



CUSTOMS NEWS

2020 March • Issue No.63

<http://www.customs.gov.hk>

THE COMMISSIONER SPEAKS

On January 21 this year, the Customs and Excise Department grieved for the sorrowful decease of three dedicated colleagues: Senior Customs Officer Ng Wing-man, Acting Senior Customs Officer Lai Chi-hang and Customs Officer Wong Cheuk-bond, who unfortunately passed away in the course of their marine duty that night. As we mourn and express deep condolences to the colleagues' families, the Department will endeavour to help the families overcome their difficulties. After the accident, everyone in the Department united together to offer help to the families, supporting them through their bereavement by rendering assistance in the funeral services and arranging for clinical psychologists to help them cope with their grief. From raising donations to providing subsistence support, the Department and our colleagues are doing our utmost to help the families. We are touched to have received an outpouring of condolences and love from the community and different organisations as well as our working partners in the country and overseas. Upon appeal by the Department, friends from all sectors readily supported the families of the deceased with generous donation to address their emergency needs. Despite the passing of the deceased, there is love to be found around us. When one suffers misfortune, aid comes from all directions. And such positive energy is really heart-warming.

The exceptional diligence and dedication displayed by the three late colleagues command our great respect. While we mourn the great loss of talents, we should stay united and continue to embrace

the Department's spirit of "Commitment and Excellence". With our persistence in innovation and reform, we can live up to the bright side of human nature demonstrated by our late colleagues that will shine on forever.

As a highly professional disciplined force, we fully understand that we will fall behind if we do not make progress. It has been our long-term goal to uphold sustainable development as our development strategy. The 21st century is no doubt an era of transformation and upgrade. We have to reform and enhance our mission, role and functions. On top of maintaining our traditional roles as "law enforcer and service provider", the Department has to keep abreast of the times and continue to strengthen its role as "trade facilitator" and develop the diversified functions of an "economic development promoter".

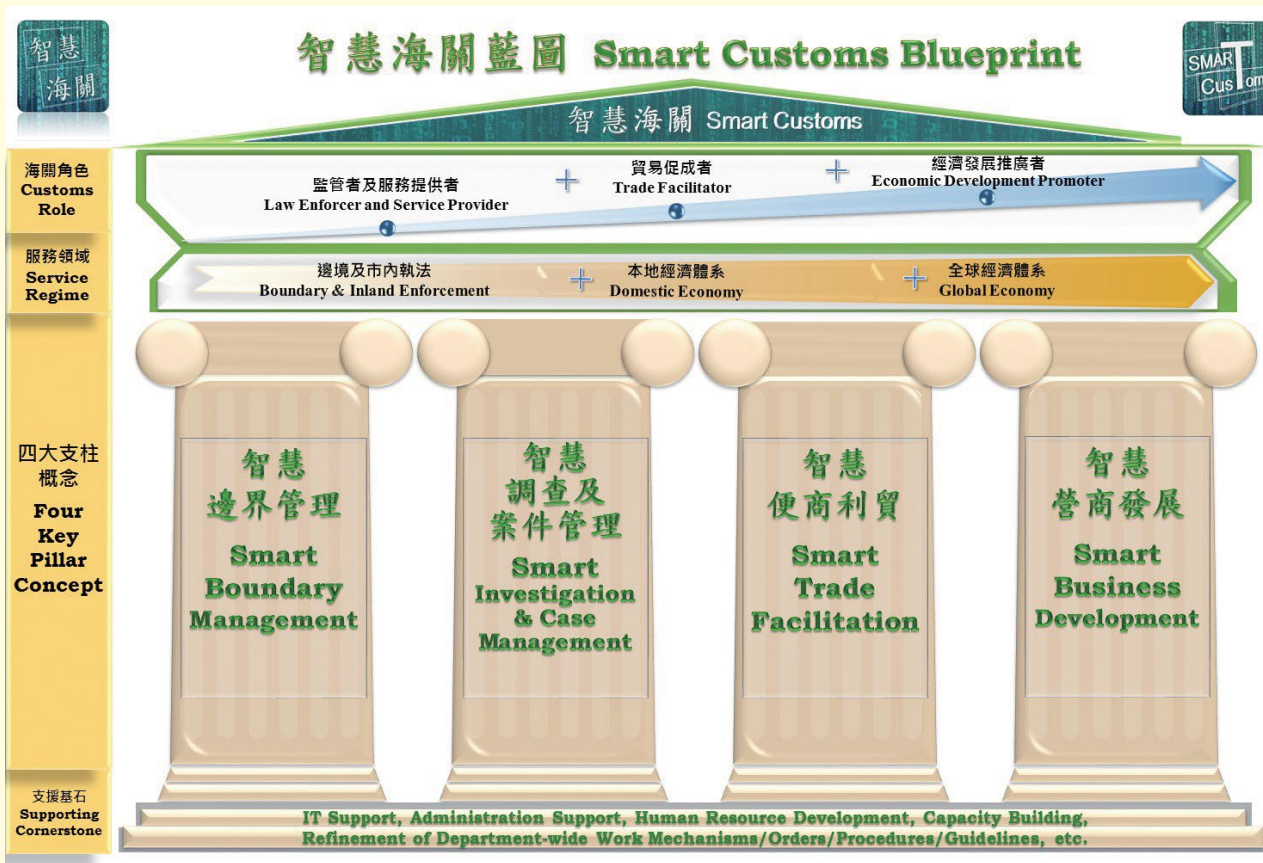
Hong Kong has long been enjoying its unique position and role. Not only do we capitalise on the strength of "one country", but we also benefit from the convenience of "two systems". Under the framework of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development, the room for development has expanded, new business opportunities have emerged, and the ways to unleash trade potentials have increased. This would be beyond imagination a decade ago. Nonetheless, we have to remain resolute to tackle the challenges and should not underestimate the difficulties. In this regard, the Department has to plan ahead to seize the development opportunities.



