pacific region. This would help provide better capacity building activities to WCO Asia Pacific members. In addition to representatives from the WCO, WCO ROCB and WCO Regional Vice Chair Office, other participants included officials of the RTC in

China, Fiji, India, Japan, Korea and Malaysia.

At the meeting, Ms Lau gave a presentation on WCO Asia Pacific Workshops organized by Hong Kong Customs in the past year and the latest development of the RTC Hong Kong, including the commission of the Professional Development Training Block. Other RTC officials also introduced their



A representative of the Fiji Customs briefs members on the rundown of the Meeting.

work and future plans. The meeting further discussed training co-operation issues, such as evaluation of training courses, the involvement of regional experts in the region and e-learning programme. The meeting endorsed the preparation of a “Good Practice Report on Training Evaluation” for regional members’ reference with a view to enhancing training quality.

All RTCs agreed to continue co-operation with ROCB A/P and other regional members in capacity building.

THE 19TH WORKING GROUP MEETING ON OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF CONTROL POINTS WITH GUANGDONG CUSTOMS

The 19th Working Group Meeting on Operational Efficiency of Control Points between the Guangdong Sub-Administration of China Customs (GSAC) and Hong Kong Customs was held in Hong Kong on January 23, 2014. The Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, led a seven-member delegation, comprising representatives from the Airport Command, the Land Boundary Command, the Ports and Maritime Command, the Rail and Ferry Command, the Office of Project Planning and Development, and the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation, to attend the meeting. The Guangdong delegation was led by the Deputy

Director General of GSAC, Mr Zhao Min. The five delegates came from GSAC and Shenzhen Customs.

Operational efficiency of respective control points was important as the passenger and cargo flow between the two places has been



A glimpse of the Meeting.

on the rise. At the meeting, the two administrations exchanged views on various items, including the Intermodal Transshipment Facilitation Scheme and Speedy Customs Clearance in Guangdong, the mutual reference of Customs inspection results, data exchange

on river trade vessels, combat smuggling by parallel traders, advance preparatory work for co-operation on Customs clearance at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, and the Cross-border Supply Chain Connectivity Feasibility Study conducted by

GS1 Hong Kong. The meeting reached consensus over a number of issues and helped enhance communication and co-operation between the two sides.

CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION CONFERENCE WITH KOREA CUSTOMS SERVICE



The delegation visits Customs and Excise Training School.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, signed agreed minutes for closer co-operation with the Commissioner of Korea Customs Service (KCS), Mr Baek Un-chan, at the 31st Customs Co-operation Conference (CCC) in Hong Kong on February 13, 2014.

Since 1980 when the first CCC was held, it has served as an effective

platform for the two sides to foster co-operation on various fronts to meet common challenges.

At the conference this year, both sides reviewed their co-operation and discussed issues of mutual concern, including anti-drugs enforcement strategies, enforcement against illicit trade in endangered species, latest

development of respective Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programmes and co-operation proposals for enhancing enforcement capabilities of the two administrations.

The KCS further gave an account of the “UNI-PASS”, an e-Customs clearance system in Korea providing a single window platform for import/export clearance, duty collection, cargo and information management, which greatly improves clearance efficiency and Korea’s competitiveness in global trade.

The delegation also visited the Customs and Excise Training School for a better understanding of its training programmes and facilities. The visit provided useful reference for KCS in the development of its Customs Border Control Training Centre.

HK CUSTOMS SUPPORTS NEW INITIATIVES AT APEC MEETING



Delegates of the APEC 2014 SCCP1 Meeting in a group photo.

The Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support) of Hong Kong Customs, Mr David Fong, led a delegation to attend the 2014 1st APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation) Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures in Ningbo, China from February 19 to 21, 2014.

At the meeting, member economies recognized the importance of APEC's role in advancing the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization. This would help fostering regional trade and economic integration, as well as

Customs authorities' responsibility in the timely implementation of the global agreement.

Other Customs issues discussed included the sharing of cargo manifest information and the challenges to Customs enforcement arising from the accelerated growth of e-commerce. Mr Fong drew Member economies' attention to some underlying challenges faced by the Customs and showed support for the new initiatives to strengthen Customs control and trade facilitation. In conclusion, Member economies agreed to

explore further co-operation in manifest data exchange and develop new project proposals to tackle e-commerce problems.

The delegation also delivered a presentation on Hong Kong's experience on the implementation of the Authorized Economic Operator Programme, and provided updates on the APEC Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Border Enforcement Workshop to be co-organized with Japan in November this year in Hong Kong.

