



# CUSTOMS NEWS

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## THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

The Customs and Excise Department is now at a historic moment in extraordinary times, taking on responsibilities and missions with far-reaching significance. Over the past six months since I took up office, all members of the Department have been striving to overcome difficulties to fully prepare for opportunities and challenges lying ahead.

The Mainland and Hong Kong have a close relationship and strong ties. In the coming 10 months or so, 3 major cross-boundary infrastructure projects will come into operation one after another, marking a new era of connection between the two sides. We have to ensure that our manpower, facilities, equipment and workflow can tie in with the completion of each project. We also need to discuss with the Mainland Customs authorities on how to improve the clearance system and further enhance various trade facilitation measures, in order to maximise the benefits of the projects in meeting the demands of travellers and the logistics industry. It is undoubtedly an unprecedented challenge for the Department to provide clearance services at the 3 major cross-boundary infrastructure projects within very tight deadlines. As the targeted commencement dates approach, the preparatory work has now entered the final stage. Throughout the process, the management and staff member of related formations have made concerted efforts to stand up to the challenges. I deeply believe that we will be able to accomplish the mission with our remarkable team spirit and unswerving professionalism.

In his report delivered at the 19th National Congress, President Xi Jinping made clear that the Central Government would continue to support Hong Kong and Macao in integrating their development into the overall development of the country, with priority given to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao co-operation as well as regional co-operation in the Pan-Pearl River Delta. In particular, the Bay Area development is a new policy to be implemented at the national level which will bring enormous opportunities to Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. Apart from deepening complementary co-operation in the future, the 3 places need to help promote the Belt and Road Initiative to proactively tie in with the nation's development. The Customs and Excise Department will seize the opportunities arising from the 2 main projects, namely the Bay Area development and the Belt and Road Initiative, to further strengthen collaboration with the Mainland Customs authorities and the Macao Customs Service on such areas as customs clearance control and data sharing, and to enhance customs clearance efficiency and trade facilitation between the Mainland, Macao and Hong Kong.

It is anticipated that Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao co-operation will be our most important task in the future. As such, after assuming office, I have paid courtesy visits to the Minister of the

General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), Mr Yu Guangzhou; the Director General of the Guangdong Sub-Administration of the GACC, Mr Li Shuyu; and the Director General of Shenzhen Customs District, Mr Yan Nan. Later, I will also visit the Director-General of the Macao Customs Service, Mr Vong Iao Lek, to discuss co-operation issues between the 2 places. I believe our co-operation with the GACC, the Guangdong Sub-Administration, the Macao Customs Service and other Customs Districts in the Mainland will enter a new stage in history. Our Department will step up efforts to work closely with the Mainland Customs authorities and the Macao Customs Service from now on, not only to further strengthen trade facilitation measures, but also strive to combat smuggling and illegal activities, with a view to promoting trade facilitation and economic development of the 3 places on all fronts.

At the recently convened 12th Expert Group Meeting on Cargo Data Sharing with the General Administration of Customs, the Mainland Customs authorities and our Department have actively explored the future development of land cargo electronic data interchange service and the Single E-lock Scheme at the practical working level. We have also discussed, among other issues, the co-operation mechanism for airport customs control in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. It is pleasing to see that new progress has been made in the customs facilitation arrangements between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Since November 9 last year, the implementation of the customs facilitation measures for wine entering the Mainland through Hong Kong has been extended from five Customs Districts to all the 42 Customs Districts in the Mainland. At the same time, after the Guangdong Province, the Hunan Province has also joined the Single E-lock Scheme last September. The Hunan-Guangdong-Hong Kong Direct Link has since then commenced operation to provide companies of the freight transport industry participating in the scheme with up to 46 speedy customs clearance points in response to the increasing cross-border trading activities in the 3 places, and to facilitate Pan-Pearl River Delta regional co-operation.

Meanwhile, we are pressing ahead with preparations to implement the Trade Single Window System, which involves various Government departments and stakeholders and is to be operated by the Customs and Excise Department. The system will be implemented in phases, offering a 24-hour one-stop electronic platform for customs declaration. In the long run, the system can also increase trade efficiency and promote trade ties with other economic entities by facilitating data exchange among single window systems, and complement the cross-border infrastructure projects that are about to commence operation in facilitating customs clearance.

The recruitment of staff for the Department cannot be left unmentioned. Talents are always the most important resource for a team, and human



resources are undoubtedly indispensable to the Customs and Excise Department in upholding the principle of "Commitment and Excellence" with professionalism and becoming an outstanding disciplinary force over the years. This is particularly true at present as the Department is going through a phase of historic growth, for which sufficient staff must be recruited to meet operational needs. Last October, the Department has implemented the policy of recruiting Customs Officers throughout the year, so that recruitment can be carried out in a more flexible manner. Last December, 18 Probationary Inspectors and 195 Probationary Customs Officers have graduated in the passing-out ceremony held at the Customs and Excise Training School. Together with the 117 Probationary Customs Officers graduated in August, a total of 330 new members have officially joined the Customs and Excise Department in the past six months. They have taken an important step towards achieving their vision and making contributions to society. As I watched them confidently march past the saluting dais for inspection in the passing-out parade, I recalled the youthful days when I first joined the service. Looking back to the past, "never forget why you started, and your mission can be accomplished" is really the best description of the years I have been working in the Department.

Being a disciplinary force of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") which gives staunch support in maintaining local prosperity and stability, the Customs and Excise Department also assists in safeguarding our country's sovereignty, security and development interests, and diligently performs the "gate-guarding" duty. In anticipation of the upcoming significant development, the Department is poised to become a more diversified and multi-functional enforcement agency with a wider network which will continue to offer unwavering support in line with the spirit of "Commitment and Excellence" to the administration of the HKSAR Government and the Chief Executive in accordance with the law.

As we bid farewell to the outgoing year and ring in the new year, I sincerely wish that our country will remain strong and wealthy. I also wish Hong Kong prosperity and stability, and all of you and your families good health and great fortune!

**Hermes Tang**  
Commissioner

## COMMISSIONER VISITS BEIJING

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, joined a delegation led by the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, to Beijing from September 20 to 22 last year. Comprising officials from the Security Bureau and other disciplinary forces of Hong Kong, the delegation called on the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). This is the first courtesy visit by the Secretary for Security and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise since their assumption of office on July 1 last year. Hong Kong officials briefed their Mainland counterparts of the latest law and order situation in Hong Kong and both sides also exchanged views on issues of mutual concern.