The essence of transformation and upgrade is modernisation. In this age of rapid changes, we must speed up the pace of modernisation. Apart from our current focus on hardware modernisation, we are also modernising our functions and roles. Full realisation of modernisation can only be achieved through comprehensive transformation and upgrade.

On the occasion of the 110th Anniversary of its establishment last year, the Department has put forward a "smart customs blueprint" on the development of four key pillars, namely "Smart Boundary Management", "Smart Investigation and Risk Management", "Smart Trade Facilitation" and "Smart Business Development", which cover all the traditional and value-added aspects of the Department's business, contributing to the ultimate goal of modernisation. Opportunities are only for those who are well prepared. We are now developing in full swing each and every key pillar of the "smart customs blueprint", signifying a critical step forward in the development of the Department.

The World Customs Organization has set the theme of this year's International



Customs Day as "Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet", which promotes the incorporation of elements for sustainable development of human society into the core duties of Customs. It shows that upgrade of functions and transformation of roles are prevailing trends in global Customs development.

Last year was indeed a milestone year that carried forward past achievements and ushered in new beginnings. During the year, we undertook the role of goodwill ambassador to show that we care for our community. Apart from organising open days at the Customs Headquarters Building to introduce our history, work and development to members of the public and working partners, we also organised a Charity

Badminton Tournament that raised more than \$2.2 million for the Little Life Warrior Society, a local non-profit-making charity organisation for assisting child patients. The event received staunch support from the General Administration of Sport of China (GASC), which arranged for world champion athletes in the Chinese national badminton team to make a special trip to Hong Kong for a brilliant exhibition match. They also sent their best wishes to the "little life warriors". I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude once again to the GASC and other participating organisations and disciplined forces for their support and encouragement.

Building on a long tradition of excellence, the Department has

weathered many storms while embracing changes and pursuing innovation. However, it has never been an easy task. Last year, Hong Kong society became agitated. The HKSAR government remained composed and resilient in tackling the difficult situation, while our Department continued to perform law enforcement duties with dedication and determination. Looking ahead, the Department will continue to work diligently as a team and endeavour to uphold the rule of law, thereby passing on the Customs' spirit of professionalism and promoting it worldwide.

Hermes Tang
Commissioner

HONG KONG CUSTOMS 110TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

The predecessor of Hong Kong Customs is the Preventive Service, which was set up on September 17, 1909 with a small establishment of 25 Revenue Officers. To this date, it has developed into a professional and efficient law enforcement agency of some 7 600 staff with significant changes in its responsibilities. Other than the traditional role of gatekeeper to safeguard Hong Kong, Hong Kong Customs also fully supports

Hong Kong to integrate with the national development strategies and to promote mutually beneficial co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Under the theme of “110 Years of Commitment, Ongoing Pursuit of Excellence”, the Department has organised a series of 110th Anniversary celebration events last year including the Customs Headquarters Building

(CHB) Open Day and production of a video introducing Customs, allowing members of the public to understand the development history, functions and operations of the Department.

The Hong Kong Customs 110th Anniversary Charity Badminton Tournament was held on September 7 last year as one of the 110th anniversary celebration events. Over \$2.2 million was raised for the Little





The Hong Kong Customs 110th Anniversary Charity Badminton Tournament was held on September 7 last year at the Disciplined Services Sports and Recreation Club. Photo shows the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, speaking at the closing ceremony to express his gratitude to the donors.



The Hong Kong Customs 110th Anniversary Charity Badminton Tournament was held on September 7 last year at the Disciplined Services Sports and Recreation Club.

Life Warrior Society, a local non-profit-making charity organisation assisting cancer child patients, to benefit more needy children and their families.

Twelve teams took part in the tournament on that day. The "Hospital Authority" team and the "Hong Kong Police Force" team won the champion of the Trophy Competition and the Plate Competition respectively. The General Administration of Sport of China offered great support to the tournament and arranged for two world champions from the Chinese national badminton team, Hong Wei and Chai Biao, to visit Hong Kong and play an exhibition match. Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, said the Department decided to organise fund-raising activities at this special moment amid the approach of the 110th anniversary, with an aim of helping to build a caring and inclusive society. The Department will remain committed under its motto of "Serve the Community with Commitment and Excellence" with a view to making contributions to the prosperity and stability of the country and Hong Kong and will continue to participate in various forms of voluntary work to contribute to society.

Apart from holding different celebration events, the Department also collected numerous memorable photos to produce the C&ED 110th Anniversary Photo Album, which serves to record the development of Customs in the past. The album comprises five chapters, namely "Moving with Times", "Safeguarding

Our Home”, “Connecting to Global”, “Caring and Committing” and “Charting a New Era”. It starts with recapturing significant milestones in the past hundred years, and lead to different chapters showing the diversified development of Hong Kong Customs over the history.

In addition, Hong Kong Customs and Hongkong Post jointly produced the “C&ED 110th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp Pack”. This set of commemorative stamp pack not only contains a series of representative photos reflecting Customs officers’ training hardship, professional enforcement and excellent commitment, but also comes with Hongkong Post’s 2019 Year of the Pig Commemorative Stamp. Besides, the Department has designed a series of souvenirs to be distributed



The C&ED 110th Anniversary Photo Album recorded the Department’s significant milestones over the past few decades.

to participants joining the celebration events for commemorative purposes.

Stepping into 2020, it marked the new era of Customs. Looking ahead, the Department will keep on innovating

and aim to develop into Smart Customs for providing excellent services, thereby further contributing to the security and economic development of the region, the country and the world.