SENIOR OFFICIALS VISIT HK CUSTOMS



Mr Clement Cheung (third left) meets with Mr Luis Eduardo Lara Gutiérrez (third right).

Hong Kong Customs receives official representatives and consular officials in Hong Kong as well as delegations from overseas authorities to foster understanding and co-operation on the fronts of law enforcement and trade facilitation.

On November 7, 2013, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Clement Cheung, met with a six-member delegation led by the Head of General Administration of Foreign Trade Audit, Tax Administration Service of Mexico, Mr Luis Eduardo Lara Gutiérrez, to discuss matters of mutual concern. The two sides also expressed mutual expectation to jointly combat transnational crimes.

On November 29, the Director of Specialist Investigations, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of the United Kingdom, Mr Andy Cole, led a four-member delegation to pay a courtesy call on Mr Cheung. During the meeting, the HMRC delegation expressed their gratitude to Hong Kong Customs for the

tremendous assistance rendered in the investigation of fiscal crime and illicit cigarette smuggling. On the same day, Mr Cheung met with the Head of Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao, Mr Vincent Piket, to discuss and exchange views on intellectual property rights enforcement.

The Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Hong Kong, Mr Cho Yong-chun, paid a courtesy call on the Commissioner on December 3. At the meeting, the two sides had a fruitful discussion on a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

On December 17, the Chief

Executive Officer of Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Mr Michael Pezzullo, led a four-member delegation to meet with Mr Cheung. The two sides had an in-depth and effective discussion on issues of mutual concern and areas for further bilateral co-operation.

In addition, Mr Cheung met with a five-member delegation led by the European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, Mr Michel Barnier, on January 3, 2014. At the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and shared experience on intellectual property rights enforcement.



Mr Clement Cheung (second right) meets with Mr Cho Yong-chun (first left).

STUDY VISIT TO BEIJING CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND INCHEON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

A three-member delegation of the Hong Kong Customs, led by Group Head (Air Passenger and Apron), Mr Ng King-hong, visited Beijing Capital International Airport from November 26 to 27, 2013. The visit aimed to study the enforcement strategies and advanced technology and equipment used by the Mainland Customs.

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the new contraband detection equipment. They also watched demonstrations of the Advanced Passenger Information (API) system and the baggage monitoring system operated with Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

The three-member delegation continued their visit to the Incheon



The delegation watches the passenger monitoring system of the Incheon Airport Customs.

International Airport from November 28 to 29 for a better understanding of relevant aspects provided by the Korea Customs Service.

In addition to the API system and the baggage monitoring system using RFID technology, the delegation also watched demonstrations of the Closed-

circuit Television (CCTV) system. Both sides had a fruitful exchange in respect of enhancing operational efficiency through advanced technology.

The visits strengthened the Customs network and also provided valuable reference for planning the Airport Three Runway System.

FANLING MAGISTRATES VISIT LAND BOUNDARY CONTROL POINTS

The Principal Magistrate, Ms Bernadette Woo, leading four magistrates and five court prosecutors of the Fanling Magistrates' Courts, visited two major control points on November 22, 2013 to have a close look at passenger and cargo clearance by the Customs.

At Lo Wu Control Point, they toured the departure hall to observe in



The magistrates are briefed on the front-line work against smuggling.

particular the export controls on powdered formula. At Lok Ma Chau Control Point, they went through a Road Cargo System (ROCARS) kiosk to experience the seamless customs clearance under

the electronic cargo information system. They were also briefed on front-line efforts against smuggling. Commenting on the visit, Ms Woo said they gained a better understanding of Customs' frontline

operation. The visit would help in hearing Customs' cases in future.

LEADING DOJ COUNSELS VISIT HONG KONG CUSTOMS



Dr Alain Sham (fourth left, front row) and Ms Virginia Lau (third right, front row) with Customs officials.

The Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Dr Alain Sham, and Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Virginia Lau, of the Department of Justice, visited the Customs on January 23, 2014. The Assistant Commissioner (Administration and Human

Resources Development), Ms Kwok Ngan-ping, and Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation), Mr Albert Ho, and some Customs staff met with them.

The two sides discussed a wide range of issues including the

crackdown on syndicate crimes, enforcement on unfair trade practices, and export controls on powdered formula, etc. The meeting helped build a close rapport between the two departments.

CUSTOMS DETECTOR DOG DIVISION ENHANCES TRAINING AND CO-OPERATION

Officers of Customs Detector Dog Division (CDDD) attended training programmes in the United



Dog handler trainee having practical exercise at the Gatwick Airport, UK.