During the visit, the Commissioner met with the Minister of the GACC,

Mr Yu Guangzhou. The Commissioner expressed at the beginning of the meeting his gratitude to the GACC for its all-along staunch support given to the Hong Kong Customs. The Commissioner told his Mainland counterpart that Hong Kong Customs would continue to strengthen its co-operation with the Mainland side and implement customs clearance-friendly initiatives.

Collaboration between the two Customs administrations under the macro-setting of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development plan was also raised at the meeting. Concurring that coordination in the areas of customs controls and information sharing can be further consolidated for a more convenient customs clearance procedure, both sides also exchanged views on the role and mission of the two Customs

administrations in the development of the two mega projects.

It is also agreed that the Belt and Road Initiative matches perfectly with the two Customs administrations' efforts in pushing forward the preparations for the smooth customs clearance procedure for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail. As for the development plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, both Customs Administrations agree to explore proactively the prospects of co-operation in customs matters with a view for more trade-friendly measures in the Bay Area.

### Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (second left), joins the delegation led by the Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee (fourth left), to Beijing. Picture shows a courtesy call on Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr Kong Xuanyou (fifth left).



## COMMISSIONER MEETS SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM OTHER CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS AND OVERSEAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (middle in the left row), meets the visiting Administrator General of the General Administration of Customs and Excise of Belgium, Mr Kristian Vanderwaeren (left in the right row), at the Customs Headquarters Building.

Hong Kong Customs values international co-operation with other Customs administrations and law enforcement agencies. Since Mr Hermes Tang took up the post of Commissioner on July 1 last year, he has started to meet senior officials of other overseas authorities to maintain close ties and strengthen relations with them.

On September 11, the Commissioner met the visiting Administrator General of the General Administration of Customs and Excise of Belgium, Mr Kristian Vanderwaeren. Both sides exchanged views on issues of supply chain security, intellectual property rights enforcement co-operation and intelligence sharing. After the meeting, Mr Vanderwaeren visited the Electronic Crime Investigation Centre,

which operates under the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of the Hong Kong Customs, to view the department's efforts in combating online intellectual property crimes. He also visited the Customs and Excise Training School to understand the department's efforts in human resources training.

The Commissioner also had a meeting with the Consul-General of New Zealand in Hong Kong, Mr Carl Worker, on November 14. Both sides had a discussion on the latest development of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement under the Authorized Economic Operator Programmes and the implementation of the Customs Co-operative Arrangement between Hong Kong and New Zealand.

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

## MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND FACILITATION OF PORT CLEARANCE BETWEEN HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND GACC HELD IN HONG KONG



At the Meeting of the Expert Group on Information Exchange and Facilitation of Port Clearance between Hong Kong Customs and GACC, both sides discuss initiatives to consolidate co-operation in customs clearance and law enforcement.

The 12th Meeting of the Expert Group on Information Exchange and Facilitation of Port Clearance between the Hong Kong Customs and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) was held in Hong Kong on July 19 last year. Before the meeting, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, met the Mainland delegation's head --- the

Director General of the Department of Customs Control and Inspection of the GACC, Mr Wang Wei. Both sides exchanged views on issues of mutual-interest. Following that, the expert group meeting hosted by Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Ms Louise Ho was convened.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the latest development in the implementation of various port clearance co-operative initiatives over the past few years. They also held a fruitful discussion to consolidate co-operation by means of the following five initiatives: (a) To study the feasibility of an exchange of road cargo electronic data in operational level between the two Customs administrations; (b) To review and explore the way forward for the development of the Single E-lock

Scheme; (c) To review the current data exchange mechanism for small vessels plying between the Mainland and Hong Kong; (d) To step up information exchange on smuggling activities by people in parallel trade and, (e) To review the mechanism of Customs control co-operation among the international airports in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong

After the meeting, Ms Ho accompanied Mr Wang and his team in a visit to Kwai Chung Customhouse where Mr Wang had a look at the cargo clearance administration by the Hong Kong Customs.

#### Land Boundary Command Ports and Maritime Command



Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (centre) meets with Director General of the Department of Customs Control and Inspection of the GACC Mr Wang Wei (top in the right row) before the expert group meeting.

## COMMISSIONER VISITS HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam and Head of Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau Ms Catherine Yip visited the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) on October 10 last year. The visiting team received a briefing from HKPC Chairman Mr Willy Lin and his senior management/professional consultants on some of the latest technology developments and technical supporting services. Mr Tang noted that while Hong Kong Customs is bound to meet challenges in the coming years, innovation and technological savvy are certain to help the department's rise to opportunities.

The delegation also visited the HKPC's 3D Printing One where they received a briefing on the latest developments in 3D computer-aided design and 3D printing technologies. They also had a look at some of the 3D products.

Both Hong Kong Customs and HKPC agree to further explore the opportunities of co-operation.

#### Office of Service Administration



Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (centre), Chairman of Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) Mr Willy Lin (fifth right) and officers from Hong Kong Customs and HKPC in a group photo at 3D Printing One.



## COMMISSIONER VISITS FRONTLINE FORMATIONS



Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang inspects various frontline formations, gets an update on how colleagues work and listens to their views.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, spares no time to visit various front-line formations since taking up the role as the Commissioner. The formations that the Commissioner visited include Land Boundary Command, Customs Drug Investigation Bureau, Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau, Syndicate Crimes Investigation Bureau and Revenue and General Investigation Bureau. During these visits, he inspected the formations' operations and had dialogues with front-line officers of different posts. Taking the opportunity of listening to the officers, the Commissioner also got an update on how colleagues work in the Department's frontline.

The Commissioner expressed appreciation to officers for their

dedication to "Commitment and Excellence" which is crucial for Hong Kong Customs to maintain as a distinguished and professional disciplinary force in Hong Kong. He assured colleagues that the management and formation heads will step up communication with staff at all levels to listen and collect their views so that the Department's esprit de corps can be further strengthened.

The commissioning of various major transport infrastructure facilities connecting Hong Kong and the Mainland, and the operation of other new systems are forthcoming. Hong Kong Customs must endeavor to ensure that sufficient resources in terms of manpower, facilities and workflow are available to provide efficient clearance services to the

travelling public and the logistic industry. In parallel, there is no room for the Department to spare its efforts in law enforcement and criminal investigations. The Commissioner encouraged colleagues to go hand in hand to form together a solid and united team in taking on all sorts of challenges and opportunities ahead.