The Hong Kong Customs 110th Anniversary Charity Badminton Tournament was held on September 7 last year at the Disciplined Services Sports and Recreation Club. Accompanied by Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang (fifth right), Secretary for Security Mr John Lee (centre) and Secretary for Food and Health Professor Sophia Chan (fourth right) are pictured with “Hong Kong Customs” team.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS CELEBRATES 2020 INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY



The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (ninth right), the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (ninth left), and directors of Hong Kong Customs propose a toast to guests at the 2020 International Customs Day reception.

Officiated by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, a reception in celebrating the 2020 International Customs Day (ICD) was held at the Customs Headquarters Building on January 20 this year.

This year, the World Customs Organization (WCO) devotes ICD to the theme of “Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet”, which aims at ensuring a sustainable future where social, economic and environmental elements are at the centre of Customs actions.

Officiating at the reception, Mr Chan praised the efforts Hong Kong Customs made in combating dangerous drugs, endangered species, counterfeit products and other illegal activities, and to provide a safe and stable environment for the people of Hong Kong. He also recognised Hong Kong Customs’ pivotal role in facilitating trade and promoting our economy.

In his remarks, Mr Tang elaborated the close relationship between Hong Kong Customs’ work and the theme of this year’s ICD along three concepts: “People”, “Prosperity” and “Planet”. The work includes people-oriented

enforcement and crime prevention operations, trade facilitation measures to bring prosperity, and anti-smuggling of endangered species to conserve the earth.

He expressed that the three concepts are in line with the notion of “community with a shared future for mankind” while the Belt and Road Initiative serves as a platform to build the community.

Hong Kong Customs has celebrated the ICD since Hong Kong became a member of the WCO in 1987. At the reception, Mr Chan presented WCO Certificates of Merit to officers of Hong Kong Customs and private stakeholders in recognition of their remarkable efforts contributing to sustainable development.

About 350 guests, including Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, HKSAR Government officials, Consuls General, foreign Customs attachés, representatives from Customs administrations of the Mainland and Macao, as well as private stakeholders, attended the reception.



The Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan (front row, fifth right), and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, sixth right), are pictured with Hong Kong Customs officers and private stakeholders who were awarded the World Customs Organization Certificates of Merit at the 2020 International Customs Day reception.

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

COMMISSIONER SPEAKS AT LSCM LOGISTICS SUMMIT 2019



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, delivers a keynote speech at the LSCM Logistics Summit 2019.

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, was invited to attend the - LSCM Logistics Summit 2019 (the Summit) held by the Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre (LSCM) on September 20 last year. The theme of the Summit was "The Pivotal Role of Hong Kong in the Greater Bay Area".

Delivering a keynote speech titled "How Hong Kong Customs helped harness collective strengths in the Greater Bay Area" at the Summit, the Commissioner highlighted that while Hong Kong was China's south gate and a member of the Greater Bay Area Development, Customs had taken up two important roles as "gate keeper" and "trade facilitator". He quoted the Chinese adage "Victory is ensured when people pool their strength; success is secured when people put their heads together", which was shared by President Xi Jinping at the World Economic Forum in 2017, to illustrate how Customs helped harness the collective strengths of the Bay Area.

First, Customs helped "pool our strength to win" by enhancing the connectivity and facilitating trade within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, which in turn enhanced the Bay Area's competitiveness. Customs provided highly efficient clearance at all control points, including the recently developed Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, West Kowloon Station of the Hong Kong Express Rail Link, as well as the soon-to-be-commissioned Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point, strengthening the connection within the region. Co-operating with Mainland Customs, Hong Kong Customs also offered seamless trade facilitation service to the industry through the Single E-lock Scheme, Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator Programme and Wine Facilitation Scheme.

On the other hand, Customs helped "put our heads together to succeed" by developing the Smart Customs Blueprint with innovation and technology as key focus, which in turn promoted the Bay Area's economic

development. Under the Blueprint, Customs would take up the pivotal role of "economic development promoter" in addition to our conventional role of "law enforcer" and "trade facilitator". Our service regime would also expand from the conventional boundary and inland enforcement and serving the domestic economy, to making a contribution to the regional and global economic development including the Bay Area.

In closing, the Commissioner remarked that Customs had now geared up to help harness the collective strengths of the Bay Area to "pool our strength" and "put our heads" together.

The Summit provided an effective platform for the community to foster mutual co-operation and discuss the ways to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and promote Hong Kong's role as a pioneer in the development of the Bay Area.

Office of Project Planning and Development



The Commissioner of the Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (sixth left), the Chairman of Board of Directors of LSCM, Dr Sunny Chai (fifth left), and the Chief Executive Officer of LSCM, Mr Simon Wong (sixth right), in a group photo at the LSCM Logistics Summit 2019.

NEW PHASE OF IPR BADGE PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOUNDATION COURSE



Hong Kong Customs held a graduation parade cum awards presentation ceremony at the Hong Kong Customs College for a new phase of the foundation course of the Intellectual Property Rights Badge Programme for Youth Ambassadors on August 17 last year. The Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Ms Louise Ho (front row, sixth left), and guests are pictured with the Youth Ambassadors graduated from the course.

Hong Kong Customs organised a new phase of the foundation course of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Badge Programme for Youth Ambassadors (the Programme) under the Youth Ambassador Against Internet Piracy Scheme (YAS) between August 12 and 17 last year, with a total of 101 Youth Ambassadors awarded the certificate for completing the Programme. The graduation parade cum awards presentation ceremony was held on August 17 at the Hong Kong Customs College with Legislative Council Member Hon Yung Hoi-yan and President of the Association of Hong Kong Professionals Dr Chan Kin-keung as principal guests.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Acting Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Ms Louise Ho, said the Department has all along strived to combat infringing activities and to push forward education and publicity work. She added that the YAS has achieved remarkable results and has

shown the efforts the Department made to promote public awareness of protecting IPR through multi-pronged strategy. She congratulated the participants on their graduation and encouraged them to actively protect IPR and undertake the role of an ambassador to publicise the idea of protecting IPR.