Kingdom and the Mainland between September and December 2013 to enhance skills on managing kennel and training for dog handlers. An Inspector and two Senior Customs Officers of the CDDD attended the “Kennel Management cum Kennel Safety Course” while three newly recruited Dog Handlers attended the “Dual Purpose Drugs Detector Dog Handler Course” organised by the Surrey Police Dog Training School in the United Kingdom from September to November. Another two serving Dog Handlers completed the “Explosives Detector Dog

Handler Course” organized by the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) at the Beijing Drugs Detector Dog Base in December.

Apart from the close training bonding with the GACC, the CDDD successfully extended mutual co-operation to a new front with the launching of the “Mainland-Hong Kong Detector Dog Breeding Co-operation Pilot Programme” in December 2013. Through this new platform, business co-operation becomes more diversified and intensified. The selected dog “Alfie” has arrived at the Breeding Centre of Beijing Drugs Detector Dog Base as part of the programme plan.

NO.16 CUSTOMS COMMAND COURSE

The Higher Training Division of the Office of Training and Development organized the 16th Customs Command Course from November to December 2013 for 21 newly promoted Senior Inspectors and Senior Trade Controls Officers from 13 Formations.

The course helps equip participants with modern management skills and knowledge. Participants are expected to be able to put



Media Training on instant response before camera.

management concepts into practice in day-to-day operations and develop their leadership potential in meeting future challenges. Lectures were mainly delivered by

prominent speakers in different fields. Speakers included former senior officials, experienced media trainers, and university lecturers, etc. Participants found the course

inspiring with many innovative ideas and practical experience shared by the speakers.

GRADUATION CEREMONY OF NO. 72 & 73 ASSISTANT TRADE CONTROLS OFFICER INDUCTION COURSES



Graduates with directorate staff and guests.

A total of 38 Assistant Trade Controls Officers of the Customs and Excise Department completed the requisite training and graduated on February 13, 2014.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the Head of Trade Controls of the Department, Mr

Chan Chi Keung, welcomed the new members. He said that with the new impetus, the increasingly heavy enforcement work could be reinforced.

Mr Chan encouraged the graduates to uphold a strong sense of discipline and devotion in

enforcement. In facing changes in the community and challenges at work, they should continue learning in future for self-enhancement. Mr Chan urged them to serve the Department and the community with professionalism.

SEA CARGO CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP MEMBERS APPOINTED

The Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, presented on November 7,

2013, certificates of appointment to 18 members of the Sea Cargo Customer Liaison Group (SCCLG)

for the term between 2013 and 2015. Mr Chan Wo-shing of Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association was elected as the Chairman of the SCCLG.



Mr Yu Koon-hing (middle, front row), and Mr Chan Wo-shing (second left, front row), with other members of the SCCLG.

Established in 1994, SCCLG provides a platform for exchange between Hong Kong Customs and the shipping as well as the sea cargo industry with a view to enhancing communication and sea cargo clearance.

UPSIZING OF THE AEO FAMILY

Seven more local companies were accredited as trusted traders under the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (HKAEO) Programme, adding up to a total of 16 members in the family. They are all committed to joining hands with the Department in securing the global supply chain.

The newcomers were presented with certificates on January 10, 2014 as a recognition of their compliance with the Programme. About 80 representatives from the government and trade associations



The Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator logo - The revolving globe signifies stakeholders' stringent efforts to secure global trade while the interlocking arrows represent the close co-operation between the Department and the local industry.

at the ceremony all opined that Customs-business partnership could help consolidate Hong Kong's position as a secure international trading centre and regional logistics hub.

AEOs can apply a specially designed logo which indicates their partnership with the Customs in the course of their business.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE NEW TERM OF CROSS BOUNDARY TRANSPORT INDUSTRY CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP



Mr Yu Koon-hing (fourth right, front row) and Mr Thomas Lin, the Head of Land Boundary (fourth left, front row) with the newly appointed CBTICLG members.

The inauguration ceremony of the new term of Cross Boundary Transport Industry Customer Liaison Group (CBTICLG) was held on November 14, 2013 in the newly commissioned Private Car Clearance Depot of the Lok Ma

Chau Control Point. Following the Commissioner's appointment of members of the eighth term (2013-2015), the CBTICLG comprises 15 unofficial members from the cross boundary truck and coach industries.

The Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Mr Yu Koon-hing, presented appointment certificates to members of the new term at the ceremony. Mr Yu said that the CBTICLG acted as an effective forum for the Customs and Excise Department, relevant government departments and CBTICLG members to meet and exchange views on various issues relating to clearance of cross-boundary vehicles, goods and passengers. Through the CBTICLG, the government and the transportation industry joined hands to enhance clearance efficiency of land boundary control points with satisfactory result.