**Land Boundary Command**  
**Customs Drug Investigation Bureau**  
**Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau**  
**Syndicate Crimes Investigation Bureau**  
**Revenue and General Investigation Bureau**

# 131ST SESSION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam (right), exchanges the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement Action Plan with the Head of the Israel Customs Directorate, Israel Tax Authority, Mr Avraham Ben Ardete (left).

The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, led a delegation to attend the 131st Session of the Customs Co-operation Council of the World Customs Organization (WCO) held in Brussels, Belgium on December 14 and 15 last year.

Heads and senior officials of Customs administrations representing 182 Members of the WCO attended this extraordinary session to discuss the outstanding items left since the sessions in July last year. At the 131st session, the current Administrator General of Mexican Customs Mr Ricardo Trevino Chapa was elected as the WCO's Deputy Secretary General with a tenure of five years starting from January 1, 2018.

Taking the session's opportunity, Hong Kong Customs also marked a new milestone with Israel and New Zealand in the development of supply chain security and trade facilitation. On the sidelines of the meeting, Mr Tam signed Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Action Plans with the Head of the Israel Customs Directorate, Israel Tax Authority, Mr Avraham Ben Ardete, and the Group Manager of Policy, Legal and

Governance of the New Zealand Customs Service, Mr Michael Papesch.

The signings mark the commencement of the formal discussions of MRAs, a step closer to the mutual-recognition of the respective AEO Programmes.

Under an MRA, AEOs of the two signatory economies enjoy mutual customs clearance benefits, including reduced examination and prioritised clearance. The clearance benefits are conducive to the facilitation of legitimate international trade activities, under which local traders are benefited.

Both Israel and New Zealand are important trading partners of Hong Kong under the Belt and Road Initiative. To achieve a "win-win situation" for supply chain security while facilitating legitimate trade activities, Hong Kong Customs will continue to explore the possibility of extending MRAs to other economies, particularly for those along the "Belt and Road" region in a bid of building up an "expressway" for local AEOs to enter these markets for more business opportunities.

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

**Office of Supply Chain  
Security Management**



Mr Tam (right), exchanges the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Arrangement Action Plan with the Group Manager of Policy, Legal and Governance of the New Zealand Customs Service, Mr Michael Papesch (left).



## WINE FACILITATION SCHEME EXTENDED TO ALL MAINLAND CUSTOMS DISTRICTS

Starting from November 9 last year, the Customs Facilitation Scheme for wine entering the Mainland through Hong Kong (WFS), under which wine re-exported from Hong Kong enjoys instant Mainland customs clearance, has been extended to all the 42 customs districts of the Mainland.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits Fair 2017 on the same day, Hong Kong Financial Secretary Mr Paul Chan hailed the extension, saying that the development, together with a good many other advantages, strengthens Hong Kong's hub role for international wine companies looking to spread bottled pleasures across the fast-growing Asia-Pacific wine market.

In order to promote the extension, the Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration of Hong Kong Customs set up a dedicated booth at the Fair which was held between November 9 and 11 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Featuring a record of 1 070 exhibitors from nearly 40 countries and regions this year, the good news spread to wine traders from all over the world at the Fair, with the dedicated booth always crowded with enthusiastic visitors who were eager to take in information leaflets and learned more details from the officers.

The WFS was launched in June, 2010. The measures were exclusive for

wine entering the Mainland through Hong Kong and were applicable to 5 customs districts only in the Mainland (Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangzhou and Shenzhen) before. Thanks to the extension, the WFS has now covered all the Mainland customs districts. Registered Hong Kong wine traders can submit advance wine consignment information online to enjoy instant customs clearance upon their consignments' arrival at Mainland ports.

The Mainland has all along been the largest market for wine re-exported from Hong Kong. With the extension of the customs facilitation measures, the wine community will benefit from more speedy customs clearance when re-exporting through Hong Kong. The extension will also support international wine traders in tapping the Mainland market by making use of Hong Kong's top-notch business and logistics infrastructure.

Figures show that up to October last year, around 16 million bottles of wine (valued at about HK\$770 million) had been exported to the Mainland through the WFS.

**Office of Dutiable Commodities  
Administration**



Hong Kong Financial Secretary Mr Paul Chan (centre), Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) Mr Philip Yung (fourth left), and Hong Kong Trade Development Council Executive Director Ms Margaret Fong (fifth left) visit Hong Kong Customs' dedicated booth at the Hong Kong International Wine and Spirits Fair 2017.

## "SINGLE E-LOCK SCHEME" WINS CIVIL SERVICE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD 2017



Secretary for the Civil Service Mr Joshua Law (sixth left) and Legislative Councillor, the Hon Michael Tien (third left) share joy with Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (sixth right), at the prize presentation ceremony.

The Hong Kong Customs' "Single E-lock Scheme" won the "Meritorious Award of the Departmental Service Enhancement Award" (Large Department category) in the "Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2017" (Award Scheme). Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Ms Louise Ho and Head of Land Boundary Command by that time Mr Fan Chi-kong, received the award on behalf of Hong Kong Customs at the prize presentation ceremony, which was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on September 7 last year.

The ceremony was officiated by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, who commended and congratulated the winning departments and teams for their excellent public services.

The Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme, which has been organised by the Civil Service Bureau since 1999 as a biennial event, aims to recognise the efforts of government departments and teams in providing outstanding services for the community, promoting a customer-focused culture and inspiring civil servants to strive for excellence in service delivery.

The awarded-winning "Single E-lock Scheme" was officially launched on March 28 in 2016 with an aim to enhance the clearance efficiency of cross-boundary intermodal transshipment cargoes. It is an application of a joint technological project "Single E-lock" by Hong Kong Customs and the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling

Technologies. Under the scheme, one single electronic lock and global positioning system (GPS) technologies are applied to monitor and safeguard the security of the transshipment cargo by the Customs administrations of Guangdong Province and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the principle of "Across the Boundary with One Single E-lock Under Separate Monitoring". By using a single e-lock, duplicate inspection on the same shipment by both Customs authorities has been reduced at the boundary, streamlining the clearance process and expediting the flow of transshipment cargo. The Scheme is well received and has been extended to Hunan province since September last year.