The officiating guests also presented Best Recruit Awards, Best Leadership Awards and Best Parade Member Awards to the participants with outstanding performance in recognition of their achievements during the course.

Conducted in the Hong Kong Customs College, the six-day foundation course covered a wide range of areas, including enforcement work of Hong Kong Customs, knowledge of IPR, criminal prosecution against IPR crimes, leadership and discipline training. The new phase also featured visits to innovation and technology

enterprises in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area with a view to equipping participants with the latest development of IPR in all directions and experiencing the importance of IPR protection towards creativities.

Since its introduction in 2016, the Programme enabled participants to keep abreast of the evolving trend of IPR infringement activities resulting from technological and social developments, and consolidate their respect for IPR through the well-structured and diversified three-level courses. Participants who have completed the three-level courses are qualified to be tutors for the Programme and play an important role in IPR promotion and education activities organised by Hong Kong Customs, relevant government departments and various youth uniformed groups.

**Intellectual Property
Investigation Bureau**

JOINT OPERATION BY HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND OVERSEAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO CRACK DOWN BALKAN DRUG CARTEL WITH OVER 1 TONNE OF COCAINE SEIZED

A joint operation was mounted by Hong Kong Customs, the US Drug Enforcement Administration, and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) against a Balkan drug cartel in the first half of 2019, resulting in the seizure of more than one tonne of cocaine valued at about HK\$1 billion.

The joint operation, codenamed "Familia", began with the arrest of five drug traffickers with seizure of about 421 kilogrammes of cocaine made in three cases effected by Hong Kong Customs in April 2019. During one single case on April 25, Hong Kong Customs seized about 250 kilogrammes of cocaine, which had also marked the record of in-town cocaine seizure by the Department.

The European counterparts in

Croatia, Czech Republic, Serbia and Switzerland then arrested 11 persons in May with about 603 kilogrammes of cocaine seized in Switzerland. Also, 2 million Euro in cash and 1 million Euro worth of luxury goods including watches and vehicles, believed to be the drug proceeds of the cartel, were confiscated.

A joint press conference was held in Zagreb, Croatia in July last year regarding this successful joint operation to announce the process of law enforcement agencies from across the world teamed up to crack down the Balkan crime cartel.

Europol said that investigations revealed the Balkan traffickers did not only prepare flights and operate between Europe and South America in 2018 and 2019, but also planned

and arranged maritime trafficking of hundreds of kilograms of cocaine to Asian areas including Hong Kong and Macao.

Acting Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau by that time Mr Barry Lai and Senior Investigator Mr Sam Chang represented Hong Kong Customs to attend the joint press conference. Speaking at the press conference, Mr Lai emphasised that Hong Kong Customs will maintain close co-operation with overseas counterparts to deter and combat transnational drug trafficking activities, particularly through enhanced intelligence sharing and co-ordinated actions.

**Customs Drug
Investigation Bureau**



Acting Head of Customs Drug Investigation Bureau by that time Mr Barry Lai (front row, second left) and Senior Investigator Mr Sam Chang (back row, first left) represented Hong Kong Customs to attend the joint press conference of joint operation "Familia" in Zagreb, Croatia.

CHIEF LIAISON OFFICERS' MEETING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CUSTOMS



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam (front row, fourth right), and the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), Mr Wang Honghan (front row, fourth left), attend the 2019 Chief Liaison Officers' Meeting between Hong Kong Customs and the GACC on December 19 last year in Nanjing.

Assistant Commissioner (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam led a delegation to Nanjing to attend the 2019 Chief Liaison Officers' Meeting (CLOM) between Hong Kong Customs and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) on December 19 last year. The Mainland delegation was headed by the newly appointed Deputy

Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the GACC, Mr Wang Honghan. Mr Tam expressed gratitude to Mr Wang for the CLOM convened with Hong Kong Customs soon after he assumed office.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the collaboration and effectiveness between Hong Kong

and the Mainland Customs on various items of the co-operation work plan, including customs clearance, trade facilitation and law enforcement. Both sides also recognised the remarkable achievements resulted from close co-operation on various fronts.

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

FIRST WORKING GROUP MEETING ON GREATER BAY AREA CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION AND GUANGDONG-HONG KONG JOINT CUSTOMS SPECIAL CO-OPERATION MEETING

The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, and the Minister of General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), Mr Ni Yuefeng, had a high-level meeting in June last year. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to set up a Working Group on Greater Bay Area Customs Clearance Facilitation for discussing various

co-operative measures in order to enhance customs clearance efficiency in the Greater Bay Area.

Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Mr Chan Tsz-tat led a delegation to join the First Working Group Meeting in Guangzhou on July 22 last year. Chaired by Deputy Director General

of Department of General Operation of GACC Mr Wang Kan, the two sides exchanged views during the meeting on customs issues for further co-operation in different aspects, including the Single E-lock Scheme extension and facilitation measures for high-value temperature-controlled goods.

On September 30, Mr Chan met Director General of the Shenzhen

Customs District Mr Chen Xiaoying in Shenzhen at the Guangdong-

Hong Kong Joint Customs Special Co-operation Meeting. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on strengthening the co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong Customs and enhancing anti-smuggling enforcement and emergency handling capabilities for contributing to the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The two sides agreed to step up mutual co-operation in these areas.



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports), Mr Chan Tsz-tat (third from bottom, left row), and the Deputy Director General of Department of General Operation of GACC, Mr Wang Kan (fourth from bottom, right row), exchange views on customs-related matters during the meeting.