**Land Boundary Command**



# SEA CARGO PRE-SHIPMENT DECLARATION SCHEME 2017 AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME WITH CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATORS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Hong Kong Customs hosted the "Sea Cargo Pre-shipment Declaration Scheme 2017 and Partnership Programme with Container Terminal Operators Presentation Ceremony" at the Customs Headquarters Building on August 30 last year to present award certificates to 46 sea cargo carriers in recognition of their active participation in the "Sea Cargo Pre-shipment Declaration Scheme" which includes the "EMAN Statement One Submission Scheme" and the "Advance Cargo Information - River Trade Vessel Scheme". Certificates of appreciation were also presented to six container terminal operators in expressing the Department's appreciation for their strenuous support given all the time.

Officiated by the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise

(Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho, the 2017 award-presentation ceremony was the second of such occasion. It will continue to be the Department's annual event to commend sea cargo carriers for their proactive submission of advance cargo information and valuable contribution in improving the overall cargo clearance efficiency in Hong Kong.

Assessed by the same set of criteria used in 2016, the number of Gold Awardees increased from 24 to 27 in 2017 while that of Silver Awardees from 16 to 19. While the rise in the number of awardees reflects the sea cargo industry's strong support to the pre-shipment declaration scheme, it is also hoped that the scheme would help more sea cargo carriers to have a better understanding of the "Trade

Single Window" and pave the way for its implementation.

Apart from sea cargo carriers, Hong Kong Customs has also been maintaining close partnership with the six container terminal operators in Hong Kong. It is widely known that the container terminal's sound facilities and operational efficiency attribute to Hong Kong's role as an international shipping hub. Certificates of appreciation were specifically presented to the six operators in expressing an appreciation for their solid support given over the years to the Department in its delivery of efficient sea cargo clearance service and combat of smuggling activities.

**Ports and Maritime Command**



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Ms Louise Ho (centre, first row), the then Head of Ports and Maritime Command Ms Kitty Poon (seventh left, first row), representatives of award-winning carriers/companies and container terminal operators in a group picture at the "Sea Cargo Pre-shipment Declaration Scheme 2017 and Partnership Programme with Container Terminal Operators Presentation Ceremony".

## SEMINAR ON PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION IN HONG KONG



The seminar on personal data protection by Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data Mr Stephen Wong was very well-received with more than 100 officers from various formations, including directorate officials of the Department attended.

Personal data includes names, phone numbers, addresses, identity card numbers, medical records and employment records. With the implementation of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance since December 1996 and the proactive promotion efforts by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, members of the public have increasingly valued the protection of personal privacy.

In its daily operation, customs officers come across much personal data. In a bid to strengthen customs officers'

sense to respect and safeguard the personal data of members of the public while discharging duties, Hong Kong Customs was grateful to have Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data Mr Stephen Wong in giving a talk to officers at the Customs Headquarters Building on October 24 last year.

The seminar was very well-received with an attendance of more than 100 officers from various formations was registered, including the directorate officials of the Department.

Mr Wong explained to participants

the principle, concept and value of personal data privacy. With the aid of lively case examples, Mr Wong illustrated in details the Ordinance's guiding principles, its conditions for exemption and way forward.

The talk serves well to strengthen officers' mindset to respect and safeguard the privacy of personal data.

**Office of Service Administration**



## THE 34TH ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND MACAO CUSTOMS SERVICE / MACAO ECONOMIC SERVICES



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, fourth right), the Director-General of the Macao Customs Service, Mr Vong lao Lek (front row, fifth right), the Head of Department of Inspection of Economic Activities, Macao Economic Services, Mr Kong Son-cheong (front row, first left), and delegation members in a group photo.

The 34th Annual Meeting between Hong Kong Customs and Macao Customs Service (MCS) / Macao Economic Services was held on December 6 last year in Hong Kong.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the Director-General of the MCS, Mr Vong

lao Lek, jointly officiated at the meeting's opening ceremony. Recognising the mutual co-operation in the past, both sides also pledged for further collaboration in various initiatives, including the implementation of the measures under the "Co-operation on Customs Clearance for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge".

In the formal meeting after the opening ceremony, both parties reviewed the co-operation outcome in the aspects of protection of intellectual property rights, combating cross-boundary drug trafficking and smuggling activities, as well as the progress of the customs clearance preparations for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Outside the meeting, Mr Vong paid a visit to the Electronic Crime Investigation Centre of the Hong Kong Customs for a better understanding of its efforts in tackling online infringing activities. The annual meeting serves well to enhance the mutual understanding and co-operation between the Customs administrations of the two special administrative regions.

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

## HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CUSTOMS OPERATIONAL MEETING ON FTA SCHEME



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Ellis Lai (fourth from top, right row), is in the Third Review Meeting on FTA Transshipment Facilitation Scheme with Deputy Director General, Department of Duty Collection of GACC, Mr Sun Renhong (fourth from top, left row), at Kwai Chung Customhouse.

The Third Review Meeting on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Transshipment Facilitation Scheme between Hong Kong Customs and the General

Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) was held in Hong Kong on June 9 last year. The then Assistant Commissioner

of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Ellis Lai, led officers from the Ports and Maritime Command and met with their Mainland counterparts led by the GACC's Deputy Director General of the Department of Duty Collection, Mr Sun Renhong. Both sides reviewed the operation and development of the facilitation scheme. After the meeting, the GACC delegation visited Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound and was briefed on the work by Hong Kong Customs on sea cargo clearance and enforcement controls.

**Ports and Maritime Command**

## THE SECOND MEETING OF APEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES IN 2017 AND APEC CUSTOMS-BUSINESS DIALOGUE

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam and Senior Inspector Ms Chow Lai-man of the Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation joined the "Second Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) and APEC Customs-Business Dialogue (ACBD)" which was held in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam between August 19 and 22 last year.

Echoing the APEC's theme for this year - "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future", the SCCP pledges to strive for a sustainable development, innovation and inclusive growth of the region's economy.

During the meeting, Mr Tam shared views with members on a number of topical issues, including supply chain security, the implementation of



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam joins the Second Meeting of the APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City.

the Authorized Economic Operator Programme in the region and the application of advance passenger information for risk-management purpose. The Hong Kong Customs also delivered a presentation of an analysis of border enforcement on intellectual property rights (IPR) in the Asia-Pacific region. Member administrations were appealed to strengthen co-operation

and capacity in IPR border enforcement amid the burgeoning challenges brought about by the booming of cross-border e-commerce.

The host of APEC rotates annually and Papua New Guinea will be the host country in 2018.

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

## CHIEF LIAISON OFFICERS' MEETING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CUSTOMS



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (front row, third left) led a delegation to attend the 2017 Chief Liaison Officers' Meeting with the Mainland Customs in Haikou.