Land Boundary Command

FIRST GUANGDONG-HONG KONG-MACAO CUSTOMS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION MEETING

Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) of Hong Kong Customs Ms Ida Ng hosted the first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Customs Intellectual Property Enforcement Cooperation Meeting in Hong Kong on July 29 last year. Deputy Director-General of the Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China Ms Liu Hong and Assistant Director-General of Macao Customs Service Ms Chau

Kin-oi respectively led a delegation to attend the meeting.

The three customs administrations exchanged views and shared experience on enforcement and strategy for intellectual property right (IPR) protection. They agreed to enhance collaboration in cross-boundary intellectual property cases on the basis of the existing co-operation practices and to take stringent enforcement action against

cross-boundary infringing activities.

The delegations also visited a logistics centre of an express courier company located in Tsing Yi to learn about the regulatory and enforcement work carried out by Hong Kong Customs over express parcels as well as the close partnership between Hong Kong Customs and the logistics industry.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau



Assistant Commissioner (Intelligence and Investigation) of Hong Kong Customs Ms Ida Ng (eighth right) hosts the first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Customs Intellectual Property Enforcement Cooperation Meeting. Deputy Director-General of the Guangdong Sub-Administration of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China Ms Liu Hong (fourth left) and Assistant Director-General of Macao Customs Service Ms Chau Kin-oi (third right) led a delegation respectively to attend the meeting.

ARRAY OF EFFORTS FOR HONG KONG AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR NETWORK EXPANSION



Belt and Road Summit
2019



Joint Seminar with
Overseas Trade
Commissions



Interaction with Traders



AEO Forum



Promotion at Fair and
Exhibition

To enhance the vital role that Hong Kong Customs plays in facilitating legitimate trade, Office of Supply Chain Security Management (OSCS) has been putting tremendous efforts in promoting Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme and has achieved satisfying results last year in expanding its network.

Following the tenth and eleventh AEO Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) respectively ratified with Israel and Canada last June, another two with Indonesia and Bahrain are progressing in full swing subsequent to the successful discussions in bilateral meetings and joint validation in late 2019. Such progress will further extend Hong Kong's MRA network with Belt and Road economies and bring significant economic development opportunities for Hong Kong along the region.

Turning to local AEO network, with the amicable relationship cultivated with various trade associations, overseas trade commissions, related statutory bodies and government departments, OSCS has gained their support to hold over 60 promotion events including seminars, workshops, forums and meetings last year to expand Hong Kong AEO network. OSCS has also produced "AEO Blogger" videos for sharing experience of Hong Kong AEOs as living examples of benefits they enjoyed. Besides, Hong Kong AEO has become a worldwide recognised quality mark in supply chain security and over 60% of Hong Kong AEOs applied logo of AEO Programme for business promotion.

The all-rounded efforts on network expansion rendered the contribution of Hong Kong AEOs to over 9% of the overall value of Hong Kong's external merchandise trade in the first half of 2019.

The smart and strategic approach on Hong Kong AEO network expansion has recently won Special Citation (Application of Innovation and Technology) in the Department Service Enhancement Award (Large Department) under Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2019. This award reaffirms the Department's admirable application of tools in the development of Hong Kong AEO Programme.

OSCS will keep the momentum for AEO network expansion to facilitate more eligible traders to maintain a high competitive edge.

Office of Supply Chain Security Management



Publications



Civil Service Outstanding
Service Award



Seminar for Trade
Association



Training Workshop



AEO Blogger

WCO ASIA/PACIFIC REGIONAL CONTACT POINTS MEETING

Head of Customs Affairs and Co-operation Mr Wong Jug-tung and Acting Senior Inspector Mr Chow Wing-seng represented Hong Kong Customs at the 29th World Customs Organization (WCO) Asia/Pacific (A/P) Regional Contact Points (RCP) Meeting which took place in Puducherry, India between November 18 and 20 last year.

As an annual event for Customs administrations in the A/P Region to discuss WCO's initiatives and emerging issues, the RCP Meeting brought together delegates from over 20 Customs administrations, the A/P Regional Intelligence Liaison Office, the A/P Regional Office for Capacity Building, as well as experts from international organisations and private institutions to discuss various customs' topics, including security and enforcement, inter-agency co-operation, trade facilitation, Customs Single Window and small island economies.



Head of Customs Affairs and Co-operation Mr Wong Jug-tung (right) shares views with other members at the 29th World Customs Organization Regional Contact Points Meeting.

During the meeting, Mr Wong shared views with other members on capacity building, intelligence exchange and enforcement co-operation, which could facilitate their understanding on the latest development of Hong Kong Customs. Besides, experts from international organisations and private institutions also shared the global

standard of innovation technologies and their perspectives on cross-border trading procedures. All these valuable views could definitely help Customs administrations strengthen interaction and co-operation with the private sector.

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

HONG KONG CUSTOMS ATTENDS FIFTH WCO GLOBAL CANINE FORUM

The then Deputy Head of Land Boundary Command (Customs Detector Dog) of Hong Kong Customs, Mr Pang Chi-sing, and Senior Inspector, Ms Lam Mei-yee, from the Customs Detector Dog Group participated in the "Fifth WCO Global Canine Forum" hosted by Australian Border Force in Melbourne, Australia from October 1 to 3 last year. The Forum is a biennial event and the theme this year is "Canine Customs

Officer: Crucial to our Border Security". Altogether 109 representatives from 29 Customs administrations around the world participated in the forum and discussed the challenges in canine enforcement and capacity building as well as shared valuable experience and best practices on canine training, operational strategies and breeding programme. Participants were also arranged to pay a visit to the purpose-built world class training facility for

the Australian Border Force Detector Dog Programme.