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam led a

delegation and joined the "2017 Chief Liaison Officers' Meeting" which was held between Hong Kong and the

Mainland Customs in Haikou of Hainan Province on June 27 last year. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the progress of the "Co-operation Work Plan" over the past year, which was signed between both sides with an aim to strengthen ties and connections in various arenas, including trade facilitation, law enforcement and staff training. Future plan of co-operation was also discussed. After the meeting, the delegation visited the Haikou Integrated Free Trade Zone and had a look at the field operation of the Haikou Customs.

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



## THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE SAFE WORKING GROUP AND THIRD BILATERAL HK-EU AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT MEETING

The Head of Office of Supply Chain Security Management of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Mark Lee, and Senior Inspector Mr So Kim-fai attended the "Eighteenth Meeting of the SAFE Working Group" (WG) and the "Third Bilateral Hong Kong-European Union Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Meeting" held in Brussels,

Belgium from October 25 to 27 and October 30 to 31 last year respectively.

An endorsement of the 'MRA Implementation Guidance' (the Guidance) initiated by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China was the highlight of the SAFE WG meeting. The Guidance is of particular significance

in providing members of the World Customs Organization (WCO) with a set of operational guidelines for the implementation of the AEO MRA at global level. It also brings about a positive impact on the WCO's efforts in pushing forward the standardization of AEO programmes. Being a member of the working group, Hong Kong Customs strives to promote the implementation of the Guidance.

Hong Kong Customs has all along been eager to pursue for an AEO MRA with the European Union. Recognising the compatibility between each other's AEO programmes, both sides also come up with a schedule in the third bilateral meeting for developing an automated and encrypted AEO data exchange platform. Discussion has been well in the pipeline and it is expected that progress would be made along the roadmap.

**Office of Supply Chain  
Security Management**



The Head of Office of Supply Chain Security Management of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Mark Lee (third right, second row), joins the Eighteenth Meeting of the SAFE Working Group held in Brussels, Belgium.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS SPEAKS AT INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IP CRIME CONFERENCE

Co-hosted by the INTERPOL and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Coordination Center) of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (US ICE), the "11th International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference" was held on August 28 and 29 last year at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City of the

United States. With the participation of more than 500 delegates from 60 countries/regions, the Conference pooled together representatives of the police forces, customs departments, IPR-related enforcement agencies and the IPR industries from all over the world. Apart from sharing valuable experiences and best practices, the participants also conducted thorough discussions on related IPR enforcement

strategies.

Speaking at a panel discussion session entitled "Links with Organised Crime", Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of Hong Kong Customs Ms Catherine Yip gave a detailed presentation on the enforcement strategies and experience of the Hong Kong Customs in joining hands with international counterparts



Head of the Intellectual Property Investigation bureau of Hong Kong Customs Ms Catherine Yip (second right) gives presentation on the effective enforcement strategies taken by the Hong Kong Customs in annihilating organised transnational IPR crimes and the related enforcement results at the “11th International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference”.

for an effective annihilation of organised transnational IPR crime syndicates. Fruitful law enforcement results were also shared during the presentation. Through participating in the Conference, the Hong Kong Customs has further strengthened its collaboration with the INTERPOL and related stakeholders, which helped much enhancing the effectiveness in smashing transnational IPR crimes.

**Intellectual Property  
Investigation Bureau**

## THE SHENZHEN/HONG KONG JOINT CONFERENCE ON PASSENGER CLEARANCE OPERATIONS AT CONTROL POINTS



Head of Rail and Ferry Command of Hong Kong Customs Ms Ida Ng (sixth left) and Director of the Luggage and Mail Supervision Division of Shenzhen Customs Mr Lin Shao Bin (seventh left) visit Luohu Port as a part of the programme of the “Joint Conference on Control Point Passenger Clearance Operations” held in October last year.

facilities include the “Customs e-Channels” which are implemented in a number of ports in Shenzhen and can complete the process of risk-profiling for individual passengers in 6 seconds. Computed tomography scanning machine equipped with an automated alarm system, which offers accurate object density reading is also among the newly-installed facilities seen by the officers.

Hong Kong officers also had a visit to the Command and Monitoring Centre at the Shenzhen Customs Headquarters and had a look at how the command centre officers give passenger clearance directives to individual ports through real-time analysis of passenger flow forecast and risk-profiling.

The meeting and visits are useful for Hong Kong Customs to gain a deeper understanding of the operation of its counterpart across the boundary and the new facilities of the Shenzhen Customs are especially impressive.

**Rail and Ferry Command**

Head of Rail and Ferry Command of Hong Kong Customs Ms Ida Ng led 10 officers and met with Director of the Luggage and Mail Supervision Division of Shenzhen Customs Mr Lin Shao Bin at the “Joint Conference on Control Point Passenger Clearance Operations” which was held in Shenzhen on October 16. Both parties

reviewed the current collaboration and had an exchange in law enforcement experience and smuggling intelligence.

The Hong Kong officers also visited Futian, Luohu and Shenzhen Bay Ports and had a look at their newly-installed facilities which help enhancing Customs clearance efficiency. These



## SECRETARY FOR CIVIL SERVICE VISITS CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, visited the Customs and Excise Department on October 16 last year to meet with its management and front-line staff to better understand the department's work and challenges confronting them.

Mr Law first met with the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the directorate staff to get an update on

the Department's work on both law enforcement and trade facilitation.

Mr Law then visited the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau and was briefed on how Customs colleagues have combated unfair trade practices since the enactment of the amended Trade Descriptions Ordinance. He said he was pleased to learn that the Department has adopted a three-pronged approach in its implementation of the Ordinance. Other than carrying out law enforcement, the Department is also committed to promoting compliance among traders and carrying out public education

for protection of consumer rights.

Mr Law also toured the Customs Drug Investigation Bureau (CDIB) and was briefed on the CDIB's efforts against different levels of drug trafficking activities including syndicated drug trafficking and street peddling. He also learnt that the CDIB maintains close co-operation and exchange of intelligence with local, Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking.

Before concluding his visit, Mr Law met with staff representatives of various grades at a tea gathering to exchange views on matters that concern them. He praised colleagues for their hard work, and encouraged them to continue to serve the public with dedication and professionalism.

**Office of Service Administration**



The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, visited the Customs and Excise Department to get an update on the department's work. Photo shows Mr Law (fifth left) with the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (fifth right) and the directorate of the Hong Kong Customs.

## PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY VISITS AIRPORT COMMAND OF THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS

On September 13 last year, Permanent Secretary for Security Mrs Marion Lai, Under Secretary for Security Mr

Sonny Au and five other officials from the Security Bureau visited the Airport Command of the Hong Kong Customs during which they had a look at the law enforcement and customs clearance operations by the Department at the Hong Kong International Airport.



Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, Permanent Secretary for Security Mrs Marion Lai (second right) visits the Chek Lap Kok Air Mail Centre.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the Assistant Commissioner of Customs

and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho, the delegation was briefed on the Department's customs clearance work and law enforcement in its handling of air passenger, air cargo and apron control. They also visited the Chek Lap Kok Air Mail Centre where they received a briefing on Customs clearance procedures for air postal articles, the modus operandi of air-parcel smuggling up-to-date and the Department's law enforcement strategy.

**Airport Command**

## DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MEETS ACTING COMPTROLLER OF NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS

On September 1 last year, Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Thomas Lin had a meeting with

the Acting Comptroller of the New Zealand Customs Service, Ms Christine Stevenson. Both sides discussed

matters concerning anti-narcotics enforcement co-operation and reviewed the implementation of the Customs Co-operative Arrangement which was signed between the two sides in 1991. After the meeting, the delegation visited the Computer Forensic Laboratory of the Hong Kong Customs and had a look at the Department's work in the collection of electronic evidence. The delegation also visited the Shenzhen Bay Control Point and observed the customs clearance and detector dog training facilities there.

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



The Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Thomas Lin (middle), meets the Acting Comptroller of the New Zealand Customs Service, Ms Christine Stevenson (third left), at the Customs Headquarters Building.

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS MEETS GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF QUALITY SUPERVISION, INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE OVER CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION ISSUES

Head of Trade Controls of Hong Kong Customs Ms Teresa Fu had a meeting with the Director-General of Department of International Cooperation, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China, Mr Zhang Baofeng, on

November 13, last year. The meeting was held in Hong Kong during which matters of consumer rights protection enforcement regimes were discussed. Hong Kong Customs also briefed the Mainland side of the latest law enforcement situation under the three related legislations in the city viz, the

Weights and Measures Ordinance, the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance and the Consumer Goods Safety Ordinance. Taking the opportunity of the meeting, both sides also had a discussion of the agenda of the fifth annual meeting of the "Consumer Goods Safety Cooperation Arrangement" held in Beijing at the end of the year.

After the meeting, the Mainland delegation toured the Hong Kong Customs Exhibition Gallery at the Hong Kong Customs Headquarters Building where they had a look at the Department's historical development and its enforcement work in various fronts.

**Consumer Protection Bureau**



Hong Kong Customs' Head of Trade Controls Ms Teresa Fu (middle in the right row) meets the Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China, Mr Zhang Baofeng (second from top, left row), at the Customs Headquarters Building in Hong Kong.



## MACAO CUSTOMS VISITS ROAD CARGO SELECTIVITY CENTRE

The Assistant Director-General of Macao Customs Service, Mr Vong Man-chong, led a ten-member delegation to visit the Road



The Assistant Director-General of Macao Customs Service, Mr Vong Man-chong (fourth right), is accompanied by the then Head of Land Boundary Command of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Fan Chi-kong (third right), in a visit to the Road Cargo Selectivity Centre.

Cargo Selectivity Centre of the Land Boundary Command in Kwai Chung on October 6 last year. The delegation was briefed of the design and functions of the Road Cargo System (ROCARS). Demonstrations on ROCARS's processing with the electronic road cargo information for risk profiling and selection of suspicious cargo for examination were also made.

Exchanging views on cargo clearance and enforcement controls, both sides agree to further explore opportunities for co-operation.

**Land Boundary Command**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS VISITS BEIJING DETECTOR DOG BASE



The then Head of Land Boundary Command of Hong Kong Customs Mr Fan Chi-kong (centre) visits a detector dog base in Beijing.

The then Head of Land Boundary Command of Hong Kong Customs Mr Fan Chi-kong had a duty visit in Beijing with colleagues between July 12 and 14 last year, during which a meeting

with the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) was made. The two Customs administrations reviewed the current

collaboration on drug detector dog issues and discussed the way forward for the coming years. Both sides also exchanged views on the quarantine length-cutting measures for detector dogs and matters related to cash detector dog training. Apart from that, the visiting officers also attended a course-completion ceremony for four Hong Kong Customs officers who had finished a drug detector dog handler/instructor course offered by the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of the GACC. They also took an opportunity to tour the dog training base through which members have learnt more about the dog training and management strategies of the Mainland Customs.

**Land Boundary Command**

## PASSING-OUT PARADES OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL



Secretary for Security Mr John Lee inspects the passing-out parade of the Customs and Excise Training School.

The Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee and the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, inspected two passing-out parades which were held on August 17 and December 8 respectively last year at the Customs and Excise Training School. The inspections marked the successful completion of training by a total of 18 Probationary Inspectors and 312 Probationary Customs Officers. The joining of more than 800 guests from government departments, the private sector as well as family members and friends of the graduates at each parade also made the solemn occasions lively and full of jubilation.

Speaking at the parade on August 17, Mr Lee commended the graduates for their excellent performance and showing-off of a unique bearing and manner exclusive to members of disciplinary forces. He remarked that in striving a balance between trade facilitation and law enforcement amid the trade globalisation trend under which cargo and passenger flows are bound to increase, Hong Kong Customs

adopts effective risk-management strategy for both investigation and operation and lose no time to work closely with its overseas counterparts for more intelligence exchanges. The operational effectiveness has been optimised as a result. Mr Lee also took the opportunity to express appreciation to all members of the Hong Kong Customs for their tremendous contribution to the maintaining of the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

While addressing at the parade on December 8, Mr Law congratulated the graduates for their successful completion of the intensive and demanding induction training programme. To cope with the forthcoming commissioning of various major transport infrastructure facilities connecting Hong Kong and the Mainland in the coming years, and the developments of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, Mr Law hoped that Customs officers would maintain their professionalism and dedication while preserving probity in discharging duties.

In order to embrace challenges hands in hands with the Department, both Secretaries encouraged the graduates to stay vigilant, keep their integrity, develop a wider personal perspective and keep enhancing personal effectiveness.

**Office of Training and Development**



Secretary for the Civil Service Mr Joshua Law inspects the passing-out parade of the Customs and Excise Training School.



## THE FIRST NATIONAL STUDIES COURSE FOR CUSTOMS MIDDLE MANAGERS



The then Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, fifth left), the Deputy Director-General of Chinese Academy of Governance, Ms Duan Hong-xia (front row, centre) and the Deputy Director-General of Police Liaison Department, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Mr Li Min-zhen (front row, fifth right), course teachers and students had a gathering at the opening ceremony of the National Studies Course for Customs Middle Managers.

The then Head of Airport Command of Hong Kong Customs Ms Sandra Tam headed a study delegation of 24 officers enrolled in the first National Studies Course for Middle Managers of Customs and Excise Department organised by the Chinese Academy of Governance in Beijing between June 1 and 9 last year. The course was officially launched with an opening ceremony, graced by the presence of the then Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the Deputy Director-General of Police Liaison Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's

Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr Li Min-zhen.

This was the first National Studies Course specifically organised by the Academy for a single disciplinary force from Hong Kong. The Academy's lecturers, together with senior government and economic figures, gave talks to the officers on various topics, including the constitutional, economic and trade developments in China as well as issues of the country's rule of law and national security strategy. An inspiring talk by the Deputy Director General of Office of

Reform of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Ms Dang Ying Jie, was especially full of insight into the Customs administration's contribution to the national economic development.

Programmes of the National Studies Course were intensive and solid. From a macro perspective, the participants' understanding of the Mainland's developments in the political and economic fronts as well as the country's long-term planning have been significantly enhanced. Participants are stimulated to cogitate how Hong Kong, as a special administrative region of China under the "one country, two systems" principle, can better play its role as a "super-connector" linking the country with the rest of the world. They are also encouraged to think deeply about the responsibilities of and contributions by Hong Kong Customs in the process, especially during the time when both the Belt and Road Initiative and the development plan for a city cluster in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area are running in their full swing.

**Airport Command**

## THE SECOND NATIONAL STUDIES COURSE FOR HONG KONG CUSTOMS OFFICERS

The Second National Studies Course for Officers of the Customs and Excise Department was held at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong in Shanghai from September 19 to 26 last year. A total of 30 Customs

officers took part in this eight-day course, which aims to enhance the participants' understanding of the national affairs on the one hand while fosters partnership with their Mainland counterparts on the other.

From China's modern history, its political and legal systems to the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong - Hong Kong - Macao Bay Area development, the course encompassed various major topics



Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Thomas Lin (front row, fourth right), Member of Executive Committee of the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong Ms Zhang Shengxin (front row, fourth left) and the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China Mr Liu Jian (front row, third left) join the closing ceremony of the National Studies Course for Officers of Customs and Excise Department.

of the country's development. Participants also received an update on the latest progress of the Mainland Customs reforms from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China. Various visits and exchange programmes were included, among which participants got an opportunity to make visits to families of Shanghai Customs officers for an in-depth exchange.

The course serves well to familiarise the participants with China's national development and facilitate mutual-exchange and friendship between officers from the two Customs administrations.

**Office of Training and Development**

## MAINLAND AND HONG KONG CUSTOMS EXPLORE MORE TRAINING CO-OPERATION

With an objective of strengthening the training co-operation between the Customs administrations of the Mainland and Hong Kong, the then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Administration and Human

Resource Development) Mr Lee Hon-man and Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development) Ms Tam Pik-ling made an official visit to Shanghai and Beijing between September 19 and 22 last year. During the leg in Shanghai,

the delegation paid a visit to the Shanghai Customs College, through which Hong Kong Customs learned about the Mainland Customs' training system and its latest development.

After the Shanghai stop, the delegation proceeded to Beijing and had a meeting with officials from the National Education and Training Centre of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China. The meeting served well to step up exchanges and explore ways to reinforce the training co-operation between the two sides, with a hope that the training quality of the two Customs administrations can be uplifted to a new high-level.

**Office of Training and Development**



The then Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Administration and Human Resource Development) Mr Lee Hon-man (third left) and Senior Staff Officer (Training and Development) Ms Tam Pik-ling (third right) meet with the Director General of National Education and Training Centre of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China Mr Liu Dali (centre) in Beijing. A good discussion on training co-operation between the two Customs administrations is made.



## WCO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CYBER INVESTIGATION AND DIGITAL FORENSICS



Participants of the workshop visit the Electronic Crime Investigation Center of Hong Kong Customs in order to understand the Department's work in combating cybercrime.

Hong Kong Customs, in co-ordination with the World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia Pacific Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB A/P), organised a workshop entitled "WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Cyber Investigation and Digital Forensics" at the Customs

Headquarters Building (CHB) between November 21 and 23 last year.

A total of 29 participants from 24 member administrations, a facilitator from the ROCB A/P and a computer forensics expert from the United States Customs and

Border Protection attended the workshop. Officers from the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau and Office of Information Technology of Hong Kong Customs also joined as expert speakers and shared experiences with the participants. The workshop's participants were also arranged to have

a look at the work of the Hong Kong Customs' anti-electronic crime at the Electronic Crime Investigation Center and Computer Forensic Laboratory in the CHB.

The 3-day workshop provides a platform for participants to share and exchange knowledge and experience in cyber investigations and digital forensics work. It is hoped that through the participation in the workshop, anti-cybercrime capabilities of the participated enforcement agencies can be enhanced while a talent pool of cybercrime investigators can also be established to better promote the application of cyber investigation skills.

**Office of Training and Development**

## THE TWENTIETH CUSTOMS COMMAND COURSE



Course participants benefit much from the Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Thomas Lin (front row, sixth left), who shares his management experience accumulated over years.

The Higher Training Division of the Office of Training and Development organised the Twentieth Customs Command Course between October 11 and 27 last year for 16 Senior Inspectors and 3 Senior Trade Controls Officers.

their leadership potential ahead of the challenges brought about by the ever-changing global environment. In addition to speakers from various formations who updated the participants of the latest development of the Department in various fronts,

The course aims to provide up-to-date management skills and knowledge for Customs officers, enabling them to apply practical management concepts in their daily operations and to develop

course lecturers also included former senior government officials, veteran media practitioners and experienced human resources management consultants. Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Thomas Lin was also invited to share his management experience accumulated over the years with the course participants.

The course programme is solid and extensive. With the innovative ideas and practical experience shared by the speakers, participants found the course exhilarating and inspiring, which was beneficial to their career development.