Marking the first sharing by Hong Kong Customs at the WCO Global Canine Forum, Mr Pang delivered a speech at the "Strategic Imperatives Session" and shared his experience in training cash detector dogs. The sharing also showcased the achievement of Hong Kong Customs in strengthening enforcement capability.



Participants of the "Fifth WCO Global Canine Forum" pay a visit to the purpose-built world class training facility for the Australian Border Force Detector Dog Programme.

The forum served as an effective platform for representatives from different customs administrations

to exchange experience in canine topics and provided valuable chance for participants in building up

international network.

Land Boundary Command

INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE ORDINANCE ANNUAL SEMINAR



The Group Head (Risk Management) of Intelligence Bureau, Mr Morris Liu, gave an opening speech at the ICSO Annual Seminar.

The Intelligence Bureau (IB) of Hong Kong Customs organised two sessions of the Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance (ICSO) Annual Seminar for a total of 177 officers from the Intelligence and Investigation Branch (II Branch) on August 27 and September 6 last year at the Auditorium of the Customs

Headquarters Building, with an aim to equip officers with the latest information and knowledge of ICSO.

The seminar aims to refresh officers with basic knowledge of the ICSO and to remind them the key issues when carrying out surveillance operation. Officers were also updated

with the latest advices given by the Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance in his Annual Report and during his inspection visit to the Department.

Apart from organising the Annual Seminar, the IB had also provided briefings for officers from the II Branch and Customs trainees. Rounds of scenario-based table-top exercises and workshops were also arranged for designated applicants and concerned parties.

Since the ICSO came into operation in August 2006, the IB has all along endeavored to provide different training and support to officers in order to enrich their operational knowledge and to enhance their capabilities in performing surveillance and discharging their duties under the ICSO.

Intelligence Bureau

HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA VISIT HONG KONG CUSTOMS



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (front row, centre), meets the Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Indonesia, Dr Hadiyanto (front row, third left), at the Customs Headquarters Building on July 30 last year.

Hong Kong Customs has been maintaining close communication and exchanged views from time to time with overseas customs and government bodies to strengthen bilateral co-operations in law enforcement, customs governance and trade facilitation with a view to fulfilling Hong Kong Customs' multiple roles as "law enforcer and service provider", "trade facilitator" and "economic development promoter".

On July 30 last year, the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, had a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Indonesia, Dr Hadiyanto, during which both sides exchanged views on strengthening customs collaboration, facilitating legitimate trade and optimising human resources management.

Mr Tang also met the Consul General of Malaysia in Hong Kong, Mr Yap Wei Sin, on October 29 last year. A fruitful discussion on trade facilitation and economic development promotion

between the two economies was made.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (third left), meets the Consul General of Malaysia in Hong Kong, Mr Yap Wei Sin (third right), at the Customs Headquarters Building on October 29 last year.

COMMISSIONER FOR BELT AND ROAD VISITS HONG KONG CUSTOMS



The Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang (third right), the Commissioner for Belt and Road (B&R), Mr Dennis Yip (third left), and officers from Hong Kong Customs and B&R Office in a group photo.

The Commissioner for Belt and Road, Mr Denis Yip, paid a courtesy call on the Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr Hermes Tang, on August 28 last year. This was one of the first few visits arranged after he took up office in June of the same year. Mr Tang congratulated Mr Yip on his new appointment and said this would be a new beginning for both departments to join hands in trade facilitation in the context under the Belt and Road Initiative.

During the visit, the Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam, briefed Mr Yip on the various roles of Hong Kong Customs ranging from anti-smuggling and drug trafficking, revenue collection to trade facilitation. Mr Yip was impressed with the evident achievements and success of the Department on various aspects, in particular the facilitative Customs clearance measures.

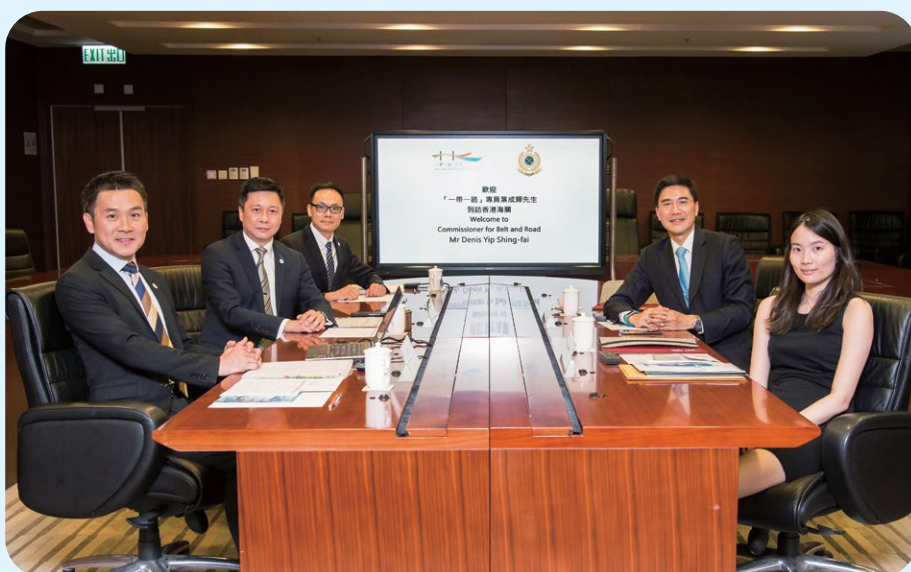
Mr Tam added that the regime under

organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

On September 12, Mr Tam led officers of the Office of Supply Chain Security Management (OSCS) to attend a Plenary Session of the Summit titled "Collaboration in Greater Bay Area for Belt and Road Success". On top of understanding the role of Hong Kong in unlocking the synergies created by the two visionary blueprints, the officers of OSCS also grasped the opportunity to exchange with trade representatives of some Belt and Road countries with a view to exploring more co-operation opportunities.