**Office of Training and Development**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS PARTICIPATES IN THE YOUTH UNIFORMED GROUPS' PARADE CUM CARNIVAL

Hong Kong Customs participated in the "Youth Uniformed Groups' Parade cum Carnival" which was held on July 16 last year. Organised by 14 Youth Uniformed Groups in Hong Kong and

the Junior Police Call, the event was a programme to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



Customs Detector Dog Division gives a drug detector dog demonstration at the carnival.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, together with other principal guests officiated at the kick-off ceremony of the parade, which started from the Victoria Park and proceeded to the Southorn Playground in Wan Chai. At the Southorn Playground, Customs Detector Dog Division gave a drug detector dog demonstration and was well-received by the audience. Through the event, the Hong Kong Customs conveyed anti-drug messages and promoted the Department's image among members of the public.

**Land Boundary Command**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS JOINS THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE LIAISON OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam,

joined the Thirtieth Anniversary Ceremony of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional

Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO AP) which was held in Seoul, Korea on November 6 last year.



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam (sixth left, front row) joins the Thirtieth Anniversary Ceremony of the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific with representatives from 42 Customs administrations under the RILO network.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Tam gave a full recognition of the RILO AP's contribution in facilitating intelligence exchanges among member administrations and formulating enforcement strategies. With the first office established in Hong Kong in 1987, RILO now has 11 offices around the world.

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



## IPR BADGE PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH AMBASSADORS – ADVANCED COURSE

As one of the major trade and financial hubs in the world, Hong Kong values the development of the creative industry and the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR). Stringent law enforcement as well as public education/publicity are both effective means in eliminating infringing activities. In the long term, Hong Kong must work to promote public awareness through education and publicity, especially among youth, to respect and protect intellectual property rights.

In order to step up youth education, the “Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme” (YAS) has been jointly carried out by the Hong Kong Customs and the IPR industry since 2006. Its aim is to enhance public awareness of respecting and protecting IPR and to set up an example for youngsters to combat IPR infringements. The membership includes more than 250 000 members from 13 local youth uniformed groups. To further promote the awareness, the Hong Kong Customs introduced the IPR Badge Programme to offer Foundation Course, Advanced Course and Trainer Course in phases to educate the youth in organised and systematic ways not to involve in IPR infringing activities. The courses’ participants can also help promote the importance of IPR protection amongst their peers, family members and relatives.

The Advanced Course of the IPR Badge Programme was conducted between August 21 and 25 last year, with the



Trainees of the first “Advanced Course of the Intellectual Property Rights Badge Programme” organised under the “Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme” participate in a mock-up trial competition.

participation of 36 Youth Ambassadors who had completed the Foundation Course in 2016. Apart from having an opportunity to interact with veteran film workers to understand the impacts of infringing activities on the industry, the trainees also received a Mobile Apps design training offered by the City University of Hong Kong, which is a good attempt for them to enter creators’ inner world and get to know various challenges during their creative process. Besides, the Programme included a visit to the Correctional Services Department’s facilities, study session of IPR-related criminal cases and a mock-up trial competition under the guidance of counsels of the Department of Justice. On the other hand, physical and leadership training courses at the Customs and Excise Training School were also offered to the participants.

Officiating by Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Thomas Lin, Director of Intellectual Property Ms Ada Leung and Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Mr Martin Hui, SC, the graduation ceremony of the Advanced Course of the Programme was held on August 25 last year at the Customs and Excise Training School. A total of 36 Youth Ambassadors were awarded the Certificate for Completing the Advanced Course of the IPR Badge Programme for Youth Ambassador. They have now become qualified for the Trainer Course, which is the highest level course of the Programme.

**Intellectual Property  
Investigation Bureau**

## HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND MAINLAND CUSTOMS LAUNCH THE “HUNAN-GUANGDONG-HONG KONG DIRECT LINK”

Engine of the “Hunan-Guangdong-Hong Kong Direct Link” has been running since September last year with the admission of Hunan Province. It is an extension of the “Single E-lock Scheme” (Scheme) between Guangdong Province and Hong Kong, which has been operating since 2016 to expedite the cargo clearance between Guangdong and Hong Kong. Encouraged by the dual partnership’s success, the Scheme expanded to include Hunan in September. A launching ceremony was held at Changsha Jinxi Economic

Development Zone on September 26 during which Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Ms Louise Ho delivered a speech and shared with guests the Hong Kong Customs’ experience in the operation and development of the Scheme.

Hunan is the second Mainland province after Guangdong to become a partner under the Scheme. Under the Scheme, duplicated shipment inspection by Customs authorities is reduced with an aim to streamline the

clearance process and expedite the flow of transshipment cargo. With the operation of the extended direct link, there are currently 46 clearance points among which, 32 in Guangdong Province, 12 in Hong Kong and 2 in Hunan Province, making available of more than 408 transshipment routes for the Scheme’s participants to better cope with the rapid development of the cross-boundary commerce.

**Land Boundary Command**



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Ms Louise Ho (second left), officiates at the launching ceremony of the “Hunan-Guangdong-Hong Kong Direct Link” at the Changsha Jinxi Economic Development Zone.



## WORLD RECORD SEIZURE OF RAW IVORY TUSK SET BY HONG KONG CUSTOMS



The record seizure is in the limelight.

Hong Kong Customs made a world-record seizure when officers from the Ports and Maritime Command detected 7 031 kilogrammes of raw ivory tusks valued over HK\$70 million on July 4 last year. The items were found from a sea container arrived at Hong Kong from Malaysia. Allegedly packing with frozen fish products, officers discovered ivory tusks instead underneath piles of the fish products. The mega seizure by Hong Kong Customs also sets a new world record in the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) database in terms of the quantity of raw ivory tusks seized in a single case.

**Ports and Maritime Command**

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NON-OFFICIAL MEMBER EXPRESSES SYMPATHY TO CUSTOMS OFFICERS

Two Customs officers sustained injuries, fortunately minor ones, during

an anti-narcotics operation in October last year. The Department's top



Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang conveys a message of sympathy from Executive Council Non-official Member the Hon Jeffrey Lam to the formation of the two injured officers.

echelon showed great concern for the incident and immediate arrangements were made for follow-up action by the officers' formation. Executive Council Non-official Member the Hon Jeffrey Lam also expressed deep concern. In a bid to extend wishes for the officers' speedy recovery, Mr Lam sent them fruit baskets and asked the Commissioner of Customs and Excise to extend heartfelt sympathy on his behalf to the injured officers. The Commissioner is grateful for Mr Lam's continuous care and support to the work of the Department.

**Office of Service Administration**