Looking forward, the OSCE will continue to look for chances to further develop mutual recognition arrangements of AEOs with customs authorities of Hong Kong's major trading partners and economies along the Belt and Road.

**Office of Supply Chain
Security Management**



The Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support), Mr Jimmy Tam (centre, left row), gave a presentation to the Commissioner for Belt and Road, Mr Dennis Yip (first from top, right row).

DEPUTY HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION OF GACC VISITS HONG KONG CUSTOMS

On December 5 last year, the Deputy Head of the Department of Political Affairs and Director General of the Department of Personnel and Education of the General Administration of

Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), Ms Lu Weihong, led a delegation of five officials from the Mainland Customs to visit Hong Kong Customs and to meet with the Deputy

Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Ms Louise Ho. Both sides exchanged views and shared experience on human resource management and training related issues, with an aim to enhance professionalism of both Customs administrations' officers.

Accompanied by Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support) Mr Jimmy Tam, the delegation visited the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Passenger Clearance Building and was briefed on the Department's customs clearance procedures and enforcement strategies in passenger processing.

Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation



The Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Ms Louise Ho (front row, third right), in a picture with the Deputy Head of the Department of Political Affairs and Director General of the Department of Personnel and Education of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, Ms Lu Weihong (front row, third left), and delegation members.

HONG KONG CUSTOMS VISITS GUANGDONG PROVINCE AUTHORITY TO SHARE VIEWS ON COMBATING UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES

Senior Superintendent of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of Hong Kong Customs Mr Kwan Kin-keung led a delegation to visit the Guangdong Province Administration for Market Regulation and the Guangdong Consumer Council under its purview, as well as the Economic Crime Investigation Bureau of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department from November 6 to 7 last year to understand the combat against unfair trade practices and consumer protection regime of the relevant enforcement departments and organisations.

During the visit, both sides shared views on consumer protection, major



Senior Superintendent of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of Hong Kong Customs Mr Kwan Kin-keung (second left) and Deputy Division Chief of the Economic Crime Investigation Bureau of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department Mr Wang Ping (second right) exchange views on consumer protection.

successful conviction cases and significant enforcement outcomes. It was also agreed that both sides will strengthen co-operation in personnel training as well as information

exchange with a view to further protecting the rights of consumers in the two places.

Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau

FAMILIARISATION VISIT BY NEW OVERSEAS CUSTOMS ATTACHÉS TO CONTROL POINTS



Seven new overseas Customs attachés watch a drug detection demonstration by Customs detector dogs at a cargo terminal of an airline company during a familiarisation visit to various control points on November 13 last year.

Customs attachés on November 13 last year.

They visited the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Passenger Terminal Building, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link West Kowloon Station and a cargo terminal of an airline company.

During the visit, frontline Customs officers introduced customs clearance procedures on passengers and cargoes and demonstrated the operation of different advanced inspection equipment. The attachés were also briefed about various facilitation measures including the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator Programme and the Single E-lock Scheme.

To strengthen co-operation with overseas Customs and enable new Customs attachés to familiarise with Hong Kong Customs' frontline

operation, Office of Customs Affairs and Co-operation arranged a visit to various control points for seven new

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



Seven new overseas Customs attachés visit the Customs Command Centre at Hong Kong West Kowloon Station during a familiarisation visit to various control points on November 13 last year.

PASSING-OUT-PARADES OF HONG KONG CUSTOMS COLLEGE



Financial Secretary Mr Paul Chan inspects Customs and Excise Rifle Squad at the passing-out parade held in August last year.

Graced by the Financial Secretary, Mr Paul Chan, and the Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Security, the Hon Chan Hak-kan, two passing-out parades were held on August 2 last year and January 17 this year respectively at the Hong Kong Customs College (HKCC). The inspections marked the successful completion of training by 78 Probationary Inspectors and 316 Probationary Customs Officers.

During the parade in August last year, Mr Paul Chan congratulated Hong Kong Customs on its 110th anniversary and 45th anniversary of the HKCC. He stated that the Department has been developing rapidly and is now shouldering the double responsibilities of law enforcement and trade

facilitation. He also acknowledged the Department's effort to become "Smart Customs" in the new era so as to achieve "trade facilitation" and "efficient enforcement" while facing challenges brought by speedy technological development. He encouraged graduates to broaden their horizons and advance with times. He also stressed the importance of abiding the rule of law, upholding integrity and fulfilling their duties impartially.

In the January's parade, Hon Chan Hak-kan praised all graduates who marched past the reviewing stand with high-spirit and impressive appearance to fully demonstrate the dignity and demeanor of a disciplined force. He recalled leading a delegation of

members of the Legislative Council Panel on Security to visit the Air Mail Centre and the Kwai Chung Customhouse last year to understand the complexity and hardship of Customs officers' work. He also thanked the Department for rendering full support to the Government in maintaining internal security and for backing up the Police in stopping violence and curbing disorder. With the concerted effort of the governing team of the Government and all civil servants, he was confident that society could return to its normal state soon.

In order to embrace challenges hand-in-hand with the Department, both Inspecting Officers encouraged the graduates to keep on enhancing professional competence through

continued learning. With unremitting efforts, they can contribute to the prosperity and stability of the country and Hong Kong in order to create a better future together.

More than 800 guests from government departments, the private sector as well as family members and friends of the graduates joined each of the parades, making the solemn occasions lively and full of jubilation.

Office of Training and Development



Chairman of the Legislative Council Panel on Security Hon Chan Hak-kan is accompanied by Commissioner of Customs and Excise Mr Hermes Tang to leave the parade ground after the passing-out parade which was held in January this year.

COUNTER-TERRORISM EXERCISE “FRIGATE II”

On November 29 last year, the Counter Terrorism Coordination Group (CTCG) of Hong Kong Customs organised a large-scale counter-terrorism exercise codenamed “Frigate II” at the Inbound Cargo Examination Building of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB). Officers from the Cross-Boundary

Bridge Command and the Fire Services Department participated in the exercise which simulated a terrorism-related threat involving smuggling of hazardous material into Hong Kong. The exercise aimed at testing the response and co-ordination capabilities of the officers.

The exercise simulated cargo examination by Customs officers on an incoming lorry loaded with suspected hazardous material at the Inbound Cargo Examination Building of HZMB, during which officers detected terrorism-related clues and made immediate report to CTCG for further intelligence analysis through the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU). Appropriate actions such as isolation, evacuation and de-contamination during the leakage of hazardous material were also taken as contingency.

Witnessed by over 40 observers from other formations, Macao Customs, ICTU and the Department of Health, the exercise has enhanced participants’ counter-terrorism awareness and showcased Custom’s preparedness and response plans in tackling terrorism-related incidents and emergency situations.



Customs officers discover hazardous materials during cargo examination.

Intelligence Bureau

ENHANCED ROLE OF HONG KONG CUSTOMS COLLEGE ON ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE WORK



The then Deputy Commandant of Hong Kong Customs College, Mr Benson Lee (first left), the Head of Vocational & Professional Accreditation of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, Dr Christina Ng (third left), and other members of the accreditation panel visit the Police College.

Since the successful accreditation of induction programmes in 2018, the Hong Kong Customs College (HKCC) has striven to keep the professional quality of the programmes and become an active player in assisting local training profession on accreditation and quality assurance work.

The Commandant of HKCC, Ms Cecilia Tam, was appointed by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) in June last year as member of Liaison Panel for Accreditation of Vocational and Professional Education and Training

to give advice on the developments in education and training in Hong Kong.

The then Deputy Commandant of HKCC, Mr Benson Lee, was also appointed by the HKCAAVQ in June last year as an assessment panel member for the accreditation of commercial crime investigation courses for the Hong Kong Police. Invited by the Vocational Training Council, Staff Officer (Training Development) Mr Stephen Cheng took part in the quality review exercise of the Centre of Learning and Teaching in July to seek ways to further improve their quality assurance mechanism.

The HKCC is committed to continuously enhancing training programmes of Customs, and assuming an active position in fostering exchange of expertise with other training institutions in the training quality assurance ambit with the aim to increase their quality and managing ability.

Office of Training and Development



Staff Officer (Training and Development) Mr Stephen Cheng (front row, second left) attends a meeting of the Quality Review Team hosted by Academic Director of the Vocational Training Council Ms Hidi Ho (front row, fourth left).

HONG KONG CUSTOMS PROMOTES WINE FACILITATION SCHEME

Hong Kong Customs reached out to the industry to promote the Customs Facilitation Measures for Wine Entering the Mainland through Hong Kong (Wine Facilitation Scheme) at the Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits Fair 2019 held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on November 8 last year. Representatives from Office of Dutiable Commodities Administration (ODCA) of Hong Kong Customs, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA), as well as over 100 wine traders and exhibitors joined the “HKQAA Networking Cocktail Reception 2019 for Wine

Industry” held at the fair. Through this opportunity, Hong Kong Customs built up a closer connection with the wine industry through sharing views on the development of the Wine Facilitation Scheme and the wine market.

During the fair, a representative from ODCA delivered a presentation on the latest development of the Wine Facilitation Scheme at the seminar on “Go Beyond Customs Districts – Wine Transshipment under Customs Facilitation Schemes Made Easy” which was well received by the wine traders. Customs officers also visited the booths of different wine traders to promote the Scheme by distributing leaflets and souvenirs.

The Wine Facilitation Scheme was officially launched in June 2010 and has been enhanced throughout the years to provide more facilitation measures for the trade. Starting from November 2017, the Scheme has been extended and wines re-exported from Hong Kong enjoy instant customs clearance at all 42 customs districts of the Mainland.

Up to end of 2019, over 19.5 million bottles of wine (valued at about HK\$903 million) had been exported to the Mainland through the Scheme.

**Office of Dutiable Commodities
Administration**



Hong Kong Customs reached out to the industry to promote the Wine Facilitation Scheme at the Hong Kong International Wine & Spirits Fair 2019 held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on November 8 last year.

SEA CARGO CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP INAUGURATION CEREMONY



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Mr Chan Tsz-tat (front row, centre) and the Sea Cargo Customer Liaison Group (SCCLG) Chairman Mr Ron Chan (front row, second left) are pictured with other members at the inauguration ceremony of the SCCLG.

The Sea Cargo Customer Liaison Group (SCCLG) held the 2019-21 Inauguration Ceremony at Kwai Chung Customhouse on December 4 last year. Mr Ron Chan of the Hong Kong Shippers' Council was elected by the members as the Chairman of the SCCLG. Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Mr Chan Tsz-tat presented Certificates of Appointment to all 18 SCCLG members at the ceremony.

Established in 1994, the SCCLG offers a consolidated platform for co-operation and communication between Customs and the industry. It facilitates not just the industry to better understand Customs' operations, but at the same time allows

the Department to closely grasp the needs and aspiration of the industry, and thereby boosting efficiency in

customs clearance and enforcement.

Ports and Maritime Command



Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Boundary and Ports) Mr Chan Tsz-tat (left) presents the Certificate of Appointment to the Sea Cargo Customer Liaison Group Chairman Mr Ron Chan.